

# Human Trafficking Virtual Forum

Information is from Polarisproject.org

How does human Trafficking occur?

## **Action-Means-Purpose:**

The Action-Means-Purpose (AMP) Model can be helpful in understanding the federal law. Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, takes an **Action**, and then employs the **Means** of force, fraud or coercion for the **Purpose** of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Induces	Force	Commercial Sex
Recruits	Fraud	or
Harbors	Coercion	Labor/Services
Transports		
Provides		
Obtains		

At a minimum, one element from each column must be present to establish a potential situation of human trafficking.

## **Types of Abuse That Can Occur in Labor- Sex Trafficking Situations based on Domestic Abuse Intervention Projects Duluth Model:**

**Coercion and Threats-** To victim or their family, threaten to expose or shame, may even threaten to report to Police or immigration.

**Intimidation-** Harms other victims, children or pets, displays or uses weapons, destroys property, lies about Police involvement is trafficking situation.

**Emotional Abuse-** Humiliates in front of others, calls names, plays mind games, makes victim feel guilt/ blame for situation, convinces victim they're the only one that cares about them.

**Isolation-** Keeps confined, accompanies to public places, creates distrust of Police/ others, moves victims to other locations, doesn't allow victim to learn English or go to school, denies access to children, family, friends.

**Denying, Blaming, Minimizing-** Makes light of abuse, denies that anything illegal or exploitative is occurring, places blame on the victim.

**Sexual Abuse-** Uses sexual assault as punishment or means of control, forces victim to have sex multiple times a day with strangers, treats victim as an object for monetary gain, normalizes sexual violence and selling sex.

**Physical Abuse-** Shoves, slaps, hits, punches, kicks, strangles, burns brands, tattoos, denies food/water, exposes to harmful chemicals, forces pregnancy termination, induces addiction as a means of control.

**Using Privilege-** Treats victim like a servant, uses gender age or nationality to suggest superiority, uses certain victims to control others hides or destroys important documents

**Economic Abuse-** Creates debt that can never be repaid, takes money earned, prohibits access to finances, limits resources to a small allowance.

## Who Is Most Vulnerable?

"It can happen to anyone," and "it's happening in your backyard," are common in the anti-human trafficking field.

Technically, they are true: Anyone can be trafficked, in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime.

But **the real story** is that while it can happen to anyone available evidence suggests that people of color and LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be trafficked than other demographic groups.

That's not a coincidence. Generational trauma, historic oppression, discrimination and other societal factors and inequities create community-wide vulnerabilities. Traffickers recognize and take advantage of people who are vulnerable in certain ways.

## **People You Know Might Be Vulnerable to Trafficking if They:**

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have a history of domestic violence
  
- Has a caregiver or family member who has a substance abuse issue
- Are runaways or involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system
  
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
  
- Have a history of sexual abuse
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

## **How Traffickers Lure People In:**

Stories become weapons in the hands of human traffickers – fantastical tales of romantic love everlasting and happily ever after's, or tall tales about decent jobs, good wages, waiting for vulnerable workers, just over the horizon. Sometimes, the stories themselves raise red flags. For example, a teacher learns her student plans to run away with a man who promises to make her a model. Other times, traffickers or potential traffickers tip their hands through recruitment.

## **A Few Situations That Might Raise Concerns:**

- A would-be employer refuses to give workers a signed contract, or asks them to sign a contract in a language they can't read
- A would-be employer charges a potential worker fees for the "opportunity" to work in a particular job
  
- A friend, family member, co-worker or student appears to be newly showered with gifts or money or otherwise become the object of some kind of overwhelming, fast-moving and asymmetric (young/older; wealthy/struggling) romantic relationship
- A family member, friend, co-worker or student is developing a relationship which seems "too close" with someone they know solely on social media
  
- A family member, friend or co-worker is offered a job opportunity that appears too good to be true

- A family member, friend or co-worker is recruited for an opportunity that requires them to move far away but their recruiter/prospective employer evades answering their questions or is reluctant to provide detailed information about the job.

## **What to Look For:**

### **Someone You Know May be in a Sex Trafficking Situation If:**

- They want to stop participating in selling or trading sex but feel scared or unable to leave
- They disclose that they were reluctant to engage in selling sex but that someone pressured them into it
- They live where they work or are transported by guards between home and workplace
- They are children who live with or are supported by or dependent on a family member with a substance abuse problem or who is abusive in other ways
- They have a pimp or manager in the sex trade
- They work in an industry where it may be common to be pressured into performing sex acts for money, such as a strip club, illicit cantina, go-go bar, or illicit massage business
- They have an older, or simply controlling parent, guardian, romantic partner or “sponsor” who will not allow you to meet or speak with the person alone or monitors their movements, spending and/or communications

### **Someone You Know May be in a labor Trafficking or Exploitation Situation if You Learn They:**

- Feel pressured by their employer to stay in a job or situation they want to leave
- Owe money to an employer or recruiter and/or not being paid what they were promised or are owed
- Do not have control of their passport or other identity documents
- Are living and working in isolated conditions, largely cut off from interaction with others or support systems
- Appear to be monitored by another person when talking or interacting with others
- Are being threatened by their boss with deportation or other harm
- Are working in dangerous conditions, without proper safety gear, training, adequate breaks and other protections
- Are living in dangerous, overcrowded or inhumane conditions provided by an employer

**If Someone You Know Needs Help:**

**Polaris** operates the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline.

**Call: 1-888-373-7888**

**Text: "BeFree" 233733**