OUR STATE. THEIR LIVES. YOUR CALL

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REPORT SUSPECTED SEX TRAFFICKING

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ONCE YOU KNOW, MAKE THE CALL

What is sex trafficking? Receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual or receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or having reason to know it is derived from sex trafficking.

Who are traffickers? Sex traffickers/pimps are not usually strangers. They can be a significant other, employer, friend or family member.

How do traffickers control victims? Traffickers most commonly use threats, physical and emotional abuse, economic manipulation, and isolation from friends and family. They make promises aimed at addressing the needs of their target in order to impose control. As a result, victims become trapped and fear leaving, which makes them more vulnerable and dependent.

Who is vulnerable? Juveniles are extremely vulnerable with an average age of 12-14 when they enter into prostitution. Additionally, those marginalized by race, ethnicity or LGBT, recent migration or relocation.

Where do traffickers find young victims? Social media, websites, chat lines, after-school events, places where youth congregate, or through other youth who are used by the traffickers to recruit additional victims.

Traits or signs of a victim:

- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous, paranoid
- Inconsistent, hesitant responses about work, home life or whereabouts
- Youth
- Chronic runaway/homelessness
- Unstable family environment with little/no social support
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse
- Isolation from family and friends
- Mental health concerns
- Poverty; Lack of possessions or resources
- Substance abuse
- Racial, Ethnic or LGBT marginalization
- Presence or fear of another person

Sources: National Human Trafficking Resource Center, The Advocates for Human Rights, Breaking Free Movement, Polaris Project

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