

THE GROOMING PROCESS

Based off of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs:

- **Love & Belonging:** Telling the targeted victim kind words & all of the things they wish they would have heard at home, such as: they are loved, they have a place to belong to, they are Special (**Words of Affirmation**). Making the targeted victim feel like they belong to Somebody by offering them a false friendship or romantic relationship; mirroring a family like dynamic that has been missing or longed for in the victim's life.
- **Physiological Needs:** Offering the targeted victim Food or to go buy something to eat, Rest or a warm place to stay/sleep, shopping for clothing, love bombing and physical intimacy (**Physical Touch**).
- **Safety:** Offering the targeted victim emotional security or somebody to talk to, making them believe that they are the only one that matters and that the trafficker will take care of them (**Quality Time**).
- **Esteem:** Through using words of affirmation to build up the targeted victim through a false sense of self; making the targeted victim increasingly dependent upon the trafficker for feelings of self-worth and self-esteem. Making the potential victim feel they are seen, cared for, taken care of, and heard. Being in contact with the targeted victim 24 hours a day to create the dependency upon the trafficker, doing kind acts at first and meeting the survivor's needs so as to make them feel valued (**Acts of Service**).
- **Self-Actualization:** Once the trafficker gains the potential victim's trust, then gives the targeted victim a job or some sense of importance in life. The trafficker may even buy them expensive gifts or cell phones they've never had or been exposed to in addition to personal grooming such as hair and nails so as to enhance the potential victim's appearance under false pretenses, to be used in trafficking (**Gifts**). Once they are lured in through a false modeling job, or make some money from the trafficker, they become completely dependent upon the trafficker for feeling a sense of purpose to the point that betrayal of the trafficker is seen as betrayal against themselves.

It is not a crime to have these needs, the crime occurs when these needs are EXPLOITED.

References

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Maslow, A. (1943). A Theory of Human Motivation. *Journal of Psychological Review*.

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