

## 5-7 MINUTE TALKING POINTS

### **INTRODUCTION:**

#### **Shared Hope International exists to PREVENT, RESTORE AND BRING JUSTICE.**

- Please visit our website for more information at [Sharedhope.org](http://Sharedhope.org)
- Today our focus is on kids who disappear into the underground world of minor sex trafficking.
- The common age of recruitment is 14-16 years old. Most victims are female but males and LGBTQ+ youth are also at risk. We see victims as young as 9-10 so any child can be targeted.

#### **What makes a kid vulnerable to being recruited?**

- Being a teenager: insecure, lonely, feels misunderstood, wants to fit in; which pretty much describes every 13 year old.
- Other risk factors include: drug addiction, sex abuse, unstable home, domestic violence in the home, poverty but any child can be vulnerable to the tactics of a pimp, recruiter or trafficker.

#### **A recruiter MAKES PROMISES: (usually online through gaming or social media)**

- You're beautiful and we can build a life.
- No one understands you or cares but I will take care of you.
- Your life is hard and I will make it better. I know how you can make a lot of money.

#### **They sell the LIE and once the lie is bought:**

- He isolates the child from family and friends.
- Gives them "new" friends – may introduce drugs so they "need" him more.
- Fast tracks relationship – gets jealous easily, controls them, "move in with me, go on a trip with me"
- Change their looks (clothing, style, tattoo of ownership)
- Attitude changes (appears belligerent, making poor choices, secretive, independent) He's teaching them to trust only him, to be tough because "I'm the only one who cares or understands you."
- Eventually engages the minor in illegal activity to achieve his goals and dreams and begins to control them completely. Where they go. Who they're with. What they do.
- Uses suggestive photos or video to manipulate them – "I'll post this to all your networks. You'll have nowhere to go. No one will believe you."
- Threatens them or those they love with violence unless they comply.

#### **Effective response if you see a child in danger:**

- If there is immediate Danger = call 911. (being forced into a vehicle. Violent behavior and control)  
Describe what you see- age, dress, description of both the child and the perpetrator. Give your location address and reason for alarm.
- If something makes you uncomfortable, call National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST or go to [cybertipline.org](http://cybertipline.org) to make an anonymous report. You don't have to know everything, just tell them what you know with as much detail as possible. Be careful to keep your distance. The child may be in more danger if you intervene directly. Write down a car tag number.

**This is what kids need from caring adults:**

- Show genuine concern and listen without judgment
- Tell them and show them their value and worth
- Offer them resources and solutions to their life
- Arm them with tools to KNOW how traffickers work and what they can do to defend themselves and their friends. **Shared Hope has free resources and tools** to help caring adults keep children safe online and in general, to help you protect kids from predators by knowing the signs of trafficking.
- Nation Center for Missing & Exploited Children tell us more than 80% of the victims have come through the Foster / CPS system. Simply giving these kids stability will help prevent them from being recruited.

**CLOSING:**

(If applicable) Stop by our table and talk to our Ambassadors and pick up resources

OR

Shared Hope is here to help you protect the children in your districts. The resource page in your packet tells you where to access free trainings, materials, and tools to keep kids safe.