

# HOW VICTIMS ARE TRAPPED

## TRAUMA BONDING

- Victims become terrorized but loyal and grateful to trafficker for “allowing” them to live
- Traffickers have complete power over victims, exploiting & abusing victims while intermittently having positive/neutral interactions with victims
- Emotional connection between victims and traffickers can confuse victims

## WHY VICTIMS MAY NOT ASK FOR HELP

- Unaware of their rights
- Unaware of/lack resources
- Stockholm Syndrome or Trauma Bonding
- Threats of violence/retaliation
- Physically restrained
- Distrust of law enforcement & other authorities
- Isolation
- Denial
- Drug Addiction
- Language barrier
- Citizenship status
- Obligation to send money to home country
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Inability/fear of returning home



**TRAFFICKERS  
PREY ON  
VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS!**

**Victims may be reluctant to separate from traffickers & appear to be willing participants**

**Victims may be adversarial, aggressive, or uncooperative with law enforcement**

**Victims may suffer from complex PTSD and repress memories or dissociate to cope**