



## What is Trafficking in Persons?

Trafficking in Persons, also referred to as human trafficking, is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex. Any minor (under 18 years of age) involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking. Trafficking in Persons includes elements of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for the purpose of exploitation.

The three most common forms of trafficking are: Labor Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, and Child Soldiering.

## What is the Difference between Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling?

Human Smuggling is *voluntary*; fees are usually paid in advance or upon arrival; always international in nature; and is a crime against nation's sovereignty.

Human Trafficking is *not voluntary*; entails exploitation of a person; need not entail physical movement of a person; can occur domestically or abroad; and is a crime against the right of each person to be free from involuntary servitude.

## Who are at Risk?

Victims of human trafficking can be of any gender, race, nationality, and part of any social, economic, or immigration status. They can be man, woman, adult, child, foreign national, or United States citizen.

Vulnerable populations include undocumented migrants, runaway and homeless youth, women and children with limited resources, oppressed social or cultural groups, people displaced by natural disaster or civil conflict, or victims of prior sexual or physical abuse.

## What are the Potential Indicators of Trafficking in Persons?\*

Sex Trafficking:

- The victim is watched, followed, or monitored.
- Someone insists on speaking or interpreting on behalf of the victim.

- The victim shows signs of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse.
- The victim is living and working in the same location.
- The victim is not in control of his/her own identification documents and money.
- The victim is under 18 years of age.

Labor Trafficking:

- The victim does not possess or control his/her identification papers or travel documents.
- The victim is paid less than promised.
- The victim does not receive pay, or has had wages withheld for a long period of time.
- The victim is doing a different job than expected.
- The victim was required to pay a "recruitment fee" as a condition of employment.
- The victim is forced to work in unsafe working conditions.

\* Indicators listed are only a sample of the many indicators of trafficking in persons.

## How Do I Respond to Suspected Trafficking in Persons Situations?

If you suspect trafficking, do not get directly involved. Report the situation to the appropriate authority.

DoD Inspector General Hotline:  
[dodig.mil/hotline](http://dodig.mil/hotline)  
800-242-9098

Local Law Enforcement (military or civilian police)

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline:  
<http://traffickingresources.org>  
800-373-7888

