

Did you know that slavery is a bigger problem today than ever before in history?

Human trafficking is modern day slavery

It's the fastest growing crime in the world, and the third most lucrative, after drug trafficking and gun running. Victims of trafficking are forced into labour or sexual exploitation (including prostitution and the production of pornography), with little or no payment. About 2.5 million people are trafficked annually – and 27 million people are enslaved in the world today. Half of the victims of human trafficking are children.

Danger signs to look out for

1. Job Promises

This is the most common bait that traffickers use. Recruiters often pose as talent scouts (for model agencies or sports clubs), promising high-paying jobs in places far from home, usually in another country. The recruiter usually offers to pay for your transport and to arrange your passport, visas etc. But when you reach this land of opportunity, where you find yourself isolated and vulnerable, your passport is confiscated and you're forced into a form of slave labour – very often prostitution – to pay back your “debt”.

Remember: if it's too good to be true, it is.

2. All Expenses Paid

If someone you don't know well offers to pay for your transport and travel documents, watch out.

3. Instant Love

If someone is professing undying love within a few days of knowing you, something's wrong! Recruiters often get emotionally involved with their victims, who are usually vulnerable. Take time to get to know people well before trusting them.

Signs that someone may be a trafficked victim

- They seem intimidated, scared or depressed.
- They can't seem to move or leave their job.
- They aren't willing to talk about themselves and/or their background.
- They have bruises or other signs of physical abuse.
- Someone else answers questions directed at them.
- They don't have a passport or other forms of identification or documentation.

What you can do to help protect yourself and others

- Beware of strangers, especially those who approach you with offers of money or work.
- Don't agree to meet alone with anyone you don't know, especially not in a place you don't know.
- If someone is offering you a job in another country with lots of promises, be extremely cautious.
- Always tell someone where you are going.
- Tell your children not to talk to strangers. Make sure they are always with people you can trust.

Who can I call for help?

If you suspect human trafficking, call the Salvation Army's hotline: 0800 073 728 or the International Organisation for Migration's hotline on 0800 555 999, or the police. The call you make could save a life.