

## Top Statistics of Sex Trafficking/Exploitation\*

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- 1 in 10 children are sexually abused. At Selah Freedom, most survivors report being sexually abused as children
- Many of the survivors at Selah Freedom report sexual abuse beginning between 3-4 years old
- 2 million children are sold each year through sex trafficking
- Child sex trafficking has been reported in all 50 states
- Statistically, the average age of children running away and entering into sex trafficking is 15-17 years old. At Selah Freedom, many survivors report entering sex trafficking between the ages of 12-14 years old
- Within 48 hours of running away, 1 out of 3 children are solicited for sex
- Victims can be sold 15-40 times every 24 hoursIt takes 7-8 touchpoints with a victim before she is ready to step into care
- Pornography gets more visitors each month than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined
- 1 in 9 children receive online sexual solicitation
- Traffickers recruit children into sex trafficking through close relationships (“friending”)
- Traffickers have made up to \$1.6 million per year off their victims
- Sex Trafficking is a \$99 billion dollar industry
- Florida is in the top three states in the nation for sex trafficking
- Chicago is in the top five cities in the nation for sex trafficking

## Top Indicators of Sex Trafficking/Exploitation

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- Signs of or history of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse, sexually transmitted diseases
- Unexplainable appearance of expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items
- Presence of an older boy/girlfriend
- Minor in the company of a controlling third party
- Lack of knowledge about a given community or whereabouts
- Bruising and injuries, signs of branding/tattoos
- Runaway/homeless
- Lying about age, giving false ID and/or no ID
- Well-rehearsed and/or inconsistent stories

### Resources:

[Selah Freedom - https://selahfreedom.com/](https://selahfreedom.com/)

Selah Freedom is an anti-human trafficking non-profit organization 501(c)3. Based in Florida and the Midwest, with the mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited through five strong programs: Awareness, Prevention, Outreach, Residential, and Consulting.

**USIAHT** is a national faith-based organization focused on ending trafficking in the United States and is dedicated to educating American citizens and legislators, disrupt sex trade, consolidate efforts for maximum effect, and partner with other organizations in this fight. USIAHT works in conjunction with federal, state, and local government officials who influence policy on ending trafficking in the United States. Community based strategy is to end human trafficking by establishing trafficking free zones. The organization has offices in **Florida**, California, Texas, Nevada, and headquarters in Washington D.C.

<https://usiaht.org/>

# SPEAK OUT ON SLAVERY



- **Florida Abuse Hotline 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)** to report known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and known or suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
- To report Human Trafficking to **law enforcement in Florida, call 1-855-FLA-SAFE.**
- To get help from the **National Human Trafficking Hotline, call 1-888-373-7888.**
- **Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE):** To get help for victims and survivors of human trafficking or to connect with local services.
- Visit the National Human Trafficking Hotline online at: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org>.

# THE APPS YOU NEED TO KNOW

See the back of this handout for a quick informational guide of popular applications.

## TIPS FOR APP SAFETY:

- **DM = Direct Message**, allows private conversations between users
- **Beware**, applications are updated often and change their logos.
- **Become familiar with these apps!** Don't be the parent that has to have your kid teach you how to maneuver your phone... they may not teach you everything.
- **Watch out for secret accounts.** Do standard Google searches to check if they have other pages under a fake name.
- **It's all about communication!** Build a relationship where your child feels comfortable coming to you if something happens online.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS:

### For Tweens and Teens

- **Have you heard of...?:** Ask your child what they already know! They will be able to tell you about popular apps and may even share some stories about things that have happened to friends.
- **Don't make it weird:** The less awkward you make it, the more comfortable your teen will feel. Bringing up these topics casually can make them feel like #NBD.
- **"You can't date until you're...":** This can make a youth feel like they don't have a voice. Families will have rules, however it's important to include your teen in the conversation about relationships and expectations.
- **Be non-judgemental:** If your teen comes to you to talk, it's important to prioritize safety and support, not consequences. Let them know that you are proud that they are speaking out!

### For Younger Kids

- **Safe vs. unsafe touch:** Explain what is and what is not safe touch, defining the "bathing suit zone." Be sure to stay away from "good vs. bad touch" language.
- **Trust triangle:** It's important for a child to identify 3 safe adults they can talk to. Encourage them to think of adults they can go to at school, as well.
- **Secrets vs. surprises:** Explain that everyone gets excited about a surprise, but a secret can feel yucky and confusing. A safe adult will never ask a child to keep an unsafe secret.
- **Safe screens:** Talk to your child about what they should do if they see something unsafe or receive a message from someone online. Come up with some examples and role play a safety plan!

SELAH-FREEDOM  
Bringing Light to the Darkness of Sex Trafficking



**Facebook-** Created as a network of friends, however many all add strangers as "friends." Ability to go "live" and send DMs.



**Twitter-** Used to "tweet" personal thoughts/pictures/etc. Pornographic accounts found on Twitter. Ability to send DMs.



**Snapchat-** (Popular) Ability to send chats/pictures/videos that "disappear" in 10 seconds/24 hours. Sextortion is common and users have the ability to form group chats.

**Snapmap-** GPS tracking location of snapchat friends

**Snapcash-** Ability to transfer money through app, often used to purchase porn

**My Eyes Only-** Ability to secretly store password protected photos



**Instagram-** (Popular) Ability to post photos/videos of personal life and go "live." Can receive DMs whether account is private or public. Desire to be "insta famous." Commonly used for sexting. Multiple "Finsta" accounts common.



**Calculator +-** - Designed to look like an app that comes pre-downloaded. Acts as a typical calculator but also stores password protected photos/videos/websites. Often referred to as "vault apps."



**Tinder-** Dating app restricted for ages 18+ but underage users often found on app. Ability to "swipe right" on someone's picture, showing interest in them and allowing DMs. Vulnerability of looking for love/attention often taken advantage of.



**Yubo-** Practically "Tinder for Minors." Allows live group video chats with strangers. Marketed as a way to make new friends. Explicit content is not typically flagged during live calls. Can be used alongside snapchat.



**Live.Me-** A popular broadcasting platform where young people can live video chat with strangers. Past situations of adults exploiting youth, making requests for inappropriate actions.



**House Party-** Used to engage in video group chats and does not verify users ages. Marketed as a way to host a "virtual house party." Exposure to nudity, sexting and recruitment can occur.



**Monkey-** Allows users to live video chat and DM with strangers. Newest version of older apps such as Chatroulette and Omegle. Pornography and explicit content is common. Young user base.



**Fortnite-** Online video game (accessible on phone). Seemingly safe but increasingly used to lure/recruit unsuspecting youth. Often used alongside a chatting app called Discord. Young user base.



**Youtube-** Increasingly violent/sexual/graphic videos that are hidden as seemingly safe. Recently added ability to direct message users. Youth also may post videos in attempts to be popular, wanting increased views/likes/comments.



**TikTok-** Used to create short videos that others can watch/like/react to. Formerly known at Musical.ly which was shut down after unsafe/recruiting behavior found. Increasingly sexual/vulgar comments and videos. Young user base.



**Minecraft-** Online video game (accessible on phone). Seemingly safe but increasingly used to lure/recruit unsuspecting youth. Often used alongside a chatting app called Discord. Young user base.



**Whisper-** Connects groups of users based on location and allows for anonymous posts. Encourages to post confessions/secrets anonymously and publicly, allowing others to comment. Allows explicit and sexual content to be discussed and viewed.