



Middle School Engagement- Grade 8

Online Enticement Can Lead to Sex Trafficking

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION IS THE SOLUTION

Connect for Freedom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to providing free **online safety** and **human trafficking awareness** materials to education stakeholders.



Lesson



How to Protect Yourself &
Your Friends

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction to Human Trafficking
 - Human Trafficking Stats
 - Why Is It Important for Students to be Educated on It
2. DHS “Human Trafficking 101” Video (4 min.)
3. Youth Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities
4. DHS “Mia’s Story 1 & 2” Video (4 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
5. DHS “Mia’s Story 3 & 4” Video (4 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
6. NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking Handout
 - Red Flags
7. Activity

A heatmap of the United States showing human trafficking hotspots. The map uses a color scale from blue (low density) to red (high density). Major hotspots are visible in the Northeast corridor, the Great Lakes region, and along the West Coast. Two inset maps in the bottom left corner show Alaska and Hawaii, also with heatmap overlays. The text 'Human Trafficking is on the rise' is centered over the map.

Human Trafficking

is on the *rise*

Polaris Freedom
happens
here.

ANALYSIS POWERED BY

 Palantir

A Pervasive Problem

The Data



The U.S. is the **#1 consumer** of sex trafficking.

US Institute Against Human Trafficking

38% of sex trafficking victims are minors.

Polaris Project

Human trafficking is a
\$150 billion dollar industry.

Polaris

Only **2.7% of human trafficking cases** are prosecuted.

Polaris

The Connection Between Online Enticement & Human Trafficking

In 2023, the CyberTipline received **36.2 million reports** of suspected child sexual exploitation online.

-NCMEC



Online recruitment increased 22% from 2019-2020 and the internet was reported as the top recruitment location for all forms of trafficking.



Facebook had a **125% increase** in reports of online recruitment from 2019-2020.



Instagram had a **95% increase** in reports of online recruitment from 2019-2020.

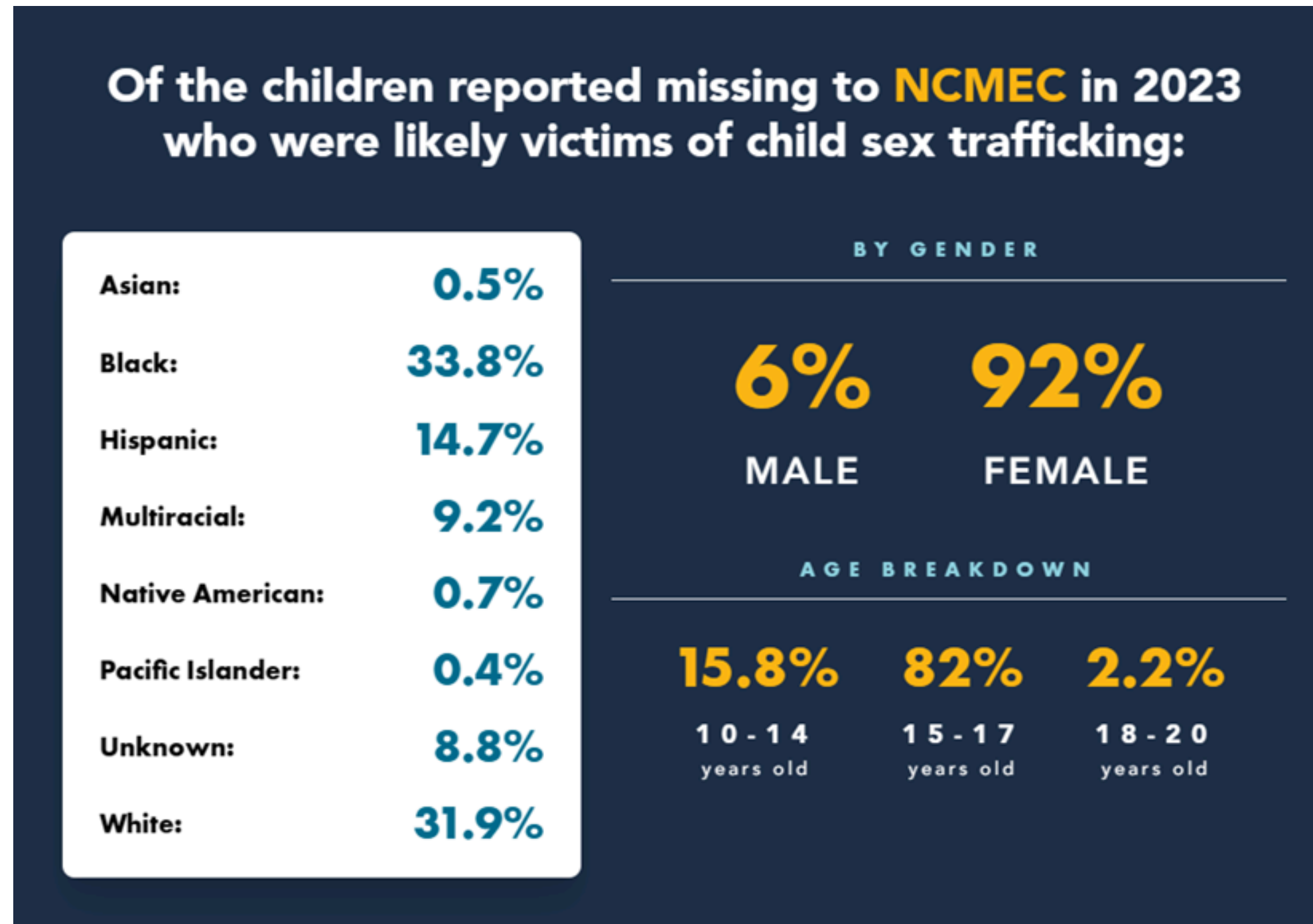
“What is Human Trafficking?” Video

Duration: 4:20 minutes

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/21829>

Child Sex Trafficking Statistics

Of the more than 28,800 missing children reported to NCMEC in 2023,
1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.



Youth Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities

Poverty and/or homelessness

Interaction with foster care or juvenile justice systems

Lack of support networks, like strong relationships with friends, family, or other trusted adults

Gang involvement, especially among youth who identify as female

History of running away

Low self-esteem or being bullied

Experience discrimination due to their race, gender, identity, sexuality, disability, or other personal characteristic



Youth Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities (cont.)



Family history of sexual abuse or violence

Community or familial history of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation

Substance abuse or addictions

Experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event

Cultural-historical trauma (particularly among minority communities)

Being the sole or primary provider for their family

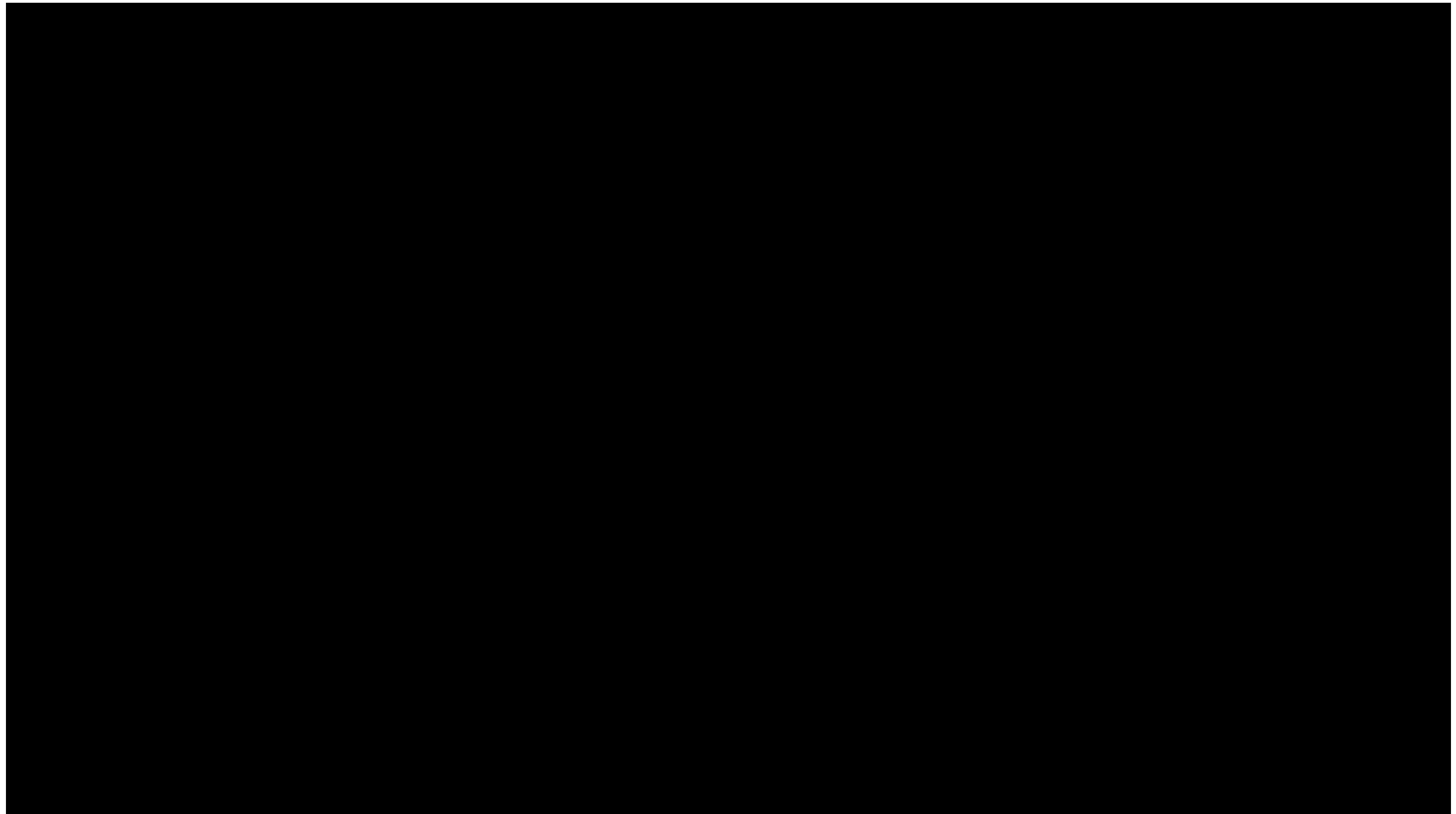
DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 1” Video



Duration: 2:20 minutes

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/27904>

DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 2” Video



Duration: 2:20 minutes

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/36086>

DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 1 & 2” Discussion Questions

The class should get into 3 groups and the teacher will designate each group a question. Each group will answer the question together and then present the answers to the class.

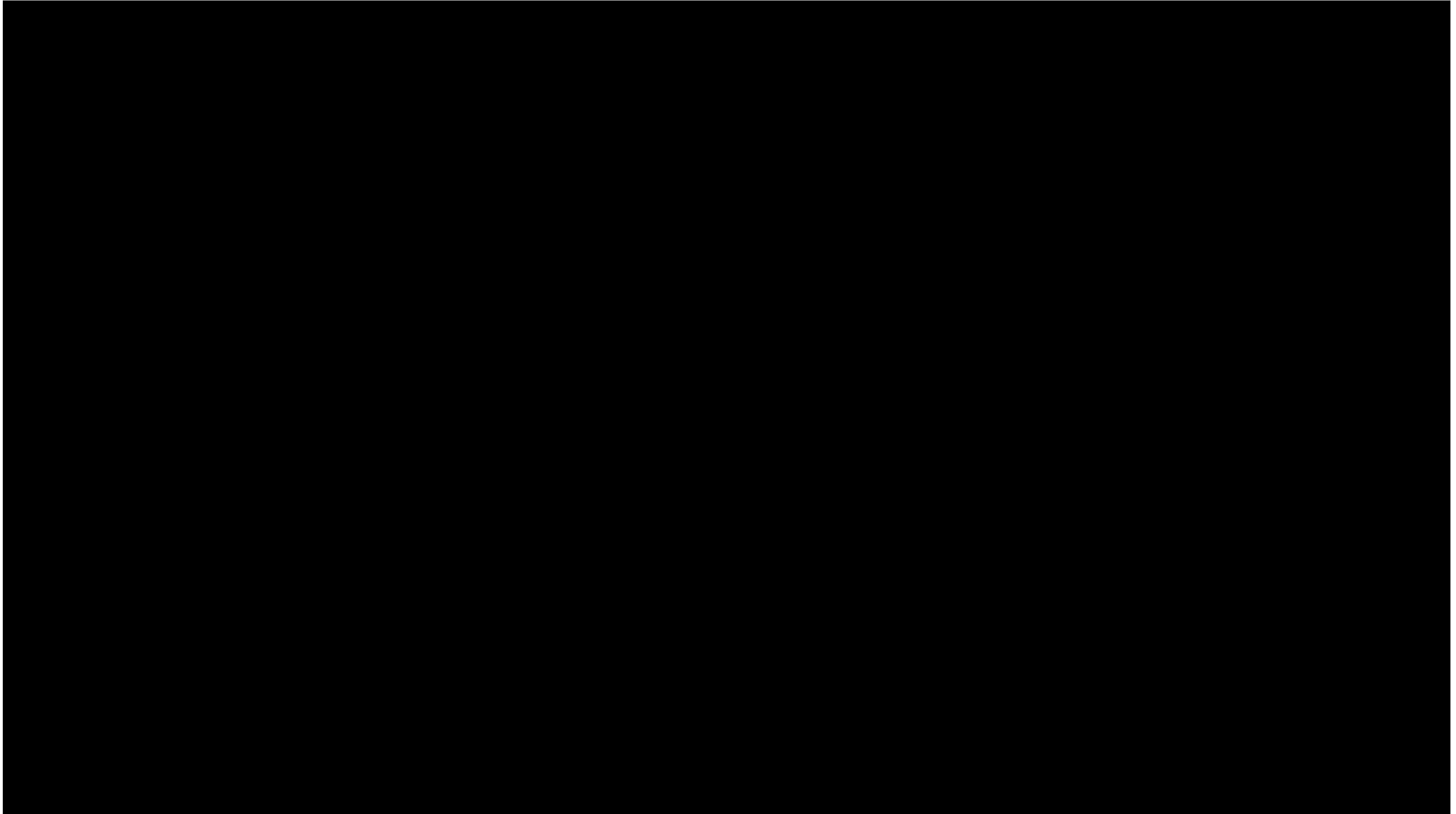


What vulnerabilities did the trafficker prey on?

What grooming and manipulation tactics did you identify?

Why might Mia not want to talk to the guidance counselor?

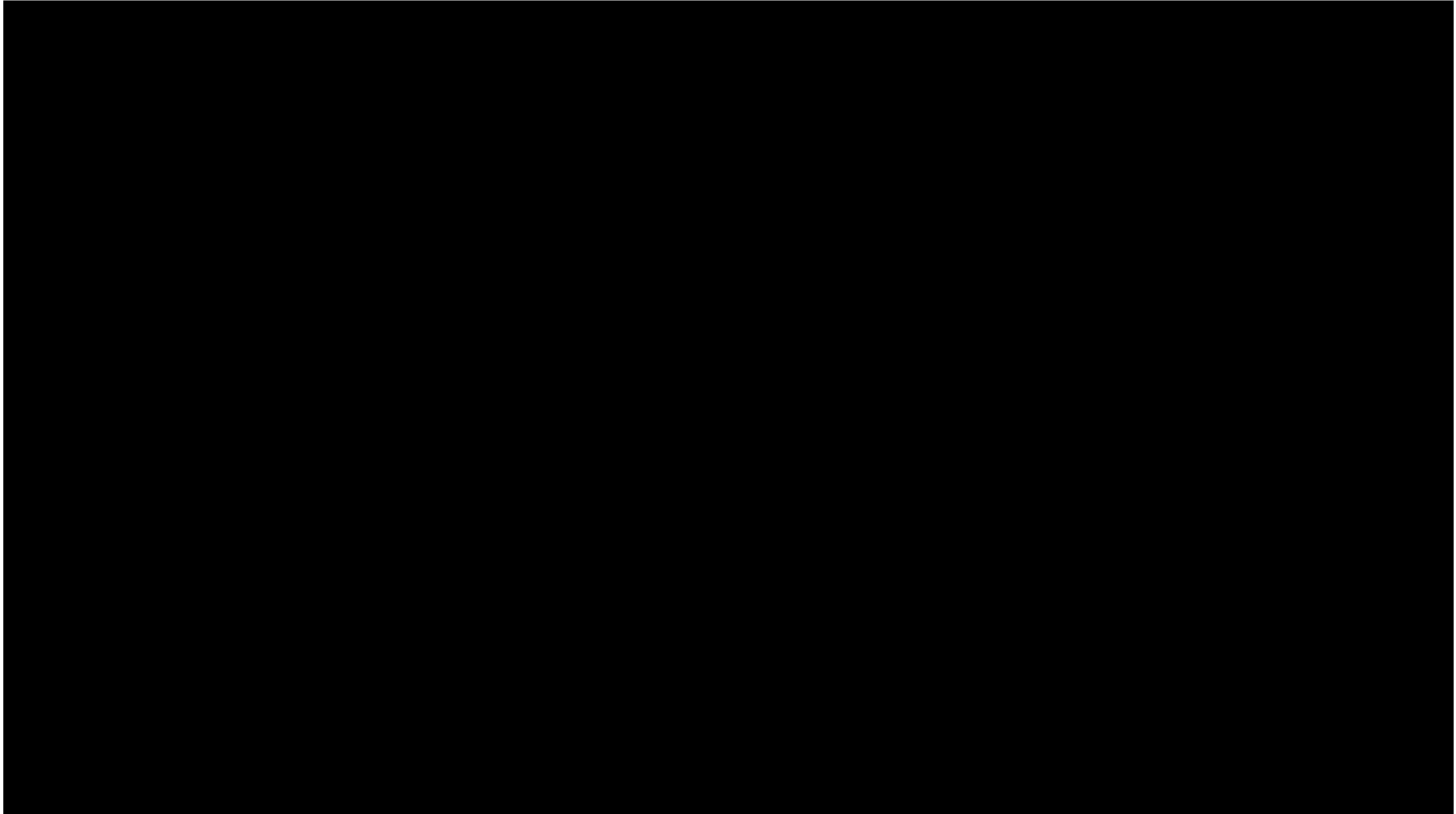
DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 3” Video



Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/36282>

Duration: 2:20 minutes

DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 4” Video



Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/37163>

Duration: 2:20 minutes

DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 3 & 4” Discussion Questions

The class should get into 3 groups and the teacher will designate each group a question. Each group will answer the question together and then present the answer to the class.



What red flags are Mia’s friends observing?

**Mia’s friends do not really know what is going on..
what could they do with the information they have?**

**What are some of the good ways that Mia’s friends
handled the situation? How did they talk to her?**

Activity



Activity

We recommend playing
Connect for Freedom Human Trafficking Kahoot! or
Connect for Freedom Risk Factors Bingo.

THE
END

Lesson Handout from NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking

**Look out for RED FLAGS
in your community.**

- R** – Reluctant to speak
- E** – Exhausted
- D** – Dominated or controlled
- F** – Fearful
- L** – Long work hours
- A** – Alienated from family and friends
- G** – Gifts from older partner
- S** – Signs of abuse

**Report human
trafficking to
the 24-hour
National Human
Trafficking Hotline.**

CALL: (888) 373-7888

TEXT: "HELP" or "INFO"
to BE FREE (233733)



Links to Lesson Materials

[DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 1” Video](#)

[DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 2” Video](#)

[DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 3” Video](#)

[DHS “Mia’s Story Pt. 4” Video](#)

[NJ Coalition Lesson Handout](#)

[Connect for Freedom Human Trafficking Kahoot!](#)

[Connect for Freedom Risk Factors Bingo](#)

Recap of Lesson

The U.S. is the #1 consumer of sex trafficking.

38% of sex trafficking victims are minors.

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar industry.

Only 2.7% of human trafficking cases are prosecuted.

Youth Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities:

- Poverty and/or homelessness
- Interaction with foster care or juvenile justice systems
- Lack of support networks
- Gang involvement
- History of running away
- Low self-esteem
- Being bullied
- Experience with discrimination due to race, gender, sexuality, etc.
- Family history of sexual abuse/violence
- Community or family history of trafficking or commercial sex exploitation
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Being a sole provider for the family