Warning signs typically exhibited by sex traffickers:

* Giving of gifts such as money, clothing, cell phones, and other expensive items1
  + Purpose – to make the victim feel special, indebted, or reliant1
* Older than partner and more independent 1
* Asking their partner to become involved in activities that cause them to miss school1
* Promises of glamourous lifestyle or modeling contracts2
* Isolating partner from family, friends and other close acquaintances 2
* Claiming that they “need and love” their partner2
* Telling the partner that acts of sex with other men are “for their future” 2
* Asking to be called “Daddy” 2
* Rescuing partner from assault, gang rape, etc. that was a staged act2
* Depicting prostitution and/or sex trade as a glamourous lifestyle2
* Uses abuse to coerce partner into sex2
* Promises a better life, marriage, family3
  + Purpose - to create a strong relationship and strong ties
* Provide a different social group, especially when one is lacking in their partner’s life4
* Coercion into sex with partner and others4
* Asking partner who is involved in sex trafficking to exploit, abuse, or punish other women in a social group4
* Abuses verbally, physically, and forces sex. This increases as time goes on in the relationship5
* Threatens their partner to have sex with verbal and physical abuse5
* Threatens monetary withholding5
* Threatens to kick their partner out or end relationship5
* Offers drugs5
* Tells their partner they are indebted to them5
* Asks partner to travel to other cities, states or countries5
* Offers job and money to help support partner’s family5
* Offers a home to partner who is homeless or in a poor living situation5
* Tells their partner they can benefit from their body5
* Promises safety and protecting from harm5
* Makes threats towards partners close relatives and friends5
* Asks partner to date and sleep with their friends5
* Initially treats partner with respect and support, going out and enjoying social activities6
* Asks partner to live together (sometimes with other women) 6
* Controls money in relationship6
* Heavily monitors activity and money6

Warning signs exhibited by victim

* Feeling depressed, angry, withdrawn1
  + In the cases of teens, feeling emotions beyond what is typical or hormonal changes
* Feeling like they don’t have a sense of self4
  + Self being defined as “image of the body, the internalized images of others, and the values and ideals that lend a sense of coherence and purpose”
* Doesn’t feel like they are allowed to make decisions in the relationship, especially concerning money4
* Fearful of leaving relationship with threat of violence or not being able to take care of one’s self5
* Feels incapable of managing their own life because of dependency5
* Runs away from home or living situation and is vulnerable5
* Leaves living situation to live with partner, specifically with foster homes and group homes5

1. <https://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/blog-categories/sex-trafficking/signs-your-teen-is-being-groomed-by-sex-traffickers>
2. <https://leb.fbi.gov/2011/march/human-sex-trafficking>
3. <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/5-building-strong-cases/53-victim-interview-preparation/building-rapport-with-the-victim-as-your-witness/trafficking-history/>
4. <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/traumacoerced-bonding-and-victims-of-sex-trafficking-where-do-we-go-from-here-1522-4821-1000223.pdf>
5. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Domstic%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Chicago%20-%20ICJIA.pdf>
6. <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Er_Kleemans/publication/259634621_Relationships_Between_Suspects_and_Victims_of_Sex_Trafficking_Exploitation_of_Prostitutes_and_Domestic_Violence_Parallels_in_Dutch_Trafficking_Cases/links/53ea53e00cf2dc24b3cb1f55/Relationships-Between-Suspects-and-Victims-of-Sex-Trafficking-Exploitation-of-Prostitutes-and-Domestic-Violence-Parallels-in-Dutch-Trafficking-Cases.pdf>

Additional sites:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/why-bad-looks-good/201401/human-trafficking-psychology-recruitment>

<http://hopeforjustice.org/spot-the-signs/>