

### »» What does it mean to be “vulnerable”?

- Defenceless
- Feel powerless
- Being inexperienced
- Being naïve

**To Exploit someone** = to take advantage of someone  
= to find and use someone’s weak spots

**Threat** = when a person says they will hurt you or someone you love if you don’t do what they ask

**Force** = when a person makes you do things you don’t want to do by beatings or physically forcing you to do it

### »» Red Flags of a vulnerable child in need of interventions:

- Jumping from school to school
- Not living with a legal guardian
- Not seen as a victim because of their sexual orientation
- Have to figure out life on their own
- Unstable family or home environment
- A child who feels unloved and unaccepted by family and friends
- A migrant child who is unaccompanied and separated from family

- A child who is accompanied by an adult who is posing as a relative/guardian
- Often running away or goes missing for days or weeks
- Frequently absent from school
- Has a much older boyfriend/girlfriend/companion who transports them to/from school
- Appears fearful, intimidated or tense when asked about home/boyfriend/family situation
- Abused at home or by relatives.

### »» What children need:

- Lots of genuine LOVE, and acceptance
- Sense of belonging
- Identity
- Your time – attention
- To be protected and nurtured
- To be disciplined in love
- To be heard – they need a voice
- To be seen and understood for who they are, regardless of their flaws
- A safe and stable home environment to guide them through life
  - To be correctly guided by a trusted and reliable adult
  - Resources to live – food, shelter, clothing, access to education.



*“You gave me all this and asked for nothing in return? For you Dane, anything...”*

### »» Ways an adult can take advantage of/exploit children and young persons:

- **Child sex trafficking:** Making a young person have sex with someone they don’t know and then making money on it
- Using a young person for their own benefit, to make money or to get things that the adult wants. There are the “wolves” dangling nice things before children and there are the “wolves” with the fancy wheels
- **Child Pornography** - means a photograph, film, video or other visual representation, whether or not made by electronic mechanical, artistic or other methods, that shows, for a sexual purpose—
  - (a) a child engaging in explicit sexual activity or conduct;
  - (b) a child in a sexually explicit pose;
  - (c) parts of a child’s body pasted to visual representations of parts of an adult’s body or vice versa; or
  - (d) parts of a child’s body which have been rendered complete by computer generated images or by other methods of visual representation, but does not include any written or visual representation produced for the purpose of education, counselling, the promotion of reproductive health or as part of a related criminal investigation and prosecution...

(Trinidad and Tobago TiPs Act Ch 12:10)



### »» Online Grooming

Tactics employed by abusers to sexually exploit children. Most times these predators or “wolves” befriend children online, gain their trust and then lure them to places (online or in person) where they can abuse them. The trust that is developed between the abused child and the abuser or “wolf” makes it difficult for the child to report the abuse, because of fear and shame.

*“You know I love you...just please do this for me just once...”* – this person pretends to be your boyfriend or girlfriend but they only tell you these things to eventually convince and seduce you to do what they want.

*“It’s all about you and me, nobody else cares about you like I do...”* – this person offers friendship and seems to care about you but they only want for themselves because they see you as a dollar sign.

