



INTRODUCTION to CHILD TRAFFICKING

Lesson Plan 1

“in the long history of human wrongs, the trade in human beings will go down as one of the greatest crimes ever committed.”

His Excellency Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1997–2006



CASE STUDY

Nong Tong was a 6-year old girl living with her grandparents in northern Myanmar not far from the city of Bagan. Her parents were dead but her grandparents, though poor, loved her and took care of her as best they could. She helped her grandmother with the daily chores of fetching water, cooking and cleaning and looked forward to the day that she could go to school.

One day, some of her relatives living in Myanmar's capital city Yangon asked her grandparents for Nong Tong to come and visit them for a few weeks. She travelled by bus with one of her relatives to Yangon and was excited to see the big bustling city and was amazed by what she saw: cinemas, sealed roads and thousands of cars. But what she found most exciting was the groups of children in their school uniforms. Perhaps, she thought, this is why I have come to Yangon. Her relatives, however, had other plans for her.

They soon drove her to the border and slipped illegally into neighbouring Thailand along one of the unpatrolled country roads that cross the border. Making their way to the bustling Thai city of Chiang Mai they put Nong Tong to work in a begging ring. Her job was to go out at night and beg for money in the busy markets and night bazaars where Thais and foreigners came to shop and eat. It was terrifying work as she did not speak Thai and often became lost in the confusing streets and laneways of the busy city. Even more terrifying, however, was returning to the room she shared with the other children from the begging ring.

Like the others, she had a quota of money she had to collect every night. If she didn't bring back enough money to the leaders of the begging ring, she was beaten by the ring leaders or refused food and sent back out to get more money.

CASE STUDY cont.

She sometimes stole money from the pockets and bags of the tourists to reach her quota and avoid the frequent beatings. The begging ring often moved from shanty to shanty in the squalid slums of Chiang Mai to avoid police detection.

The years passed until Nong Tong was 13 years old. Unlike most other young girls, Nong Tong never went to school and so she couldn't read nor write. She was up every night until 3 or 4 a.m. in the street markets begging. During the day, she would sleep a little and then have to work for the begging ring by washing clothes, cooking, and taking care of the smaller children. She couldn't speak much Thai so she was afraid to ask anyone for help. It seemed there was no hope for her...

This case study is based on real life events. In an effort to protect her identity, the exact details of this case study may combine the facts of more than one case and the location may have been changed. Nong Tong is not her real name. As used in this case study, 'Nong' is a personal pronoun that means "young" or "child" and the child's name is Tong.

Tong is part of the one of the world's fastest growing and largest criminal activities. She is a 'trafficked' person who has been transported and exploited against her will.

OVER TO YOU

1. Use Google Earth to explore Nong Tong's likely route and journey from her Myanmar home to Chiang Mai. Draw a sketch map of the region and use labels on the map to describe the key parts of her journey.
2. Nong Tong has been trafficked from Myanmar to Thailand.
 - a. Use the CIA factbook (see 'Resources' section) to research and compare the levels of wellbeing in these two countries. Collect ten statistics that you think best show wellbeing in these countries.
 - b. Use these statistics to write a paragraph comparing wellbeing in these neighbouring countries.
 - c. The BBC website (see 'Resources' section) contains country profiles of every country in the world. Read the profiles for Myanmar and Thailand.
 - d. Discuss in a group how levels of wellbeing in these two countries may contribute to the movement of trafficked people from Myanmar to Thailand.
3. Select a key part of Nong Tong's story and rewrite it from her point of view.
4. Imagine that you have been asked to write a research report on the issue of child trafficking. Write a series of geographic questions that you would use to guide your research into this issue.

1. CIA Factbook:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
2. BBC country profiles:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

RESOURCES