

10 Things to Know About Sex Trafficking

1. Sex trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person is induced to perform such an act is under age 18.
2. Traffickers use psychological as well as physical coercion and abuse.
3. Victims of sex trafficking can be women or men, girls or boys, but the majority are women and girls.
4. Traffickers often lure victims into situations of sex trafficking by promising a good job, good money or other luxuries.
5. Victims can be sold into the sex trade by parents, husbands, boyfriends, others. Some victims are kidnapped.
6. Sex traffickers often “condition” their victims with starvation, confinement, beatings, physical abuse, rape, gang rape, threats of violence to the victim or the victim’s family, forced drug use and/or threat of shaming their victims by revealing their activities to their family and their families’ friends.
7. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to becoming victims of sex trafficking.
8. Victims may suffer from traumatic bonding, a form of coercive control in which the perpetrator instills in the victim fear, as well as gratitude, for being allowed to live.
9. There are many forms of sex trafficking, such as forced or coerced prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, and sex tourism.
10. Sex trafficking can occur in high-profile venues, such as street prostitution, or in underground systems, such as closed brothels or homes.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center operates a 24-hour hotline for victims of sex trafficking.

855-431-STAR (7827)

For more information, visit www.clevelandrapecrisis.org.

Source: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/fact_sheet_sex_trafficking.pdf



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