

STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

How to Identify and Report It

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a form of abuse or exploitation in which individuals are forced, coerced, or lured with false promises of employment and a better life. Under Federal law, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” can be broken into two categories:

- **Sex Trafficking:** recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or the person being induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age.
- **Labor Trafficking:** recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

HOW DOES TRAFFICKING OCCUR?

Trafficking occurs when the trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel **labor/services or a commercial sex act**, or when a victim induced to perform commercial sex is under age 18.

WHO COULD BE A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Any person can become a victim. Some individuals are more at risk than others and may be targeted — undocumented workers, temporary foreign workers, substance users, mental health sufferers, homeless or runaway youth, and individuals experiencing economic hardship.

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

There are situations that provide clues to identifying human trafficking, and certain industries where human trafficking is more likely to occur. A few examples are agricultural or farm work, construction, seafood, landscaping, hotels, restaurants, and domestic work. Victims of human trafficking may lack freedom of mobility or means of communication, lose the ability to speak for themselves, suffer loss of control of their own identification documents (ID or passport) or access to their own money, may reside in the employer’s home, workplace, or in trafficker-controlled housing, sometimes in large irregular sleeping arrangements, and may not know the name of their employer, or what city and state they are in.

HOW DO YOU REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

If you or someone you know is in an environment where human trafficking is suspected, you should call 911. You can also tell any law enforcement, emergency responder, doctor’s office, hospital, faith-based community, community advocate, OSHA staff visiting your worksite, or someone else you may trust to help you. You or someone you trust can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888; text “BeFree” (233733); or LiveChat [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org).

OSHA is committed to working toward creating a safe and hazard-free workplace for ALL workers. While OSHA does not have the authority to investigate or prosecute trafficking crimes, whether labor or sex trafficking, OSHA may refer potential trafficking cases to federal, state or local law enforcement that we might identify at workplaces. For more information on workers’ safety and health rights and how to report labor violations, please go to www.osha.gov or call us at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742). **If You See Something, Report it.**