

Indicators of human trafficking information sheet

Directions:

- After viewing and discussing the video, explain to the students that human trafficking situations have certain indicators. For example, with regard to the boy who was trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, forced labour usually takes place in the agriculture, construction, entertainment, service and manufacturing industries. Another indicator of forced labour is that the victims do not get paid for their work.
- It is important to emphasize to the students that indicators may not be present in all human trafficking situations and that their presence or absence neither proves nor disproves evidence of trafficking in persons.
- Place the students in groups and ask them to make a list of human trafficking indicators relating to the boy. For example, the boy was dressed in rags and was forced to work. Ask the groups to share their lists with the class.
- To conclude, share the list of human trafficking indicators provided with this information sheet with the students and discuss them. As an extension activity, the class can identify human trafficking indicators that are human rights violations.

Key messages:

- Victims of human trafficking can be found in a variety of situations
- The students can play a role in identifying victims
- Human trafficking indicators may not be present in all human trafficking situations

Human trafficking indicators:

Indicators relating to people who have been trafficked

People who have been trafficked may:

- Believe that they must work against their will
- Be unable to leave their work environment
- Show signs that their movements are being controlled
- Feel that they cannot leave
- Show fear or anxiety
- Be subjected to violence or the threat of violence against themselves or their family members and loved ones
- Suffer injuries that appear to be the result of an assault
- Suffer injuries or impairments typical of certain jobs or control measures
- Suffer injuries that appear to be the result of the application of control measures

- Be distrustful of the authorities
- Be threatened with being handed over to the authorities
- Be afraid of revealing their immigration status
- Not be in possession of their passports or other travel or identity documents, as those documents are being held by someone else
- Have false identity or travel documents
- Be found in or connected to a type of location likely to be used for exploiting people
- Be unfamiliar with the local language
- Not know their home or work address
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Act as if they were instructed by someone else
- Be forced to work under certain conditions
- Be disciplined through punishment
- Be unable to negotiate working conditions
- Receive little or no payment
- Have no access to their earnings
- Work excessively long hours over long periods
- Not have any days off

Indicators relating to people trafficked for the purpose of forced labour

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of forced labour are typically made to work in sectors such as agriculture, construction, entertainment, the service industry and manufacturing.

These victims of human trafficking may:

- Live in groups in the same place where they work and leave these premises infrequently, if not at all
- Live in degraded, unsuitable places, such as in agricultural or industrial buildings
- Not be dressed adequately for the work they do. For example, they may lack protective equipment or warm clothing
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Have no access to their earnings
- Have no labour contract
- Work excessively long hours
- Depend on their employer for a number of services, including work, transportation and accommodation
- Have no choice of accommodation
- Never leave their work premises without their employer

Indicators relating to children who have been trafficked

Children who have been trafficked may:

- Have no access to their parents or guardians
- Look intimidated and behave in a way that does not correspond with behaviour typical of children their age
- Have no friends of their own age

- Have no access to education
- Have no time for playing
- Live apart from other children and in substandard accommodation
- Eat apart from other members of the “family”
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Be engaged in work that is not suitable for children
- Travel unaccompanied by adults
- Travel in groups with persons who are not relatives

The following might also indicate that children have been trafficked:

- The presence of child-sized clothing typically worn for doing manual or sex work
- The presence of toys, beds and children’s clothing in inappropriate places, such as brothels and factories
- The claim made by an adult that he or she has “found” an unaccompanied child
- The finding of unaccompanied children carrying telephone numbers for calling taxis
- The discovery of cases involving illegal adoption