



VULNERABILITIES

FACT: Recruitment was reported to happen all over San Diego County, among children as young as 8 years old, of both boys and girls and affecting all races and ethnicities... **ANYONE CAN BE TRAFFICKED!**

QUESTION: How can we recognize when someone is vulnerable to being trafficked?

1. Single parent home, minimal supervision
2. Loneliness
3. Low self-esteem
4. Lacks strong social network
5. Unsupervised online time
6. Seeks online friendships and connections
7. Runaway, homeless, and foster care youth
8. Middle school and early high school aged girls are the primary targets
9. Youth who have already experienced violence in their lives, like neglect, sexual, physical or emotional abuse

RED FLAGS

QUESTION: What signs or markers do we look for in someone being trafficked?

1. Change of appearance: revealing/provocative clothes, weight loss, or looks overwhelmed and unhealthy
2. Having sex with multiple partners (even strangers), sexualized conversations, seen as promiscuous by peers
3. Dating someone who is older and who appears overprotective or controlling
4. Sudden change in attitude, language and material possessions, like multiple cell phones, expensive purses or jewelry
5. Ditching or excessive tardiness for days/weeks, lack of interest in things previously cared about.
6. Using Drugs
7. Answers to questions appear practiced or rehearsed
8. Shift in behavior: anger, distant or distracted, crying and/or depression, appears scared to speak up, lack of eye contact.
9. Bruises and scars
10. Tattoos displaying a name or reference towards cash or a symbol like \$, crown, and flowers with dollar bills as petals.

RECOGNIZING RECRUITERS

QUESTION: What are the warning signs that someone may be a sex trafficker?

1. Is significantly older than you or your friend (may be the same gender and/or your age)
2. Encourages your freedom and independence from family and friends (isolation)
3. Promises things that seem too good to be true



4. Suggests that they know how to help you make a lot of money
5. Buys expensive gifts or likes to flash their money
6. Makes you feel responsible for his/her financial stability. Very open about financial matters
7. Wants to take suggestive photos, encourages you to model or dance for money
8. Is vague about his/her profession and you can't prove what they really do
9. Gets jealous easily, seems controlling or exhibits violence
10. Gets pushy or demanding about sex

SAFETY

General Safety

1. Carry your phone and important numbers with you at all times
2. Keep in touch with someone you trust about where you are going
3. Stay out of isolated or unfamiliar places and don't go out alone
4. Avoid situations or people that could be harmful or dangerous to you (trust your gut feelings).
5. Call 911 if you feel your safety is at risk.

When out with your friends

1. Ask your friends to keep their cell phones with them while they are out with you in case you get separated and need help.
2. Make sure your friends have your important numbers (parents/care-givers).
3. No matter where you go, be aware of how to leave safely in case of emergency.
4. LEAVE if you are uncomfortable in a situation, no matter what your friends are doing.
5. Spend time with people who make you feel safe, supported and good about yourself.

Online Safety

1. Block individuals who make you uncomfortable.
2. Delete any explicit images sent to you.
3. Do not share/forward explicit images- even in the context of your romantic relationships.
4. Report inappropriate or threatening messages.
5. If you received (or someone shows you) an explicit image of someone you know, contact that person and tell them that their images are being circulated.
6. Inform an adult you trust if you are concerned about your wellbeing or the wellbeing of another whose images are being, circulated.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

If you see something that looks suspicious of child trafficking:

CALL: 1-888-373-7888 || TEXT: HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)