

BASIC STAGES OF

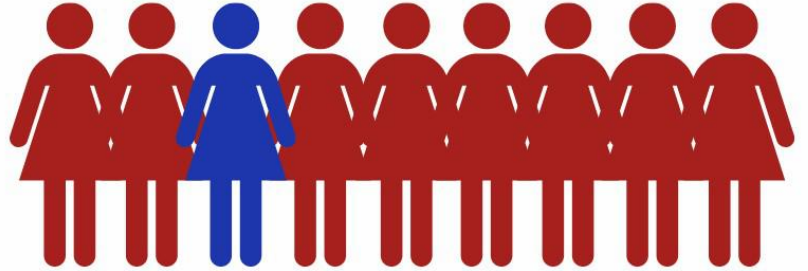
GROOMING

FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



TARGETING A VICTIM

TRAFFICKERS TARGET VICTIMS WHO HAVE NOTICEABLE VULNERABILITY: EMOTIONAL NEEDINESS, LOW SELF-CONFIDENCE, ECONOMIC STRESS, OR ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE USE DEPENDENCY.



GAINING TRUST & INFORMATION

OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT THE VICTIM IS KEY. THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH CASUAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VICTIM OR PARENTS. TRAFFICKERS OFTEN MIX WELL WITH OTHER ADULTS.

FILLING A NEED

THE INFORMATION GAINED ALLOWS THE TRAFFICKER TO FILL A NEED IN THE VICTIM'S LIFE, MAKING THE VICTIM DEPENDENT ON HIM/HER IN SOME WAY: BUYING GIFTS, BEING A FRIEND, BEGINNING A LOVE RELATIONSHIP OR BUYING THEIR TARGETED VICTIM DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.



ISOLATION

THE TRAFFICKER CREATES TIMES TO BE ALONE WITH THE VICTIM. THE TRAFFICKER WILL BEGIN TO HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN THE VICTIM'S LIFE AND ATTEMPT TO DISTANCE THE VICTIM FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE CAN PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN ISOLATION.

ABUSE BEGINS

THE TRAFFICKER BEGINS CLAIMING THAT A SERVICE MUST BE REPAYED WHETHER MONEY WAS SPENT ON DRUGS, CAR RIDES, MOBILE PHONES, ETC. THE TRAFFICKER DEMANDS SEX AS PAYMENT FOR SERVICES. IN MANY CASES, THE TRAFFICKER MAINTAINS CONTROL OF THE VICTIM THROUGH THREATS, VIOLENCE, OR BLACKMAIL.



For urgent or life-threatening situations, or if you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911. It is unsafe to attempt to rescue a human trafficking victim.

Errol D. Toulon Jr., Ed. D



Suffolk County Sheriff