

sex trafficking... **know** the facts



human trafficking can happen to anyone — learn how to protect yourself

What starts out as a seemingly innocent conversation online or in real-life, can turn into something that is hard to control, and may be something that you never expected.

did you know?

Traffickers use social media to find and connect with their victims – whether that's on Instagram, TikTok or video game chat rooms!

- Remember, you can always report and block users that make you uncomfortable. **NEVER** agree to meet someone you met with online and keep your location services OFF!

Traffickers use software to **CHANGE** the way they look and sound!

- Software today can create the illusion that you are speaking to somebody that you think is a 16-year-old boy, but in reality, is a 45-year-old man.
- By appearing to be of similar age, they work to make you comfortable and eventually gain your trust, in hopes that you will confide in them, sharing information about your life and your interests. This is part of the luring process.
- Once they have lured you in and established a seemingly safe relationship, they will begin **grooming**.

How do I know that someone is grooming me?

The grooming process takes a trusting, naïve relationship, and turns it into a situation of manipulation, control, and exploitation.

- It starts with an emotional connection. This could be as a friend, but also as a girlfriend or boyfriend.
- They often buy you nice, expensive gifts such as designer watches, jewelry, and handbags. These could also include drugs and alcohol.
- They will try to separate you from your support network like your friends and family. This can be both emotionally, such as making you believe they are the only one who truly loves you and cares about you, or physically, such as asking you to take a trip with them, or even move in with them.
- They will take you on extravagant dates such as to fancy restaurants or sports games.
- They will sometimes try to make you feel embarrassed, ashamed, and fearful as part of the control and manipulation continues.
- Traffickers often will manipulate their victims by desensitizing them or normalizing things such as pornography, stripping, or sending nude photos and videos.
- They will try to introduce you into their circle of friends.

did you know?

A new circle of friends are usually other traffickers working together to gain your trust!



commonly asked questions



Where do traffickers find their victims?

- Anywhere youth hang out! Parties, the mall, sports games, online through social media or video game chat rooms, airports, etc.

Why doesn't a victim just run away?

- Sometimes they are physically trapped, but sometimes they can be emotionally trapped. Every aspect of a victim's life is controlled right down to when they can eat, when they can sleep, what they can wear, or who they can talk to. Traffickers will use threats and intimidation to maintain control over their victims, with threats of physical and sexual violence, or violence towards their friends and family. Trafficked victims are brainwashed into thinking there is no way out, so running away isn't as easy as it may seem.

What is the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling?

- Human trafficking can be described as modern-day slavery involving the recruitment, transportation, or harboring of persons for the purpose of exploitation, typically in the sex trade. Human smuggling is when someone voluntarily and illegally crosses an international border.

What is the difference between sexual exploitation and sex trafficking?

- Sex trafficking is when someone makes money by buying and selling someone for sex. Sexual exploitation is a form of abuse that can occur when someone takes advantage and forces someone else to give, or receive any act of unwanted sexual interaction, but no money is exchanged.

What should I do if I think someone I know might be getting groomed?

- Talk to someone you trust right away! If you are unsure, you can reach out to me anytime at katelyn@joysmithfoundation.com or DM me on our social media accounts!



I thought I was working by my own will. It wasn't until I learned what human trafficking was, that I realized I was trapped in a world of manipulation and control the entire time.

— SURVIVOR



did you know?

Any nude or sexual photo or video of someone under the age of 18 is considered child pornography by law!

- Sending, keeping, or distributing a nude or sexual photo or video of someone under the age of 18 are offences that can lead up to charges under the Canadian Criminal Code. **If an image or video of yourself or a friend is online that you have lost control of, notify the police or report it to cybertip.ca**

WARNING



NOT the glitz and glamour you see online!

The term "sex work" is thrown around all over social media, but it's important to know what you see online is **NOT** reality.