**What is Sex Trafficking**

- It occurs when someone **under 18 years of age** is used in **any sexual act in exchange for anything of value**, such as food, shelter, transportation, drugs, or protection. This includes things like taking sexual photos or videos, going to clubs, or giving sexual favors.

More often than not, sex traffickers end up being people who **seem trustworthy**—that cute older guy in your DMs, the girl from the soccer team you’ve been texting with, or unfortunately, even a well-known family member.

Instead of kidnapping their victims and keeping them in a dungeon, they use their victim’s love and trust to manipulate them into doing whatever they want, including sexual acts, oftentimes without anyone around them knowing something is wrong.

**FACT**

It is not the only way trafficking happens. You may be smart and responsible but there are people online with bad intentions looking for good kids.

### MYTH vs. FACT

**MYTH**

"Sex trafficking only happens when there is a kidnap."

**FACT**

It is not the only way trafficking happens. You may be smart and responsible but there are people online with bad intentions looking for good kids.

"Porn is not sex trafficking"

**MYTH vs. FACT**

"It happens only to girls."

Any photos or videos that are sexually explicit and include minors (someone under 18) are considered sex trafficking.

Predators will try to talk to any boys or girls who will engage in conversation. You are safe when you refuse to talk to anyone online that you don’t know in real life.

### Protect Yourself

**aka, be more clever than they**

- Make sure all of your accounts are **private**
- Don’t use the same username in every app and game
- Only friend and talk to those people you **know** (in real life!)
- Don’t accept digital $, tips, or gifts **in exchange** for any picture
- All **personal info** (school, city, phone #, etc.) is private info
- **Monitor** your followers and **block** people you don’t know
- Turn your location services **off**!

### Friend Requests

**red flags**

- If the person’s account is **private** and you don’t recognize their profile pic or username, don’t accept, and don’t reply to them. It’s not worth the risk!
- Check out who they are following. This can be a huge indicator of someone’s intentions.
- Look into their bios. Although some traffickers are good at hiding their intentions, others are not so subtle.

**Stay Safe Middle Schoolers!**
Porn Alert: It can hurt you.

Exit Stop talking to them Block them everywhere Report the person to the app Save screenshots of your conversations with them Report them to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipLine.org Tell a safe adult!

Take ACTION!

Stop talking to them
Block them everywhere
Report the person to the app
Save screenshots of your conversations with them
Report them to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipLine.org
Tell a safe adult!

You are not the criminal, they are

1. Porn can noticeably change how a person dresses or acts, and predators are watching
2. It negatively impacts the way someone views sexuality and can harm their relationships
3. By making changes to the brain, it becomes extremely addictive

Sextortion

According to NCMEC, sextortion predators typically want to get more and more explicit material from the victim, get money or goods from them, or meet with them in person.

How online grooming takes place

- They try to appear familiar
- They start developing trust
- They ask about secrets or desires
- They slowly move boundaries
- They use direct intimidation

Before sending intimate pics or vids to:

Someone You Know

How well do you actually know them?
If they are your GF/BF, how do you know they won’t want to send out revenge porn or post it on websites after the relationship ends?

Someone You Don’t Know

All of the above. AND
You may become a victim of sextortion, which is a form of sex trafficking.
You may be intimidated into meeting with them, meaning you may be physically endangering yourself.

Online rule #1

Assume that nothing you share on the internet or text messages is private.
That data is stored on the cloud the moment you send it. Even deleted things can be found again.

It is illegal!

- It’s illegal for anyone to possess or send naked photos or videos (aka sexts) of a minor (someone who is under 18), and anyone can be in trouble with the police for distributing "child sexual abuse material" (called CSAM)

It is harmful long-term

- Pictures can be saved and shared—and may be used against you
- Predators demand compromising photos and remove a youth’s personal safety boundaries through intimidation. This is called Sextortion

Social Media
Chat apps
Games
In person!

Vibe check

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