



**Global
Young
Leaders**

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

JWAC Lesson Plan Human Trafficking

By: Tiffany Demesi, July 2017

Warm Up Questions: Are you aware of instances of trafficking in the North Texas community? What types of exploitation does trafficking involve? Can smuggling turn into human trafficking?

Discussion: Trafficking involves horrific forms of exploitation such as, prostitution, slavery and pornography. Often the victims are young abused girls, ages ranging from 12 to 14. Up to 800,000 people are trafficked each year, 80% of them female and 50% children. Trafficking is present here as well in the Dallas community. The National Human Trafficking Hotline receives the most calls from Texas than any other state in the US, 15% of those calls are from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Texas houses a vast number of 80,000 child trafficking victims. It is suspected that 80% of missing children who are forced into prostitution come from the child welfare system.

Question: *Do you believe there are issues with Texas' child welfare system? If yes, what are the specific problems and how can we address them?*

Mia is a victim of sex trafficking because of the neglect she received from the foster care system. After the death of her grandparents who had been raising her and the imprisonment of her mom, Mia was left to live with her aunt and uncle. These family members soon abandoned her as behavioral issues landed her in the psychiatric hospital. At the age of ten, she entered the foster care system. For six years, Mia went from house to house where she was tragically abused and sexually assaulted. Eventually, Mia ran away from foster care and ended up being coerced into prostitution. When she was found by police and sent to a shelter, only 15 minutes later she ran away for the final time officially disappearing into the underworld of sex trafficking.

Question: *What are some ways that the foster care system put Mia in danger? How can such systems do a better job of protecting the vulnerable?*

In a 2015 lawsuit against the foster care system, Mia was named as the main plaintiff on behalf of 12,000 children in foster care. It was ruled that the children had been so mistreated by the state that their civil rights was violated. Many cases like Mia's exist here in Texas. The state has been putting a great effort into arresting traffickers, but not much has been done for to keep these children from entering sex trafficking or to receive support when they have been rescued.

Question: *What are the similarities and differences between smuggling and human trafficking?*

Smuggling can also easily turn into a trafficking incident. At first, the victims would agree to be smuggled into a country only to later be deceived into an explosive situation such as forced labor for low wages, or a massive amount of debt for transportation.

Activity: With a partner, write down on a piece of paper five ways to identify signs of human trafficking. After 3-5 minutes, take turns sharing the rest of these signs with the class. Then, read about signs to recognize human trafficking:

<https://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>

Question: *Do you think healthcare professionals or officers are properly trained to deal with trafficking victims?*

Discuss for 3-5 minutes with a partner your perspective on whether healthcare professionals or officers have the proper training to help victims. Next, compare the similarities and differences between smuggling and human trafficking with your partner for 3-5 minutes. Afterward, read more about smuggling and trafficking:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/07/07/smuggling-and-trafficking-human-beings>

Recap: *What should you do if you suspect someone of being trafficked?*

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to BeFree (233733) 95% of healthcare professionals have never received any training on human trafficking. In one case, a trafficker went as far as to put GPS trackers in their victim to further control her. When they went to the hospital and admitted that they had a tracker in her body, the doctor was extremely skeptical until he did an x-ray and found out that the woman had been telling the truth.

One crucial in the justice system is the arresting young women for prostitution who had been unwilling trafficked. More police departments are moving away from this method of arresting those engaging in prostitution and moving onto the traffickers. Officers sometimes also have issues identifying victims of sex trafficking and communicating with them.

What can start as a smuggling case can easily turn into a trafficking case, leaving the victims without a way to call for help. On July 23 in San Antonio, TX, ten immigrants died and almost 20 were hospitalized after being locked in a truck that had smuggled them across the border. Approximately 40 immigrants were smuggled in the truck without a working air conditioner in the 100 degree Texas weather. This horrific incident is one of the many cases of the dangers of smuggling.

Call to Action: As mentioned earlier, victims are not getting the support they need after being rescued. Some victims are even arrested for acts they are being forced to commit. A way to support victims is by contacting elected representatives to inform them about human trafficking issues and proposing solutions to the problem.



There are several organizations that rely on donations to continue their fight against human trafficking. With your JWAC, you can start a fundraiser to help one of the organizations listed below.

- Polaris - <https://donate.polarisproject.org/page/8446/donate/1>
- World Vision - <https://donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give/girls-women/girls-women-in-crisis-fund>
- Samaritans Purse - <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/disaster/putting-a-stop-to-human-trafficking/#quicklink-donate>
- Gendercide Awareness Project - <http://gendap.org/donate.html>
- Free the Girls (Donate a bra or host a bra drive) - <https://freethegirls.org/bras>
- Human Rights Watch - https://www.hrw.org/donate-now?promo_id=1000
- Prayer for Freedom: <http://www.prayerforfreedom.com/donate/>

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