



## Essential Knowledge for Hotel Employees and Service Workers on Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking is a **crime of exploitation that frequently occurs in hotels and lodging settings**, often without violence or visible restraints. [\[fbi.gov\]](#), [\[state.gov\]](#)
- Victims may appear **anxious, submissive, fearful, or deferential to a controlling companion**, who may insist on speaking for them or monitoring their interactions. [\[justice.gov\]](#), [\[fbi.gov\]](#)
- **Any minor involved in commercial sex is automatically a trafficking victim**, regardless of whether the child appears willing or accompanied by an adult claiming to be a guardian. [\[fbi.gov\]](#), [\[state.gov\]](#)
- Warning signs in hotel settings can include **frequent requests for new towels or linens, refusal of housekeeping, excessive condoms or drug paraphernalia, or unusual foot traffic to a room**. [\[justice.gov\]](#), [\[un.org\]](#)
- Guests who **lack identification, do not control their own money, or seem unsure of their location, length of stay, or travel plans** may be experiencing trafficking. [\[justice.gov\]](#), [\[fbi.gov\]](#)
- Trafficking victims often **do not ask for help directly** due to fear, trauma, threats, language barriers, or distrust of authorities. [\[fbi.gov\]](#), [\[justice.gov\]](#)
- Traffickers commonly use **technology**, such as online ads, messaging apps, and digital payments, to coordinate exploitation within hotels. [\[state.gov\]](#), [\[un.org\]](#)
- Hotel staff should **never confront suspected traffickers directly** and should instead follow internal protocols and report concerns to designated supervisors or security. [\[justice.gov\]](#), [\[un.org\]](#)
- Reporting suspicions promptly can **interrupt exploitation and potentially save lives**, even if the signs seem uncertain or incomplete. [\[fbi.gov\]](#), [\[state.gov\]](#)
- Effective prevention depends on **consistent training, clear reporting procedures, and coordination with law enforcement and victim-service organizations**. [\[un.org\]](#), [\[state.gov\]](#)
- Human trafficking can involve **labor exploitation of hotel or contracted workers**, including housekeeping, maintenance, or food service staff subjected to coercion or debt bondage. [\[justice.gov\]](#), [\[un.org\]](#)
- Creating a culture of awareness and responsibility among all employees is one of the **most powerful deterrents to traffickers who rely on secrecy and inaction**. [\[un.org\]](#), [\[state.gov\]](#)

- For immediate danger call **911**, and to report tips you can call the HSI Tip Line at **1-866-347-2423**. [dhs.gov]
- To get help or share concerns, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-373-7888** or text **“BEFREE/HELP” to 233733** (24/7, confidential support). [humantraffickinghotline.org], [dhs.gov]

**Blink3** is the **Universal nonverbal SOS** for victims of human trafficking and abuse, blinking 3 times is a way to ask for help. Please see <https://blink3.org/> for more information, and free courses