

# Human Trafficking

- ▶ Sex Trafficking: in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age;  
  
(Commercial means anything of value exchanged such as money, drugs, shelter food or clothes. i.e. prostitution, pornography, and sexual acts)
- ▶ Labor Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (1)

# **Sex Trafficking - Quick Facts**

- **100,000 children are exploited in prostitution each year (best estimates)**
- **12-14 is the average age of first exploitation**
- **Traffickers prey on vulnerable youth**
  - Histories of abuse
  - Runaway, homeless, throwaway
  - Lonely or disconnected

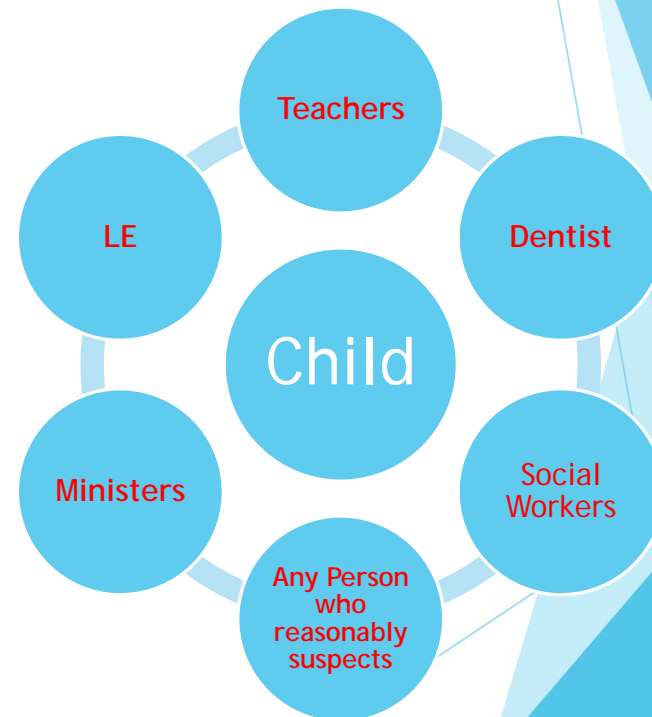
# Early Child Maltreatment, Runaway Youth and Risk of Delinquency

- ▶ Approximately 2.8 million children in the United States run away from home each year, and one out of every seven youths will run away sometime before age 18 ([Greene, Ringwalt, Kelly, Iachan, & Cohen, 1999](#)).
- ▶ Research suggests that teenage runaways often leave home to avoid further physical or sexual abuse ([Hammer, Finkelhor, & Sedlak, 2002](#)).
- ▶ After running away from home, adolescents face many challenges on the streets. Many engage in deviant or risky behaviors, such as panhandling, shoplifting, selling drugs, theft, and prostitution as a means of survival ([Hagan, McCarthy, Parker, & Climenhage, 1997](#)).
- ▶ Some also become victims of delinquency and crime. [Baron and Hartnagel \(1998\)](#) found that long-term homelessness and associated factors increased the risk of violent crime perpetration, including robbery, aggravated assault, and “group fights” on the street.

# Who are Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

## MS Code § 43-21-353 (2013)

(1) Any attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, family protection worker, family protection specialist, child caregiver, minister, law enforcement officer, **public or private school employee or any other person having reasonable cause to suspect** that a child is a neglected child or an abused child, shall cause an oral report to be made **immediately** by telephone or otherwise and followed as soon thereafter as possible by a report in writing to the Department of Human Services, and immediately a referral shall be made by the Department of Human Services to the youth court intake unit, which unit shall promptly comply with Section 43-21-357.



According to the law....

**EVERYONE IS A MANDATED  
REPORTER and should report  
suspicion of abuse IMMEDIATELY**

# Where and how to make a report

- ▶ Call - 1-800-222-8000
- ▶ Online <https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/report-child-abuse-neglect/>
- ▶ App for your phone -



# Sex Trafficking Types

- **Familial trafficking**-when family members allow their children to be sexually exploited in exchange for something of value, money, drugs, rent etc.
- **Pimp controlled trafficking**-occurs when an individual controls a victim engaged in commercial sex acts.
- **Gang controlled trafficking**- Differs from pimp controlled in that the entire gang controls the victim.
- **Survival sex trafficking**-victims exchange sexual services for food, cell phone or a place to stay.

# Why Aren't More Rescued?

- ▶ **Most minor victims remain unidentified**
- ▶ **They are often mislabeled or charged with delinquent offenses**
- ▶ **Common perceptions:**
  - ▶ Prostitute/slut/promiscuous
  - ▶ Gang member/juvenile delinquent
  - ▶ Runaway/Truant
  - ▶ Always female



# Recruitment and Grooming

- **Calculated targeting and recruitment**
  - ▶ Spotter
  - ▶ Recruiter
  - ▶ Trafficker
- **Friendly conversation, buy gifts  
assess home/life situation**
- **Determine vulnerabilities and dreams** (investment of time ensures a strong foundation of trust)

# Recruitment and Grooming

## ***SIGNS:***

**Changes in Behavior** - Absence from school, provocative dress, attitude, signs of abuse, fear, anxiety, nervous

**Changes in Lifestyle** – Money, material, possessions, tattoos

**Changes in Peers** - New boyfriend, new friends, gang affiliation, drugs/alcohol

# **Pimp Control**

## ***THE PROCESS:***

**Step 1: Pimp found a need and met it**

**Step 2: Victim was willing to do anything for him**

**Step 3: Victim feels extreme guilt and trafficker feeds off of that**

**Step 4: Implements fear to expose victim and/or goes after loved ones**

**Step 5: Trapped**



# Federal Cases Sex Trafficking - MS

- ▶ In June 2016, an Ocean Springs man pled guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering in a case involving the interstate transportation of prostitutes. The defendant was identified as the manager of a massage parlor operating in Ocean Springs at which Korean women would provide sexual services.
- ▶ In January 2018, in Oxford, MS two defendants were sentenced on Sex Trafficking Conspiracy and Travelling in Interstate Commerce to Engage in Prostitution respectively. Defendant one received 188 months' imprisonment and Defendant two received 33 months' imprisonment.
  - Both defendants admitted to transporting Victims from Memphis, Tennessee to Oxford, MS in order to engage in commercial sex acts.

## **Federal Cases Sex Trafficking - MS**

- ▶ In June 2018, in Oxford, MS, a Memphis man was sentenced in MS for his role in a human trafficking scheme. The defendant was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment for trafficking a victim from Georgia to Tennessee and ultimately to Oxford, MS for commercial sex purposes.
- ▶ In July 2018, in Oxford, MS a Hattiesburg man was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison following his conviction for human trafficking and transporting a minor across state lines to engage in prostitution.

## **Federal Cases Sex Trafficking - MS**

- ▶ In March 2019, a Jackson man, who prostituted runaway kids, was sentenced serve 32 years in prison on two counts of sex trafficking minors and two counts of promoting a prostitution business. The defendant bought a runaway kid for \$500 and recruited other minors who had run away from home to be prostitutes.

## **State Cases Sex Trafficking - MS**

- ▶ In one case in 2015, Police officers found the defendant with a 16-year-old girl at a hotel in Ridgeland, Madison County, MS. An ad for prostitution on [jacksonpackpage.com](http://jacksonpackpage.com) was on the defendant's cell phone. The girl stated the defendant was her pimp and said he took her to the hotel to have sex with someone for \$150. The defendant was charged with human trafficking, and sentenced to twenty-five years, with twelve years suspended.

# Labor Trafficking Cases

- ▶ One Federal Labor Trafficking case was prosecuted in 2015 in New Orleans involving a shipyard in Pascagoula, MS.
- ▶ Alabama-based Signal International was found guilty of labor trafficking, fraud, racketeering and discrimination and ordered it to pay \$12 million.
- ▶ The trial was the first in more than a dozen related lawsuits with over 200 plaintiffs that together comprise one of the largest labor trafficking cases in U.S. history.
- ▶ Signal recruited about 500 Indian men as guest workers.
- ▶ The workers paid \$10,000 a piece to recruiters and were promised good jobs and permanent U.S. residency for their families.
- ▶ They would not receive promised residency documents and were charged \$1,050 per month to live in guarded labor camps where up to 24 men lived in single 1,800-square-foot (167-square-metre) units, according to the suit.



# Labor Trafficking

- ▶ Labor Trafficking investigations were not prioritized by local or federal LE agencies (Urban Institute Report)
- ▶ US Dept. of Labor was rarely involved
- ▶ A lack of awareness and outreach, coupled with the victims' fear of being unauthorized, inhibited the identification of survivors.
- ▶ 71% entered on Temporary Visas Most common H2A-Agriculture H-2B hospitality, construction and restaurants
- ▶ MS has 3,580 H-2A and 2,520 H-B Visas

# State Reports of Trafficking - MS

- ▶ The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reports a total of 773 calls from MS since 2007 with total victims and survivors identified as 365 with moderate indicators and 645 with high indicators. (45 calls - Labor)
- ▶ During the period from August 2017 to September 2018, the Office of the Attorney General of MS received 48 tips via the National Human Trafficking Hotline. These tips involved over 100 trafficking victims in MS, including 69 minors.
- ▶ CPS had 250 reports in 2017 for Human Trafficking with 297 unique victims. In 2018, this number increased to 471 reports with 580 unique victims for Human Trafficking.

# Trafficking Victims Served

- ▶ The Center for Violence Prevention (CVP) opened the Tower, in 2017, specifically for adult sex trafficked women and worked 35 cases over a one year period.
- ▶ Methodist Children's home (MCH), located in Hinds County, offered comprehensive services to two known minor victims of trafficking in 2017 and six in 2018.
- ▶ Children's Advocacy Centers of MS have worked with 42 child victims of human trafficking from 2015-2019. They know numbers are higher due to Law Enforcement not identifying the trafficking in initial report.
- ▶ Catholic Charities of Jackson, MS reports from 2014 to present, 76 cases for U Visas and one case for a T Visa.

# T VISA, U VISA

- ▶ U-VISA: Victims of Criminal Activity: U Nonimmigrant Status
- ▶ The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. (UCIS)
- ▶ T-VISA: Victims of Human Trafficking: T Nonimmigrant Status
- ▶ T nonimmigrant status is a temporary immigration benefit that enables certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking to remain in the United States for up to 4 years if they have assisted law enforcement in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking. (UCIS)

# House Bill 571

- ▶ Funds Human Trafficking Coordinator and Human Trafficking Analyst under the MS Bureau of Investigations
- ▶ Adds HT mandatory Training
- ▶ Evaluate State Efforts and Impacts on victims and state
- ▶ Relief for Victims of HT funds
- ▶ Apply for Grants and Creates Task Forces

## **Mississippi Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking**

- ▶ Submitted FY 2019 Enhanced Collaborative Model To Combat Human Trafficking - Supporting Law Enforcement's Role
- ▶ Three MBI agents positioned in North, Central and South MS with the MBI lead investigator on the Task Force acting as their supervisory agent, equipment, and training, 100% dedicated to support victim centered investigations of labor and sex trafficking.

# **Mississippi Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking**

- ▶ These MBI agents will be the contact for locals in their regions for peer to peer mentoring and will be trained to identify HT, respond to victims and direct to services, utilize the Fusion Center for Intelligence, collaborate and consult with Task Force members, work with Multi-Disciplinary teams, sit on regional Human Trafficking Task Forces and present cases for prosecution.
- ▶ These processes i.e. victim's services, response, trauma-informed approaches, multi-agency collaborations, and proactive operations and investigations operating efficiently are paramount to the success of the task force.

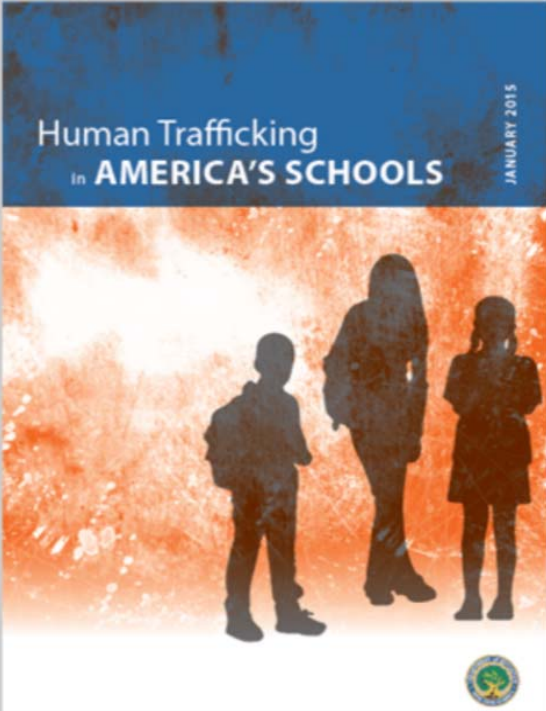
# Mississippi- IPC Initiative

- ▶ One training per quarter in each of the nine districts of the state.
- ▶ The first training was District 1/Troop C in February
- ▶ The second training will be in District 8/Troop K
- ▶ Coordinating with Fusion Center (MSAIC), Child Advocacy, Child Protective Services, MS Highway Patrol and local agency patrol and interdiction at each training.



# Training Staff-

Should Include but not limited to:



Human Trafficking  
in AMERICA'S SCHOOLS  
JANUARY 2015

Department of Education

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Teaching aides
- Guidance counselors
- School resource officers
- Social workers & psychologists
- Nursing staff
- Food service staff
- Maintenance staff
- Homeless liaisons
- Coaches
- Bus drivers

presented by **NHTRC**

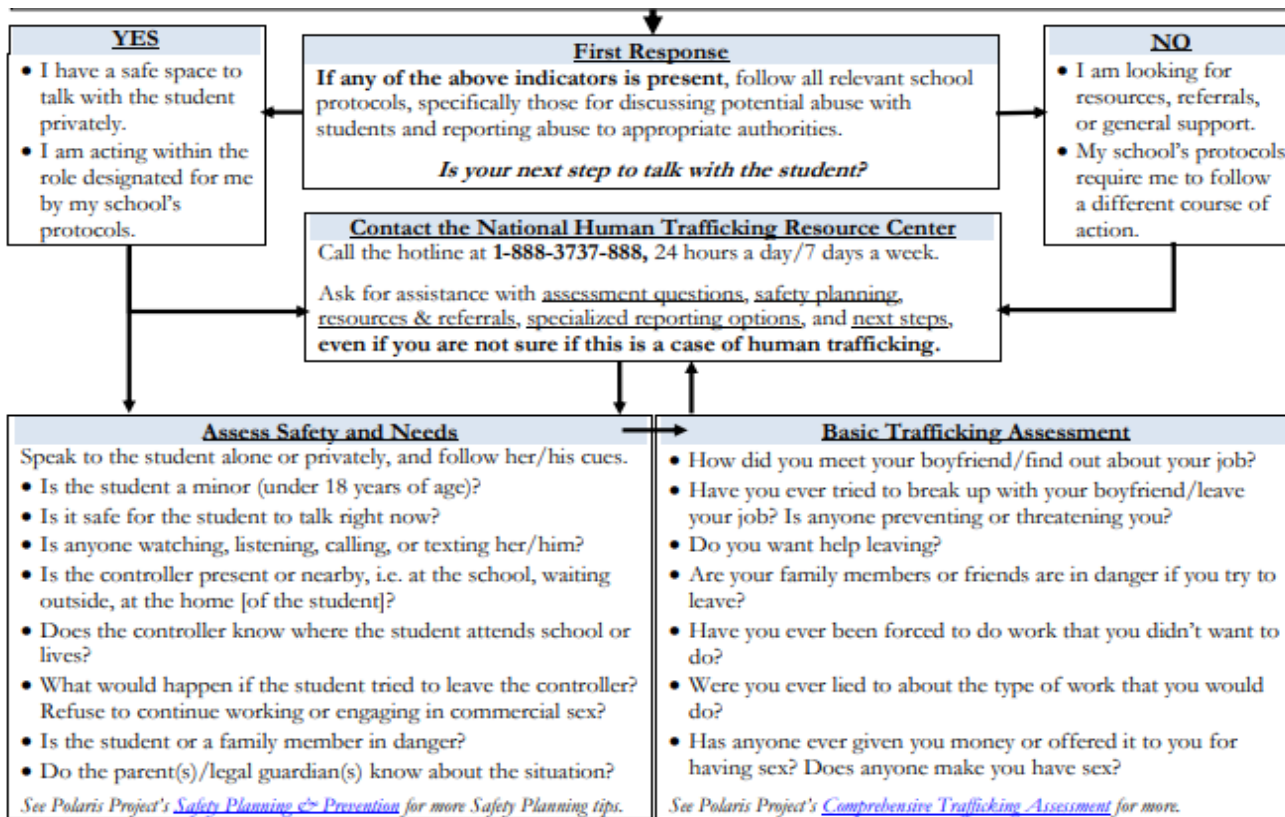
## Tools for Educators | National Human Trafficking Resource Center

This tool is designed to help educators identify the risk factors and indicators of human trafficking in their students and to offer guidelines on how to respond and access resources. **Disclaimer: This protocol does not substitute for internal or mandated reporting requirements and does not guarantee safety. For emergencies, please contact 9-1-1.**

### Red Flags & Indicators

- Exhibits changes in behaviors or school participation, i.e. spike in truancy; or performs severely under grade level.
- Student's family shows signs of frequent migration, periodic homelessness, disorientation, uncertainty of surroundings.
- History of homelessness or running away from home.
- Reveals signs of abusive or inattentive caregivers, such as untreated illness or injury, bruises, or scars.
- Displays heightened sense of duty or obligation to family, has unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties.
- Works for little or no pay, or the employer keeps identification documents and/or confiscates wages.
- Accumulates debt to employer while at work or recruited for work with promises of easy money.
- Exhibits sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age.
- Has an explicitly sexual online profile via internet community or social networking sites.
- Involved in relationship with an older man, receives frequent gifts, may be picked up from school by controller.
- Engages in sexual activity in exchange for money or anything of value (can include clothing, food, shelter, other goods and resources). No force, fraud, or coercion necessary if the student is under 18.
- Knowledge of the commercial sex industry. Uses lingo: "The Life," "The Game," "Daddy," for boyfriend, "Track" or "Stroll," refers to dates as "Johns" or "Tricks."

*Consult Polaris Project's [Red Flags & Indicators](#) for a complete list.*



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