Tools for Educators| National Human Trafficking Resource Center
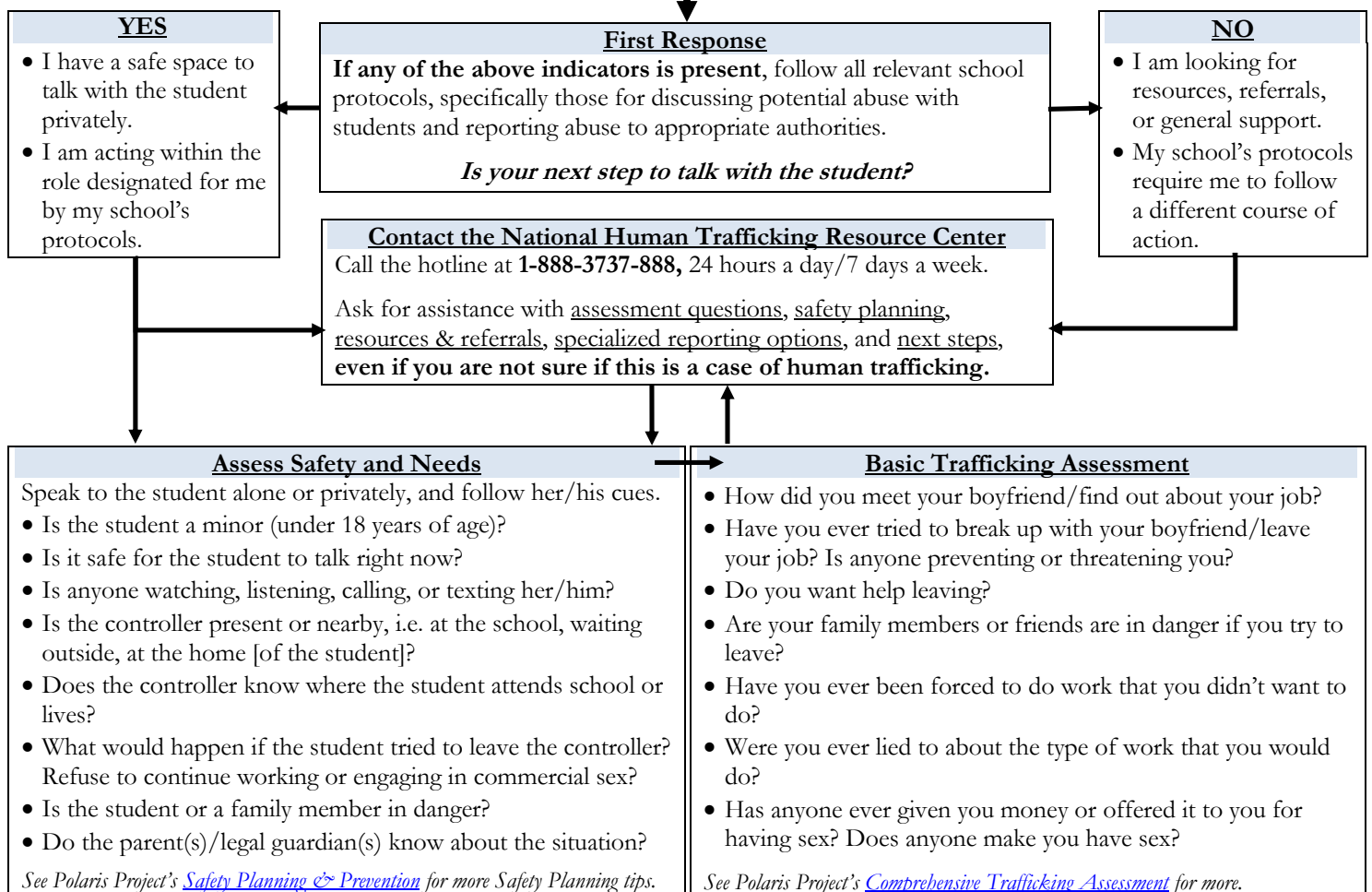
This tool is designed to help educators identify the risk factors and indicators of human trafficking in their students and to offer guidelines on how to respond and access resources. **Disclaimer: This protocol <u>does not</u> substitute for internal or mandated reporting requirements and does not guarantee safety. For emergencies, please contact 9-1-1.**

Red Flags & Indicators

- **Exhibits changes in behaviors or school participation**, i.e. spike in truancy; or performs severely under grade level.
- Student's family shows **signs of frequent migration, periodic homelessness**, disorientation, uncertainty of surroundings.
- **History of homelessness or running away from home.**
- **Reveals signs of abusive or inattentive caregivers**, such as untreated illness or injury, bruises, or scars.
- Displays **heightened sense of duty or obligation to family**, has **unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties**.
- **Works for little or no pay**, or the **employer keeps identification documents and/or confiscates wages**.
- **Accumulates debt to employer** while at work or recruited for work with promises of easy money.
- Exhibits **sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age**.
- Has an **explicitly sexual online profile** via internet community or social networking sites.
- **Involved in relationship with an older man**, receives frequent gifts, may be picked up from school by controller.
- **Engages in sexual activity in exchange for money or anything of value** (can include clothing, food, shelter, other goods and resources). No force, fraud, or coercion necessary if the student is under 18.
- **Knowledge of the commercial sex industry**. Uses lingo: "The Life," "The Game," "Daddy," for boyfriend, "Track" or "Stroll," refers to dates as "Johns" or "Tricks."

Consult Polaris Project's Red Flags & Indicators for a complete list.

YES

- I have a safe space to talk with the student privately.
- I am acting within the role designated for me by my school's protocols.

First Response

If any of the above indicators is present, follow all relevant school protocols, specifically those for discussing potential abuse with students and reporting abuse to appropriate authorities.

Is your next step to talk with the student?

NO

- I am looking for resources, referrals, or general support.
- My school's protocols require me to follow a different course of action.

Contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center

Call the hotline at **1-888-3737-888,** 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Ask for assistance with assessment questions, safety planning, resources & referrals, specialized reporting options, and next steps, **even if you are not sure if this is a case of human trafficking.**

Assess Safety and Needs

Speak to the student alone or privately, and follow her/his cues.

- Is the student a minor (under 18 years of age)?
- Is it safe for the student to talk right now?
- Is anyone watching, listening, calling, or texting her/him?
- Is the controller present or nearby, i.e. at the school, waiting outside, at the home [of the student]?
- Does the controller know where the student attends school or lives?
- What would happen if the student tried to leave the controller? Refuse to continue working or engaging in commercial sex?
- Is the student or a family member in danger?
- Do the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) know about the situation?

See Polaris Project's Safety Planning & Prevention for more Safety Planning tips.

Basic Trafficking Assessment

- How did you meet your boyfriend/find out about your job?
- Have you ever tried to break up with your boyfriend/leave your job? Is anyone preventing or threatening you?
- Do you want help leaving?
- Are your family members or friends are in danger if you try to leave?
- Have you ever been forced to do work that you didn't want to do?
- Were you ever lied to about the type of work that you would do?
- Has anyone ever given you money or offered it to you for having sex? Does anyone make you have sex?

See Polaris Project's Comprehensive Trafficking Assessment for more.

POLARIS PROJECT
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY

Polaris Project | National Human Trafficking Resource Center | 1-888-3737-888 | **NHTRC@PolarisProject.org**