YA For Life

Human Trafficking

Each year millions of children, men, and women are involuntarily sold into forced labor or commercial sex jobs. Human trafficking, also referred to as modern slavery, is happening in small communities as well as large cities across the United States; its victims come from every race, gender, and age.

1 in 6 runaway children is likely to be a sex trafficking victim.

1/5 of identified human trafficking victims are children; there are at least 20,000 victims under the age of 18 in the U.S.

Over 50% of trafficked girls are between the ages of 15-17.

40% of trafficked boys are under the age of 12.

The average life expectancy of a victim after they enter the world of trafficking is 7-10 years, and death usually results from homicide, suicide, communicable diseases, overdose, and addiction.

The average time an individual is trafficked is 2 years for adults and 2.2 years for youth.

In 2020, 42% of victims were brought into trafficking by a member of their own families, and 39% were recruited via an intimate partner or a marriage proposition.

How do we respond to human trafficking as Christians? We value the lives of those who have been trafficked, recognizing that they too have been created, redeemed, and loved by God. According to Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." We were once lost and enemies of God, but Christ rescued us. Because of Christ's saving work in our lives, we seek to uphold the lives of those in need.

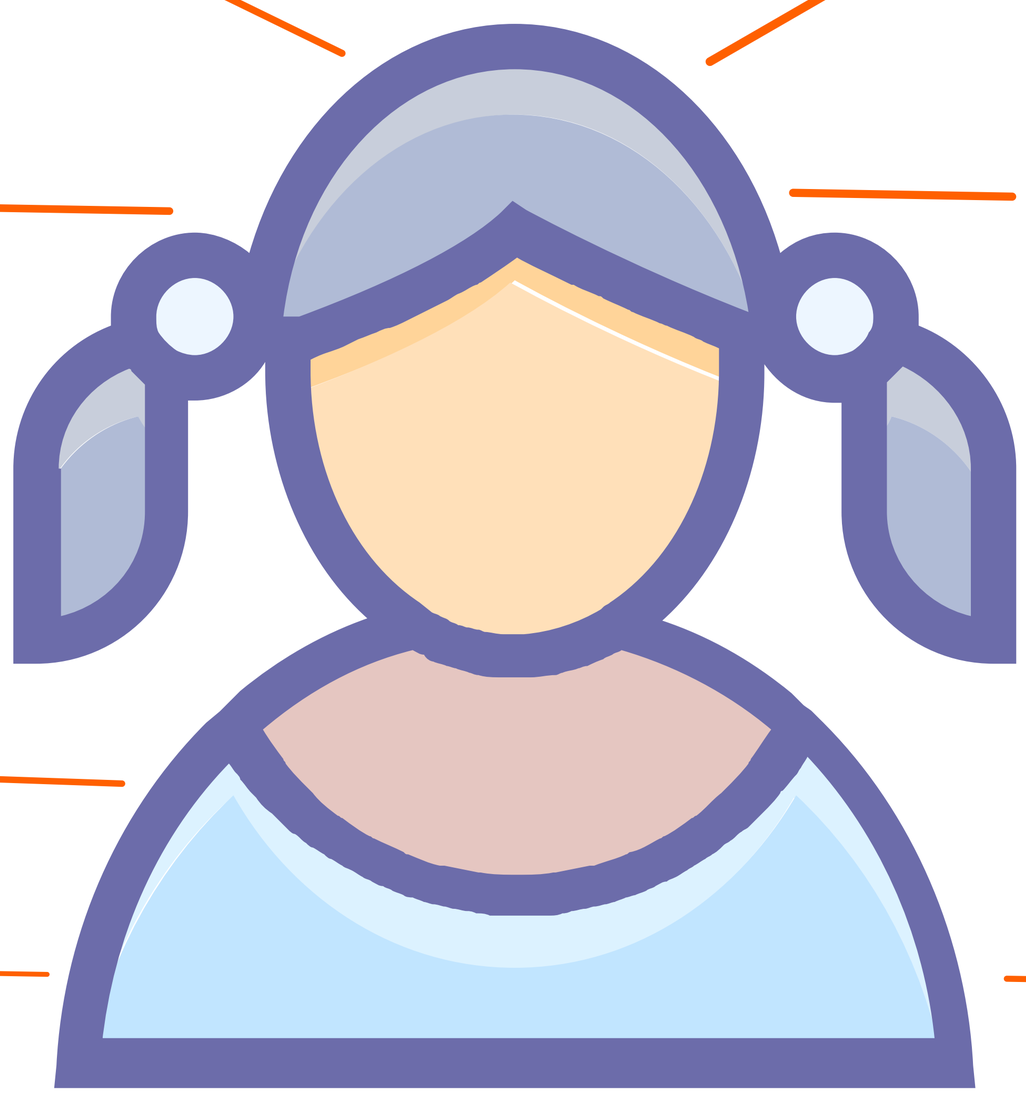
How can you help? Look for signs of human trafficking.

Living conditions are poor, cohabitates with multiple people (or with older friend/employer)

Replies to questions with seemingly scripted answers

Shows signs of physical abuse

Owns a second "secret" phone



Suddenly has expensive items, especially gifts from an older "friend"

Is newly attached to an older individual, usually male, who exhibits characteristics of a groomer (gift-giving, frequent check-ins, exaggerated attentiveness, etc.)

Is submissive and fearful

Is unable to speak freely or alone

Is under 18 and engaged in prostitution

No matter how uncomfortable you are, if you see something, say something. Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 24 hours, 7 days a week: 888-373-7888
SMS: Text INFO to 233733

Whom do traffickers target?

Children in the welfare system; runaway and homeless youth; those in poverty who have limited safe housing; young adults who are on the fringe of social groups and struggle socially, who have limited English proficiency, or who lack immigration status

For your own safety, never confront a suspected trafficker or victim of human trafficking. Report it!

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