

Identifying and Interacting with Human Trafficking Victims

What does a victim of trafficking look like?

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you meet every day. You can help trafficking victims get the assistance they need by looking beneath the surface for the following clues:

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of an inability to move or leave job
- Bruises or other signs of physical abuse
- Fear or depression
- Not speaking on own behalf and/or Non-English speaking
- Lack of passport, immigration or identification documentation

Traffickers use various techniques to keep victims enslaved. Some Traffickers keep their victims under lock and key. However, the more frequent practice is to use less obvious techniques including:

- Debt bondage - financial obligations, honor-bound to satisfy debt
- Isolation from the public - limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored or superficial in nature
- Isolation from family members and members of their ethnic and religious community
- Confiscation of passports, visas and/or identification documents
- Use or threat of violence toward victims and/or families of victims
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing circumstances to family
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported for immigration violations if they contact authorities
- Control of the victims' money, e.g., holding their money for "safe-keeping"

The result of such techniques is to instill fear in victims. The victims' isolation is further exacerbated because many do not speak English and are from countries where law enforcement is corrupt and feared.

What should I do if I suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking?

If you think you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1.888.3737.888** . This hotline will help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, will identify local resources available in your community to help protect and serve the victim.

(Adapted from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services *Rescue & Restore* materials.)

