

Human Trafficking

“Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world, generating approximately 150 billion dollars annually and enslaving more than 40 million men, women and children worldwide.” (sistersagainsttrafficking.org)

“Human trafficking is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological.” (US Department of Justice)

SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING:

- ❖ Malnourishment
- ❖ Fearful, nervous, depressed
- ❖ Inappropriate, sexualized clothing
- ❖ New or unusual tattoos/branding, scarring, cigarette burns
- ❖ Evidence of being controlled
- ❖ Younger girl with an “older boyfriend”

HOW DOES TRAFFICKING START?

- ❖ **Online grooming:** Traffickers use the anonymity of the internet to develop trust and friendships.
- ❖ **Apps used by traffickers:** All social media and dating apps, online ads.
- ❖ **Traffickers Promise:** They promise instant love, willingness to pay for travel and other gifts, jobs.

HOW CAN I HELP TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING?

- ❖ **Become Informed:** Read, visit anti-trafficking websites, attend a human trafficking presentation.
- ❖ **Volunteer:** Help distribute materials and/or assist in presentations and workshops.
- ❖ **Support and Advocate:** Support legislation to stop human trafficking.
- ❖ **Report Suspected Trafficking:**
 - **Call your local police department**
 - **Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888**
 - **Text the National Trafficking Hotline at 233733**
 - **For more information, please visit www.humantraffickinghotline.org/en**



We thank Sister Teresa Ann Wolf and the Watertown Benedictine Sisters for their partnership in gathering the information and statistics provided on this page. The above billboards, that have been placed throughout eastern South Dakota, highlight another area of our collaborative efforts.