

# Human Trafficking Fact Sheet



We are fighting against human trafficking. One life at a time.

## ***Prostitution and trafficking in women***

Prostitution is a form of violence against women. Poverty, inadequate schooling, homelessness, drug dependency and sex and racial discrimination are causes of women and girls who are sold into prostitution. Many experience the same emotional traumas as war victims and victims of torture and often commit or attempt suicide. The extreme violence, psychological and emotional abuse inflicted on women and mainly girls by buyers, pimps and human traffickers is lethal.

International trafficking is a growing, worldwide problem. It could not flourish but for the existence of local prostitution. It typically involves the transporting of a person or persons across continents, countries, regions or cities with the aim of exploiting them or profiting from them.

## ***Signs that a person may be a victim of human trafficking:***

- Does he or she present with unique health problems that Trafficking In Persons (TIP) victims might have?
  - ✓ Evidence of trauma
  - ✓ Multiple Sexually Transmitted Infections
  - ✓ Unusual infections such as Tuberculosis
  - ✓ Late presentation of illness
- Does he or she have poor hygiene or show evidence of malnutrition?
- Is he or she accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Does the person accompanying them insist on giving information to health providers?
- Can you see or detect any physical abuse?
- Does he or she seem submissive or fearful?

## ***What to include in a proper protocol on intervening with a potential victim of trafficking:***

- Measures to separate them from the accompanying party
- Identification and training of personnel to do the interview
- Established criteria regarding when to contact law enforcement
- Contact information for local law enforcement agencies
- Contact information on local service organizations that specialize in helping human trafficking victims

***For a Handbook providing practical advice and other resources go to [www.cmda.org/trafficking](http://www.cmda.org/trafficking)***