

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is an issue affecting children all over the world and in the United States. To empower adults to speak with the children in their lives about the issue, UNICEF created tips on how to engage and educate youth on this topic.

As parents, guardians, or educators of children, discussing an issue as vast, unsettling, and frightening as human trafficking may be intimidating. However, it is important for you to understand the vulnerabilities that youth have to trafficking, since it's an issue that affects communities across our nation and world. You are part of the solution for preventing this abuse and exploitation.

Creating a safe environment for children to explore this issue with a trusted adult can help dispel anxiety and fear and create an opportunity for youth to understand how to keep themselves safe. While you ultimately know what is best for your child, here are nine key messages that can help you educate and empower the youth you care about.

Nine Key Messages for Your Kids:

1. Educate yourself on the issue, and [learn the signs](#) of a trafficked victim.

2. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know on social media. Traffickers commonly use sites like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to lure their victims.

3. Be aware of how traffickers recruit people, and pay attention to your surroundings.

4. Don't reveal too much about yourself (i.e. your full name, address, school, or living situation) to people you don't know, whether on your social media sites or in person, no matter how friendly the person may be.

5. Never agree to meet someone you don't know without first consulting a trusted adult (i.e. parent, teacher, guidance counselor).



6. If you feel uncomfortable or are hesitant about a situation, confide in an adult who can help you make the best choices.

7. Making a decision to leave a situation or relationship where you feel unsafe or are being harmed or threatened can be hard and scary. If possible, talk to someone you trust, like a friend, family member, counselor, or youth worker.

8. If you are in immediate danger or are being physically harmed, call **911** for help.

9. If you suspect you or a friend are at risk trafficking, call the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) at **888-3737-888** or text "**BeFree**" (**233733**).