

# **SPOT THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## **AWARENESS CAN SAVE LIVES**

Note: Each indicator, taken individually, may not imply a trafficking situation and not all victims of human trafficking will exhibit these signs.

### **GENERAL INDICATORS**

- Physical appearance
  - Isolation
- Poor living conditions
- Restricted freedom and movement
  - Unusual travel times
  - Reluctant to seek help

### **PEOPLE MAY BE VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKING IF THEY...**

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have previously experienced other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence
- Have run away or are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a caregiver or family member who has a substance use issue
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

### **THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

- Living with an employer
- Multiple people living in a confined space
- Limited English vocabulary, possibly restricted to sexualized words
- Living at the same address with multiple females, foreign or national
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Answers that appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Showing signs of physical abuse, including bruising, scarring, and cigarette burns

- Seeming to be closely guarded
- Submissive, fearful, or intimidated
- Branded with a tattoo, indicating ownership

### **THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF LABOR TRAFFICKING**

- Working under the menace of a penalty or the person has not offered himself voluntarily and is now unable to leave
- Feeling pressured by their employer to stay in a job, in a situation, or in an accommodation provided by the employer
- Owing money to an employer or recruiter or are not being paid what they were promised or are owed
- Having no access to own documents, such as ID, passport, and work contracts
- Living and working in isolated conditions, largely cut off from interaction with others or support systems
- Appearing to be monitored by another person when talking or interacting with others
- Being threatened by their boss with deportation or other harm
- Working in dangerous conditions without proper safety gear, training, adequate breaks, or other protections
- Living in dangerous, overcrowded, or inhumane conditions provided by an employer
- Being afraid to accept help or payments
- Working particularly long hours, often without breaks
- Being paid less than minimum wage

### **THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF DOMESTIC SERVITUDE**

- Living and working for a family in a private home
- Having no access to their own belongings, including their ID and mobile phone
- Not eating with the rest of the family, not interacting often with them
- Having no bedroom or proper sleeping place
- Being forced to work excessive hours; "on call" 24 hours a day
- Being abused by an employer, either physically and verbally
- Being deprived of food, water, or medical care
- Never leaving the house on their own, or their movements could be monitored

- Being malnourished
- Being reported as missing or accused of crime by their 'employer' if they try to escape

### **THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF CHILD ABUSE**

- Often going missing/truanting
- Being secretive
- Often receiving unexplained money or presents
- Experimenting with drugs/alcohol
- Associating with or being groomed by older people
- Being in relationships with significantly older people
- Taking part in social activities with no plausible explanation
- Entering or leaving vehicles with unknown adults
- Showing evidence of physical or sexual assault
- Showing signs of low self-image/self-harm/eating disorder
- Having mood swings, including being angry, upset, or withdrawn
- Going missing at night or weekends and may not be clear about their whereabouts
- Not attending school

### **THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION**

- A large group of adult or children beggars might be moved daily to different locations but return to the same location every night. This could indicate forced begging.
- An individual might be transported to or from the scene of a crime, including shoplifting, pick-pocketing or forced begging.
- An individual may not benefit from the money or items they have obtained through the crimes they have been forced to commit.
- A person may be forced to cultivate cannabis with their freedom of movement restricted; including being locked in a room. It is common that the individual may not be able to speak English, or have a limited vocabulary.
- A vulnerable person may be forced or manipulated out of their home by drug dealers who use the home as a base to sell drugs.
- Young people may be forced to transport and sell drugs across county borders, which is known as County Lines.