

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Recognize. Identify. Prevent. Respond.

Larinda Smith
Unbound North Texas



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TRIGGER ALERT
Please take care of yourself.



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TRAFFICKING
VICTIMS
PROTECTION
ACT
(TVPA)



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS AGAINST U.S. LAW

(8) SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. – The term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” means –

(A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

(B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting or advertising of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

(9) SEX TRAFFICKING.- The term “sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.



AMP Model

ACTION

- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining
- Patronizing
- Soliciting
- Advertising

MEANS

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

MINORS

induced into commercial sex are
HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
Regardless if force, fraud, or coercion
are present.

PURPOSE

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Forced Labor

THESE ACTIONS ARE CRIMES!

(3 - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2017)



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Traffickers look for the unmet desires and needs of their victims.



VICTIMS CAN BE MOVED AROUND OR STATIONARY



LABOR TRAFFICKING



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SEX TRAFFICKING

When someone is forced, lied to, threatened or coerced into performing sexual services in exchange for something of value.



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RISK FACTORS

SEX TRAFFICKING IN NORTH TEXAS

- Runaway
- Homelessness
- LGBTQ
- Child sexual abuse
- Chronic abuse or neglect
- Learning disabilities
- Developmental Delay
- Lack of personal safety
- Isolation
- Emotional distress
- Poverty
- Family dysfunction
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Sexual exploitation by family or peers
- Lack of social support



RECRUITMENT METHODS

Romantic Partner
Violence-based
Peer to Peer
Internet Enticement
Family Members



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(Westcoast Children's Clinic)

HT AMONG RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH HAS BEEN WIDELY DOCUMENTED

- According to a Polaris survey, 64% of survivors reported being homeless or experiencing unstable housing at the time they were recruited into trafficking
- Offering shelter/place to stay is an effective recruiting technique for traffickers
- Sex trafficking recruitment is known to have occurred at homeless, DV, runaway/homeless youth, and other shelters

(On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking: Housing & Homelessness Systems, July 2018. Polaris.)



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HT AMONG RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH HAS BEEN WIDELY DOCUMENTED (continued...)

- 64% of survivors reported that the lack of affordable housing was a barrier to leaving their trafficking situation
- Housing is one of the greatest needs of trafficking survivors

(On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking: Housing & Homelessness Systems, July 2018. Polaris.)



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR

SEX TRAFFICKING

- Hiding bruises, scars, marks or tattoos
- Frequent movement or unstable housing
- Involvement in commercial sex industry
- Being controlled or manipulated by another person



CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

- Skipping school, running away, or traveling a lot
- Hanging out with a different group, talking differently, or dressing differently
- Dating or spending time with someone much older
- Being very disruptive or very distracted in class
- Using drugs or getting involved in a gang





BARRIERS TO IDENTIFICATION

Most victims will not self-identify

- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of retaliation by trafficker
- Fear of being placed in foster care
- Fear of getting family member in trouble
- Stockholm syndrome/trauma bonding
- Confusion and disorientation
- Lack of awareness and understanding of the situation
- Shame or guilt
- May be viewed as delinquents/troublemakers/addicted/unengaged



PREVENT



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FAMILY RESOURCES

- thorn.org/digital-resources-parents/
- unboundnorthtexas.org
- Love146.org
- Netsmartz.org
- CEASETexas.org
- [Fight the New Drug](https://FighttheNewDrug.org)
- B4UClick.org
- youthonline.sharedhope.org/



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CONVERSATIONS

- What is human trafficking
- Appropriate touch/consent
- Healthy relationships
- Online Safety
- Who is your trusted person?
- Understanding of relationship with Guardian/Caregiver



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1 DAYS AGO



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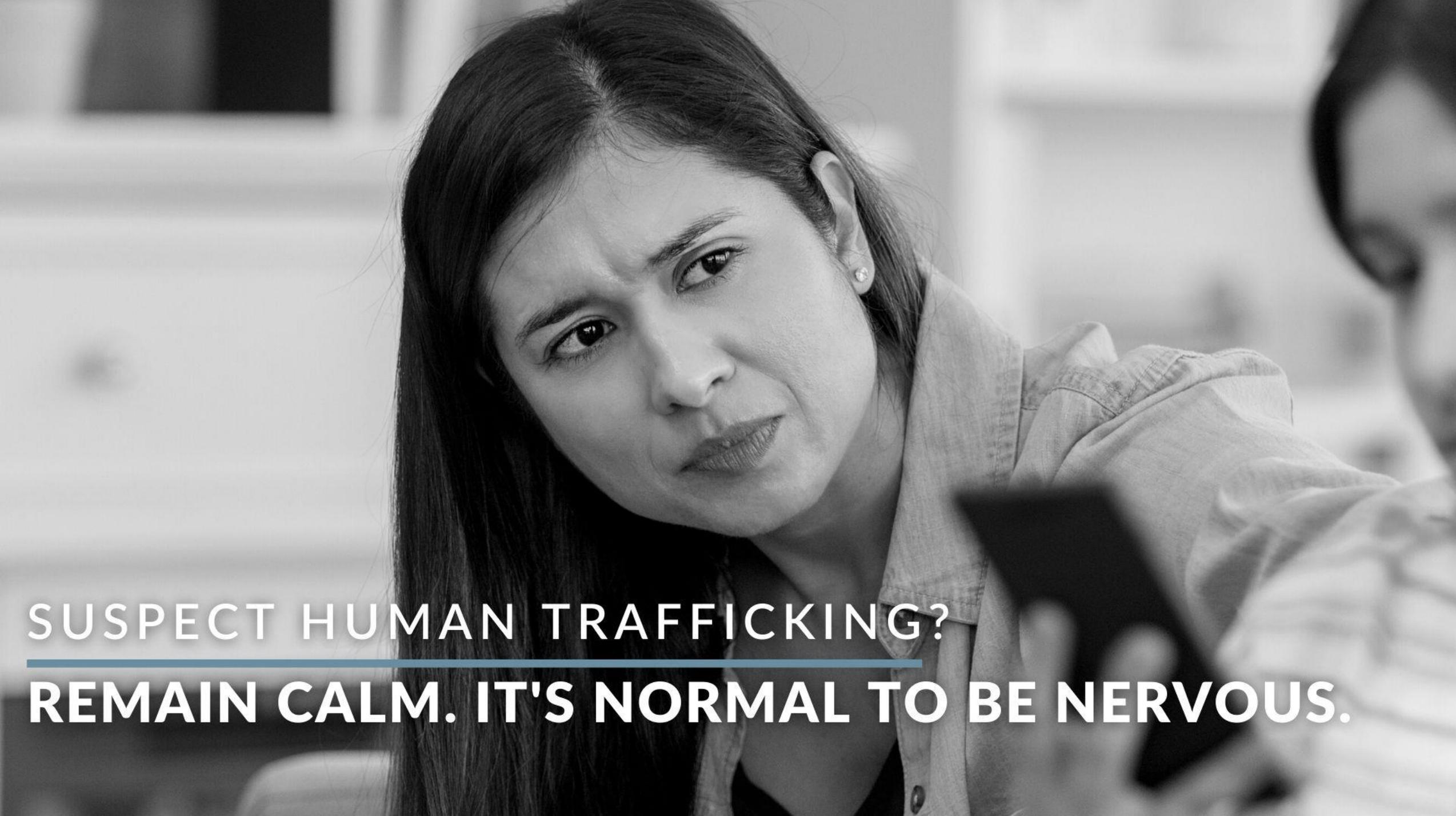
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1 DAYS AGO

RESPONSE



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SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

REMAIN CALM. IT'S NORMAL TO BE NERVOUS.

BEST PRACTICES

- Use professional interpreter in case of language barrier - not the client's friend or relative.
- Use the same words the client is using - do not correct their terminology.
- Be open to unfamiliar narratives and stories.
- Use trauma informed, non-judgmental approach when interviewing clients.



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(Lederer & Wetzel, 2014; Greenbaum & Crawford-Jakubiak, 2015)



UNDERSTANDING VICTIM MINDSET

Victims have been subjected to severe, complex forms of interpersonal trauma that may affect the way they interact with professionals.

Questions

Are you safe?

Has anyone hurt you?

Has anyone forced you to do something you don't want?



Things to say

Whatever happened is not your fault.

I apologize this happened to you.

Reassuring they did the right thing by saying something.

Avoid...

Making promises you cannot keep.

Saying they will not get in trouble.

Saying this will never happen again.

Sharing information with others.





**IS SOMEONE IN DANGER?
CALL 911**

**IS THERE A CRIME?
CALL 911**

What is their age?

For minors:

Establish trust and follow requirements as a mandated reporter, contact DFPS/Law Enforcement

For adults:

Establish trust, give resources, and encourage self-reporting. You can make an anonymous call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline...but you cannot call resources or authorities without the individual's consent, unless that individual is in danger.



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MANDATORY REPORTING

Human trafficking involving a minor is a form of child abuse.

Texas Law states that ALL individuals are required to report suspected abuse or neglect immediately.

[Texas Family Code, Section 261.101 (a)]

Does the case involve abuse or neglect at the hands of a caregiver or someone living in their home?

YES

May be investigated by
Department of Family and
Protective Services (DFPS)

NO

Investigated by a law
enforcement agency

If in immediate danger, call 911.

Follow reporting law and call law enforcement or DFPS.

Report to DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or online at txabusehotline.org



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Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

If you suspect:

- A child is being abused or neglected.
- An adult with a disability or 65 or older is being abused, neglected, financially exploited, or is in a state of self-neglect.

Report by:

Phone: 1-800-252-5400

Call the Texas DFPS Abuse Hotline toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nationwide.

Online at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](http://www.txabusehotline.org)¹

Report online if victim is not in immediate danger.

If the person is in immediate danger, call 911 or local police first. Then call the Texas Abuse Hotline.

Mandatory Reporting

By law, everyone in Texas is a mandated reporter. Professionals may not delegate the duty to report to anyone else. The mandatory reporting requirement applies without exception to an individual whose personal communications may otherwise be privileged, including attorneys, clergy,

medical professionals, social workers, and mental health professionals.

Preparing to Make the Report

Please – gather your notes, files or documentation before making your report. This will help us move through your report efficiently in order to best serve you and vulnerable Texans.

As much as possible, please have the following information ready:

Identification:

- Names
- Dates of Birth
- Social Security Numbers

Relevant Locations:

- Home address
- School or daycare
- Employer

Additional Details:

- Primary Language
- Disability
- Other special needs

Partial information is still useful for locating the people involved. Even an approximate age or street name helps.

The Hotline cannot answer questions about ongoing cases.

If you are trying to get in touch with DFPS regarding an ongoing case, you will need to contact your local DFPS office. You can find your local office number on the [DFPS Website](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us).²

Your identity is confidential

DFPS staff are required by law to keep the reporter's identity confidential. Giving your name and contact information allows field investigators to contact you if they need additional information. Your identity may be revealed to a judge, law enforcement in certain situations or other entities that investigate abuse or neglect, or to other persons only when ordered by the court.

What about confidentiality laws?

Generally, federal privacy laws, such as HIPAA and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), have exceptions that allow the sharing of otherwise confidential information for the purpose of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

Failure to report child abuse is against the law.

Failure to report child abuse and neglect is against the law. If you knowingly fail

to make a report of child abuse and neglect, you may have committed a Class A misdemeanor or, in some cases, a state jail felony.

False reports are against the law.

False reports are against the law. You may be subject to civil and/or criminal liability if you knowingly file a false report.

Good faith reports are immune from liability.

You are protected from civil or criminal liability as long as you make a report in good faith and without malicious intent. This is true even if DFPS determines that there was no abuse or neglect.

The Texas Family Code also specifies that an employer may not suspend or terminate the employment of, or otherwise discriminate against, a person who is a professional and who makes a report about suspected child abuse or neglect in good faith.

References

Requirements under the law can be found in the Texas Family Code 261.101 through 261.110, Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 48.101(2), 42 United States Code 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i), and 45 Code of Federal Regulations Section 164.512(b)(1)(ii).



¹ <http://www.txabusehotline.org>

² http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/offices.asp

**HOW
TEXAS
IS
RESPONDING**



The Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team has established a comprehensive approach to ending child sex trafficking in Texas

Collaboration with:



Goals of this initiative include:

- **Prevent** child exploitation
- **Identify and Recover** victims and provide them with the services and supports they need to heal and thrive
- **Bring Justice** by holding exploiters accountable for their crimes

State-required Training for:

- **Licensed Healthcare Practitioners**
- **School Districts**
- **Hotel Staff**

As of September 1, 2022:

Information relating to human trafficking prevention be included in the curriculum of any driver education course or driving safety course (Julia Well's Act)

**As of September 2021
Buying of Sex
is a STATE FELONY**



Local Resources



UNBOUND'S

UNDERGROUND

drop-in center @ One Safe Place

817-885-7735 (24/7)

1100 Hemphill Street

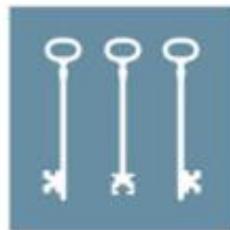
Fort Worth, TX 76104

inside One Safe Place

Bus Route #1 - Hemphill/Magnolia

theunderground@unboundnow.org
Drop-in Center for Youth through age 22





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Survivor Advocacy

24/7 crisis response & on-going support and case management for all ages of survivors



Professional Training

Healthcare Professionals, School Staff, Social Service Providers



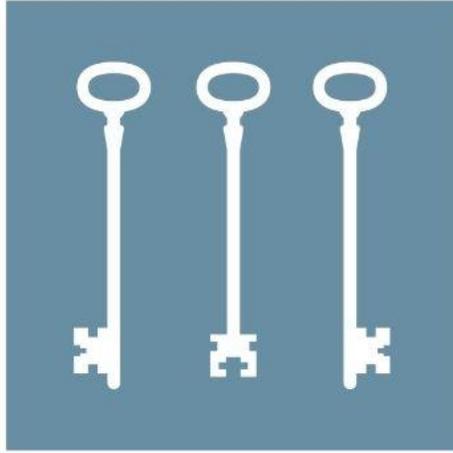
Prevention & Awareness

Youth Prevention Programs & Community Presentations



The Underground

Drop-in Center for exploited or trafficked youth, open 24/7/365



UNBOUND
NORTH TEXAS

817-668-6462

Advocacy Crisis or Non-Crisis (24/7)

5049 Trail Lake Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76133

unboundnorthtexas.org

Office: 817-668-6544

  @unboundnorthtexas

To Donate text "GIVE" to 817-769-7753

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

CALL 1-888-3737-888 (24/7)

TTY: 711

TEXT 233733

LIVE CHAT @ humantraffickinghotline.org
24/7, Confidential, Multiple languages

Questions?

Scenarios

It can be difficult to know how to respond to real life scenarios. Each one is different and complex.

How will you respond to these scenarios...

Scenario #1

You are talking with a 25 year old female client who is experiencing homelessness. She tells you that she recently left her boyfriend because she didn't want to make anymore videos.

If you are her case worker, what questions should you ask?

Scenario #2

A client staying at the shelter tells you about a young teenage male he is concerned about who is living in a camp with individuals who are known to exploit individuals. Evidently the kid has run away from home due to lack of family support.

How should you respond?

Scenario #3

An 18 year old female was gang raped at the age of 12 by 6 males, some minors and others were adults. Charges were pressed against 3 of the assailants but were dismissed because the girl couldn't "keep her story together." She is now involved in sex trafficking and it's been reported that she is recruiting minors. She has been heard by others as saying, "since nobody helped me to protect my _____, I decided I might as well sell it. At least I can make money off of it."

How should you respond?

Scenario #4

A 35 year old female experiencing homelessness approaches her case worker and says, “I’m being trafficked by my boyfriend.”

How should the case worker respond?

Scenario #6

You come across a situation that looks like trafficking to you.

How do you respond?

Have you had a situation?