



How Traffickers Lure People

Stories become weapons in the hands of human traffickers – fantastical tales of romantic love everlasting and happily ever afters, or tall tales about decent jobs, good wages, waiting for vulnerable workers, just over the horizon. Sometimes, the stories themselves raise red flags. Let’s say, for example, a teacher learns her student plans to run away with a man who promises to make her a model. Other times, traffickers or potential traffickers tip their hands through recruitment.

Here are a few situations that might raise concerns:

- A would-be employer refuses to give workers a signed contract, or asks them to sign a contract in a language they can’t read
- A would-be employer charges a potential worker fees for the “opportunity” to work in a particular job
- A friend, family member, co-worker or student appears to be newly showered with gifts or money or otherwise become the object of some kind of overwhelming, fast-moving and asymmetric (young/older; wealthy/struggling) romantic relationship
- A family member, friend, co-worker or student is developing a relationship which seems “too close” with someone they know solely on social media
- A family member, friend or co-worker is offered a job opportunity that appears too good to be true
- A family member, friend or co-worker is recruited for an opportunity that requires them to move far away but their recruiter/prospective employer evades answering their questions or is reluctant to provide detailed information about the job.

Source: Polaris Project.: <https://polarisproject.org/>