

Date

School Name
Name, Principal
Address
Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear

My name is _____. I am deeply committed to anti-human trafficking activism. This form of modern slavery largely affects children and adolescents, and must not be tolerated. The physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual scars this exploitation inflicts are extensive, severe, and long-lasting. As someone who has dedicated their life's work to improving and enhancing the lives of children, we are confident that you are an ally in the fight against human trafficking.

Children forced into modern slavery often come from familial circumstances that are quite challenging; however, this is not always the case. The adult who places the child in servitude may be a family member or friend, they may also be a stranger who cons, lures or kidnaps the child. Their young lives are then desecrated by abuse, forced labor, domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation. Traffickers are known to prey on students in elementary and high school. They may target minor victims through social media websites, telephone chat-lines, after-school programs, shopping malls, bus depots, or through friends and acquaintances who recruit students.

The following are indicators that school staff and administrators should be aware of concerning a potential victim:

- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis and/or has unexplained absences
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear
- Lacks control over his or her schedule and/or identification or travel documents
- Is hungry, malnourished, deprived of sleep, or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

Additional signs that may indicate sex trafficking include:

- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions
- Acts uncharacteristically promiscuous and/or makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" who is noticeably older
- Attempts to conceal recent scars

Additional signs that may indicate labor trafficking include:

- Expresses need to pay off a debt
- Expresses concern for family members' safety if he or she shares too much information
- Works long hours and receives little or no payment
- Cares for children not from his or her own family

If you suspect that a child is a victim of human trafficking, you may make a report in the following ways:

- In the case of an immediate emergency, call your local police department or emergency access number.
- To report suspected human trafficking crimes or to get help from law enforcement, call toll-free (24/7) 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at www.ice.gov/tips.
- To report suspected trafficking crimes, get help, or learn more about human trafficking from a nongovernmental organization, call the toll-free (24/7) National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.
- To report sexually exploited or abused minors, call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST, or report incidents at <http://www.cybertipline.org>.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to consider this atrocity and how it currently affects children and adolescents globally. The 2014 *Global Slavery Index* asserts there are 35.8 million modern-day slaves throughout the world, and 60,100 in the United States. I hope this letter serves as motivation for you and your staff to actively address this crisis. We pray that you will never have cause to alert authorities regarding one of your students, but please remain vigilant. There are very young victims of modern slavery who are waiting for someone to reach out and save them from a devastating life.

Thank you,

Your Name