NOTIFY the professionals.

Our first instinct might be to physically step in and try to disrupt the situation, in an attempt to "rescue" the person being exploited. However, it's very important that we do not take matters into our own hands. Attempting to take control of the situation ourselves instead of informing the experts and professionals not only puts us in danger, but more importantly, the individuals being exploited.

That's the last thing we want to happen, so it's crucial that we take the proper steps in order to stop trafficking in its tracks. What does that look like? Reporting. Notifying the professionals, the teams that are properly equipped to step in and stop exploitation.

The United States National Human Trafficking Hotline is operated by the Polaris Project and has handled over 63,000 human trafficking situations since 2007. It helps to connect victims and survivors of exploitation with support and resources to get the proper help and stay safe.

HOW TO REPORT IT:

- To contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline, you can...
  - Call: 1-888-373-7888
    - Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 in over 200 languages
  - Text: "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733
    - Message and data rates may apply
  - Chat: www.humantraffickinghotline.org/chat

TIPS TO REPORT:

- Try to gather as much detail as you possibly can about what you are witnessing to pass along to hotline representatives
  - describe the individuals involved
  - share the exact location of the incident
  - note car make, colors, and license plate numbers
- Report as early as it is safe for you to do so

Source: Polaris (2020)
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