

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW AND WHY.



PARENT AWARENESS ON TRAFFICKING

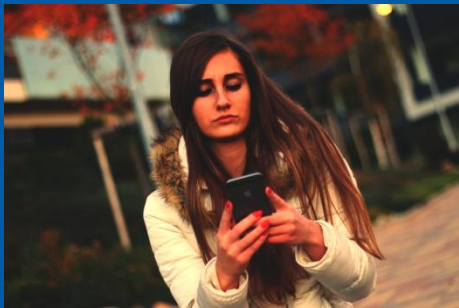
A 2016 study done by the University of Texas estimates that **in Texas, there are 79,000 youth and minors living as victims of sex trafficking.** Trafficking is happening all around us in the Houston area: in the inner city, in the suburbs, in every walk of life.



**Rotary District 5890
Greater Houston Area**

WHAT TO KNOW.

Traffickers look for vulnerable youth in schools, neighborhoods and especially online. Traffickers are looking for young people who feel alone, have an unmet need, long for attention, or have a lot of unsupervised time (think time on internet/social media.) The trafficker then reaches out to the young person and establishes a relationship, building trust while simultaneously drawing them away from their family and friends. The tables then turn and exploitation begins. By this time, the young person does not recognize the danger they are in or feels too trapped to do anything about it.



WATCH FOR SIGNS.

- Becoming isolated/withdrawn
- Major change in personality/behavior
- Drug/alcohol use
- Sudden presence of an older friend/boyfriend
- New tattoos/branding
- Abandons old friends for a new group of friends, usually older
- Inconsistent stories/responses
- Breaking family rules (if this is a new behavior)
- Additional cell phone, hotel keys, prepaid credit cards

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING?

“Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting 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 to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. The term “commercial sex act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.”

HumanTraffickingHotline.Org

What can YOU do?

- Talk to your child about the danger of people who pretend to be someone else online
- Discuss with your child ways they might notice when a “friend” might have hidden motives.
- Encourage open conversations with your child.
- Request an anti-trafficking presentation in your child’s school.



For more information:

Visit love146.org or unboundnow.org

For help or to make a report:

National Human Trafficking Hotline
(888-373-7888), humantraffickinghotline.org
Houston Police Vice Department : 713-308-8600

Additional Resources

To stop sex buying or to stop urges to buy:

thinktwicetexas.com/resources

Porn use can lead to sex buying. Quit porn for good at joinfortify.org

Twelve Step Program for sex addiction: houstonsaa.org