



School Assemblies:

Holding a school assembly can be a powerful way to not only educate youth about the important issues surrounding Human Trafficking, but can help in building unity and inspiring creativity in a generation to help stand up against the evils of modern day slavery. We recognize that this can seem to be a daunting task, but holding an assembly can be simple, fun and effective.

We are encouraging teachers and school administrators to consider using the congressional appointed Human Trafficking Awareness Day as a catalyst to organize and arrange an event that speaks openly to the school body about Human Trafficking. Because the National Weekend of Prayer to End Slavery and Trafficking is focused on empowering people at the local level to take ownership of these events, this document simply provides encouragement and suggested guidelines in organizing this event.

Many of our youth are at risk amongst peers, in the community, and especially in their online social media activity. Topics of Discussion should expose youth to the facts and realities of Modern Day Slavery, dealing with subjects such as the Sex Trade, Labor Trafficking, Organ Trafficking and Infant Trafficking. It has been found that by simply touching on the following topics, that risk is drastically diminished.

– Please let us know if you're planning on holding an assembly at your school by emailing us at info@nwoprayer.org, or signing up on our events page. We'd love to share testimonies and pictures of your event!

Topics should include:

Human Dignity Students should understand what it is and how we are to value the individual dignity and worth of others. Human Trafficking is a human rights issue, and at the core lies the issue of Human Dignity.

Individual Self Worth and Identity. Many teens succumb to the methods of traffickers who prey upon those with a low self-esteem, and an identity that's based upon materialism and greed. Those who have a strong personal identity and sense of purpose are less likely to become victims.

Awareness of the issue of Human Trafficking in America. Sometimes, just sharing a couple of stories and a few statistics can go a long way.

Online safety. With the advent of social media, our youth are sharing way too much personal information that's accessible to online predators and professional traffickers. Students who post revealing pictures online are often unaware that they're already at risk. Most Traffickers understand that if someone is willing to share inappropriate photographs, then they are already prime targets.

Tactics of Traffickers. Many professional traffickers go into the malls and use flattery and attention as a part of their grooming method.

Materialism and abuse of consumerism. Labor trafficking is a huge global issue that's vastly supported by our consumer society in America. Many are unaware that several of the items we use each and every day come directly from slave labor. Here in America the agricultural, construction and service industries have been plagued with the use of slave labor. From coffee, to chocolate, the tires we drive on, the cell phones we use, even the clothing, matches and balloons all are known to come from child and slave labor. Teaching about Direct Trade and Fair Trade, as well as how vocal activism can go a long way in equipping our youth to understand how we can make a difference. A great example of this is Hershey's Chocolate, who after strong public outcry has agreed to make a move towards using only Direct Trade Chocolate that is not produced by child slave labor.

Accountability. This issue speaks on many different levels. Many victims have already been abused at some point in time before they become ensnared by traffickers. Encouraging youth to talk to someone about their abuse is crucial in combating Human Trafficking. Furthermore, accountability with online practices amongst peers is also important. We understand the sensitivity of talking about issues of pornography, but the fact remains that more students are exposed to hard core pornography at an ever younger age. Many people are unaware of the fact that over 80% of porn is done by Human Trafficking victims who are forced to perform. By simply watching it, people are directly contributing towards the increase in Human Trafficking. By simply being aware of this issue and encouraging accountability we can make a big difference.

Our website: www.nwoprayer.org

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Ways to Run an Effective Assembly

While these are merely suggestions, we hope it will help inspire you to organize an event at your local school.

Invite Speakers:

- Law enforcement. Invite someone from a local law enforcement agency, such as the police department or sheriff's department who specializes in Human Trafficking.
- Non-Government Organizations. There are many anti-human trafficking organizations who have trained specialists equipped in speaking about this issue. Partner with them to see what they can do. Many of them have creative presentations that are engaging and specifically geared towards youth.
- State and U.S. Attorney's. It might come as a surprise, but there are many State and United States Attorney's that focus on this issue and are able to give dynamic presentations. Many of them are willing to clear their schedule to have an opportunity to engage with the public, especially school students. Reach out to individuals in your local area to see what's available.
- Teachers. Maybe there is someone on your staff who's been following this issue and would like to speak on it.

Video Presentation:

- There are many informative videos online that talk about the issues of Human Trafficking and even include testimonies from survivors.
- Music can also be a powerful tool, and there are also some great music videos that are focused on this issue. Take some time to search through You Tube to find something suitable for your assembly.

Activities:

[Say Something Assemblies](#) has been active in taking this issue to the schools across the nation. Visit their website or contact their organization for some interactive and creative ideas.

Other activities might include creating a giant banner that invites students to write something down that they either learned, or are committed to changing in their life to help fight Human Trafficking. Some may choose to draw pictures, write a pledge or share a message of hope.

Action Plan:

Giving something positive for others to come into agreement with can go a long way in providing a lasting impact. Come up with some simple action plans that students can take away. This might include making an effort to buy direct trade products, no longer making light of prostitution or jokes about those caught up in Human Trafficking. Maybe it's agreeing to no longer broadcast personal information on the internet or making an effort to have accountability partners. There are several resources online. Please visit our resources page for some links and ideas about how all of us can do our part in ending Human Trafficking. Continued education, changing habits, becoming vocal, being alert and aware and getting involved are all simple ways in which students can stay engaged and participate in fighting this injustice. Encourage creativity, challenge students to write a song, develop a play or drama, use art, stories or poetry to highlight this justice issue.



Some helpful information:

Identifying Potential Sex Trafficking Victims

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes.
- Is under 18, and is providing commercial sex acts.
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager.
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off.
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Avoids eye contact.
- Has few or no personal possessions.
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account.
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport).
- Claims of just visiting, and inability to clarify where he/she is staying.
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts, do not know what city he/she is in.
- Loss of sense of time.
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story.
- Is alone on the streets and seems overly interested in cars or single persons passing by.
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid.
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after mention of law enforcement.
- A child who doesn't really seem to fit with the adult, and is exhibiting several of the conditions above.

How to Identify Potential Victims of Labor Trafficking

- Individuals who have no contact with friends or family, and no access to identification documents, bank accounts, or cash.
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips.
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work.
- Work at places where psychological manipulation and control are used.
- Houses or apartments with inhumane living conditions.
- People whose communications and movements are always monitored, or who have moved or rotated through multiple locations in a short amount of time.
- Places with high security where locks and fences are positioned to confine occupants.
- Workers who have excessively long and unusual hours, are unpaid or paid very little.
- Workers are unable to take breaks or days off and have unusual work restrictions, have unexplained work injuries or signs of untreated illness or disease.
- Poor physical health, appears malnourished or shows signs of physical abuse, restraint, confinement, or torture.
- Has few or no personal possessions.
- Not in control of his/her own IDs or documentation.
- Not allowed to speak for themselves.

Know Your Surroundings:

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- Pay attention to the types of clientele that frequent a business, such as men frequenting nail salons, or other things that may seem out of place.
- Be aware of odd pairings you see in public, such as an older middle-aged male alone with a young girl who might be of a different ethnicity and/or is exhibiting characteristics as outlined above.
- Watch for workers that seem unusually young and working full-time hours.
- Pay special attention to young men or women who appear to be alone and either loitering or wandering.

Human Trafficking Myths

Be aware of these enduring myths about human trafficking:

Myth: Trafficking must involve the crossing of borders.

Fact: Despite the use of the word “trafficking,” victims can actually be held within their own country—anti-trafficking laws don’t require that victims must have traveled from somewhere else.

Myth: U.S. citizens can’t be trafficked.

Fact: They can and they are.

Myth: Victims know what they are getting into or have chances to escape.

Fact: They’re actually duped into it and may not even think of escaping because of threats against them or ignorance of the law.

Myth: Victims are never paid.

Fact: Sometimes they are paid, but not very much.

Myth: Victims never have freedom of movement.

Fact: Some victims can move about, but are coerced into always returning, perhaps with a threat against their families back home.

Myth: It’s not trafficking if the person gives consent.

Fact: The consent of the victim is considered irrelevant, as is payment.

(Courtesy of FBI, Polaris Project and Florida Abolitionist)

For more information and resources please visit our website www.nwoprayer.org