

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking

involves the use of
force, fraud, or coercion
to obtain some type of
labor or commercial sex act.*

Victims can be transported using all modes of transportation, including airways, either alone or with a trafficker.**

Victims can be of any gender, age, background, citizenship (including U.S.), or have any immigration status.

*Any minor (under the age of 18) engaged in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking according to federal law, regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion.

**Trafficking does not require movement, border crossing, or transportation.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

call **911** or contact **local authorities**

Report human trafficking 24 hours a day,
7 days a week by calling

1-866-347-2423

(U.S./Canada)

+1 802-872-6199

(International)

For more information about combating
human trafficking, visit

dhs.gov/bluecampaign

The **Department of Homeland Security** and **Department of Transportation's Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI)** trains U.S. commercial airlines and their employees to identify potential human trafficking victims and notify federal authorities. BLI, one of the lines of effort within the DHS Blue Campaign, is a joint initiative led by **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** and the **Department of Transportation**.

The United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Transportation are Federal agencies of the United States Government and are separate and distinct entities from this Association.

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A Guide for Aviation Personnel to Recognize and Report Suspected Human Trafficking



INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

If you notice a person or group of people that have:



No control of travel identification/documents



No freedom of movement/social interaction



Difficulty articulating reasonable/logical travel plans



A non-genuine relationship; particularly parent/guardian-child

RECOGNIZING POSSIBLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

If you notice any human trafficking indicator(s):

- ✓ **DO** report your observations via airline reporting protocol, flight deck communications, or the tip lines.
- ✗ **DO NOT** confront the suspected trafficker/victim to ensure the safety of the suspected victim, yourself, and others on the flight.
- ✗ **DO NOT** draw unnecessary attention to yourself, the suspected trafficker, or suspected victim that may alert them to your suspicions.

When you observe indicators of suspected human trafficking activity, you should report them right away.

It is critical to include as many details about the suspected trafficker/victim as possible, such as:

- Whether they are currently in-flight
- Airline, flight number(s), seat number(s), arrival city, landing time, and connecting flight(s), if known
- Identities (names, citizenship, etc.)
- Physical descriptions
- Indicator(s) you saw/heard

REPORTING A TIP

When you call the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) tip line, identify your tip as a Blue Lightning Initiative or BLI tip.

On the Ground: ICE/HSI 24hr Tip Line

- **U.S./Canada:** 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (347-2423) (toll-free)
- **International:** +1 802-872-6199

In-Flight

- **Airline Reporting Protocol**
- **Flight Deck Communications**
Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) or Domestic Event Network (DEN)

Federal Air Marshal Service

There may be a Federal Air Marshal (FAM) on your flight. While the FAM's primary concern is aviation security, you may inform him or her of suspected human trafficking—if you can do so **without compromising the FAM's anonymity**. Because of the sensitivity of the FAM's mission, use this option only as a **last resort**.