



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*



## **Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

**GLOBAL PROGRAMME  
AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME  
Vienna

**Toolkit to  
Combat Trafficking in Persons**

**Global Programme against  
Trafficking in Human Beings**



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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

Note: All the indicators listed below are present in all situations involving trafficking in humans. Although the presence or absence of any of the indicators neither proves nor disproves that human trafficking is taking place, their presence should lead to investigation.

Victims of trafficking in humans can be found in a variety of situations. You can play a role in identifying such victims.

### GENERAL INDICATORS

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 threats of violence against themselves or against 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
- Live in poor or substandard accommodations
- Have no access to medical care
- Have limited or no social interaction
- Have limited contact with their families or with people outside of their immediate environment
- Be unable to communicate freely with others
- Be under the perception that they are bonded by debt
- Be in a situation of dependence
- Come from a place known to be a source of human trafficking
- Have had the fees for their transport to the country of destination paid for by facilitators, whom they must payback by working or providing services in the destination
- Have acted on the basis of false promises

### CHILDREN

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 outside of work
- Have no access to education
- Have no time for playing
- Live apart from other children and in substandard accommodations
- 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

### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of domestic servitude may

- Live with a family
- Not eat with the rest of the family
- Have no private space
- Sleep in a shared or inappropriate space
- Be reported missing by their employer even though they are still living in their employer's house
- Never or rarely leave the house for social reasons
- Never leave the house without their employer
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Be subjected to insults, abuse, threats or violence

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation may:

- Be of any age, although the age may vary according to the location and the market
- Move from one brothel to the next or work in various locations
- Be escorted whenever they go to and return from work and other outside activities
- Have tattoos or other marks indicating "ownership" by their exploiters
- Work long hours or have few if any days off
- Sleep where they work
- Live or travel in a group, sometimes with other women who do not speak the same language
- Have very few items of clothing
- Have clothes that are mostly the kind typically worn for doing sex work
- Only know how to say sex-related words in the local language or in the language of the client group
- Have no cash of their own
- Be unable to show an identity document

The following might also indicate that children have been trafficked:

- There is evidence that suspected victims have had unprotected and/or violent sex
- There is evidence that suspected victims cannot refuse unprotected and/or violent sex
- There is evidence that a person has been bought and sold
- There is evidence that groups of women are under the control of others
- Advertisements are placed for brothels or similar places offering the services of women of a particular ethnicity or nationality
- It is reported that sex workers provide services to a clientele of a particular ethnicity or nationality
- It is reported by clients that sex workers do not smile

## LABOUR EXPLOITATION

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

People who have been trafficked for labour exploitation may:

- Live in groups in the same place where they work and leave those premises infrequently, if 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 the work premises without their employer
- Be unable to move freely
- Be subject to security measures designed to keep them on the work premises
- Be disciplined through fines
- Be subjected to insults, abuse, threats or violence
- Lack basic training and professional licences

The following might also indicate that people have been trafficked for labour exploitation:

- Notices have been posted in languages other than the local language
- There are no health and safety notices
- The employer or manager is unable to show the documents required for employing workers from other countries
- The employer or manager is unable to show records of wages paid to workers
- The health and safety equipment is of poor quality or is missing
- Equipment is designed or has been modified so that it can be operated by children
- There is evidence that labour laws are being breached
- There is evidence that workers must pay for tools, food or accommodation or that those costs are being deducted from their wages

## BEGGING AND PETTY CRIME

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of begging or committing petty crimes may:

- Be children, elderly persons or disabled migrants who tend to beg in public places and on public transport
- Be children carrying and/or selling illicit drugs
- Have physical impairments that appear to be the result of mutilation
- Be children of the same nationality or ethnicity who move in large groups with only a few adults
- Be unaccompanied minors who have been "found" by an adult of the same nationality or ethnicity
- Move in groups while travelling on public transport: for example, they may walk up and down the length of trains
- Participate in the activities of organized criminal gangs
- Be part of large groups of children who have the same adult guardian
- Be punished if they do not collect or steal enough
- Live with members of their gang
- Travel with members of their gang to the country of destination
- Live, as gang members, with adults who are not their parents
- Move daily in large groups and over considerable distances

The following might also indicate that people have been trafficked for begging or for committing petty crimes:

- New forms of gang-related crime appear
- There is evidence that the group of suspected victims has moved, over a period of time, through a number of countries
- There is evidence that suspected victims have been involved in begging or in committing petty crimes in another country

For additional information about the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, please visit [www.un.org/trafficking](http://www.un.org/trafficking)



**UN.GIFT**  
Global Initiative to  
Fight Human Trafficking

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
A CRIME THAT SHAMES US ALL



## Tool 8.6 Psychological assistance

### Overview

*This tool examines the common psychological reactions of victims to the experience of trafficking and outlines the type of psychological assistance that they are likely to require*

### Symptoms

The common psychological reactions of victims of trafficking are likely to include:

- Fear of being alone, of being found and punished by the trafficker, of their family being punished and of the consequences of being an “illegal immigrant”
- Guilt that they have made such a mistake, become “criminals”, brought trouble to their families or broken mores of traditional culture
- Anger that they have allowed this to happen and that their lives are so destroyed
- Feelings of betrayal by the traffickers, their own families and society
- Lack of trust in themselves and those around them
- Helplessness and lack of control over their lives

The trafficking experience may create a systematic disruption of basic and core attachments to family, friends and religious and cultural systems, the destruction of central values relating to human existence, and shame. Post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of brutal acts, including torture and rape, that the victims have experienced can also frequently be observed. A victim’s way of relating to others, the general community or even authority figures may have changed drastically, leading to a general sense of distrust of others and a fear of forming new relationships. The victim’s capacity for intimacy may be altered, grief may be pronounced and depression may become overwhelming.

Intervention strategies and assistance programmes for victims of trafficking must be based upon an understanding of the psychologically painful experience of the victims and must focus on assisting the victims’ full recovery and re-establishment of a normal life. A number of basic elements for the process of recovery can be identified. They include:

- **Restoring safety.** Unless a sense of safety is guaranteed nothing much can be achieved.
- **Enhancing control.** The trafficker has sought to take control away from his victim. In order for victims to move forward, strategies must be sought that give them as much control over the recovery process as possible.
- **Restoring attachment and connections to others.** The fundamental challenge for assistance workers is to act in a way that is caring, giving and kind, so that connections can be re-established and victims can begin to realize that there are others in the community who will care for them.

• **Restoring meaning and a sense of purpose, as well as personal dignity and self-respect.**

Models such as the one presented in the chart below provide guidance to therapists on the most appropriate and useful ways to address the psychological needs of victims of trafficking. Immediate crisis counselling should be followed by a longer-term therapeutic intervention to address the needs of the victims as they progress towards recovery. In the case of children, psychological assessment and therapeutic interventions should be provided by specialists in childcare and should involve family members whenever possible.

<b>Supportive responses to common reactions to trafficking in a service setting</b>		
<i>Common reactions to trafficking</i>	<i>How reactions may manifest themselves in a service setting</i>	<i>Supportive responses to negative reactions</i>
Fear, insecurity, anxiety	Reluctance to meet people, go outside or be alone; trembling, shaking or heart racing; difficulty sitting still or concentrating	Implementation of security measures; description and reassurance of security measures; confidentiality, and security of physical venue; accompaniment to outside appointments or errands
Mistrust of others	Wariness of service provider and of offers of assistance; reluctance to disclose information; giving false information; difficulties in relationships with support persons, co-residents, others in programme, family etc.	Patience and persistence in developing relationships; unconditional provision of practical assistance and moral support; regular inquiries into needs and well-being
Mistrust of self, low self-esteem	Passivity, difficulty making decisions or trusting one's decisions; difficulty planning for the future, hyper-sensitivity or hyper-responsiveness to others and outside influences	Creating small tasks, setting short-term goals, fostering short-term accomplishments, validating achievements
Self-blame, guilt, shame	Difficulty making eye contact, difficulty in expressing oneself; difficulty in disclosing details of events and feelings; reluctance to undergo physical examinations, to participate in group or other forms of therapy	Reassurance that what happened was not her or his fault, reminder that trafficking is a crime that victimizes many people and that they are not alone; reminder of her or his courage and resourcefulness under extreme conditions

Anger towards self or others	Hostility or violence towards support persons or others (e.g. co-residents, family); self-inflicted physical harm; sabotaging her or his own process of recovery; over-reacting; unwillingness to participate; blaming or accusatory towards others; uncooperative or ungrateful responses	Patience; remaining calm in the face of hostility, not reacting with anger, hostility or showing frustration; implementation of reasonable and proportional measures to ensure the person's safety; implementation of reasonable and proportional measures to ensure the safety of others
Memory lapses, dissociation	Inability to recall details or entire passages of the past; altering accounts of past events; seeming unwillingness to respond or to answer questions	Not judging or condemning the person, not pressuring or harassing the person; understanding the importance of forgetting for some people
Isolation, loneliness	Sadness, depression, disengagement from others and activities, lethargy; seeming self-absorbed or self-centred; believing no one can understand	Offering phone contact (or other contact) with family, friends etc.; opportunities to participate in one-to-one or group activities; planned tasks or events
Dependence, subservience or defensiveness	Inability or reluctance to make decisions; desire to please; easily influenced; inability to assert self or personal preferences; regular complaining; refusal or reluctance to accept assistance, advice	Assigning small tasks; setting limited goals; reassuring the persons of their abilities and capacity, not fostering dependence by assuming all responsibility for the person's welfare (allowing persons to choose when, how or if they wish to be assisted)

Source: C. Zimmerman, 2004, "Trafficking in women: conceptualizing and measuring health risks and consequences", PhD dissertation, Health Policy Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London.

### Recommended resource

Chapter 5, section 5.7 of *The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking*, published in 2007, addresses mental health considerations.



The IOM Handbook is available at:

[www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=13452](http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=13452)

prominently displays a hotline for reporting suspicious activity and also provides succinct information on:

- The differences between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Trafficking indicators

Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?

Was the victim coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials?

Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?

Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)

Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?

Does the victim have freedom of movement?

Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?

Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?

Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?

Can the victim freely contact friends or family?

Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?



More information about the work of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement can be found at:

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)



## Tool 6.5 Initial interview

### Overview

*This tool, developed by Anti-Slavery International, provides seven steps to follow in conducting the initial interview with a potential victim.*

The primary goal of the initial interview is to ascertain whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person being interviewed is a possible victim of trafficking. It is equally important to provide the person being interviewed with all relevant information that will



enable him or her to access support and assistance, and to make an informed decision about his or her future actions (i.e. whether he or she will assist law enforcers in investigation and prosecution). Lastly, law enforcement officials must ascertain whether there are any immediate safety risks for the individual being interviewed or others.

## Step 1. Opening the interview

The intention is to establish a situation in which the potential victim feels safe enough to express himself or herself and to tell his or her story. The opening of the interview can be divided into two parts:

### **Introduction**

#### *Explain*

- Who you are.
- The position you hold.
- That you are experienced in this kind of work.
- That you have met people in a similar situation already and more than once.

#### *Explain the here and now situation*

- Check the person's basic needs (pain, thirst, hunger, if feeling cold).
- Explain what exactly is happening here and now.

The focus on the “here and now” situation should enable the victim to understand what is happening and the situation he or she is in at that moment. If that is unclear to the person, it will be difficult to establish communication

## Step 2. Providing information

Usually the best way to open an interview successfully is to make very clear exactly what you are doing and what the person being interviewed can expect:

#### *Explain the purpose of the interview*

- Explain the purpose of the interview and what you are trying to achieve.
- Later the person needs to be able to decide consciously what further steps to take (i.e. whether to report the crime, apply for a permit to stay, remain in this country or return to his or her home country etc.). He or she should be informed at this early stage of the interview about the options which are likely to be available to him or her. He or she will need to know how his or her statement will be used—if he or she agrees to make one—including who might have access to it.

#### *Explain the transfer to the police station if the interview takes place there*

- Explain the reasons and procedure promptly after arrival at the police station.
- Explore any steps that can be taken to assist privacy.

- Explain (if relevant) that he or she may at any time postpone or terminate the statement and leave the police station.

*Explain the structure and the proceedings of the interview*

- Explain how the interview will proceed, step-by-step.

*Explain the role of an interpreter or cultural mediator if there is one*

- What can be expected from an interpreter and what cannot?
- If a cultural mediator or confidante is involved, explain clearly to everyone what their roles are and what to expect.

### Step 3. Gathering information

This step is to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to believe that the person is a victim of trafficking, and to determine what immediate support and assistance measures are needed:

*Look at the problematic situation*

- Look for inconsistencies or vagueness in his or her story and ask him or her to explain in more detail if needed.
- See if you can detect a call for help or fear of reprisals.

*Find out who the person being interviewed is*

- Let him or her tell you who he or she is—just a short history—and how he or she ended up here.
- Pay attention to the person and demonstrate a true interest in his or her story. Make sure that you reflect the emotional state of the person and, if necessary, name the emotions you observe if you think they might stand in the way.

*Find out how he or she got into this situation*

- Pay attention to exact time and space indicators.
- Try to find out if there are witnesses to individual facts or parts of the story.

*Find out what the situation is now*

- What situation is he or she in at the moment and what will it be like in the next few days, especially after speaking to the police?

*Find out what he or she wants and expects*

- What does he or she want at this moment?
- Look again for a possible call for help and make it concrete.
- What are the person's worries now?
- What worries him or her the most?

- Let the person know what you can do to help, when exactly this can be done, as well as what you cannot do. Let it rest for a while if necessary, but make sure you explain the options.

*Point out possible signs of trafficking*

- Listen carefully to what the victim is telling you.
- Use the guiding questions from the checklist when you think it is appropriate.
- Use the checklist provided or create your own checklist of indicators, which will help guide you through the case.

When asking the questions, consider how much information you need to gather at this stage.

It is important to pay attention to the person's reactions and emotions during this phase. Telling you his or her story can make the person anxious, angry or aggressive. You may notice signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. Are you prepared enough to respond to that?

#### Step 4. Updating the information

The aim of providing information at this stage is similar to that at earlier stages. It is to make sure that the possible victim is safe, and to build a relationship of trust with him or her so that you can work together.

*Explain to the person what his or her actual situation is (after checking)*

- After you have heard the person's story, you should be in a better position to offer more precise information about the options available to him or her.
- Briefly explain what the situation is if the person is an irregular migrant and is at the police station.
- Be honest about the consequences of being an irregular migrant, whether the person is cooperating or not.

*Explain the relevant national policies*

- Explain exactly how these policies affect him or her.
- If relevant, explain at this stage that you suspect the person may be a victim of trafficking and explain what this means.

*Explain the permit to stay*

- If there is a possibility of obtaining a permit to stay in the country (short-term or otherwise), you are obliged to explain this to the person.
- Make sure that you explain the policy in simple, understandable words.
- Do not forget to mention other possibilities and limitations.

*Explain the criminal law*

- Explain to him or her how the criminal law works in the country. Mention the possibilities, but also the consequences of criminal proceedings.

*Explain the civil law*

- Explain clearly that, apart from criminal proceedings, the person has other options, such as civil or humanitarian channels.
- Explain the risks, and the other opportunities for assistance that may exist. Be honest and realistic as to what the options may involve.

**Step 5. Jointly deciding what further steps to take***Look into other, as yet unexplored, possibilities*

- Clarify any possible inconsistencies and vagueness in the story. Look for points you may be able to use.
- Consider whether it is necessary to find out more information now, or whether this can be obtained at a later stage. Do you have enough for an initial assessment?

*Develop the desired scenario*

- Jointly develop the desired scenarios: application for a permit to stay, making a statement, going back to the home country etc.
- Define realistic and achievable goals. (What are the elements? What criminal offence was committed against him or her?)
- Identify what is needed for constructive change (any additional information, help or service at this stage?).

*Define a joint approach*

- Discuss possibilities and consequences and let the person decide if he or she wants to report the crime or would rather leave this decision to a later stage.
- Repeat the information about all other available options (criminal/humanitarian procedures) and let the person decide whether he or she will use them.
- Develop a concrete plan.
- Agree on a timeline and next steps.

After the exchange of information, it is crucial to evaluate. The detective will need to go through the possibilities and consequences for the victim once more. If necessary, make a list of pros and cons so the victim can see clearly what his or her options are. It is a good idea to let the victim rest and consider the options if a “reflection delay” procedure is available.

**Step 6. Taking further steps**

The highest priority is to ensure that the person is safe and that his or her health, physical, mental and social needs are taken care of.

*Arrange a shelter*

- Refugee or migrant’s centre.
- Starting the asylum procedure.

- Custody (this should only be used when there are no other options available. Remember that the person is a victim of crime).

#### *Arrange a short-term permit to stay*

- Who starts the procedure? Is this well organized in your region?
- Fill in the necessary forms to support the victim's claims.
- Register the procedure and make contact with relevant stakeholders.
- Notify the public prosecutor, where relevant.

#### *Guarantee safety*

- Discuss in detail with the victim how his or her safety might be secured. The victim plays an important role in maintaining his or her own safety.
- Explain any safety arrangements step by step.
- Arrange for the victim to be referred outside of the region if he or she is in any danger.
- Make it clear if any personal information will be shared if he or she reports the crime, and with whom (chief detective, public prosecutor etc.).
- Consider the safety of others, for example the victim's close friends and family.

#### *Arrange aid and assistance*

- Is there an aid and assistance coordinator in this region?
- Could this person arrange for the victim to be placed within or outside of the region?
- When police matters are finished, will the coordinator pick up and accompany the victim (to different service providers)?
- Will the coordinator arrange all necessary assistance and communicate with relevant bodies? (regarding health, registration for benefits, personal documents etc.).
- Close cooperation between the service providers, NGOs and the police is recommendable.

## Step 7. Closing the first interview

Gather feedback from the victim and make a clear agreement about follow-up. Before you close the first interview, let the victim provide feedback to you about the following:

#### *Ask what he or she thinks about the situation here and now*

- What emotional state is he or she in?
- Is there anything that should have been said but was not?

#### *Come to an agreement about how you will stay in contact*

- How can he or she contact you and what can he or she expect from you?
- How can you contact him or her?

*Follow-up*

- Set specific dates with him or her for follow-up interviews and phone calls.
- Agree next steps.

*Make clear and specific agreements on any other relevant matters*



**Source:** Anti-Slavery International, "Protocol for identification and assistance to trafficked persons and training kit", available at: [www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/PDFtraffic.htm](http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/PDFtraffic.htm)



## **Tool 6.6 Screening interview form of the International Organization for Migration for the identification of victims of trafficking**

### **Overview**

*This tool introduces the IOM screening interview form to assist officials of various agencies in the identification of trafficking victims, as well as other sample checklists and interview questions*

IOM has prepared the following screening interview form for the purpose of facilitating victim identification. Each section of the form is to be completed by the interviewer to aid in ascertaining whether the interview is a victim of trafficking.

### **Informed consent**

Has the individual been informed that IOM and/or (name of partnering organization) reserves the right to share her/his individual case data for assistance purposes and only with IOM missions and partnering organizations involved in direct assistance? (Yes/No)

Has the individual further been informed that IOM reserves the right to make a limited disclosure of non-personal data based on the information collected at the interview to law enforcement for the purpose of rescuing other victims that remain under the control of traffickers or preventing other potential victims from being trafficked? (Yes/No)

Has the individual further been informed that IOM reserves the right to use (only anonymous, aggregate) data for research purposes? (Yes/No)



## Tool 6.9 Interviewing tips for health-care practitioners

### Overview

*This tool reproduces some of the materials created by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for health-care practitioners to use in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking*

### Overview of the problem

Health-care practitioners may have treated victims of human trafficking without realizing their circumstances and therefore have lost a chance to help them escape a horrific situation. The following provides a brief overview of the trafficking problem, as well as tips for identifying and assisting trafficking victims.

Human trafficking is a widespread form of modern-day slavery. While trafficking is largely a hidden social problem, many trafficking victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for.

Trafficking is not just forced prostitution. Victims of human trafficking may also be in forced labour situations as domestic servants (nannies or maids); sweatshop workers; janitors; restaurant workers; migrant farm workers; fishery workers; hotel or tourist industry workers; and as beggars.

Front-line health-care providers can help victims of human trafficking since they may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim. There are housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment and legal services available to victims, but first the victims must be found.

### Victim identification

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people health-care practitioners help every day. Victims of trafficking can get the assistance they need if people with whom they come into contact look beneath the surface for the following clues:

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of an inability to move or leave a job
- Bruises or other signs of battering
- Fear or depression
- Not speaking the language of the State
- Recently arrived in the State from another country
- Lack of passport, immigration or identification documentation

Traffickers use various techniques to keep victims enslaved. Some traffickers keep their victims under lock and key. However, the more frequent practice is to use less obvious techniques, including:

- Debt bondage (financial obligations, honour-bound to satisfy a debt)
- Isolation from the public (limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored or superficial in nature)
- Isolation from family members and members of their ethnic and religious community
- Confiscation of passports, visas and identification documents
- Use or threat of violence toward victims and families of victims
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing the circumstances to their family
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported for immigration violations if they contact the authorities
- Control of the victims' money (e.g. holding their money for "safe-keeping")

The result of such techniques is to instil fear in victims. The victims' isolation is further exacerbated because many do not speak the language of the destination and are from States where law enforcement is corrupt and feared.

### Victim interaction

Asking the right questions may help to determine if someone is a victim of human trafficking. It is important to talk to a potential victim in a safe and confidential environment. If someone who seems controlling accompanies the victim, an attempt should be made to separate the victim from that person. The accompanying person could be the trafficker or someone working for the trafficker.

Ideally, you should also enlist the help of a staff member who speaks the victim's language and understands the victim's culture. As an alternative, the services of an interpreter can be used. Interpreters must be screened to ensure they do not know the victim or the traffickers and do not otherwise have a conflict of interest.



Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, at: [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign\\_kits/tool\\_kit\\_health/identify\\_victims.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign_kits/tool_kit_health/identify_victims.html)