

## Exploring the Intersections Between Local Governments and Human Trafficking Business Models – Focus Group Discussion Guide, 2018

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### THE BASICS: Definition

Human traffickers force, fool, or frighten others into performing labor or sex acts for profit. It can involve labor or sex trafficking of adults or minors, foreign-born or domestic citizens.

Since the traffickers, customers, or victims can look like any of us, it is important to be able to identify the actual circumstances in which trafficking might be happening rather than to focus on any stereotypical images of who might be involved.

### THE BASICS: Environmental conditions that can enable trafficking

Look through this list of physical and economic characteristics, and check off the ones that are present in your community:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourist destinations             | <input type="checkbox"/> Truck stops           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large public events              | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway rest stops    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal farm work               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military bases        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online advertising opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Factories             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interstate highways              | <input type="checkbox"/> International borders |

These community features create opportunities for traffickers to market, transport, or connect victims with sex and labor buyers.

### THE BASICS: Common working and living conditions of the victims

Here is a list of situational characteristics that might indicate trafficking is happening. They range from the overt (commercial sex) to the subtle (covered windows.) Individuals or groups of people are:

- Not free to leave or come and go as they wish
- Providing sexual acts or work in exchange for services/benefits
- Under 18 and providing paid sex acts
- Have a pimp, manager, or someone who will not leave them alone
- Unpaid, or paid very little by cash off the record
- Working long or unusual hours
- Not allowed breaks, rest, adequate food, or have unusual restrictions at work
- Owing a large debt and are unable to pay it off
- Recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of the work
- Living or working in places that feature tinted, boarded up, or barred windows; barbed wire; security cameras, locked doors and gates, or anything else that limits sight or physical access

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### THE BASICS: Physical and behavioral indicators of the victims

Individual victims might display one or more of these actions or conditions:

- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid behavior
- Unusually afraid or anxious when law enforcement is mentioned or is present
- Avoids eye contact
- Appears malnourished or skinny
- Appears to lie about age or identity of self or employer
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, torture, or exposure
- Branding tattoos
- No access to health care
- Recurrent sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy tests
- Claims to be 'just visiting' or unable to clarify where they live
- Does not know where they are or what city they are in
- No sense of date or time
- Has very little personal property
- Wears the same clothes all the time, or wears clothing inappropriate for the weather
- Acts in sexually provocative ways
- Not allowed to speak for themselves or without the presence of a third party
- Overly attached to one person, or has one person overly attached to them
- Stays in constant contact with third party via texting or phone calls
- Holds multiple phones or hotel room keys
- No freedom to leave or come and go as desired
- No freedom to communicate with friends or family
- Paid mostly in cash
- Not in control of their own money; no financial records or bank account
- Not in control of their own identification documents
- Has few or no personal belongings
- Not allowed adequate food or sleep
- No breaks at work
- Has a large debt that cannot be paid off

No single indicator “proves” human trafficking is taking place, but any of these indicators warrant extra attention, in general. The presence of multiple indicators should generate immediate evaluation of the risk.

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The complete report, “The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States,” is available for download at <https://polarisproject.org/>

| <b>25 Business Models of Human Trafficking</b>   | <b>Potential Interactions with Local Government Functions</b> |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. Escort Services</b> is a broad term used in the commercial sex trade, referring to commercial sex acts that primarily occur at a temporary indoor location, such as a motel or residence. The traffickers deliver the victims to the sex buyers, transferring across locations to meet demand. Online advertising platforms, such as Backpage, enable the transactions.</p> |   |
| <p><b>2. Illicit Massage, Health, &amp; Beauty</b> business present a façade of legitimate spa services, concealing that their primary function is the sex and labor trafficking of women trapped in the location. They appear to be single operations but are often controlled as part of larger networks.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>3. Outdoor Solicitation</b> occurs when traffickers force victims to find buyers in outdoor, public settings, which might be a particular city block or truck or rest stops along major highways.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>4. Residential brothels</b> might be run by networks of coordinated traffickers; private households might be used informally for commercial sex. Advertising might be through word of mouth or covert business cards, as well as through online advertising.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>5. Domestic workers</b> often live within their employers’ households and provide services such as cooking, cleaning, and caretaking for children, the elderly, or the infirm.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>6. Bars, Strip Clubs, and Cantinas</b> might be fronts for both sex and labor trafficking. There are variations of the type of trafficking, as well as the connection to the traffickers.</p>  |   |

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| <p><b>7. Pornography</b> is a product enabled by modern technology. The victims can be children or adults. They can be overtly controlled and trafficked or be tricked into being photographed by intimate partners or caregivers.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>8. Traveling Sales Crews</b> are moved between cities and states, going door-to-door to sell fraudulent products such as magazine subscriptions. Young salespeople, in particular, are rarely fully compensated, work long hours, and are unable to leave.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>9. Restaurants and Food Service</b> sites of all kinds have been documented as taking advantage of language barriers, in particular, when labor trafficking.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>10. Peddling and Begging</b> rings involve traffickers who pose under the guise of a seemingly legitimate charitable or religious organization claiming to provide trips or enrichment services to “at-risk youth.” They sell candy or baked goods, or solicit donations on streets or in shopping centers.</p> |  |
| <p><b>11. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry</b> industries can engage trafficked victims, particularly in the more labor-intensive harvesting processes. Trafficking can happen at multiple levels along the complex labor supply chain of recruiters, managers, contractors, subcontractors, growers, and buyers.</p> |  |
| <p><b>12. Personal Sexual Servitude</b> takes various forms of activity and payment. Victims may be sold, forced to marry, or coerced to engage in sex in order to have basic needs met, such as in the case of runaway homeless youth.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>13. Health and Beauty Services</b> provided in seemingly legitimate nail and hair salons or spas can be exploiting foreign-born workers who were recruited under false pretenses, live in isolation under heavy monitoring, and may lose control of their identification papers.</p>                            |  |

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| <p><b>14. The Construction Industry</b> generates a complex labor supply chain that can involve trafficking through the roles of direct employers, recruiters, contractors, or smugglers. The abusive actions can range from the physical (denying necessities such as water or safety equipment) to the fraudulent (misrepresented visa contracts or working conditions.)</p> |  |
| <p><b>15. Hotels and Hospitality</b> might employ trafficked victims who are manipulated through false recruitment, debt bondage, or other forms of economic abuse. If the trafficker is a contractor, the hotel may not be aware of the abuse.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>16. Landscaping</b> businesses that traffick foreign-born men, primarily, to work in maintaining public or private grounds, use strategies that range from fraudulent recruitment to misrepresented work contracts or conditions.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>17. Illicit Activities</b> operated by criminal syndicates in illegal industries can exploit people for profit with the same levels of force, fraud, and coercion as in any legitimate labor industry.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>18. Arts and Entertainment</b> functions such as modeling, athletics, dancing, or performance groups may employ fraudulent recruiting, economic abuse, or psychological manipulation. In terms of exotic dancing, in particular, both labor and sex trafficking can be involved.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>19. Commercial Cleaning Services</b> operated by business owners, rather than networks, can employ fraudulent recruitment or economic abuse as tools of manipulation. Exploitation can include exposure to hazardous cleaning chemicals without proper protective equipment.</p>   |  |

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| <p><b>20. Factories and Manufacturing</b> in food processing, clothing, and shoe manufacturing are especially vulnerable to labor abuse and trafficking, based on the reports to Polaris. A wide range of manufacturers were reported, including factories producing electronic devices and vehicles.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>21. Remote Interactive Sexual Acts</b> are live commercial sex acts simulated through remote contact between the buyer and victim through technologies such as webcams, text-based chats, and phone sex lines.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>22. Carnivals</b> have been reported for labor exploitation and trafficking of workers who operate rides, games, or food stands, as well as for assembling and disassembling carnival equipment. The lack of sleep from working long hours can generate workplace accidents, potentially affecting both the staff and customers. Carnival companies may contract with state or county fairs.</p> |  |
| <p><b>23. Forestry and Logging</b> exist in another complicated labor supply chain. Traffickers have been reported as management or crew leaders. In addition to using fraudulent recruitment and economic abuse, these traffickers can exert additional control due to the isolated work settings.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>24. Health Care</b> settings such as nursing homes or in-home service provision enable trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers through its complex work chain and often isolated work settings.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>25. Recreational Facilities</b> - such as amusement parks, summer camps, golf courses, or community swimming pools – may mislead recruits through promises of free transportation to and from work, fairly-priced housing, and a living wage. Young adults on J-1 visas are particular targets.</p>  |  |