

# BUSING ON THE LOOKOUT IN ILLINOIS


Equipping, educating and empowering school transportation professionals to join the fight against human trafficking.



**30,000+**  
school transportation professionals in Illinois



Over  
**1 million**  
students transported each day



**22 min.**  
BOTL training that could save lives

## The Problem

Human trafficking – or modern-day slavery – is the exploitation of human beings through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor. There are an estimated 40 million victims of human trafficking globally, including thousands of school-age children in the United States. **In 2019, there were 434 victims identified in the state of Illinois via the National Human Trafficking Hotline alone.**

Pimps and traffickers recruit out of schools, online, in shopping malls, as well as the streets and other locations, including bus stops and terminals. Some child victims of trafficking will continue attending school during the day – and riding the school bus – even while they are being trafficked or groomed at night. **As more than half of Illinois school children ride the bus daily, school transportation has a key opportunity to identify and interrupt grooming and/or child trafficking.**



### School bus drivers:

- See students almost every day as they transport them between home and school.
- Are often keenly aware of changes in students' behavior, moods, physical appearance, and attendance.
- Are uniquely positioned to see if new or different people are waiting to pick up a student at the bus stop or at school.
- May observe red flags such as inappropriate dress for the weather or school, bruising or physical trauma, and markings or tattoos that could be a pimp's branding.

*Thank you to all of the school transportation professionals in Illinois who have joined the fight against human trafficking! We are proud to work with you in keeping kids safe from exploitation and trafficking.*

## The Response

Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) is on a mission to train every school transportation professional in North America. In partnership with the Illinois Department of Education, **all school bus drivers across the state of Illinois are being trained on how to recognize and report human trafficking in their everyday jobs.**

If every school transportation employee could be trained to identify the signs of human trafficking and how to report it effectively **imagine how many victims could be recovered** and, potentially, how many traffickers could be arrested!

## Stay In Touch

Here are ways you can continue to learn about BOTL and the issue of human trafficking:

Download the BOTL app:



Follow us on social media:



Visit our website:



# THE BUS INDUSTRY HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

## Look for students who:

- have begun to accumulate frequent absences
- demonstrate changes in moods, such as irritability or panic
- have new gadgets, designer clothes, other material items
- are dressed inappropriately for the weather or school
- show bruising, physical trauma, signs of branding/tattooing
- have a new or different person picking them up/dropping them off at the bus stop.
- acknowledge having a pimp or needing to make a quota

## Take Action

- Watch the BOTL training video
- Spread the word with your colleagues and at home
- Make sure you know your school's reporting policies
- Whenever you suspect human trafficking ... make the call, save lives 1-888-3737-888 (US) | 833-900-1010 (Canada)

## *There's an app for that!*

### **DOWNLOAD THE BOTL APP SO YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED SHOULD THE SITUATION ARISE.**

- How to report potential human trafficking
- Red flags that might indicate human trafficking for school transportation and transit/motorcoach professionals
- Resources to learn more about the issue of human trafficking including videos, books, and podcasts

**To download, search "Busing on the Lookout" in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or scan the QR code on this flyer with your phone camera.**



**Download the app!**