

BASIC STAGES OF GROOMING

for sexual exploitation

END SLAVERY NOW



(v) to prepare or train someone for a particular purpose or activity



TARGETING A VICTIM

Traffickers target victims who have some noticeable vulnerability: emotional neediness, low self-confidence or economic stress.



GAINING TRUST & INFORMATION

Obtaining information about the victim is key. This can be done through casual conversations with the victim or with parents. Traffickers often mix well with other adults.

FILLING A NEED

The information gained allows the trafficker to fill a need in the victim's life, making the victim dependant on them in some way: buying gifts, being a friend, beginning a love relationship or buying soft drugs and alcohol.

“Up until this point they had never tried to touch me, they had not made me ever feel uncomfortable or ever feel unsafe or that they could harm me.”



ISOLATION

The trafficker creates times to be alone with the victim. The trafficker will also begin to have a major role in the victim's life and attempt to distance the victim from friends and family.

ABUSE BEGINS

The trafficker begins claiming that a service must be repaid whether money spent on cigarettes or drugs, car rides or mobile phones. In most cases, the trafficker demands sex as payment for such services.

“I trusted them, they were my friends as I saw it, until one night my main perpetrator raped me, quite brutally as well, in front of a number of people.”

MAINTAIN CONTROL

“Well if I didn't go out and see them they are going to get my mum and are going to rape her.”

In many cases, the trafficker maintains control of the victim through threats, violence, fear or blackmail.