

## IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW BEING TRAFFICKED?

Human trafficking is an epidemic forcing some 40 million individuals worldwide into forced labor and sex slavery every year. Texas is the number 2 hotspot for traffickers in North America. Help end human trafficking by recognizing the signs.

### Signs of trafficked individuals:

- Signs of physical abuse such as burn marks, bruises or cuts
- Unexplained absences from class/work
- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours with no breaks
- Poor mental/physical health
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Avoids eye contact
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- Is not in control of his/her own money, or own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)
- Living with employer/many people in small space/ poor living conditions
- Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- New tattoo (tattoos are often used by pimps as a way to brand victims. Tattoos of a name, symbol of money or barcode could indicate trafficking)

### Signs of a pimp/trafficker:

- Jealous, controlling and violent
- Significantly older than female companions
- Promise things that seem too good to be true
- Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
- Buys expensive gifts or owns expensive items
- Is vague about his/her profession
- Pushy or demanding about sex
- Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
- Makes the victim feel responsible for his/her financial stability.

To report trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:

**1-888-373-7888**

If you feel danger to a person is immediate call **911**