

## Protect yourself checklist

Human traffickers target people who they perceive to be vulnerable. They make false promises to their potential victims and they profess friendship or love. But their intention is exploitation and they often become abusive, using violence, threats or intimidation to control their victims. Traffickers can be relatives, friends or strangers.

The purpose of this checklist is to help students recognize when a situation requires adult intervention or immediate assistance. If students spot any of the following warning signs, they should get help.

### Warning signs:

- **The offer sounds too good to be true.** Does the offer sound unrealistic? If it does, it probably is.
- **The details of the offer are unclear.** Although the details of the offer (e.g., a contract, a location or a job) are unclear, the person reassures you that everything will be taken care of.
- **Access to information is denied.** The person will not answer your questions and will not provide the information that you need to check the credibility of their claims.
- **The offering of incentives.** The person offers you money, gifts or other incentives. Do not accept incentives of any kind.
- **A request for secrecy.** The person asks you to not tell your parents or another adult.
- **The person tries to cut off all means of communication.** For example, the person tries to take your mobile phone.
- **The person asks for passwords and identification documents.** For example, the person asks for your passport or driver's licence. Always safeguard important information and documents. Keep documents on your person and hidden from others.
- **The person asks you to go with them** or to get into their vehicle. Do not do this.
- **Does the person make you feel uncomfortable?** Trust your instincts.