

Human Trafficking

Kiricka Yarbough Smith
Independent Consultant
Chair, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

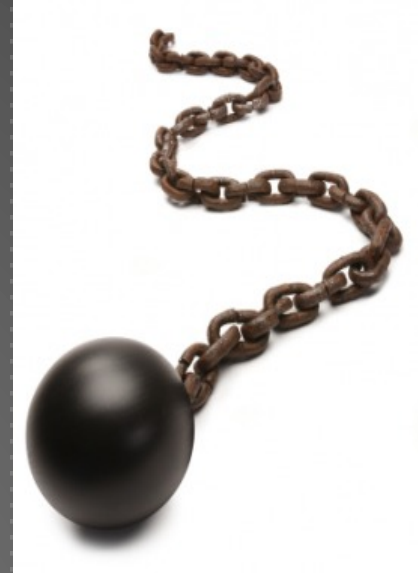
- (a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age**; or
- (b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. *

* These definitions are from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000



SIMPLY DEFINED

- ▶ Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts
- ▶ Those 18 or over involved in commercial sex acts through force, fraud or coercion
- ▶ Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud or coercion



TYPES OF TRAFFICKING

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Brothels, massage parlors, pornography productions, street prostitution, exotic dancing

LABOR EXPLOITATION

Agricultural/farm work, cleaning services, construction, domestic servitude, factory/manufacturing, restaurant, beauty salons/nail salons

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Individuals are probably the most hidden because they are working inside a residence as housekeepers nannies, maids

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN??

Force, fraud, and coercion are methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse.

- ▶ **Force:** rape, beatings, constraint, confinement
- ▶ **Fraud:** false and deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life.
- ▶ **Coercion:** threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process



NORTH CAROLINA AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

NC is among the **TOP 10** in the United States for human trafficking most likely to occur.



WHY NORTH CAROLINA

- ▶ Major highways (40, 85, 95 all come through our state).
- ▶ Large military presence with a transient population
- ▶ Huge agricultural community
- ▶ Eastern NC ports



WHY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING GROWING?

- ▶ Supply and Demand
 - 2nd to drug trafficking
- ▶ Cheap Labor
- ▶ People are reusable
- ▶ Internet and Social Media
- ▶ Technology



RECRUITMENT

Victims are:



Targeted

Tricked

Traumatized

Traffickers often prey on the hope of victims for a better life and through love.

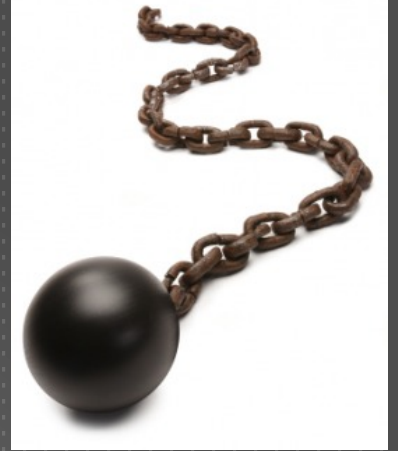
TARGETED

- ❖ Little to no support system
- ❖ Mental health and medical issues
- ❖ Previously abused
- ▶ Constantly unsupervised children
- ▶ Runaway and homeless youth
- ▶ Child welfare or foster care involvement





TRICKED



- ❖ Pimps often use force, fraud or coercion to control their victims.
- ❖ Victims have been controlled by threats of violence to their family or by pornographic images taken and used for blackmail or stigmatization.
- ❖ Victims often remain with pimps out of fear of being physically harmed, of having another victim endure physical harm or by a threat to their family members.

DIFFERENT FACES OF TRAFFICKERS

- ▶ Foreign national or U.S. citizens
- ▶ Males or females
- ▶ Family members or caregivers
- ▶ Intimate partners
- ▶ Gangs or other organized crime
- ▶ Strangers



GROOMING

The perpetrators often employ a “grooming process” to draw their victims away from their homes or to gain the trust and dependency.



Some victims have described being subjected to extreme physical and psychological violence, being required to commit other criminal acts and to recruit other potential victims.

TRAUMATIZED

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Pimps can display and sell a victim much easier online.



GANGS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Members of a group all work together to manage and control victims and maintain financial operations of the business.



RED FLAGS

- ▶ Presence of an overly controlling and abusive “boyfriend”
- ▶ Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features
- ▶ Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- ▶ Signs of branding (tattoo, jewelry)
- ▶ Lying about age/false identification
- ▶ Inconsistencies in story
- ▶ Lack of knowledge about the community or thereabouts



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions please contact:

Kiricka Yarbough Smith

Independent Consultant

Chair, NCCAHT

kiricka@gmail.com

(919) 391-8234

National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733)

Prostitution Redefined

- Safe Harbor Act for Victims of Sex Trafficking
 - Minors will not be charged
 - First offenders receive deferred prosecution
 - Continuing “victim centered” and “offender focused” prosecution
 - Increased penalties for Johns, Pimps and Traffickers
 - Better recourse for victims of exploitation



Credits

- ▶ American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. <http://www.aacap.org/page.ww?section=Facts+for+Families&name=Foster+Care>
- ▶ U.S. Midterm Review on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in America. www.sharedhope.org.
- ▶ U.S. Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html
- ▶ Polaris Project. *Domestic Sex Trafficking: The Criminal Operations of the American Pimp*. 2006. www.polarisproject.org.
- ▶ U.S. Midterm Review on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in America. www.sharedhope.org.
- ▶ U.S. Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html