HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Pennington County Sheriff’s Office
West River Human Trafficking Task Force Chair
HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITION

- SDCL 22-49-1
  - No person may recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain, by any means, another person knowing that force, fraud or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in prostitution, forced labor or involuntary servitude.
  - Nor may any person benefit financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in the acts set forth.
Investigations in SD have uncovered dozens of victims of sex trafficking, most of whom are from South Dakota.

Several of the victims had endured childhoods of abuse and neglect.

Many were encountered by their traffickers during periods of drug addiction and or homelessness.

Many were struggling to care for family members, including their own young children.

Several have been identified as victims in more than one case.
West River Human Trafficking Task Force

- **Mission Statement:** South Dakota’s West River Human Trafficking Task Force exists as a collaboration of diverse organizations and individuals connected to combat the issue of trafficking in persons, by raising awareness, providing information and education, advocating for prosecution of offenders and supporting human trafficking victims and survivors.

- **Objective:** To help prepare Western South Dakota to meet the challenges Human Trafficking presents.
TASK FORCE BREAKDOWN

- Law and Policy
- Public Awareness
- Native American/Tribal Initiatives
- Education and Resources Direct Victim Services
- Fund Raising
- Rally Team
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

- Constant traffic in & out of hotel room staying a short period of time
- Presence of apparent bodyguard, “look-out”
- Numerous girls in hotel room (controlling male or female figure with them) usually does most of the talking
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture
- Restricted/scripted communication
- Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features/using false identification
- Girls with excess amount of cash
- Several Hotel room keys
- Rooms commonly paid for in cash
- Have no or few personal possessions; may have no or very little luggage
- Inconsistencies in story or no knowledge of current or past whereabouts

Never interfere with a situation or attempt to assist a victim.

Alert your designated manager and contact your local Law Enforcement at 605-394-2151 or 605-394-4131.