



# Human Trafficking Truths:

A Guide to Saving Lives in Your Community



Preventing human trafficking in rental housing is an issue gaining in importance. Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It affects every community in the United States and people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Grace Hill has partnered with iEmpathize, a non-profit whose mission is to evoke empathy and empower people to eradicate human exploitation. The organizations will work together to create a training program that educates and equips people in the multifamily housing industry with tools to safely and effectively recognize and respond to potential human trafficking situations.

# Trafficking Is Not Smuggling

---

A common misconception is that human trafficking and human smuggling are the same things, but they aren't. Trafficking is based on exploitation and does not require movement across borders. Smuggling violates immigration laws and involves moving a person across a country's border with that person's consent.

Although human smuggling is different from human trafficking, it can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for labor or sexual exploitation. Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

As a multifamily professional, you can help prevent human trafficking. By knowing the signs of human trafficking and how to respond, your interactions with residents and prospective residents — whether in the leasing process or while walking properties handling daily onsite operations — could save a life.



## Nationwide Statistics

---

Today, there are approximately 21 million victims worldwide, with 71% being women and girls.

The U.S. Department of Defense called human trafficking the fastest growing crime in our country. It has overtaken drug trafficking only because people can be used repeatedly. According to the United Nations, these victims create opportunities for someone to make money, and typically they will use a victim for 3 to 5 years.

Sex trafficking alone generates an estimated \$99 million in the U.S. Merely 1% of victims of human trafficking are rescued, according to [forgottenchild.org](http://forgottenchild.org). That's why prevention is so crucial.



# Three Forms of Human Trafficking

---

There are three important forms of human trafficking to be aware of: child sex trafficking, adult sex trafficking, and labor trafficking.

**Child sex trafficking** is the crime of using force, fraud, or coercion to induce another person to sell sex. Examples include escort services, pornography, illicit massage businesses, brothels, and outdoor solicitation.

**Adult sex trafficking** differs from child sex trafficking because there is consideration of consent. Force, fraud, and coercion aren't always present in this form of trafficking. Advocates created this distinction in order to eliminate the term "child prostitute," which was commonly used in the past.

**Labor trafficking** is the crime of using force, fraud, or coercion to induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals. Source: Polaris Project



## Indications of Human Trafficking

---

Human trafficking schemes can target people from any socioeconomic, religious, cultural, or ethnic group.

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims. Be on the lookout for the following signs, particularly for situations where more than one of these signs is present.



### Living Situation

- Too many people living in one apartment.
- An unusual amount of people coming and going from one apartment, particularly if the visits are short (15 to 45 minutes at a time).
- Interior locks are installed on doors and windows to keep people in, not to keep people out.
- Unsuitable living conditions or unusual things such as multiple mattresses in a room.

## Actions and Activity

- A group of people is picked up, taken somewhere else, then brought back at around the same time every day.
- A prospective resident asks many questions about security cameras on the property or requests a location that looks over the parking lot.
- A person who is often in the company of someone they defer to or who controls their behavior, such as where they go or who they talk to.
- Someone who does not have access to their own personal documents.
- An adult who does not appear to be allowed to drive or travel alone.





## Behavior & Demeanor

- A prospective or current resident who is unusually anxious if law enforcement is mentioned.
- Someone whose conversations always seem scripted or rehearsed, or perhaps coached on what to say.
- Someone who often appears fearful, timid, submissive, or avoids eye contact.
- Someone who is disoriented or confused; shows signs of mental or physical abuse or signs of being denied food, water, sleep, or medical care.
- Someone who lacks knowledge of their whereabouts, such as what neighborhood or city they are in.
- Someone who always seems to need someone else to speak for them and doesn't appear to know the other person well.



## Next Steps

---

Grace Hill's course on human trafficking through Vision provides an indepth look into the topic, including how it affects our industry and how apartment owners and operators can respond to suspected human trafficking situations. Contact us today to learn more.

If you see something that looks suspicious or makes you uneasy, you should report it.

If you have information regarding suspected human trafficking anywhere in the United States, contact the

**National Human Trafficking Hotline:  
1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711)  
or SMS text 233733.**

