VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Healthcare Professionals

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Identifying victims and reporting suspected cases of human trafficking

BLUE CAMPAIGN™

One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.™

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Victims Are in Plain Sight

You may encounter a potential victim of human trafficking during the course of your duties. Victims of human trafficking are in our communities. Law enforcement may come across victims during domestic disturbance calls; when responding to incidents at massage parlors, bars, and strip clubs; or even during routine traffic stops. First responders and healthcare professionals may notice signs while responding to emergencies or treating patients at hospitals or doctors' offices. Health and safety inspectors may find victims working in restaurants, in factories, on construction sites, or on farms.

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality, including U.S. citizens

They may or may not have legal immigration status. Victims are found in both legitimate and illegitimate labor sectors; some are lured with false promises of well-paying jobs or even love. Often, they are forced or coerced into domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor, or commercial sex (prostitution). Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

How Traffickers Operate

Traffickers prey on people with little or no social safety net. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, violence in the home, natural disasters, or political instability. Traffickers use a variety of strategies to trap victims, including violence or threats of violence, as well as psychological coercion. The trauma can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Signs of Human Trafficking

Recognizing key indicators can save a life. This is the first step in identifying victims. Not all indicators listed below are present in every human trafficking situation. The presence or absence of any indicator is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

If you are law enforcement, please reach out to the Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) field office or Human Trafficking Task Force in your area to work collaboratively on an investigation, or report a tip. HSI is responsible for investigating human trafficking and arresting traffickers. There may be an organization-specific protocol you should follow to notify your supervisor and engage the proper local authorities. If you are a first responder, please report a tip. Your safety and the victim's safety are paramount. **Unless you are in law enforcement, do not at any time attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions.**

Labor or Service Indicators

- Was the person recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the person's salary being garnished to pay off alleged debts?
- Was the person forced to perform sexual acts? Is the person a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Does the person work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the person inadequately dressed for the situation or work they do?

Control Indicators

- Is the person in possession of his or her identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say? Are they with someone who appears to be controlling the situation?
- Has the person or their family been threatened with harm?
- Is the person fearful, timid or submissive?
- Has the person been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- Is the person confused, afraid, or do they show signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family?
- Is the person allowed to freely socialize or attend religious services?

Living Conditions Indicators

- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear to have an unstable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?
- Has the person been deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?

Travel Indicators

- Does the person know his or her final destination? Or how they will get there?
- Does the person know who is meeting him or her at that final destination?
- Is a child traveling with someone who does not seem to be their real parent or guardian?

Medical Indicators

- Does the person have scars, burns, mutilations, or infections?
- Is the person being prevented from or limited in providing his or her medical history?
- Is the person suffering from urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, pregnancy, or rectal trauma?
- Is the person experiencing any chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems?
- Does the person have poor eyesight or eye problems?
- Does the person appear malnourished or have serious dental problems?

What You Can Do

1. **Know the signs.** Order our Indicator Cards, which are convenient wallet-sized cards in 17 languages that list the key signs. You can distribute these cards in your local area. We have also developed Indicator Cards tailored for first responders and health care providers. Learn more at: *www.dhs.gov/Bluecampaign*.

2. **Report tips**. If you encounter someone you think may be a victim of human trafficking, or if you are in law enforcement and want to get in touch with HSI in your area, **contact the HSI Tipline:**

   - **Call (866) 347-2423** (toll-free from the U.S. & Canada)
   - **Call (802) 872-6199** (non-toll-free from anywhere in the world)
   - Or, report tips online at *www.ice.gov/tips* (from anywhere on the internet)

   Highly trained law enforcement specialists are available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to receive human trafficking tips and to quickly disseminate leads to on-duty human trafficking investigators throughout the nation and around the world. Anonymous tips may be reported on the online form and via the toll-free Tipline.

   Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 to:

   - Get help and connect with a service provider in your area;
   - Provide information on potential human trafficking activity; or
   - Learn more by requesting training, technical assistance, or resources.

   The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. The NHTRC is not a law enforcement or immigration authority and is operated by a non-governmental organization.

3. **Get to know Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in your area**. Call the HSI Tipline to get connected to the HSI Special Agents and Victim Assistance Specialists working on human trafficking in your area and build a relationship with them, even before you have a case that can be investigated jointly. Collaborate to develop leads and share case information and intelligence.

4. **Get to know the task force in your area**. Human Trafficking Task Forces comprise federal, state, local, county, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as NGOs providing victim services. Find out whether or not there is a Human Trafficking Task Force in your area by visiting *www.bja.gov*. If one exists, establish a relationship and join their efforts.

5. **Educate yourself and your co-workers**. If you are law enforcement our free computer-based, interactive training explores different interviewing and investigative strategies that can help you to be more effective. Go to: *www.fletc.gov/training/programs/human-trafficking-training-program*. If you are a first responder or health care professional, take our general online, interactive training and watch our first responder video. Go to: *www.dhs.gov/Bluecampaign*.

6. **Visit the Blue Campaign website**. For more training, outreach materials, victim assistance materials, and information on how you can join the fight to end human trafficking, go to: *www.dhs.gov/Bluecampaign*. "Like" us on Facebook: *www.facebook.com/bluecampaign*. Or, contact us at *BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov*.