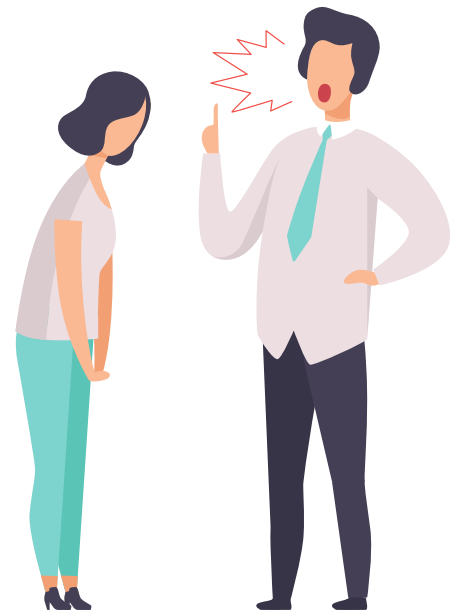


What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that involves exploiting someone for commercial sex, labor, or organ harvesting purposes. This resource will provide information about what human trafficking is, who is involved in human trafficking, and why individuals with disabilities are at greater risk.

Two Main Forms of Human Trafficking:

- **Labor Trafficking:**
 - Victims provide work through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
 - There is a wide range of jobs that people who have been trafficked for labor have such as housekeeping, farming, factory or restaurant work, and construction. These people work for little to no pay.
- **Sex Trafficking:**
 - Victims are forced to perform sex acts through force, fraud, or coercion.
 - Victims of sex trafficking are often forced into prostitution, pornography, exotic dancing, or becoming mail-order brides.



Human Trafficking Definitions

- **Force:** includes kidnapping, denying people food or water, or physical abuse.
- **Fraud:** involves deception or lies usually related to getting a better life, working conditions, or pay.
- **Coercion:** threats of police involvement, blackmail, or harm to loved ones, or forcing people to work off debts.

Who Does the Trafficking?

- Human trafficking can be done by family, friends, acquaintances, caretakers, and strangers. It's important to remember that all types of people can be involved in human trafficking.
- While typically human trafficking is done by men, women can be used as recruiters as a way to gain the trust of others more easily.
- Recruiters also use social media and the internet to develop relationships and begin grooming people for trafficking.

What is Human Trafficking?

Why are Individuals with Disabilities at Higher Risk?

- **Public benefits:** Many individuals with disabilities receive SSI or SSDI, which traffickers may see this as easy access to money.
- **Dependence on caregivers:** Some individuals need help from caregivers throughout their daily lives which sometimes leads caregivers to take advantage of this dependency and force individuals into prostitution or labor.
- **Communication deficits:** Some individuals with disabilities have difficulties with communication or speech. These challenges could impact their ability to get help and report abuse, which may lead them to be seen as an easy target by traffickers.
- **Vulnerable to coercion due to unequal relationships:** An unequal relationship is when one person's thoughts and feelings about the nature of the relationship don't match the other person's thoughts and feelings. People with disabilities may have limited access to social networks, friendships, and relationships. As a result, they may be overly eager when someone shows an interest in them and wants to develop a relationship, which puts them at risk of victimization.
- **Lack of knowledge about rights and self-advocacy:** People with disabilities usually receive limited sex education, if any. This includes a lack of education about consent and their right to say no. Additionally, individuals who need assistance with personal care, such as bathing and using the bathroom, may be used to people touching their private areas and may not realize when abuse is occurring.
- **Social discrimination:** Traffickers may target individuals with disabilities due to the social discrimination they face. This relates to the fact that people may not believe individuals with disabilities when they report abuse.