

UNBOUND NOW COMMUNITY TRAINING





**UNBOUND
NOW**

- PREVENTION &
AWARENESS
- PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING
- SURVIVOR
ADVOCACY SERVICES

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS AGAINST U.S. LAW.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

(8) SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. – The term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” means –

(A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex 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

(B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting or advertising 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.

(9) SEX TRAFFICKING.- The term “sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

ACTION

- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining
- Patronizing
- Soliciting
- Advertising

MEANS

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

(DO NOT NEED TO BE
PRESENT IN A SITUATION OF
SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS)



PURPOSE

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Forced Labor

THESE ACTIONS
ARE CRIMES!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS

- Labor Trafficking occurs when someone is forced, lied to, or threatened to perform labor or a service. Examples: salons, field workers, factory workers, illicit massage parlors, hair salons (braiders)
- Sex Trafficking occurs when someone is forced, lied to, or threatened to perform a sexual act in exchange for something of value (money, food, shelter, gifts, love and affection)
- Child-Sex Trafficking happens anytime an individual under the age of 18 is involved in a commercial sex act. (no need to prove fraud, force or coercion)

WHY DOES TRAFFICKING REALLY OCCUR?

- Trafficking can occur when individuals are vulnerable
- Being vulnerable means you have unmet physical or emotional needs
- That is why anyone can experience exploitation that leads to trafficking
- Trafficking can happen anywhere, small towns, big cities, the U.S.



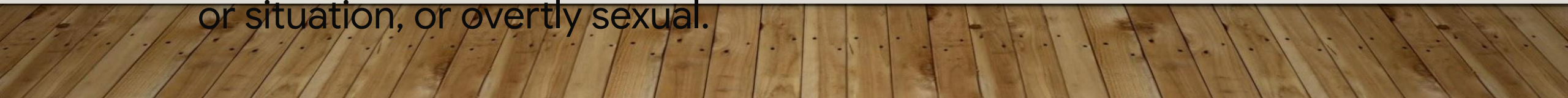
SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Signs of Human Trafficking Can Be Broken Down into 3 Categories:
 - Behavioral and Psychological Indicators
 - Physical and Health Indicators
 - Control and Possession Indicators

BEHAVIORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNS

- **Isolation** The young person may be disconnected from friends, family, or community organizations and have limited social interaction.
- **Sudden Changes** There may be abrupt or dramatic changes in behavior, an unexplained loss of interest in previous activities, or frequent unexcused absences from school.
- **Fear and Anxiety** They may appear overly fearful, anxious, paranoid, or submissive, especially around a specific accompanying adult.
- **Scripted Responses** The individual might give answers that sound rehearsed or inconsistent, or defer to another person to speak for them.
- **Unusual Relationships** They may have an older "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" who is overly controlling or with whom they have an age-inappropriate relationship.
- **Running Away** A history of running away from home or current status as a runaway is a significant risk factor, as traffickers often target this vulnerable population.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH INDICATORS

- **Physical Abuse** Signs of physical injuries, such as bruises, cuts, or burn marks in various stages of healing, without a plausible explanation.
 - **Malnourishment/Poor Health** They may appear malnourished, sleep-deprived, or have untreated medical or dental conditions, including STDs.
 - **Tattoos or Branding** New or unusual tattoos, especially in discrete places like the neck or lower back, can sometimes be a sign of "branding" by a trafficker.
 - **Inappropriate Attire** Clothing may be inappropriate for the weather or situation, or overtly sexual.
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CONTROL AND POSSESSION INDICATORS

- **Lack of Freedom** The young person may not be free to leave their living or work situation, have limited movement, or live at their place of employment.
- **No Control of Documents/Money** They may lack control over their personal identification documents (ID, passport, birth certificate), money, or cell phone.
- **Unusual Wealth/Possessions** A sudden, unexplained appearance of expensive clothing, jewelry, or electronics without a known source of income may be a red flag.
- **Lack of Knowledge of Surroundings** They may be unaware of their current city, where they live, or their work address.

WHERE DOES SEX TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Venues for Sex Trafficking

- **Residence-Based Commercial Sex**
- **Illicit Massage/Spa Business**
- **Hotel/Motel-Based**
- **Street-Based**
- **Pornography**
- **Online Ad Venue**
- **Escort Services**

HOW DOES THE INTERNET PLAY A ROLE IN TRAFFICKING?

- The internet can play a significant role in how recruiters target youth online
- Social Media can become a venue traffickers use to target and groom their victims
- Gaming platforms can be another venue traffickers utilize to target victims

THE INTERNET AND IT'S POWER

- Almost everything we do in our culture today has a dependency on the internet.
- Our culture treats the internet with an almost “Godlike” status
 - Even in Christian circles, how many times do we look up information in the bible vs. google?
 - Do we choose to read vs. listening to audiobooks which are internet based
 - Schools place an emphasis on using the internet as a primary source of information gathering, but are children taught which sites are safe?

SOCIAL MEDIA: KEY TRENDS IN NEW SOCIAL MEDIA

- Decentralization: Platforms like Bluesky, Mastodon, and Nostr allow users to have more control over their data and moderation. (ex. “X” formerly Twitter)
- Niche & Creator-First Communities: Platforms like Sunroom, Geneva, and Cara have emerged to serve specific audiences such as women/ non-binary creators, artists, or community groups (ex. “Only Fans”)
- AI Integration: New platforms are increasingly integrating AI for content creation or to create “vibe-coding” tools
- Social Commerce: Platforms are focusing on combining social interaction with shopping (Lemon8, Fanbase) (ex. Lifestyle apps focus on fashion, beauty, food, etc.)
- Older platforms: Facebook, Meta, Instagram, SnapChat, etc.



4 Shadows of Sextortion

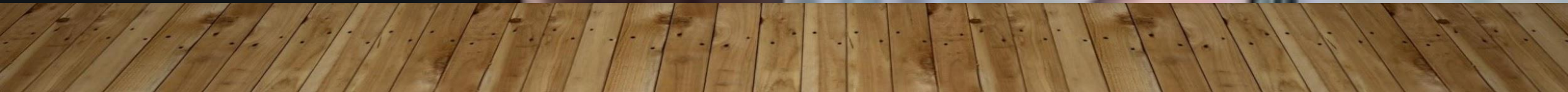


GAMING PLATFORMS

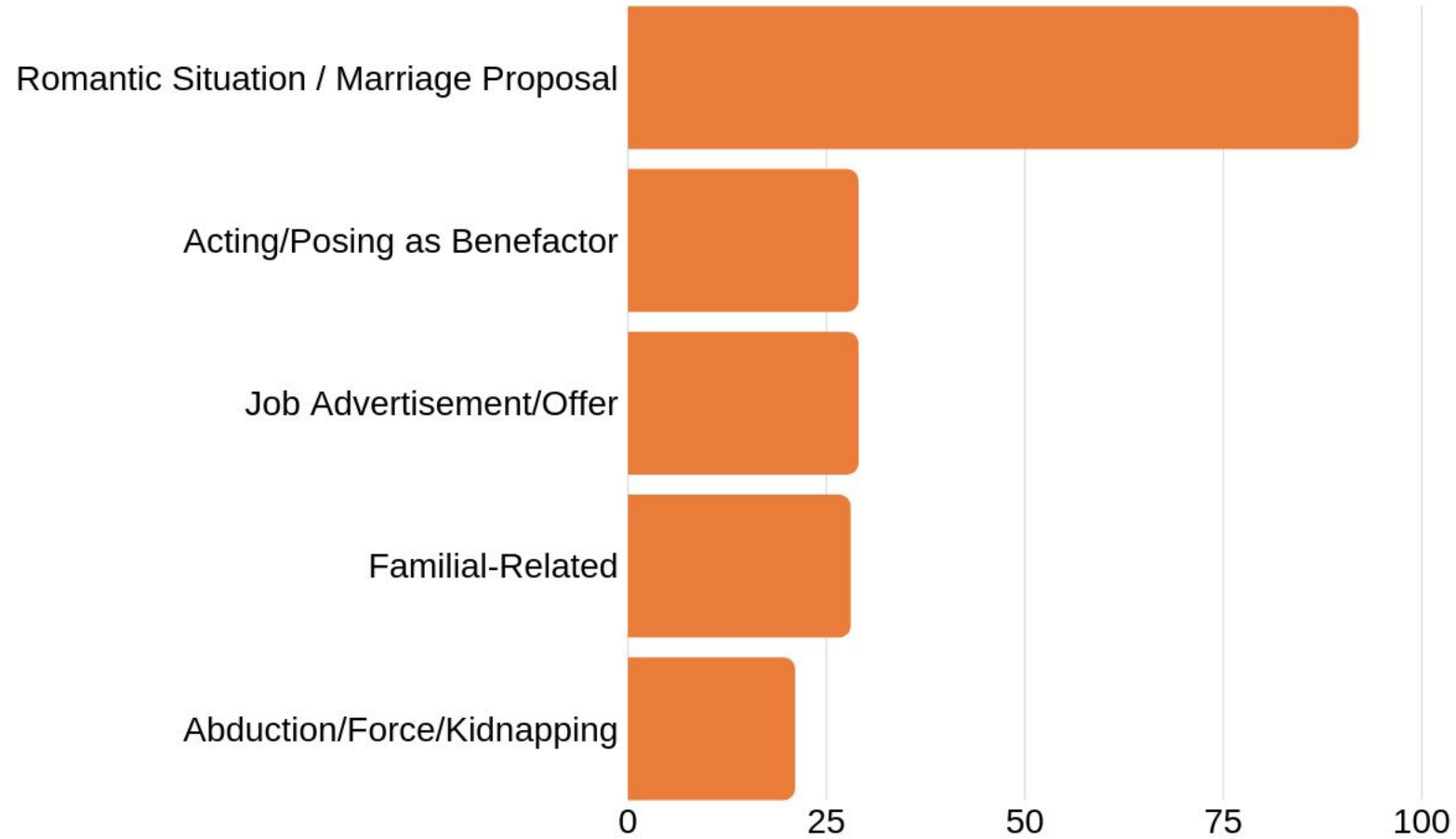
- PC Gaming; The largest segment. Used on personal computers. Can include headsets which can be used for more personal conversations with other players
- Console Gaming: PlayStation, Microsoft Xbox and Nintendo's Switch
- Mobile Gaming: Includes smartphones and tablets popular for accessibility and casual games
- Cross Platform Play: Growing trend allowing players on different devices to play together

THORN 7

**BOYS TARGETED
ONLINE AT ALARMING
RATES, *EXPLAINED***



RECRUITMENT METHODS



(Polaris Project, 2015)



RISK FACTORS

- Runaway
- Homelessness
- LGBTQ
- Child sexual abuse
- Chronic abuse or neglect
- Lack of personal safety
- Isolation
- Emotional distress
- Poverty
- Family dysfunction
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Learning disabilities
- Developmental delay
- Promotion of sexual exploitation by family or peers
- Lack of social support

BARRIERS TO IDENTIFICATION

- FEAR OF NOT BEING BELIEVED
- FEAR OF RETALIATION
- FEAR OF BEING PLACED IN FOSTER CARE
- FEAR OF GETTING FAMILY MEMBER IN TROUBLE
- FEAR OF BEING CALLED A TROUBLE MAKER
- CONFUSION AND DISORIENTATION
- TRAUMA BONDING/STOCKHOLM SYNDROME
- LACK OF AWARENESS/ UNDERSTANDING OF EXPLOITATION/ TRAFFICKING

HANDS ON ACTIVITY – 25 MINUTES



REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Report Child Abuse – It's the Law

Texas law requires that any person suspecting that a child has been abused or neglected must immediately make a report. If there is an emergency, call 911 and then call the DFPS Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.

You can also [make a report online](#) (External Link).

Professionals must make a report no later than the 48th hour after first suspecting a child has been abused or neglected or is a victim of an offense under Section 21.11, Penal Code. A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report (Texas Family Code, Section 261.101). Professionals are not required to follow up their oral reports with a written report as they were in the past. Professionals include teachers, nurses, doctors, day-care employees, and others who are either licensed by the state or work in a facility licensed or operated by the state and who have direct contact with children in the course of their job (Texas Family Code, Section 261.101).

RED FLAGS: THINGS TO LOOK AND LISTEN FOR



- Youth who live in hotels/motels for significant periods of time are at risk of being exposed to exploitation or lured into exploitation
- Youth who spend significant amounts of unsupervised time with much older youth and or adults are at risk of exploitation
- Youth who present wearing suggestive clothing and looking for attention are at risk
- Youth who don't have basic needs met are at risk
- Youth who go between multiple homes on a regular basis are at risk
- Youth who live in “unauthorized foster homes” are at risk
- Youth who are obsessed with taking suggestive photos of themselves are at risk

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If emergency, call 911

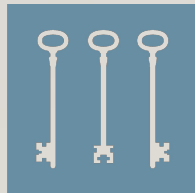
If you suspect a child is being trafficked:

Follow your school's mandatory reporting protocol.

Victim Resources:

24/7 crisis hotline: 817-668-6462

unboundnow.org



UNBOUND
FORT WORTH

National Human Trafficking Hotline

888-3737-888

Text: BE FREE to 233733

**24/7, Confidential,
Multiple languages**

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SAMPLE PROTOCOL FOR SUSPECTED VICTIMIZATION

1. Involve appropriate school staff for further investigation.
2. Make detailed CPS report, if abuse or neglect is suspected.
3. Investigate impact on school (safety, recruitment, harassment) with involvement of law enforcement.
4. If appropriate, in consultation with suspected victim, contact parent or guardian.
5. Offer referrals to UnBound and/or counseling resources.
6. Check in with student regularly.

(U.S. Department of Education, 2015)

SAMPLE PROTOCOL FOR SUSPECTED RECRUITMENT

1. Involve appropriate school staff for further investigation.
 2. Investigate impact on school (safety, recruitment, harassment) with involvement of law enforcement.
 3. Provide school consequence for students involved, if appropriate. Law enforcement may make arrest.
- *In all, consider the needs and best interests of potential victims.

(U.S. Department of Education, 2015)

SAMPLE PROTOCOL FOR CONFIRMED VICTIMIZATION

1. Involve appropriate school staff for further investigation.
2. Make detailed CPS report.
3. Investigate impact on school (safety, recruitment, harassment) with involvement of law enforcement.
4. If appropriate, in consultation with suspected victim, contact parent or guardian.
5. Offer referrals to UnBound and/or counseling resources.
6. Work with student and parent/guardian to ensure safe learning environment.

(U.S. Department of Education, 2015)