**What is Human trafficking?**

Human trafficking occurs when a person uses violence, deception, or threats of force to coerce another person to provide labor or commercial sex, and to prevent that person from leaving the situation. Human trafficking also occurs when a person recruits, harbors, transports, provides or obtains another person knowing that force, fraud or coercion will be used to exploit the other person for labor or commercial sex. Trafficking is ongoing exploitation. Travel is not always involved. **Victims in the U.S. are entitled to protection and assistance, regardless of their immigration status.**

**What is Labor Trafficking?**

Labor trafficking is using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

**What is Sex Trafficking?**

Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under the age of 18.

**Signs of Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking occurs in many industries: agriculture, construction, domestic service (housekeeper, nanny), restaurants, salons, prostitution, massage parlors and various other businesses.[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| *Signs of Human Trafficking* | *Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking* |
| * Abusive employment situation
* One person controlling another or a group (speaking for them; escorting them to/from work)
* Employer in control of employee’s identification/immigration documents
* People locked inside a residence or workplace
* Someone unable to leave a particular job (forced to work there)
* Threats to employee or employee’s family by employer
* “Debt” owed by employee to employer
* Employee living in employer-owned or controlled residence
 | * Individual has no power in making their own decisions, limited or no independence
* Individual’s access to friends, family, public is limited or cut off
* Victim may appear to be very fearful
* Victim may seek services or be referred to services for seemingly unrelated issue. *Events, details, symptoms and information don’t connect or seem to be disguising other issues or concerns*
* Individual working very long hours for little to no pay
 |

**Traffickers**

* Hide or disguise their actions and victims to avoid detection
* Often coach victims on how to answer questions to “cover up” what is happening
	+ Out of fear victims will use a “cover story” to describe how they are a wife, student, tourist, employee or willing/consenting partner of the trafficker

**Means of Control Used by Traffickers**

* **Force:** Physical assault (beating, burning, slapping, hitting assault with object or weapon, etc.), physical confinement and isolation, rape and other forms of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
* **Fraud:** False or deceptive offers of employment, marriage, or a better life, lying about work conditions, false promises, withholding wages.
* **Coercion:** Threats to life, safety, family members, or other loved ones. Threats to have a victim or a victim’s family member arrested or deported. Debt bondage: Use of manipulation of debt to create never-ending debt. Withholding legal documents such as identification. Psychological abuse.

**Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking**

The following is a list of services and resources available in Washington. Services are available to victims of human trafficking, their friends, families and community members by contacting the Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC) or Community Sexual Assault Program (CSAP) in your area. *Advocacy services are free of charge.* Services include:

* Access to a victim advocate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week,
* Support and assistance accessing community resources (food, shelter, medical care)
* Support and assistance aimed at assisting victims in their healing and recovery,
* Assistance with safety and support planning,
* Assistance and support with accessing medical care related to human trafficking,
* Assistance with understanding the legal system, the rights of victims as well as other government agencies and services.

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| **State and National Resources** |
| **Washington State****The Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN)**Victim Assistance Line: 206-245-0782 |
| **Washington State****Office of Crime Victims Advocacy**Hotline: 1-800-822-1067 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) www.ocva.wa.gov  |
| **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**24-Hour Hotline: 1-888-373-7888  |

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|  **Child and/or adult Victims of Human Trafficking**The following agencies have expertise in providing services to children and youth who have experienced, or who are at-risk of being victims of commercial sexual exploitation |
| **King County** |
|  **Seattle**Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of AbusePhone: (206) 568-7777 |  **Seattle** YouthCare **CSEC Hotline:** 855-400-2732 |
| **Seattle**Real Escape from the Sex Trade (REST)Serving Young Adults 18-24 24-Hour Hotline: 206-451-7378 | **Seattle**Organization for Prostitution SurvivorsServing Adults 18 and overVictim Advocate: 206-850-8258 |
| **Pierce County** | **Thurston County** |
|  Oasis Youth CenterServing LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults 14-24Phone: (253) 671-2838 Hotline: 253-988-2108 |  **Olympia** Community Youth Services 1-888-698-1816 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) |
| **Snohomish County** | **Thurston County** |
|  **Everett** Providence Intervention Center for Abuse and Assault Human Trafficking Hotline: 425-258-9037 | ThurstonPartners in Prevention Education (PIPE)Serving LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults 13-30Phone: (360) 357-4472 |
|  **Spokane County** | **Yakima County** |
|  **Spokane**Sexual Assault and Family Trauma (SAFeT)Response Center Phone: (509)747-822424-Hour Hotline: 509-624-7273 | **Yakima**Comprehensive Mental Health509-575-4824**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-866-523-6468 |

1. Combating Human Trafficking in Washington State, Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network [↑](#footnote-ref-1)