



New Mexico

Department of Public Safety

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

MARK R. SHEA
CABINET SECRETARY

TIM Q. JOHNSON
CHIEF / DEPUTY SECRETARY

DR. AUGUST M. FONS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to control their victims. A minor being sold for sex is a victim of human trafficking. While the initial purchase of victims may occur online, the real-time sale of victims can happen in many locations, including truck stops, restaurants, rest areas, hotels/motels, strip clubs, private homes, etc. Truckers are the eyes and the ears of our nation's highways. If you see a minor working any of those areas or suspect that the person selling sex is under someone else's control in order to make a quota, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) and report the tip:

1-888-373-7888 (US) 1-833-900-1010 (Canada) 01800-5533-000 (Mexico)
Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)

For law enforcement to open an investigation on your tip, they need "actionable information." This would include:

Descriptions of cars or trucks (make, model, color, license plate, truck and/or USDOT number, etc.) and people (height, weight, hair color, eye color, age, etc.) Take a picture if you can.

Specific times and dates (When did you see the event in question take place? What day was it?)

Addresses and locations where suspicious activity took place.

Questions to ask:

Do you keep your own money? If not, who does?

Do you parents/siblings/relatives know where you are? If not, why not?

When was the last time you saw your family? Are you or your family threatened?

What is the nature of the threats?

Can you text or call whoever you want? Does anyone else share your phone/control your communication?

Trafficking Red Flags to Look For:

Lack of knowledge of their whereabouts; not in control of ID/passport

Restricted or controlled communication-not allowed to speak for self

CB chatter about "commercial company" or flashing lights signaling "buyer" location

Acknowledgement of a pimp and making a quota

Signs of branding or tattooing of trafficker's name (often on the neck)

A van or RV that seems out of place out by commercial vehicles; a vehicle dropping someone off at a truck and picking them up 15-20 minutes later.

If you're watching a crime in progress, call 911 and then the hotline. If you're at a truck stop/travel plaza or any other place of business, please notify the manager-on-duty of the suspicious activity; she/he needs to be aware of what is taking place on the lot and assist in ending it.



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Remember, please do not approach traffickers. Allow law enforcement to deal with traffickers and recover victims. Approaching traffickers is not only dangerous for you and their victims but could lead to problems in the eventual prosecution of traffickers. Also, there is now a lifetime ban on a CDL for any individual who uses their CMV to commit a felony involving a severe form of human trafficking. All 50 states and DC have a law criminalizing sex trafficking. Some states punish sex purchasers the same as sex traffickers, generally with felony level crimes, and 31 states have a buyer-applicable trafficking law that prohibits a mistake-of-age defense in prosecutions for buying a commercial sex act with any minor under 18.

A free app with all of this information is available for download on both iPhone and Android. Search for it in the app store under Truckers Against Trafficking.