

Faces of Human Trafficking: An Introduction

This video introduces the issue of human trafficking—both sex and labor trafficking—in the United States in order to raise awareness and provide a foundation for further discussion and training. It is intended for new staff and volunteers working with victims of human trafficking or other at-risk populations, stakeholders, victim service providers, allied professionals, and anyone interested in learning more about this crime.

Key Points

- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking.
- The precise scope of human trafficking in the United States is not known.
- Everyone has a role to play in identifying and supporting victims.
- Victims may not self-identify for a number of reasons.
- Force, fraud, and coercion are key elements of the crime (except when the victim is a minor used for commercial sex).
- Traffickers can be anyone—organized crime, gangs, “mom and pop” operations, family members, business owners, individuals or families, pimps, women and men, young and old.
- Traffickers prey on victims’ vulnerabilities.
- Victims need an array of services, and one agency alone cannot meet all these needs—collaboration is key.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from the video? Was information presented that challenged your previous thoughts on human trafficking?
2. How would you define human trafficking in your own words?
3. Who are the victims of human trafficking?
4. In addition to physical violence, what are some of the methods that traffickers use to manipulate and exert control over victims?

“I didn’t know I was a victim of human trafficking until I told my story.”

— Lydia
Survivor Advocate

5. In what industries might you find human trafficking? What are the specific industries or settings in your community that might be vulnerable to human trafficking?
6. What services might a survivor of human trafficking need once they are out of the exploitative situation? What are the specific needs of victims who are minors; male; female; individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; foreign nationals; or U.S. citizens?
7. What can be done in your community to raise awareness of human trafficking?
8. What can you do with the knowledge that you have gained today?

Supplemental Training Materials

- Provide the federal definition, from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, of “a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons” and “sex trafficking” (found at 22 U.S.C. 7102).
- Provide a brief history of modern human trafficking legislation in the United States, including the TVPA of 2000 and its reauthorizations, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, and relevant legislation in your state.
- Describe human trafficking cases that have been prosecuted successfully in your area.

For more information, including additional training resources, please visit www.ovc.gov/trafficking or www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide.