

## **SAFETY TIPS (reference NUAHT.org)**

### Gaming

- Know which safety features the game offers; the headset may have features to mask your voice.

- Do the games have moderators or reporting features?

- Keep gaming consoles in common areas so it is easy to monitor usage and set usage rules.

- Never give out personal data and never meet anyone outside the game (NetSmartz.org). Social Media

- Never post where you are going, only where you have been. Be careful about Checking In and know what apps are sharing your location.

- Check privacy settings frequently.

- Do not post threats or nudity. Know what your friends are posting.

- Never meet anyone you meet online in person without parental supervision

- Do not accept friend requests from people you do not know.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- In 2018, the Pew Research Center found that 95% of teens have access to a smartphone and 45% are online all the time (pewinternet.org, 2018).

- Pew found that on average, a child gets his or her first smartphone at 10.3 years old. by age 12, a full 50% of children have social media accounts (primarily Facebook and Instagram).

- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) is made more accessible by technology, e.g., social media, the internet, and online gaming apps.

- Thorn recently published a survey in 2018 that found that 55% of DMST survivors who entered the life in 2015 or later met their trafficker for the first time using a mobile app, website (online), or by text message.

■ 63% of traffickers used online platform to groom potentially vulnerable victims (Thorn, 2018).