

# CARE Human Trafficking Resource Sheet

## Human Trafficking

**A crime involving the exploitation of a person for compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.**

## Recognizing Signs & For More Information, Go to Polaris Project:

<https://polarisproject.org/recognizing-human-trafficking/>

Whether or not strong indicators of trafficking are present, identifying students being exploited can be difficult because students may not readily acknowledge their circumstances.

## Students may be...

- reluctant to disclose the abuse due to shame or fear
- still under the control of their trafficker
- unable to recognize themselves as a survivor

## Connect with the CARE Campus Advocate

If you suspect a student is at risk or already involved with a trafficker, contact the CARE Campus Advocate.

**Lynna Cano: 209-386-2051 (via Call or Text)**

You are not alone in assessing the situation.  
Connect with the CARE Campus Advocate.  
The CARE Campus Advocate is a confidential campus resource. If the student is in immediate danger, contact law enforcement.

**CARE: <https://care.ucmerced.edu>**

## Questions to Assess for Possible Human Trafficking

- How did you meet your boyfriend, girlfriend, or partner?
- What is your current occupation? How did you find out about your job?
- Have you tried to leave your employer and they do not allow you to leave? Is there anyone preventing or threatening you? Do you want help leaving?
- Are your family members or friends in danger if you try to leave?
- Have you ever been forced to do work that you didn't want to do?
- Were you ever lied to about the type of work that you would do?
- Has anyone ever taken the money you earned for work?
- How did you find out about your current place to live?
- Has anyone ever given you money or offered it to you in exchange for sex?
- Does anyone make you have sex?
- Have you ever had sex in exchange for money or shelter?

**Risk factors** are attributes or situations that contribute to developing vulnerability of high-risk exposure to unhealthy or dangerous behaviors. Factors can be past or current challenges. They can be societal, community, family, school, or individual.

**Protective factors** are positive attributes, strengths, individual skills, or resources. Factors can function as shields or contribute to building the resilience of an individual. They can be societal, community, family, school, or individual.

### Risk Factors

- Low-income, financial hardships, or access to limited financial resources
- A high number of adverse childhood experiences
- Housing instability and/or risk of being homeless
- Has unexplained absences from school for an extended period of time
- High levels of uncertainty, stress, or little control of external situations
- Racism, microaggressions, bullying, and discrimination
- Lacks control over money, ID, travel documents, or personal schedule
- Has experienced past trauma

### Protective Factors

- Support for education from family
- Support from family and friends
- A positive school climate that promotes clear policies, engagement, and a sense of belonging
- Opportunities to learn new coping skills, study skills, and personal development skills
- Clear communication from the school, departments, and community agencies
- Healthy housing options and a high standard of living
- Wide range of leisure and sports activities
- Opportunities to be social with peers
- Opportunities to basic needs such as healthy food, anti-racism activities, and mental wellness