



Tool 6.10 Law enforcement tool for victim identification

Overview

This tool flags some key considerations, questions and indicators for law enforcers in identifying potential victims of trafficking.

Key questions for law enforcers (United States Department of Health and Human Services)

Fraud/financial coercion questions

- How did you get your job?
- How did you get into this country?
- Who brought you into this country?
- Did you come to this country for a specific job that you were promised?
- Who promised you this job?
- Were you forced to do different work?
- Who forced you into doing different work than what was promised?
- Was some sort of work contract signed?
- Who organized your travel?
- How was payment for your travel handled?
- Are you getting paid to do your job?
- Do you actually receive payment or is your money being held for you?
- Do you owe your employer money?
- Are there records or receipts of what is owed to your employer or recruiter?
- Are there records or receipts of what was earned or paid to you?
- How were financial transactions handled?
- Are you in possession of your own legal identity documents? If not, why not?
- Were you provided false documents or identification?
- Are you being made to do things that you do not want to do?

Physical abuse questions

- Were you ever threatened with harm if you tried to leave?
- Did you ever witness any threats against other people if they tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you know about any other person's family ever being threatened?

- Were you ever physically abused, or did you ever witness abuse against another person?
- What type of physical abuse did you witness?
- Were there any objects or weapons used in the physical abuse?
- Where are these objects or weapons located?
- Was knowledge of this abuse ever communicated to a person outside of this situation (e.g. police reports, domestic violence reports, hospital records, social service records)?
- Was anyone else ever abused or threatened with harm in your presence?
- How were medical problems handled and who attended to them?

Freedom of movement questions

- Is your freedom of movement restricted?
- Do you live and work in the same place?
- What were the conditions under which you were left unattended?
- Were there instances of physical restriction through locks, chains etc.?
- Where are the locks used and who has the keys to them?
- How was movement in public places handled (e.g. car, van, bus, subway)?
- Who supervised your movement in public places?
- How was the purchase of private goods and services handled (e.g. medicines, prescriptions)?
- What forms of media or telecommunication did you have access to (e.g. television, radio, newspapers, magazines, telephone, Internet)?

Psychological coercion questions

Behavioural indicators

- Who are you afraid of?
- Why are you afraid of them?
- What would you like to see happen to the people who hurt you (e.g. jail, deportation)?
- How do you feel about the police? Why?

Environmental indicators

- Do you live and work in the same place?
- Where do you live/eat/sleep?
- Where do the alleged perpetrators live/eat/sleep?
- Are the living conditions between the two excessively disparate?



Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, at: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign_kits/tool_kit_law/screen_questions.html

***Possible indicators of labour trafficking
(International Association of Chiefs of Police)***

The International Association of Chiefs of Police advises law enforcers to look for possible indicators of human trafficking where they may not expect it:

Businesses within your community:

- Could any serve as fronts for trafficking?

Building security:

- Is it used to keep people out or keep people in?

Working conditions:

- Do workers have freedom of movement?
- Do they live and work in the same place?
- Do workers owe a debt to their employers?
- Do the employers have control over their workers' immigration documentation?

Appearance and mannerisms of the workers:

- Are there signs of trauma, fatigue, injuries or other evidence of poor care?
- Are individuals withdrawn, afraid to talk or is their communication censored?



More information from the International Association of Chiefs of Police concerning the identification of victims is available at:
www.theiacp.org/research/VAWPOLICEResponse.html

Recommended resources



For more information on victim identification, see the UNODC operational training manual to combat trafficking in persons, forthcoming in 2008, at:
www.unodc.org

Resource Book for Law Enforcement Officers on Good Practices in Combating Child Trafficking***(International Organization for Migration)***

In order for children to be assisted effectively, individuals need to be identified as children by those that are providing assistance. Chapter II of the IOM resource book, on investigative methods, presents practical guidelines and good practice regarding age assessment of victims. The chapter offers various methodologies for assessing age, including psychological assessment, dental examinations, bone X-rays, and combinations of methods. It also presents international standards and examples of good practice in this respect.



The Resource Book is available at:

www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=5787