

# MYTH: YOU HAVE TO BE AN IMMIGRANT TO BE TRAFFICKED.

FACT: Both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens are trafficked in and out of the country. Human trafficking does not discriminate based upon nationality or citizenship.

## MYTH: TRAFFICKING VICTIMS KNOW THEY ARE BEING TRAFFICKED AND WILL ASK FOR HELP.

FACT: Many victims do not realize they are victims of a crime until years after the offense and often do not seek immediate help. Lack of trust, self-blame, and fear of retaliation from the traffickers are only a few of the factors that keep victims trapped in their situations.

### MYTH: PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OR FORCE ARE NECESSARY TO QUALIFY AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

FACT: Psychological elements of control such as threats, fraud, and emotional abuse are sufficient enough for a situation to be classified as human trafficking.

#### MYTH SEX TRAFFICKING IS THE ONLY FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

FACT: Both sex trafficking and labor trafficking are acknowledged by the federal definition of human trafficking and men, women, and children are susceptible to both forms of trafficking.

#### MYTH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALWAYS COME FROM IMPOVERISHED SITUATIONS.

**FACT:** While poverty can be a factor in human trafficking because it increases vulnerability, it is not the only indicator that a person can, will, or has been trafficked. Trafficked individuals can come from any income level.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER

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