

## KD5BJ- Human Trafficking

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated the month of January to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime.

WorldPopulationReview.com has an interactive map that allows you to view up-to-date human trafficking statistics by state. According to their data, there are 4 states that have the highest rates of human trafficking in the United States: California, Texas, Florida, and New York. Houston seems to be an epicenter.

In Texas alone, in 2019, the National Hotline received 1,080 human trafficking calls in Texas. The most common trafficking cases include adult labor trafficking, child sex trafficking, adult sex trafficking, and some child labor trafficking.

What can we do, as citizens and ARES or CERT to help or prevent human trafficking? First is to recognize the signs.

This is a list of signs or “red flags” that might indicate that sex trafficking is occurring.

- Person seems overly fearful, submissive, tense, or paranoid.
- Person is deferring to another person before giving information.
- Person has physical injuries or branding such as name tattoos on face or chest, tattoos about money and sex, or pimp phrases.
- Clothing is inappropriately sexual or inappropriate for weather.
- Minor is unaccompanied at night or
- falters in giving an explanation of who they are with, and what they are doing.
- Identification documents are held by another.
- Person works long or excessive hours or is always available “on demand.”
- Overly sexual for age or situation.
- Multiple phones or social media accounts.
- Signs of unusual wealth without explanation—new jewelry, shoes, phones without any known form of income.
- Person lives in a “massage” business or is not free to come and go.

### Other warning Signs of Human Trafficking

- Appearing malnourished.
- Showing signs of physical injuries and abuse.
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement.
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction.
- Lacking official identification documents

When you read the paper, watch for this kind of advertisements: “are you displaced? Are you looking for help, are you female 40 years old or younger? We can help.” That could be a sex trafficking ad.

Watch for signs in advertisements about Super Bowl or Super Bowl parties. These kinds of events will be exploited by traffickers.

70% of victims of human trafficking are women, average age is 12 years of age. Victims of human trafficking can be anyone—regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, education level, or citizenship status.

Mass displacement, conflict, extreme poverty, lack of access to education and job opportunities, violence and harmful social norms like child marriage are all factors that push individuals into situations of trafficking.

Human trafficking is not only sexual, but includes also forced labor, forced criminal activities, removal of organs and people smuggling.

People with most vulnerabilities or needs are the first choice victims of human traffickers who will use force, drugs, emotional or financial tactics to attract and control their victims.

Prepare yourself and train your community.

Incorporate human trafficking into disaster preparedness; when serving at a shelter, or when parked at a convenient store and especially at a truck stops, during exercises (like our recent fuel tank exercise) or County events look for those red flags above. Do NOT, and I repeat, do NOT draw unnecessary attention and bring you and the victim in more danger. Call tip line 866-dhs-2-ice.

If you want to know more, please download information from Dhs.gov/[dash forward]bluecampaign

Email [bluecampaign@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:bluecampaign@hq.dhs.gov) or look at FB facebook.com/[dash forward]bluecampaign and twitter

@dhsbluecampaign

and you can watch the upcoming webinars, registering at the link on my training published on LeeCARES.org under training. ( Registration <https://bit.ly/3VXsuv6>)

Session 1: Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

Session 2: Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

This is KD5BJ back to net.