

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## MYTH OR FACT?

### DEFINITION:

*Human Trafficking is when an individual, under force, fraud, or coercion, is made to perform commercial sex acts or forced labor, or when the individual induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years old.*

### THAT'S A MYTH

Human Trafficking requires the transporting of victims across state or national borders to exploit them.

Most trafficking victims are physically unable to leave their situations because they are held against their will.

If the victim consented to be in their initial situation, it can't be trafficking because they "knew better."

Traffickers usually target victims they do not know.

### THAT'S A FACT

The crime of human trafficking does not require moving or transporting a person. Victims can be exploited in their own state, town, and homes.

Kidnapping or force is not required. More instances involve psychological means like deceit, manipulation, or threats.

Initial consent prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion is not relevant to the crime.

Victims often are targeted by friends, family, and romantic partners.

### NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

**888-373-7888**  
**OR TEXT 233733**

**South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force**  
**[HumanTrafficking.scag.gov](http://HumanTrafficking.scag.gov)**