

# You, the Internet & Predators



If you use any of these...



...**READ ON!**

## MYTH

"Sex trafficking only happens when there is a kidnap."

## FACT

It is not the only way trafficking happens. You may be smart and responsible but there are people online with bad intentions looking for good kids.

## What is Sex Trafficking

- it occurs when someone under 18 years of age is used in any sexual act in exchange **for anything of value**, such as food, shelter, transportation, drugs, or protection. This includes things like taking sexual photos or videos, going to clubs, or giving sexual favors.

More often than not, sex traffickers end up being people who seem trustworthy—that cute older guy in your DMs, the girl from the soccer team you've been texting with, or unfortunately, even a well-known family member.

Instead of kidnapping their victims and keeping them in a dungeon, **they use their victim's love and trust to manipulate** them into **doing whatever they want**, including sexual acts, oftentimes without anyone around them knowing something is wrong.



MYTH

"Porn is not sex trafficking"



FACT

Any photos or videos that are sexually explicit and include minors (someone under 18) are considered sex trafficking.

"It happens only to girls."



Predators will try to talk to any boys or girls who will engage in conversation. You are safe when you refuse to talk to anyone online that you don't know in real life.

## Protect Yourself

aka, be more clever than they



Make sure all of your accounts are private



Don't use the same username in every app and game



Only friend and talk to those people you know (in real life!)



Don't accept digital \$, tips, or gifts in exchange for any picture



All personal info (school, city, phone #, etc.) is private info



Monitor your followers and block people you don't know



Turn your location services off!

## Friend Requests

**red flags**



If the person's account is private and you don't recognize their profile pic or username, don't accept, and don't reply to them. It's not worth the risk!



Check out who they are following. This can be a huge indicator of someone's intentions.



Look into their bios. Although some traffickers are good at hiding their intentions, others are not so subtle.



Stay Safe Middle Schoolers!

# Dangers of Sexting

## 1 It is illegal!

- It's illegal for anyone to possess or send naked photos or videos (aka sexts) of a minor (someone who is under 18), and anyone can be in trouble with the police for distributing "child sexual abuse material" (called CSAM)

## 2 It is harmful long-term

- Pictures can be saved and shared—and may be used against you
- Predators demand compromising photos and remove a youth's personal safety boundaries through intimidation. This is called

## SEXTORTION

according to NCMEC, sextortion predators typically want to get more and more explicit material from the victim, get money or goods from them, or meet with them in person...



### How online grooming takes place

- They try to appear familiar
- They start developing trust
- They ask about secrets or desires
- They slowly move boundaries
- They use direct intimidation

where to look out

Social Media  
Chat apps  
Games  
In person!

it can be anyone - male or female

### online rule #1

Assume that nothing you share on the internet or text messages is private.

That data is stored on the cloud the moment you send it. Even deleted things can be found again.

## Before sending intimate pics or vids to:



### Someone You Know

How well do you actually know them?

If they are your GF/BF, how do you know they won't want to send out revenge porn or post it on websites after the relationship ends?



### Someone You Don't Know

All of the above, AND

You may become a victim of sextortion, which is a form of sex trafficking.

You may be intimidated into meeting with them, meaning you may be physically endangering yourself.

## Take ACTION!

- ✓ Stop talking to them
- ✓ Block them everywhere
- ✓ Report the person to the app
- ✓ Save screenshots of your conversations with them
- ✓ Report them to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) [CyberTipLine.org](https://www.cybertipline.org)
- ✓ Tell a safe adult!

**YOU ARE NOT THE CRIMINAL, THEY ARE**

# VIBE CHECK

### Porn Alert:

It can hurt you.

Exit

- Porn can noticeably change how a person dresses or acts, and predators are watching
- It negatively impacts the way someone views sexuality and can harm their relationships
- By making changes to the brain, it becomes extremely addictive