

## Social Justice & Sex Trafficking Lesson Plan

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**SUBJECT AREA(S)**

Social Justice / Activism

**TIME**

50 – 60 minutes

**AUDIENCE**

Middle + High School Students

**OBJECTIVES**

- To be able to define sex trafficking.
- To understand how sex trafficking is a social justice issue.
- To be able to identify ways in which individuals, schools, cities, states, the United States, and the world can combat sex trafficking by completing a circles of responsibility worksheet.

**PURPOSE**

- Students will learn and explore the topic of sex trafficking by becoming aware of how individuals, schools, cities, states, the nation, and the world can combat sex trafficking.

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## **PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO SEX TRAFFICKING**

As an introduction, ask the students to define domestic sex trafficking. Include the activities of each role: sex trafficker (pimp), sex buyer (john), and sex trafficking victim. Write their answers on the board under the three roles.

### **1. Explain the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000) to the class.**

**TVPA:** “The TVPA of 2000 is the cornerstone of Federal human trafficking legislation, and established several methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting victims and survivors of trafficking. The act establishes human trafficking and related offenses as federal crimes, and attaches severe penalties to them. It also mandates restitution be paid to victims of human trafficking. It further works to prevent trafficking by establishing the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is required to publish a Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report each year. The TIP report describes and ranks the efforts of countries to combat human trafficking. The act also established the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, which assists in the implementation of the TVPA. The TVPA protects victims and survivors of human trafficking by establishing the T visa, which allows victims of human trafficking, and their families to become temporary U.S. residents and eligible to become permanent residents after three years.” (Source: <https://polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws>)

**TVPA Definition of Sex Trafficking:** a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, OR in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

- **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18** can sell their body, they are automatically a sex trafficking victim.
- Adults must prove that they were forced to exchange sex for something of value (money, drugs, place to stay, transportation, food, protection, etc.) through means of **FORCE, FRAUD, or COERCION**.
- **FORCE:** can include kidnapping, drugging, physical assault, assault with a weapon, sexual assault.
- **FRAUD:** can include tricking the victim into believe that the trafficker loves her/him; telling the victim s/he is going to be a model or a star, offering to provide basic needs without explaining the true intention or what is required in return.
- **COERCION:** (a) threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; (b) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or (c) the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (Source: TVPA).

### **2. Discuss the roles of the sex trafficker (pimp), sex buyer (john), and sex trafficking victim.**

Ask students if they are able to discuss what each role entails. Write their answers on the board under the three roles.

**Suggested language:**

**Sex trafficker or pimp:** This is the person that recruits victims, through love, force, or event by providing for their basic needs, like food or a place to stay. The sex trafficker or pimp links the sex trafficking victim to sex buyers. This person controls the behavior of the victim and collects the money made from exchanging sex by the victim. Sex traffickers can be extremely violent and will resist the victim's attempt to leave by any means. A sex trafficker can be any gender and can be a mother, friend, boyfriend, or anyone.

**Sex buyers:** These are most often men who shop for prostituted persons on the street, in strip clubs, in massage parlors, through escort services, and online.

**Sex trafficking victims:** Victims can be male, female, transgender and of any race and sexual orientation, and of any age – including under the age of 18. They are often lured or romanced into sex trafficking by an older person through promises of money, success/fame, a future together, or through threats of exposure (to parents/friends/school/church).

### 3. Review the warning signs of a sex trafficking situation.

- S/he's dating an older guy (he might give you the creeps)
- S/he's super secretive about him
- He buys her/him lots of expensive presents
- He made her/him get a weird tattoo
- S/he has lots of unexplained cash
- S/he shops for clothes and stuff you know s/he cannot afford
- S/he has a second cell phone
- You find hotel room keys in her purse
- S/he has cuts and bruises
- S/he has a fake ID
- S/he has been really depressed, nervous, tense or afraid
- S/he misses a lot of school or dropped out of school
- Grades have dropped out of the blue
- S/he runs away a lot and avoids her/his family and friends
- You never know when s/he's telling the truth
- S/he started drinking or doing drugs
- You feel like s/he is brainwashed

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## PART TWO: Discussion on "How is Sex Trafficking a Social Justice Issue?"

- 1) Now that you have defined sex trafficking, how is sex trafficking a social justice issue?
  - a. Through the use of force, fraud, and coercion victims must perform sexual acts for money.
- 2) How is sex trafficking is a direct violation of human rights?
- 3) How does sex trafficking deprive individuals of their basic human rights and freedoms?

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## **PART THREE: Circles of Responsibility Worksheet**

- Worksheet is found at the end of this lesson plan

For students to understand how to fill in the worksheet, have students place the following ways that individuals, schools, and cities can help fight human trafficking into the circles of responsibilities:

- Learn the indicators of sex trafficking so you can help identify a potential trafficking victim. (Self)
- Organize a school fundraiser and donate the proceeds to an anti-trafficking organization. (School)
- Host an awareness event at the local library to watch and discuss films about sex trafficking. (City)

### **Self: What can I do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- Talk with friends about the red flags of sex trafficking
- Share information and facts on social media
- Read books on sex trafficking
- Volunteer and/or raise funds for an organization
- Sign petitions

### **School: What can the school do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- Engage students by tabeling at school events to raise awareness about sex trafficking
- Host an awareness day or week in school
- Raise funds for anti-sex trafficking organizations
- Volunteer at a local anti-human trafficking organization

### **City: What can our city do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- Awareness days
- New state laws for increasing penalties for traffickers and buyers and providing services to victims

### **State: What can our state do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- New state laws for increasing penalties for traffickers and buyers and providing services to victims
- Statewide Awareness campaign

### **Nation: What can the United States do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- New federal laws for increasing penalties for traffickers and buyers and providing services to victims

## **The World: What can the world do to end/combat sex trafficking?**

- United Nations summit on sex trafficking
- World religions uniting and taking a stand against sex trafficking

### **Follow-Up Activities:**

- 1) Have students host a table to raise awareness about sex trafficking during lunchtime and/or before and after school.
- 2) Research local and state organizations that help fight sex trafficking.
- 3) Have students write to state and local representatives about the issue of sex trafficking.

### **References and Helpful Links:**

15 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking. <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/help/>

Referral Directory. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/training-resources/referral-directory>

Service Providers by State. <http://www.gems-girls.org/about/what-we-do/service-providers-by-state>

State Report Cards. <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/2016-reportcards/>

Take Action. <https://polarisproject.org/action/>

## Circles of Responsibility



