



Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Public Charter School
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
530-265-4823

Human Trafficking Prevention Information

The information below comes from Protect Now.

You can find information on their website (<http://protectnow.org>)

Another helpful website is the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>)

Definition of Human Trafficking

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as follows:

- **Sex Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion. or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; and
- **Labor Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

How Victims are Trafficked

Many victims of trafficking, particularly women and children, are exploited for purposes of prostitution and pornography. However, trafficking also takes place in diverse labor contexts, such as domestic servitude, small businesses, factories, and agricultural work. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to compel women, men, and children to engage in these activities.

- **Force** can involve the use of physical restraint or serious physical harm. Physical violence, including rape, beatings, and physical confinement, is often employed as a means to control victims, especially during the early stages of victimization, when the trafficker breaks down the victim’s resistance.

- **Fraud** involves false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, or other matters. For example, individuals might travel to another country under the promise of well-paying work at a farm or factory only to find themselves manipulated into forced labor. Others might reply to advertisements promising modeling, nanny, or service industry jobs overseas, but be forced into prostitution once they arrive at their destination.
- **Coercion** can involve threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Victims of trafficking are often subjected to debt bondage or peonage in which traffickers demand labor as a means repayment for a real or alleged debt, yet they do not reasonably apply a victim's wages toward the payment of the debt, or limit or define the nature and length of the debtor's services. Traffickers may charge victims fees for transportation, boarding, food, and other incidentals; interest, fines for missing daily work quotas, and charges for "bad behavior" may be added. Debt bondage traps a victim in a cycle of debt that he or she can never pay down, and it can be part of a larger scheme of psychological cruelty.

Human Trafficking Facts:

Human Trafficking impacts cities and towns all over the world. It does not discriminate on the basis of geography, race, color, age, economics, gender or religion.

- **\$150 Billion** - The size of the human trafficking "industry" globally. (The International Labour Organization)
- **At any given time in 2016** - An estimated 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9 in forced labor and 15.4 million in forced marriage. It means there are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world. (ILO, 2017)
- **1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children** (ILO, 2017)
- **11-14 Years Old** - The average age of a sex trafficking victim in the United States. (Federal Bureau of Investigation)

- **All 50 States and 167 Countries** - Where incidents of human trafficking have been reported. (National Trafficking Resource Center, 2015)
- **Most reported cases of human trafficking in the U.S.** - California (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2017)

Signs of Human Trafficking

Victims can be any gender, age, race, socioeconomic background or religion. Human trafficking happens to US and non-US citizens.

Traffickers use various techniques to control their victims and keep them enslaved. Some traffickers hold their victims under lock and key. However, the more frequent practice is to use less obvious techniques such as the following:

- Isolation from the public by limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored or superficial in nature;
- Isolation from family members and friends;
- Confiscation or control of drivers license, identification or passports.
- Use or threat of violence toward victims or their family members;
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing humiliating circumstances to their families;
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported for immigration violations if they contact authorities;
- Debt bondage through enormous financial obligations or an undefined or increasing debt; and
- Control of the victim's money: e.g., holding their money for "safe-keeping."