



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel

Identifying and Reporting Human Trafficking

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Objectives:

- Differentiate between human trafficking and other crimes
- Recognize the circumstances which make human trafficking victims vulnerable
- Identify strategies to effectively recognize human trafficking victims
- Identify additional resources on recognizing and assisting human trafficking victims



What is Human Trafficking

- Crime of exploitation – not transportation
- Victims are vulnerable in some way
 - Runaway girl
 - Foreign national dependent on documents
 - Trafficker gets victim addicted to drugs
- Trafficker exploits vulnerability



What form does Human Trafficking take:

Sex Trafficking

- Prostitution
 - Online Escorts
 - On the corner
 - Strippers
 - Online “peep” shows
- Brothels
- Massage Parlors

Labor Trafficking

- Domestic Servitude
- Agricultural
- Landscaping
- Construction
- Restaurants



Human Trafficking Can Happen Anywhere

- Do you have abused/neglected children?
- Do you have a “red-light” district (or just truck stops)?
- Do you have the Internet? And Hotels?
- Do you have massage parlors?
- Do you have large agricultural operations?
- Do you have resorts?
- Do you have nail salons/hair braiding salons?
- Do you have restaurants?



Indicators: SEX TRAFFICKING

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank acct.
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party insists)
- Claims of just visiting but unable to identify where staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts –doesn't know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story



Indicators: LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)



Human Trafficking – Legal Definition

Generally, both Federal and State Law:

Whoever provides or obtains the labor or services of a person by

- Force= physical force or threats of force, physical restraint, or threats of physical restraint to that person or another person;
- Fraud = abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process; or
- Coercion - scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if that person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint
- OR facilitating or controlling access to controlled substances
- Under 18 engaging in commercial sex
- No MOVEMENT required - No RESTRAINT required



HT Victim Characteristics

- Like Domestic Violence/Sexual assault victims:
- Subjected to repeated trauma - hard to keep facts straight
 - Block events from memory
 - Avoid thoughts, feelings, conversations
 - Unable to recall details
 - Diminished interest or participation
 - Feeling detached or estranged
 - Feeling depressed/hopeless



HT Victim Challenges

- Stigma as “damaged goods”
- Religious/cultural beliefs
- Threats to family/children in home county
- Ongoing physical threats and assaults
- Continued isolation
- Lack of housing –nowhere to go
- Fear of being treated as a criminal
- Alcohol/drug addiction
- Trauma bonding/Stockholm syndrome
- Threats of deportation/ Document confiscations
- Debt Bondage



HOW IT ALL COMES TOGETHER: Human Trafficking Case Examples



Labor Trafficking - Hair Braiding

- Teen African girls – “imported” on false passports by family friend
- Promised education in US
- In early teens – forced to work 14 hours/day in hair-braiding salon
- Earned \$300-\$500/day but forced to turn it over to trafficker
- Threatened, burned, denied food and without documents



Labor Trafficking - Domestic Servitude

- African woman – local ‘power-broker” arranged for her to go to US to work as maid
- Got to US – documents were taken
- Forced to work 18 hour days caring for home, family and severely disabled 18 year-old son – no/few days off
- Denied contact with family/church
- Told her pay was being sent to family back home – it wasn’t
- Beaten and threatened with retribution to family back home



Minor Sex Trafficking - “Gruesome”

- 2 teenage girls
- Trafficked at different times
- Hybrid – street prostitution/brothel
- Both managed to escape – self identified victims
- Both testified
- Trial – no mention of “human trafficking”
- Expert testimony



Detroit Pink: Online Escorts

- Couple dozen “escorts”
- The “agency” took the pics – posted the ads and took about ½ the proceeds
- Muhammad regularly used violence and threats of violence to keep the girls working
- Even after Pink disbanded, many girls stayed with Muhammad



TRAVEL INDICATORS: General

- Individuals show signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, fatigue, sleep deprivation, untreated illness, injuries, and/or unusual behavior.
- Individuals lack freedom of movement or are constantly monitored.
- Individuals have no control over or possession of money or ID.
- Individuals dressed inappropriately for their age or have lower quality clothing compared to others in their party.



TRAVEL INDICATORS: Lodging

- Consistent visits from different men to a single guestroom every hour
- An excessive number of people in one guestroom
- A guest using multiple cell phones, pagers and credit cards
- Guests checking in with little or no luggage
- Guests unable to verify what city they came from
- Guests who are distrustful of security, and may be acting as if they are being watched
- Excessive noise or violent situations with the same guest or guestroom
- "Friends" or "relatives" of a guest visiting their room who are unable to provide their name or other identifying information



TRAVEL INDICATORS: Lodging

- The same person reserves multiple rooms.
- Room is rented hourly, less than a day, or for long-term stay that does not appear normal.
- Extended stay with few or no personal possessions.
- A third party pays for a renewal or extension of reservation.
- Insists on little or no housekeeping
- Requests room or housekeeping services (additional towels, new linens, etc.), but denies hotel/motel staff entry into room.
- Presence of multiple computers, cell phones, pagers, credit card swipers, or other technology.



Additional Travel Resources:

- **ECPAT USA**
 - <https://www.ecpatusa.org/travel-elearning>
- **Department of Homeland Security- Blue Campaign:**
<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/blue-campaign/toolkits/hospitality-toolkit-eng.pdf>



Who to call

- National Human Trafficking Hotline:
 - 888-3737-888
 - Text: HELP or INFO to (233733)
- SEMTEC Task Force: 313-965-2323 (if child or domestic victim)
- Department of Homeland Security (if foreign-national victim)
 - Call 1-866-347-2423 (toll free)
 - Report online at www.ice.gov/tips
 - <http://www.dhs.gov/topic/human-trafficking>
- If victim is not ready to talk to LE but need services:
 - Call the Salvation Army 248-443-5500



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