

**HOTELS. RESTAURANTS. HOMES. IN PLAIN SIGHT.  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.**

## **LEARN THE SIGNS.**



As we work together to eliminate human trafficking in our communities, one of the key tools we can use is the knowledge to recognize and report activity that you suspect may be human trafficking. By learning the signs below, you can play a key part in identifying victims of trafficking. Whether you are participating in a training or

helping spread awareness in your community, the movement to end human trafficking takes many forms. Learning the signs is just the beginning.

### **An individual who may be a victim of human trafficking may...**

- Not be free to leave or come and go as they wish
- Lack knowledge about their whereabouts
- Live and work in the same location
- Work excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Not be able to speak for themselves and/or someone else does all the talking on their behalf
- Have been recruited through false promises concerning the nature of and/or conditions of their work
- Show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture
- Be unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Have few or no personal possessions
- Display hypervigilance in their behavior

In addition to the signs above, also be aware of the below signs, specific to the type of trafficking.

### **An individual who may be a victim of sex trafficking may...**

- Frequently runaway or have high instances of truancy
- Have a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner that is significantly older
- Use slang that may be new to you (<http://sharedhope.org/the-problem/trafficking-terms/>)
- Show up with new clothing, gifts, or lifestyle changes that are not in congruence with that individual's typical behavior
- Be new to the area or seem to travel very often
- Display "brands" in the form of tattoos or other bodily markings
- Have evidence of untreated STDs

### **An individual who may be a victim of labor trafficking may...**

- Owe someone a significantly large debt
- Have no control of their own money
- Have no financial records or bank account

It's important to remember, that the signs above are not a checklist. The presence or absence of a sign is not necessarily proof that an individual is or isn't being trafficked. If you suspect that an individual is being trafficked, do not intervene or put yourself in immediate danger. Use your best judgement and report activity that you suspect may be human trafficking to one of the following:

- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center:**
  - **Call 1-888-373-7888 / Text HELP or INFO to BEFREE (233733)**
- **Contact your local law enforcement agency**

CONTRA COSTA HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
**COALITION**

A project of the Alliance to End Abuse