



**WATCH**

**RESPOND**

**PROTECT**

## FOR HOSPITALITY

"I walked past the hotel employees so many times for over a week just hoping that they would be able to figure out what was going on and help me. They had to know, but my trafficker told me that the employees would call him and not the police if I tried to get help and I was scared."

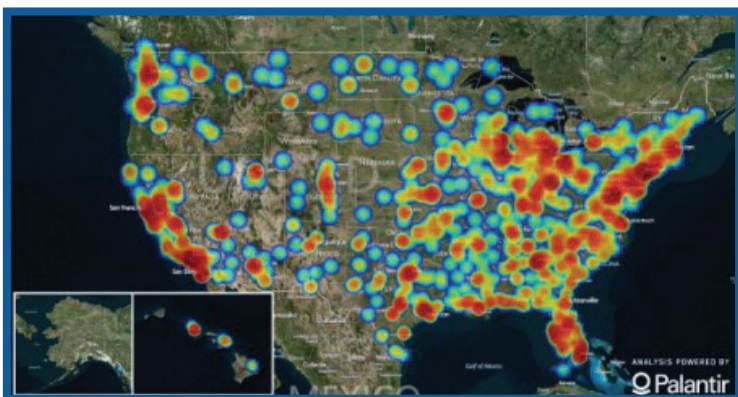
- Tiffany (17 year old victim)

## WHAT?

Human trafficking is compelling a person to engage in commercial sex or forced, unfair labor. A sex trafficker is someone who profits from someone participating in sexual acts in exchange for anything of value (money, food, drugs, clothes, a place to sleep, etc) or someone who gives something of value to receive a sex act. A labor trafficker is someone who profits from causing someone to engage in unfair or coerced labor. They may threaten the employee in some manner as a way to trap them in the situation.

## WHERE?

In 2016 there were over 7500 cases of human trafficking reported in the United States according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. This is only a percentage of the actual cases as many go unreported. The map below shows where those phone calls originated. Notice the concentration of calls in your area. To find specific statistics for your area go to: <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>



Places most trafficking victims have reported being taken to by their traffickers:

- Hotels
- Malls / shopping centers
- Convenience stores
- Retail stores
- Bars / Restaurants
- Transportation hubs

## WHO?

Victims can be from any ethnicity, social or economic group, gender, or level of academic achievement. Some traffickers prefer to focus their efforts on recruiting young people into their enterprises, as most traffickers are young as well.

Trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world and quickly growing. It will soon become bigger than the drug trade.

## HOW

### Scouting



Traffickers often look for potential victims in and around hotels. They will specifically target hotel parties where they know young people will hang out unaccompanied by responsible adults. Reporting suspicious people and/or events at a hotel can help prevent the crime from even happening.

### Manipulating



Traffickers use hotels as a place where they can meet with their intended victims and slowly manipulate them. Often times this will start as a location where the two can meet and spend time together. However, it can quickly become exploitive. Having a watchful eye and being open to idea that situations are not always what they initially seem can help identify potential incidents of trafficking.

### Trapping



Traffickers routinely use hotels to exploit their victims. Hotels provide cover from law enforcement or other authorities to interdict and stop the exploitive behavior. Hotels staff play an essential role in the identification and reporting of potential trafficking scenarios.

## EDUCATION

For More Information Visit: [www.nhtta.org](http://www.nhtta.org)



## Know the Signs

It can be difficult to spot incidents of human trafficking within the hospitality industry. However, many victims are moved and exploited in hotels and motels all across the United States. Each member of the staff at any of these businesses has an opportunity to observe suspicious behavior. **The most important thing is to trust your gut. If it doesn't seem right, Report It!**

## Outside the Hotel

Maintenance staff, grounds crews, and security should all be alert to suspicious vehicles or activities in the parking lots surrounding the hotel. This may be the first opportunity to encounter a trafficking victim or identify the situation. Often times the traffickers will stay outside the hotel while the victims arrange for a room inside or the victims are engaged in activities to make money for the trafficker. This is to create distance between the trafficker and the illegal activity, but also to watch and make sure their victim doesn't try to escape.

## Entering the Hotel

Front desk staff, bellmen, and concierges have an opportunity to observe a trafficked victim coming into the hotel. There are specific warning signs and often the behaviors of trafficked persons stand out. It is important that these staff members are properly trained on identification of these potential scenarios and utilize reference guides to confirm whether or not the staff member should report their suspicions.

## Throughout the Hotel

Housekeepers, housemen, security, and front desk staff should be alert to suspicious and abnormal behaviors of certain guests. Trafficked persons are being compelled to engage in illicit behaviors, this requires them to meet "clients" in the lobby, utilize computers in hotel business centers, and often request an excessive amount of amenities such as towels. These guests will not likely leave the hotel regularly as one might expect of a routine guest.

## Checking out of the Hotel

Front desk staff, housekeepers, and security have one last opportunity to observe and report. Their departure may be associated with the inability to extend their stay one more night by paying cash. Their rooms may require extra attention from housekeeping staff.



# PREVENTION

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See  
Something,  
Say  
Something!

**By reporting suspicious behavior to the proper authorities, you could save a young person's life!**

## What can I do?

Remember that everyone in the community plays a vital role in stopping trafficking. It is important to not approach or intervene in an unsafe situation, allow the proper authorities to approach suspicious people or situations. The most important thing that you can do if you see a suspicious situation is to:

**1-OBSERVE:** Take note of what you are seeing. Try to remember as many details as you possibly can. These could include:

- Descriptions of the suspicious persons (height, weight, race, approximate age, hair description, clothing description)
- Names on IDs or credit cards
- Items purchased
- Anything that the trafficker or victim said about where they were staying or what they were doing
- Why you believe the situation is suspicious, to include their behaviors and demeanor

**2-RECORD:** If you think it would be helpful jot down your observations on a piece of paper to be able to recall the information when reporting to authorities. If you are comfortable, and can do so discreetly, take a photograph or video to share with authorities. Make sure to take note of the time of day and location where this occurred.

**3-REPORT:** Report your suspicions to the appropriate authorities. Know the contact information for your local police department as well as security personnel for your place of employment. You may also choose to report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline who can coordinate appropriate responses nationwide and ensure proper follow-up.

**National Human  
Trafficking hotline:  
888-3737-888 or text  
"HELP" to befreet.**

Local Police Department Contact Info:

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Security Officer Contact Info:

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# INTERVENTION

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