

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Human Trafficking Learning Series
Introduction

Human Trafficking: Getting Started



"Consider it. Take counsel. Speak out."
-Judges 19: 30b



Hello Interested Lutheran Leader!

Welcome to the ELCA Human Trafficking Learning Series! We are excited that you care about human trafficking and want to help others learn about it, too. This series is intended *for Lutheran high school-aged young people* and is designed to be *led by a Lutheran high school-aged young person* or an adult, but can be easily adapted for a variety of audiences.

You may already be an expert on human trafficking, but you don't have to be to lead this learning session. The directions are clearly written so all you have to do is read the learning tasks, keep time, and facilitate good discussion when needed. You may be a professional presenter, or this might be your first time leading a group. Either way, **YOU** can lead this series!

This introduction resource provides some tips to help you get started with the series. Some may be more helpful for your particular group than others. That's okay; this series is meant to be flexible! Use what works best in your context, and tweak the pieces that might work better another way.

We give thanks for your interest and commitment to helping others learn about human trafficking. By raising awareness and engaging in thoughtful dialogue and learning you are helping this church *educate* for justice, *advocate* for change, and *lead* into the future! If you have questions, and/or would like to share feedback and success stories, please email justiceforwomen@elca.org.

Thank you again for your work and service!

This series contains six 1-hour learning sessions:

- **Our Call to Care and Action**

A first look at what human trafficking is and how our faith calls us to respond

- **Scope, Definition and Identification**

A detailed assessment of the term "human trafficking," whom it affects, and how to identify victims

- **The Big Picture**

A deeper look at some of the root causes of human trafficking and how they relate to vulnerability

- **Our Lives and Our Responsibilities Part 1: Labor Trafficking**

An analysis of the role of demand in labor trafficking, how we contribute, and what we can do

- **Our Lives and Our Responsibilities Part 2: Sex Trafficking**

An analysis of the role of demand in sex trafficking, how our society contributes, and what we can do

- **Responding to our Call**

A wrap-up of the series with reference to the ELCA's Social Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and an opportunity to create an action plan for your group



The sessions do build on one another to a certain degree, and the series is designed to accommodate those with little to no prior knowledge of human trafficking. However, the sessions can be slightly modified and used on their own if a group has a significant amount of background on the topic and would like to look more in depth at one specific area.

Before you begin...

1) Learn as much as you can about your group.

Prior to meeting, find out as much as you can about the learners in your group. It might be helpful to know:



- How many will be in your group
- The ages of learners
- What prior knowledge of human trafficking learners have
- If any learners need special accommodations
- What learners are particularly interested in discussing
- Why learners have signed up for this series

Once you know more details about your group you'll be able to tailor the sessions to meet learner's needs.

2) Evaluate your space.

Will you have a projector? Is there a whiteboard or chalkboard available? What kinds of tables or desks are in the room? Can you easily change the set-up of the room? Are some areas of the space hidden from view? Will learners be able to hear you and one another without amplification?



If you ask yourself these kinds of questions, you are sure to be well prepared to best utilize your learning space!

3) Read through the sessions.

The more familiar you are with the content, the more comfortable you'll be!



At your first meeting...

You may want to get together as a group prior to your first session. Familiarity with other learners will help everyone feel safe as you share with one another throughout the series.

1) Get to know one another!

These sessions will work best if learners feel comfortable with one another (and you!). Your group may have worked together many times before, just been formed recently, or somewhere in between. Depending on your group's needs, choose an activity or two to break the ice!



2) Establish Group Norms

Whenever you're working with a group, it is important to discuss what group members expect from one another. Before you begin the series, take some time to list and agree upon some basic "rules" for your time together. Once the whole group has approved the list, make sure it is visible in the room at each of your sessions. Group norms are about respect and collaboration. Here are some examples:

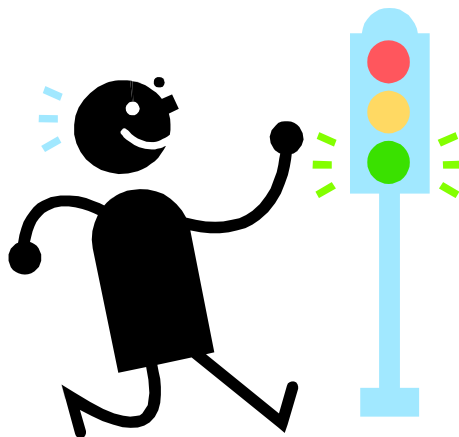
- Confidentiality: What is shared in this room stays in this room
- Step up, step back: If you are a person who generally shares frequently, give those who don't speak up as readily a chance to contribute. If you tend to hold back, challenge yourself to step up!
- No interruptions: When someone is speaking, respect their voice
- Comfort with silence: Sometimes we all need to process a bit!
- Come up with your own! Each group has different needs, so be creative!

During the sessions...

Keep in mind:

1. **Learners are responsible for their own learning!** Your job is to do the best you can to include input, help the participants make relevant connections to the content, and encourage questions.
2. **Respect for learners.** We each know *some* things! Respect the fact that participants already know something, and the door to learning is open and inviting.
3. **Safety.** Human trafficking is a tough topic. There are helpful safety hints provided throughout the sessions.
4. **Engagement.** People learn best when they *do* while they learn. These sessions are interactive — get everyone involved!
4. **Have fun!** Much of this content is serious, but there are still ways to have fun learning as a group.

Now you're ready to get started with
Session 1: Our Call to Care and Action!



-This page left intentionally blank-

*© Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2012.
Prepared by Melanie Massnick, Justice for Women program, Office of the Presiding Bishop*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Produced by the ELCA Justice for Women Program,
Office of the Presiding Bishop