



HOSPITALITY

TOOLKIT

Who We Are

The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working with law enforcement, government, and non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

What's Inside?

This **toolkit** offers tips and resources that can help you inform and educate your employees about human trafficking.

It includes **posters** of human trafficking warning signs for four groups of employee:

- Hotel and Motel Staff
- Housekeeping, Maintenance and Room Staff
- Concierge, Bellman, Front Desk, Security and Valet Staff
- Food and Beverage Staff

These posters can be displayed in common areas of your business where employees congregate (such as staff break, laundry and maintenance rooms).

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex. Every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States.

There are different types of human trafficking:

- **Sex Trafficking**

Victims of sex trafficking are manipulated or forced to engage in sex acts for someone else's commercial gain. Sex trafficking is not prostitution.

Anyone under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex is considered to be a victim of human trafficking. **No exceptions.**

- **Forced Labor**

Victims of forced labor are compelled to work for little or no pay, often manufacturing or growing the products we use and consume every day.

- **Domestic Servitude**

Victims of domestic servitude are forced to work in isolation and are hidden in plain sight as nannies, housekeepers or domestic help.

Human trafficking and the hospitality industry

Traffickers often take advantage of the privacy and anonymity offered by the hospitality industry. They can operate discreetly because staff and guests may not know the signs of human trafficking.

You may have employees who are victims of forced labor. If a third party applied for a position on behalf of an individual or if employees are not receiving their own paychecks, these could be signs of human trafficking.

Hotels and motels are also major locations where traffickers force sex trafficking victims to provide commercial sex to paying customers. Victims may be forced to stay at a hotel or motel where customers come to them, or they are required to go to rooms rented out by the customers.

What actions can I take at my business to help stop human trafficking?

You play a significant role in helping to stop this terrible crime by:

- Knowing the signs of human trafficking.
- Designing a plan of action to respond to reports of human trafficking in your business.
- Partnering with agencies that provide services to victims of human trafficking. In the case of lodging, consider offering vouchers to victims. Immediate housing for victims plays a vital role in beginning a victim's healing process.
- Providing employee training to help them understand and identify signs of human trafficking.
- Distributing and posting the fact sheets in this kit to your employees.



SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For **Hotel** and **Motel** Staff

Hotel and motel employees are often in the best position to see potential signs of human trafficking, especially since your duties give you access to different areas of the properties. You may also have direct or indirect contact with both traffickers and victims.

GENERAL INDICATORS

- Individuals show signs of fear, anxiety, tension, submission, and/or nervousness.
- Individuals show signs of physical abuse, restraint, and/or confinement.
- Individuals exhibit evidence of verbal threats, emotional abuse, and/or being treated in a demeaning way.
- Individuals show signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, fatigue, sleep deprivation, untreated illness, injuries, and/or unusual behavior.
- Individuals lack freedom of movement or are constantly monitored.
- Individuals avoid eye contact and interaction with others.
- Individuals have no control over or possession of money or ID.
- Individuals dress inappropriately for their age or have lower quality clothing compared to others in their party.
- Individuals have few or no personal items—such as no luggage or other bags.
- Individuals appear to be with a significantly older “boyfriend” or in the company of older males.
- A group of girls appears to be traveling with an older female or male.
- A group of males or females with identical tattoos in similar locations. This may indicate “branding” by a trafficker.

Each indicator alone may not necessarily mean a person is being trafficked.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ⊗ Do not at any time attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions.
- ! Call 9-1-1 for emergency situations—threats of violence, physical assault, emergency medical needs, etc.
- 🗨️ Follow your corporate protocol, such as by notifying management and security.
- 🛡️ Call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423) to report suspicious criminal activity to federal law enforcement. Highly trained specialists take reports from both the public and law enforcement agencies. Submit a tip at www.ice.gov/tips.
- 📞 To get help from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).



SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For **Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Room Service Staff**

Housekeeping, maintenance, and room service staff typically have the most access to guest rooms where signs of human trafficking may be apparent. By being conscious of human trafficking indicators, you can help identify possible human trafficking activities and victims.

GENERAL INDICATORS

- “Do Not Disturb” sign used constantly.
- Requests room or housekeeping services (additional towels, new linens, etc.), but denies hotel/motel staff entry into room.
- Refusal of cleaning services for multiple days.
- Excessive amounts of cash in a room.
- Smell of bodily fluids and musk.
- Presence of multiple computers, cell phones, pagers, credit card swipes, or other technology.
- The same person reserving multiple rooms.
- Individuals leaving room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours.
- Children’s items or clothing are present but no child registered with the room.
- Individuals loitering in hallways or appearing to monitor the area.
- Excessive amounts of alcohol or illegal drugs in rooms.
- Evidence of pornography.
- Minors left alone in room for long periods of time.
- Excessive number of people staying in a room.
- Extended stay with few or no personal possessions.
- Provocative clothing and shoes.
- Constant flow of men into a room at all hours.
- Excessive amounts of sex paraphernalia in rooms (condoms, lubricant, lotion, etc.).
- Rooms stocked with merchandise, luggage, mail packages, and purses/wallets with different names.

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SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For **Concierge, Bellman, Front Desk, Security, and Valet Staff**

Concierge, bellman, front desk, security, and valet staff are typically the first to see guests when they enter the hotel. When checking in or requesting hotel amenities, a guest may exhibit behavior indicating human trafficking.

GENERAL INDICATORS

- Patrons checking into room appear distressed or injured.
- The same person reserving multiple rooms.
- Few or no personal items when checking in.
- Room paid for with cash or pre-loaded credit card.
- Excessive use of hotel computers for adult oriented or sexually explicit websites.
- Patrons not forthcoming about full names, home address or vehicle information when registering.
- Minor taking on adult roles or behaving older than actual age (paying bills, requesting services).
- Patron appears with a minor that he or she did not come with originally.
- Rentals of pornography when children are staying in the room.
- Individuals dropped off at the hotel or visit repeatedly over a period of time.
- Individuals leaving room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours.
- Minor with a patron late night or during school hours (and not on vacation).
- Individuals checking into room have no identification.
- Room is rented hourly, less than a day, or for long-term stay that does not appear normal.
- Patrons request information or access to adult services or sex industry.
- Room rented has fewer beds than patrons.
- Individuals selling items to or begging from patrons or staff.
- Individuals enter/exit through the side or rear entrances, instead of the lobby.
- Car in parking lot regularly parked backward, so the license plate is not visible.

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SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For **Food** and **Beverage** Staff

Food and beverage staff may have access to a guest's room or see them using the hotel restaurant or bar. Be conscious of these signs indicating a guest may be a victim of human trafficking.

GENERAL INDICATORS

- Patron entertaining a minor at the bar or restaurant that he/she did not come in with originally.
- Patron claims to be an adult although appearance suggests he/she is a minor.
- Individuals loitering and soliciting male patrons.
- Individuals waiting at a table or bar and picked up by a male (trafficker or customer).
- Individuals asking staff or patrons for food or money.
- Individuals taking cash or receipts left on tables.

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