

# Connections: January 2025

## Human Trafficking & Identity Theft Awareness Month



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While the month of January can be great for a fresh start on your goals in life, we need to also take precautions for there are those in the world that might try to hurt us. That is why January is also a month to focus on Identity Theft Prevention and Human Trafficking Prevention.

**Human Trafficking** is the exploitation of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for purposes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, or other forms of servitude.

To prevent this: Raise awareness by educating yourself and others about the signs of human trafficking and how to report it. Be alert to vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness or economic hardship.

Stay Vigilant Online: Monitor and report suspicious activity, particularly recruitment or exploitation efforts on social media or job boards.

Report Suspicious Activity: Contact local authorities or the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) if you suspect trafficking.

**Identity Theft** is the stealing and use of someone's personal information such as social security numbers or banking information typically for financial gain.

To prevent this: Protect personal information by avoiding sharing sensitive details like Social Security numbers or account information unless absolutely necessary and only with trusted entities.

Secure Devices and Accounts: Use strong, unique passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and keep antivirus software updated.

Be Cautious Online: Avoid clicking on random or suspicious links or attachments and verify the legitimacy of websites before entering personal information.

### Resources

[AARP-To Protect Yourself From Identity Theft](#)

[Center for Missing Children](#)

[NIJII-AARP Fraud Watch Network](#)

[NIJII/IASquared-Financial Abuse and Exploitation](#)