

## Red Flags Used to Help Identify Victims of Trafficking

To accurately identify victims of trafficking, please note that 3-5 five red flags need to be present. One or two of these red flags does not mean that you are witnessing a trafficking situation. If a trafficking situation is suspected, please do not approach possible traffickers or deal with the situation yourself. Instead, reach out to your local police department if a potential victim appears to be in immediate harm or danger and/or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) to make a report and get support. Also, please note that there are red flags specific to each profession (e.g., medical providers, police officers, etc.) and that this is simply a broad guideline. Reach out to BridgeHope for your future training needs.

- Multiple cell phones
- Never alone
- Talking about the game
- Branding
- Looks down when talking to you (no eye contact) or belligerent affect responses
- Has expensive things that were “gifted” or expresses that he/she needs to pay someone back for something
- Isolation (including lack of education)
- Talks of promises that were made (large amounts of money, future pursuits, etc.)
- Symptoms of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Debt bondage
- Poor working/living conditions
- ID has been withheld
- Prostitution/solicitation charges
- Censored communication
- Trauma (sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and physical abuse)
- Chronic runaway
- Talks about having to pay to keep or get a job
- Individuals has no details of job in writing
- Highly controlled work setting (including where the employer fails to pay wages)
- Dissociation and other trauma responses

## Tangible Ways to Interact with Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

- Be an active listener (e.g., respond with empathy and authenticity)
- Use a strength based approach in all interactions
- Expect trauma responses like dissociation
- Learn how to work with the trauma responses that surface
- Take each opportunity to speak truth and value into the individual and situation
- Do not take things personally
- Be a student of the potential victim (e.g., what is their need?)
- Choose your words carefully (e.g., do not use the lingo of the game to try to build rapport)
- Be genuine in all interactions and seek to establish rapport with potential victim
- Ask appropriate screening questions
- Note the red flags you see (e.g., where do you see force, fraud, and coercion?)
- Seek to reduce the threat of harm
- Have relationships with survivor leaders and organizations
- Educate your entire team on what human trafficking is and protocol responses
- Do NOT give human trafficking handouts to potential victims, instead let them read them in a safe place
- Empower potential victim and survivors by helping them create their next steps