Human Trafficking: Information for ESOL Teachers and Other Educators - Part 1

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Experiences

- Have you ever encountered a victim of trafficking? How did you know?

- What have you heard about human trafficking?

- How might you, as an educator, encounter human trafficking?
Presentation Overview

Part 1:
- Understanding Human Trafficking
- Who are Traffickers?
- Who is Trafficked?
- Legal Issues

Part 2:
- Importance in ESOL
- Resources
A woman came to see Aurelia’s mother in her Mexican village to offer Aurelia a job as a cook in America. She promised that Aurelia would make $200 per month and could go to school. The woman brought Aurelia into the U.S. by car and took her to a bar in Texas. Aurelia was told she would be working in the bar and had to pay off a $7,500 debt to the owners by working as a prostitute. When Aurelia refused to do the work and asked to go back home, the owners beat her and threatened to harm her mother if she did not do the work.

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Video Presentation


● Look for elements of trafficking:
  Process, Means, End

● In ESOL, your community or your personal life – could you have seen someone who was trafficked?
Florida is third in the nation, behind New York, and California in human trafficking.

In the U.S. 14,500-17,500 annually, 80% women and children.

Globally, accounts range from 600,000 to 4 million people trafficked worldwide each year (United Nations).

Twenty seven million people in slavery around the world.

$9.5 billion business.
Human Trafficking Is Increasing. Why?

- World poverty has increased
- Millions of the world’s poor are desperate for economic survival
- Traffickers prey upon people’s hopes for a better life in a new country
The problem is fueled by government corruption in many countries.

Effective prevention requires international cooperation between law enforcement agencies and many others.

Trafficking is result of search for cheap labor (people come to the US with a work visa and then are trafficked).
Who Are the Victims?

- ANYONE
- Trafficking victims may be undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, or even U.S. citizens.
- Includes men, women, children and families.
- What all victims have in common is some kind of vulnerability that can be exploited and manipulated by the trafficker.
Who Are the Traffickers?

- Organized crime
- Neighbors, friends, family members, village chiefs, returnees
- Labor subcontractors
- Agricultural operations
- Owners of small or medium-sized businesses
- Families (including diplomats and “mom & pop”, small or medium businesses)
- Females as well as males
- Diplomats
Traffickers Use Brutal Means to Control Their Victims

- Beatings, burnings, rapes, and starvation
- Isolation
- Psychological and verbal abuse
- Threats of deportation
- Threats against the victim’s family members in the home country
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Withholding of documents
- Debt bondage
- Taking/withholding identity documents
- Denial of needed medical care
Traffickers Use Coercion: “A Prison Without Walls”

- Traffickers need not physically restrain the victim to control the victims.
- Traffickers control victims’ actions through psychological coercion.
- This is often combined with threats or physical violence and sexual assault.
- Victims can be seen in the community: walking children to school, going to worship, working in public.
## Smuggling versus Trafficking*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trafficking</th>
<th>Smuggling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Crime or violation against a person</td>
<td>● Unauthorized border crossing</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Contains element of coercion (cannot consent to enslavement)</td>
<td>● No coercion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Subsequent exploitation and/or forced labor</td>
<td>● Facilitated illegal entry of person from one country to another</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Trafficked persons seen as victims by the law</td>
<td>● Smuggled persons seen as criminals by the law</td>
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Labor Exploitation

- On the continuum with human trafficking.
- Labor exploitation can be present without there being trafficking. This is still illegal.
Federal and State Laws

- The Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) Defines new crime of human trafficking under federal law
- Florida has state human trafficking laws too
- Both criminalize a variety of human trafficking offenses
- Federal law increases prison terms for slavery violations from 10 to 20 years and adds life imprisonment
- Federal law also provides relief to victims and prevention activity in US and globally
Benefits Available to Victims of Trafficking

- Social services (most come with “Certification”)
  - If certified, same as refugees
  - Medicaid, housing, transportation, food stamps, social security income, etc.
  - Legal help from Legal Services Organizations – they can represent victims of trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault
Benefits – Immigration Relief

- Complex Area of Law!
- Immigration Relief
  - T Visa – for victims of trafficking – 3 years to live and work in US
  - U Visa – for victims of serious crimes – 4 years to live and work in US
  - Other: S Visa, asylum, Violence Against Women Act relief, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
Other Options for Relief and Recovery

- Criminal prosecution – restitution
- Repatriation
- Civil law remedies
  - Torts
  - Fair Labor Standards Act (wage and hour)
  - TVPA - civil right to sue
  - Many others