

# What youth need to know about **SEX TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION**



## What is child sex trafficking?

A form of severe child abuse that includes a youth under the age of 18 performing a sex act in exchange for money or something of value, regardless of whether any force, fraud, or intimidation is involved.



## Where does sex trafficking occur?

Trafficking can happen **anywhere**.

Traffickers are increasingly using social networks and the Internet to recruit young people.

Trafficking can occur in places such as hotels, businesses, or homes. It can also occur on the Internet, using technology, such as taking and sending sexual photos and videos online.



Most adults and places are safe, but it's important to remember that sex traffickers don't always look dangerous and to take note of the signs so you can protect yourself and get help if and when you need it.

## Who are sex traffickers and buyers?

Traffickers and buyers can be of any gender, nationality, or age. They can include:



- Employers
- Strangers
- Romantic partners
- Family members
- Friends or peers

# 10 warning signs that sex trafficking or exploitation may be occurring



## If someone...

- Touches you where you don't want to be touched
- Says you owe something and you have to do what they want to repay a debt
- Asks you to miss school or be out late at odd hours
- Asks for or takes photos or videos of you without your clothes
- Threatens to harm you or your loved ones, or threatens to call the police or immigration if you don't do what they say
- Offers you gifts, money, drugs, food, or shelter in exchange for sexual acts
- Controls where you go and who you talk to; isolates you from friends and family
- Is in possession of your passport, documents, money, or phone
- Asks you to lie about your age
- Asks you to keep secrets about things you do together or plan to do together

## How can you get help if you or someone you know may be in a sex trafficking situation?

**You have rights**, and these are steps you can take if those rights are violated.

- Talk to a **trusted adult**.
- Call local **police** or **911** in case of emergency, or to report someone abusing or exploiting you.
- Call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline**. They are open 24/7.



**Phone:** 1-888-373-7888

**Text:** 233733

**Live Chat:** <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/chat>



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