

Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It:

Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals

Manipulation
Intimidation
Seduction
Humiliation
Money
Threats
Fear
Coercion
Exploitation

**CHILDREN
ARE NOT
FOR \$ALE**

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Help Us Stop Child Trafficking

NYC
Children

**Office of Child Trafficking
Prevention and Policy**

child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov





This guide has been provided to you by the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to enhance your awareness of child trafficking and provide information and strategies on how to work with trafficking survivors. ACS protects and promotes the safety and well-being of New York City's children and families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and many advocacy services. ACS is committed to identifying and helping labor trafficked and commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and youth achieve safety and obtain resources to help them heal and thrive.

OFFICE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING PREVENTION AND POLICY

ACS established its dedicated Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) in March 2015 to provide guidance for work with this very vulnerable population. OCTPP works to raise awareness of trafficking, identify appropriate services to help at-risk youth and survivors of child sex and labor trafficking, provide consultation, guidance and technical assistance on cases, and develop policies and procedures. OCTPP compiles and analyzes data, provides direct group work services, and hosts a wide variety of training and awareness events, including three annual virtual conferences, a child tattoo removal program and a Credible Messenger Program. OCTPP provides awareness materials (brochures, posters) in 12 languages.

OCTPP serves ACS and its contract agencies, and also other City and community-based agencies through administration of the NYC Safe Harbour Program. OCTPP can be contacted through 4 mailboxes:

Child Trafficking Mailbox for child notifications and assessment and guidance support: child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov

Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Mailbox for database questions and concerns: CTDB@acs.nyc.gov

HUMAN
TRAFFICK-
ING

Training Mailbox for training requests and schedules:
traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov

Tattoo Removal Mailbox for removal inquiries and referrals for trafficked and/or gang-involved youth: child.tattoo.removal@acs.nyc.gov

Website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>

POLICY GUIDANCE

The 2020 ACS policy “Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims” articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth, who are in the care, custody, care and custody, maintenance, or supervision of the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), who are survivors of, or at risk of, sex and/or labor trafficking. Additionally, this policy provides guidance and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in working towards keeping these trafficked children and youth or at-risk children and youth safe and supported by safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and making referrals for appropriate services. Download a copy of the policy by visiting: www.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/youth/childtrafficking/PolicySafetyPlanning.pdf. For any questions, email: traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Human trafficking occurs whenever a person engages in sexual and/or labor services for the benefit of someone else due to force, fraud or coercion, or whenever a person under the age of 18 is involved in a commercial sex act. Force, fraud or coercion is not required under the age of 18.

QuickTerm 

Human trafficking is... **The act of** recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for labor, services or commercial sex acts.

Continued on next page.

By means of

force, fraud or coercion (though these are not required if the survivor is under the age of 18). **In 2018, NYS passed the End Child Sex Trafficking Act**, which eliminated the need to prove force, fraud or coercion when a victim under the age of 18 is trafficked for commercial sex.

For the purpose of

exploitation, involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery or any commercial sex act involving a minor.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime. Some victims are isolated, but others are hidden in plain sight. A key step to combating human trafficking is to identify victims so they can be helped and the perpetrators brought to justice. Knowing what to look for can help you act on suspicions that something is wrong.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VS. HUMAN SMUGGLING

Human trafficking and human smuggling are different, though sometimes they occur together.

TRAFFICKING	SMUGGLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Using physical or psychological means to hold another person in servitude against his or her will (i.e., slavery)+ Not a crime of movement (i.e., of crossing borders)+ Nonconsensual and indefinite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Facilitating, transporting or attempting to transport someone across an international border illegally, either clandestinely or through deception (e.g., by using fraudulent documents)+ Often consensual+ Ends when a border has been crossed and a fee has been paid

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is a lucrative industry, and criminals traffic children just as they would traffic drugs or other illegal substances. Victims include children and youth of all genders, sexual orientations and ages. Even very young children can be trafficked. They may be brought into the U.S. from other countries, but generally these children are American residents. When this occurs, it is known as domestic sex trafficking (DST).

Children are recruited and exploited through a variety of means, including through the need for food, clothing or shelter (known as “survival sex”), by Gorilla pimps who use violence and threats to break the will of a victim and force them into submission, by Romeo pimps who masquerade as romantically interested in a vulnerable child, by peers or family members, or through the Internet.

Children can be recruited anywhere: schools, malls/shopping areas, social events, foster homes, group homes, shelters, strip clubs, bars, nightclubs, and especially through social media. Victims may start off dancing or stripping in clubs and are then lured into pornography and/or sex acts.

QuickStat

- + Every year in the U.S., 100,000 to 300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex.
- + The average age a girl enters the commercial sex trade is 12-14 years old. For boys, it's 11-13 years old.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Q Is child sex and labor trafficking voluntary?

A No, sex and labor trafficking is not voluntary. A child cannot agree to be sexually exploited or labor trafficked. Children under the age of 18 cannot give legal consent. More importantly, they do not have the cognitive ability (due to immature brain development) to understand the consequences of their actions. Also, immature social and emotional development makes them vulnerable to the influence of an exploiter. Children involved in commercial sexual exploitation and/or labor trafficking are victims of emotional manipulation, physical violence, coercion and control.

Q What is “survival sex”?

A Survival sex occurs when a child engages in sex acts to obtain money, food, shelter, clothing, drugs or other items needed for survival. These transactions often involve only the child and the buyer. Children engaged in survival sex are often not controlled by traffickers. Any person who pays for sex with a child, whether the child is controlled by a pimp or resorts to survival sex, **can** be prosecuted.

QuickStat 

36%

About 36% of homeless youths have engaged in survival sex.*

*Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) study

MYTH A person must be forced or coerced into commercial sex to be a victim of human trafficking.

FACT Under U.S. Federal law and New York state law, any person under the age of 18 who is involved in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of force, fraud or coercion.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Many victims of sex trafficking are also labor trafficked. Human labor trafficking occurs in several industries:

- + Domestic labor (in a private home) – cleaning, childcare and eldercare
- + Service labor – hotels, nail salons, restaurants and bars
- + Agricultural and ranch labor
- + Construction work
- + Manufacturing and factory (sweatshop) labor
- + Begging, street peddling and door-to-door sales

TYPES

QuickNote

Domestic workplaces

Domestic workers are vulnerable to exploitation in part because authorities cannot inspect private property as easily as they can inspect formal workplaces.

Child labor

Children can legally do some kinds of work, but not work that interferes with their physical and mental development. Child labor is work that prevents children from attending school or is harmful to their health or their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

Not all work performed by children is exploitative. Nonexploitative activities could include performing household chores, assisting parents in a family business outside of school hours and working in nonhazardous activities after school or during vacations to earn some money.

ORGAN TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of living or deceased persons or their organs by means of threat, force, other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, for the purpose of exploitation by the removal of organs for transplantation.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Trafficking victims may be:

- + Young children, teenagers or adults.
- + Of any race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.
- + U.S. citizens, migrant and temporary workers on legitimate visas or undocumented workers.

FOREIGN VICTIMS

Many victims come from countries that suffer from poverty, instability and limited opportunities, and they are often lured under false pretenses. They are told that a better life or job awaits them in the U.S. However, when they arrive, they are forced, coerced or defrauded under the control of a trafficker.

Foreign victims may be both more recognizable and less likely to seek help than domestic victims, in part because:

- + They are far from home and in an unfamiliar location and culture.
- + They may be carrying a false passport or other documentation to conceal their age and true identity.
- + They may struggle with the English language.

MYTH Human trafficking happens only in other countries.

FACT Human trafficking exists in every country, including the U.S., and in cities, suburbs and rural towns – possibly in your own community.

DOMESTIC VICTIMS

Traffickers target youth who are in vulnerable situations and who have little or no social safety net. Many victimized children have histories of physical and/or sexual abuse, dating violence or running away from home. These youth may also:

- + Have disabilities.
- + Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ).
- + Have experienced juvenile justice services.
- + Be refugees, immigrants or non-English speakers.
- + Have low self-esteem.
- + Suffer from a general lack of opportunity, resources and social support.

VICTIMS

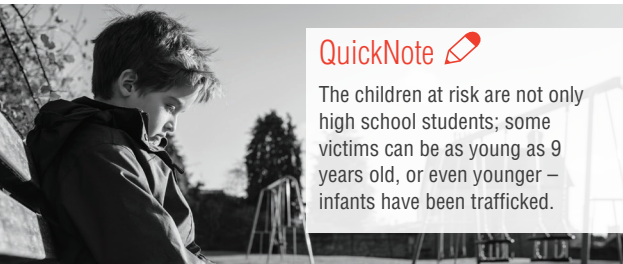
QuickStat

In 2023, more than 28,000 missing children were reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). 1 in 6 of these children were likely victims of child sex trafficking. 19% of the children reported missing were likely victims of sex trafficking.

Source: www.missingkid.org/theissues/trafficking

QuickNote

The children at risk are not only high school students; some victims can be as young as 9 years old, or even younger – infants have been trafficked.



RISK FACTORS

Several risk factors make certain children more susceptible:

- + Lack of personal safety
- + Isolation
- + Emotional distress
- + Homelessness
- + Poverty
- + Family dysfunction
- + Substance abuse
- + Mental illness
- + Learning disabilities
- + Developmental delay
- + Childhood sexual abuse
- + Promotion of sexual exploitation by friends or family
- + Lack of social support

QuickNote

The biggest risk factor for being susceptible to luring is having unmet needs.

PRECONCEPTIONS

Stereotypes can make it difficult to recognize victims. Think carefully about whether you may have any preconceptions. Child welfare professionals need to recognize and eliminate any biases prior to working with child trafficking survivors.

- + Exploited children are **not** prostitutes. They are victims and survivors of commercial sexual abuse.
- + They do not act out of choice. They are manipulated either by an exploiter or through the need to survive.
- + What do you think an exploiter looks like? Do they fit a certain profile? Would you recognize a trafficker on the street?

WHO ARE THE BUYERS?



Buyers of commercial sex with children are hard to identify because they don't always fit a particular profile. They can be any gender, any age, from any background and employed in any profession.

Buyers may or may not be aware that the person from whom they are buying sex is a child (or a trafficked adult).

This is not a legal defense.

- + Some buyers seek out sex with minors because they believe they are less likely to contract a sexually transmitted disease from a younger person.
- + Some buyers assume the victim is an adult, and do not make the effort, or care to ask.

QuickTerms

Buyers of commercial sex are commonly called **johns**, though they also call themselves or are referred to as **hobbyists**, **mongers** (from **whoremonger**), **punters**, **clients**, **customers**, **dates** and **tricks**.

QuickNote

Efforts to reduce child sex trafficking and other forms of trafficking should address not only the supply but also the demand. One way to do this is with laws that criminalize the purchase of sex. Another is to use education to change the culture that normalizes and accepts the sale of sex.

WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Traffickers can be family members, acquaintances, pimps, employers, smugglers or strangers, men and women, and not all traffickers are adults. Teenagers and peers have been known to participate in recruiting and luring children – they, too, are victims.

In the U.S., traffickers may be working alone, for another pimp/trafficker (usually an older male, but not always) or within organized crime networks operating both within and across state and national lines.

QuickTerms

When referring to the trafficking of minors, the terms **pimp** and **trafficker** can mean the same thing. This is not necessarily the case with adults because, in some cases, adults can consent to sex work. Some adults choose sex work as their profession, while other adults are trafficked due to force, fraud or coercion.

Facilitators are businesses or people that actively or passively contribute to or benefit from the trafficking industry. They are well positioned and have an ethical responsibility to act to prevent, identify and respond to suspected or potential trafficking, but do not.

MYTH Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.

FACT Sex trafficking is not the only type of human trafficking. There is also the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), which refers to children under 18 and does not require force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking is when a person under 18 is induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud or coercion. There is also organ trafficking.

HOW TRAFFICKERS OPERATE



Traffickers look for vulnerabilities. They target children who are in a bad situation and who want something better. Children may be lured with food, clothes, attention, friendship, love and the promise of fame or a safe place to stay.

Foreign victims may be lured by the promise of a good job in another country or a marriage proposal, or they may be taken forcibly, kidnapped by traffickers or sold into the sex trade by a parent, husband or boyfriend.

Domestic victims are lured in places where children spend time – malls, schools, after-school programs, bus and train stations, clubs and group homes. They also recruit through social media and peers or classmates who befriend the target and slowly groom the child for the trafficker.

TARGETING, LURING & GROOMING

Traffickers adapt their techniques to the victims. The first contact is key: How the target reacts determines whether the trafficker will take the next step. If the target responds favorably or with interest, the trafficker begins grooming and luring the victim into dangerous or inappropriate behavior.

Signs a child is being groomed include receiving gifts from an unknown source, having a cell phone a parent did not provide, making/receiving calls from unknown numbers, turning away from family and friends, having a new best friend or boyfriend/girlfriend (usually older), having new clothing, hairstyle and salon nails, and spending lots of time online.

CURIOSITY

Traffickers may exploit children's natural curiosity about sex and lure children into sexual activity by acting as guides or pretending (particularly online, known as "Catfishing") to be adolescents themselves. Adolescents questioning their sexuality are at even higher risk. They may look online for support and companionship but end up in contact with predators and traffickers.

ROMANCE

Traffickers create a (false) loving and caring relationship with their victims to establish trust, dependence and loyalty, making their targets even more vulnerable. They gradually isolate and convince the victims of their love before selling them for sex. This is known as "trauma-bonding".

QuickNote

Remember that an exploited child is a victim and that criminal responsibility rests with the trafficker, not the child.

New York State Safe Harbour law requires that support and social services be provided to commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and ensures treatment as victims rather than prosecution as criminals.

PROTECTION AND SURVIVAL

Children may be enticed to leave their homes by (false) promises of something better. Others run away or are "thrown away" by their parents or caregivers, leaving them few options for survival. These children are often lured by the promise of earning money to survive or of being taken care of in **what they mistakenly believe will be** a secure, loving environment.

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Internet is a great way to stay in touch and meet new people. Traffickers know this and actively stalk target-rich online meeting places:

- + Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram)
- + Multiplayer games
- + Chat rooms
- + Instant messaging (e.g., Snapchat, Kik)
- + Video chat (e.g., Omegle)

CONVENIENCE

Traffickers can easily and quickly scan through online profiles to find suitable targets, and they can do it from anywhere. They look for profiles that show sexual assertiveness and neediness.

APPROACHABILITY

Very often, children respond more readily to contact from strangers on social media than they would to a stranger approaching them in person (e.g., at a mall).

ANONYMITY

Anyone can pretend to be anyone online. Traffickers misrepresent themselves to more readily befriend their targets, and the activity takes place outside of the public sphere, where others could intervene.

MARKETING

Trafficking victims are marketed through many websites. Online marketing is a technique traffickers use to try to distance themselves from the victims, the johns and the criminal activity.

CELL PHONES, APPS & SEXTING

Cell phones offer traffickers control over and near constant access to their victims:

- + GPS for monitoring
- + Constant texting
- + Text message review
- + Sexting and blackmail

Some apps (e.g., Snapchat) are promoted as a “safe” way to send temporary photo and video messages. In fact, these apps can be hacked, and the photos and videos saved and distributed without the victim’s knowledge. Traffickers can use the photos and videos for sextortion or to advertise the victims for sale.

QuickTerm

Sextortion is a form of online sexual exploitation that uses nonphysical forms of coercion (e.g., blackmail) to acquire sexual images, sexual favors or money.

Girls are often more vulnerable than boys to sextortion because in sexting girls typically take photos that show both their bodies and their faces, whereas boys typically take photos of themselves from the waist down. A sexually explicit photo or video that shows the person’s face is more likely to be distributed and easier to use to blackmail.



COERCION TECHNIQUES

In addition to luring, traffickers use a variety of techniques to coerce their victims.

BONDED LABOR / DEBT BONDAGE / PEONAGE

Coercion with a bond or debt is a widely used method of enslaving people. Victims are made to work for low wages to repay an unreasonable amount of money in exchange for a service (e.g., transportation).

FORCED LABOR / INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

Victims are held against their will and forced to work under the threat of violence. Their freedom is restricted and a degree of ownership is exerted.

Traffickers' use of coercion (e.g., threats of deportation or of harm) is so powerful that victims may be too fearful to accept an offer of help.

QuickNote

Each victim has a different experience, but in general, trafficking victims live under the control of their traffickers, subject to fear, abuse and denial of their basic human rights.

MYTH Human trafficking victims will ask for help.

FACT Human trafficking is often a hidden crime. Victims may be afraid to ask for help. They may fear violence and retribution from traffickers to themselves or to their families, and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identity documents.

METHODS OF CONTROL

Traffickers control their victims in several ways.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

- + Victims' identity or travel documents are held by the traffickers to restrict the victims' freedom of movement.

WAGES

- + Victims don't control their money.
- + They are paid far less than promised or not paid at all.
- + They work to pay off a debt.

SAFETY

- + Victims or their families are threatened with harm.
- + They experience mental and physical abuse.
- + They are threatened with deportation or arrest.

FREEDOM

- + Victims don't speak for themselves, are unable to speak the language or have been coached on what to say.
- + They are isolated and not allowed to socialize.
- + They are watched, escorted or guarded.
- + They are moved far away from friends and family and continuously moved to new locations.
- + Their appearance is altered.

WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

- + Victims aren't given the job they expected.
- + They are deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or satisfactory living conditions.

EFFECTS

Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for minors, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease, drug addiction, unintended pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism and death.

THE MINDSET OF A TRAFFICKING VICTIM

A human trafficking victim may develop a mindset of fear, distrust, denial and conflicting loyalties.

- + Foreign victims of trafficking are often fearful of being deported or jailed and, therefore, they may distrust law enforcement and government officials.
- + Similarly, traffickers may convince sex trafficking victims that, if they report their traffickers to the police, the police will jail the victim while the traffickers, pimps or johns will go free.
- + Many victims of both sex and labor trafficking fear that if they escape, the trafficker will harm them or their family members.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM

- + Mind/body separation
- + Helplessness, shame, humiliation, shock, denial
- + Grief, fear, distrust, hatred of men
- + Self-hatred, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts
- + Anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, panic attacks, depression
- + **Trauma bonding**

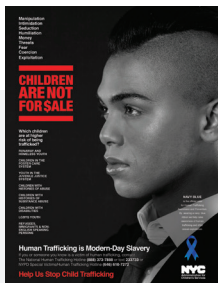
QuickTerm

In **trauma bonding**, a victim develops a maladaptive attachment through intentional psychological manipulation by the exploiter. This makes the victim compliant, subservient and self-blaming, desperately trying to please the exploiter to maintain the attachment. Victims often do not realize they are in abusive relationships.

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

While not all victims of trafficking show physical signs, many victims suffer serious health issues:

- + Signs of physical abuse (e.g., bruises, broken bones, burns, scarring)
- + Traumatic brain injury (TBI) resulting in memory loss, dizziness, headaches and numbness
- + Chronic back, visual or hearing problems from work in agriculture, construction or manufacturing
- + Skin or respiratory problems caused by exposure to chemicals
- + Infectious diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, hepatitis)
- + Untreated chronic illnesses (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease)
- + Limb amputation (e.g., from farm accident)
- + Reproductive health problems, including sexually transmitted illnesses, urinary tract infections, pelvic pain, sterility, miscarriage and injuries from sexual assault or forced abortions
- + Drug and alcohol addiction



RED FLAGS

The first step in identifying victims is to recognize the signs. A number of red flags can help you identify human trafficking.

SEX TRAFFICKING SIGNS

- + An older or controlling “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”
- + Unexplained absences or a sharp drop in grades
- + Frequently running away from home
- + Social isolation from friends and family
- + Drug addiction (may show as bad behavior)
- + References to frequent travel to other cities
- + Bruises or other signs of physical trauma
- + Health issues (e.g., sexually transmitted illnesses)
- + Lack of control over schedule and/or documents
- + Hunger or clothing not suited to the place/weather
- + Coached or rehearsed responses to questions
- + Sudden change in behavior, relationships or material possessions (e.g., expensive clothes or accessories)
- + More than one mobile phone (e.g., one for parents, another for the trafficker and a third for “dates”)
- + Hotel keys, airplane or other travel receipts
- + Uncharacteristic promiscuity or references to sex that are inappropriate for the age
- + Highly sexual clothing or online profile
- + Poor personal hygiene
- + Tattoos or burns (branding) displaying the name or moniker of the trafficker (e.g., “Daddy’s girl”)

FORCED LABOR SIGNS

- + Being unpaid, paid very little or only through tips
- + Working without a school-authorized work permit or working outside permitted hours for students
- + Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- + Not being allowed breaks or working long work hours
- + Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer
- + Not being in control of his or her own money
- + Living with an employer or having an employer listed as his or her caregiver, or living in poor conditions or with many people in a cramped space
- + Wanting to quit a job but not being allowed to

PSYCHOLOGICAL & BEHAVIORAL CLUES

- + Helplessness, shame, guilt, low self-esteem, self-blame, humiliation
- + Shock and denial, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, panic attacks, anxiety, anger
- + Withdrawn behavior, depression, fear
- + Emotional numbness, detachment, dissociation
- + Sleep problems or eating disorders
- + Drug and/or alcohol abuse to cope with or “escape” situation, or as a method of control used by traffickers
- + Trauma bonding and believing that the trafficker is a loving boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse or parent
- + Avoiding eye contact, having memory gaps, resisting being touched

ROLE OF THE CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL

SCREENING

The 2014 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act required all states to develop a procedure for screening children within the child welfare system for sex trafficking. In 2015, The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided Administrative Directive 15-OCFS-ADM-16: Requirements to Identify, Document, Report and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims.

The ADM contains two screening tools and a law enforcement referral form:

- 1 OCFS 3921: Rapid Indicator Tool To Identify Children Who May Be Sex Trafficking Victims or Are at Risk of Being a Sex Trafficking Victim
- 2 OCFS 3920: Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool
- 3 OCFS 3922: Law Enforcement Report of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim

All children, ages birth through 18, receiving services from the New York City child welfare system must be screened as mandated by ACS' 2020 policy: "Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims." All screenings must occur in the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB), not with paper tools. The only exceptions for the use of paper tools instead of the CTDB are Advocates Prevention-Only (ADVPO) cases and Family Assessment Program (FAP) cases.

THE CHILD TRAFFICKING DATABASE

In 2017, ACS launched the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB), an electronic application that houses the OCFS screening tools. All children, except those in Advocates Prevention-Only (ADVPO) cases and Family Assessment Program (FAP) cases should be screened electronically in the CTDB, not using the paper version of the screening tools. (Only ADVPO and FAP cases should use the paper tools.)

ACCESSING THE CTDB

FOR ACS STAFF:

Within the Intranet, use the “**Tools**” tab to access the “**CTDB**” button.

FOR CONTRACT AND PROVIDER AGENCY STAFF:

Log in to the CTDB Application URL:

www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/applications-for-authorized-users.page

The link is available on the ACS website. Click on the About tab, then Partners > Applications for Authorized Users > CTDB

QuickContact

The CTDB Reference Guide is available through emailing ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention & Policy's training e-mailbox at: traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov or download from: www.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/youth/childtrafficking/CTDBReferenceGuide.pdf

QuickContact

For CTDB questions and concerns, send an email to: CTDB@acs.nyc.gov

PROTOCOL

WHO TO NOTIFY OF A TRAFFICKING VICTIM

If you suspect a child is a sex trafficking victim, and you have access to an ACS Investigative Consultation Team, notify your ACS Investigative Consultant immediately. If you have identified a child to be a sex trafficking victim (who meets the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking), you must notify the following:

- + The National Human Trafficking Hotline by phone at: **888-373-7888**, or by text at: **233733**
- + If the child is trafficked and AWOL, contact The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at: **800-THE-LOST (843-5678)**, or the CyberTipline at: **www.missingkids.com**
- + If you are ACS staff, foster care, preventive or juvenile justice staff, send an email to the ACS Child Trafficking Mailbox at: **child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov**
 - If this is not an Advocate case, provide the full name, date of birth and borough of the child.
 - If this is an Advocate case, provide only the age, gender and borough of the child.
- + The New York Police Department (NYPD) by submitting the OCFS 3922, Law Enforcement Report of a Sex Trafficking Victim, and obtaining the Law Enforcement Report (LER) number
- + If the trafficker is a parent or person legally responsible for the victim, contact the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment at: **800-342-3720**
- + If the survivor consents, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) can begin the victim confirmation process. Use the New York State Human Trafficking Referral Form at: **www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5633227/NYS-Human-Trafficking-Referral-Form**
- + An unaccompanied minor should be referred to the ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP): **acf.hhs.gov/otip**

NOTIFYING NYPD AND OCTPP OF THE OCFS 3922

To provide NYPD with the OCFS 3922 Law Enforcement Referral (LER) for children who meet the Federal Definition Level of Sex Trafficking:

- + Only use the three-page JUNE 2018 version. The prior one-page version will not be accepted by NYPD.
- + **Scan and email** the OCFS 3922 to: **VED@nypd.org** (NYPD's Human Trafficking Squad), copied to: **child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov** with "HT" in the subject line.
- + **Do NOT fax** the OCFS 3922. The fax numbers on the old form are obsolete.
- + After emailing, the screener should call Vice Enforcement Division to NYPD at **212-694-3013**. The office is available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- + Explain that you just emailed a sex trafficked child LER for review.
- + Ask for the NYPD LER number and the name of the detective to whom you are speaking for documentation in Connections and in the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB).
- + If you email the LER after business hours, please ensure the follow-up phone call occurs immediately on the next business day.
- + Staff from the Vice Division Coordinator's office Human Trafficking Squad will review / vet the LER, then call the screener to gather additional information.
- + Notify ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) of all sex and labor trafficked children at: **child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov**. OCTPP will respond to your email and can assist with assessment, conference participation, safety planning and resource suggestions.

“MOVIN’ ON”: THE NYC CHILD TATTOO ERADICATION PROJECT AND NETWORK

MISSION

To assist trafficking victims and former gang members in positively moving forward with their lives through the provision of trauma-informed tattoo removal and relevant support.

GOALS

- + To ensure that all youth have the opportunity to have an exploiter or gang branding safely removed.
- + To link medical and social work professionals willing to contribute time and expertise towards removing tattoos from child trafficking victims and youth leaving street gangs.
- + To reduce trauma by connecting medical providers with case planners and youth to provide an opportunity for shared discussion and situational understanding.
- + To provide tattoo removal in a trauma-informed and physically and emotionally safe environment.
- + To provide training to medical providers on trafficking and gang dynamics to enhance their knowledge of, and empathy for branded youth.

QuickContact

For tattoo removal inquiries and/or a copy of the protocol, send an email to: child.tattoo.removal@acs.nyc.gov

View the video on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGUMtzplo48 or locate it by searching for “ACS Tattoo Movin’ On” on the web.

SPEAKING WITH SURVIVORS



The survivors who are the most in need of help are often the most difficult to help. They may be defensive, hostile and reluctant to share information. The reason for this is most often fear: fear of being labeled a “snitch,” fear of punishment and fear of being harmed.

QuickNote

People who are being trafficked are often reluctant to identify themselves as victims or survivors – they may not realize they are victims of a crime.

Be an honest, nonjudgmental listener. Relationships between victims and exploiters are often complex, and victims are often fearful, mistrusting and ashamed. To open up, they need someone who can listen to the details of their life compassionately and respond without judgment.

Victims of human trafficking are more likely to reveal some of their true situations when they are interviewed in a neutral, nonconfrontational setting.

QuickTip

Surviving mentors with lived experience are highly recommended to engage with youth who have experienced trafficking. Lived experience is irreplaceable in providing engagement and empathy.

LOCATION

Don't question a child you suspect is a human trafficking victim unless you can do so without putting his or her safety at risk. Talk to the child only in a safe, private space when you are sure the trafficker won't see, hear or find out.

If you do not have experience working with trafficking victims, please contact an expert to assist. Children are often reluctant to disclose for a variety of reasons:

- + **Frightened** of threats or retribution by the trafficker
- + **Fear** of being taken from familiar people or places
- + **Embarrassed by and ashamed** of the exploitation and the abuse endured
- + **Unrealistic expectation** that a child will promptly disclose traumatic information
- + **Cultural norms** may make talking to child welfare staff about these experiences very difficult

QuickNote

Remember that child survivors have special needs and may assume what has happened to them is their own fault.

You would never want to re-traumatize a child, so if disclosure is not prompt and voluntary, please contact an expert.

Manipulation
Intimidation
Seduction
Humiliation
Money
Threats
Fear
Coercion
Exploitation

**CHILDREN
ARE NOT
FOR \$ALE**

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery
Help Us Stop Child Trafficking

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or text 233733
NYPD Special Victims/Human Trafficking Hotline (646) 610-7272

NYC
Administration for
Children's Services

SPEAKING
WITH
SURVIVORS

GUIDELINES

- + For a female victim, have a woman in the room if possible. As a result of their trauma, many female victims fear men.
- + Contact service providers who can provide support.
- + Treat the victim with respect, just as you would a victim of any other crime.
- + Don't bad-mouth the trafficker or tell the victim to "just leave."
- + Have a victim specialist or other professional with expertise in interviewing traumatized children with you. Younger children will be interviewed at a Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
- + Remember that it takes time to build trust. You will most likely not get all the information you want right away. Do not get angry. You may get bits of information as the victim tests your trustworthiness.
- + Don't expect the victim to tell you the full, true story right away, and don't take it personally if the victim lies.
- + Choose your words carefully. A victim of sex exploitation may think of her trafficker as her boyfriend. Calling him her trafficker or her pimp could create defensiveness. Likewise, do not use the term "prostitute" to describe a victim of human trafficking.
- + Talk in a neutral location after the victim's needs have been assessed and met.
- + Be patient. Give the victim time to stabilize and begin recovery.
- + If you are a mandated reporter, say so up front. If you don't, telling the victim later on will damage the trust you have established.

FIRST INTERVIEW

Approach the victim in a manner that reflects his or her age, development, culture, language and what is known about the nature of his or her experience.

During your first interaction:

- + Use a victim-centered approach.
- + Help the victim feel comfortable with you.
- + Meet his or her basic needs (food, water, etc.) before asking questions.
- + Keep in mind that asking for help can be hard.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

The following are some questions to ask to follow up on any red flags. It may take some time and effort to build enough trust to ask the victim these questions:

- + How do you feel?
- + It seems like you might be a little scared of your boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, etc. Would you want to talk about that with me?
- + It's tough out there on your own. How are you surviving on the street?
- + Has anyone ever asked you or made you feel like you had to have sex in exchange for money, clothing, food or a place to stay?
- + When did you come to the U.S.? How did you get here?
- + Have you ever been threatened?
- + Can you come and go as you please?
- + Are you in debt to anyone?

THE TVPA

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and its reauthorizations are the main Federal laws against human trafficking. Under these laws, human trafficking and related offenses are Federal crimes that carry severe penalties, restitution is paid to victims of human trafficking, and victims and their families can become temporary U.S. residents and are eligible for permanent resident status after three years.

NYS SAFE HARBOUR ACT OF 2008

This provides support and social services to child survivors of sexual exploitation and **ensures treatment as victims rather than prosecution as criminals.**

THE PROTECTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT OF 2014

Federal legislation that requires states to fulfill specific and timely mandates for identifying, documenting and providing services to any child/youth in the care of the state who the state has reasonable cause to believe is a sex trafficking victim, or who is at risk of being a sex trafficking victim.

THE NYS END CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2018

This Act amended the NY Penal Law to create the offense of Sex Trafficking of a Child, eliminated the need to prove force, fraud or coercion where a victim under the age of 18 is trafficked for commercial sex work, aligned the NY Penal Code with the NY Family Court Act, which creates a presumption that a minor charged with prostitution is a sex trafficking victim, and provides an affirmative defense for persons wherein his or her participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of sex trafficking under State or Federal law.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The use of children in the commercial sex trade is prohibited under U.S. law and by most countries around the world. It is illegal to lure, transport or obtain a child to engage in prostitution or any illegal sexual activity. Federal law bars U.S. residents from engaging in sexual acts or possessing child sexual abuse images or videos anywhere in the world, involving a child under 18. There can be no exceptions, no claim of cultural traditions and no socioeconomic rationalizations to prevent the rescue of children from sexual servitude.

U.S. policy and New York state law are clear: It is not necessary to prove the trafficker used force, fraud or coercion when the victim is a child (under the age of 18).

Sex Trafficking Allegation

In 2019, NYS OCFS issued 19-OCFS-ADM-11 "Sex Trafficking Allegation." All mandated reporters who have a reasonable cause to suspect a child is being trafficked for sex must make a High Priority 14 report to the State Central Register. The reports will be received by ACS with the allegation of Sex Trafficking and will involve an investigation led by the Multidisciplinary Team / Child Advocacy Center where available.

- Manipulation
- Intimidation
- Seduction
- Humiliation
- Money
- Threats
- Fear
- Coercion
- Exploitation

CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR \$ALE



LAWS

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Help Us Stop Child Trafficking

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or text 233733
NYPD Special Victims/Human Trafficking Hotline (646) 610-7272



GLOSSARY

Bonded labor/debt bondage is coercion using a bond or a debt. Victims are unlawfully exploited and forced to pay off a debt by working for an unclear or unspecified amount of time.

Bottom: A victim who is under the control of a trafficker and who helps the trafficker exert control over other victims.

Child labor trafficking is when a child under 18 is induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud or coercion.

Child sex trafficking is any instance where a person under 18 has exchanged a sexual act or performance for something of value. This is known as the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). CSEC is a crime and can consist of:

- + Engaging, agreeing or offering to engage in sex in return for a fee or item of value.
- + Child sexual abuse images (sexually explicit photos, videos, social media postings, Internet advertisements) is a form of CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE involving media. The term “child pornography” is not appropriate because it normalizes what is actually child SEXUAL ABUSE.
- + Stripping or exotic dancing.
- + Escort services.
- + Trading sex for food, clothing or other basic needs.

Coercion can be:

- + Threats of serious harm or physical restraint.
- + Any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that not performing an act would result in serious harm or physical restraint.
- + The abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Daddy: The term sex trafficking victims use to refer to their pimp.

Date, john, trick: Someone who buys sex.

Facilitator: A person or a business that contributes to sexual exploitation (e.g., taxi driver, hotel owner or website that advertises sex for sale).

Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking, as per the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is: “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.”

Force: Physical restraint or serious physical harm. Violence (e.g., rape, beatings, physical confinement) is often used to control victims, especially during the early stages of victimization.

Fraud: False promises of employment, wages or working conditions (e.g., promise of a modeling job that turns out to be sexual exploitation).

Human smuggling: The facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person across an international border. It is consensual and based on movement across a border in violation of immigration laws.

Involuntary servitude is working under the total or near-total control of another person or organization.

Peddling is a prevalent but lesser known form of child labor: Children sell cheap goods such as candy, magazines or trinkets, often door-to-door, on street corners or in parks, regardless of weather conditions and without access to food, water and facilities.

Peonage is being held in servitude as payment for a debt. It is another word for debt bondage.

The “Life”: In the commercial sex industry.

RESOURCES

NYC Children's (ACS) Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP): OCTPP leads all aspects of ACS' policy, practice, training and technical assistance concerning trafficked and commercially sexually exploited children.

- + Trafficked Child Notifications & Inquiries: child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov
- + CTDB Issues: CTDB@acs.nyc.gov
- + Tattoo Removal Referrals: child.tattoo.removal@acs.nyc.gov
- + Training Requests: traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov

OCTPP websites with downloadable resources and Awareness Campaign materials:

- + Preventing Youth Trafficking: www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page
- + Resources for Professionals: www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/child-trafficking/resources.page
- + Service Provider listing (Human Trafficking Virtual Resource Fair): www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/virtualresourcefair.page
- + Awareness Campaign brochure and posters: www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/virtualresourcefair.page#AwarenessCampaigns

NYC Children's (ACS) Immigrant Services and Language

Affairs: Training and technical assistance, information about legal services and resources. **917-551-7968**

Ali Forney Center: Housing and supportive services for male and female LGBTQ youth. **212-222-3427** | www.aliforneycenter.org

Arab-American Family Support Center, Anti-Violence Program: Available in all 5 boroughs. www.aafscny.org

Bellevue/NYU: Program for Survivors of Torture: info@survivorsoftorture.org

Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force Resource Guide: https://view.publitas.com/kcda/2024_june_bkhttf-citywide-human-trafficking-resource-guide/page/1

Center for Court Innovation/Queens Youth Justice Ctr. Anti-Trafficking Program: **718-233-4014** | info@courtinnovation.org

City Bar Justice Center's Immigrant Justice Project: **212-382-6710**

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women: Awareness, advocacy, education. www.catwinternational.org

Covenant House: Crisis counseling and emergency housing for youth aged 16 to 21. [212-613-0300](tel:212-613-0300) | www.covenanthouse.org

Day One: Individual services for exploited and trafficked males and females. [212-566-8120](tel:212-566-8120), Ext. 5692 | socialworker@dayoney.org

The Children's Village EMPOWER House. Residential program for trafficked youth.

The Door: Multi-service center for all teens (male, female, LGBTQ) ages 12 to 21. [212-941-9090](tel:212-941-9090) | www.door.org

DYCD's Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs: 24-hour Drop-In Centers in all boroughs, Crisis Services Programs, Transitional Independent Living programs, Street Outreach and Referral Services. [800-246-4646](tel:800-246-4646) or [646-343-6800](tel:646-343-6800) | www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth.page

EMPOWER Center for Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Care for women who have experienced sexual trauma. empowergyn@gmail.com | <http://empowergyn.org> | www.tfaforms.com/4806007

Freedom Youth LLC: Advocacy, youth education and referrals. www.freedomyouthproject.org

Garden of Hope: Chinese communities: Crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, legal advocacy, support groups, and more. [877-980-8595](tel:877-980-8595) | <https://gohny.org>

GEMS: Services for exploited and trafficked females, housing, mentoring and training. www.gems-girls.org

Hetrick Martin Institute: Services and referrals for male and female LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24. [212-674-2400](tel:212-674-2400) | www.hmi.org

The Jewish Board's Sally & Anthony Mann Center: Residential Treatment Facility with a specialized unit for trafficked girls.

Lifeway Network: Housing, education, advocacy and mentorship program for trafficked youth. [718-779-8075](tel:718-779-8075) | contact@lifewaynetwork.org

Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based Violence (END GBV):

+ **Family Justice Centers:** Free and confidential assistance for victims and survivors of sexual violence, human trafficking, stalking, and intimate partner violence.

No appointment needed. [311](tel:311) or [800-621-HOPE \(4673\)](tel:800-621-HOPE) | www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/family-justice-centers.page

+ **Healthy Relationship Academy:** Training and prevention education for teens, parents or professionals. [212-788-2516](tel:212-788-2516) | www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/nyc-healthy-relationship-training-academy.page

Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center: Free medical, dental, optometry, mental health, counseling, mentoring and transitioning services for males and females up to age 24. [212-423-3000](tel:212-423-3000)

“Not on MY Watch!” NYC Faith Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence: <https://nomw1.org>

NYS Department of Labor, Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs: [877-466-9757](tel:877-466-9757) | trafficking@labor.ny.gov | www.labor.ny.gov/immigrants

NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA):
To submit NYS Referral of Human Trafficking Victim form.
<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp>

Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) (foreign child victims):
acf.hhs.gov/otip

PACT: Education, Partnership and Education: www.wearepact.org

Restore: Services for foreign-national survivors of sex trafficking.
<https://restorenyc.org/referral>

Safe Horizon’s Anti-Trafficking Program: [718-943-8631](tel:718-943-8631)

Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project: Hotline for homeless youth under age 25. Drop-in centers in all 5 boroughs. [800-708-6600](tel:800-708-6600) | www.safehorizon.org/tour-homeless-youth-drop-center

Sanctuary for Families’ Anti-Trafficking Initiative:
[212-349-6009](tel:212-349-6009) | info@sffny.org

Sanctuary for Families’ Immigration Intervention Project:
Services in over 30 languages. [718-250-4240](tel:718-250-4240) | www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

Sanctuary for Families’ Justice and Empowerment for Teens (JET) Initiative: Training, advocacy and clinical services for all exploited or risk of exploitation youth. jetreferrals@sffny.org

STAND Clinic: Sex trafficking, abuse, neglect, domestic violence at Staten Island University Hospital/Northwell Health.
[718-226-3224](tel:718-226-3224)

Urban Justice Center Sex Workers Project: Female, male, transgender and immigrant survivors of sex and labor trafficking.
[646-602-5617](tel:646-602-5617) | www.sexworkersproject.org

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division: Community education/training, referrals, investigates employers, recovers back wages for immigrants or labor trafficked, minors, wage loss and wage theft victims. [212-264-8185](tel:212-264-8185) | www.wagehour.dol.gov

IF YOU RECOGNIZE THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN TRAFFICKED

If you believe the person is in immediate danger, call **911**.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

888-373-7888

Text line: **233733**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

(if a child is trafficked and missing from home or a program)

800-THE-LOST (843-5678)

CyberTipline: **www.missingkids.com**

The NYPD Special Victims/Human Trafficking Hotline

646-610-7272

New York State Justice Center (if you believe that a youth is being abused/neglected while placed in residential care)

855-373-2122

The Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and

Maltreatment (if suspected trafficker is a parent or person legally responsible for the child or has in anyway contributed to the reason for trafficking [neglect, abuse]).

800-342-3720

If you are from NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Foster Care, Preventive Services or Detention Services, **ALWAYS** notify the ACS Child Trafficking Mailbox at:

child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov

Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It:

Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals

NYC Administration for Children's Services

Office of Child Trafficking Prevention & Policy (OCTPP)

Division of Family Permanency/Office of Older Youth Development Services

child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov

Manipulation
Intimidation
Seduction
Humiliation
Money
Threats
Fear
Coercion
Exploitation

**CHILDREN
ARE NOT
FOR SALE**

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Help Us Stop Child Trafficking

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or text 233733

NYC Office of Child Trafficking
Children | Prevention and Policy

Selina Higgins, LCSW-R, Executive Director
ACS Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy
Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page