

Human Trafficking and Technology: Youth and Families

How human traffickers are reaching children online:

- Traffickers can now reach out to vulnerable children, teens, and adults on any application that allows for direct messaging.
 - Tik Tok
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
 - Pinterest
 - SnapChat
 - Twitter
 - Fortnite
- Additionally, there are dating apps such as Tinder, Bumble, Grinder, and MeetMe that expose people to human traffickers without knowing.

What you and your family can do today to stay safe from human traffickers online:

- It is helpful for parents to be vigilant of all apps and suggests parents track their children's phones and laptops.
 - Always have your privacy settings at the strictest possible setting.
 - Always have the location setting turned off.
 - Never post your location or check in at specific locations.
 - Only have contacts that you actually know in real life.
 - Periodically check your privacy settings. Updates may cause your settings to revert back.

Apps that fight human trafficking:

- **Redlight Traffic:** Allows citizens to report suspicious activity that might be related to human trafficking. Users can submit reports under 3 categories. All reports are then shared with local authorities.
 - Business
 - Person
 - Vehicle
- **The STOP App:** Similar to Redlight Traffic, but with additional features of attaching up to 3 photos and 1 video that will be submitted with the report. They will then will out who they observed, where they observed, and what they observed. Data then goes directly to the STOP THE TRAFFIK's database.
- **Lifeboat ACT Game:** Apps allows users how to identify trafficking in people they love. A game that allows you to see what manipulation and suspicious activities look like. The app combines education with fun and users learn that everyone can play a role in identifying victims of human trafficking.
- **TraffickCam:** Created with frequent travelers in mind. Trafficking victims are often photographed in hotel rooms, the app lets users photograph their hotel rooms and upload them to TraffickCam's database. These pictures are then analyzed and run against a database of pictures provided by law enforcement to find sex trafficking locations. The app also pinpoints the location of its users when they upload a picture, so that if a match is found, the local authorities know exactly where to look. With an 85% success rate, even the FBI agrees that this app could revolutionize how they conduct their investigations.

References:

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Women at Risk International. <https://warinternational.org/apps-that-fight-human-trafficking/>

Michigan State Police <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/>