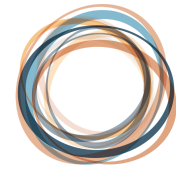


Human Trafficking

Discussion Guide



THE POLICY
CIRCLE®

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. 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 brings a unique perspective. Listen first, focus on the facts, and stay curious.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Ensure everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment. Support and encourage participation from all. Remember: What's said in the Circle stays in the Circle.
- **Be focused and concise:** Anchor the conversation to the issue and the Brief. Respect the timekeeper. *Use the "Table-It" Rule for off-topic ideas—note them and revisit them in a future session.*

Let's Begin

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 most?

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 U.S. territories. In 2024, over 11,000 cases involving nearly 22,000 victims were reported to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline, though the true number is likely much higher due to underreporting.
- Globally, human trafficking generates an estimated \$230 billion annually. Average annual profits per victim are approximately \$27,000 for sex trafficking and about \$4,000 for labor trafficking, with over 70% of global profits coming from sex trafficking.
- While about 75% of victims are exploited for labor, trafficking occurs across many industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, domestic work, and hospitality. Much of this exploitation happens in the private sector, often in less visible or harder-to-regulate environments.

Let's Discuss

Below are questions for the group to consider and discuss. For more questions, read our [Conversation Sparks](#) 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

- **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.
- **Explore the impact of legislation related to trafficking in your community.** Check the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) and explore state profiles for case statistics, or find out more about your [state's human trafficking laws](#) from the National Conference of State Legislatures.
- **Investigate community programs** in your state or municipality. Check with the Bureau of Justice Assistance's [Human Trafficking Task Force Initiative](#) 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.
- **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](#).
- **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](#).
- **Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed** on your stance on the state of civic engagement 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. Post a meeting recap in your Circle on [the Community](#) and fill out this [form](#).
- **Dive Deeper into the issues.** If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to take action. View the [Conversation Sparks](#) for more ideas.