



## What is Human Trafficking:

Human Trafficking is defined in the Trafficking Protocol as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation. A victim does not have to be physically transported. "

The definition on trafficking consists of three core elements:

- 1) The **action** of trafficking which means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons
- 2) The **means** of trafficking which includes threat of or use of force, deception, coercion, abuse of power or position of vulnerability
- 3) The **purpose** of trafficking is always exploitation. Exploitation includes, commercial sex acts, forced labor or services, and servitude.

Domestic servitude is the seemingly normal practice of live-in help that is used as cover for the exploitation and control of someone. A domestic work situation becomes trafficking when the employer uses force, fraud, or coercion to maintain control over the worker and to cause the worker to believe that he or she has no other choice but to continue with the work.



## Human Trafficking and North Carolina

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. The Polaris Project ranks North Carolina as the 10th most likely state for trafficking to occur. In 2014, North Carolina reported 603 tips on human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTRC). The number of substantive calls received from North Carolina constitutes the 10th highest call volume of all 50 states.

The prevalence of human trafficking in North Carolina is due to many factors, particularly:

- Major interstates run through our state, as well as many sea ports on the coast
- We have a large, transient military population surrounded by sexually oriented businesses
- Numerous rural agricultural areas with a high demand for cheap labor
- Increasing number of gangs in North Carolina

Project C.O.P.E.'s purpose is to improve and expand mentoring services, in particular to those at risk for sexual exploitation. The project will also increase protective factors in the lives of vulnerable populations throughout North Carolina. This project will do so through collaboration, outreach, protection, and education. Project C.O.P.E. has four primary goals:

- Increase adult and youth awareness surrounding the risks of commercial sexual exploitation
- Promote resources and services available for children at-risk of exploitation
- Strengthen existing academic, extracurricular, and mentor programs to serve youth more effectively
- Strengthen protective factors among previously exploited children and youth

NC Council for Women (CFW) has partnered with agencies across North Carolina to plan and implement Project C.O.P.E. The CFW will collaborate with NC Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office (YAIO), State Youth Council (SYC), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), NC Center for Safer Schools, Department of Public Instruction, and other youth serving organizations.

