

HOME CYBER DEFENSE

ARE YOU SAFE FROM CYBER CRIME?

WEEKLY

Volume #4 - Issue #155

April 13th, 2018

This is a weekly publication dedicated to your personal cyber security. Our newsletter is designed to help the public recognize and avoid cyber threats while they are online. If you are not a subscriber, please go to HomeCyberDefense.net to sign up.

How Human Traffickers Use the Internet



The congress recently passed new and strict laws fighting sex trafficking, but nothing is a better deterrent than education. The information in this newsletter is aimed at young people and is reproduced from our online safety course for teenagers. If you have children or grandchildren, they need to read this article.

Sex trafficking is a much bigger problem in our country than many people realize. Many people in the United States who are being trafficked for sex are U.S. citizens, and the average age at which victims are first trafficked is between 11 and 14. Both wealthy and poor children are at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, and often the pimps that first solicit victims to be trafficked do not act the way you would expect based on popular perceptions of sex trafficking. As a teenager, you may be unaware you have been targeted by a trafficker until it is too late, so it is imperative for you to understand exactly how traffickers work to recruit the most vulnerable.

Have you ever met a handsome and charming guy at the mall or at a sporting event, or found yourself answering a text from someone you randomly met, and suddenly got strange vibes? If so, it is very possible you were targeted for human trafficking. As a teen, you probably think “It will never happen to me,” but if you are a young female, it is extremely important to be aware of your surroundings. This does not mean you need to live in fear and always distrust people. Just make sure you educate yourself and take the necessary precautions, you should be safe from dangerous strangers (especially the ones you would never expect, like the good-looking ones.)

Traffickers use a variety of means to carry out their mission. One of their targets is young girls with low economic status. These parents oftentimes are working more than one job, leaving their children for extended lengths of time without proper supervision. Another method is outright kidnapping and luring girls into a dangerous situation. Traffickers use a variety of tactics which vary from affection and love, to something as simple as food, or finding a lost pet.

Human trafficking is growing and changing due to the advancements of technology, in particular, social media. It takes less than a minute to create a fake Facebook page and lure a young, vulnerable girl. This is why it is

essential that young people are using the Internet and social media in a safe way. Following the guidelines we outline in upcoming lessons on securing your social media can add increased safety from online predators. Do not add people you met at the mall for five minutes. Even if you don't think you post very often, the few things you have posted can reveal a lot about you as a person. These little pieces of information are perfect for a trafficker to discover where you live, the type of people you associate with, your goals and dreams in life... Everything they need to lure you in as their slave. It's okay to use social media, just do it in a safe way.

Parents! More and more of these local traffickers are young and charming guys that know exactly what to say in order to make a girl fall in love with him. Many times these traffickers take the time to get very close by becoming a boyfriend. Always make sure you meet your child's boyfriend, and if you sense something strange or suspect odd behavior, be sure to investigate and TELL HER. You might be the bad guy at first, but by planting the seed of "Maybe he's not the best guy," and by providing specific examples of shady behavior, you are teaching her what to look for in a man. These simple lessons will prevent her from being so easily manipulated. Also, be knowledgeable about who she talks with online and on social media.

Exploitations of a victim's shame or low self-esteem is one of the biggest strategies traffickers will use to lure young girls to fall for their tricks. As a teenager, you must learn confidence at a very long age. Honestly, the younger they get this idea through their head, the better. Confidence will not only help you prevent being targeted by a trafficker, but will also serve as the foundation for a much more positive and happy lifestyle. Instead of relying on others for my happiness or self-worth rely on yourself. This will prevent you from reaching out to charming strangers who could be potentially dangerous. Instead, stick with a trusted group of friends, and if you happen to meet a guy somewhere, ALWAYS make sure he meets your family and friends. If he's not okay with that, then he doesn't need to be spending any time with you!

For more lessons on keeping your loved ones safe, enroll them in one of our online cyber safety courses. We live in a world with unique dangers in which both the young and old need to be prepared.

This Week's Cyber Alerts:

Alert Issued 4/11/18 [Securing Critical Infrastructure in the Wake of Unprecedented Cyber Threats](#)

Alert Issued 4/10/18 [Students Fell Prey to Phishing Attacks Conducted by Their Universities](#)

Alert Issued 4/10/18 [YouTube Suffers Music Video Hack](#)

Alert Issued 4/8/18 [ATMJackpot Malware Stealing Cash From ATMs](#)

Alert Issued 4/5/18 [Panera Bread Leaked Customer Data on its Website for Months Despite Warnings](#)

Alert Issued 4/4/18 [How to Check iPhone Battery Health in iOS 11.3](#)

Alert Issued 4/3/18 [Hackers Take 5 Million Payment Cards from Saks, Lord & Taylor Stores](#)

**Alert Issued 4/2/18 [Facebook Starts Fact Checking Photos:Videos](#)
[Facebook Starts Fact Checking Photos:Videos](#)**

Alert Issued 3/30/18 [Security Flaw in Grindr Exposed Locations to Third-Party Service](#)

Alert Issued 3/29/18 [Your Online Identity Sells for \\$1,170 on the Dark Web -- Here's How to Block the Sale](#)

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