

Common Myths About Trafficking

1. Traffickers/pimps are always male
 - a. U.S. Citizens and legal permanent residents can also be victims
 - b. Trafficking does not require movement. It is not necessary to cross any borders; in fact a person can be trafficked in his/her home
 - c. Trafficking cases may also involve males, and especially transgender persons.
 - d. A pimp is anyone who receives money or something of value for the sexual exploitation of another person - this includes women, parents, peers, or any other individual
 - e. Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act is a victim of domestic minor sex trafficking, without a third party involved
 - f. Victims are typically manipulated and brain washed into complete submission to the pimp and will do anything for him.
 - g. Victims of trafficking are unlikely to self-identify or disclose details regarding their situation to anyone, including law enforcement, healthcare workers, service providers, neighbors or community members.
2. Only foreign or immigrants are victims of human trafficking
3. Victims of trafficking are always looking for a way to escape and will reach out to anyone for help
4. Movement is required
5. Third party involvement is necessary for trafficking
6. A victim's love for her pimp means that she is willingly choosing to engage in prostitution
7. Only females can be victims of human trafficking

Adapted from:

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Identifying and Responding to America's Trafficked Youth
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