



A MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is a truly heinous crime, committed in the shadows — and in plain sight.

Through force, fraud, and coercion, traffickers push their victims into demeaning forms of abuse, from sexual exploitation to domestic servitude. The victims are not limited to women and children, but include members of every age, sex, and demographic.

I am committed to ending human trafficking in Alabama, and have made it a top priority as Attorney General to do so.

Whether you are a member of law enforcement or a member of the general public, you will find in this booklet important information that will educate you about and empower you against this scourge on our society.

Together, we can — *and we will* — end human trafficking in Alabama.

Steve Marshall

Resources

To report suspected human trafficking to federal law enforcement:

Call the the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tipline at 1-866-347-2423.

The HSI Tipline is a toll-free number available nationwide 24/7, with operators proficient in over 300 languages. (If you are outside of the United States, call the non-toll-free number available worldwide: 1-802-872-6199).

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 (or text HELP or INFO to BEFREE (233733)).

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a toll-free number available nationwide 24/7, with operators proficient in over 170 languages. (The Hotline is operated by the Polaris Project, a non-governmental organization funded by the federal government.)

Learn More

DHS Blue Campaign

Visit dhs.gov/blue-campaign.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign is a national public-awareness campaign, designed to educate the public and law enforcement to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Visit missingkids.com.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a nonprofit organization that works with families, victims, private industry, law enforcement, and the public to assist with preventing child abductions, recovering missing children, and providing services to deter and combat child sexual exploitation.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNDERSTANDING IT. FIGHTING IT. ENDING IT.



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What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked into forced-labor situations and into the sex trade worldwide — including right here in the United States.

Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into human trafficking. The victims are then forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor.

Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

Who Are the Victims of Human Trafficking?

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, sex, or nationality. They can be men or women, young or old, American or foreign, with or without legal status.

Traffickers prey on people who are susceptible to being victimized for a variety of reasons, ranging from personal characteristics to circumstantial conditions. These include psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, political instability, natural disasters, and more.

The trauma caused by traffickers can be so great that many victims may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Myths About Human Trafficking

1. Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Are the Same Thing

Human trafficking is an exploitation-based crime against an individual: using force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Human smuggling is a transportation-based crime against the state: helping a person enter a country illegally in return for a fee.

2. Human Trafficking Is a Global Problem, Not a United States (or Alabama) Problem

Human trafficking has been reported in every single state and territory in the United States. Each year, dozens of cases of human trafficking are reported in Alabama — and this does not account for the untold number of cases that exist but go unreported.

3. Human Trafficking Always Involves Kidnapping or Abduction

Human trafficking does not always involve physically forcing someone into a situation. Most traffickers use psychological means such as tricking, defrauding, manipulating, or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.

4. Human Traffickers Only Operate in Large Criminal Networks

Human traffickers may operate in large criminal networks, but victims are more likely to be trafficked by those exploiting a relationship with them. Victims have been trafficked by romantic partners (including spouses), family members (including parents and grandparents), and employers.

5. Human Traffickers Are Easily Recognizable

Human traffickers are not chosen by central casting. They can appear as normal as the person next door, or hold a position of respect in the community. Like their victims, traffickers can be any age, race, sex, or nationality.

Red Flags for Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight,” capable of going unnoticed even by individuals interacting with a victim on a regular basis.

Below are a number of “red flags,” or indicators, which can help you identify victims of human trafficking:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family and friends?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have branding (oftentimes in the form of tattoos) on his or her body?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive? Is he or she unable to make eye contact?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers (e.g., when answering a question) or someone who seems to be controlling his or her freedom of movement or communication (e.g., restricting places he or she may go or people he or she may talk to)?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say or seem to be telling a scripted story?
- Is the person living with multiple people in a small space or in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person seem unaware of his or her surroundings (e.g., the city or state he or she is in)?
- Is the person's identity or travel documents in the control of somebody else?

If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please contact law enforcement right away (see back of booklet). You could help free somebody from bondage—and could even save a life.