

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS FOR PORTS

Human trafficking is a crime and the Port of Seattle stands against it. Human trafficking happens when (1) force, fraud, or coercion are used to compel a person into work or prostitution or (2) a minor is prostituted. Many victims have received help thanks to the kindness of bystanders.



CONTROL: A person displays unusual control over another person or group of people

- Threatening
- Isolating
- Holding travel documentation
- Speaking for someone
- Tricking or lying
- Unusual power dynamic
- Surveillance
- Employer-controlled housing



DISTRESS or INJURY: A person appears distressed or injured

- Distress or fear
- Injury, such as bruising or a cut
- Not allowed to make eye contact
- Not allowed to communicate with others
- Discomfort with companions
- Malnourished
- Unusually fatigued
- Signs of trauma, such as becoming hostile, fleeing, or freezing up
- Answers sound rehearsed



CONFUSION: A person shows an unusual level of confusion

- Person has been tricked or did not receive pay they were promised
- Unsure of where they are or where they are going
- Do not know their travel companions or who they are meeting upon arrival
- Moving to new locations based on promises that sound untrue or unusual



SEX BUYING: A person solicits sex from a minor or a person coerced into the sex trade

- Arranging to buy sex from a person through email, text, etc.
- Talking or joking about sex buying
- Accessing websites to buy sex

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

If you see a potential victim of human trafficking, **CALL 911:**

- in an emergency,
- if a minor is involved, or
- if a controller is present.

If a potential victim is alone or you can safely separate them from a controller, ask them,

“Are you OK?”

- If they want you to contact police, call 911.
- If not, give them a resources card or the human trafficking hotline

1-888-373-7888 or send a text to **233733** (BEFREE).

If you suspect human trafficking or sex buying and a victim is not present, report it:

- to your manager,
- to human resources, and/or
- to the Port of Seattle Confidential Reporting Line 1-877-571-5237.