

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is the exploitation of someone for commercial sex, labor, or organ harvesting purposes. Human trafficking exploitation occurs in the following ways:

Force

- **Abduction**
 - Definition: Taking someone against their will.
 - Example: Someone forces you into a car and takes you somewhere you do not want to be.
- **Denial of Food/Water**
 - Definition: Refusing to give someone food or water when they need it.
 - Example: A caregiver refuses to give you food unless you agree to participate in certain activities.
- **Confinement**
 - Definition: Limiting someone's ability to leave an area.
 - Example: You are locked inside a room or home against your will.



Fraud

- **Deception**
 - Definition: Tricking someone.
 - Example: A person lies to you and says that a parent or caregiver has given permission for a situation to occur.
- **False Promises of Life/Work Conditions**
 - Definition: Lying about what will happen at work or other parts of life.
 - Example: Someone promises that you will get to live in a house for free, but instead you must work without pay or do sexual favors to stay there.
- **Compensation**
 - Definition: Unfair payment for work.
 - Example: You work long hours and get little or no pay.

Coercion

- **Abuse of Power**
 - Definition: People with influence over another person use that power inappropriately.
 - Example: A boss or supervisor forces you into a human trafficking situation by threatening your job.

What is Human Trafficking?

Coercion (*continued*)

- **Debt**
 - Definition: Owing money or favors to another person.
 - Example: Someone offers money or some other way of helping you and then forces you into unwanted situations to "pay it back."
- **Bondage**
 - Definition: Using a person as a slave.
 - Example: A person forces you to work without fair pay or sometimes any pay at all.
- **Threat of Violence**
 - Definition: Saying they will hurt someone.
 - Example: Someone threatens to hurt or kill you if you do not do what they say.
- **Police**
 - Definition: Threats to use law enforcement.
 - Example: A person forces you to do something illegal, then tricks you into thinking you will get arrested if the police get involved.
- **Release of Photos or Videos**
 - Definition: The sharing of images without permission.
 - Example: Someone threatens to post private pictures of you on the internet unless you do what they say.
- **Threats to Loved Ones**
 - Definition: Saying they will hurt someone you care about.
 - Example: A person says they will kill your family unless you do what they say.



Who Are the Traffickers?

- **Anyone Can Be a Trafficker.** They can be someone you know. They will often gain your trust by being nice and offering support. Over time, they get you to let your guard down. This is done through a process called grooming. A trafficker uses the tactics above to force you into an unwanted/uncomfortable situation. Many traffickers are women who can gain the trust of others.
- **They Can Gain Access to You Through Social Media.** Traffickers can find you in chat rooms, message boards, virtual support groups, and other areas where they can learn about you. They may try to learn information about you so they can groom you into feeling more comfortable in dangerous situations.