

Human Trafficking (HT)



Little Known Facts about HT

- Defined as recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud or coercion.
- Involves men, women and children.
- Estimated 27M adults, 13M children globally - victims of human trafficking, between 14,500 and 17,500 are trafficked into US each year.
- Third largest international crime industry and generates a profit of \$32B every year.
- 30,000 victims of sex trafficking die each year from abuse, torture and neglect.
- Victims work in sexual services and prostitution, sweatshops, domestic servitude and agricultural work.
- Sex traffickers use variety of ways to “condition” victims including starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, beating etc.

Little Known facts (cont.)



- 54% HT cases recruiter – stranger; 46% - recruiters know victim.
- HT victims face physical risks, e.g. drug and alcohol addiction; contracting STDs; sterility; miscarriages; forced abortions; clinical depression; PTSD; personality and dissociative disorders.
- Global warming and severe natural disasters left millions homeless and impoverished - leaves desperate people easily exploited by human traffickers.
- Family members will often sell children and other family members into slavery; younger the victim - the more money the trafficker receives.

Understanding the Mindset of a Victim



- Victims often do not see themselves as victims
- Victims may feel shame, self-blame and feelings of unworthiness of a better life
- Victims may be coached to lie to mental health professions
- Often give fabricated histories with scripted stories
- Victims are often fearful, distrust law enforcement, gvt. services due to fear of arrest

Understanding the Mindset of a Victim(cont)



- Victims may have formed a trauma bond with exploiter; may have deep loyalties & positive feelings for abuser.
- Victims often fear for their own safety & safety of loved ones due to threats of violence.
- Drugs often play role in HT – way to cope; victims sometimes enter “the life” to support drug habit.
- Victims are recruited by pimps who will love/take care of them.
- Gang related prostitution.
- Running away & living on the streets and forced to exchange sex for survival.
- Kidnapped by guerilla pimp and forced into life.

Red flags



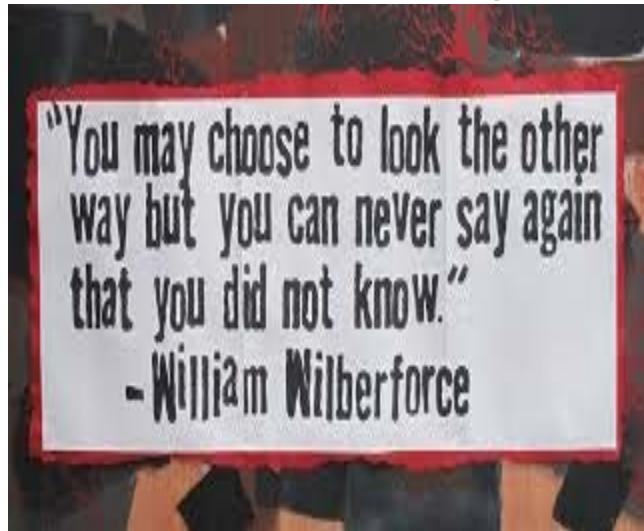
- Chronic runaway
- History of abuse
- Traveling with an older male
- Presence of an older boyfriend
- Unusual tattoos or branding marks
- Use of street lingo with references to “the game”
“the life”
- Lack of ID
- Dominating/controlling “boyfriend” or female in room who refuses to leave

Treatment needs of HT victims



- Safety
- Stabilization of trauma symptoms
- Positive social support
- Lifestyle change incl. addressing drugs/alcohol abuse
- Counselling (group/individual)
- Address core beliefs about self/world
- Address trauma bond between/trafficker

For Help



- National Human Trafficking Hotline – 1888-3737-888
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children –
1-800-THE –LOST (1800-843-5678)
- Seek therapists who have training in trauma therapy.
- If client is in immediate danger, call 911

RESOURCES

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