



Educate Our Youth on Online Exploitation

The internet has become a primary tool for human traffickers and online predators, with alarming statistics highlighting the risks.

A recent Federal Human Trafficking Report reveals:

- **62%** of victims in criminal sex trafficking cases are recruited online
- Traffickers use the internet to solicit buyers in **85%** of these cases
- Online sextortion scammers often target kids and teens using fake accounts to solicit inappropriate photos or videos, often leading to blackmail and an alarming rise in suicides

Talk to Your Kids About Online Safety

Set expectations, educate them on risks, and guide them on what to do if something happens.

Be Aware of Coercion Tactics Used by Online Predators

- **Incentives:** Predators often entice children by promising items of value, such as money or gifts, or by sharing images to gain their interest.
- **Deceptive Rapport:** To build trust, predators frequently pretend to be the same age as their targets and adopt similar behaviors or interests.
- **Coerced Recording:** Predators may pressure victims into explicit acts, secretly recording them via video chat or similar platforms.
- **Intimidation:** To maintain control, predators commonly resort to threats, such as threatening to expose explicit material to the victim's loved ones or making claims of self-harm if demands are ignored.

Signs of Online Exploitation in Children

Behavioral Changes

- Unexplained changes in behavior, mood, or appearance

Secretive Relationships

- New or older “friends” the child is secretive about

Social Withdrawal

- Pulling away from, friends, family, or activities they once enjoyed

Inappropriate Sexual Knowledge

- Displaying knowledge of sexual behavior that is not inappropriate for their age

Excessive Online Activity

- Spending a lot of time online, especially late at night

Receiving Unexplained Gifts

- Getting gifts, money, or messages from unknown individuals

Secrecy

- Being secretive about apps or websites they use

If you suspect human trafficking, please report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency

Online Resources for Parents

Visit **FOSI.org** to learn more about topics such as online safety best practices, parental controls, and privacy settings.

Visit **NetSmartz.org** to learn more about topics such as online safety education, preventing exploitation, and promoting responsible internet use.

Please Call Family & Youth to Learn More

337-436-9533 | www.fyca.org
220 Louie Street, Lake Charles, LA

