

Human Trafficking HAPPENS HERE TOO

The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking catalyzes a collective community response to human trafficking in Cuyahoga County. We elevate awareness and understanding, advocate for effective policies, practices and resources, and coordinate our community's anti-human trafficking coalition, called Greater Cleveland's Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking, committed to collectively addressing one of the most complex public health issues we currently face.

We strive to be a survivor-informed space. This community resource was created with guidance from lived-experience experts on our Survivor Advisory Council.

Identify.

Human trafficking involves force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services. **It happens here, too.**

While trafficking occurs globally, it also takes place in Northeast Ohio. There is no single "face" of trafficking; survivors include children, adults, men, women, U.S. citizens, and foreign-born individuals.

Trafficking can occur in various settings—on the street, online, in hotels, homes, illicit massage businesses, or restaurants. Victims may be exploited by romantic partners, family members, or employers.



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Engage.

Victims often do not self-identify, nor fully comprehend the abuse. They may experience fear, shame, or confusion.

- **Be patient.** Establishing trust is essential.
- **Ask compassionate questions** like, “Is there any way I can help you?” or “Would you like me to contact the police?”
- **Provide local resources.** Let them know help is available when they need it.

Youth: Bellefaire JCB Homeless and Missing Youth Hotline (216) 570-8010.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center’s 24-Hour Human Trafficking Hotline (855) 431-7827.

Respond.

If you suspect human trafficking, **do not intervene** directly. Instead:

- **Call 911** or local police if there is immediate danger.
- **Record observations.** Note date, time, location, and details of both the victim and trafficker (appearance, ethnicity, vehicle information, etc.).
- **Report concerns** to the authorities.
You don’t have to be sure—experts can assist.

Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force:
(216) 443-6085.

Provide local resources.
Let them know help is available
when they need it.
Scan QR code below.



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Learn more about
human trafficking and
how to take action at:
www.collabtoendht.org