

## THE TRAFFICKED TEENS™ PROJECT

Most people do not recognize sex trafficking as a problem in the U.S. In order to protect our children, we need health care workers, social workers, teachers, child welfare advocates, religious leaders – and parents – to become aware of the risks.

The Trafficked Teens™ Project consists of a display of four life-sized, free-standing silhouettes of teens and pre-teens. Each one has a story on her/his chest to tell how she/he became a victim of sex trafficking. The stories are not of real children but are representative of situations in which real children have become victims of this heinous crime.

Handouts and flyers accompany the display to provide information on red flags that might indicate a child is being trafficked. The materials also prominently display the contact information for the National Trafficking Hotline Number.

If you would like more information about this project or you would like us to bring it to your event or venue, please contact:

Trafficked Teens™  
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore  
5 Revere Drive, Suite 200  
Northbrook, IL. 60062  
847-853-8889  
[www.ncjwcns.org](http://www.ncjwcns.org)  
[trafficked.teens@ncjwcns.org](mailto:trafficked.teens@ncjwcns.org)

## TRAFFICKED TEENS™



AN EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROJECT OF  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
CHICAGO NORTH SHORE



National Council of Jewish Women  
Chicago North Shore Section

## WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Sex trafficking is a modern form of slavery. Any child involved in the sex trade is considered a victim of sex trafficking, as is any adult who is coerced or deceived into it by fraud or intimidation.

## IS CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING A PROBLEM IN CHICAGO?

This is a very serious problem. An estimated 250,000-300,000 children are trafficked each year in the USA. Chicago is fast becoming a national hub of sex trafficking; an estimated 16,000-25,000 women and children are trafficked **each day** in the Chicagoland area.

## WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

The average age at which a child is trafficked is 12-14 years old. Both girls and boys are victimized, but girls are 80-85% of the victims. All children are at risk, especially those who have suffered physical and sexual abuse, who are in foster care, or who are runaways.

## WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

School acquaintances, contacts on social media, pimps posing as recruiters for modeling or talent agencies or as "rescuers" of runaways and even family members can be traffickers.

## HOW DO CHILDREN BECOME VICTIMS?

Vulnerable children are tricked or lured through offers of love, gifts, or even food and shelter. Once recruited, they are kept there by a combination of violence, drugs and a feeling that there is no way out.

## SIGNS A CHILD COULD BE A VICTIM OF SEX TRAFFICKING

### Red Flags for parents, teachers, coaches, family members:

#### ASK QUESTIONS!

- Unexplained gifts, jewelry or cell phones
- A controlling boyfriend or relationship
- Vague and inconsistent stories about activities and whereabouts
- Marked changes in behavior and speech
- Hidden phone/computer communications
- Online presence indicating sexual activity
- Chronic running away from home
- Unexplained absences from school

### Red Flags for medical personnel, service providers, and the public:

- Claiming to be an adult but has adolescent features
- Inability to make eye contact
- Shows signs of abuse or neglect
- Interaction and ID's controlled by someone else
- Afraid, anxious, depressed, nervous, defensive
- "Branded" with an unexplained tattoo
- Indicates or implies has engaged in sex for money

If you see a number of these signs:

DO NOT INTERVENE DIRECTLY!

CALL **1-888-373-7888**

TEXT INFO or HELP to **233733** (BeFree)