

Protecting Our Children

A Trafficking Awareness Seminar

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Be Aware

(From San Diego District Attorney Website TheUglyTruthSD.org)

- Victims of human trafficking include children, women and men.
- Victims of human trafficking can be domestic or foreign to include U.S. citizens and legal residents, or foreign nationals including those legally documented or undocumented.
- Victims regularly include runaway youths solicited and recruited for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation.
- Victims often have backgrounds of child abuse/domestic violence, but do span every socioeconomic and family background.

Perpetrators of human trafficking under both federal and state law are those who:

- Attempt to induce or persuade a child or minor under the age of 18 to engage in prostitution, pornography or other forms of sexual exploitation.
- Deprive or violate the personal liberty of anyone 18 or above through means including coercion, duress or deceit to engage the victim in prostitution, pornography or other forms of sexual exploitation.
- Deprive or violate the liberty of anyone under or over the age of 18 through means including coercion, duress or deceit to obtain forced labor or services.
- Can include family members, boyfriends, peer recruiters and organized criminals and gangs

What are the warning signs of human trafficking based on sexual exploitation of a Minor?

Parents, teachers, employers, counselors, nurses, doctors, other professionals and friends of trafficking victims are often unaware of the abuse that is happening right in front of their eyes.

- Running away from home
- Truancy, chronic absenteeism
- Sudden drop in grades
- Change of friends or alienation from regular friends
- Rumors among students regarding sex activities
- Sudden change in behavior, attitude or attire
- Anger, aggression, being suicidal or fearful
- Claims of a new and mysterious/secretive “boyfriend”
- Use of drugs (i.e. marijuana and ecstasy)
- Weight loss
- Bruises or other physical trauma
- New cell phone or multiple cell phones
- Use of terminology related to prostitution
- Tattoos that are related to pimping/prostitution activity
- Secrecy with social media and phone

What Can You Do?

- Become aware and educate yourself as to the facts and myths of human trafficking.
- Save the human trafficking hotline in your phone and post it on any social media that you use to inform others.
- Report suspected human trafficking activity by calling 1-888-3737-888 or texting BeFree (233733).
- Place the human trafficking poster in your place of business to spread awareness.
- Stop the demand for sexual and labor exploitation that constitutes the profit that drives human trafficking, i.e. buying sex, buying cheap labor.
- Educate yourself on the warning signs and red flags of human trafficking.
- Support legislation that holds perpetrators accountable and promotes dignity for victims.
- Support and encourage your local schools to educate their teachers, counselors, health providers and staff about this topic.
- Support and encourage your local schools to educate children about this topic so they can avoid the pitfalls or ask for help.
- Encourage your civic or faith based organizations to become educated and educate their members about human trafficking.
- Support victims of human trafficking through welcoming them into our communities and directing them to the professional resources available.

How can you protect yourself and your family? Tell your children:

- **Don't** talk to unknown or unfamiliar people.
- **Don't** post any personal information on your Facebook that you would not want strangers to see online.
- **Don't** believe claims by disguised perpetrators that they are photographers, producers, and others who will make you famous.
- **Don't** accept invitation to "parties" of anyone not in your trusted circle and always let a parent or friend know where you are going.
- **Don't** be lured by lines commonly used to lure victims like "You're pretty. You could make some money," "I'm here for you", "it is you and me against the world", "just do this one thing for me so we can pay the bills", "I'll take care of you".

Support

Organizations helping victims, like:

Alabaster Jar Project (alabasterjarproject.org)

Generate Hope (generatehope.org)

Pray


- Young people will be protected
- Parents, teachers and others will be vigilant
- Law enforcement will be given wisdom and protection
- Victims will be rescued and restored
- Perpetrators will be brought to justice

Have you seen something?

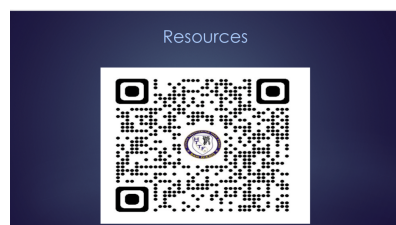
Call local law enforcement or, if you see an emergency situation, call 911



CALL THE HOTLINE

 1-888-373-7888
Text 233-733 (Be Free)

(Add to your phone)



For more information about Biblical Citizenship or to subscribe to our mailing, email penny.harrington@cox.net