

# **Hidden in Plain Sight: The Urgency of Trafficking Prevention**

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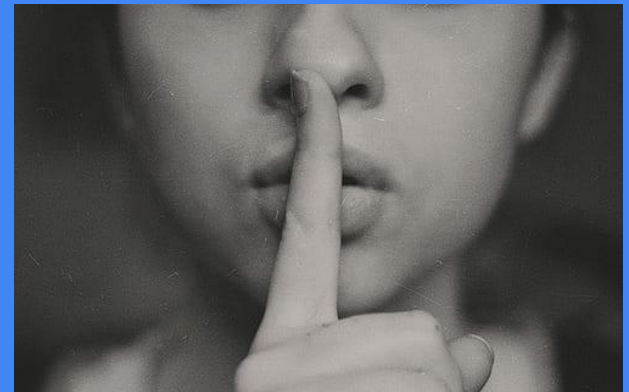
# Why This Matters

- Human trafficking happens *everywhere*—in plain sight.
- 1 in 4 victims is a child.
- The U.S. is a top destination for trafficking.



# What is Human Trafficking?

- Use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit people.
- Includes sex and labor trafficking.
- **Myth:** It always involves kidnapping or travel.
- **Truth:** Victims often know or live with their trafficker.



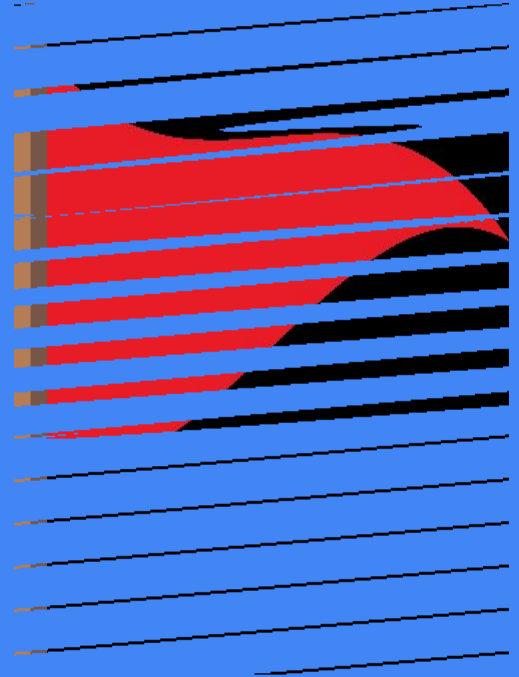
# Who's Most at Risk?

- Youth in foster care or unstable homes
- Domestic violence survivors
- LGBTQ+ youth
- Those with trauma, poverty, or housing insecurity
- People with limited support systems



# Red Flags in Real Settings

- Accompanied by someone controlling
- Signs of physical abuse or malnourishment
- No control of ID, money, or phone
- Inconsistent stories or fear of authority
- Frequent ER visits, STIs, or untreated conditions



# Prevention is a Public Health Priority

## Prevention Levels:

- *Primary:* Awareness, education, community outreach
- *Secondary:* Early identification & intervention
- *Tertiary:* Survivor services and long-term support



# Advocating for Victims

- Build **trust**—don't rush disclosure
- Use **trauma-informed language**
- Offer **choices**, not pressure
- **Refer** to trained professionals and survivor-led orgs



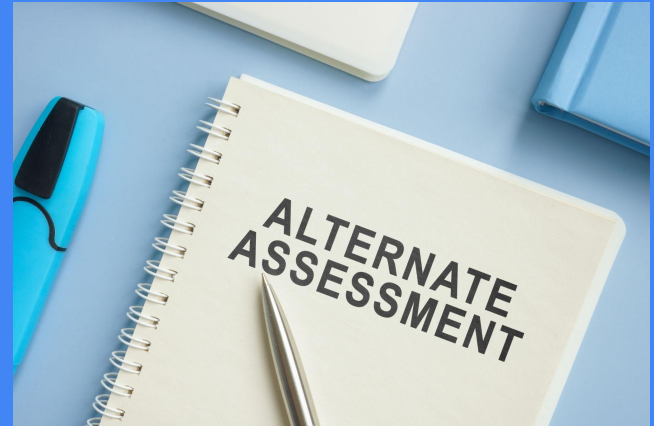
# Collaboration Saves Lives

- Cross-sector response: healthcare, law enforcement, shelters, survivor leaders
- Use screening tools (HEART, TVIT)
- Know your **local resources**
- Mandatory reporting with sensitivity



# What YOU Can Do

- Implement screening tools
- Train teams in trauma-informed care
- Refer to survivor-led orgs
- Advocate for safe housing & support services



# Resources

- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 888-3737-888
- Blue Campaign (DHS): <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
  - <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-campaign-training>
- Shared Hope International: <https://sharedhope.org/>
  - <https://store.sharedhope.org/product/respond/>
- Screening tools:
  - HEART (Human Trafficking Education and Awareness for Resource Tool) [healtrafficking.org](http://healtrafficking.org)
  - TVIT (Trafficking Victim Identification Tool)

They didn't need saving. They needed someone to see them.



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