



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN OUR BACKYARD
www.InOurBackyard.org

What to Do

If you suspect you are dealing with a victim of human trafficking:

- If the victim is a child you are mandated to report it to CPS (Child Protective Services)
- And/or call the police
- And/or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) Put this number in your phone and at your desk

Create a HT strategy with your agency:

- Talk about HT with your agency. How do we identify victims? Are we asking the right questions? Do we need more training? What is our policy once we identify a victim? Do we have a way of recording the number of victims we see?

Connect with Local/National Partners

Approach victim carefully, as they don't often feel that they are victims of HT and in need of help or restoration

- Be aware that there is a strong trauma bonding that often occurs between victims and their traffickers

For CSEC (Commercial Sexually Exploited Children) cases:

- Do not assume that treating a CSEC victim is the same as treating child abuse victims (ex: group homes may not be the safest place or have proper security)
- Be aware of the public perception of CSEC. Child abuse victims are often seen as innocent, CSEC are often made to feel guilty about "choosing" the lifestyle and may even be labeled as prostitutes.
- These negative perceptions may make victims less likely to seek help or continue services.

You may need to **connect** victims to specialized services and programs designed to address the multilayered trauma

Increase your awareness, educate co-workers

Get trained in trauma specific treatments, become a local expert on HT

Make sure IOB's Freedom Stickers are in your facility-HT Hotline