

Human Trafficking

Discussion Guide



Let's review

At the start of each discussion, review the conversation ground rules for returning and new members alike to set the stage for active participation by all. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room.

And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.

- **Be open and curious:** Everyone has a unique perspective, so be prepared to hear a different point of view. Listen first, and focus on the facts.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Be sure that everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment or perspective. Encourage each other's participation.
- **Be focused and concise:** Keep the conversation centered on the issue and the brief.

The "Table-it" Rule: If the group has gone off-topic but the area is of interest, the group can table the conversation and save it for another time to be addressed in a different manner.

Let's begin

- Take five minutes to review the [Executive Summary](#) for this brief. Highlight the main point of each section and key statistics.
- Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two minute reaction** to the brief:
 - Introduce yourself, and share what "lens of care" did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, community, state, nation, global)?
 - What did you find most interesting or surprising from reading the brief? What matters?

Spread the word: facts to share during your discussion

- [Human trafficking cases have been reported](#) in all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and some U.S. territories. Over 10,500 human trafficking cases involving almost 17,000 victims were reported to the [U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) in 2020.
- Globally, human trafficking [generates over \\$150 billion annually](#), making it [second only to drug trafficking](#) in terms of profit. [Estimated annual profits](#) per victim are \$22,000 for sex trafficking victims and about \$5,000 for labor trafficking victims.
- Approximately [70% of human trafficking](#) happens in the private sector. The most profitable sectors are construction, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and domestic servitude.

Let's discuss

Below are questions for the group to consider and discuss, or choose your own.

- **Community:** What services are available to victims of human trafficking in your state or community? Who provides these services, and are all victims able to access these services?
- **Government:** How should law enforcement and legislation approach technologies that facilitate trafficking? How should trafficking victims be treated by the law when they are coerced into becoming traffickers themselves?
- **Business:** What are the pros and cons of legislation addressing human trafficking in the private sector versus the private sector monitoring itself?

Let's act

1. **Take it local.** Talk to neighbors, local business owners, friends, and family. Ask for their views and perspective on trafficking, whether they consider it a local problem or an international one. Consider hosting another conversation with these community members.
2. **Explore the impact of legislation related to trafficking in your community.** Check the Office on Trafficking in Persons' [state profiles](#) for case statistics, laws, councils, coalitions, task forces, and contact information, or find out more about your state's human trafficking [statistics](#) from Polaris and [laws](#) from the National Conference of State Legislatures.
3. **Investigate community programs** in your state or municipality. Check with the Bureau of Justice Assistance's [Human Trafficking Task Force Initiative](#) and [Office for Victims of Crime map](#) to see what services and task forces exist in your state. You can identify and support the anti-trafficking NGOs in your community with the Human Trafficking Hotline's [Referral Directory](#). Talk to your local businesses about their recruitment practices and how they source materials. [End Slavery Now](#) explains how you can write a letter to a company.
4. **Research your elected representatives' positions** on human trafficking, and their vision for how to tackle related challenges facing Americans and your community. You can find contact information for federal, state, and local government officials [here](#). Your state or municipality's websites will also have information to contact leaders.
5. **Establish a relationship with your legislators.** It's easy to establish a relationship with your legislators. Start by introducing yourself. You can also learn to write to your representatives or set up a meeting with a legislator on [The Policy Circle website](#).
6. **Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed on your stance on human trafficking in your local paper.** Learn how on [The Policy Circle website](#).

Next Steps for Your Circle

- **Post a Recap:** Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present, and share planned actions from group members. Designate who will post a meeting recap on your circle page.
- **Decide your next meeting topic.** Want to discuss a related brief at your next meeting? Suggestions include:
 - [Immigration](#)
 - [Data Privacy & Cyber Security](#)
- **Dive Deeper into the issues.** If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to influence policy. The Policy Circle offers resources for [developing a message about your issue](#) and [organizing a petition](#) to amplify your voice and raise awareness. Don't miss our [latest events](#) that help you dive deeper on this issue and more.