



Human Trafficking Tool Kit

Facilitator's Guide

APT Power Point Presentation

Slide 1

Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT) was established in 2005 by members of religious congregations and missionary societies concerned about the growing reality of worldwide trafficking. APT's vision is:

"that of a world in which all persons are respected, valued and given the dignity which is theirs by right, a world where no one seeks to exploit or enslave another for the purposes of sexual gratification or financial gain."

The focus of APT is on trafficking for sexual exploitation.

APT aims to support local groups who want to keep informed about the problem of human trafficking in Ireland. Regular updates are available from their Facebook page and website.

APT members are available to talk to any group who would like information or encouragement.

Introduce the topic

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery.

- *What do we think of when we hear 'slavery'? What images arise from that?*

(Films? Lincoln, 12 years a Slave, Amazing Grace)

Slavery is unfortunately not relegated to history but is happening today, and it is on the increase.

- *Do you know of any recent cases of human trafficking reported in the media? What happened?*

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Definition of Human Trafficking: The trade in and exploitation of human beings by criminals to make money.

There is a thriving and expanding market for human beings globally, and in Ireland.

While not all prostitution fits the definition of human trafficking, it reduces the human person to commodity. As is stated in the Preamble of the 1949 *UN Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*:

“Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community”.

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Today we are more and more aware of our responsibility for the universe and see all creation as one. We see violence against the person as being closely connected to violence against, and rape of, the earth.

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Pope Francis is very conscious and deeply concerned about Human Trafficking. The theme of Human Trafficking was chosen for January 1st, 2015, World Peace Day.

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There is no evidence of the sale of human organs in Ireland as yet. We are mainly focussing on the sexual exploitation of women and children. Boys are also trafficked for sexual exploitation.

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A key difference between smuggling and human trafficking is that smuggling is a crime against the state, whereas human trafficking is a crime against the person.

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The phenomenon of human trafficking can be compared to the metaphorical iceberg; what we see manifested as the crime of human trafficking is in fact the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the complex interplay of many driving factors which lie beneath the surface. Some of these include:

Poverty (drives victims but also perpetrators – trafficking is highly lucrative)

Inequality (in gender attitudes – girls are perceived in many countries as being less important and so have less educational and economic opportunities)

Violence (domestic abuse and civil strife can create the instability and insecurity that makes people vulnerable to trafficking)

Prior sexual exploitation (former victims may be re-trafficked, their vulnerability may be increased due to trauma and the normalisation of sexual exploitation)

Lack of awareness about the prevalence of this crime and the risks of becoming a victim through deception, fraud, or grooming.

In cases of trafficking from poorer to richer countries there can be a perceived opportunity to make a lot of money and improve your quality of life.

The roots of trafficking are highly complex, involving the interplay of many factors.

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Top three illegal trades – arms, drugs, humans. Accounts vary as to the exact order.

One of the reasons it's the fastest growing illegal trade is because, unlike drugs or arms, traffickers can make money selling their victims over and over again.

The figures 20.9 million for total number of trafficked people and 4.5 million for those who have been trafficked for sex are estimates of the International Labour Organisation.

According to the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, Ireland is a source, transit and destination country.

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Who is trafficked?

These are the most vulnerable groups but it's important to remember that trafficking can happen to anyone of any gender, age, nationality, race, or socio-economic background.

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Who are the Traffickers?

Perpetrators range from highly sophisticated international organised criminal networks to friends and family members of the victim.

Traffickers are driven to make huge profits with no regard for the rights of their victims, exert severe control and use violence when necessary to keep control, use threats to family or exposure of the fact that the victims are in the country illegally since the traffickers hold all identification documents.

Slide 12 How are people trafficked?

Victims can be lured away with promises of a 'better life', or given travel documents and transport to another town, region, or country and forced into prostitution. (*Has anyone seen the film 'Taken'?*)

Slide 13 and 14

Traffickers use many different methods of violence and intimidation to maintain control over their victims. Due to the repeated traumatic experiences, violence, and threats, victims can live in terror, too afraid to try and escape. Other barriers can include not speaking the local language, and not knowing or trusting anyone nearby, including police. In such situations, the safest option can seem to be to obey those in control, often with the help of alcohol and drugs to endure the trauma.

More case studies are available on www.aptireland.org

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Statistics are always very conservative. As human trafficking is such a covert, underground activity, it is not possible to give exact numbers. Convictions are rare due to the hidden nature of the crime and weaknesses in our laws.

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The person is damaged physically, emotionally, and psychologically from the repeated exploitation. The effects are long lasting or even permanent.

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Why should we care? Reactions from group.

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The new Sexual Offences Bill is on its way through the legislative process. It is hoped that this will be passed in to law in 2015 and, when it is finalised, will serve as a strong anti-trafficking tool with a firm basis in the Nordic Model. This kind of legislation was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2014, and many anti-trafficking groups are calling for the introduction

of a similar law in the rest of the UK. It is crucial that we bring our laws in line with Northern Ireland so that the Republic doesn't become a safe haven for traffickers.

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What can we do?

Reflection, discussion in small groups.

- *How might human trafficking and the issues associated with it be affecting our community?*
- *What role can our group play in addressing this in our community?*

Action plan?

Video Clips:

Video library available at www.unchosen.org.uk, including "Let's Talk About Sex"

Youtube:

"No More Traffik –Spot the Signs"

Trailer of "The Price of Sex"

"Trafficking – Torture by Any Other Name", featuring Emma Thompson **graphic**

"Two Little Girls"