



# SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IS HAPPENING HERE IN **ORANGE COUNTY!**

### PLEASE BE THE ONE TO HELP OUT.

- Call local law enforcement or the child Abuse Hotline 714.940.1000
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 888.373.7888

For more information, visit [betheoneOC.com](http://betheoneOC.com)

Sponsored by the Orange County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee

## Sex Trafficking IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS, TOO.

Child sex trafficking is a nationwide epidemic. Traffickers target vulnerable children and lure them into sex trafficking using physical and psychological manipulation and violence, causing their victims long-lasting trauma.

Those who “purchase” children for sex encompass all racial, socio-economic and cultural statuses. Orange County is

a “destination county” where child sex traffickers congregate to engage in the commercial exploitation of minors.

This brochure provides information on child sex trafficking, signs to help identify victims, and tips on how to keep your child safer. To find out more about efforts to combat child sex trafficking and helpful resources, visit [betheoneOC.com](http://betheoneOC.com).



**PLEASE BE THE ONE TO HELP OUT.**

## WHAT IS CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING?

It's not what you think. Child sex trafficking, also known as the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person. Examples of crimes and acts that constitute CSEC include:

- Recruitment, harboring, transporting, obtaining, or advertising of a child for the purpose of a commercial sex act.
- Child sex tourism involving commercial sexual activity.
- The commercial production of child pornography.

## POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

- History of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse
- Signs of current physical abuse and/or sexually transmitted diseases
- History of running away or current status as a runaway
- Inexplicable expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items
- Presence of an older boy-/girlfriend
- Drug addiction
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities
- Gang involvement

## MYTHS VS. REALITY

**MYTH:** Child sex trafficking is rare and doesn't happen where we live.

**REALITY:** It is widespread but often hidden and can only be uncovered by vigilant people who report their concerns. Increasing numbers of sex-trafficked youth are being identified in Orange County.

**MYTH:** Sexually exploited and trafficked youth are criminals.

**REALITY:** The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is a serious form of child abuse and the children involved are victims. Local law enforcement and child protection officials work together to obtain treatment for these victims.

**MYTH:** Sexually exploited youth are free to leave when they want.

**REALITY:** Victims of commercial sexual exploitation are often subjected to ongoing physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, threats and intimidation that prevent them from leaving.

**MYTH:** If a child consents to sex, it's not unlawful.

**REALITY:** The sexual exploitation of any young person aged under 18 is child abuse and needs to be stopped, or even better, prevented from happening in the first place. Even if a young person 'seems' to have given consent it is not 'true' consent if they have been manipulated or pressured into giving it.

## HOW TO HELP AND GET HELP

- > CALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR THE ORANGE COUNTY CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE 714.940.1000
- > CALL THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE 888.373.7888
- > IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, PLEASE CALL 911



BE THE ONE  
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TO HELP OUT

## IF A CHILD/YOUTH DISCLOSES SEXUAL ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, OR TRAFFICKING

- > CONTACT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
- > CALL THE ORANGE COUNTY CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE AT (714) 940-1000
- > CONTACT THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AT 1-888-373-7888 24/7 OR VISIT HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG.

- The online transmission of live video of a child engaged in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value.

Commercial sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse and a violation of human rights.

## HOW DOES A CHILD BECOME A VICTIM?

Pimps and traffickers target vulnerable children and lure them into sexual exploitation and trafficking using psychological manipulation, drugs, and/or violence. Any child may be vulnerable to a person who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs. A trafficker/pimp's main purpose is to exploit the child for monetary gain. Often traffickers/pimps will create a seemingly loving and caring relationship with their victims to establish trust and allegiance. This manipulative relationship encourages the youth to remain loyal to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization.

## KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

As adults, it is our job to keep children safe. However, children also need information about the realities of abuse and exploitation to be aware of their personal safety and know what to do if something doesn't feel right.

- Talk to children about personal safety, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. Tell them they can come to you with questions and if something happens.
- Remind them that if someone does harm them, it is never their fault and you will believe them.

For additional information and resources about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, please visit [betheoneOC.com](http://betheoneOC.com).

**MYTH:** Child sexual exploitation only happens to girls and young women.

**REALITY:** It happens to boys, young men, and transgender youth as well- although the warning signs are often missed. These youth may find it more difficult to talk about what is happening to them.

**MYTH:** Child sexual exploitation only happens to children who are in care, who come from a 'bad' family, or are of a particular race, religion or economic background.

**REALITY:** Any child can become a victim. Young people are more at risk if they are 'vulnerable' - but there are many types of vulnerability. Child sexual exploitation can occur in different ways and in different situations, even from being approached for a "modeling" opportunity at the mall.