

Human sex trafficking is as networked as drug trade and arms trade. Pimps pay people to surf the internet to find new recruits for them. Others are paid to pose as a possible date to lure girls into a trap. It's all about money.

Everyone in the game is looking for a way to cash in on you or some other unsuspecting soul.

These are the steps YOU can take to PROTECT yourself:

- I. Don't post pictures of yourself in bathing suits or other revealing clothing on Facebook or other social media. Traffickers are constantly looking for girls to recruit by perusing pictures of anyone in their network.
- 2. Only accept people as friends on Facebook, Twitter and other social media if you know them personally. Teenagers like being popular, even on the internet. Many will accept any friend invitation they receive, so you can't count on your friends to be wise when accepting friends. Your safety is up to you. Be smart!
- 3. Never post where you're going on social media; only post where you've been. If someone manages to get to your page, they can track your every move if you post who you're with and where you're going next. It's like handing a trafficker a road map to find you.
- 4. Posting pictures and comments on social media from your smartphone may list your location without you being aware of it. You can turn this feature off. Ask your cell phone provider how to do this.
- 5. Remember there is safety in numbers. Even something as simple as walking home from the bus stop has proven dangerous if done alone. Always make sure you are with others.
- 6. Don't engage in conversations with guys you don't know. Don't answer their questions or give out information about yourself or your friends. What appears to be harmless flirting can lead to dangerous activity in seconds.
- 7. Don't get into a car with anyone you don't know well, even if they appear to know you.
- 8. Beware of friends telling you they have an easy way to make money.
- 9. Don't go to a party held by someone you or your family doesn't know well.
- 10. Beware of offers by strangers to get you into modeling or the movies. Talk with your parents about anyone who approaches you with this type of offer. If they are from a reputable company there will be a way to confirm so and keep you safe in the process.