



Talitha Kum Kenya

RELIGIOUS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AWARENESS MATERIAL

Know the Signs

How traffickers are targeting educated, ambitious young people — and the checks that make an offer safe to accept.

Published
16 July 2026

Issued by
Talitha Kum Kenya

Series
Awareness Material

START HERE

Being educated is not protection. It is increasingly the reason.

Contrary to popular belief, trafficking victims are not only the poor or the uneducated. Traffickers are increasingly targeting educated, ambitious youth, precisely **because they are more employable, more mobile, and more readily trusted by employers and immigration officials.**

That trust is the asset being exploited. A graduate with a clean record, a valid passport and a convincing CV moves through checkpoints that would stop someone else. The qualification that should open doors is used to open a different one.

This guide sets out the recruitment patterns our facilitators are seeing, and the practical checks that expose them. It is written for students, colleges, parish youth groups and anyone advising a young person about an offer abroad.

THE ONE IDEA WORTH REMEMBERING

Awareness remains the strongest shield against exploitation. Students who understand how traffickers operate are far harder to deceive. Everything in this guide is aimed at that single outcome.

Traffickers are increasingly targeting educated, ambitious youth because they are more employable, mobile and trusted by employers and immigration officials.

Facilitator, Taita Taveta National Polytechnic training

EMERGING TRENDS

Five patterns our facilitators are seeing

These were set out at an awareness training held with administration, teaching faculty and students at Taita Taveta National Polytechnic. They are not hypothetical.

1

Fake job and internship offers abroad

Roles advertised in tech, healthcare or hospitality that turn out to be fronts for forced labour or exploitation. The advertised job does not exist; the ticket does.

2

Cyber-scam compound trafficking

Graduates lured by "digital marketing" or IT jobs abroad are trafficked into scam centres and forced to run online fraud against others. Documents are taken on arrival.

3

Social media recruitment

Approaches through Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram and LinkedIn, using fake profiles and fabricated testimonials from people who appear to have taken the same opportunity.

4

Fraudulent scholarships and study-abroad placements

Placements that require an upfront payment, or that ask for original personal documents to be handed over before anything has been confirmed.

5

Exploitation of career ambition

"Too good to be true" offers that bypass verifiable recruitment channels altogether. The urgency is the tactic: decide now, or lose it.

BEFORE YOU GO

Four checks before anyone travels

- **Verify the recruiter, not the offer.** A genuine agency can be checked against the register held by the relevant authority. An offer that cannot survive that check is not an offer.
- **Never pay to be given a job.** Placement fees, "processing" fees and visa fees demanded up front are the most reliable warning sign there is.
- **Keep your own documents.** Your passport stays with you. Anyone who needs to hold it for you is telling you what the arrangement really is.
- **Leave the details with someone.** The employer's name and address, the recruiter's number, your flight, and a photograph of your passport, in the hands of a family member or your parish.

IF YOU ARE ADVISING SOMEONE

Legitimate labour migration exists and is lawful. The purpose of these checks is not to stop a young person from travelling, but to make sure that what they are travelling into is real.

If someone has already travelled

Do not wait for certainty before asking for help. The earlier a case is raised, the more options remain open.

- **Write down what you know** — names, numbers, the agency, the last message, the date contact changed. Memory fades quickly and details matter later.
- **Keep the messages.** Screenshots of the original offer and of the recruiter's profile are often the only record left once an account is deleted.
- **Call us.** We will help you understand what you are looking at and connect you to the right authority. The line is free and the conversation is confidential.

TAKING IT FURTHER

Run this session in your own community

Students who attended asked to pass this on to their peers. That is the point of it. If you would like a facilitator to visit your school, college, parish or youth group, contact us using the details below and we will arrange a session.

Talitha Kum Kenya: where shattered lives find hope, and resilience blossoms into freedom.

Talitha Kum Kenya

We remain committed to expanding this training across more institutions, building a generation of students who are informed, alert and empowered against exploitation.

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE

Talk to us. It is free, and it is confidential.

You do not need proof, and you do not need to be certain. If something feels wrong, tell us and we will help you work out what to do next.

TOLL FREE, FROM ANY NETWORK

0800 724 690

Also reachable on

+254 703 331 507

Email

info@talithakumraht.org

Office

Marsabit Plaza, Ngong Road, 1st Floor, Office 104

A note on sharing. Please copy and circulate this document freely within schools, parishes and community groups. If you are reprinting it, keep the toll free number and the Talitha Kum Kenya attribution intact so that anyone who needs help can find us.



ABOUT US

More than just a cause, a calling

In 2016, TIK-RAHT began in Kenya during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, initiated by a collective effort of consecrated religious, lay women and men. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to embody acts of mercy, particularly the corporal works of mercy, the organisation focuses on reaching out to and assisting those who reside on the margins of society.

VISION

Inspired by the mercy of God, we envision a world free from human trafficking.

MISSION

To uphold human dignity at all costs — from modern-day slavery to freedom — collaborating to eradicate human trafficking.

Our values. Unity in Diversity · Mutual Support · Integrity · Honesty · Confidentiality · Prayer

Our approach: the four Ps. **Prayer** — rooted in faith, uplifting both survivors and perpetrators. **Protection** — psychosocial support, medical aid and shelter for the holistic well-being of survivors. **Prevention** — community workshops, training and media advocacy. **Partnerships** — collaborating with a diverse network of stakeholders.

CONTACT

Marsabit Plaza, Ngong Road
1st Floor, Office 104, Nairobi
info@talithakumraht.org
Toll free 0800 724 690
+254 703 331 507
talithakumraht.org

WE WORK WITH

Candle of Hope · Free the Slaves · Sema Nami ·
HAART · Kituo Cha Sheria · Counter Human
Trafficking Trust – East Africa · Rebirth of a Queen ·
State Department of Protection Services – CTiP ·
Center for Domestic Training and Development ·
Footprint to Freedom

Sources. Emerging trends and the framing of this guide are drawn from "Talitha Kum Kenya Holds Anti-Trafficking Awareness Training at Taita Taveta National Polytechnic" (16 July 2026) and "Empowering Young Refugees: Talitha Kum Kenya Conducts Human Trafficking Awareness Workshop" (17 July 2026), both published on talithakumraht.org. Vision, mission, values and the four Ps are quoted from the organisation's About Us and Vision, Mission and Values pages.
Photographs © Talitha Kum Kenya. This document was prepared for the Talitha Kum Kenya publications library. Any item marked **like this** is a placeholder for staff to complete before publication.