

Who are the traffickers?

Perpetrators of human trafficking span **ALL racial, ethnic, and gender demographics**; they are as diverse as victims. Traffickers can include:

- **Intimate partners**
- **Gang members**
- **Classmates**
- **Business owners**
- **Parents or family members of victims**
- **Authority figures**
- **Friends**
- **Online friends**
- **Followers**

Traffickers work to gain a victim's trust, provide for their needs, isolate them from friends, and then force them into trafficking.

Is your child being Targeted?

Be on the lookout for these warning signs...

- **Missing school frequently**
- **New or multiple cellphones**
- **New or expensive items purchased by someone else**
- **Signs of drug use**
- **Disinterest in activities previously cared about**
- **Older or controlling partner**
- **Knowledge of "the life" or "the game" and its slang**

Where can you get help?

If you or a loved one needs help, caring and trained people are available.

You have the right to report any information that would help protect someone from human trafficking.

San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-344-6000 or call any police or sheriff's department. Reporting human trafficking is not a crime.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888 or Text: **"HELP"** or **"INFO"** to **233733**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

800-843-5678 or [cybertipline.org](https://www.cybertipline.org)

Other Resources



HUMAN Trafficking

PARENT AND CAREGIVER
BROCHURE

"You are basically in a riptide. The only thing I am thinking is how do I get my child out. You're stuck. You're scared. You don't know what to do."

- PARENT OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex acts.

According to the FBI, San Diego is one of the country's 13 hotspots for human trafficking. Local research estimates that the buying and selling of adults and children produces \$810 million annually in San Diego County alone.

Many victims do not realize they are under the control of another person. Traffickers promise love, safety, money, protection, and other incentives to pressure victims into commercial sex acts or labor. Victims are manipulated into believing they cannot change or leave their situation.

What if your child tells you they have received money or gifts for work or sex acts they did not want to do?

Your child may be a victim of human trafficking.

Do:

- Believe them.
- Listen without judgment.
- Hold them with love and patience.
- Ask them how you can support them and follow through.
- Let them define their own stories.
- Respect their confidentiality. This is their story, not yours, to tell if they choose to share.
- Offer resources.
- Report it.

Don't:

- Tell them it is their fault.
- Brush off or ignore the situation and pretend it did not happen.
- Lecture them on why this happened to them.
- Make them feel ashamed.
- Ask them why they didn't leave or stop.
- Ask them for specific dates and times.
- Share their experiences with other family members and friends unless they give you permission.

Scan the QR code for parent and caregiver discussion guides.



Preventing Human Trafficking

Discuss Online Safety

Speak to your child about the difference between a safe or unsafe online friend.

Look at social media together and discuss who can see and share the information that your child posts online.

Stay Connected

Talk to your child about the difference of "belonging" and "fitting in." Remind them they are loved just the way they are.

Create family rituals. Start with something small and repeatable. There is no right or wrong ritual.

Ensure your child has at least one other adult or peer that they can talk to if someone is making them uncomfortable or not letting them say no.

Talk About Vulnerable Situations

What would you do if...

.....someone you met online wanted to meet in person?

...a friend offered you an opportunity that sounded too good to be true?

What do you think of someone you know...

...being offered money for a picture or video of their body?

...getting threatened or blackmailed for sexting with someone they trusted?