

## Human Trafficking – Methods of Traffickers

**Human trafficking is based on the deception and exploitation of innocent, unsuspecting people. Common methods used to traffic humans include:**

- Seduction and romance.
- False job advertisements.
- Sale by family.
- Recruitment through former slaves.
- Abuse of religious beliefs.
- Abduction.
- Forced pregnancy or sale.

**Seduction and Romance:** One of the most common methods of human trafficking is the use of seduction and romance. In these cases, a trafficker seduces someone in order to force them into prostitution or other illegal work. Traffickers form romantic relationships with their victims; however, the relationship quickly turns into an emotionally abusive one. Once the bond is formed, blackmail and violence are often used to intimidate victims into compliance.

**False Job Advertisements.** Traffickers entice victims with false job advertisements or travel opportunities. They post job opportunities on legitimate websites, using a registered business as a front and target places where they know people are looking for work or ways to leave, in countries experiencing economic, political, or civil instability. These jobs are often in industries such as the hospitality or tourism industry, construction, agricultural work, mining or other labor-intensive work.

**Sale by Family.** In some areas of the world, unimaginable levels of poverty, debt, desperation, and displacement cause families to sell their children to traffickers. It is also the pressure to alleviate these hardships and bring some money to the family that causes some families to sell a child into modern slavery. Traffickers look for families in countries where recruiting from poor families might go unnoticed.

**Recruitment by Former Victims.** In some cases, former slaves might recruit new people into the trafficking network. They may earn ‘commission’ from their exploiters for each new person they recruit or be promised greater freedoms if they do so.

**Abuse of Religious Beliefs.** Religious beliefs are often exploited by traffickers as a way to recruit and coerce victims and ensure compliance. This is achieved through suggestions that this is the way things are meant to be and ‘God’s will’. Victims may take oaths, swearing that they will obey their trafficker, repay their ‘debts’ and not run away. These oaths act as psychological bonds, placing victims in a state of compliance without having to use threats or violence.

**Abduction.** Although other methods using trickery and fraud are more common, traffickers also kidnap and abduct victims.