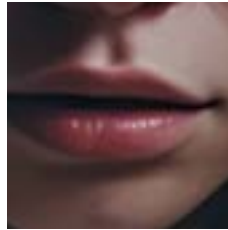


Human trafficking is a terrible crime that can take many forms. It is often linked to intimate partner violence and domestic abuse.



People who experience domestic abuse or intimate partner violence (IPV) may also experience human trafficking. Most commonly, IPV is linked to cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour.



Trafficking by Partners or Family Members

Traffickers may have an intimate or familial relationship with the person they exploit. They might promise a relationship or marriage to trap someone into forced labour. When an individual is trafficked by their partner, family member, or someone from their household, they often endure physical violence, emotional manipulation, and extreme control. This abuse is used to force them into compliance and prevent them from seeking help or escaping.

Vulnerability to Trafficking

Domestic abuse or IPV can make individuals more vulnerable to human trafficking or modern slavery.

- A London-based study found that almost 70% of adult female trafficking victim-survivors experienced domestic violence prior to being trafficked.¹
- Children exposed to domestic violence at home may run away in order to avoid abuse; research indicates that runaway and homeless youth are at particular risk of being trafficked.²

Overlap in the Behaviour of Abusers and Traffickers

Abusers and traffickers exhibit similar patterns of behaviour to assert power and control over another person.

Coercive control is one such pattern, involving tactics to dominate and manipulate the victim-survivor's independence, autonomy, and self-esteem. This can include isolating them from loved ones, monitoring their activities, controlling their finances, and using threats and intimidation. Both abusers and traffickers use these tactics to make those that they are abusing/trafficking feel helpless and prevent them from escaping. They may also limit access to money and resources, making the victim-survivors financially dependent on them. In some cases, abusers/traffickers may even use the threat of violence or separation, such as taking away their children, to manipulate them into compliance.

It's essential to be aware of these issues, as they can happen to anyone. Recognising the signs and supporting those affected can make a difference in ending human trafficking and domestic abuse.