



# PENNSYLVANIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION "NEWS YOU CAN USE"

SPRING  
2023

## Human Trafficking: Close to Home

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Human trafficking is a devastating global issue that affects millions of people every year. It is a widespread problem that affects not only millions of people worldwide but also their loved ones and friends. It is a crime that involves the exploitations of both men, women and children for forced labor, sex trafficking and organ harvesting. Pennsylvania reports close to 2,000 victims a year. In fact, on April 18th of this year our own Cumberland County Sheriffs' Officer was part of an arrest of 11 men accused of hosting a Sex Trafficking Ring. These acts are a serious crime and the sad reality is that trafficking often takes place in plain sight. Many people unknowingly come in contact with victims. Therefore, it is important to be able to spot the signs of human trafficking to prevent further harm. In this article, we will discuss some ways to identify potential victims of human trafficking and take a look at a case of a young woman who went missing from Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.



### A CASE CLOSE TO HOME

#### **CORINNA PAIGE SLUSSER**



**DOB:** 10/06/1998  
**Sex:** Female  
**HGT:** 5'07"  
**WGT:** 140 lbs.  
**Hair:** Blonde  
**Eyes:** Blue

Corinna Paige Slusser, a 19-year-old woman from Pennsylvania, disappeared in September 2017, and her body has not been found since. Investigations revealed that she was a victim of sex trafficking and was brought to New York City where she was last seen. The case of Corinna Paige Slusser highlights the growing issue of sex trafficking in the United States, particularly among young women. This article provides an overview of the case, the facts surrounding her disappearance, and the broader issue of sex trafficking. The phenomenon of sex trafficking is a global issue, affecting millions of people each year. In the United States, the number of reported cases has been increasing steadily, particularly among young women. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there were 11,500 cases of sex trafficking reported in the United States in 2019. However, this number is likely an underestimate, as many cases go unreported.

Corinna Paige Slusser was one of the victims of sex trafficking. She was born on July 6, 1998, in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Selinsgrove, a small town in central Pennsylvania. She attended Selinsgrove Area High School, where she was an honors student and played softball. In the summer of 2017, Corinna Paige Slusser met a man named Ishi Woney in Pennsylvania. Woney was known to have connections to sex trafficking rings in New York City. He convinced Corinna to travel with him to New York City under the pretense of finding work as a model or dancer. Once in New York City, Corinna was forced into prostitution. She was moved between different locations and was forced to perform sexual acts against her will. She attempted to escape but was unsuccessful. On September 20, 2017, Corinna was last seen leaving a hotel in Queens, New York. Her phone was turned off, and her social media accounts were deleted. Investigations into Corinna's disappearance revealed that she was a victim of sex trafficking. Her case was featured on several television shows, including Dateline and Crime Watch Daily. Despite extensive investigations by law enforcement agencies, Corinna's body has not been found, and no one has been charged with her disappearance.

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### **SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR ON PAGE**

# 1

## PHYSICAL SIGNS OF

One of the most obvious signs of human trafficking is physical abuse. Physical signs are easier to spot and should raise suspicion. Victims may show signs of physical trauma such as bruises, cuts, and broken bones. These signs of abuse will go on untreated. They may look like they are neglecting their physical health hygienically as well. They may appear malnourished or dehydrated. It may appear that they have substance abuse problems. Be alert for unusual scars or tattoos, especially ones that may be related to branding or ownership. Additionally, many trafficking victims may have unusual or restrictive attire, such as hospital scrubs, chains or padlocks. These may seem like obvious things but some traffickers become extremely skilled at keeping their victims quiet. There is a possibility that these victims appear fairly normal but may not look anyone in the eye. They may focus their gaze at the floor instead of looking at you when they speak. These men, women and children are usually scared, anxious and often display symptoms of withdrawal. They may also exhibit signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and appear disoriented or confused. Victims may also avoid authorities or interact in a scripted manner when speaking to officials. In any case, if you fear for someone you have every right to contact law enforcement. Sometimes a small hunch can save someone's

# 2

## LACK OF IDENTIFICA-

In the case that a Law Enforcement Officer does approach one of these victims, another sign may become evident. Victims of human trafficking are often stripped of their identification documents such as passports, ID cards, or Visas. This makes it difficult for them to leave their traffickers or seek help. Be wary of people who do not have any form of identification, or those who are unable to provide a reasonable explanation for



# 3

## SIGNS OF CON-

In many cases, traffickers will exert control over their victims in a variety of ways. Traffickers often control their victims by limiting their communication with the outside world. Victims may be prohibited from speaking to friends and family, or may only be allowed to communicate under supervision. They may even restrict their movements and the way they carry themselves. It is possible they force their victims to work long hours with limited pay and under poor conditions. Victims may also be subjected to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and forced to engage in criminal activities against their will. Pay attention to individuals who appear isolated or unable to communicate freely, especially if they seem to be under the control of someone else.



## **4** LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF WORK OR LIVING CONDITIONS

If a person appears to be working or living in circumstances that they do not fully understand or that seem too good to be true, this may be a sign of trafficking. Traffickers often recruit victims by enticing them with false promises and may offer misleading information on the work or living conditions. Victims may also live in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions, and may be forced to sleep in the same bed or room as several other people. Human trafficking is often associated with forced labor in industries such as agriculture, construction, or domestic work. Victims may appear to be working long hours without breaks, without proper safety equipment or protective gear, or in hazardous conditions. Be wary of individuals who appear to be working without proper compensation, or who appear to be working without proper compensation, or who appear to be work-

## **How You Can Help**

After you feel like you may have recognized signs of Human Trafficking you can start to help by...

### **1** REPORT YOUR SUSPICIONS

If you suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking, it is essential to report your suspicions to the authorities immediately. You can contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "HELP" to 233733. You can also report your suspicions to local law enforcement or child protec-

### **2** PROVIDE SUPPORT

If you are in a position to provide support to a potential victim of human trafficking, it is essential to do so in a way that is safe and respectful. You can offer emotional support, provide access to medical care or legal services, or help the victim find a safe place to stay.

### **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT TRAFFICKERS** **3**

It is important to remember that human trafficking is a dangerous crime, and attempting to confront traffickers can put you and the victim in harm's way. Instead, focus on providing support and reporting your suspicions to the authorities.

### **4** EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Human trafficking is a complex issue, and educating yourself and others about the signs and consequences of trafficking can help prevent it from happening in the first place. You can share information about human trafficking with your community, raise awareness through social media, and support organizations that work to combat trafficking.

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In conclusion, human trafficking is a serious crime that requires immediate action. If you suspect that someone is a victim of trafficking, recognizing the signs, reporting your suspicions, providing support, and educating yourself and others can help to prevent further harm and potentially save lives. Remember, every person has the right to be free from exploitation and abuse, and it is up to all of us to work towards a world where human trafficking no longer exists.

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*www.pasheriffs.org*

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Publications of Interest:

[Human Trafficking General Awareness\(2\) | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#)

[Recognizing the Signs | National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)

[Recognizing Human Trafficking - Polaris \(polarisproject.org\)](#)

[Identifying the Signs of Human Trafficking - Focus on the Family](#)

[Spot the Signs of Human Trafficking - STOP THE TRAFFIK](#)

[Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim - United States Department of State](#)

**PENNSYLVANIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**



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