

## **Sex-Trafficking Awareness**

- Human Trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world, after drug smuggling and arms dealing
- A child is trafficked every 30 seconds
- According to estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.
- The average age of a young woman being trafficked is 12-14 years old
- 1.2 million children are brought into slave trade each year
- If we educate them and their parents/guardians they are less likely to be deceived.

**The three largest contributors to women and children being exploited are:**

- 1. Lack of education**
- 2. Economic distress**
- 3. A lack of equality**

**In What ways are children and their families deceived into being trafficked?**

1. A wealthy businessman or woman has offered the family money and promised to take their child to another country to play sports or to work for him/her. He/she promises to send money back to the family every month.
2. The religious leaders have offered to take the family's child into the city to go to school. They promise the child will be well taken care of and will receive a good education.
3. The "Auntie" has offered a girl a job working for a friend in a restaurant in the city. She may be someone the family knows—even a family member who promises the girl will make a lot of money and send money home each month.

**Know the truth and spot deception!**

1. Husbands and boyfriends are supposed to keep your home safe. They do not hurt their wives and girlfriends! If a man forces his wife or girlfriend to have sex with other men for drugs or money, he is NOT safe!
2. Many religious leaders are good men. Sometimes men come dressed as religious leaders but they do not know God. If a religious leader wants to give you money and take your child out of the village he is not safe.

3. Wealthy business people may come to your village and build schools or give medicines and even bring safe, clean water. These are good people. If those people offer you money to take your child out of the village, they are not safe.
4. Neighbors, aunts and mothers help their daughters get an education and good jobs. These are good women. If a woman, even someone you know, wants to arrange for a job or education in another country. If she pays for the travel and wants to keep your identification documents, she is not safe.

### **What happens to the children?**

- The people that we should be able to trust have deceived us. The families believed a lie and their children are forced to work for dangerous men. They are trapped and there is no way they can escape.
- Many children will be forced to labor in fields or on fishing boats. They will work from sun up until late into the night. They will not have enough food, water or sleep. They will be beaten and killed if they rest or play.
- Many children will be forced to work at night. Men will pay to abuse them, to have sex with them. The children will be raped by as many as thirty men each night!
- Eventually the girl will be broken. She is kept in a tiny room and given drugs so she can't fight. She will come to believe that the only way she can be safe is to be beautiful and pretend to enjoy the men she is given to. She doesn't know that all life is valuable, that she is valuable. If someone does not help these children, they will die of abuse, exhaustion or disease.

### **There is hope for children and families!**

- Hold tightly to your family!
- DO NOT send them away to school or work with anyone who offers you money. Do NOT send them away with ANYONE who will pay for their travel! DO NOT give your, or your child's identification papers to anyone!
- If you hear or see of people being taken from their homes and forced to work in dangerous places YOU MUST SPEAK OUT! They are valuable and deserve our protection! If they are taken you must call this number. The authorities can go find them and set them free.

- If you are ever trapped in a dangerous situation then look for landmarks near where you are held. Call this number as soon as possible to ask for help.

**The local hotline number for help is:** \_\_\_\_\_

The people who answer this number will come for you, you will not be in trouble.

- If a child is rescued or able to escape, many times the family will not welcome them back. The family feels ashamed, their child has been used; the child may be very sick and now is unwanted.
- Through an open door the child and family can find freedom and healing. If there is an open door for the child to return home then they can begin to heal from the many ways that they were hurt.
- Although they were broken and wounded, their heart that was once shattered can find healing and wholeness again. (This opens the door to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ)

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