

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING - COMMON INDICATORS

As responsible global citizens we all have an obligation to raise awareness about human trafficking and play our part by reporting any suspicious activity which may indicate trafficking.

The following are examples of indicators that may suggest something is wrong. The list is by no means exhaustive. It is not the case that a set number of indicators will equate to a person being a victim of trafficking. One or a combination of factors could suggest a person is a victim, so each case should be considered on its own merits. Many of these indicators may apply to both adults and children (under 18 years of age).

***TIP: Your instinct is the most important tool. If you feel something is not quite right then it's worth alerting the authorities (whether the indicator is listed here or not!)***

### POTENTIAL VICTIM

#### **The passenger's demeanour:**

- Looks around them anxiously at check in. Reacts as if they are being watched by someone who is not an obvious travelling companion
- Looks intimidated
- Acts as if instructed by another, but may not appear to be travelling with anyone
- Signs of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Wears inappropriate clothing for their age or the weather conditions or looks particularly uncomfortable in their clothing
- Appears expressionless or unhappy
- Lack of interest in engaging in activities, lack of interest in engaging with others
- Hostility (annoyed and easily irritated, temper outbursts)
- Appears to be suffering discomfort
- Appears sedated or incoherent
- Signs of injuries or scars that could be the result of an assault
- Does not behave in a way that is seen to be typical of someone their age
- Appears fearful or anxious
- Travelling without luggage or personal effects or inappropriately small sized luggage (e.g. cabin luggage only on a long-haul flight)
- Seems out of place – appears to be from a rural area travelling overseas for the first time with only a vague or no reason for travelling to Ireland
- Booking made last minute, by someone who is not travelling, or paid for in cash.

#### **Relationship with (an)other passenger(s):**

- Appears nervous, withdrawn, afraid - especially of the person they are accompanied by
- Checked in with/ by someone who is sitting in another part of the plane for no apparent reason
- Groups of school children travelling where one child appears out of place - less well off or educated than the others, without peers in the group, speaking with a different dialect or regional accent
- Avoids eye contact with accompanying passenger or appears unduly submissive (unless from a county where this is the social norm)
- Children travelling without parents or close family or children who do not seem to fit the family group
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves - observed by an 'escort'
- Does not speak the same language as the person(s) they are travelling with (especially if there is a noticeable age gap or difference in ethnicity)

- Refers to an accompanying passenger as uncle and auntie
- Subjected to insults, abuse, threats or violence by accompanying passenger
- Travel documents / passport/ money are held by someone else.

**Passenger's ability to answer questions:**

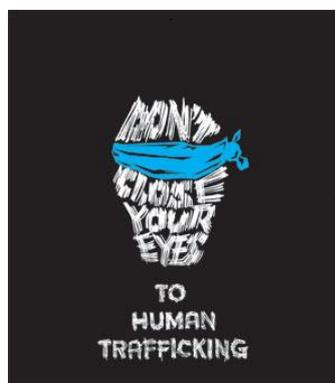
- Unsure of their own travel route. Does not know what country they are in/ where they are transiting/ their intended destination
- Can only answer specific security or immigration related questions, answers appear to be rehearsed. Unable to answer more general questions – what's your name, where are you from, how old are you, etc. Provide no credible answers about the purpose of the travel, their employer or tourist activities.
- Difficulties completing basic details on landing card (e.g. name, DoB, nationality) without referring to documentation or asking another passenger.

**POTENTIAL TRAFFICKER**

- Has been seen travelling with different children or females or groups of men previously
- Appears to be leading a group who do not know each other but are not on a tour
- Seen with another passenger, but then disassociates from them at check in, on board and through security/immigration controls
- Controls all aspects of transport arrangements from check in through to the completing of a landing card
- An unexplained increase in the levels of supervision close to landing
- A significantly older male acting as if he were the boyfriend of an underage/ young female.

**HOW FLIGHT ATTENDANTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- Be observant as you pass through airports, if you see anything suspicious contact the authorities.
- Be observant of passengers on board your flights.
- Trust your instincts, if something does not feel right take time to explore the situation further and report to the authorities if appropriate.
- In particular pay attention to children who seem uncomfortable with their travelling companion. Signs to be wary of include:
  - if the child does not seem alert or seems drugged, this includes drugged babies
  - if the child is not free to speak
  - if the child is dressed in shabby clothes but the adult(s) accompanying them are well dressed
  - signs of physical abuse.



[www.blueblindfold.gov.ie](http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie)