

Welcome to

Child Trafficking 101

Trata de menores 101 (Interpretación al español comenzará pronto)

THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY! WHILE YOU'RE WAITING...

Icebreaker Question
(answer in the chat)

Survey & Certificate of Completion

Connect With Us!



VISIT [CALTRIN.ORG](https://www.caltrin.org) &
SCAN TO LEARN MORE



SPANISH INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE! INTERPRETACIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE!

Scan the QR code with your mobile device.
Escanee el código QR desde su teléfono

Select "Spanish."
Elige la opción "Spanish."

Enable Simultaneous Interpretation Audio
Habilite el Audio de la Interpretación Simultánea



Hi, We're CalTrin!

Who we are

- The California Training Institute
- Funded by the State of California, Dept. of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to support child abuse prevention through professional development and extended learning opportunities.
- Designed for staff of family strengthening and child abuse prevention organizations in California, including Family Resource Centers, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, community-based organizations, and other child and family serving systems.

What we offer

- Live webinars & small group training
- Virtual, self-paced courses
- Job aids & other resources



UPCOMING TRAININGS

mark your calendars!



Visit caltrin.org to view and register for upcoming webinars or workshops

 **February 19:** Protective Factor of the Month: Parental Resilience

 **March 4:** HOPE 101

 **February 20:** Introduction to the ASQ:SE-2

 **March 10:** Verbal De-Escalation: Foundational Skills in Effectively Managing Emotional Escalation

 **March 3:** Evoking Transformation Through Trauma-Informed Coaching

 **March 17:** Protective Factor of the Month: Social Connections

Before We Begin...

DURING



Access your notetaking slides now! The link can be found in the chat.



Review interactive features for today's session. Locate the controls on the toolbar at the bottom of your screen.



This presentation is being recorded.



External AI assistants are not allowed in CalTrin trainings due to California privacy laws.

AFTER



Complete the survey at the end of this webinar to receive your Certificate of Attendance.



A follow-up email will be sent to all participants within two days.



Child Trafficking 101

Presented by Denicia Carlay, Ed.D, LCSW, PPSC & Josie Feemster





Denicia Carlay,
Ed.D, LCSW, PPSC

PACT Program Director



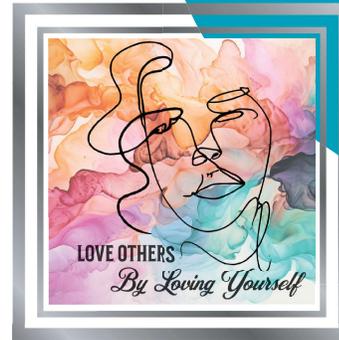
Josie Feemster

PACT Regional Coordinator

Rady Children's Health is not responsible for the creation of content and any views expressed in its materials and programming.

Training Agreements

- **Be Present** - Remove Distractions
- **Respect** - Even if you respectfully disagree
- **Engage** - Join us In Discussion & Polls
- **Practice Self-Care**



Intention Setting

Cultural Somatic Toys

- Grounding
- Orienting
- Movement
- Touch

“Trauma decontextualized in a person looks like personality.
Trauma decontextualized in a family looks like family traits.
Trauma decontextualized in people looks like culture.”

— Resmaa Menakem



Poetry Reading by Ummra Hang

Visioner, Thriver, Creator, Radiant

Open Your Eyes, explores Ummra's experience as a youth feeling invisible to the systems designed to protect her and challenges practitioners to see the signs.



“
My hope is that my poetry can help individuals, communities, and professionals open their eyes to the realities that some cannot escape. It's so crucial not miss the important details. We all need to do the inner work - so that meaningful support is not missed for those who are presenting danger signs right in front of you.”
”



Scan to visit the A Reclamation Art Gallery

What We Will Be Covering Today

- 1 Overview: What is Child Trafficking & How it Is Defined By Law
- 2 Knowing the Signs of Environmental Risk Factors - and the Stories Behind Them
- 3 Responding Through A Trauma, Multi-Disciplinary, & Survivor Informed Lens



PREVENTING & ADDRESSING CHILD TRAFFICKING

Our vision is to improve services to children and young people at risk of or experiencing sex or labor trafficking in California.



COLLABORATIVE MODEL

Engaging child welfare agencies and their partners, to support implementation of a coordinated – cross system statewide model of collaboration.

48



- Northern
- Central Valley
- Bay Area
- Southern



PACT NETWORK COUNTIES

4 Regional Peer Cohorts

Statewide Structure

- PACT Statewide Director
- PACT Regional Coordinators
- CDSS Regional Leads
- County Child Trafficking Response Coordinators
- PACT Consultant Network

"PACT IS THE THREAD THAT WEAVES US ALL TOGETHER. PARTICIPATION HAS HELPED IMPROVE PRACTICE & GROW OUR LOCAL PROGRAM." - County Participant

PACT CONSULANT NETWORK

PACT's team of lived expertise professionals inform design, development & evaluation.

"PACT'S BIGGEST STRENGTH IS THEIR CONSULTANT TEAM AND THE WAY THAT THEY BRING THEIR LENS TO SUPPORT US."



Aja Houle
She/Her



Angelica Zuniga
She/Her



Diana Cisneros
She/Her



Jess Torres
They/Them



Suleman Masood
He/Him



Jimmy Lopez
He/Him



Ummra Hang
She/Her



Russell Wilson
He/Him



BAIT



Angelica Zuniga, A Reclamation Art Gallery, 2025

CA Landscape: Challenges & Opportunities



- California's Child Welfare System Response is State Funded, County Administered
 - 58 Counties
 - Diverse Needs, Resources & Capacity

What Are Some Assumptions the General Public Might Make About Child Trafficking ?



Join at slido.com
#7435 024

We Invite You to Question Your Assumptions!

- Mostly Kidnapping by Strangers/ The “White Van Myth”
- Doesn’t Happen in My Community OR in the US
- Men are Perpetrators, Women are Victims
- Only Happens to Adults
- Trafficking = Smuggling



We Invite You to Question Your Assumptions!

Child Sex Trafficking

- It’s not trafficking if the child is exchanging sex for money that they keep
- If they don’t leave they are “choosing it”
- Victims are restrained or physically locked up

Child Labor Trafficking

- Only happens in other countries
- Less traumatic than sex trafficking
- Services needed are VERY different
- Only happens in rural areas
- Not relevant to child welfare or probation

Defining Trafficking

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

SEX TRAFFICKING

The recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, soliciting, or patronizing of a child for the purpose of engaging in a commercial sex act. *

Child Trafficking

LABOR TRAFFICKING

The recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining of a child for labor or services through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

The law separates labor and sex trafficking. **Traffickers do not.**

“People often think there’s a clear-cut experience of trafficking when a trafficker doesn’t care how you make money, or how they are extracting a profit. For example, a trafficker could have someone stripping, selling sex, panhandling, working a regular job, or stealing simultaneously.”

— Jess Torres, Pact Consultant

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEX TRAFFICKING/COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSE) *

Any Sexual Activity Exchanged for Something of Value

- Recruitment or facilitating a minor in commercial sex
- A youth trading sex to meet basic needs
- Producing or distributing **CSAM** - Child Sexual Abuse Material
- Live or recorded performances involving children



LABOR TRAFFICKING

Legal or Informal Work Setting

Agriculture, Restaurants, Hotels, Retail Domestic Work, Caregiving, Massage, Begging/Peddling

Forced Criminality

Peer Recruitment
Drug Sales/Cultivation
Theft, Fraud, Gang Activity

* Child's consent is legally irrelevant—any commercial sexual act involving a child is illegal regardless of whether the minor "agreed."

ACTION

MEANS

PURPOSE

Child Labor Trafficking	Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining	→ Force, fraud, or coercion →	Labor or Services
Child Sex Trafficking	Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, soliciting, patronizing	Proof of force, fraud, or coercion not needed if under 18.	Commercial sex act(s)

What is a commercial sex act?

A **commercial sex act** is any sexual activity where something of value - such as money, food, drugs or a place to stay - is given to or received by any person.

What are "labor or services"?

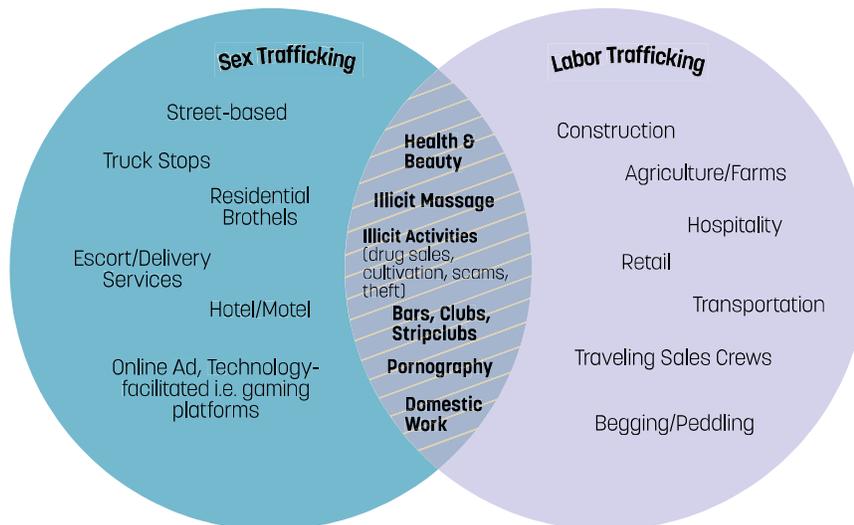
Labor or services is *work* that includes any effort where something of value - such as money, food, drugs or a place to stay - is given to or received by any person. "Work" can be formal, informal and include illegal activities.

What industries or where do you think trafficking might be happening in your community?



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Commonly Reported Venues & Frequently Overlapping Industries



FORCE

- Restraint/Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Drugging/Forced Substance Use
- Isolation/Bars, Locks, etc.
- Starvation or Food Deprivation
- Ritual Abuse

FRAUD

- False promises
- False documents, contracts.
- Lies about the type of work, hours, wages, payment

COERCION

- Threats to loved ones or immigration status
- Leverages basic needs to control
- Gaslighting/Manipulation
- Surveillance
- Holds documents
- Normalizes abnormal or abusive behaviors
- Leverages criminal history, legal system as form of control.

What is Coercion?

PC 236.1(h)(1) / 22 U.S.C. § 7102

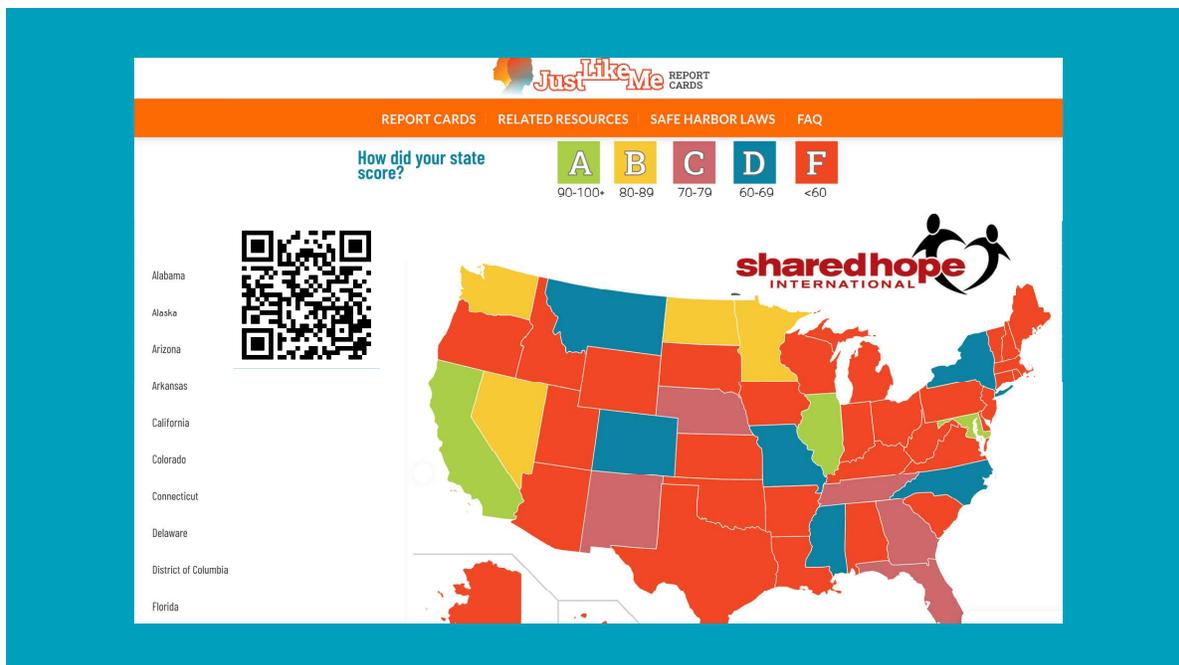
Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to act would result in serious harm or physical restraint.

Threat of serious harm or physical restraint against a person

Abuse or threatened abuse of a legal process

Prop 35 added: "or providing and facilitating the possession of any controlled substance to a person with the intent to impair the person's judgment."

Takes into account individual vulnerabilities!



Lens of Historical Opression

Similar to sex trafficking, it is necessary to understand labor trafficking through an intersectional lens of historical oppression. It began in the United States during colonization with indentured servitude and continued throughout history with African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and immigrants forced into labor to build the country we have today.

Nola Brantley Speaks

TRAFFICKING CONTEXT

Familial Trafficking

Child is trafficked by a family member established by blood, marriage, or adoption. This includes, but is not limited to, biological mother and/or father, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, in-laws, and adoptive, foster, or stepparents.

Nonfamilial Trafficking

Child is trafficked by an unrelated individual, male or female, who often develops an intentional relationship with the child which is later used as leverage in the exploitation.

CSE Specific

Buyer-Perpetrated Trafficking

Child is being trafficked but does not have a trafficker. Instead, the buyer is directly exploiting the child's vulnerabilities by offering money, food, and/or shelter in exchange for the sexual exploitation.

Gang-Controlled Trafficking

Child is trafficked by a member of a gang or trafficked by the gang. Gangs leverage their organizational structure, violence, and local, national, and international networks to instill fear and loyalty in the child victim.

Russell's Story | Common Spirit Video



Recruitment Methods

- Grooming
- Promises of Love, Protection, Money, a Better Life
- Internet & Social Media
- "Employment Agencies" i.e. travel, modeling, entertainment
- Deceptive Contracts
- Labor Broker, Guest Worker Program
- Debt Bondage
- Word-of-Mouth - Peers, Family Member
- Fraudulent Marriage or Adoption
- Given or Sold by Family Members
- Kidnapping (more common in CSE)



Covenant House National Study

Interviews with 911 homeless youth across 13 cities



1 in 5 (19%) identified as victims of some form of trafficking

91%

of youth reported being offered lucrative work opportunities that turned out to be fraudulent, scams, or sex trafficking

- 23% of youth with "foster care history" were trafficked
- In Oakland, labor trafficking was more prevalent than sex trafficking (60%)
- In LA 50% labor and 50% Sex trafficked
- The majority (81%) of labor trafficking was forced criminality (forced drug dealing)
- LGBTQIA+ youth were twice as likely to experience trafficking

Trafficking is not only about forced sex or labor—it exploits a young person's isolation, trauma, marginalization, and need for belonging.

Jess Torres, PACT Consultant

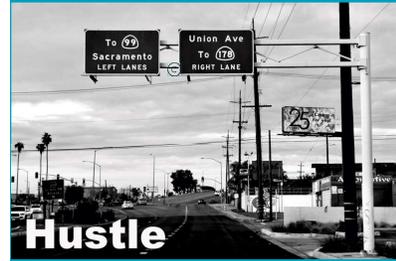
Push & Pull Factors in CA



“

Trafficking is not only about forced sex or labor—it exploits a young person’s isolation, trauma, marginalization, and need for belonging.

Jess Torres, PACT Consultant



© Angelica Zuniga, A Reclamation Art Gallery, 2025

Jimmy’s Story



“

What different situations of labor trafficking did you see in Jimmy’s story?



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”

1 in 4 young people have were offered money or other goods of value for a tech-facilitated interaction

3 in 4 had the first exchange by the age of 16

23% were 12 or younger

Sexual talk, making sending or posting pics/videos, other sexual activity

1 in 5 received requests for non-sexual images

59% received requests focused on specific body parts

Commodities included: money/crypto, gift cards or other valuable items

*Thorn, 2025 - Survey included over 1100 youth

Carter's Story



What Trafficker Tactics did Carter Experience?



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Josie's Story

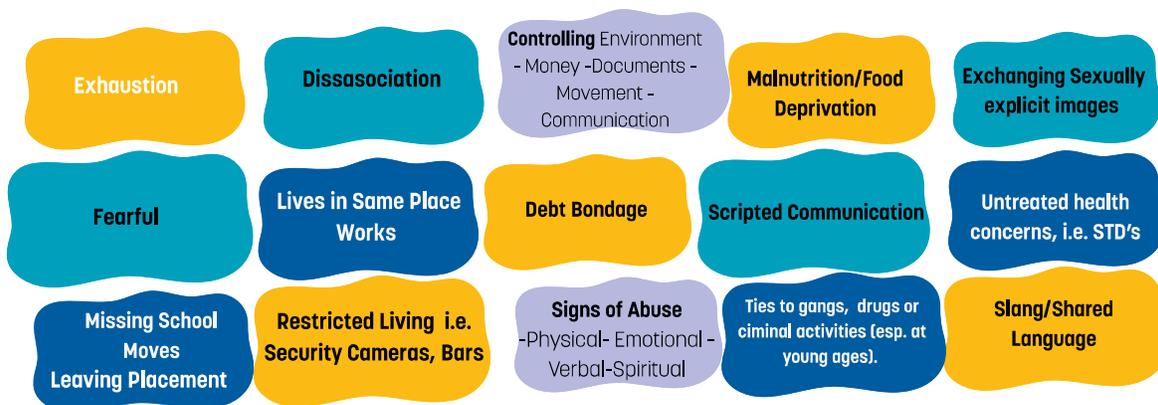


What push and pull factors did you notice in Josie's story?



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Potential Indicators



Aisha's Story



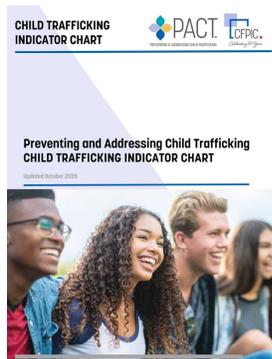
Did Aisha experience sex trafficking, or labor trafficking or both?



What potential indicators did you notice?

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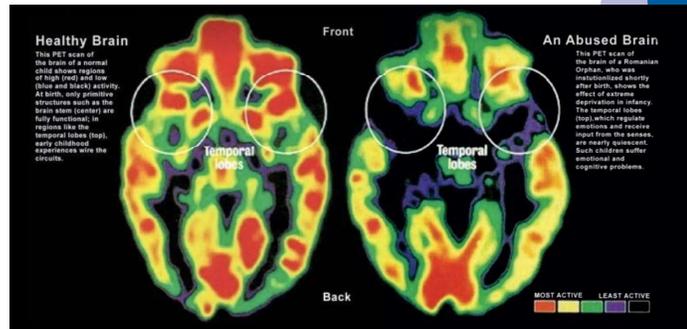
Child Trafficking Indicator Chart



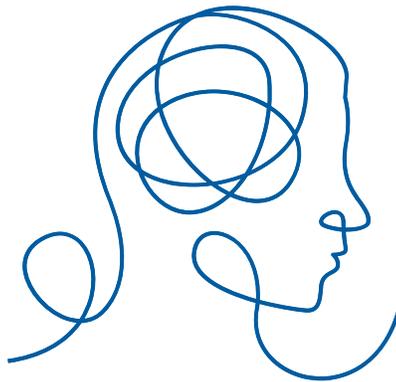
Shows potential overlap indicators of CSE, Labor Trafficking and Labor Trafficking by Forced Criminality

Traumatic Experiences

- Are overwhelming
- Tax the individual's coping resources
- Lead to initiation of biologically driven survival strategies and responses



Trauma has Psychological, Emotional, Physical, Health and Spiritual Impacts



Infertility
STD'S Anxiety
Malnutrition
Pain Dental Mood
Respiratory
Attachment Scars Disorders
PTSD Scars Depression
Pregnancy
Developmental-Delays
Psychosomatic



Of all the things trauma takes away from us, the worst is our willingness, or even our ability, to be vulnerable. There's a reclaiming that has to happen.

— Brene Brown, *Rising Strong*

Barriers to Disclosure or Leaving

- Trauma bond with the trafficker
- Extreme fear of retaliation or harm
- Distrust of systems or institutions designed to help
- Not identifying as a victim
- Lack of safe or stable housing options
- No access to or control over money and essential resources
- Threats made against loved ones
- Traffickers making examples of other victims to instill fear
- Sense of obligation to repay debt (particularly in labor trafficking situations)

Check out the film **August Rush** about a talented child musician who was groomed and trafficked by a character played by Robin Williams

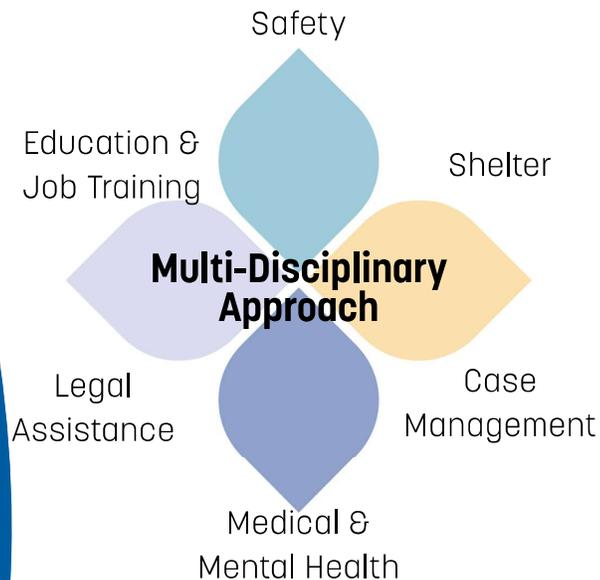


Before you address trauma, you have to address basic needs.

Reclaiming childhood joy is a significant part of young people thriving.

Meet the individual where they are at and start from their top priorities.

It's about partnership. The path has to be directed by the survivor.



The journey from surviving to thriving is not a straight line, it is a roller coaster. Survivors of trauma often take inconsistent leaps forward, as well as big steps backwards.

—Russell G Wilson



Partnership with Survivors

A victim-centered response should be utilized from the first meeting to the completion of goals.



- Victim-centered response means including the survivor in decision making associated with their case
- Recognizing the survivor is the expert of their own experience
- Helps build trust between survivor and case manager or the helper
- Establishes responsibilities that the survivor has to themselves as well as the agency providing services

WHAT'S ONE TAKE-AWAY THAT YOU ARE LEAVING WITH TODAY?



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PACT RESOURCES

SCAN QR CODES



PACT Website



**ImPACT
Documentary
Films**



**Prevention
Month Toolkit**



**CA Training
Calendar**



**CA Provider
Directory**



**PACT
Publications**

Want to Connect?

Email: PACT@CFPIC.ORG

[Subscribe to receive learning opportunities.](#)



REPORTING & RESOURCES

California Local Child Welfare 24/7 Hotlines - Report Child Abuse & Neglect

Contact the respective county child protective services hotline to consult or make a report on child abuse and/or neglect.

- www.cdss.ca.gov/reporting/report-abuse/child-protective-services/report-child-abuse

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Report instances of missing & exploited children to NCMEC and check out specialized resources and training available to educate the community and first-responders on child sex trafficking and sextortion.

- 24/7 Hotline: 1-800-843-5678
- Cyber Tip report.cybertip.org

Office on Trafficking in Persons: Report Concerns Involving Foreign National Youth

Report concerns of foreign national youth who may have experienced trafficking on their journey to the United States or after arrival. Youth may be eligible to apply for certain assistance programs, and must first receive an Eligibility Letter or Interim Assistance Letter from the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP).

- Ph: (202) 205-4582
- Email: childtrafficking@acf.hhs.gov
- [OTIP Child Trafficking Eligibility Toolkit](https://acf.gov/otip); <https://acf.gov/otip>

National Human Trafficking Hotline

- Report tips, seek services & ask for help 24/7 (available in 200 languages).
- 24/7 Hotline & Tip Line: 1-888-373-7888
- Textline: Text "BeFree" (233733)
- Live Chat: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/chat>

Report Child Labor Violations

CA Labor Commissioner's Office (415) 703-5300 | www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE
US. Department of Labor (866) 487-9243 | www.dol.gov/whd

YoungWorkers.org

A project of the California Partnership for Young Worker Health and Safety. Their goal is to prevent California's young workers from being injured or killed on the job. The site hosts downloadable materials regarding employment for young workers.



**For more info about PACT &
Additional Resources visit
PACT.CFPIC.ORG**

Thanks for joining us!

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Survey and certificate in the chat now
- Follow-up email with resources within two days
- Watch your inbox for the next issue of *CalTrin Connect*



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