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### 10 Questions about Human Trafficking

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1. **What is human trafficking?**

Sara is an 18 year old woman from Cleveland. Her uncle, David lives in Atlanta, Georgia, but occasionally comes home. On one of his visits, Uncle David tells Sara that there are good restaurant jobs in Atlanta for young women. He says that if she comes to Atlanta with him, he will help her find a good job so that she can earn a lot of money. Sara agrees to go to Georgia, but when they arrive in Atlanta, he takes away her ID documents, including her passport. Uncle David tells Sarah that she must pay for all their living expenses by working as a prostitute. Sara is very afraid, but when she refuses, he threatens to kill her. Eventually, after being threatened and beaten, Sara agrees to work as a prostitute for her uncle. Sara is a victim of human trafficking.

2. **Are only young women trafficked?**

Human trafficking does not only affect young women. Older women, men and children as young as five are forced to beg and steal, used as domestic slaves, work on farms and in factories, or forced into pornography and sex work. Young women are at greater risk because traffickers can make a lot of money by forcing them into prostitution. Abandoned children are also vulnerable. Without parents, guardians, or anyone else to take care of them, abandoned children seek refuge in orphanages, shelters, or on the streets. Because they often lack education, proper identity documents, and rarely have an obvious means of economic support, they are easy targets for traffickers, who promise them opportunities in another country and an easier life.

3. **Do traffickers only recruit prostitutes?**

Many people think that all women who are trafficked are



prostitutes. Some also think that prostitution is a glamorous life of romance, silk stockings and money. But the reality is different. Many women who are trafficked are forced into prostitution against their will. They are beaten, raped and abused. They go abroad based on false promises of good jobs, educational opportunities, and offers of marriage, often with the ambition to make a better life for their children and families. Some women lack the education they need to find a good job, while others are professionals who cannot find work in their chosen profession. They are students, accountants, nurses and teachers. They are people just like you.

4. **What is the most common recruitment method?**

Traffickers most often promise their victims exciting jobs, but promises of marriages and educational opportunities are also common. In some countries, young women do not have the opportunities they wish for at home and hope to achieve their goals abroad. When they are approached by someone promising good opportunities many young women think their dreams are coming true and agree with a trafficker. In other cases, traffickers are known to forcibly abduct their victims.

5. **Does the trafficker normally make all the travel arrangements and pay for all the travel costs?**

The trafficker usually makes all the travel arrangements, and pays all the costs for passports and visas, tickets, meals and housing. Sometimes a trafficker will also bribe state officials to transport his victim across international borders or to get the right travel documents quickly. In some cases, a victim pays her trafficker to transport her to another country only to be enslaved and exploited by him once she arrives at her destination.

6. **Can trafficking victims be family members?**

Trafficking victims are often recruited by an acquaintance, and sometimes by a close friend or family member. Traffickers may come from the same poor social and economic background as their victims, or appear to be successful businesspeople able to offer their victims better opportunities. Traffickers try to appear trustworthy. They may be school friends or relatives. Sometimes even parents are involved in trafficking their children.

7. **Does human trafficking only result in sexual exploitation?**

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is very common, but there are many other forms of exploitation. Children and adults are enslaved in domestic labour, illegal sweatshops, on farms or in mines, and in other work. They are often sold or resold, earning profits for traffickers. Victims of trafficking are enslaved, exploited and denied their basic human rights.

8. **Why don't victims of trafficking try to escape?**

Traffickers use many kinds of tricks to discourage their victims from escaping. One common ploy is to confiscate the victim's passport once she is in the destination country, while telling her that if she escapes, the police will imprison her for being an illegal immigrant. Another trick, known as "debt bondage", is to have the victim sign a contract that says she will pay the trafficker for transportation services, making her believe she must pay the debt even if she is forced to work in deplorable conditions. Some victims are locked up and not allowed to leave the premises where they are being exploited. Many are beaten, raped, and tortured by their traffickers so that they will be too afraid to try to escape. A trafficker may also threaten to harm the victim's family if she does not agree to his demands.

9. **Should trafficked people avoid the police?**

Fear of police is understandable. Many victims enter their destination countries illegally, or have their passports confiscated by traffickers. Traffickers often tell their victims that if they try to escape, the police will deport or imprison them for a long time for being prostitutes or illegal immigrants. They may also



threaten the family and friends of victims who go to the police for help. But the majority of women and girls who have managed to escape to safety have done so with the help of the police. Many have been freed by police after raids on brothels, apartments and private houses where they are held. The police can help you.

**10. What can I do if I have been trafficked, or if I know someone who has been trafficked?**

Traffickers are criminals, and human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights. If you know someone who has been trafficked, you have a duty to report the case to the police or to an organization like the Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking. In doing so, you will help to free someone from slavery, and ensure that the traffickers are caught and punished, and do not continue to enslave others.

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Adapted from the International Organization for Migration: Breaking the Cycle of Vulnerability

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## **Pimps' Rules**

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1. Always get the money up front. Depending on how much control I have over you, I might collect my money from you every few hours, or wait until the end of your working day. You may never even see the money that a john has paid to sexually use you.
2. Always make your quota. I will demand as much as \$500.00 a day from you, and if you do not bring me that much I deny you food, water, a bath, clean clothes, and/or prevent you from even sitting down or sleeping. If you are drug addicted I might withhold drugs from you. I will yell obscenities at you threaten you and your loved ones, hit you all over with my fists, a pimp stick, or with anything else I want to use. I might even rape you, and I will certainly make you go back out on the street to make your quota, no matter what the weather is like, or what kind of condition you are in. If I find out you are "holding out" any amount of money from me, I will take it as a weakening of my control over you, or a plan for escaping me and I will hurt you or the people you love even more.
3. Always use a condom. I am concerned about my own risk of catching a sexually transmitted disease if I have sex with you. The risk to you or to the johns is of no concern to me.
4. Always buy your dope from me. Having you addicted and dependent on me for your drugs only increases my control over you. I get high, too, and I like volume prices for my own use.
5. Do not make eye contact with men other than potential johns. Making eye contact with a pimp is understood by all pimps to be "choosing" that pimp as your new owner. I do not want to give another pimp the chance to take over my property.
6. Everything you own or earn is mine. If you succeed in leaving prostitution you will leave destitute, and I will make your exit from "the life" as violent and humiliating as possible, even leaving you naked out on a street.



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<http://www.vfjnw.org/sexindustrymatrix/pimpsrules.html>

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## Johns' Rules

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1. When I buy you, for that time I own you. You must do, or let me do, anything I want. In spite of whatever limits I agreed to up front, once you are under my control, I will do whatever I want. I take no responsibility for the consequences of my behavior.
2. It is the pimp's job to beat you down far enough to make you do what I want. However, if I want to, I will assault you any way I wish. Short of murder, I know I will almost certainly get away with anything I do to you.
3. You are being used as a prop in my internal fantasy life. I do not want to know who you really are. If you do not help me be whatever I want in my fantasies or worse yet, laugh at me, I am likely to hurt you.
4. You must always act happy and never show any signs of your disgust for me. I will ignore needle tracks, damaged teeth, bruises, or other signs of injury unless the fit in with my fantasies.
5. All I ever want to hear from you is:
  - a. "I am doing this because I want to. I enjoy it."
  - b. "I do not have a pimp."
  - c. "I do not use drugs. I am not addicted to anything."
  - d. "You are the best I have ever had in my life."



## My Rights – A Survivor

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1. I am not a prostitute. I am not a "thing" for other people to use and hurt. I am a human being.
2. I am a child of God, made in the image and likeness of God. Nothing that ever has been done to my body or my mind can change that.
3. While being prostituted, I sometimes hurt others. I cannot take that back, but I must remember that I was living under very abnormal, stressful conditions. Who I was in that situation is not who I am now.
4. I have the right to privacy about my past. Discussing it with people who have no legitimate need to know just feeds their fantasies and prejudices, and helps no one.
5. I have the right to decide how my limited supply of life energy is used. I can refuse excessively intrusive "therapy". I have the right to reject "healthy" changes in my life that cost more energy than I can afford.
6. Many people have chosen to hurt me, and people like me. I must respect their choices about who they decided to become. No matter how much I cared about parts of who they were, or who they could have been, I have the right not to waste my energy trying to make them different.
7. During my time in prostitution, I lost people I cared about to insanity and death. I will remember the parts of them I was able to know. I will pray for them if I can. I will honor their memory by doing my best to survive, to live a good life, and to be a good person.
8. If a time comes when the treatment available to me no longer helps, when the pain and tiredness is too great, and I have no energy left, I have the right to die.

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## What can YOU do About Human Trafficking?

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1. Learn about human trafficking.
2. Read a book about human trafficking.
3. View a movie about human trafficking.
4. Host a movie screening.
5. Attend a conference on human trafficking in your area.
6. Set up a Google Alert or a Yahoo Alert on human trafficking.
7. Organize a Bible study on human trafficking.
8. Encourage your priest, rabbi, reverend, Imam, etc. to preach about human trafficking.
9. Communicate to your elected representatives on key legislative initiatives regarding slavery and human trafficking.
10. Investigate what your state is doing to end human trafficking.
11. Contact local shelters to find out if they assist trafficked victims and how you can be supportive.
12. Join others interested in stopping human trafficking.
13. Consider opportunities for short-term service in a human trafficking organization.
14. Learn how to identify victims of trafficking.
15. Donate to an organization that works to end human trafficking.
16. Demand "slave-free" goods.
17. Buy "fair trade" products.
18. Buy products made by human trafficking survivors.
19. If buying a rug, look for the Rugmark symbol for a slave-free guarantee.
20. Stay only in hotels where there is a "code of conduct."
21. If buying diamonds make sure the jeweler can guarantee that they are not conflict diamonds
22. Take a look at the State Departments list of countries where human trafficking is a problem.
23. Commit to praying regularly for victims of human trafficking and those who work for them.
24. Talk to people about the issue of human trafficking.
25. If you are in a book club, spend a month reading about human trafficking and talk about it together.
26. Teach a Sunday School class on the topic.
27. Distribute brochures and posters from the Rescue & Restore campaign located at [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).
28. Host a "Slavery Still Exists" awareness event. Invite friends and colleagues over for an event, and ask that they contribute monetarily to an anti-human trafficking organization of your choosing.
29. Mentor a young woman in your community. Build her confidence, intelligence and ability to decipher between real opportunities and those that are too good to be true.
30. Write an op-ed on human trafficking and submit it to a newspaper.
31. Educate yourself about human trafficking hotlines or other assistance hotline numbers there are in your local area. Keep your eyes open and report suspicious activity to these hotlines.
32. Screen a film that educates people about human trafficking in a public location, such as in a school, in a public park or in a community center. Request an anti-human trafficking professional in your region to attend and introduce the film and conduct a question and answer session afterward.

33. Identify the organizations in your area that are already helping fight human trafficking (prevention, protection, prosecution etc.)

References: <http://www.covchurch.org/humantrafficking/engaging-for-transformation>; <http://www.digitaldivide.net/blog/tushar>;  
[http://commongroundsonline.typepad.com/common\\_grounds\\_online/2005/07/heidi\\_metcalf\\_w\\_2.html](http://commongroundsonline.typepad.com/common_grounds_online/2005/07/heidi_metcalf_w_2.html)

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## Social Networking Sites: Safety Tips for Teens

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You've probably learned a long list of important safety and privacy lessons already: Look both ways before crossing the street; buckle up; hide your diary where your nosy brother can't find it; don't talk to strangers.

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, is urging kids to add one more lesson to the list: Don't post information about yourself online that you don't want the whole world to know. The Internet is the world's biggest information exchange: many more people could see your information than you intend, including your parents, your teachers, your employer, the police — and strangers, some of whom could be dangerous.



Social networking sites have added a new factor to the “friends of friends” equation. By providing information about yourself and using blogs, chat rooms, email, or instant messaging, you can communicate, either within a limited community, or with the world at large. But while the sites can increase your circle of friends, they also can increase your exposure to people who have less-than-friendly intentions. You've heard the stories about people who were stalked by someone they met online, had their identity stolen, or had their computer hacked.



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## Your Safety is at Stake

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The FTC suggests these tips for socializing safely online:

- Think about how different sites work before deciding to join a site. Some sites will allow only a defined community of users to access posted content; others allow anyone and everyone to view postings.
- Think about keeping some control over the information you post. Consider restricting access to your page to a select group of people, for example, your friends from school, your club, your team, your community groups, or your family.
- Keep your information to yourself. Don't post your full name, Social Security number, address, phone number, or bank and credit card account numbers — and don't post other people's information, either. Be cautious about posting information that could be used to identify you or locate you offline. This could include the name of your school, sports team, clubs, and where you work or hang out.
- Make sure your screen name doesn't say too much about you. Don't use your name, your age, or your hometown. Even if you think your screen name makes you anonymous, it doesn't take a genius to combine clues to figure out who you are and where you can be found.
- Post only information that you are comfortable with others seeing — and knowing — about you. Many people can see your page, including your parents, your teachers, the police, the college you might want to apply to next year, or the job you might want to apply for in five years.
- Remember that once you post information online, you can't take it back. Even if you delete the information from a site, older versions exist on other people's computers.
- Consider not posting your photo. It can be altered and broadcast in ways you may not be happy about. If you do post one, ask yourself whether it's one your mom would display in the living room.
- Flirting with strangers online could have serious consequences. Because some people lie about who they really are, you never really know who you're dealing with.
- Be wary if a new online friend wants to meet you in person. Before you decide to meet someone, do your research: Ask whether any of your friends know the person, and see what background you can dig up through online search engines. If you decide to meet them, be smart about it: Meet in a public place, during the day, with friends you trust. Tell an adult or a responsible sibling where you're going, and when you expect to be back.

- Trust your gut if you have suspicions. If you feel threatened by someone or uncomfortable because of something online, tell an adult you trust and report it to the police and the social networking site. You could end up preventing someone else from becoming a victim.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/tech/tec14.shtm>

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## Tips by Teens for Teens

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- Remember - A million times before you've heard that honesty is the best policy. Most people don't believe that, though. So when you're out there in cyberspace, watch yourself. You never know when 5'6", blond and female could actually mean 6'3", hairy and male. Don't believe everything you see online.
- Be leery of those who want to know too much. There's no rule that says you have to tell them where you live, what your last name is, or anything else personal. Your business is your business. Let them stick to theirs. And trust your instincts. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, leave.
- We all remember the "buddy system" from kindergarten. Sure, you're no longer in kindergarten, but the system still works. If you're planning on meeting up with somebody you met online, bring a friend, or even your parents, along with you and encourage your online acquaintance to bring theirs, too. It sounds stupid, but it's definitely the smart idea. At the very least, make sure your real friends know what you're doing.
- Before you take a running leap at the streets and a hard-knock life, let somebody know how you're feeling. Try talking to an understanding relative or friend, or call the National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000. They are a better, more trustworthy resource than a stranger in a chat room.
- If you get suspicious e-mails, files, or pictures from someone you don't know and trust, trash them just like any other junk mail. You could have a lot to lose by trusting someone you've never even met. The same goes for clicking links or URLs that look suspicious - just don't do it.
- Avoid chat rooms or discussion areas that look sketchy or provocative, and don't let people online trick you into thinking of them as real-life friends if you've never met them in person. Just the same, don't let people goad you into online fights. If you go looking for trouble on the Internet, you'll find it, and things can get out of control really fast.



## A Few More Internet Safety Tips For Teens

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**DO** spend more time with real-life friends than virtual friends

**DO** tell an adult if someone online harasses you or wants to talk about sex

**DO** cut off contact with anyone who pressures you for your personal information (name, age, size, photo, address, family information)

**DO** be careful of strangers who try to turn you against your family while promising to be your best friend (they may send you gifts and give you lots of compliments, but at the same time, they are possessive of your time and critical of your parents.)

**DO NOT** exchange pictures with strangers through the Internet

**DO NOT** open e-mails/instant messages or download attachments from people you don't know

**DO NOT** fill out your information to win free stuff

**DO NOT** go to meet someone you don't already know in real life

**DO NOT** post personal information, of any kind, on a personal website or blog



## For More Information

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To learn more about staying safe online, visit the following organizations:

Federal Trade Commission — [www.OnGuardOnline.gov](http://www.OnGuardOnline.gov)

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet,

telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

The FTC manages [OnGuardOnline.gov](http://OnGuardOnline.gov), which provides practical tips from the federal government and the technology industry to help you be on guard against Internet fraud, secure your computer, and protect your personal information.

GetNetWise — [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)

GetNetWise is a public service sponsored by Internet industry corporations and public interest organizations to help ensure that Internet users have safe, constructive, and educational or entertaining online experiences. The GetNetWise coalition wants Internet users to be just “one click away” from the resources they need to make informed decisions about their and their family’s use of the Internet.

Internet Keep Safe Coalition — [www.iKeepSafe.org](http://www.iKeepSafe.org)

iKeepSafe.org, home of Faux Paw the Techno Cat, is a coalition of 49 governors/first spouses, law enforcement, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other associations dedicated to helping parents, educators, and caregivers by providing tools and guidelines to teach children the safe and healthy use of technology. The organization’s vision is to see generations of children worldwide grow up safely using technology and the Internet.

i-SAFE — [www.i-safe.org](http://www.i-safe.org)

Founded in 1998 and endorsed by the U.S. Congress, i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting the online experiences of youth everywhere. i-SAFE incorporates classroom curriculum with dynamic community outreach to empower students, teachers, parents, law enforcement, and concerned adults to make the Internet a safer place. Join them today in the fight to safeguard children’s online experience.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children — [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com);  
[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

NCMEC is a private, non-profit organization that helps prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; helps find missing children; and assists victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

National Crime Prevention Council — [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org); [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org)

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. Among many crime prevention issues, NCPC addresses Internet Safety with kids and parents through [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org) and public service advertising under the National Citizens’ Crime Prevention Campaign — symbolized by McGruff the Crime Dog® and his “Take A Bite Out Of Crime®.”

National Cyber Security Alliance — [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)

NCSA is a non-profit organization that provides tools and resources to empower home users, small businesses, and schools, colleges, and universities to stay safe online. A public-private partnership, NCSA members include the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Trade Commission, and many private-sector corporations and organizations.

staysafe — [www.staysafe.org](http://www.staysafe.org)

staysafe.org is an educational site intended to help consumers understand both the positive

aspects of the Internet as well as how to manage a variety of safety and security issues that exist online.

Wired Safety — [www.wiredsafety.org](http://www.wiredsafety.org)

WiredSafety.org is an Internet safety and help group. Comprised of unpaid volunteers around the world, WiredSafety.org provides education, assistance, and awareness on all aspects of cybercrime and abuse, privacy, security, and responsible technology use. It is also the parent group of Teenangels.org, FBI-trained teens and preteens who promote Internet safety.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a [complaint](#) or to get [free information on consumer issues](#), visit [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters consumer complaints into the [Consumer Sentinel Network](#), a secure online database and investigative tool used by hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

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<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/tech/tec14.shtm>

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