

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ⇒ Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- ⇒ Can you come and go as you please?
- ⇒ Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- ⇒ Have you been physically harmed?
- ⇒ What are your working or living conditions like?
- ⇒ Do you sleep on a bed, cot, or floor?
- ⇒ Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?
- ⇒ Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to bathroom?
- ⇒ Are there locks on doors and windows so you cannot get out?
- ⇒ Has anyone threatened you or your family?
- ⇒ Has your identification/ documentation been taken from you?
- ⇒ Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to?
- ⇒ Has anyone ever harmed you or your family?



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



What is Human Trafficking?

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), human trafficking is any time in which a person performs a commercial; sex or labor act induced by force, fraud, coercion (or) in which the person performing the act is under the age of 18

Red Flags

While trafficking is a largely hidden social problem, many victims are in plain sight. Here is a list of some red flags to help you be aware:

- ◆ Evidence of being controlled (rarely alone/ under constant surveillance, isolated from family and friends, bruises, fear of speaking for themselves)
- ◆ Evidence of inability to move or leave a job
- ◆ Persistent fear, depression, anxiety, or submissive behavior (signs of trauma)
- ◆ No passport or other identifying documentation
- ◆ Excessive work hours - not free to take time off
- ◆ Not allowed breaks or suffers unusual restrictions at work
- ◆ Unpaid for work completed or paid very little or paid only through tips
- ◆ Lives with co-workers and/or "employer" - no privacy
- ◆ Traditionally, younger victim may have expensive personal items (clothing/accessories) and \$100 bills
- ◆ Avoids eye contact
- ◆ Untreated illnesses and infections
- ◆ Tattoos or branding around neck area
- ◆ Has few or no personal items

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ⇒ Is potential victim accompanied by another who seems controlling?
- ⇒ Does person accompanying potential victim insist on giving information to you?
- ⇒ Can you see or detect any physical abuse?
- ⇒ Does potential victim seem submissive or fearful?
- ⇒ Does potential victim have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- ⇒ Does potential victim seem disoriented, especially with regard to location?
- ⇒ Does potential victim have any identification?

Barriers to Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

- ◆ Some victims in US do not speak English and are unable to communicate with service providers, police, or others who could help them
- ◆ Often kept isolated and activities restricted to prevent them from seeking help.
- ◆ Victims comply and do not seek help because of fear
- ◆ Typically watched, escorted or guarded by traffickers or associates of traffickers
- ◆ Traffickers may "coach" victims to answer questions with cover stories about being wife, student, or tourist
- ◆ Unaware that what is being done to them is a crime
- ◆ Do not consider themselves victims
- ◆ Blame themselves for their situations
- ◆ May develop loyalties toward trafficker as coping mechanism
- ◆ Often victims don't know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection
- ◆ Fear for safety of family in home country

IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE IS A TRAFFICKING VICTIM CALL:

For More Information Contact:

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AHT Program Coordinator

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**Central Ohio 24-Hour
Human Trafficking Hotline
1-614-285-4357 (HELP)**

