

GHOST CERTIFICATION STUDYGUIDE

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the exploitation of another person for the purpose of labor, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual activity by force, fraud, or coercion. *Note: if it involves a child being made to perform commercial sex acts, there doesn't need to be force, fraud or coercion. It is automatically human trafficking. Examples of Fraud, Coercion, Force:

FRAUD: *False promises.*

- *"We are going to live an amazing life"*
- *"Stick with me and you will be a star"*
- *Work with me and you will make \$500/day"*

COERCION:

- *"Do this one thing for me and I'll take you home"*
- *"If you really loved me you would do this"*
- *"Do this for me and I will give you your hit"*
- *If you don't do this I'm going to tell/show your friends/family what you have been doing"*

FORCE:

- *"If you don't do this I'm going to beat you"*

Who do traffickers target?

Generally, the most vulnerable population is targeted, which include, but are not limited to, children, teens, homeless, victims of abuse (emotional and physical), disabled, poor, and drug/alcohol addicted or co-addicted.

Where can traffickers find their victims?

One of the most common ways that traffickers find their victims is on the internet. Predators can easily stalk and groom their victims on social media sites like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and TikTok. It is incredibly easy for traffickers to gain personal information from potential victims due to what some of them may "over share".

Is human trafficking really an issue?

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world and is second only to illegal drug trade. Human trafficking earns global profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, \$99 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation. Globally, an estimated 71% of enslaved people are women and girls, while men and boys account for 29%. USA is the number one consumer of child sexually abusive material.

Why does human trafficking happen?

Breakdown of family units, the extreme amounts of money to be made, internet accessibility, drug addiction and opioid crisis, poverty, lack of support and assisting services, social isolation and bullying, and no sense of self value.

How does human trafficking happen?

In the US, the three most common way traffickers lure their victims is by a promise of love, belonging to a family and access to a better life. About 84% of the sex trafficking cases in the US involved the trafficker using the internet to sell their victim for sexual services. Trafficker's top tactics include: intimate partner/marriage proposition, family, offering a job, and fraud, or false promises.

What is grooming and what does it look like?

Grooming is befriending and establishing an emotional connection to lower the victim's inhibitions with the intentions and objective of sexual abuse. Grooming is false promises and building trust with the victim with a false sense of care and love by identifying their needs and fulfilling with the sole intention of sexual abuse.

There are 6 stages of grooming

- Stage 1: Targeting a victim.
- Stage 2: Gaining trust.
- Stage 3: Filling a need.
- Stage 4: Isolating the victim.
- Stage 5: Abuse.
- Stage 6: Maintaining control.

Relationships and communication that don't look right, something feels wrong (i.e. adult/child relationship).

How do you spot human trafficking and what are some “red flags” to look for in a child being trafficked (for parents, guardians and adults)?

- Always on their phone/tablet and refusing to take breaks
- Sleep with their phone
- Missing school and not coming home at night
- Coming home in clothes that don't belong to them and different than what they left in
- Having expensive gifts you didn't buy and they have no way to buy them (hair done, nails, eyelashes, extra phones)
- Wearing new/provocative clothes you didn't buy them
- Sudden negative change in grades at school
- Excessive crying or depression and/or feelings of self-hate or worthlessness
- Acting secretive and being defensive to questions
- Unwilling to tell you about their friends
- Adults/people you don't know on their social media
- STDs
- Significantly older boyfriend/girlfriend and being protective or submissive to them
- Show signs of physical abuse such as burn marks, cuts or bruises
- Have tattoos or branding, especially those related to money, ownership, and/or gang symbols
- Have large amounts of cash with no explanation, multiple cell phones and hotel keys
- Caught lying about age and/or have a fake ID

What can I do to keep my kids safe?

Talk to your kids about internet safety, the earlier the better. Traffickers have been known to start grooming children as young as 8 years old. Don't allow them to be friends on social media with people they have never met. Be “present” and available for your kids. Let them know you care and are there for them. Encourage them to tell you if someone asks them for nude photos. Make a "Human Trafficking" talk a mandatory talk to have with your kids--like the “sex talk” or the “drug talk”. It may be difficult to have these conversations with your kids, but it's better to hear these things from a parent than from a predator.

How do I respond/react if I think someone is being trafficked?

Call 911

National Human Trafficking Hotline 877-605-3424

In Genesee Co - GHOST 810-257-3422

Sources:

Polarisproject.org

Unitas.ngo

