



**LIGHTHOUSE  
FOR LIFE**

# PATH TO DANGER

Traffickers use **GROOMING** to deceive you into the life of **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## TARGETING A VICTIM

Traffickers look for someone they can control and manipulate through targeting vulnerabilities. Some examples are drug dependence, needs for shelter, food, love, acceptance, and friendship.



## GAINING TRUST & INFORMATION

Using social media, casual conversations, or even just through observation, traffickers will learn all they can about you-- your likes/dislikes, dreams, family situation, etc.

## FILLING A NEED

The information they gained allows traffickers to fill a need in your life, making you dependent on them in some way. They may buy you gifts, be the supporting friend you need, begin a "love" relationship, or provide your need for drugs and alcohol, or money.



## ISOLATION

Traffickers will create times to be alone with you. They will also begin to play a major role in your life and attempt to distance you from friends and family.



“Up until this point they had never tried to touch me, they had not made me ever feel uncomfortable or ever feel unsafe or that they could harm me.”

## ABUSE BEGINS

Eventually, the traffickers will begin claiming that their service or support must be repaid. In most cases, the trafficker demands sex acts with multiple other people as payment.



“I trusted them, they were my friends as I saw it... until one night my main perpetrator raped me, quite brutally as well, in front of a number of people.”

## MAINTAINING CONTROL

Traffickers will use any means necessary, including threats, violence, fear, or blackmail to maintain their control over you.



**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE 1-888-373-7888**

# Know your enemy's DISGUISES

- **PRETENDER**– Someone who pretends to be something he/she is not, such as a boyfriend, a big sister, a father, etc.
- **PROVIDER**– Someone who offers to take care of your needs, such as clothing, food, a place to live, etc. or even just your wants, like a new cell phone, purses, taking you to parties, etc.
- **PROMISER**– Someone who promises access to great things, such as an amazing job, a glamorous lifestyle, travelling, etc.
- **PROTECTOR**– Someone who uses physical power or intimidation to protect (but also control) you.
- **PUNISHER**– Someone who uses violence and threats to control you or maintain control.

# Protect your VULNERABILITIES

- Know what your vulnerabilities are
- Guard what you say and post on social media
- Have accountability with your friends and other relationships
- Have a safe adult you can talk to

**If you are concerned about yourself  
or a friend, tell your trusted adult!**