

# TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IS A CRIME!

## Ways to Prevent becoming a Victim

1. Do not trust offers of employment within or outside of the country that promise high salaries, great benefits, require little or no qualifications and seem too good to be true.
2. Contact the government agency in the country where the job is being advertised to find out as much as you can about the organization, and to verify that the position is available and the business or employer does exist and is legitimate.
3. Attend educational sessions and other fora that are organized by the government or civil society to inform persons about trafficking in persons.
4. Pay attention to public awareness raising information on the radio and television, in newspapers and over the Internet that warn of trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in Persons is a criminal offense in The Bahamas that falls under the **Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act 2008**. A person convicted of Trafficking in Persons can receive sentences ranging from 3 years to life in prison and fines of up to B\$15,000.

## How to Report Trafficking in Persons

If you feel that you are a victim of trafficking in persons or suspect that someone is a victim, please contact one of the following agencies immediately:

The Royal Bahamas Police Force	919/911
The National Hotline	1-242-322-2763
Crisis Centre Hotline	1-242-328-0922
The Ministry of National Security	1-242-502-3300

Do not hesitate to call the numbers listed or contact the agencies directly to seek help. You will find confidential, caring professionals who are not judgmental and are sensitive to your needs, waiting to assist you.

### For more information on Trafficking in Persons:

Please visit: [www.bahamas.gov.bs/nationalsecurity](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/nationalsecurity)  
or contact us at: [nationalsecurity@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:nationalsecurity@bahamas.gov.bs)



**The Ministry of National Security**  
**Churchill Building**  
**Rawson Square, Bay Street**  
**New Providence, The Bahamas**  
**Telephone: 1-242-502-3300**

Email: [nationalsecurity@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:nationalsecurity@bahamas.gov.bs)  
Website: [www.bahamas.gov.bs/nationalsecurity](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/nationalsecurity)



# Trafficking in Persons

**A Crime Against HUMAN BEINGS**  
**Modern Day SLAVERY**



The Government of The Bahamas  
and the Ministry of National Security  
Partnering with the National Trafficking in  
Persons Task Force and other Stakeholders  
to combat Trafficking in Persons

## What is Trafficking in Persons?

Trafficking in persons or human trafficking is defined as recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring and receiving of persons by means of threat or force, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, and giving or receiving of payments or benefits with the aim of exploiting them.



## How does Trafficking in Persons Happen?

**By exploitation:** This can take place in a number of ways:

- **Sexual exploitation:** forced prostitution, pornography, striptease
- **Forced labour:** agriculture, fishery, construction, mining, garment making/manufacturing, house keeping/maid
- **Domestic servitude:** in private homes, shops
- **Forced Begging:** on the streets, on public transportation.

## Trafficking in Persons also happens by an activity:

- By word of mouth
- In newspapers classified section
- Over the Internet
- Transporting people by plane, boat, vehicle, train.



## Who is a victim of Trafficking?

A victim can be male or female, an adult, child, rich or poor.

## What are the causes of Trafficking in Persons?

Some of the causes of trafficking in persons are: poverty, abuse, lack of employment, lack of educational opportunities, social conflicts and political conflicts.

## Child Trafficking

Children are trafficked for activities such as: sexual exploitation, petty theft, crime, domestic servitude, begging, and soliciting.

A child can never give consent to engage in any act of trafficking.

## Profile of the Trafficker

The trafficker can be one or two persons, male or female, or a large network of persons.



## Profile of the Victim

A Person that is being trafficked may display some or all of these warning signs:

- Avoids eye contact with you
- Emotional distress and psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, self-inflicted injuries or is suicidal
- Visible physical injuries such as cuts, bruises or burns
- Rarely alone and appears to be 'chaperoned' or has an escort
- Lives with multiple persons in unsanitary conditions or lives with the employer
- Not paid for work or paid very little
- Does not manage own money
- Not in control of documents such as passport, ID cards
- Unable to move to a new location or leave the job
- Does not speak the local language
- Someone else speaks on the persons behalf
- A stranger in the community
- The work being done and the employer are different from what was expected.