



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

Understanding vulnerability to human trafficking (slavery)



Why use this activity?

To raise awareness of human trafficking, and to help communities protect those at risk of being trafficked.



A brief description

This activity encourages discussion about human trafficking and how it can be prevented, using questions and short stories.



You will need

A group of no more than 12 people.

A number of short stories about people who have been trafficked. There are 5 examples provided at the end of this tool. You can use these, or you can write your own. If you know of real situations where people have been trafficked in your community or country, then it may have more impact to use these. However, always be extremely sensitive to the people you are working with, and be mindful that some stories may be very upsetting for people if they or their loved ones have been victims of human trafficking.

Please see **Tool A1 – Revealing human trafficking (slavery)** for background information on this issue.



Time taken

1-2 hours

Explaining the words we use:

Human trafficking is the transporting or abduction of people for the purposes of exploitation, using coercion, fraud or deception. It is a modern form of **slavery**.

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

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Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

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What to do

Introduction

Start by explaining to the group that today you are going to be discussing the problem of human trafficking. People need to have a basic understanding of what human trafficking is before starting this activity, therefore you may want to start with a short explanation.

When asked about human trafficking it is common for communities to tell you it happens nearby, but not in their community. It is important to be sensitive to their concerns and not try to prove that trafficking is happening amongst them, but instead to raise awareness of how it happens and how it can be prevented.

You needn't speak for long as there will be opportunities to discuss and explore more about human trafficking once the activity begins. Here are some points you could make:

- Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, where people are bought and sold, and exploited.
- Trafficking is very widespread. It happens in almost every country.
- Communities may not understand that when people go missing from a community, or when people leave and are never heard from again, they may be victims of human trafficking.
- Most victims are trafficked close to home and the people exploiting them are often from the same country. Sometimes victims are even trafficked by someone in their family, although the family member may not always be fully aware of the harm the victim will suffer.
- Traffickers use lies to trick people into going somewhere with them, or they force people to go. The promise of well-paid employment is a lie that is often used.
- The victims of trafficking are then held against their will, sold and exploited.
- Traffickers make money from their victims. They exploit people in different ways, including:
 - Forcing victims to work with no pay, for example as domestic workers, on farms or in factories.
 - Forcing them to work in prostitution.
 - Selling their organs for profit.
 - Using them to transport illegal drugs.
- Victims of trafficking often experience terrible abuse over very long periods of time.

Stories of trafficking

Explain that you are going to read out a short story. Read your first story slowly and clearly. You may want to read it twice.

Ask the group the following questions:

1. What are your **initial thoughts** in reaction to hearing this story? Is what happened in the story right or wrong? Was it inevitable, or could it have been prevented?

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2. **Why** was the person in the story trafficked? (The aim of this question is to help people think through what makes a person vulnerable to trafficking? This is an important question. Try to encourage the group to consider the choices the individual had, and why he or she made the decision they made.)
3. **How** did the traffickers persuade or force the victim to leave their home?
4. Are there people in **our community** who are vulnerable to being trafficking in this way?
5. How can we as a community find ways of **stopping** this from happening?
6. How can we help people to become **less vulnerable** to trafficking?

Repeat this exercise using the other stories you have prepared. You may find it useful to write the answers to questions 4 and 5 down on a large sheet of paper.

Once you have been through all of the stories, revisit all of the suggestions made as to how trafficking can be stopped, and how people can be made less vulnerable. Ask people to reflect on:

- What actions can we take individually to help people become less vulnerable to trafficking?
- What actions can we take as a group or community?

Finish by agreeing with the group what they want to do next. You may wish to arrange times to carry out other *Reveal* activities on trafficking: please see the 'Related tools' box below.



Finding out more

- Tearfund (2015) Footsteps 96 – *Human trafficking*
http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_91-100/footsteps_96/
- The Born to Fly Project is a child trafficking prevention programme that educates children and their parents about the dangers of child trafficking. All the materials can be downloaded free of charge but you will need to register on the Born to Fly website to receive a password to access the documents <http://born2fly.org>
- FAAST is an alliance of Christian organizations working together to combat slavery and human trafficking <http://faastinternational.org/>

Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing human trafficking (slavery): information for facilitators [A1: Children & youth-1]
- A2 – The lies traffickers tell [A2: Migration & trafficking-4]
- A2 – Life after human trafficking: understanding the journey of healing [A2: Migration & trafficking-5]
- B – Loving the outcast (Bible study) [B: Discrimination & inclusion-2]
- B – Each of us is special to God [B: Discrimination & inclusion-5]
- C2 – Protecting our communities from human trafficking [C2: Migration & trafficking-1]

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Stories of human trafficking

Sharing these stories could make community members worried that all forms of migration may be deception and trafficking, when of course this is not the case. Please see **Tool A2: Exploring the risks and opportunities of migration** for an activity that helps people to consider these issues.

Story 1

Claire is 15 years old. She left school two years ago because her parents couldn't afford to pay for her school uniform and books. She helps her mother with housework, fetching water and working in the fields. She dreams of learning to read and write and of getting a job. Her father's friend, David, offers her a job as a waitress in a Casino in the nearby city. Claire hears that waitresses are well paid. She discusses the job opportunity with her mother. Claire's mother is worried about whether Claire will be safe, but David is a friend of her husband and so she thinks that he will look after Claire. They decide that Claire should accept the job. However, when Claire gets to the city, she is forced to work as a prostitute in one of the cities brothels. The family do not see Claire or David again.

Story 2

Peter is 23 years old. He is strong and healthy but has been unable to find employment, other than a few short-term jobs on building sites in the nearby town. Some of his friends are applying to work in places far away like Dubai and Qatar. He decides to do the same thing. An agent gets in contact with them and they are told to raise a certain amount of funds to fund their visa and administration costs. Their plane tickets are bought for them. They board the flight and are never heard from again. Peter and his friends are forced to work on building sites in Dubai. Their agent says he has to deduct money to repay their loan and costs, and then gives them only a very small amount which covers basic needs such as food. This gives them a false hope for a while that one day their debt will be repaid and then they can save money and return home, but they work out that it will take many years to pay off their debt. They have no identification documents and no money to buy a plane ticket home.

Story 3

Lynette grew up in a very poor family. From a young age, she was expected to work in the house while taking care of her younger siblings. Once she finished school, she began looking for work abroad so that she could earn more money to support her family. She got a job in Qatar which promised a salary and housing. But after a few days in the country, Lynette was offered a new opportunity, this time to go to the United States for a childcare position with a wealthy family. Excited and eager to help her family, she accepted.

But when Lynette arrived in the US, her dreams were crushed. Her employers forced her to take care of their sick child, day and night. She never got a day off and was not allowed to travel anywhere outside of the house by herself, or to contact her family. And while she had been promised free rent and food, Lynette and others working for the family did not have

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enough food and were unable to get clothing or medical care. The workers were threatened physically and emotionally, and their identification documents were taken so they couldn't leave.

Story 4

Mary is 18. She feels quite lonely as many of her friends have left her village but she has stayed to look after her mother, who is very ill. She doesn't have any brothers or sisters. One day, Mary meets a man called Francis. He is new to the area. They start spending a lot of time together and he tells her he loves her. Over time she falls in love with him. He asks her to go with him on a short trip to the capital city. She feels excited about going as she has never travelled far before. She arranges for her friend to care for her mother that day. Once they reach the capital city, Francis takes Mary to a brothel and sells her. She is trapped, forced to work in the brothel, suffering rape and abuse, and cannot leave.

Story 5

Latulo was desperate to find a job to pay for his university fees. While in town one day, Latulo met a man who said he needed people to work for him at a factory in the neighbouring country. Hoping this job would help pay for his tuition, Latulo agreed to accompany the man to the factory and met with him the very next day to travel. Other men and women also met them to travel to the factory. Eventually they arrived at a huge house in the neighbouring country. The man, who had earlier been kind to them all, started telling them what to do and ordered them to give him their identification and phones. They were shown a video of a man who had been suffocated with a bag because he attempted to escape. They were all told that they would not be working at a factory, but rather would be working as sex slaves. Every room had a camera and they were recorded while they were forced to have sex with strangers.

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