



IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presented by:
Polaris Project
www.PolarisProject.org

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PRESENTATION GOALS AND PURPOSES

- Definition of Human Trafficking
- Where might Human Trafficking Happen in Your Community?
- Challenges to Victim Identification
- Community Outreach
- Direct Outreach
- First Interactions
- Trafficking Assessment Questions



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING OVERVIEW

Sex Trafficking

- Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion
- When the person induced to perform such an act is under 18 years of age, no force, fraud, or coercion is necessary.

Labor Trafficking

- Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.



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THE A-M-P MODEL

Action

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains or so attempts

Means*

(Force, Fraud Coercion)

- Causing or threatening serious harm
- Physical restraint
- Debt bondage
- Abuse of legal process
- Withholding documents

Purpose

- Commercial Sex Acts
- Labor or Services

* **Force, Fraud, and Coercion** are not required for minors under age 18 for commercial sex acts .

ACTION

Any of these Actions:

- Recruitment
- Transportation
- Transfer
- Harboring
- Receipt



NOTE: As a verb, even though the word “trafficking” sounds like transportation, movement, or migration, the concept of transport is only one of the five possible ACTS and is not required



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MEANS

Force

- Physical assault (beating, burning, slapping, hitting, assault with a weapon, etc)
- Sexual assault, rape
- Physical confinement
- Isolation (physical and mental/emotional)

Fraud

- False employment offers
- Lies, false promises about work conditions
- Withholding wages

Coercion

- Threats to life, safety, to family members or others
- Threats involving immigration status or arrest
- Debt bondage: escalating or never-ending debt
- Withholding legal documents
- Creating a climate of fear



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DEFINITION OF “COERCION”

- Threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person;
- Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or
- The abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process.

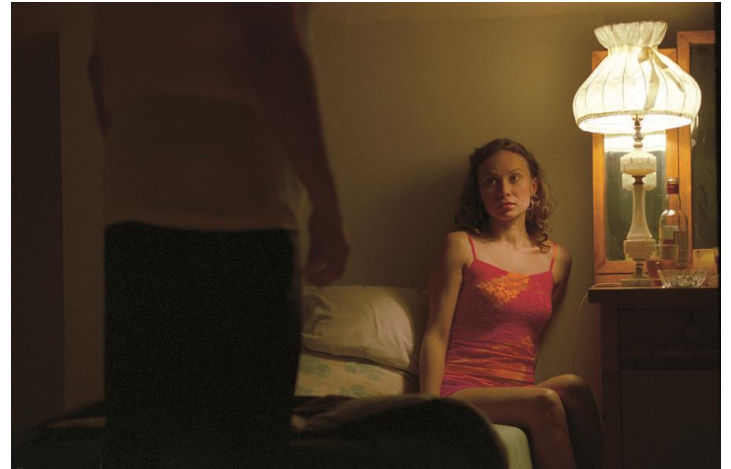


PURPOSE

Commercial Sex
Acts

OR

Some form of
Labor or Services



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SMUGGLING VS. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Smuggling

A crime against a country's
borders

Illegal border crossing

Often transportation only

Can be a gateway to
trafficking

Human Trafficking

A crime against a person

Involves forced labor, or
commercial sex acts

Transportation can be an
element, but is not required

Smuggling debt can be used as a
means of initial control



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MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Trafficking victims have to be foreign nationals

Trafficking requires an international or state border crossing

Trafficking victims must be kidnapped and/or restrained physically

If a victim consented prior to abuse OR was paid, then it is not trafficking





WHERE MIGHT THIS BE HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES?







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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think you have ever encountered a victim of human trafficking?
- Where do you think this might be happening in your area?
- What are some red-flag industries or locations?

TRAFFICKING POPULATIONS

	U.S. Citizens (Internal)	Foreign nationals (Transnational)
Sex Trafficking		
Labor Trafficking		



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TRAFFICKING VENUES

Sex Trafficking	Labor Trafficking
Domestic Pimp Control	Hospitality Services (Restaurants, Hotels)
Massage Parlors, Spas	Factory Work
Residential Brothels & Escort Delivery Services	Construction, Landscaping
Exotic Dancing, Stripping, Pornography	Domestic Servitude
Intimate Partner/Familial Trafficking	Peddling/Begging
Hostess Clubs, Cantina Bars	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing Industries
On-line Exploitation, Craigslist, etc.	Small Businesses



CHALLENGES TO IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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VICTIM IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGES

- Lack of public awareness
- Widespread myths and misconceptions about the definition
- Victims that do not self-identify
- Human trafficking is a hidden crime
- Victims cannot or will not leave a trafficking situation for many reasons



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UNDERSTANDING VICTIM MINDSETS & BARRIERS TO SELF-IDENTIFICATION

**Captivity/
Confinement**

**Threats of violence
and reprisal against
loved ones**

**Distrust of
Authority; Learned
"Loyalty"**

Fear

**Frequent
accompaniment,
guarded**

**Misinformation and
false promises**

**Language and social
barriers/
Unfamiliarity**

**Shame,
Self-Blame**

Isolation

**Debt bondage and
sense of obligation**

**No personal ID or
documents**

**Hopelessness,
Resignation**



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STEPS TOWARDS VICTIM IDENTIFICATION: COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who is likely to encounter human trafficking in your area?
- What do you think is the best way to identify more victims?



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RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS: A KEY FIRST STEP

- Critical to victim outreach and identification initiative
- Informed community members can be **“eyes and ears”**
- Traffickers operate in an environment of low risk when the community is not aware
- Key public awareness efforts may include: Media, Radio PSAs, Television PSAs, Billboards, Bumperstickers, Rallies, Fairs, Speeches, etc.



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SOME INITIATIVES TO RAISE AWARENESS

- Mandatory posting of NHTRC number
 - MD: hotels with nuisance violations
 - TX, OR: businesses selling alcohol
 - WA: rest areas
- “Take back the sky” campaign in GA bought billboards advertising massage parlors and instead advertised the NHTRC.
- Inclusion of NHTRC number on Department of State “Know Your Rights” Visa Brochure

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Provide the **human trafficking “lens”**
- Focus on **intermediaries** and others who may come into contact with victims during the course of their daily work
- **Conduct trainings** and presentations on human trafficking for various audiences



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WHO NEEDS TRAINING?

Potential First Responders

- Nurses
- Doctors
- Emergency Room Staff
- Attorneys (PD, ADA)
- Law Enforcement
- Church Members
- Inspectors (codes)
- Teachers and School Officials

Related Fields

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Labor Exploitation
- Employment Issues
- Runaway Homeless Youth
- Immigrant/Refugee Services
- Homeless/Low-income Community
- Court Services





CREATING A DIRECT OUTREACH PROGRAM



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DIRECT VICTIM OUTREACH

- 1 – Understand the **Local Scope** and Types of Trafficking
- 2 – Identify **Who** is Best to Conduct Direct Outreach
- 3 – Create **Outreach Materials** to Give to Potential Victims
- 4 – Access Local/National **Hotlines** (NHTRC Hotline)
- 5 – **Build a network of** local victim assistance organizations
- 6 – Understand Best and Safest **Access Points** to Victims

Brainstorm: Where are these access points in this area?

- 7 – Brainstorm and Pilot Various **Outreach Strategies**
- 8 – Create Internal **Protocols and Policies**

OUTREACH SAFETY POINTERS

- The safety of **outreach workers and potential victims** is primary
 - Construct **safety protocols** tailored to the **outreach environment**
 - Always conduct outreach in **pairs or teams**
 - Be **alert and aware** of your surroundings
 - **Do not pressure** an outreach target to do anything he/she is not comfortable with (including talking to outreach workers)
 - **Remember:** outreach workers are not investigators or law enforcement
 - If conflict arises, **de-escalate** and terminate the outreach trip.
- First Rule of Outreach: **Do No Harm.** No action should endanger the outreach population

IDEAS FOR OUTREACH MATERIALS

- Beauty Mirrors
- Lipstick containers
- Palm-sized business cards
- Band-aids
- Nail files
- Bracelets

- Bus Maps
- Hygiene products
- Key-rings and key-chains
- Match-books
- Flyers/brochures
- Stickers



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TIPS FOR FIRST INTERACTIONS WITH VICTIMS

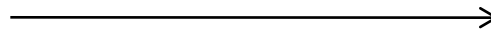


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A VICTIM-CENTERED APPROACH

Paradigm Shift

From being
seen as
criminals



To being treated
like victims of
crime

*“Federal experience has shown that prosecution
without victim protection is unworkable.”*

– Department of Justice (DOJ)



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TIPS FOR FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH POTENTIAL VICTIMS

- Building **TRUST**
- **REASSURE** the potential victim that
 - You are there to help and you care about them
 - You are **NOT** trying to arrest or punish them
- Try to meet their **IMMEDIATE NEEDS** and help them to feel comfortable
- **ONE-ON-ONE** interactions are ideal
 - Be sensitive to power dynamics



TIPS FOR FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH POTENTIAL VICTIMS

- Don't expect the victim to self-identify
- Meet the victim on his or her terms
- Recognize symptoms of trauma and coping mechanisms
- Be nonjudgmental



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TIPS FOR FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH POTENTIAL VICTIMS

- Terminology and **CULTURAL SENSITIVITY**
 - Be aware of manipulated or controlled translation
- Expect lies and **CANNED STORIES**
 - True story may not emerge for 3-5 or more encounters
- **DON'T DISPUTE FACTS** or comment on the victim's motivation. This is likely to stop the flow of information.



VICTIMS HAVE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE NEEDS

- Crisis intervention
- Emergency, Transitional, and Long-term housing
- Clothing and food
- Protection/safety planning
- Social service advocacy/case management
- Medical /Health Services
- Emotional support
- Employment assistance/job readiness/job preparation
- Court and daily accompaniment
- Interpretation/translation (if foreign national)
- Legal services
- Counseling/Mental Health Services
- Literacy education (school, G.E.D.)
- Transportation





QUESTIONS TO ASK TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS



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RED FLAGS & INDICATORS



Lack of freedom to leave living or working conditions



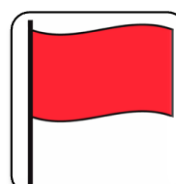
Few or no personal possessions or financial records



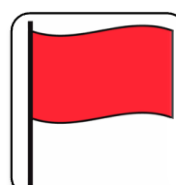
Lack of knowledge of a given community, frequent movement



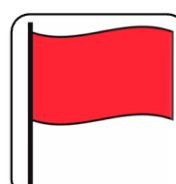
Individual owes a large debt and cannot pay it off; Unpaid or paid very little



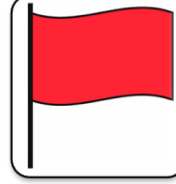
Under 18 and providing commercial sex



Not in control of own identification documents (Passport, birth certificates)



Signs of physical abuse, restraint, branding, malnourishment, general lack of health care



Inconsistencies in Story, Claims of “just visiting”



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QUICK REFERENCE:

RAPID TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT

- Are you **safe** right now?
- What are your **immediate needs**?
- How were you **recruited**? Were you promised anything?
- Are you doing **what you expected** to do?
- What are the **working conditions**?
- How many **hours** do you work each day?
- Are you being **paid**? How? (per act, tips, etc.)
- Do you have **access to your own money**?
- Are you **free to leave**?
- Have you been **threatened**? What are the threats?
- Do you have control of your own **identification documents**?
- Incidences/evidence of **physical and/or sexual assault**?

Each question taken individually can imply a trafficking situation. Questions are not intended to be cumulative.



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TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT: FORCE QUESTIONS

- How **safe** do you feel right now? Are there times when you don't feel safe?
- Were you ever **allowed to leave** the location where you were staying? Did you have the freedom to leave when you wanted and by yourself?
- Were you ever **isolated** in any way? Physically, culturally, by language?
- Were you restricted in your ability to speak with neighbors or family?
- Was there a time when you wanted to leave, but felt that you couldn't leave? What do you think would have happened if you left without telling anyone?

FORCE: PHYSICAL ABUSE QUESTIONS

- Were you or your family ever **threatened** with harm if you tried to leave?
- Were you ever **physically abused**, or did you ever **witness abuse** against another person?
- Did you ever **witness any threats** against other people if they tried to leave?
- Did you ever **hear of cases** of other people being harmed or threatened if they left a similar situation?
- What type of physical abuse did you witness?
- Were you provided with **medical care** when you needed it?



TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT: FRAUD QUESTIONS

- How did you find out about the job? Were you **recruited** by someone?
- What were you told about the job before you started?
- Did you sign a **contract**?
- Who organized your travel? How did you get to the US?
- How did your **experiences** match up to your **expectations**?
- Do you feel you were ever tricked or lied to about anything related to your current job?
- Were you ever promised something, but it did not happen?
- How did the conditions of your job change over time?



FRAUD/FINANCIAL COERCION QUESTIONS

- Are you getting **paid** to do your job? Paid what you were promised?
- Do you actually receive payment or is your money being held for you?
- Do you owe your employer a **debt**?
- Do you have to pay **fees** for travel, rent, food, tools etc?
- How were financial transactions handled?
- Were you provided false documents or identification?



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TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT: COERCION QUESTIONS

- How did you meet your boss/boyfriend/etc.?
- Did you ever feel **threatened** to do something you didn't want to do?
- Did anyone ever yell at you? Threaten you? Lose their temper? Who? In what way?
- Did you ever feel **pressured** to do something that you didn't want to do or felt uncomfortable doing? How did you feel pressured?
- What did you feel would happen if you didn't do what you were told?



TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT: COERCION QUESTIONS

- What concerned you the most about the consequences of not doing what was expected of you?
- **What happens to other people** when they don't do something that is expected of them? How did that make you feel?
- Did anyone ever take and/or keep your **legal papers** for you, such as your ID, passport, or visa?



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Polaris Project's vision is for a world without slavery. Named after the North Star that guided slaves towards freedom along the Underground Railroad, Polaris Project has been providing a comprehensive and community-based approach to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery since 2002.



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INFORMATION ON POLARIS PROJECT

- Office locations: Washington, DC; Newark, NJ; and Tokyo, Japan.
- One of the few organizations working on all forms of trafficking and serving both citizen and foreign national victims.
- Comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking includes:
 - conducting **direct outreach** and **victim identification**
 - providing **social services** and **transitional housing**
 - operating the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)**
 - advocating for stronger state and Federal **anti-trafficking legislation**
 - engaging community members in **local** and **national grassroots efforts**.



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National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

1-888-3737-888

www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org

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For more information, resources, referrals, or to report a potential case of human trafficking please call us toll-free, 24 hours/day at **1.888.3737.888** or email us at **NHTRC@polarisproject.org**.



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