

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

*Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two-three 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?

Let's discuss

Pick 2 or 3 questions that resonate with the group and discuss, or choose your own.

- In your opinion, what is the priority in regards to combating human trafficking?
- Were there some points with which you strongly agreed or disagreed? Was there a perspective that was missing?
- Some victims of trafficking become perpetrators when they are sent out to recruit others. How should trafficking victims be treated by the law when they are coerced into becoming traffickers themselves?
- What are the pros and cons of legislation addressing human trafficking in the private sector versus the private sector monitoring itself?
- How should law enforcement and legislation approach technologies that facilitate trafficking?
- What should be the balance between national-level and local endeavors?
- 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?

Let's act

Spread the Word: Some Facts to Share

- There are approximately [40 million victims of human trafficking](#) around the world.
- Globally, human trafficking [generates over \\$150 billion annually](#).
- [Human trafficking cases have been reported](#) in all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and some U.S. territories.
- Between 2004 and 2013, [all 50 states and the District of Columbia](#) either implemented or enhanced their anti-trafficking laws.
- [According to the U.S. Department of State](#), there were an estimated 16 million forced labor victims worldwide in 2016, but just over 1000 cases of forced labor were prosecuted globally.
- As of January 2020 the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in pErsons Office was managing 90 [anti-trafficking projects](#) worth more than \$160 million in over 80 countries.
- Approximately [70% of human trafficking](#) happens in the private sector. The most profitable sectors are construction, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and domestic servitude.
- There has been a significant drop in [global human trafficking prosecutions](#), from over 17,000 in 2017 to just over 11,000 in 2018.

Engage Locally

- *Learn more:*
 - **Research your elected representatives' positions** on human trafficking, and their vision for how to tackle the challenges of trafficking facing Americans and your community.
 - Your legislators, state comptroller, attorney general and other local elected officials want to know their constituents. Write to them about your interest in combating trafficking.
 - 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. Try looking at the drop-down menu for a *Government* tab.
 - **Explore the impact of human trafficking in your community.**
 - Many states address human trafficking through their own state departments. On your state or municipality website, search for a drop down menu for *Health and Safety* or a Department of Community Affairs. Alternatively, because different departments may have different webpages addressing human trafficking, search directly for "*human trafficking*" in the homepage search bar.
 - 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.

- Check the Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Trafficking in Persons' [state profiles](#) for case statistics, laws, councils, coalitions, task forces, and contact information.
 - Find out more about your state's human trafficking [statistics](#) from Polaris and [laws](#) from the National Conference of State Legislatures.
 - 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.
- *Reach out:*
 - Explore what organizations, legislators, and journalists you could contact to ask questions, learn more and get engaged.
 - If you have trouble finding the information you are looking for on your municipality's website, consider contacting agency or department heads. You can find the contact information for federal, state, and local government officials [here](#).
 - The Policy Circle offers a number of resources for engaging on the local level. Learn how to write a letter to the editor on [The Policy Circle website](#).
 - 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](#).

Post a Recap/Dive Deeper:

- Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present. 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?
- Dive Deeper into this area. 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.