

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING: AN OVERVIEW

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Henderson County  
Human Trafficking  
Response Team

**THANK YOU  
FOR BEING  
HERE!**

The Henderson  
County Human  
Trafficking Response  
Team (HCHTRT) is a  
multidisciplinary team  
committed to human  
trafficking community  
education,  
prevention, and  
response.



# MEET OUR TEAM

Det. Lance Easton, Hendersonville Police Dept.

Meredith Harding-Bremner, AdventHealth

Det. Juan Gonzalez, Fletcher Police Dept.

Mariah Cassum, Blue Ridge Health

Det. Chris Ellis, Henderson County Sheriff's Office

Yarinell Vasquez, Department of Social Services

Stephanie Barbosa, Henderson County Sheriff's Office

Mindy Denney, Department of Social Services

Emily Joyner, Safelight Child Advocacy Center

Andrea Robles-Leon, Pisgah Legal

Susan Huter, Safelight

Christina Holtgreven, True Ridge

Christine Gilmore, Safelight Shelter

Whitney Crouse, Children and Family Resource Center

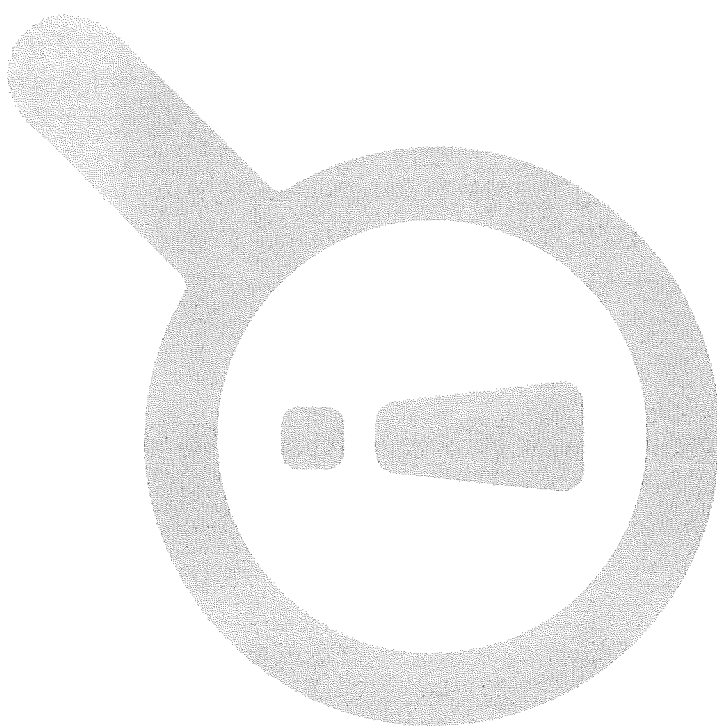
Mike Sutton, Henderson County Public Schools

# AGENDA

- The Problem
- The Process
- The People
- Next Steps



# THE PROBLEM

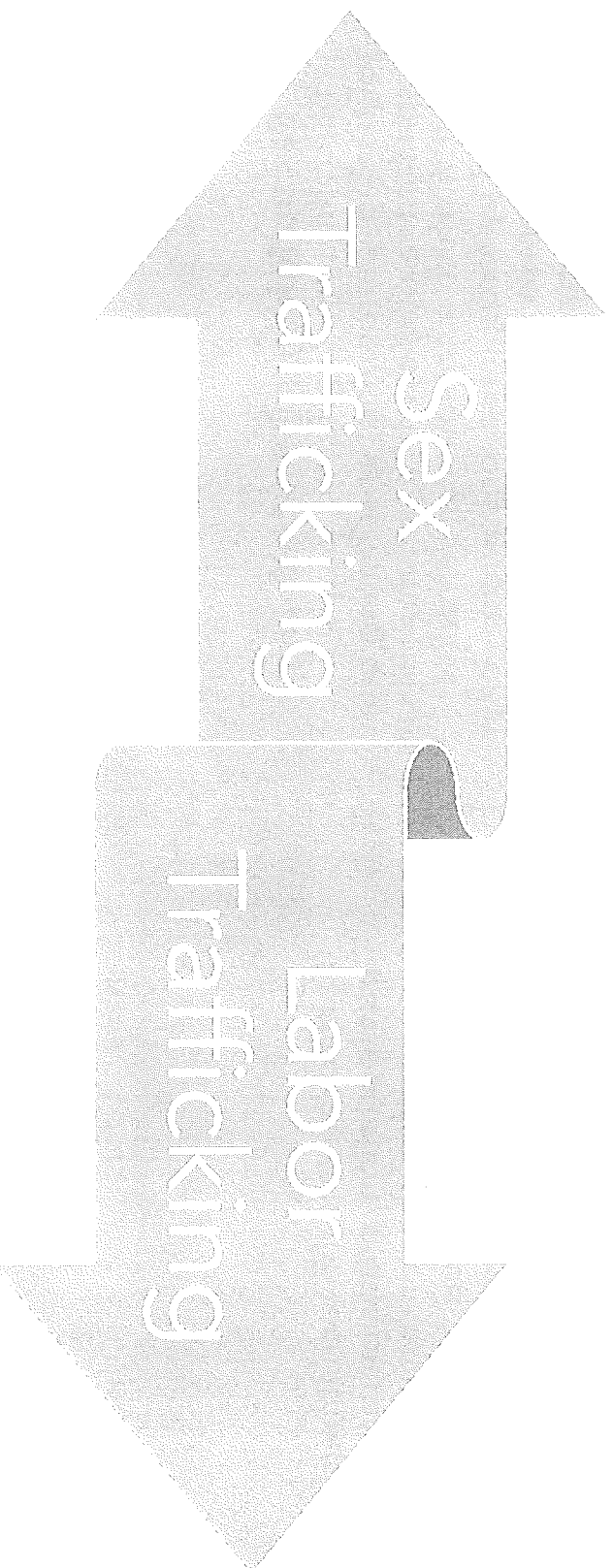


## **WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

The U.S. Department of Justice defines Human Trafficking as:

**A crime involving the exploitation of a person for labor, services, or commercial sex.**

**THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000 DEFINES TWO PRIMARY FORMS  
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**



**Sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(1)(A)).

**Forced labor** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(1)(B)).



# HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

Let's look at the 2021 data from the National  
Human Trafficking Hotline:

Total Trafficking Situations

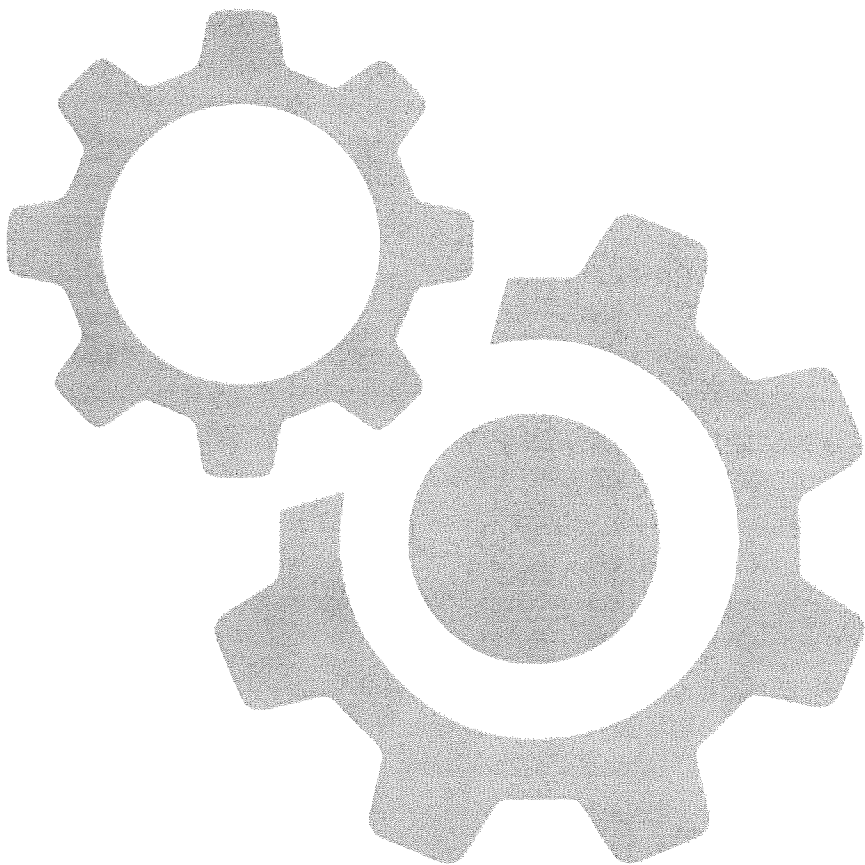
Reported: **10,359**

Total Likely Victims: **16,000+**



# THE PROCESS

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# RECRUITMENT FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

1. Family  
member

2. Intimate  
partner

3. Friend,  
acquaintance,  
coworker

# RECRUITMENT FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

1. Employer

2. Friend

3. Coworker

# TECHNOLOGY'S ROLE IN RECRUITMENT

The internet continues to be the top recruitment  
location Year after Year



# MANIPULATION

Victim  
Selection

Maintain  
Control

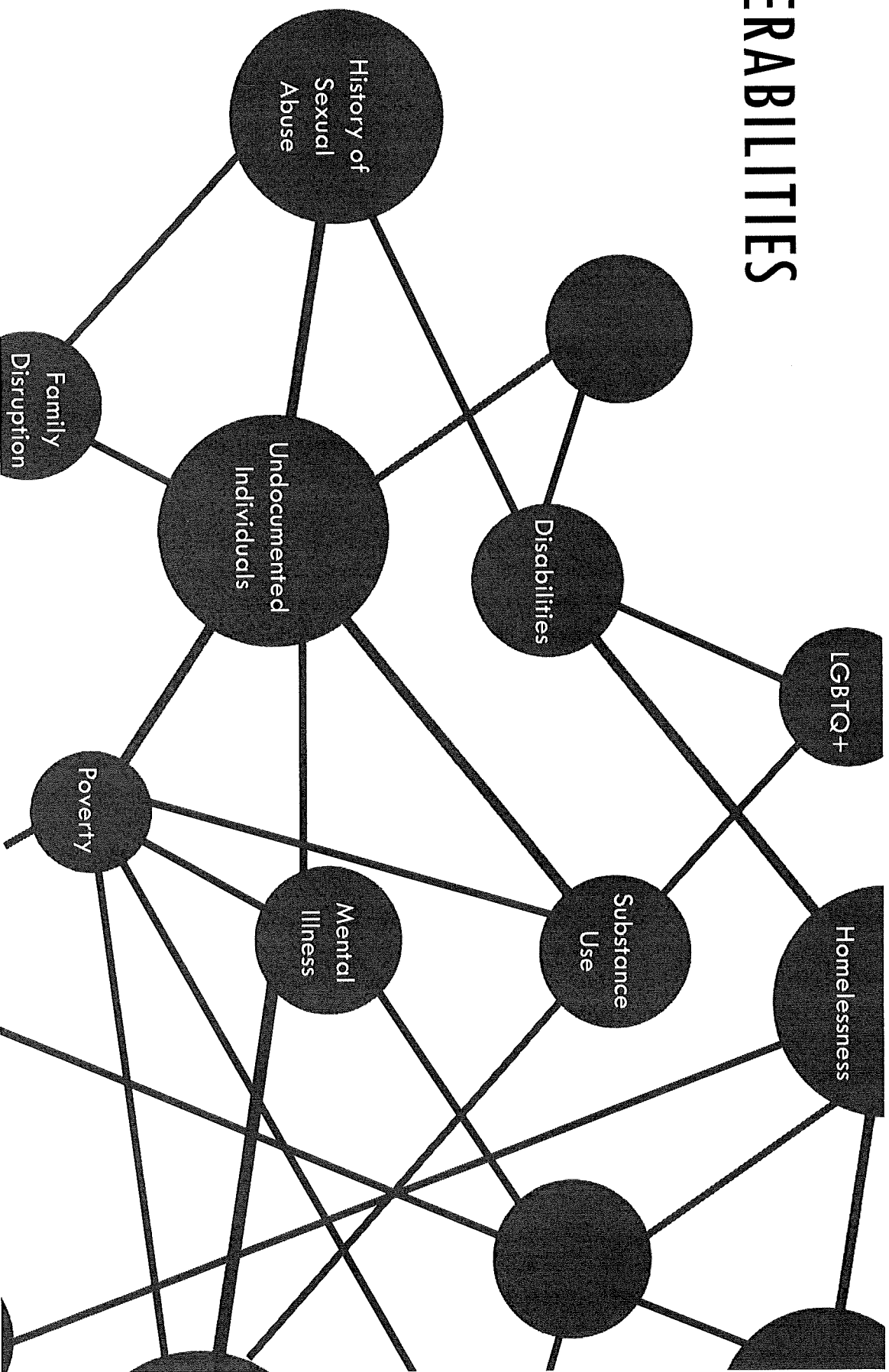
Build Trust

Isolate and  
Exploit

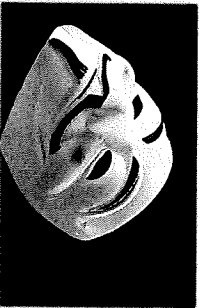
Meet Needs



# VULNERABILITIES



# DISGUISES



**Pretender**

Boyfriend,  
Friend,  
Parent,



**Provider**

Take care of  
basic needs



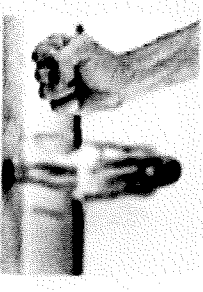
**Protector**

Physical stature,  
Gang related,  
weapons



**Promiser**

Promise of fame,  
wealth, better  
life

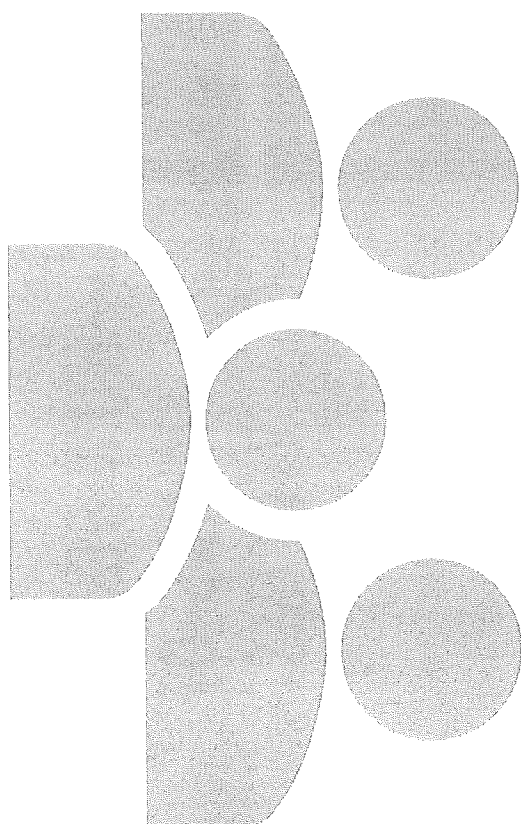


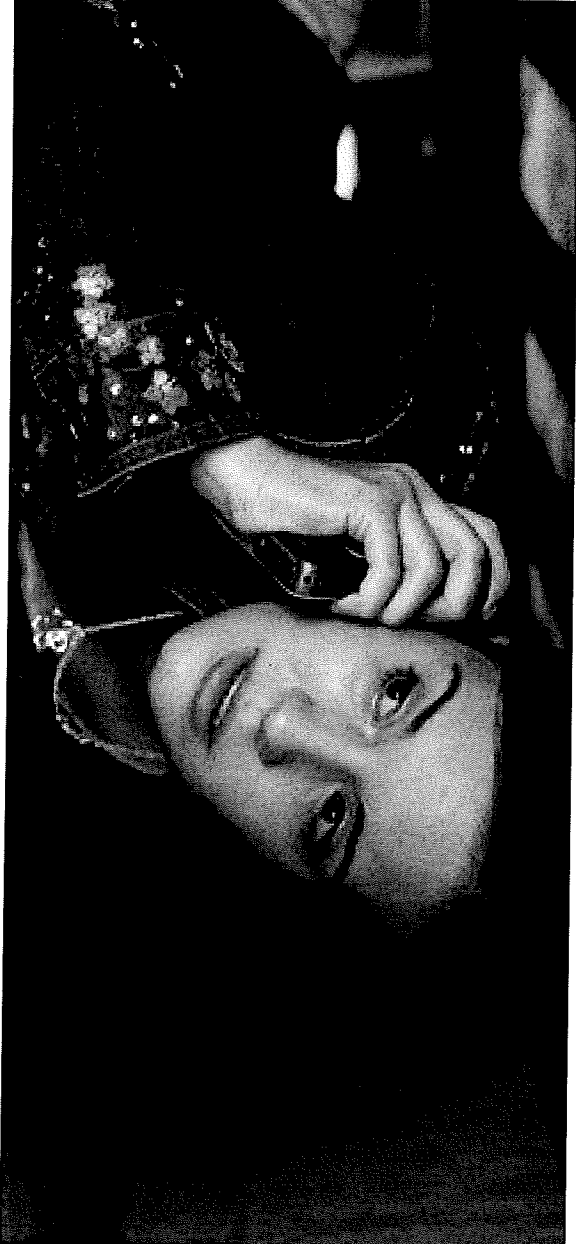
**Punisher**

Violence, threats,  
intimidation

# THE PEOPLE

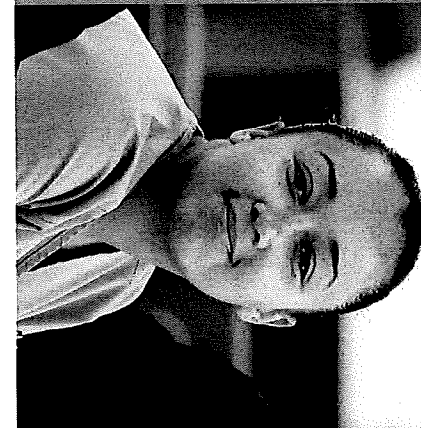
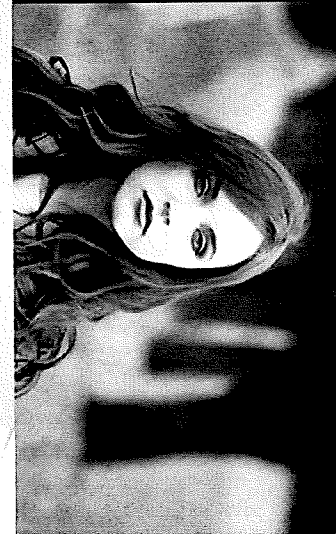
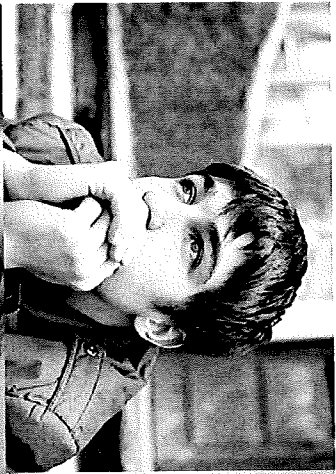
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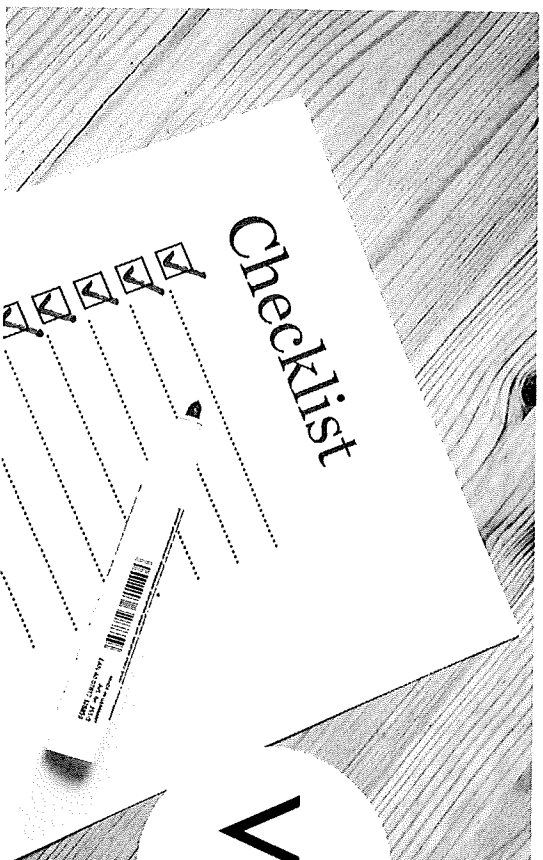
# HOW SOCIETY THINKS OF VICTIMS

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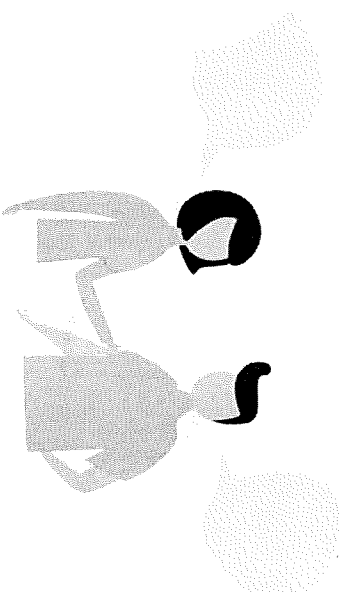




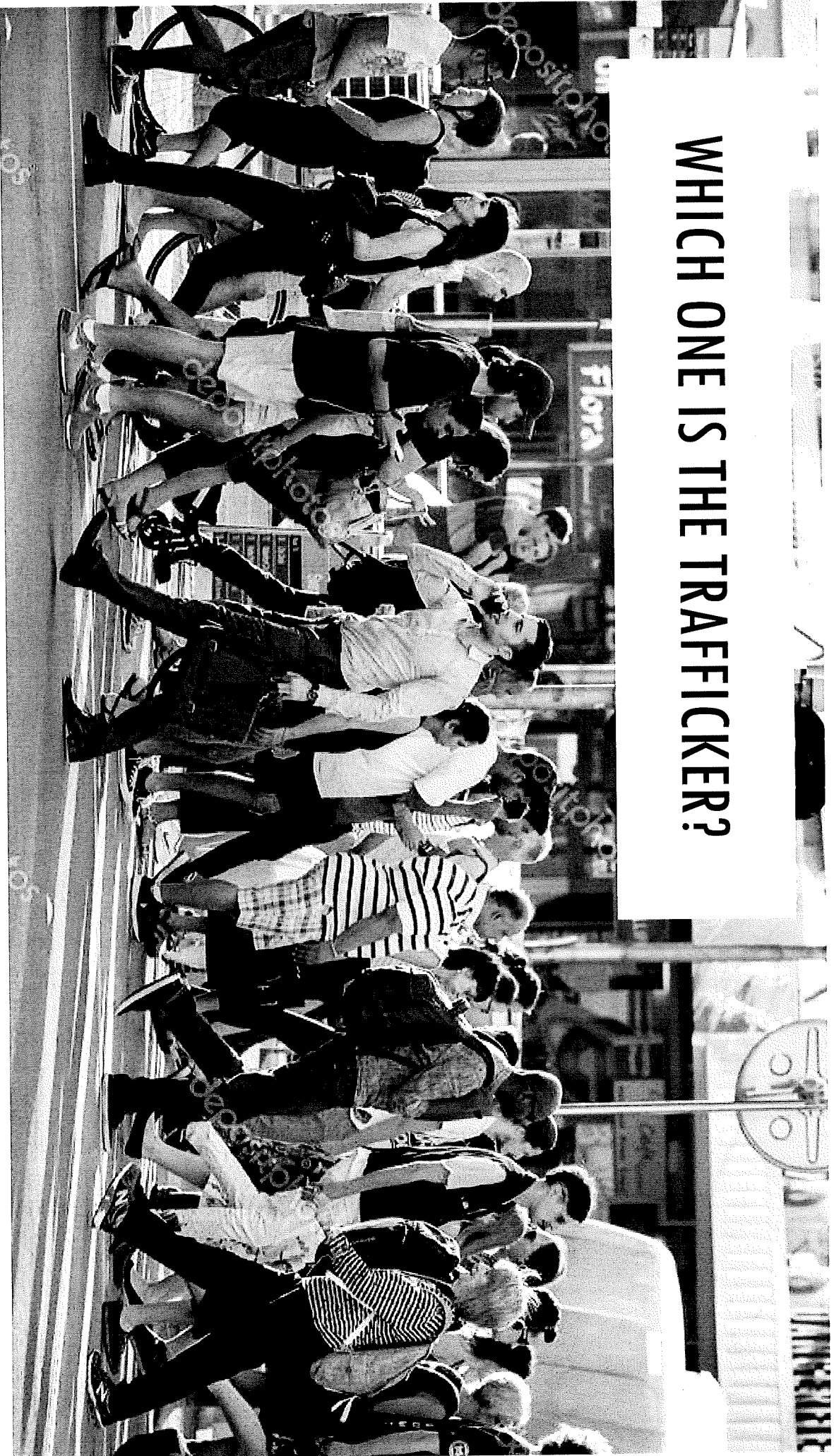
# HOW TO IDENTIFY



VS

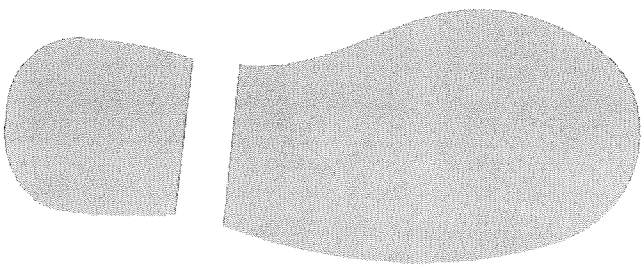
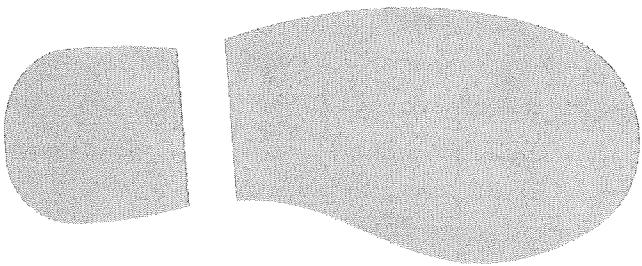


**WHICH ONE IS THE TRAFFICKER?**



# NEXT STEPS

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# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Educate  
Yourself

Be  
Open

Be  
Present

Support

Report

# WHO COULD I CALL TO MAKE A REPORT?

Henderson County DSS

- 828-697-5500

Henderson County Sheriff's Office

- 828-697-4596

Hendersonville Police Department

- 828-697-3025

Fletcher Police Department

- 828-687-7922

Laurel Park Police Department

- 828-697-4911



# RESOURCES



## **Polaris Project**

<https://polarisproject.org/>



## **National Human Trafficking Hotline Website**

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>



## **U.S. Department of Justice**

<https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking>



## **North Carolina Department of Administration**

<https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/couyouth-women-trafficking>



## **Homeland Security- Blue Campaign**

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

# QUESTIONS?



# THANK YOU!

Curious how to reach our team?

Questions regarding today's presentation, available resources, or future training requests can be submitted to our team email at [hendersoncountyhtrt@gmail.com](mailto:hendersoncountyhtrt@gmail.com)

