

Human Trafficking is Illegal



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A Violation of Human Rights

Human trafficking is a violation of human rights. It is a form of abusive behavior in which people are bought and sold like property for the purpose of making a profit.

Traffickers instill fear in their victims through physical or emotional abuse or by threatening to hurt victims' family members.

Many human trafficking victims are unaware that their rights have been violated or that the individuals who engage in trafficking are criminals. Victims do have rights, and in New York State human trafficking laws exist to protect and provide services for survivors and to prosecute traffickers.

Who is at Risk?

Trafficking victims are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, and then forced to work under brutal and illegal conditions.

Men, women, and children of all ages and races are vulnerable to human trafficking -- it does not discriminate. Victims can be US citizens or from another country.

A Victim Could be Forced or Exploited:

- to beg or commit petty crimes
- to smuggle drugs
- into domestic servitude
- into manual labor
- into performing commercial sex acts

A human trafficking victim looks like someone you see every day.

Signs of Trafficking

Someone Who:

- appears to have been mutilated, branded or tattooed
- has no personal ID or documents, or has them in someone else's possession
- is escorted everywhere they go
- lives where they work or in places unsuitable for living
- lives and/or travels with a group of other workers
- lacks work appropriate clothing
- has no cash or access to their earnings
- appears malnourished or hungry

Children Who:

- look intimidated or appear to have no access to education
- dress in clothes that are not age appropriate
- are engaged in work activities not suitable for children
- are at work activities when children their age would normally be in school

Heather's Story...

Heather is from upstate New York and ran away when she was 16. She met a couple who told her they would find her work as a hostess in an upscale restaurant. However, her first day "on the job" they told her that she would have to strip in a bar to pay off alleged debt incurred for her transportation, housing, and food.

Where Does Trafficking Occur?

People are trafficked across international borders, and also within a country, state, city, or town.

Human trafficking occurs in many countries, including the United States. With our international airports and many job opportunities, New York State is considered to be a major hub of trafficking.

Human trafficking occurs in different settings and locations. It can occur in:

- restaurants
- agriculture/farms
- private homes
- hotels
- landscape/construction sites
- factories and sweatshops
- nail salons
- adult clubs
- brothels
- massage parlors

Jorge's Story...

Jorge was lured to a farming community on Long Island from Mexico with the promise of a high-paying farm job. When he arrived, his "employers" said they could not pay him for at least two months. Jorge's papers and legal documents were taken by his employers for "safekeeping," which left him unable to return to Mexico.



New York State's Human Trafficking Law

New York takes the problem of human trafficking very seriously. New York State's human trafficking law is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the country, providing vital tools to combat the crime.

New York's law criminalizes sex and labor trafficking.

In New York State, law enforcement agents are trained to properly screen for and identify victims, prosecutors are bringing criminal cases against traffickers, and legislation is ensuring that services are available so victims can receive the help they need.

New York State agencies regularly meet at the highest levels to coordinate a multi-disciplinary response to victims.

While survivors have a long road to recovery, New York State is working to ensure the help they need is available.



Numbers and Contact Information

If you suspect someone has been a victim of human trafficking, contact your local law enforcement agency. If you believe a potential trafficking victim's life is in immediate danger, call 911.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free, and confidential hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. It is open to anyone who is a victim of human trafficking or who suspects human trafficking.

For information or to report a tip

Call: 888-3737-888

or

Send a text to BeFree (233733).

To learn more contact:

New York State Division of
Criminal Justice Services

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/pio/humantrafficking/humantrafficking.htm

New York State Office of Temporary and
Disability Assistance

otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

otda.ny.gov