

What Does Human Trafficking Look Like in Wisconsin?

Facilitator's Guide

Video of presentation by S. Celine Goessl and others representing various aspects of human trafficking for sex in Wisconsin. Produced by S. Celine in 2015 for use by parish and community groups to help mobilize them in the fight against human trafficking.

This presentation is divided into six key segments:

1. Introduction	4:30 minutes	S. Celine Goessl
2. Crossing Borders	13:48 minutes	Judy Woller
3. Law Enforcement Perspective	17:01 minutes	Capt. Greg Bean
Q&A	18:38 minutes	S. Celine and Capt. Bean
4. Survivor's Story	20:35 minutes	Barb Orban
5. Curbing Buyers' Demand	21:58 minutes	Butch and Jean Fitzpatrick
6. Statistics and Missing Girls	13:07 minutes	S. Celine Goessl

For effective group process and discussion, it may be beneficial to organize the video in two viewing sessions: segments 1-3 and segments 4-6.

Sections 1-3

Facts:

- Wisconsin is among the worst states in the nation for perpetuating human trafficking. Depending upon the region, traffickers focus on selling either sex or labor.
- Milwaukee is the “pimp capital” of the nation (where pimps are trained to traffic children and adults, primarily women).
- Human trafficking (both sex and labor) is one of the three worst and most pervasive crimes in the world (along with drugs and guns).
- Trafficking is *everywhere*, not just in large cities.
- In recent years, grass roots efforts have prompted the US society to recognize that **sexual assault and domestic violence are not acceptable**. More education is needed to engage people in action, especially in their own communities.
- Victims are trafficked across national and state borders; they are viewed as “valuable commodities.”
- Wherever there is drug traffic, there is also human trafficking.
- Victims of sex trafficking come from all social and economic sectors.
- Technology has made children extremely vulnerable to predators.
- It is essential for parents and schools to limit and monitor children's/youth's access to technology.

Sections 1-3 *continued*

For discussion:

1. How can we “take the flame into our hearts” to build awareness that our town/city/rural community *is not exempt* – that human trafficking exists right here?
2. With what groups in our area can we collaborate to fight human trafficking (police, shelters, hospitals, etc.)? What will be our first step?
3. Poverty is a major factor in perpetuating human trafficking. What action(s) can we take in this community to help provide women with other viable means to support themselves and their children?
4. How can we help parents in our community recognize the importance of monitoring their children’s use of technology and of knowing who their friends are?
5. With what civic and/or church groups can we share information about the dangers of human trafficking to our community? How will we go about doing this?

Sections 4-6

Facts:

- Human trafficking does not happen only in Third World countries and poor neighborhoods in the US.
- The majority of trafficked children/youth are run-aways who feel they have no other option.
- Drugs play a huge role in trapping victims in human trafficking.
- The younger the child being trafficked, the more money pimps get; by age 20, they are “washed up” and left to try to survive on their own. Statistics show most victims do not survive.
- Trafficking of children is REAL everywhere; society needs to wake up to this fact.
- Pimps control their victims by moving them constantly from place to place. This keeps victims vulnerable while giving pimps another “market” in which to sell the victims.
- Shared Hope International addresses human trafficking in three ways:
1) prevention/awareness-building; 2) restoration; 3) justice [law enforcement, legislation].
- Human trafficking is modern day slavery; an estimated 27 million people are enslaved worldwide.
- If we fail to curb the demand for illegal sex, the supply will always be there.
- International “sex tours” exist – and must be shut down.

For discussion:

1. How can we continue educating ourselves about the travesty of human trafficking?
2. “Where are the people of God?” in addressing human trafficking (a survivor’s question).
3. What methods can we use to build awareness in our parish about human trafficking?
4. How can we educate our civic community about the existence of trafficking in our midst?
5. Where do we as a committee/parish go from here? What concrete actions will we take to eradicate human trafficking?