

HUMAN TRAFFICKING – TALKING POINTS (SAFETY TIPS)

- Beware of strangers. Sex traffickers often seem harmless and might be well-dressed, young, and good looking.
- Avoid unsafe situations. You should avoid traveling alone, at night, or on deserted side streets. If you think you are being followed, find a crowded place. Don't hesitate to alert police to your suspicions, and give friends and family members a description of the potential perpetrator.
- Don't support trafficking. Don't give money to child beggars who may be the victims of trafficking. If you give money to these children, you are helping the trafficking industry remain profitable.
- Be Vigilant Of Your Surroundings. Always be vigilant and aware of your surroundings. People are often distracted by their phones or other little things when walking. Make sure that you're aware of what's going on around you so that you can spot when something is off. If you notice a person or a car following you, alert someone you trust immediately.
- Don't Trust Easily. Some people who are trafficked are approached by strangers offering them a job or some kind of opportunity (like a modelling or singing career). Traffickers can approach you anywhere, on social media, at school, in the mall and even outside your house.
- Conduct thorough research on potential "employers" before going to meet them in person for interviews. You can also look at the email address. If it's a company name, search for info on that company.
- It is a big red flag when a company offering you a job is using a free email service such as Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo. The majority of legitimate businesses should have a business email address.
- Use Social Media Wisely. Be suspicious of strangers who approach you after you've posted something personal on your social media profile and their suddenly offering you help, advice, money, a place to stay or a job opportunity.
- Use Your Phone. When going out, allow 3 of your closest friends or family members to track your phone via GPS so they know your whereabouts at all times.
- Meet Strangers In Public Places. Don't let anyone know where you live until you get to know them. So for a date, meet them at a public place for the first few times until you get to know them and feel comfortable.

- Use alcohol responsibly. Don't over-indulge (or, don't indulge at all!) when you're out for these big events where there may be strangers.
- Keep children in sight. Parents should keep their children close and within their sight whenever they are out of the home.
- Don't send children for errands that require them to walk for long distances without a trusted adult to watch over them
- Have candid, age-appropriate educative discussions with your children about what human trafficking is. Explain that it's important for your child to carefully consider what information they put online. This includes the name of their school and their home address.
- Create a pattern of "checking in" with your children. When you are not with your children, help them create a habit of checking in with you – rather than vice versa. Emphasize the importance of them calling or texting you every so often to let you know they are safe.
- For more information on Trafficking in Persons or to report cases of Trafficking in Persons, you can contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline on: 0800 222 777