INVISIBLE CHAINS
Raising Awareness of the Evils of Human Trafficking

An Educational Module for 9 - 12 Grade Students
(Adaptable for Middle School Aged Students)
Introduction

You might think that slavery is something you only read about in history books. Unfortunately, the sad and shocking truth is that slavery exists today both in our country and around the world. It is known now as human trafficking, and it is a growing evil of major proportions, making an enormous amount of money (estimated at $32 billion annually) for those who enslave mostly women and children to work in the sex industry and forced labor.

Although it is difficult to determine an exact number due to the underground, illegal nature of the activity, some estimate that as many as 27 million individuals are trafficked throughout the world. Who are these victims? Where do they live? Could they be right here in our midst? And who are the people engaged in this crime?

This module is designed to raise your awareness of human trafficking, take appropriate steps for personal protection, and help to eliminate this horrific evil.
Standard for Mastery

All students will gain an awareness of the extent of the problem of human trafficking, both in our country and around the world, and recognize it as a moral evil to be fought.

Goals for What Students Will Be Able to Know, Understand and Act Upon

1. Define “trafficking in persons”
2. Identify different kinds of trafficking
3. Understand what conditions have contributed to the problem of human trafficking
4. Learn about traffickers and how they operate
5. Know how to guard against becoming victims
6. Be able to discern and report suspicious situations to parents, Educators, and law enforcement.
7. Demonstrate commitment to working on behalf of victims, and pray for an end to human trafficking.

Activities

1. Read/discuss/reflect on the materials contained in this packet.
3. Find new testament quotes regarding freedom from slavery.
4. Find appropriate apps (iPad or iPhone) on human trafficking awareness.
5. Research the most recent effective efforts in addressing this problem.
6. Some celebrities have taken up the cause of ending human trafficking. Who are they and what do some of the things they are doing?

Authentic Assessment/Evaluation

Produce a presentation that demonstrates mastery of the standard. This can be an artistic, dramatic, musical, academic, or video presentation that would be appropriate as a learning tool for presentation to middle school students.

Follow-Up

Participate in local and diocesan-wide efforts in human trafficking awareness and elimination.
1. Define “Trafficking in Persons”

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, sex acts or slavery.

**What is Human Trafficking?**

- A form of modern-day slavery
- Involves the exploitation of persons for commercial sex or forced labor, plus the inability to extricate oneself from that situation
- Often involves crossing an international border but does not require moving a victim
- Traffickers use *force, fraud, or coercion* to control their victims
- Cases can be prosecuted on a variety of grounds
2. Identify Different Kinds of Trafficking

**Human Trafficking Defined**
- Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts
- Those 18 or over involved in commercial sex acts induced through force, fraud, or coercion
- Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud, or coercion

**Is it Really Happening in Florida? Yes!**
Human trafficking has become pervasive in Florida in the past decade:
- Sex trafficking of immigrants and U.S. citizens
- Forced labor in Florida’s fields, restaurants & resorts
- Domestic minor sex trafficking of teenage runaways
- House slavery (“domestic servitude”)

**Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking**
- Trafficking should not be confused with smuggling which is the illegal movement of a person across a border with their consent
- But those who are smuggled into the United States are vulnerable to becoming trafficking victims.

**Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Defined by Federal Law**
**Domestic minor sex trafficking** occurs when a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident who has not attained 18 years of age is engaged in a commercial sex act.

A “commercial sex act” is any sex act where anything of value is given to or received by any person. This includes:
- Prostitution
- Exotic dancing/striping
- Pornography

Child victims of trafficking are often exploited for commercial sex, including prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism. For child victims of exploitation, the destructive effects can create long-term health problems that include both physical and mental symptoms.

- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that at least **100,000 U.S. children are victims of sex trafficking each year**, including children as young as 12.
- There are estimates that at any given time as many as 30,000 to 40,000 pre-teen and teenage runaways reside in Florida. As a group, all are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

**General Facts on Trafficking**
- Victims are typically exploited by someone from their own country.
- Victims rarely self-identify when they are approached or rescued.
- Physical security is the greatest perceived need of most victims.
- Traffickers often allow victims to attend church, using this to control the victim.
3. Understand What Conditions Have Contributed to the Problem of Human Trafficking

**Victims Are Often Invisible**
- Many are illegal and fear U.S. authorities
  - Traffickers exploit this fear
- Victims may be physically isolated or guarded; others are held through psychological coercion
- Many victims do not speak English
- Many victims have no idea where they are in the U.S. and face tremendous cultural barriers
- Many do not realize that they are victims or that they have rights under U.S. law
4. Learn About Traffickers and How They Operate

**Traffickers Seek Out and Exploit Victim Vulnerabilities**
- Undocumented status
- Alcohol or drug dependency
- Teenage Runaways
- Homelessness

**Which Children Are Most At Risk of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?**
- Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Youth of any socio-economic class
- Female, male, and transgender youth
- Youth of all ages, including teenagers
- **Vulnerable** youth

**How and Where They Fall Victim**
- On-Line/The Internet
- Facebook / Myspace.com
- The Mall
- The Street
- School
- The Park
5. Know How to Guard Against Becoming Victims

Runaway and “throwaway” children throughout the U.S. are particularly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. Youth running away from unstable home environments where they suffered sexual or physical abuse are often lured by pimps with promises of love, security, and belonging.

Who Are Domestic Minor Sex Traffickers?

- A pimp, a boyfriend, father, mother, brother, uncle, a coach, a teacher or anyone exerting control over a minor, even a peer
- Not always organized criminals
- Both men and women of varying ages
- Any ethnicity or race
- Anyone who benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or facilitates the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor
6. Be Able to Discern and Report Suspicious Situations to Parents, Educators and Law Enforcement

Warning Signs of Human Trafficking
• Signs of Physical Abuse
• Deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care
• Restricted communication
• A large number of occupants in one residence
• Always accompanied when outside their residence
• Outside locks on doors and windows
• Lack of identification documentation

To Report Human Trafficking
• Call 1-888-373-7888
• Call 911 if there is immediate danger or a medical emergency
7. Demonstrate Commitment to Working on Behalf of Victims, and Pray for an End to Human Trafficking

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*
The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit. - Paragraph no. 2414

*Pope John Paul II*
The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights…Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person. The alarming increase in the trade in human beings is one of the pressing political, social and economic problems associated with the process of globalization; it presents a serious threat to the security of individual nations and a question of international justice which cannot be deferred. - Letter on the Occasion of the “Twenty-First Century Slavery – The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings” Conference 2002

*Pope Benedict XVI*
One of the recognizable signs of the times today is undoubtedly, migration . . . Naturally in this “sign of the times” various factors play a part. They include both national and international migration, forced and voluntary migration, legal and illegal migration, subject also to the scourge of trafficking in human beings. - Migrations: A Sign of the Times, World Day for Refugees and Migrants Message, 2006

*Vatican Council II*
…Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator. - Gaudium et Spes, 1965
Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and prosecuting those actors in receiving countries, including our own, that benefit because of the exploitation of vulnerable human beings…

Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it. In the end, we must work together – Church, state, and community – to eliminate the root causes and markets that permit traffickers to flourish; to make whole the survivors of this crime; and to ensure that, one day soon, trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth. - On Human Trafficking, 2007

The Catholic Church… in the United States stands ready to work with our government to end this scourge. We cannot rest until trafficking in human persons is eliminated –from the globe.

- Statement of Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, Chair of USCCB Committee on Migration, 2004
The Church always stands for the central tenet of respect for the sublime dignity of human persons. Catholic Social Teaching maintains that states that constitute an assault to human dignity, such as slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children as well as treatment of humans as mere tools for profit, are abuses that poison human society. Today the Church considers its role in combating human trafficking, i.e. modern-day slavery, as prophetic and necessary. The Holy Father has emphasized the need for a renewed awareness of the inestimable value of life and an ever more courageous commitment to the defense of human rights and the eradicating of every form of abuse. Simultaneously, he has expressed deep appreciation for the laudable anti-trafficking initiatives.

To this end, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) has become a leader in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Through a partnership with the federal government and other anti-trafficking organizations, USCCB/MRS has created a national network that provides services and support for rescued victims. Human trafficking is a horrific crime in any form that it presents itself. Since 2000, efforts have been made to prosecute traffickers, protect victims and prevent the phenomenon of trafficking. The USCCB/MRS has identified awareness of this issue as a priority of the first order.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
A national public awareness campaign serves the purposes of victim identification as well as prevention of trafficking. The campaign aims at targeting: 1) Mass-attending Catholics of all ages; 2) Catholic middle and high school students and students at Catholic colleges and universities as well as campus ministry programs at state universities; and, 3) Catholic health facilities.

In December 2003, the Florida bishops approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee to guide the activities of a pilot project in this state. The committee, which comprises key individuals with expertise in working with the targeted audiences, has these three primary purposes: 1) Identifying activities and strategies that will educate the targeted audiences of Catholics on the realities of human trafficking, 2) collaborating with dioceses and institutions in implementing these educational activities and strategies, 3) collaborating with state officials, law enforcement and other nonprofit organizations to identify ways in which each of the audiences can engage directly in the fight against this global scourge in Florida.

List of members by sub-committee assignment of the Florida Bishops Ad-Hoc Committee on Human Trafficking Awareness

Structure of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Human Trafficking Awareness

Recommendations to the Bishops

Timeline of Activities
Bishops of Florida Call on Catholics to Fight the Evil of Human Trafficking
January 11, 2011
Updated February 1, 2011*

On this tenth anniversary of the passage of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), we call upon the Florida faithful to be actively engaged in the fight against the evil of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign is intended to educate those who may come in contact with victims in churches, health care facilities, schools or the community so they can identify and report in order to rescue victims from their abusers.

The U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000 - 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year and approximately 14,500 – 17,500 of them are trafficked into the U.S. annually, luring them with promises of money and then selling or using them in bondage*. Profit over people places at risk women and children forced into prostitution, pornography and sexual entertainment to meet the huge demand of customers. Florida, a prime destination for traffickers because of agriculture and tourism, also depends upon workers in the fields, hotels, and other labor intensive industries. This extreme exploitation destroys the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of the victims, leaving them scarred for life.

A troubling trend is the exploitation of minors in domestic sex trafficking. These youth, under age 18, are the runaway and throwaway children in society picked up on our streets and forced into sex acts in exchange for food and a bed. We grieve for the children whose innocence has been sacrificed in the name of greed and monetary gain, a shocking example of “man’s inhumanity to man.”

In a 2007 pastoral statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration, the bishops wrote: “Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it…to ensure that, one day soon, trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth.”

As we reflect on our human bond with each other and the words from Matthew 25:40, “as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me,” we call on Catholics to become educated about the scourge of trafficking in society. Our vulnerable brothers and sisters, trapped by poverty or circumstances, are waiting for us to help free them from bondage so they may be made whole and restored to health.

* This sentence revised per U.S. State Department estimates.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES
A FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

What Is Human Trafficking?
Human trafficking is a serious federal crime with penalties of up to imprisonment for life. Federal law defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as: “(A) sex trafficking in which 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; or (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.” [U.S.C. §7102(8)] In short, human trafficking is modern-day slavery.

What Is the Extent of Human Trafficking in the United States?
Contrary to a common assumption, human trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and some U.S. territories. Victims of human trafficking can be children or adults, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, male or female.

According to U.S. government estimates, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked to the United States for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country primarily for sexual servitude and, to a lesser extent, forced labor.

How Does Human Trafficking Affect Our Schools?
Trafficking can involve school-age children—particularly those not living with their parents—who are vulnerable to coerced labor exploitation, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual exploitation (i.e., prostitution).

Sex traffickers target children because of their vulnerability and gullibility, as well as the market demand for young victims. Those who recruit minors into prostitution violate federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no coercion or movement across state lines. The children at risk are not just high school students—studies demonstrate that pimps prey on victims as young as 12. Traffickers have been reported targeting their minor victims through telephone chat-lines, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using girls to recruit other girls at schools and after-school programs.

How Do I Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking?*

A victim:
- Has unexplained absences from school for a period of time, and is therefore a truant
- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis
- Chronically runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, or fear
- Lacks control over her or his schedule or identification documents
- Is hungry-malnourished or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction

Additional signs that may indicate sex-related trafficking include:
- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (e.g., has expensive items)
- Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” who is noticeably older (10+ years)
- Makes references to terminology of the commercial sex industry that are beyond age-specific norms; engages in promiscuous behavior and may be labeled “fast” by peers

* It is important to note that this list is not comprehensive of all signs of human trafficking, nor are all students who exhibit these signs most certainly trafficking victims. The list is meant to be a guide to help determine if further action is appropriate.
How Do I Report a Suspected Incidence of Human Trafficking?

- In cases of immediate emergencies, it is best to call your local police department or emergency access number.
- You can report suspected trafficking crimes or get help by calling the national 24/7 toll-free Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888. This center will help you determine if you have encountered a victim of human trafficking; identify local resources available in your community to help victims; and coordinate with local social service providers to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of rehabilitation and restoring their lives. When appropriate, the Resource Center makes referrals to local organizations that assist victims with counseling, case management, legal advice, and other appropriate services, as well as to law enforcement agencies that help trapped victims reach safety.
- For sexually exploited or abused minors call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s (NCMEC) hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST to be connected with the most appropriate assistance in your area, or you can report incidents at http://www.cybertipline.org.
- You can report suspected instances of trafficking or worker exploitation by contacting the FBI field office nearest you at http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm or by contacting the Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Office at 1-888-428-7581.

How Does the United States Help Victims of Human Trafficking?
The U.S. government supports a victim-centered approach. It funds a national public awareness campaign and a number of nongovernmental organizations that assist victims. The U.S. government seriously pursues human trafficking cases and prosecutes the traffickers. For a complete assessment of U.S. government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, please visit the U.S. Department of Justice Web site: http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html.

Resources and Publications

One of the best ways to help combat human trafficking is to raise awareness and learn more about how to identify victims. Information on human trafficking can be found on the following Web sites:

- U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
  http://www.state.gov/g/tip
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking
  http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html
- U.S. Department of Justice
  http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html
  http://www.ovc.gov/help/tip.htm
  http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/trafficking.html
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Investigative Programs, Crimes Against Children
  http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/cae/crimesmain.htm
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
  http://www.ncmec.org
- Polaris Project
  http://www.polarisproject.org
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
  http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/erc-sale.htm

NOTE: This fact sheet contains resources, including Web sites, created by a variety of outside organizations. The resources are provided for the user’s convenience, and inclusion does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any views, products or services offered or expressed in them. All Web sites were accessed on June 26, 2007.

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202
(202) 260-3954
www.ed.gov/osdfs
INVISIBLE CHAINS

WARNING SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:
• Signs of Physical Abuse
• Deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care
• Restricted communication
• A large number of occupants in one residence
• Always accompanied when outside their residence
• Outside locks on doors and windows
• Lack of identification documentation

HOW TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING:
• Educate others on what we can do to end the trade of human beings.
• Pray for the rescue and restoration of victims, for the redemption of traffickers and for the protection of all human life.
• Look for activities announced at your local parish.

To report human trafficking, call 1-888-373-7888.
• Call 911 if there is immediate danger or a medical emergency.