



Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery



Spot it to stop it - How to spot a trafficked victim

Signs of modern slavery can be difficult to detect, with victims remaining hidden for years. But you can be aware of the situations below.

Physical appearance....victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt or appear withdrawn.

Isolation....Victims may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control or influenced by others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.

Poor living conditions...Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address.

Few or no personal effects....Victims may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes – day in, day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.

Restricted freedom of movement...Victims have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents such as passports, retained.

Unusual travel times...They may be regularly dropped off/collected for work very early in the morning or very late at night.

Reluctant to seek help...Victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing whom to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation or fear of violence to them or their family.

The mindset of a trafficked victim

Why doesn't a trafficking victim just leave?

- Traffickers teach victims to distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement officers.
- Foreign victims are afraid of the government and police because they believe they will be deported (whether they are in a country legally or not).
- Victims often feel it's their own fault that they have been trafficked.
- They develop loyalty to their captor as a coping or survival skill. Sometimes they even protect them from authorities.



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- Even if they are being raped for profit night after night, it may still be better than what they came from (unbelievable but true).
- Victims, whether domestic or foreign, probably don't know their rights.
- Their captors have lied to them about their rights.
- They don't see themselves as victims or trafficked.
- They don't have a cell phone, and their captors took away their ID, visas, and passport
- They never heard of calling or even knowing the number of a helpline and they distrust police anyway.
- Their captors may threaten their families, and say if they try to escape, their families will pay the price.

You can't stop what you can't see