



## INTEGRATING YOUR CHURCH'S EXISTING MINISTRIES TO ADDRESS AND FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*You've learned the statistics and you've heard the stories of the surprising and atrocious crime of human trafficking. Now, it's time to take the next steps in engaging your church with fighting human trafficking from within, around, and beyond your church community.*

### **Overseas Missions Partnerships**

- Before sending your team, practice due diligence in learning from existing churches and anti-trafficking groups that may already operate in the area you are going. Who are the vulnerable populations you are already planning on ministering to and with (the poor, orphans, those vulnerable and uneducated in traffickers tactics).?
- Train sending teams on human trafficking awareness and prevention, especially for the church planters. Ex: cultural training on value of women, stigma of prostitution, why the local church might have reservations with engaging with this issue.
- If your church is supporting an existing church in another country: come alongside them in community awareness, outreach and supporting survivor care to foster this kind of ministry indigenously.
- Questions to consider: How can you raise awareness and prevent human trafficking every time you travel overseas? Ex: only stay in hotels that have an explicit policy on prohibiting commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Orphan care- train staff on how to detect schemes of potential traffickers, educate orphans who age out of the orphanage on trafficking and ensure that each person has a viable reintegration plan.

### **Women's Ministry/Men's Ministry**

- Create awareness of Trafficking and its connection to prostitution and pornography
- Establish support/healing groups for those dealing with and recovering from sexual brokenness and addiction
- Participate in Street Outreach teams
- Organize fundraising events to support a local anti-trafficking organization or your church's existing ministry. Ex from Anaheim Vineyard: a few women who make jewelry and who do facials and nails hosted an awareness parties to fund our education efforts in Ukrainian orphanages and a local shelter that is starting up.

### ***Worship Ministry***

- Incorporate storytelling and songs that emphasize themes of freedom from captivity.
- Release our creative worship artists to write songs and make art and poetry embracing the lament and struggle regarding justice and the Kingdom. Cultivate that in artists' communities and perhaps a workshop or dialogue at a regional or national worship conference.

### ***Teaching/Preaching Ministry***

- Incorporate stories of bondage and freedom from human trafficking in sermons.
- Consider specifically highlighting the problem of human trafficking and what people can do about it at as a part of a series on compassion and justice. Ex: January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the United States. You can contact a VAST speaker to come to your church.

### ***Prayer Ministry/Intercession***

- **Prayer teams can pray** and advocate with things like public candle-light prayer vigils.
- Ex: Participate in the Salvation Army's Annual Day of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking in September (resources on VAST website).
- Organize a prayer walk for specific neighborhoods/Porn video venues/schools, etc.
- Train and educate our prayer teams so that if a potential victim discloses that he/she needs help, the prayer minister knows how to proceed/who to contact for further help.

### ***Home Group/ Cell Group/ Kinship Groups/ Small Groups/Fellowship Groups***

- Organize a 3-6 week Bible study series studying God's justice and compassion in the Bible and compare the Biblical stories of oppression with news stories of modern-day slavery . Ex: Salvation Army, International Justice Mission, and Love146 have some great small group resources).
- Do some research to see if there is an existing anti-trafficking group in your area—they may already have some planned actions/activities that your group can join in on.

### ***Biblical Justice/ Community Action Groups***

- Learn about Safe Harbor laws and what you can do to advocate for one in your state or ensure its enforcement (see [www.love146.org/safeharbor](http://www.love146.org/safeharbor), [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)).
- Learn about your civic power and investigate what laws are not being sufficiently enforced.
- Be critical and challenge your own consumerist habits and the consumerist culture we live in: how much is enough?
- Look for ways to make your church's consumption/products more ethical/fair trade friendly.

### ***Family ministry***

- Foster care- The majority of teen runaways and homeless youth are escaping from an abusive or negative foster care placement. Their time on the street makes them vulnerable to being lured into a trafficking situation—for prostitution or forced labor (there have been documented cases of teens being trafficked to sell magazines and perfume on the streets). Pray about becoming a foster care parent who can break the cycle!

- In-country adoptions- Unfortunately, there have been numerous cases of international adoption agencies actually pairing unsuspecting families with trafficked babies and children. If you are considering adoption, think about expanding your family with U.S.-born children.

### ***Evangelism***

- Equip local outreach teams to do servant and subversive evangelism projects among target populations; street outreach in strategic areas Ex: Anaheim Vineyard has a Hotel outreach ministry along these lines. The Columbus Vineyard has a ministry outreach to strip club workers. The Central Maryland Vineyard has worked on the streets with women as well.
- Host a human trafficking film screening with a discussion afterwards at your church or a popular venue in your neighborhood. For film ideas, check out the VAST website.
- Organize a book club that is open to the public. For book ideas, check out the VAST website.
- Publicize a human trafficking presentation to be given by a member of your church or a guest speaker. For a list of VAST-endorsed organizations, check out the VAST website.

### ***Recovery ministries***

- Host a human trafficking awareness event with the Addiction/Recovery ministry of your church to address the connection between human trafficking, prostitution, and pornography. Ex: Check out Boise Vineyard's Love Justice video on the VAST website.

### ***Children's Ministries***

- Do you have a child protection policy in place at your church? Is every volunteer or staff properly trained and screened to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of the kids in your church? If not, here are some suggestions on how to create one: it is important to allow some lead time for the policy. A committee should be formed to explore child protection policies of comparable churches. As the committee works on this task, it is necessary to keep the congregation informed. Some aspects of the policy may be initiated immediately in anticipation of the new policy. Some examples of policy rules might be:
  - There needs to be at least 2 child care workers in the room when children are present.
  - Only female child care workers will toilet or change the diapers of an infant or toddler. (although this sounds sexist, according to statistics this is a necessary rule).
  - Check out [www.churchsafety.com](http://www.churchsafety.com) for more ideas.
- Hold a Vacation Bible School in a lower income neighborhood and invite parents to a "how to Keep Your Kids Safe from Exploitation" workshop.

### ***Youth Group /Young Adult***

- See what the Vineyard East Youth is doing!! Christian Webber and Jenna Stepp are rocking this with the youth in the East.
- Awareness and fundraising- Educate the vulnerable youth of middle school/jr. high, which is who the pimps and traffickers are going after, but also the high school and College-age as well.
- Check out Jenna Stepp's Bible study curriculum, IJM's youth group curriculum, or Love146's Task Force curriculum. Links can be found on the VAST website.

### ***Street outreach***

- Get training on how to do it safely and productively. Beating up pimps or staking out a suspected sweatshop is NOT a good idea!
- Volunteer and establish a relationship with a soup kitchen or food pantry: when you fight poverty, you fight human trafficking.
- Join a local mentoring program.
- Build relationships with ethnic communities and refugee communities.
- Set up an awareness table at the mall- get creative with the message.
- Volunteer at a domestic violence shelters.
- Train to become a sexual assault counselor.

### ***Fund-raising***

- Organize a 30-hour famine day to benefit anti-trafficking organizations.
- Creative examples from other Vineyards: Blue Route Vineyard Children's ministry lemonade stand. Mile High Vineyard Benefit Concert, Coast Vineyard Benefit Dinner, Boston Vineyard Tread on Trafficking. Loose Change to Loosen Chains campaigns.

### ***Prison ministry***

- Consider ministering and reaching out to short-term juvenile detention centers as well as long-term incarcerated prisoners. Ex: Short-term Juvy is where the Central Maryland Vineyard met lots of victims in Maryland...both international and domestic victims.

### ***Counseling ministry***

- Train counselors to be aware of this and perhaps seek specialized training for helping victims and survivors of trafficking. Seek to engage them as members of outreach teams to at-risk populations in outreaches to strip club employees, street ministry, etc.

### ***Church-planting***

- As part of the church planting assessment process, church planters should also assess the city/neighborhood for its vulnerability/prevalence of human trafficking.