



About Human Trafficking - Newsletter #1

What is human trafficking?

1. **Sex trafficking** involves a commercial sex act in which the person performing the act
 - is under age 18, regardless of his/her consent
 - when an adult is involved in performing such an act as a result of force, fraud or coercion
2. **Labor trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjecting the individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Who are the victims of trafficking?

Victims of trafficking may be children, youth and adults. It involves boys and girls, as well as transgendered individuals. Having a disability is a risk factor, and so is having past or current involvement with the child welfare system. Trafficking victims may be citizens of this country, individuals who are here with a visa, as well as those who are not.



Within 48 hours of running away, a young person is likely to be solicited for prostitution or another form of commercial sexual exploitation.

What is the difference between trafficking and smuggling?

As the question suggests, trafficking is not the same as smuggling. This is a common misunderstanding.

Trafficking involves exploitation, and is non-consensual. It occurs both in terms of sexual exploitation as well as in employment situations.

Trafficking does not necessarily involve "transport" or "transportation."

Smuggling involves transportation, going across borders in violation of immigration laws, and the individual is moving at his/her own free will.

And, yes, they may overlap...

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It is possible that some individual is interested in coming to the United States, and he/she arranges to be smuggled into the country. However, once here that individual may find himself or herself in need of housing or employment that is not readily available. This may lead them into a situation where they become victims of trafficking in order to meet their basic needs.

Myth vs. Fact

Myth:

Human trafficking does not occur in the United States. It only happens in other countries.

Fact:

Human trafficking exists in every country, including the United States. It exists nationwide - in cities, suburbs and rural towns.

Since 2008, Connecticut has identified and confirmed approximately 100 children as victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Of those victims, 98% had involvement, in some manner, with child welfare services.