

UNDERSTANDING SEX TRAFFICKING



Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking

In 2000, the passage of the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act (TVPA) made human trafficking a federal crime and defined sex trafficking as—

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced is under 18.

Realities of Sex Trafficking

Survivors of sex trafficking include all races, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, and nationalities. Sex trafficking is an underreported crime for many reasons. Victims may fear for their safety and well-being or have concerns about the criminal justice system, legal system, and other social services. Traffickers may threaten their victims or falsely tell them they will be deported or arrested if they talk with law enforcement.

Sex Trafficking Identifiers

Sex trafficking occurs when an action, means, and a purpose are all present, except in cases involving minors when the means do not need to be

established. An action may be thought of as the “what”, the means as “how”, and the

WHO WE ARE

The Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center is a coaching and development hub assisting organizations and tribes with: (1) building their capacity to aid victims of all forms of human trafficking, (2) navigating the broad range of resources available to support their missions, and (3) strengthening human trafficking service networks.

purpose as “why”. The Action, Means, Purpose (AMP) Model is an effective tool to use to identify survivors of sex trafficking.

Action - What

- **Recruiting** - proactively targeting an individual’s **vulnerabilities** and/or grooming, or befriending a child with the intention to abuse.
- **Using** - supplying alcohol and/or drugs to garner an intimate relationship or support an existing habit.
- **Harboring** - isolation, confinement, and/or monitoring of another person’s movement.
- **Transporting** - the unwanted movement and/or arranging of travel of another person.
- **Providing** - the giving of a victim as a commodity to another person.
- **Obtaining** - forcibly taking something from someone else; exchanging something for the ability to control another person.
- **Soliciting** - offering something of value in exchange for sex such as housing, food, clothing, travel, etc.

Means - How

- **Force** - physical assault, sexual assault, isolation, and/or confinement of another person.
- **Fraud** - false employment offers, sham marriages, lying about work situation, withholding wages, and/or taking legal documentation (such as a passport or driver’s license).
- **Coercion** - threats of violence, threats of arrest/deportation, debt bondage, and/or withholding legal documentation.

Purpose - Why

- **Commercial sex act** - any sex act on account of anything of value given to or received by any person.

To learn more about the signs of sex trafficking, access the *[Understanding Human Trafficking](#)* online training course available from the Office for Victims of Crime.

Contact the Center at contact@ovc-htcbc.org or 1-844-682-0411.