



**WHERE HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HAPPENS**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD
YOU'RE HERE



Do you want to share the information you have learned about human trafficking in your community but don't know how?

In this guide, you will find discussion questions, action steps, and handouts based on the Engage Together® Blog "[Is Human Trafficking Happening in My Community?](#)". These tools will help you share information you are learning with family, friends, community and others in your network. These resources are designed for you and a group (2 or more) to go deeper in your understanding of what human trafficking looks like and what you can do to identify, report, and share with others.

GETTING STARTED

IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENING IN MY COMMUNITY?

When people first learn about human trafficking, they often think that it must be happening “over there” – in another country, state, or city. They don’t often think it could be happening in their community. This may be because they already have an idea of what human trafficking looks like or only know about one form of human trafficking.

But human trafficking is occurring everywhere – in urban cities and rural communities in every state. While many know about sex trafficking and labor trafficking, do they know the [types of human trafficking](#) that exist? It is pervasive, and it is important to know what to look for, so that it can be identified, reported, and prevented from ever happening in the first place. (See *“What Human Trafficking Looks Like” Discussion Guide for information about types of human trafficking*).

So, how do you know if human trafficking is happening in your community? How do you share with your neighbors, friends, and colleagues that this isn’t happening “over there,” but in the U.S., and likely in your community? Below you will find steps and resources to help you learn about human trafficking in your community and state.

GETTING STARTED CONTINUED

1. LEARN THE HOTLINE STATISTICS

The [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) maintains data from phone calls, emails, and online tip reports from throughout the United States. Each year, they provide their [hotline statistics](#) with national and individual state figures. The hotline reviews cases of potential trafficking and records data, including types of trafficking, gender, age, and more. Check out your total state calls and cases. Also, check out the analysis of [2020 National Human Trafficking Hotline Data](#) and [report](#) to see if your area was impacted.

2. REVIEW YOUR STATE PROFILE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

The Office on Trafficking in Persons at ACF offers [state & territory profiles](#) and provides an overview of anti-trafficking activities and resources, including cases reported, top sex and labor trafficking venues, laws, and statewide efforts.

This information can help with statistics as well as provide information on

efforts in the field that can illuminate communities working to combat human trafficking. These communities can then share what they are encountering and where they are seeing human trafficking.

3. LEARN ABOUT CASES IN YOUR STATE.

To learn about your state's federal response to human trafficking, review your [state summary](#) in the [Annual Federal Human Trafficking Report](#) by [The Human Trafficking Institute](#). You will find how many new criminal cases, active cases, convictions, and sentencings there were in 2020. Civil case data, including restitution to victims, is also included.

You can also check out the Department of Homeland Security [news releases](#) and filter by time period, topic (human trafficking or child exploitation), and state.

GETTING STARTED CONTINUED

4. GOOGLE ALERTS

Set up [Google Alerts](#) to get email updates specific to the topics you want to learn more about such as labor trafficking, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, etc.

5. CONNECT WITH LOCAL TASK FORCES AND COALITIONS

Local task forces and coalitions often work with local and state law enforcement, as well as federal agencies, and can share what they are encountering in the field. They may be able to share updates about a case, invite a local or state prosecutor to speak, or share new ways they are seeing trafficking and exploitation emerge. They can also provide insight into where victims are recruited in certain communities, where they are transported to, or where they are trafficked within a community.

While your local community may not have had a story reported or case activated, it is important to learn about cases in surrounding areas, as it is possible that a victim was recruited from or transported through your community.

Understanding who to connect with so you can know what to look for will help you prevent and report human trafficking in your community. It will also help you share with your friends and colleagues that human trafficking may be a reality in your community.

FOR ANY GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After reading the blog, answer these questions with your group for further learning and discussion.

1. What did you know about human trafficking before today?

4. Does this make you think differently about how your community may be encountering human trafficking?

2. Where did you think human trafficking was taking place?

5. Do you think you have seen human trafficking in your community before? What did you do?

3. What did you learn that surprised you the most?

6. Who needs to know this information?

FOR CHURCH GROUPS

ENGAGE: TAKE ACTION

After reading the blog, consider with your group how this impacts churches, who to connect with, and what you can do.

- How can this information be helpful to your church and congregation members?
- Who in your church needs to know about efforts in your community or state to combat human trafficking?
- Who do you know that is already working to address human trafficking in your community? how can you work with them?
- Who is someone you will share this information with this week?



Find out how your church can continue to be involved at engagetogether.com

FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS

ENGAGE: TAKE ACTION

After reading the blog, consider with your group how this impacts communities, who to connect with, and what you can do.

- How can this information be helpful to organizations and agencies you already know that are serving your community?
- Who in your community needs to know about efforts in your community or state to combat human trafficking?
- Who do you know that is already working to address human trafficking in your community? How can you work with them?
- Who is someone you will share this information with this week?



Find out how your community can continue to be involved at engagetogether.com

FOR BUSINESS GROUPS

ENGAGE: TAKE ACTION

After reading the blog, consider with your group how this impacts businesses, who to connect with, and what you can do.



How can this information be helpful to your business and employees?



Who in your business needs to know about efforts in your community or state to combat human trafficking?



Who do you know that is already working to address human trafficking in your community? How can you work with them?



Who is someone you will share this information with this week?



Find out how your business can continue to be involved at engagetogether.com

FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

ENGAGE: TAKE ACTION

After reading the blog, consider with your group how this impacts educators, who to connect with, and what you can do.



How can this information be helpful to students and schools?



Who in your school needs to know about efforts in your community or state to combat human trafficking?



Who do you know that is already working to address human trafficking in your community? How can you work with them?



Who is someone you will share this information with this week?



Find out how your school can continue to be involved at
engagetogether.com

SUMMARY CHECKLIST

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The National Human Trafficking Hotline has received calls from all 50 states reporting suspected human trafficking cases. Learn if human trafficking is occurring in your community and what efforts exist to combat it.

- 1. LEARN THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE STATISTICS FOR YOUR STATE.**
- 2. REVIEW YOUR FEDERAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STATE PROFILE.**
- 3. LEARN ABOUT CASES IN YOUR STATE.**
- 4. SET UP GOOGLE ALERTS TO RECEIVE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS.**
- 5. CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL TASK FORCE OR COALITION.**



Review hotline statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline humantraffickinghotline.org/states