

Teens and Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a real problem all over the world, including the United States.

Who are the Victims?

- ◆ The average age of entry into child sex slavery in the U.S. is 13 years old.
- ◆ 1/3 of run away children will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- ◆ 90% of children trafficked in the United States are U.S. citizens.

Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section

Pimps, also known as traffickers, can be anyone, including family members, friends, trusted adults, or “boyfriends”, who profit from the exchange of the sexual use of a minor by another.

Targeted, Pimps look for their victims in a variety of areas where teens gather. Such as, online, at shopping malls, bus stops, schools, after school programs, and foster homes to name a few.

Tricked, Pimps are willing to invest a great deal of time and effort in their victim to break down their natural resistance and suspicion, buying them gifts, giving them a place to stay, promising a loving relationship before revealing their true intent.

Traumatized, A pimp’s use of psychological manipulation (causing the child to truly believe the pimp loves and cares for his or her well being) coupled with physical control (threats, violence, drug addiction) can make a victim feel trapped and powerless.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

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Warning Signs of Trafficking

- ◆ Do they mention having an older boyfriend?
- ◆ Have new friends with a different lifestyle?
- ◆ Show signs of gang affiliation?
- ◆ Display any branding or gang tattoos?
- ◆ Display expensive items or clothes, accessories or shoes?
- ◆ Show signs of physical abuse?
- ◆ Seem withdrawn, depressed, distracted, keeping secrets or checked out?
- ◆ Skip school or have unexplained absences from class?

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

If you feel your friend is a victim of human trafficking, please contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-373-7888** or text **HELP** or **INFO** to **BeFree (233733)**

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Center for Community & Civic Engagement

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