

# STAGES OF CAPTIVITY

## In Human Trafficking + Abusive Relationships

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**There are 7 stages of captivity prevalent in predatory behavior through which a socially predatory person holds a person in fear through force, fraud, coercion, and/or manipulation. In human trafficking, they do so for commercial or illicit gain. In intimate partner violence, they do so**

**1.Targeting + Recruiting** during a susceptible time in our lives. Predator or Recruiter targets girls/boys + young women/men who are susceptible to love, acceptance and belonging in a partnership or group outside their own. They are at a vulnerable and highly trusting age in their growth and development to love and intimate relationships. Yearnings for love, acceptance and belongings increase. The predator knows this. He chooses his victims accordingly. Parents often say, “Why would you choose to get involved with this guy?” blaming the girl. The truth is, he chose her – as a target. He took advantage of her trust and yearning to love and be loved. And he is not on a mission to love her. He is on a mission to exploit her. But she does not see it because of her tender-age love blinders. People outside the relationship can often see there is something wrong. The girl initially feels it too. But she doesn’t know what to do, so she self-blames. “It’s not him. It’s probably me,” she says to herself. The predator knows she will do this and takes full advantage. Parents and others don’t know what to do, but they become upset and angry and often blame the girl. This is exactly what the predator wants. It will allow him to further isolate her from all who hold her dear. Don’t blame her. Reclaim her! (Learn more on how to do this in Steps To Recovery).

**2.Grooming**- excessive attention/romance, gifts, and the forbidden encouraged (rebellious behavior, sex, drugs, alcohol, staying out later than allowed by parents, partying). Tells victim parents, peers, and community would not be proud of what they are doing. Questions parents, peers, and community’s love and devotion to victim.

**3.Isolation** – Isolation through shame. Intentionally and gradually isolates victim from family, friends, peers, and community both indirectly (through assigning guilt, shame and blame to victim) and directly (through association with victim which causes family, friends, and peers to reject her further because she is with him.) He tells her no one cares about her and he is all she has now.

**4.Threats and Trauma** – Threatens to harm family and loved ones, her/his reputation and her/him. Uses force, fraud, coercion, and/or manipulation. Holds individual psychologically and emotionally captive through fear, psychological, emotional and verbal threats. May also establish control over victim through physical or sexual violence, such as hitting, beating, molestation or rape.

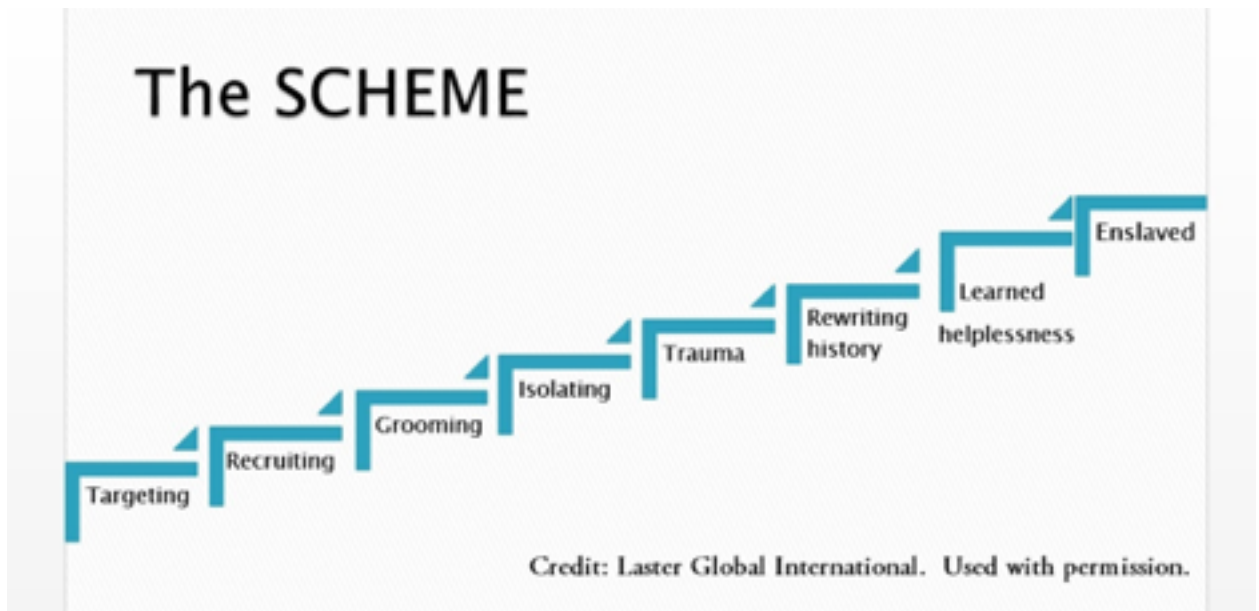
**5.New Identity** – Rewrites history and gives victim a new identity. This can include telling her she is “his” now, not her family’s or anyone else’s. He may brand her by changing her name or tattooing his name on her. He rewrites history.

**6.Learned Helplessness/Increased Dependency on Captor** – He takes away her independence. He may take or sell her car (if she has one). He drives her everywhere. He silences her and speaks for her. He takes the money she makes and only gives her a small amount, if any. She does not fight back because she is afraid he will harm her or her family/loved ones. Rather, she resigns herself to her fate and tries to identify with her captor, rely on him, and establish bonds of love, acceptance/belonging and significance with him.

**7.Enslaved** – She is enslaved. Although she may not be physically chained, she is psychologically, emotionally, and verbally chained to her Captor. People outside the relationship cannot see these chains, so they do not always realize the magnitude to which a person is being held in bondage to another through these invisible ties. This is why people who have been overtaken by a predator do not easily and quickly run or try to get away. They will try to protect, excuse, and defend their captor.

### THE SCHEME

Predators use the scheme to lure, recruit, and ensnare their victims. The following chart illustrates the stages of captivity.



Do you or someone you know need help rescuing a victim from human trafficking or predator love abuse? We are here for you. Contact us at [deeperloveintl@gmail.com](mailto:deeperloveintl@gmail.com) or (832) 390-1044.