



WHAT is CHILD TRAFFICKING?

Lesson Plan 2

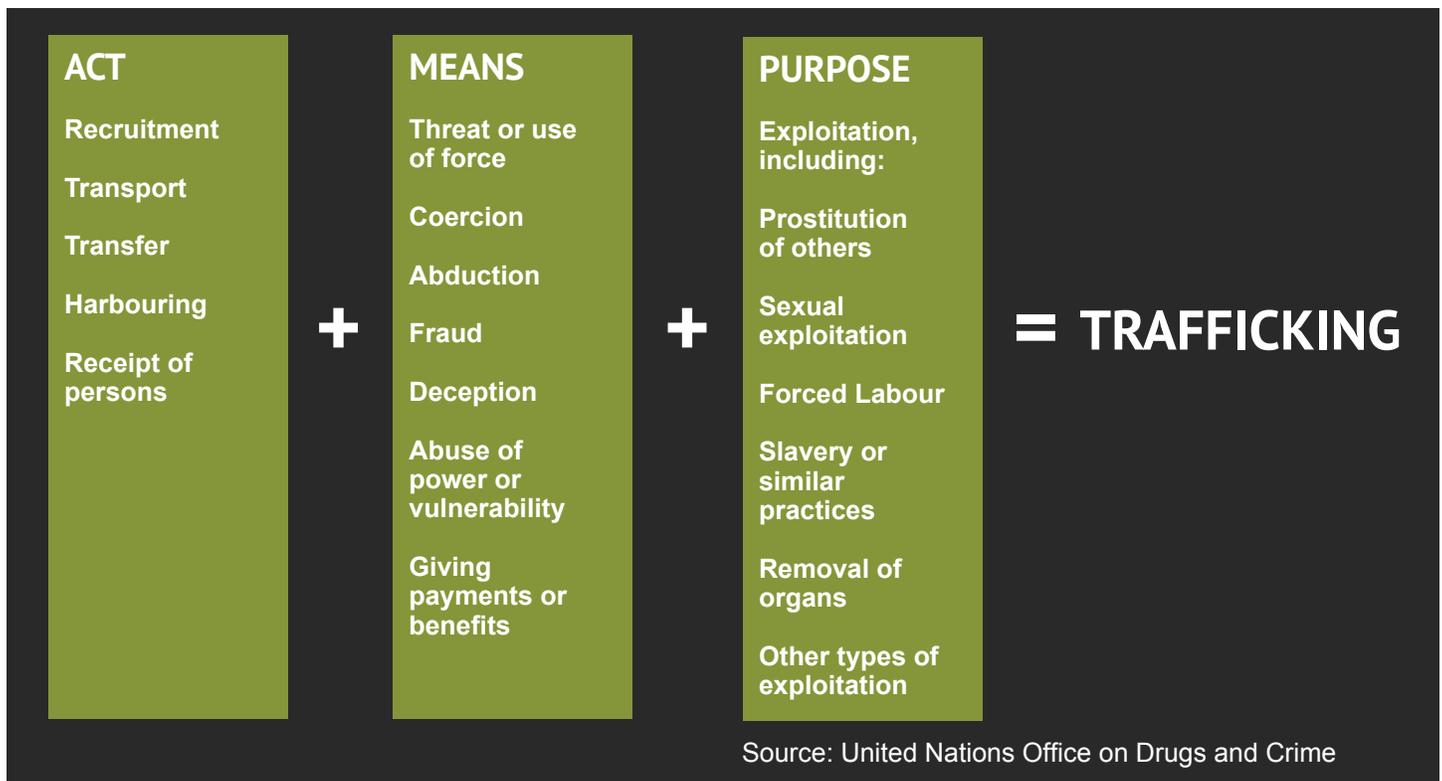
'Human trafficking is a global problem and one of the world's most shameful crimes, affecting the lives of millions of people around the world and robbing them of their dignity.'

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations defines child trafficking as 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.' It further defines a child as any person under the age of eighteen. It is estimated that about 1.2 million children are trafficked across international borders every year.

ELEMENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It can be surprisingly difficult to determine whether or not a child has been trafficked. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime uses the following framework to decide whether or not a person has been trafficked. There must be the act, the means and the purpose:



INDUSTRIES THAT MAY EXPLOIT TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

Children are trafficked into a huge variety of industries, some legal and some illegal. This differs a great deal from place to place and is largely determined by the demand of industries.

Many children are trafficked into the commercial sex trade and are forced to work as prostitutes.

The most common destination of trafficked children in many places, particularly in Africa, is to work on farms such as cocoa plantations.

Many children are forced to work in factories. Some of these are large-scale businesses producing goods such as clothing for global brands. Others are small craft workshops.

Girls in particular are often trafficked into working in domestic labour such as working as a maid, cleaner or cook.

Some children are forced to work in industries such as mining and fishing.

In areas where there is armed conflict children are trafficked and exploited as child soldiers and as cooks and cleaners for soldiers.

Hundreds of thousands of children are trafficked to work in the 'informal economy' as beggars, street hawking and other illegal activities. This may include acting as drug couriers, pick pockets or burglars.

1. Select one of the industries in which trafficked children are forced to work. In a small group discuss the following:
 - a. The physical risks faced by children in this industry.
 - b. The possible impacts on a child's mental wellbeing as a result of being forced to work in this industry.
 - c. Difficulties faced by authorities such as the police in ending child trafficking in this industry.
2. Is Nong Tong (see Lesson Plan 1) a trafficked child according to the UN definition? Describe the act, the means and the purpose that has placed Nong Tong in her current situation.
3. Individuals and organisations who are working to end child trafficking face many problems. One of these is in determining whether a child fits the UN definition of trafficked child: a child who has been recruited, transported and exploited. Participants at a UN workshop on child trafficking were given the following five case studies and asked to decide if each is an example of child trafficking or not (Source: UNICEF report on child trafficking in East and South-East Asia):
 - **Dariya**, 13-year-old girl from Cambodia, was recruited by Mr. X to work in a shoe-making factory in Thailand. She arrives and finds herself working around the clock with restrictions placed on her movement. Rent and food expenses are inflated and docked from her pay but the balance of her earnings is given to her.
 - **Sombat**, a 16-year-old boy from Thailand, migrates to Malaysia to find gainful employment. He arrives in Kuala Lumpur and is duped into working in a factory where he is held against his will and forced to work 16 hour days, 7 days a week.
 - **Maria**, a 15-year-old girl from an island province of the Philippines, migrates to Manila looking for work. En route, she comes across a group of people being transported via ship (part of loosely organised trafficking scheme) to her destination and strikes up an agreement with the receiving handler to work as a go-go dancer in Manila. She arrives and is unhappy to find that she has to serve up to three clients per day as a prostitute but decides to stay until she earns enough money to pay for her education.
 - **Van**, an 8-year-old Vietnamese boy, was forced by his family to work at a local brick factory. He labours every day carrying 40-pound loads of bricks on his head and engages in other hard physical labour. The owner of the brick factory insisted that he had to work for another two years to satisfy the outstanding debt owed by his parents.
 - The parents of **Layla**, a 12-year-old girl from Laos, respond to an ad by a marriage broker and eventually marry her off to a man in China on the condition that he pays an initial fee to Layla's family. The broker facilitates Layla's fake documents and transport to China where she is met by her husband. The first few months, Layla's new husband does not mistreat her but then suspects her of infidelity after which point he starts to repeatedly rape her and lock her in the house.
 - a. Read each of these case studies and decide which describe an example of child trafficking and which do not.
 - b. Find another person in your class that came to same conclusions as you did.
 - c. What does this activity show you about the difficulties of defining child trafficking?

1. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: <http://www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/human-trafficking.html>
2. UNICEF report on child trafficking in East and South-East Asia: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf