



Talk to your children about Human Trafficking! The Federal Trafficking Victims Protections Act (TVPA) defines the crime of human trafficking as:

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age or;
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of 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.



Oftentimes, when people first learn about sex trafficking, the first thing that comes to mind is “it only happens in movies”. They do not think about their child or grandchildren becoming a victim. The purpose of this handout is to give parents and guardians some insight and tools to talk to their children about the various age groups and maturity levels on commercial sexual exploitation. It is important to recognize the signs and identifiers of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and talk to your children about these situations. Parents or guardians have a right to know where their minor children are at all times, despite what your teen may argue.

A FEW BASIC TOOLS TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN:



- 1) Know where your kids are at all times.
- 2) Know what your kids are doing online and teach them about internet safety.
- 3) Talk to your kids about sexual exploitation.
- 4) Know the warning signs of sexual abuse in younger children and teens and recognize the warning signs of sexual exploitation.
- 5) Educate yourself on the apps and places they frequent.



Know the Warning Signs! It is important to learn and know possible warning signs. Staying alert and involved is so important in a child's life!

Warning Signs for Younger Children:

- Gradual or sudden changes in behavior
- Cruelty to others
- Cruelty to pets Recurring nightmares
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Fear of the dark
- Regression behavior like bed wetting
- Unusual interest in/ knowledge of sex
- Expressing affection in ways that are inappropriate for a child of that age
- Sexual Acting Out/ Inappropriate sexual play (with self, other children)
- Fear of a certain person/ intense dislike of being left somewhere
- Change in behavior around a specific person
- Afraid to be left alone Loss of or lack of interest in friends, school sports, or other activities
- Fear of participating in physical activities at school

Teens:

- Extreme and/ or unexplained anger
- Running away
- Low self-esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors/ self harm
- Seductive behavior Promiscuous behavior
- Eating disorders
- Anxiety and/ or Depression
- Alcohol or substance abuse at young age
- Difficulty establishing relationships with family members and peers at school
- Signs of PTSD from prior trauma
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Inadequately dressed for school
- Teens carrying large amounts of cash with no probable way of obtaining it
- Multiple sexual partners at a young age
- Constantly running away from home
- Often using their friends as "cover-ups" for their whereabouts

Resourced Information provided by the Center for Safer Schools NC Department of Public Instruction
If you suspect Human Trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline - 1-888-373-7888