

River of Innocents/Human Trafficking Talk FAQ

(River of Innocents is Available at Amazon)

<http://www.riverofinnocents.com>

"The plight of Majlinda is both heart-breaking and courageous. While we took great comfort in the fact that Majlinda is a fictional character, her vividly told story is a very real one which plays out again and again throughout the world today... Majlinda's story should stand as a global call to arms in the fight against trafficking."

-Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Unit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery. Approximately 200,000 American children are at high risk for trafficking each year.¹

What are signs a person has been trafficked?²

It may not always be easy to tell if someone has been trafficked on first contact. Common signs include fearfulness; anxiety; disorientation; isolation / not being integrated in the wider community; reluctance; distrust of the authorities. Child victims can be suspicious and wary of adults. Some victims may show signs of physical abuse or show evidence of other abuse and vulnerabilities or appear mal-nourished.

Some other signs include high foot traffic to a building, often by a stream of men arriving and leaving the premises; victims escorted by a "translator" when taken to a doctor for treatment; heavy security at a commercial establishment; women never seen leaving the premises unless escorted; or transactions where a trafficker or pimp controls all the money, and a victim with very little or no pocket money.

What can we do with just a few minutes of our lives?

Talk to the people in your life—family, friends, co-workers, and community. Tell them about trafficking.

Anyone may encounter slavery, but they can only report it if they realize what they're seeing. Make sure they know. Make sure they tell their friends. Because your friends and family are good people and they'll want to help if they realize they can do so even in little ways.

And if you want to spend more time than a few minutes, or to donate a few dollars, there are opportunities to use your skills and resources to help the anti-trafficking community, contributing time, goods, services, or political or financial support.

Where can I go for help?

If someone's life is in immediate danger, call 911. Otherwise, you can give a tip about a suspected case of trafficking to the Polaris Project's national hotline at 1-888-3737-888, available 24 hours a day. The hotline can also respond to inquiries about training, referrals, etc... on a non-emergency basis after 9 AM.

¹ Source: Polaris Project

² Sources: Kent Police in the UK, State Department in the US