

Quick Talking Points for Ambassadors

INTRODUCTION:

Shared Hope International exists to PREVENT, RESTORE AND BRING JUSTICE in sex trafficking.

- Visit our website for more information at sharedhope.org
- Today our focus is on children who disappear into the underground world of domestic minor sex trafficking.
- The common age of recruitment is 12 to 14 years old. Most victims are girls, but boys and LGBTQ+ youth are also at risk. We see victims as young as 9 and 10, so any child can be targeted.

What makes a child vulnerable to being recruited?

- Being a teen or pre-teen: insecure, lonely, feels misunderstood, wants to fit in.
- Other risk factors include: drug addiction, previous sexual abuse, unstable home, domestic violence in the home, poverty, child welfare involvement, ALSO...

Any child can be vulnerable if they are active on social media or gaming that has a public chat feature or location sharing!

A recruiter MAKES PROMISES:

- “You’re beautiful, and we can build a life together.”
- “No one understands you or cares for you, 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.”

Recruiter sells the lie, and once the lie is bought:

- The trafficker isolates the child from trusted family and friends.
- Gives them new “friends,” may introduce drugs so they “need” to become addicted.
- Fast-tracks relationship – gets jealous easily, controls them: “Move in with me. Go on a trip with me.”
- Changes their looks through clothing, style, tattoo of ownership, etc.
- Attitude changes. Youth may appear irritated when asked questions, making poor choices, secretive, independent. The trafficker is teaching them to trust only them, to be tough because they make statements like: “I’m the only one who cares or understands you.”
- Eventually engages the minor in illegal activity to achieve their goals and dreams and begins to control them completely - where they go, who they’re with, and 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. You’re a kid, and 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, all 911 (Being forced into a vehicle, violent behavior and control, etc.) 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** 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, if applicable.

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. Allow them to make choices and empower them as they explore new paths.
- 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.

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.