

11 Sex Trafficking Myths vs Truth

MYTH

TRUTH

Trafficking only happens to women and girls

1

Men and boys account for around 25% of people trafficked globally.

Traffickers are usually strangers

2

In cases of sex trafficking, 44% of victims were trafficked by a family member.

Trafficking doesn't happen where I live

3

In the U.S., there are 30,000+ cases of human trafficking each year.

Trafficking only happens to children

4

Children made up only 69% of victims in newly charged U.S. sex trafficking cases in 2021.

Trafficking always involves moving people to new places

5

People can be sex trafficked in their community or their homes.

Victims always ask for help

6

Many trafficked people have been groomed to think trafficking is normal.

Trafficking always involves violence/force

7

Trafficked adults are often vulnerable because of poverty, substance abuse, or homelessness.

All traffickers are men

8

25% of U.S. child sex traffickers are women.

Trafficking only happens in poor communities

9

Sex trafficking is everywhere. Trafficking can happen in places like massage parlors, bars, and motels.

Victims of human trafficking are physically held captive

10

Traffickers use emotional manipulation, threats, or economic dependency, making it hard to leave.

Human trafficking is not a human rights issue

11

Sex trafficking infringes on fundamental human rights. The right to freedom from slavery/servitude, and the right to bodily autonomy.

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