

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

DOL can help victims of human trafficking, regardless of immigration status, by providing a variety of services or referrals to community organizations.

Available services include:

- Emergency temporary housing
- Food and other basic needs
- Recovery of unpaid wages
- Job skills training and placement
- Immigration and legal assistance
- Help with establishing permanent residence in the United States
- Mental and physical health services
- Counseling
- Help accessing federal and state public benefits
- Translation and interpretation
- Criminal and/or civil action against the trafficker



To report suspected cases of human trafficking, contact:

**New York State Department of Labor
Division of Compliance and Education
(formerly known as Division of Immigrant
Policies and Affairs)**

Tel: 877-466-9757

Email: trafficking@labor.ny.gov

Website: www.labor.ny.gov/immigrants

**National Human Trafficking
Resource Center**

Tel: 888-373-7888

Additional resources:

Polaris Project: www.polarisproject.org

In an emergency, call 911 right away.

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1-888-469-7365

The New York State Department of Labor is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.
Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request and free of charge to
individuals with disabilities TTY/TDD 711 or 1-800-662-1220 (English) / 1-877-662-4886.

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FORCED LABOR IS A CRIME

HELP FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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WHAT IS FORCED LABOR?

Forced Labor, also known as “Human Trafficking,” is a serious crime. Trafficked people may not realize that what is happening to them is illegal and that help is available. **Labor trafficking occurs when a person uses force, fraud or coercion to induce another to work against their will.**

FORCE: Threats of physical violence, or actual physical violence, against a worker or their family.

FRAUD: A false promise the trafficker has no intention of fulfilling, such as promising a green card or money.

COERCION: A threat made to compel someone to work, such as a threat to call immigration or the police and falsely accuse of a crime, or falsely stating an individual must work to pay off a debt.

Traffickers use a combination of **fear, intimidation, abuse, and psychological tactics** to control victims, such as:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Humiliating the worker in front of others, calling names, making the victim feel guilty and blaming them for the situation. Traffickers may also assert their privilege based on gender, age or nationality to suggest superiority. Conversely, traffickers also may compliment the worker, tell them they rely on them, or tell the worker they are the only one who cares or who will give them a job and so they should feel grateful to the trafficker.

ISOLATION AND CONTROL: Traffickers may tell the worker they should not speak to anyone else, constantly monitor the worker by phone or camera, or display weapons and assert access to law enforcement to intimidate. Traffickers may also limit the worker’s access to money to create dependency by paying sporadically, very little, or not at all.

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking can happen in many industries, including:

- Factories, such as garment factories
- Farms or landscaping
- Construction
- Private homes (e.g., nannies and housekeepers)
- Restaurants, bars, hotels or other service industries
- Strip clubs, street prostitution, fake massage parlors, escort services, brothels, etc.

A person may be a victim of human trafficking if he or she:

- Cannot freely come and go
- Does not have control of their own identification documents or money
- Is not paid or is paid very little
- Works unusually long hours
- Owes a large or increasing debt
- Lives or works in a location with unusually high security or many cameras
- Is unusually anxious, fearful, submissive, depressed, nervous or tense
- Has unexplained injuries or signs of extended or untreated illness or disease
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR’S ROLE IN ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Department of Labor has the authority to take complaints and conduct investigations of violations of New York Labor Law, such as minimum wage, overtime, unpaid wages and illegal deductions. The Department of Labor investigators have the authority to enter and inspect businesses, interview workers, and review payroll records. The Department of Labor staff are trained to identify potential trafficking. The Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs coordinates the Department of Labor’s anti-human trafficking efforts, including:

- Providing referrals to the NY Response to Human Trafficking Program
- Providing certifications for U or T visas for eligible victims of certain serious qualifying crimes, including human trafficking
- Increasing public awareness through community and businesses outreach presentations

If you are interested in any of our services, please call the Division of Compliance and Education (formerly known as Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs) at **877-466-9757** or email trafficking@labor.ny.gov.

