

RAIL: INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The transportation sector is used to facilitate the trafficking of both sex and labor trafficking victims.

- ▶ **Sex trafficking** occurs when a minor engages in a commercial sex act or when force, fraud, or coercion is used against anyone to commit a commercial sex act.
- ▶ **Labor trafficking**, also referred to as forced labor, refers to situations where a person is forced, manipulated, or coerced to work against their will for little or no pay. Forced labor can occur in various industries and sectors, such as agriculture, nannying, construction, and cleaning services.

There are different types of suspects that coerce victims of human trafficking, such as:

- ▶ **“Gorilla Pimps”** who use physical force and fear to control victims.
- ▶ **“Romeo Pimps”** who convince the victim that he/she is in a romantic relationship. There may be an emotional attachment between the victim and suspect.

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ▶ The potential victim has few personal belongings while traveling.
- ▶ The potential victim is dressed inappropriately for the weather conditions in their intended destination.
- ▶ The potential victim is traveling from where they live to “make money” for the week or weekend.
- ▶ Someone other than the individual traveling booked the tickets.
- ▶ The potential victim appears confused and disoriented at the station.
- ▶ The potential victim may appear aggressive or hesitant to talk with law enforcement; some victims may appear to be anxious or fearful.
- ▶ The potential victim is traveling to meet their partner whom they met on social media. They are not in possession of their own finances, or they believe their partner will provide for any of their needs.
- ▶ The potential victim is unclear who will pick them up at the station.
- ▶ Potential victims of trafficking may show signs of physical neglect or abuse (scars, bruises, burns, etc.) and/or seem malnourished or disheveled. *Note that victims of sex trafficking may be less likely to show signs of physical abuse in areas like the face, arms, or legs but may sustain injuries in less visible areas such as on their lower back or on their head, underneath the hair.*

► Indicators of control by another person:

- Another person is in control of the potential victim's identification documents - particularly if the victim appears to be at an age capable of handling their own documents.*
- Another person consistently speaks or translates on behalf of the potential victim.
- The potential victim appears apprehensive to speak in the presence of the accompanying person(s).
- The potential victim is in frequent communication, e.g., by phone, when not in the presence of the accompanying person(s).
- The potential victim appears to be dependent on another person (financially, emotionally, and/or for drugs).
- Tattoos indicating branding of sex trafficking victims, e.g., crowns with initials, dollar signs, "street" names, or pimp-related language.

**Please consider cultural/religious practices that may account for this.*

► Body Language and Facial Expressions:

- Seems disoriented or lost
- Seems distrustful, fearful, or hostile
- Displays hopelessness, despondency, dejection, or desperation

► Indicators of other suspicious behavior are present.

EXAMPLE *The potential victim asks to use someone else's phone or reports being asked to carry a bag for someone else.*

- The potential victim's living or employment situation at the destination is not verifiable, or the traveler does not know much about the employer.

► Indicators of other suspicious behavior is present.

EXAMPLE *Victims sleep on the floor of the car wash where they work or they live out of a hotel and have sex with "clients" in the same hotel.*

► The potential victim:

- Is not familiar with traveling by rail or they are relying upon someone else for guidance.
- May have appropriate work documentation and identification but has not met the employer yet or spoken to them.
- Is traveling to work and live in the same location.
- Has no labor contract or the contract may be unsuitable or illegal.

► Consider the potential victim's journey to the station.

EXAMPLE *A passenger shares that their "boyfriend" dropped them off at the station to travel to a work opportunity.*

► The passenger appears to be on the phone with someone directing them about what to do when they reach their destination:

- "What do I do when I get there?"
- "What room am I going to?"
- "How much should I charge?"
- Listen for phrases like "play / making a play," "dates," "an account is down," and "postings."

► The potential victim lacks significant information on where they are traveling to, staying, or working.

Note - the transportation industry typically encounters human trafficking victims called "automatics," which means the victim is able to be on their own and not in the presence of a trafficker or someone associated with the trafficking situation. Avoid assuming a victim will always be traveling with someone.

While no single indicator confirms the existence of human trafficking, several indicators combined can increase the likelihood of exploitation. Even in the absence of these indicators, you can still make a report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline if you suspect exploitation.



888-373-7888
U.S. HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

ACTION

- ▶ If the potential victim is interested in speaking with law enforcement about their current situation, contact Sergeant Nick Ingram, or if the Sergeant is unavailable, Manager Safety & Security Analytics Rachael Songalewski.
- ▶ Otherwise, you can report your observations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH). Reports of even limited information are helpful, as other callers may have reported the same situation.
- ▶ If the “employer’s” name is known, report the employer to the Department of Labor where trafficking or labor violations are identified.

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MINORS

- ▶ The child discusses plans to meet someone in the destination city whom they have never met in person before.

EXAMPLE *They met online and have only communicated on social media.*

- ▶ School-aged youth traveling on a train or bus during school hours.
- ▶ The child discusses meeting a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” (or an associate of the “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”) in a new city rather than a family member.
- ▶ A child traveling alone, hours away from their home.

NOTE A child may delay disclosing abuse or harm.

According to NCMEC, 1 in 6 runaway children in 2021 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

ACTION

- ▶ Request to speak with the child’s guardian to verify their permission for the child to travel to the destination; any documentation needs to match the information relayed by the child.
- ▶ If trafficking is potentially implicated, contact Amtrak Police and Child Protective Services in the destination city. Reports can also be submitted to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) which may have information about runaway or otherwise missing children.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

- ▶ If possible, use the NHTH QR code located in the Amtrak station bathroom stalls and mirrors.
- ▶ Have resource cards/handouts readily available.
- ▶ For APD training, consider implementing two-hour in-person human trafficking training blocks at roll calls.
- ▶ Amtrak Police Intel Detective (Ingram-Major Crimes) should be notified of all possible incidents of human trafficking.

- ▶ Amtrak Police National Communication Center (NCC) Dispatchers should be familiar with:
 - ▶ The NHTH 1-888-373-7888, operated by Polaris.
 - ▶ The operations of the NHTH and its services.
 - ▶ The appropriate questions to ask a potential human trafficking victim.
- ▶ NCC Dispatchers should complete initial training to learn to categorize/identify the calls for service (the call for service information plays a major role in the officers’ response).



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OFFICER RESPONSE

- ▶ Use a victim-centered approach (empathy based).
 - ▶ Do not display an authoritative approach or signs of aggression.
 - ▶ Use a calm tone.
 - ▶ Conduct the interview with a minimum of two officers present, wherever the potential victim feels comfortable.
 - ▶ Conduct the interview out of the view of the public in an area with fewer people.
 - ▶ Always maintain officer safety.
 - ▶ The potential victim may not give officers consent to search their persons or their items (may feel embarrassed, shy, or intimidated).
 - ▶ Practice active listening rather than questioning the potential victim. Let them speak, and do not interrupt or appear judgmental.
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OFFICER

Questions to Ask

- ▶ Are you okay?
- ▶ Do you need any medical attention?
- ▶ Where are you from?
- ▶ Do you have a safe place to go, or would you like me to help you get to a safe place?
 - ▶ The NHTH can provide access to resources for travel and hotels.
- ▶ Do you feel comfortable providing your contact information? (Name, date of birth, last known address, etc.)

NCC RESPONSE

- ▶ Review which questions to ask the potential victim.
 - ▶ Review which information to obtain and relay pertinent information to the responding officer(s).
 - ▶ Listen to the tone of the potential victim and/or the reporting party.
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NCC DISPATCHER

Questions to Ask

- ▶ Are you okay?
- ▶ Do you need any medical attention?
- ▶ Can you talk freely?
- ▶ Are you traveling alone?
- ▶ Are you able to meet with an officer?
- ▶ Can you provide your clothing description and the clothing description of the suspect?
- ▶ Where are you currently located?