



# ENGAGE TOGETHER<sup>®</sup> CHURCH TOOLKIT

Mobilizing the Church to  
**End Human Trafficking**  
& the Exploitation of the Vulnerable



FREEDOM SERIES

Engage Together® Church Toolkit

Copyright © 2014, 2016, 2018 Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice, Inc.®

All rights reserved.

This Engage Together® Church Toolkit, along with the materials associated with it – including hard copy, electronic resources and supplemental materials – may not be reproduced, redistributed, or resold without the express written permission of the Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice, Inc.®

Permissible uses of various components of the Engage Together® Toolkit Series are explicitly detailed throughout this series, and are limited to: permission to print and distribute handouts to your group members, sharing electronic resources created for your use with your group members, and other permissions detailed on the back cover of the Engage Together® Church Toolkit.

Impermissible uses include: resale; removing or altering trademarks or logos; and altering or making any changes to the content, except for those sections of the supplemental materials that are expressly created for your input and edits.

For inquiries, information, or to order additional copies of this series, please contact: [connect@engagetgether.com](mailto:connect@engagetgether.com).

Version 3.0

Printed in the United States of America.


ISBN: 978-1-5323-0786-7

# Table of Contents


## GETTING STARTED

- 
- 4 Introduction
  - 5 Why the Church?
  - 6 What is Human Trafficking?
  - 8 SPACE Between
  - 10 Freedom Strategy
  - 11 World of Possibilities
  - 12 Local Context
  - 13 Engage
  - 14 How to Use This Toolkit

## ACTION ITEMS

- 
- 15 Prevention
  - 18 Identification
  - 20 Rescue
  - 22 Restoration
  - 25 Reforms

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- 
- 27 Toolkit FAQs
  - 30 Connect with the AFRJ

In this Toolkit, you will find resources for further learning and sharing, ideas for how others are successfully combating human trafficking, and tools for creating your church's Action Plan.

# Introduction

---

Human trafficking is modern slavery – for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, or organ trafficking. It is an evil that profits billions of dollars and enslaves millions of souls. It did not appear overnight. Human trafficking is the result of leaving many things undone and many issues unresolved for the vulnerable throughout our world and in our own communities.

The Church is *uniquely positioned* to engage to end human trafficking and to prevent it.

We are not powerless to stop this – in the life of a single individual, in our communities, and in every nation.

What will it take to eradicate human trafficking in your community? What can be done to protect the vulnerable? How many ways are there to engage? Who all must participate, and what all must be done? Where does your church start?



Use this Toolkit in conjunction with the Engage Together® Church Teaching Series. Gather your ministry leaders, members of your church who are passionate about serving the oppressed and vulnerable, and additional church and community partners to journey through the eight-session Engage Together® Teaching Series, which brings this Toolkit to life. (See p29 for more details)

This Engage Together® Church Toolkit is designed to help you explore all the innovative ways churches can engage to make a difference. This Toolkit has been designed specifically for the Church with input from professionals serving in the field. It is filled with ideas on how to enhance your existing programs, how to come alongside those already serving your community, and how to create something new to fill a gap. The possibilities are endless for each of your ministries, Bible studies, outreach programs, pastoral leaderships, and your entire congregation.

Discover how the strengths of your church and the unique skills of your congregation are exactly what is needed to end trafficking in your community.

# Why the Church?

---

**As overwhelming as the statistics and stories may be, the Church far outnumbers them all.**

The Church is already serving in every community, seeking out the oppressed, and providing a refuge for the vulnerable. In this way, the Church is already engaged in efforts that are connected to combating human trafficking that can be enhanced to serve, identify, and restore those who are in need.

Further, a church knows the needs of its community better than anyone. Each member of your congregation and your Church as a whole have important roles in the fight against human trafficking. For the body is not one member, but many. Congregations can leverage their skills, talents, gifts, and resources to end human trafficking and prevent it from happening in the first place.

Action items may apply to your church as an entity based on your church's programs, resources, and capacity.

For example, your church may have a youth group. Consider how your church can include teaching your youth about human trafficking, including personal safety, internet safety, and healthy relationships. Incorporate mentorship and family strengthening as part of your church programming. Make sure your church staff and volunteers are trained on your state's identification and reporting procedures.

Action items may also apply to your congregation's individual members. These individuals have skills, talents, and interests to offer in this effort. There is a common misconception that only certain professions (doctors, lawyers, counselors) have talents to offer. However, each person brings something unique to this fight.

For example: artists can paint a mural in an aftercare home, small business owners can donate items or a percentage of profits, landscapers can offer services to agencies and organizations, musicians can teach music lessons to vulnerable youth, retirees can provide mentorship to vulnerable individuals or survivors, public officials and representatives can propose policies addressing these issues, parents can utilize resources to teach internet safety.



It is time to take a Body of Christ approach to the work of the oppressed. We all have a part to play, and we must all engage together around a comprehensive strategy in order to succeed.

# What is Human Trafficking?

---

## Q: WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

A: Human trafficking is modern slavery for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, or organ trafficking. At present, there are an estimated 40.3 million slaves in the world<sup>1</sup> – more than at any point in our world's history<sup>2</sup>. Human trafficking is an evil and global business that generates an estimated annual profit of \$150 billion<sup>3</sup> through the sale and exploitation of souls.

## Q: WHERE DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCUR?

A: All around the world and throughout the United States. No nation and no community is immune. To gain a better understanding of where and how human trafficking takes place take a look at these two resources, updated annually: U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report<sup>4</sup> and The Global Slavery Index<sup>5</sup>.



Though there is no one face of a human trafficking victim, certain populations are more vulnerable.

## Q: WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

A: Human trafficking affects every demographic<sup>6</sup> – women, men, children, foreign nationals and citizens. While there is no one face of a human trafficking victim, certain populations are more vulnerable, including: runaway and homeless youth<sup>7</sup>; children and youth in foster care<sup>8</sup>; individuals fleeing violence, poverty, or natural disasters<sup>9</sup>; those with disabilities<sup>10</sup>; and those who have suffered other types of abuse or exploitation<sup>11</sup> in their lifetimes.

## Q: WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?

A: Traffickers are those who exploit others for profit. Using force, fraud, or coercion (or through commercial exploitation of a minor by any means), traffickers control both the victim and the profits generated from the commoditization of that individual for labor, sex, or organ trafficking. Traffickers recruit victims from virtual and physical spaces including social media, bus stops, malls, campuses, and other places.

Buyers are those who purchase an individual for labor, sex, or organs. Buyers purchase and exploit individuals online and onsite in a variety of places – in homes, hotels, businesses, and more. Trafficking is driven by demand, because through the sale of souls for all manner of exploitation, traffickers profit. Buyers create the demand for this evil trade.

# What is Human Trafficking?

---

## »» Q: WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

A: Human trafficking did not appear overnight. It is a result of leaving many things undone and many issues unresolved for the vulnerable in our world and in our own communities. For victims, human trafficking is often a result of compounding vulnerabilities, and it is often hidden from plain sight. Traffickers are driven by profit, and buyers drive demand.

## »» Q: CAN IT BE STOPPED?

A: Yes. We believe this evil can be stopped – in the life of an individual, within our community, across our nation, and throughout the world. When we engage together, miracles happen. Continue reading to learn more.

To learn more visit  
[engagetogether.com/learn](https://engagetogether.com/learn)



1 <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

2 <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-19831913>

3 [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_243201/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_243201/lang--en/index.htm)

4 <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>

5 <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/>

6 <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf>

7 <https://www.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Homeless-Youth-and-Human-Trafficking.pdf>

8 <https://www.nfyi.org/issues/sex-trafficking/>

9 <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/aug/10/migrant-crisis-triggers-heightened-risk-of-slavery-in-eu-supply-chains-say-analysts>

10 <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthandSafety/Documents/Human%20Trafficking%20Fact%20Sheet%2010%2017%2014.pdf>

11 <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/victims>

# SPACE Between

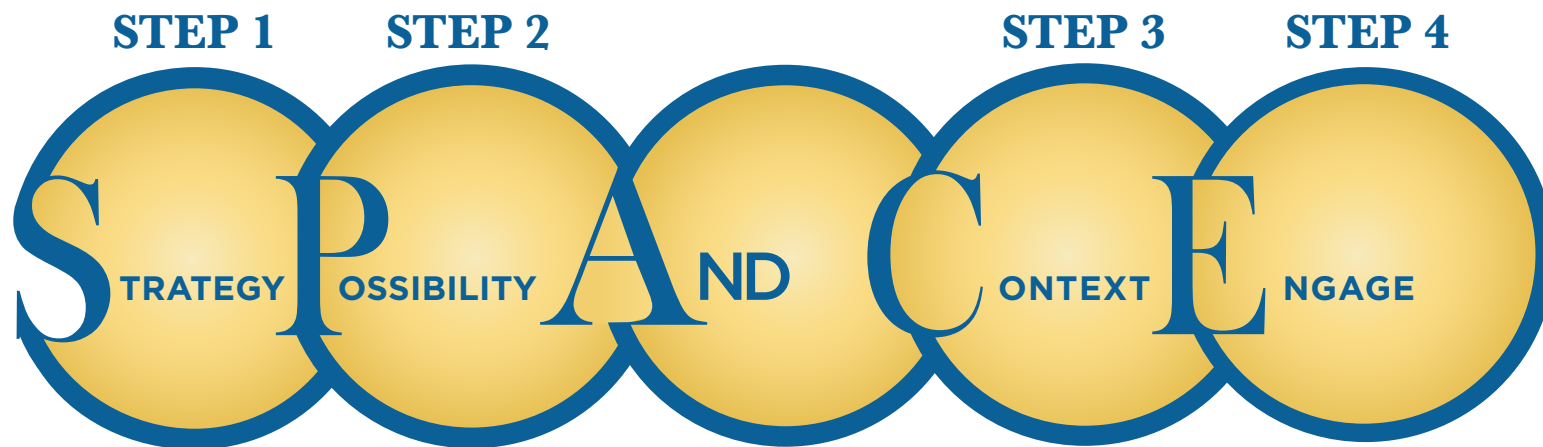
---

## GETTING STARTED

It is important to understand that human trafficking manifests differently in every state, city, and community throughout the world. Regardless of whether your community is urban, rural, large or small, you will **need to develop a plan** for engagement that is specific to your community's strengths and to your community's needs.

When individuals or communities first learn of the reality of human trafficking, the next step for many is to immediately dive in and engage. But to truly be successful in your efforts to end human trafficking in your community, you need to **walk through several steps BEFORE engaging** in order to create a strategic Action Plan that will be effective.

This process is called *the SPACE between* – the question we ask (i.e. how do we stop human trafficking) and the plan we create to engage (i.e. how to end it). Journey through each of the following steps to discover how to end human trafficking and how to prevent it from happening in the first place.





# SPACE Between

---

## ➤➤ STEP 1: STRATEGY

First, understand the STRATEGY for what all must be done and who all must be engaged.

The AFRJ® Freedom Strategy defines all the areas of focus that must be addressed simultaneously within your community to eradicate human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable. Learn more on p10.

## ➤➤ STEP 2: POSSIBILITY

Once you understand the STRATEGY, explore the POSSIBILITIES.

Review each section of this Toolkit to discover what efforts are already working well across the nation. Exploring the possibilities will illuminate many of the ways your church and congregation may be uniquely positioned to engage this issue. Learn more on p11.

## ➤➤ AND

Every step in this process is essential. Understand the STRATEGY, the POSSIBILITIES, AND the CONTEXT before you engage.

## ➤➤ STEP 3: CONTEXT

Understanding the STRATEGY and POSSIBILITIES are first steps, but before you engage, you must comprehend the local CONTEXT of human trafficking in order to meet the needs of your community.

Therefore, it is important to take time to understand what human trafficking looks like in your area and what is already being done (or not being done) to address it. Learn more on p12.

## ➤➤ STEP 4: ENGAGE


Once you understand the STRATEGY to end human trafficking, have explored the POSSIBILITIES, and your local CONTEXT, you are ready to ENGAGE!

You now have all the information you need to create a strategic Action Plan that will make a difference. When it comes time to decide how your church will engage, remember that you have three options to choose from in creating your plan:

- ▶ Enhance your existing efforts
- ▶ Come alongside others already working in the field
- ▶ Fill a gap

You may find ways to do all three.

This Toolkit is designed to help you with Step 2 of this process – POSSIBILITY. Review the action items in the following pages of this Toolkit to explore all the possibilities about how your church can engage. Learn more on p13.



Following the SPACE Between steps will help you develop an Action Plan that is specific to your community. Your Action Plan can grow and has flexibility to change with your community's needs.

# Freedom Strategy

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO ERADICATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

What all must be done? What are all the issues that must be addressed?

The Freedom Strategy developed by the AFRJ defines all areas of focus that must be addressed simultaneously within your community in order to eradicate human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable.

If communities are strong in one area, but lacking in another, gaps will be present that will allow trafficking to continue. For instance, if we are rescuing victims without having restoration resources available, then survivors may become victims again. If we are strong in identifying trafficking situations, but our systems are in need of reforms to better serve victims, or our laws do not properly deter perpetrators, we have work yet to do. If we are not focused on preventing human trafficking in

the first place, vulnerable individuals will continue to be exploited.

Download the Freedom Strategy One-Sheet from [engagetogether.com/endit](http://engagetogether.com/endit)

This Toolkit is built around the framework of the Freedom Strategy.



# Possibilities

## »» NEXT STEPS

Once your church has learned about the issue of human trafficking (see p6) and the strategy needed to end it (see p10), your next step is to explore the possibilities of what your church can do.

Spend time reviewing each section of the Church Toolkit to discover what is working well in other communities. Become a member of Engage Together® Online Access to explore what resources are already available, programs that show promise, organization and sector-specific initiatives that are accomplishing excellent work, models that could be replicated or tailored, and more.

Taking the time to explore the possibilities opens your mind to a whole world of opportunity and ideas that:

- ▶ You may not be aware of, and
- ▶ You will want to consider as you plan to engage.

Take notes on ideas and concepts that stand out to you, and identify key points for further learning.

## »» POSSIBILITIES = ACTION ITEMS

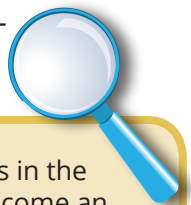
Start exploring possibilities by looking at the action items in the Church Toolkit. Action items are meant to spark an idea and allow your church to build upon it to make it unique to your community. Each of these action items either applies to your church as an entity or to the individual members of your congregation.

## »» APPLYING ACTION ITEMS

While every action item in this Toolkit is important, no church or ministry will be able to take on every idea and action. Consider which activities your church is uniquely positioned to do. For the remaining action items, consider how you may serve as a link in the chain – connecting resources and ideas to others within your congregation, network, and community. Where your church or ministry may not be able to serve as an entity, members of your congregation may be able to offer their skills, talents, and resources in their individual capacities if they are equipped with the right resources.

For example, you may come across a resource that equips lawyers to help survivors. Your church may not be able to directly help; however, you can share the resource with legal professionals in your congregation and serve as a place for them to gather.

Remember, each action item is an idea for engagement that your church can tailor to implement in your community to eradicate human trafficking and prevent it from happening in the first place. To better understand the world of possibilities, consider the action items and the corresponding online references together.



Review the action items in the Toolkit (p15-28) and become an Engage Together® Online Access member at [engagetgether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetgether.com/onlineaccess) to access the corresponding online references.

# Context

---

## »» WHAT IS CONTEXT?

Context is understanding what human trafficking looks like in your local area and what is already being done (or not being done) to address it.

Not every action item or effort will be practical or helpful in every community. While some ideas may sound appealing for your group to replicate, you will want to ensure they are needed in your community before implementing them.

For example, in places where there is a high prevalence of adult labor trafficking, it is important that the efforts that are created there are relevant to that need instead of focusing on a different type of trafficking or on another demographic.

## »» UNDERSTAND YOUR LOCAL CONTEXT

By exploring your local context, you will be able to develop a plan to engage effectively. Understanding your local context helps you evaluate where your community has strengths and where challenges or gaps exist that need to be addressed. Time and resources are limited, and you will not want to duplicate efforts unnecessarily or create resources that do not match your community's needs.



Learn more at [engagetogether.com/communityassessment](https://engagetogether.com/communityassessment)

## »» WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

To gain a deeper understanding of efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the vulnerable in your community, it will be helpful to conduct a Community Assessment.

A Community Assessment allows you to see what efforts already exist (so that you can determine how to support those efforts) and whether there are gaps in service that need to be addressed (which your church or members may be uniquely positioned to fill).

To understand your local context, you will need to:

- ▶ Research what your community is already doing.
- ▶ Understand how your community is identifying human trafficking.
- ▶ Know who in your community is already responding and what programs, initiatives, and efforts are already in place.
- ▶ Learn where efforts are strong and where there are gaps.

Taking the time to understand your local context allows you to see how the possibilities and action items you are considering can provide the greatest impact.

We have created many Community Assessment tools to guide you in this process. To learn more about these resources, visit [engagetogether.com/communityassessment](https://engagetogether.com/communityassessment).

## »» NEXT STEPS

Once you understand the STRATEGY to end human trafficking, have explored the POSSIBILITIES, and CONTEXTUALIZED your knowledge to your local community, you are ready to ENGAGE! You now have all the information you need to create a strategic Action Plan that will make a difference.

## »» HOW DO I ENGAGE?

When it comes time to decide how your church will engage, remember that you have three options to choose from when creating your plan:

**ENHANCE** your existing efforts – Sometimes, one of the best things you can do is to enhance what you are already doing through ways that you are already engaged in your community.

**For example:** *train your current homeless outreach ministry on how to identify and report suspicious activity.*

**COME ALONGSIDE** others – Having reviewed the Freedom Strategy and the world of possibility (in this Toolkit p15-26 and the corresponding online references) and learning the local context, you've come to know that there are many wonderful organizations and individuals serving your community. And they likely could use your help! Reach out to them to explore ways you can come alongside their efforts to help those in need.

**For example:** *service providers may need welcome bags with specific items for survivors who come into care.*

**FILL A GAP** – Through this process (particularly while learning the local context) you likely discovered gaps in your community that need to be filled such as people who are not being reached, areas that are not being served, issues that are not being addressed, resources that are not available, etc. Consider how you might fill that gap, or reach out to those in your community who you think might be able to work together to address it.

**For example:** *Awareness efforts exist in your community but only for adults. Awareness materials and resources for youth are needed.*

Whether you enhance your existing efforts, come alongside others, fill a gap, or find ways to combine all three, know that your church is making a strategic difference in the fight against human trafficking.

# How To Use This Toolkit

In the following pages, you will find practical examples to guide your church as you begin to create your Action Plan. Action items are categorized by the AFRJ® Freedom Strategy (see p10).



Consider the connections and relationships you will need to make in your community to complete the action items you choose. You may find some action items can be duplicated exactly, while others may need to be modified to meet the needs of your community. Look beyond the example. Use action items as a starting place to brainstorm about what your church and members could do locally.



# Prevention

## AWARENESS VULNERABILITY DEMAND



Much of the fight to eradicate human trafficking will be won by preventing it in the first place. In order to PREVENT human trafficking, communities must be made **aware** that this evil exists and must be educated about what puts children, youth, and adults at risk in their cities. While there is no one face of a human trafficking victim, certain populations are more vulnerable. Understanding and addressing factors that lead to **vulnerability** will aid in preventing exploitation. Further, without **demand**, human trafficking would not exist. Churches must consider how to address this root problem – in the lives of individuals, in our culture, and in our laws and policies.

## >>> ACTION ITEMS

### AWARENESS:

- ▶ Learn what human trafficking<sup>1</sup> is and share<sup>2</sup> information with your congregation: in your church bulletin, in your ministry newsletter, and in your church's social media outlets. Encourage your congregation to pray<sup>3</sup> about the issue.
- ▶ Learn<sup>4</sup> the red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation, and program the National Human Hotline (NHTH)<sup>5</sup> into your phone. The NHTH is a national 24-hour, toll-free, multilingual anti-trafficking hotline (888.373.7888) for victims to call for help and for resources. To report a tip online, visit [humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking) or visit [polarisproject.org](https://polarisproject.org) for additional resources. For urgent situations, notify local law enforcement immediately by calling 911.
- ▶ Partner<sup>6</sup> with an existing local anti-trafficking coalition or task force and connect with local domestic violence shelters, rescue missions, juvenile justice facilities, and related organizations to discover how you can work together to prevent human trafficking and protect the vulnerable.
- ▶ Host and/or participate in events<sup>7</sup> that build awareness; invite experts in the field to share with your congregation; fundraise for local organizations already serving in the field; or highlight a human trafficking podcast<sup>8</sup>, film<sup>9</sup> or documentary.

# Prevention

---

## ➤➤ ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Encourage your local school board, teachers, PTOs, home schooling organizations, and universities to explore available school curriculums, and resources<sup>10</sup> and exhibits<sup>11</sup> about human trafficking. Incorporate church specific curriculum into your programs<sup>12</sup>, and highlight the importance of internet safety<sup>13</sup>.
- ▶ Start or join a church coalition<sup>14</sup> dedicated to addressing human trafficking and protecting the vulnerable.

### VULNERABILITY:

- ▶ Explore what vulnerabilities<sup>15</sup> exist in your community that are leading to human trafficking. Wrap around the vulnerable in your communities to proactively prevent such a consequence as human trafficking before it becomes a reality.
- ▶ Encourage members to join a mentoring program<sup>16</sup> to positively impact youth in your area and volunteer with organizations that address the issues of poverty, homelessness<sup>17</sup>, and runaway youth<sup>18</sup>.
- ▶ Enhance your church's outreach to vulnerable populations in your local communities, such as:
  - ▷ Schools – be a safe place for children to come after school, provide after school programs<sup>19</sup>, tutoring<sup>20</sup>, or serve meals<sup>21</sup> during school breaks to children in the area, or adopt a school<sup>22</sup>.
  - ▷ Foster Youth – encourage your congregation to serve as foster parents<sup>23</sup>, to adopt<sup>24</sup> children out

of foster care<sup>25</sup>, to wrap around foster families<sup>26</sup>, and to support<sup>27</sup> youth aging out of foster care without a family<sup>28</sup>.

- ▷ Families in Crisis<sup>29</sup> – wrap around<sup>30</sup> families in crisis and in need<sup>31</sup> early, and provide support for both children<sup>32</sup> and parents<sup>33</sup>.
- ▷ Non-English speaking members – provide materials and/or interpreters to ensure their understanding of this issue and how to seek help<sup>34</sup>.

### DEMAND:

- ▶ Be a responsible consumer<sup>35</sup>. Buy products<sup>36</sup> that are guaranteed to be slave free<sup>37</sup>, or purchase items made by survivors<sup>38</sup>.
- ▶ Promote healthy fatherhood<sup>39</sup>, integrity, and accountability programs.
- ▶ Provide<sup>40</sup> forums for discussions about healthy sexuality and relationships.
- ▶ Recognize how our culture<sup>41</sup> drives demand<sup>42</sup> and explore ways to advocate<sup>43</sup> for a culture that values – not degrades – human life.
- ▶ Understand the nexus between pornography<sup>44</sup> and human trafficking, as well as the nexus between the foods we eat, the products<sup>45</sup> we buy, and slave labor.

---

1. To access the footnotes referenced in this section, become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Subscribe today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)



# Prevention

## PRAYER GUIDES



Prayer guides are available to lead your congregation in prayer around these issues. Consider joining or starting a church network to combat human trafficking collaboratively.

## SAFE FAMILIES



The Safe Families model is a great example of how churches can wrap around families in crisis and provide support for children and their parents.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



There are many resources for educators, students, youth ministries, and universities. Explore available resources that will best fit the need in your church and community.

## FATHERS AGAINST CHILD EXPLOITATION



Fathers in your church can rise up as advocates in your community - to protect the vulnerable, to serve as mentors to children without fathers, and to end demand.



**FOR THESE & OTHER  
PREVENTION REFERENCES**

[engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

# Identification

## TRAINING OUTREACH

The next step in combating human trafficking will be to IDENTIFY victims. Those who are most likely to be in contact with victims – such as law enforcement officers, health care providers, teachers, parents, service industry workers, and others – need **training** to properly identify and detect a case of trafficking. Additionally, **outreach** to vulnerable populations is also essential to identifying trafficking operations and leading to the rescue of victims.



## >>> ACTION ITEMS

### TRAINING:

- ▶ Identify which sectors<sup>1</sup> of your congregation need trainings. A list of those who may need training to identify human trafficking and address common barriers<sup>2</sup> include: law enforcement, social workers, transit employees, medical professionals, truck drivers, juvenile intake officers, teachers, those who regularly make house calls, such as telephone and cable company providers, and even bank tellers, among others.
- ▶ Educate your staff and leadership, including your youth pastors, children's pastors, and outreach ministry directors with faith-based materials that address exploitation<sup>3</sup>.
- ▶ Inform your congregation (including youth and children) of this issue and what to look for – both to identify a trafficking situation and to promote personal safety<sup>4</sup>.

- ▶ Make reporting information readily available by posting a link to the National Human Trafficking Hotline [humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking) on your website, in your weekly bulletin, or newsletter.
- ▶ Print<sup>5</sup> and distribute wallet-sized cards with indicators and reporting information for your church members to carry.

### OUTREACH:

- ▶ Educate those serving in your outreach ministries, such as ministries for the homeless, jails, detention centers, courts<sup>6</sup>, or programs for at-risk children and youth, to recognize and report suspicious activity.
- ▶ Assign a church staff member to serve as a point of contact if others see suspicious activity or are in trouble themselves.

# Identification

## »» ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Enhance your church's outreach programs<sup>7</sup> in your local communities for the purpose of identifying potential victims, such as:
  - ▶ Homeless and Street Outreach – provide flyers with information on how to seek help; serve<sup>8</sup> with an outreach ministry<sup>9</sup>; host outreach events in areas where this issue occurs in your city.
  - ▶ Juvenile Justice Detention Centers – lead programs within detention centers or partner with organizations<sup>10</sup> working to identify victims who may have been wrongly booked as runaways or for other crimes.
  - ▶ Transportation Hubs and Industries – connect with truck stops<sup>11</sup>, rest stops, convenience stores<sup>12</sup>, and bus stations to educate them on this issue and provide information about what to do when suspicious activity is witnessed.

1. To access the footnotes referenced in this section, become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Subscribe today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

### RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS



Polaris Project offers resources to help you learn the signs of labor and sex trafficking. Share this information with the members of your congregation.

### CHRISTIAN MEDICAL & DENTAL ASSOCIATION



Professional associations offer specific resources for those who serve in the medical and dental fields that you can share with members of your congregation.



### FOR THESE & OTHER IDENTIFICATION REFERENCES

[engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

# Rescue

## INTERVENTION TEMPORARY SHELTER

## SERVICES VICTIM ADVOCATES

Once properly identified, those caught in trafficking situations must be **RESCUED**. It is the responsibility of law enforcement officials to **intervene** physically and remove victims from dangerous circumstances. However, churches are uniquely positioned to assist law enforcement in this process. Rescued victims have many immediate and critical needs, including: **temporary shelter** for immediate and safe housing; **services** such as medical, dental, legal, and counseling; and **victim advocates** who will come alongside and link them to needed resources in the community. Increasing the availability of these resources from within your congregation ensures that these victims receive the instant care they need.



## »» ACTION ITEMS

### INTERVENTION:

(DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESCUE A VICTIM; CALL PROFESSIONAL HELP.)

- ▶ Activate Amber Alert<sup>1</sup> on your smart phones and always look for missing children.
- ▶ Become trained to volunteer with your local law enforcement on how to analyze intelligence on cold cases in your community.
- ▶ Volunteer your church to be available as search teams when an abduction occurs in your community.
- ▶ Build relationships with your local law enforcement and government task forces to understand what human trafficking looks like in your community and how you can support their efforts<sup>2</sup>.

### TEMPORARY SHELTER:

- ▶ Determine if there are existing shelters your church can support with funds, in-kind donations<sup>3</sup>, and services from members in your congregation. Shelters for rescued victims may include: shelters specifically designed for survivors<sup>4</sup>, detention centers, group homes therapeutic foster care homes<sup>5</sup> domestic violence shelters<sup>6</sup>, and others.
- ▶ Consider collaboratively developing a shelter with community providers if there are no existing options in your own city or surrounding cities. But first, reach out to existing providers to learn promising practices.

## ACTION ITEMS

### SERVICES:

- ▶ Mobilize professionals within your congregation who are equipped to offer critical post-rescue services<sup>7</sup> such as medical, dental, translation, legal representation, counseling, and transportation.

### VICTIM ADVOCATES:

- ▶ Designate a church member to oversee and coordinate all human trafficking volunteer opportunities.
- ▶ Serve as a liaison between law enforcement (and their agency<sup>8</sup> victim advocates) and professionals in your church. Volunteers can become trained civilian victim advocates to assist with:
  - ▷ Legal Assistance<sup>9</sup> – victims may need help securing identification documents, handling custody issues if they have children, court accompaniment, or navigating various court systems.
  - ▷ Translation and Interpretation Services – encourage members of your church of different lingual and cultural backgrounds to assist with victims. Note this will require extensive training<sup>10</sup>.
- ▶ Advocate for children by serving as a Guardian Ad Litem (some states allow civilians to be trained for just this purpose) or a Court Appointed Special Advocate<sup>11</sup>.

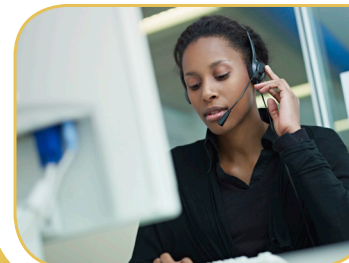
1. To access the footnotes referenced in this section, become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Subscribe today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



The US Department of Health and Human Services offers examples of services needed upon rescue. Discover how members of your congregation may be able to come alongside survivors at that time.

### NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



When you see someone that might be in danger, call your local law enforcement. Ask to connect with the division that handles human trafficking cases, and submit a tip online at [humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking)



### FOR THESE & OTHER RESCUE REFERENCES

[engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)



# Restoration

## AFTERCARE REINTEGRATION

Once rescued, a survivor needs access to appropriate restorative **aftercare**, tailored to meet the needs of each individual. The range of care may include medical, psychological, familial, spiritual, educational, and vocational services. Needs differ greatly from adults to minors, and from foreign national to domestic survivors. The end goal, however, is the same – a successful **reintegration** and a solid foundation upon which to build a healthy, safe, and fulfilling future. Churches are uniquely positioned to participate in the RESTORATION process. From providing wrap around support for therapeutic homes and providers to building long-lasting relationships and ongoing care for survivors in their local communities, there is much that the Church can do.



## »» ACTION ITEMS

### AFTERCARE:

- ▶ Mobilize your congregation members, youth groups, small groups, and other ministries within your church to donate or send gifts to local restoration programs. Seek guidance and direction from directors of programs. Examples of donations include:
  - ▷ Necessities<sup>1</sup>:
    - » Welcome baskets filled with a “care package” of necessities chosen from a list provided by caretakers in your community (recipients could range from children exiting the hospital to welcoming survivors in aftercare programs).
    - » Gift cards for directors of restoration programs to use towards purchases of individual needs.
  - ▷ Specialized Gifts:
    - » Spiritual care packages – Bibles, Bible studies, encouraging books or magazines, sermons or Christian podcasts on CD or a pre-loaded iPod.
    - » Personalized quilts and journals.
    - » Letters/cards of encouragement.
    - » Celebration Box – create a birthday box for a survivor to open on his or her birthday (box cake, card, balloons) or a graduation box with gifts for their graduation from the program.
  - ▷ Educational Gifts:
    - » Books for a restoration program library.
    - » Technology such as laptops, tablets, and other educational development tools.

## »» ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Sponsor outdoor activities and field trips for restoration program participants (e.g. picnics, amusement parks, or canoe trips).
- ▶ Provide direct services<sup>2</sup> – qualified members of your congregation may be able to offer counseling services<sup>3</sup>, pet therapy, equine therapy<sup>4</sup> or culinary art therapy<sup>5</sup> programs, art, music and movement therapy<sup>6</sup>, gardening, or other classes – either on-site or as a separate supportive ministry.
- ▶ Educate<sup>7</sup> your staff, ministry leaders, and congregation on how to serve survivors.
- ▶ Encourage members of your congregation to offer apprenticeships, internships, or vocational opportunities to graduates of restoration homes.
- ▶ Mentor<sup>11</sup> survivors and build relationships with programs, so that there is supportive community in place upon reintegration.

---

1. To access the footnotes referenced in this section, become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Subscribe today at [engagetgether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetgether.com/onlineaccess)

## REINTEGRATION:

- ▶ Sponsor community college, university, or vocational scholarships<sup>8</sup> for participants of restoration programs.
- ▶ Assist with life management<sup>9</sup> and career readiness<sup>10</sup> – there are likely members of your congregation qualified to teach topics such as:
  - ▷ Healthy relationships
  - ▷ Finances
  - ▷ Dress for success
  - ▷ Applying for scholarships
  - ▷ Tax preparation
  - ▷ Car maintenance
  - ▷ Résumé classes
  - ▷ Microsoft Certification/Technology

# Restoration

---

## COME ALONGSIDE SURVIVORS



Churches can partner with organizations like Two Wings to teach life skills and classes as well as offer apprenticeships.

## FAITH ALLIANCE AGAINST SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING



Hands that Heal is a curriculum specifically for churches to train leadership, staff, and congregation members to engage with survivors.

## DONATIONS TO LOCAL SHELTERS



Many aftercare homes need tangible donations for residents. Your church can connect with a local shelter or home to see what unique needs your church, small group, or ministry can meet.



## FOR THESE & OTHER RESTORATION REFERENCES

[engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)





In addition to the rescue and restoration of victims, we must also take affirmative steps to REFORM our **laws** and **policies**, and even entire **systems** that are in place to care for the vulnerable. For the Church, this strategy requires becoming informed and then considering how to support the efforts of legislators to enact laws and policies that protect victims and deter those who would harm others. It is also critically important to assess whether our policies – at the legislative level and in our own churches and businesses – are appropriately addressing this issue. Further, monitoring the impact of reforms, is essential to understand whether efforts are successful or need to be further refined and enhanced with creative solutions.

## >>> ACTION ITEMS

### LEGAL:

- ▶ Learn<sup>1</sup> about human trafficking laws<sup>2</sup> (labor trafficking and sex trafficking) and responses at your community, state<sup>3</sup>, and national levels<sup>4</sup>.
- ▶ Understand the legal process for both victims and perpetrators, and how that process will intersect with your work to identify survivors and serve them.
- ▶ Build relationships with local law enforcement, attorneys, and judges to be helpful and responsive to their needs.
- ▶ Inform law enforcement and legal professionals about what your church is experiencing in the field when

combating human trafficking (well-intentioned laws may have unforeseen consequences).

### POLICY:

- ▶ Encourage those in your church who are leading your efforts to combat human trafficking to serve on an advisory committee<sup>5</sup> in your community to speak into the policy decisions that are informing care of survivors.
- ▶ Find out what local officials, state representatives<sup>6</sup>, and state senators<sup>7</sup> are doing to prevent human

# Reforms

## >> ACTION ITEMS

trafficking and to protect the vulnerable<sup>8</sup> in your area and how you can help.

### SYSTEMS:

- ▶ Understand how agencies and systems operate such as: the juvenile justice system, department of children and families, and department of labor, both at the federal<sup>9</sup> level and within your state.
- ▶ Engage with agencies to enhance your members' participation in adopting<sup>10</sup> children in foster care<sup>11</sup> or providing preventive or alternative placement options<sup>12</sup> for children whose families are in crisis.
- ▶ Explore how your church can support systems to fill gaps where services are limited or under-resourced.
- ▶ Expand how your church can come alongside systems and/or come alongside those receiving services from various systems in your community. Collaborate with organizations across sectors<sup>13</sup> – such as with local businesses, universities, and government officials.
- ▶ Learn how the different systems in place for children and adults in crisis work, and enhance your church's offerings for both populations.

1. To access the footnotes referenced in this section, become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Subscribe today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

### SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL



Learn what laws are in place in your state and what still needs to be done. Educate and empower your congregation to be a voice to your representatives in order to shape policy for your community.

### FOCUS ON THE FAMILY



The Wait No More Campaign shares with churches ways they can serve as adoptive families for children in foster care, and how to wrap around families in need.



### FOR THESE & OTHER REFORMS REFERENCES

[engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

# Toolkit FAQs

---

## »» WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery.

"As defined under U.S. federal law, victims of human trafficking include children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts, and anyone forced into different forms of 'labor or services,' such as domestic workers held in a home, or farm-workers forced to labor against their will." (Polaris Project)

Just as there is no one face of a human trafficking victim, there is no one cause. There are many complex issues that lead to human trafficking. "Sex trafficking and labor trafficking do not only exist because there are vulnerable populations in our world. Trafficking is driven by demand." (Polaris Project)

## »» WHAT IF MY CHURCH IS VERY SMALL ... OR VERY LARGE?


There is no group too small to make a difference. Individuals and small groups can have a very significant impact. And remember the impact of wrapping around a single survivor throughout their journey from rescue to restoration is immeasurable.

Some of you may have a large group and you aren't sure how to engage everyone. This is a great challenge to have! This may mean creating many avenues for involvement, or could be as simple as educating each individual on how to make a difference using their unique skills and abilities to meet needs and opportunities.

Of course, the greatest impact big or small, will come from your group collaborating together with others. Providing a needed service or partnering with other organizations to fill gaps in your community are pathways that will lead to the best solutions for how to mobilize your church members on behalf of those in need.

## »» HOW CAN A CHURCH MOBILIZE AROUND THIS ISSUE?

First, pray together as a church. Second, review this Toolkit to discover how your church can uniquely engage on behalf of the vulnerable in your communities. Third, pair this Toolkit with the Engage Together® Church Teaching Series. (See p29 for more details.) Your commitment to strategic collaboration is critically important to your success in tackling these issues.



The members who make up your congregation are all in unique positions to make a difference in their personal and professional lives. Learn more at [engagetogether.com/resources](https://engagetogether.com/resources)

## »» WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TOOLKIT & TEACHING SERIES

The Church Toolkit helps a church understand the possibilities of how to combat human trafficking and protect the vulnerable. The Teaching Series brings the Toolkit to life for a church (or group within a church) that wants to develop a strategic Action Plan for their local community.

# Toolkit FAQs

---

The Teaching Series is an eight-session series, media-guided, with a Facilitator Guide, the Church Toolkit, an online course on how to do a Community Assessment, templates, and other supports.

It guides those going through it within any church (rural, urban, large, or small) on how to create a strategic Action Plan unique to their church's strengths and their community's needs.

The Church Toolkit can be purchased individually or along with the Teaching Series.

## »» ONLINE ACCESS

Engage Together® Online Access is an online subscription membership where you can access all Engage Together® resources, including: the Teaching Series, the Community Assessment Course, guides and forms, the Engage Together® Toolkits, the online references, and more.



Become a member of Engage Together® Online Access. Learn more and subscribe today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

## »» WHY SHOULD OUR CHURCH CREATE OUR OWN PLAN?

Ending the exploitation of the vulnerable cannot be done overnight. And it cannot be done without a plan. It is important to understand that human trafficking manifests itself differently in every state, city, and community all across the world. Regardless of whether your church is urban, rural, large or small – you will need to have a plan for engagement that is specific to your church's strengths and to your community's needs.

## »» WHY DOES OUR CHURCH NEED TO GET INVOLVED LOCALLY? IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING ONLY AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE?

Human trafficking is occurring in every state and city. Both sex trafficking and labor trafficking are widespread in the United States and growing. Scripture instructs us to care for the vulnerable people we encounter in our daily lives. Children and youth in foster care, struggling families, refugees, and others who are especially vulnerable to human trafficking are living in our communities and sitting in our pews. Therefore, it is important to consider how your congregation is addressing the issue in your own community in addition to efforts you consider supporting internationally.



# ENGAGE TOGETHER® CHURCH TEACHING SERIES

## READY TO MOBILIZE YOUR CHURCH?

The Engage Together® Teaching Series equips churches with the knowledge, resources, ideas, and strategies needed to move forward in their efforts to end human trafficking and the exploitation of the vulnerable. This eight-session series uses media, discussion guides, Community Assessment tools, access to online references, and more to guide your church in developing an Action Plan unique to your church's strengths and to your community's needs.

### THE CHURCH TEACHING SERIES INCLUDES:

- ▶ The Church Toolkit & supplemental materials
- ▶ Media segments for each session and bonus features
- ▶ Facilitator Guide
- ▶ Engage Together® Online Access for references, resources, and materials

### LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS:

The A21 Campaign, Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking, Focus on the Family, Hope for Freedom, Freedom's Shield, Out of Darkness, Valiant Hearts, and more!



For more information and to access the Engage Together® Church Teaching Series today, visit [engagetgether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetgether.com/onlineaccess)

The AFRJ exists to **EQUIP** those engaged in combating human trafficking and protecting the vulnerable...

...to **DEVELOP** the relationships, resources, solutions, and strategies needed to fill existing gaps...

...and to **MOBILIZE** a global collaborative network to engage together on behalf of those in need.

## ENGAGE TOGETHER® ONLINE ACCESS

- ▶ Engage Together® Online Access contains a host of digital resources for you, including all the action item references in this Toolkit, Community Assessment materials, and more. Log in today at [engagetogether.com/onlineaccess](https://engagetogether.com/onlineaccess)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- ▶ Visit [engagetogether.com](https://engagetogether.com) for additional resources and information on human trafficking
- ▶ Explore other Toolkits in the Series at [engagetogether.com/toolkits](https://engagetogether.com/toolkits). Looking to purchase hard copies of the Toolkits? Contact us at [connect@engagetogether.com](mailto:connect@engagetogether.com)
- ▶ Sign up to receive ongoing communications for new ideas and resources at: [engagetogether.com/subscribe](https://engagetogether.com/subscribe)
- ▶ Have questions? Contact us at [connect@engagetogether.com](mailto:connect@engagetogether.com)

## THANK YOU.

This Toolkit has been designed specifically for the Church with input from professionals serving in the field and churches already engaged in combating human trafficking in our nation. We are so very thankful for all those who provided input, assistance, and support for this resource.

---

**“We have every one of us a work to accomplish...  
If we persevere indeed, success is certain;  
but our efforts must know no remission.”**

*- William Wilberforce*





[engagetogether.com](http://engagetogether.com) | 877.727.ENGAGE | [connect@engagetogether.com](mailto:connect@engagetogether.com)

\*The Engage Together® Toolkit Series and supplemental materials are copyrighted by the Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice, Inc.®

All Rights Reserved. © 2018

**Permissible Uses** are limited to: sharing this Toolkit with your group members electronically or copying the materials for distribution among your members.

**Impermissible Uses** include: resale; removing or altering trademarks or logos; and altering or making any changes to the content, except for those sections of the supplemental materials that are expressly created for your input and edits.