



# RESPONDING to CHILD TRAFFICKING

## Lesson Plan 5

Child trafficking, like slavery, dates back many hundreds of years but efforts to combat it before 2000 were not widespread. In the last few years, however, there has been a significant increase in public awareness of this issue around the world and a growth in the numbers of individuals and organisations dedicated to ending this practice.

### A GLOBAL RESPONSE: THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations was formed in 1945 in the aftermath of World War Two to promote international cooperation and to prevent future wars. Virtually all countries of the world including Australia and Thailand are members of the United Nations. In 2000, the United Nations adopted the 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children,' also known as the Palermo Protocol. Countries who signed the Protocol agreed that child trafficking is illegal and traffickers should be punished, even if they are family members of the trafficked child. While most countries including Australia and Thailand have signed up to the Protocol, 24 have not.

### NATIONAL RESPONSE: AUSTRALIA

The Australian government has signed the United Nations Protocols in relation to human trafficking. In 2003 they adopted a strategy to help end trafficking and since then have committed to spent \$150 million to support various strategies. These include specialist anti-trafficking units in the Australian Federal Police and programs to support victims of trafficking.

The Australian Government is also committed to ending the involvement of Australians in the exploitation of children when they travel overseas. From 1995 'Australians who commit child sex offences while overseas can be investigated and prosecuted under Australian law.' (Source: Smart Traveller website).

### NATIONAL RESPONSE: THAILAND

In 2015, the Thai government allotted \$5.7 million for migrant labour management and anti-trafficking efforts. The police reported investigating 317 trafficking cases and the government reported convicting 241 traffickers. Amongst its recommendations to the Thai government, the US State Department has urged that Thailand 'recognise the valuable role of NGOs in uncovering the nature and scope of human trafficking in Thailand.'

### NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS: NGO'S

There are many NGOs that work in the area of child trafficking. Some focus on victim identification, rescue and support; some on pressuring governments to do more to fight this crime; others on raising public awareness. Some of these NGOs are:

- ZOE
- Trafcord
- Compassion Australia
- MTV Exit
- Polaris Project
- International Justice Mission (IJM)
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography And Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)

## CASE STUDY OF AN NGO

Since 2003, ZOE has provided safety and shelter for orphans, children deemed to be highly at risk of trafficking by ZOE's Child Rescue Department, and children rescued directly from slavery.

Through effective partnerships with governments and law enforcement, ZOE helps trafficked children in South-East Asia find safety and freedom.

Some rescued children can be reunited to families after a short stay at ZOE, while others will live at the ZOE Children's Homes in northern Thailand long-term.

ZOE also travels to remote areas of Thailand and border regions to provide education and assistance to vulnerable people groups.

**“One thing that never ceases to amaze me is the love and care that the ZOE parents show to the children in their family. The bond between the orphaned and rescued children is so strong, that these kids get to truly experience the genuine love and safety that comes from being part of a real family.”**

David Cross  
Child Protection Manager,  
ZOE Children's Homes



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END CHILD TRAFFICKING!

If you think that there is little that you can do in response to an issue such as child trafficking you are mistaken. There are many things that you can do. Just by completing this unit you have already done something! You are now aware of the issue, what you do next is up to you.

Perhaps one of the simplest things you can do is to use your power as a consumer. Remember that child trafficking exists because there is a demand for the services that children are forced to provide. Try to find out where the things you buy are made and who makes them. This is known as the supply chain. Don't buy items made by companies that use slave labour. This can be difficult to find out but it's not impossible. Start with the Ethical Fashion Guide. This guide is a companion to the 2016 Australian Fashion Report and seeks to empower you to purchase from companies that treat their workers ethically.

You can encourage companies and decision makers to take action to ensure workers are not exploited, they are paid adequately and they work free from the tyranny of modern slavery. Become an ethical consumer!

1. Compare the government responses of Thailand and Australia to the issue of human trafficking. Why do you think differences such as these occur between countries? What does this tell you about one of the major difficulties in combatting this crime?
2. Research one of the NGOs who work to combat child trafficking. Develop a set of 5 geographical questions that you wish to investigate and then use their website to answer these questions.
3. Using the Ethical Fashion Guide research the companies who supply shoes. How many companies are listed? How many of these scored a C or above? What does this tell you about shoe production?
4. Read the following scenario and respond to the questions that follow by using the smart traveller website: You are returning from a school trip from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. As you sit and look at the photos on your phone, you notice that in the row in front of you that there are two Australian men also looking at a phone. You overhear the two men talking about their travels in Thailand and Cambodia as they are looking at photos. The conversation sounds like they may have been exploiting children overseas.
  - a. Could the Australian Federal Police investigate an Australian who commits a crime overseas?
  - b. Could they be prosecuted under Australian law?
  - c. What are the penalties for offences involving children?
  - d. What do you think of these penalties, are they fair?

1. United States Trafficking in Persons report:  
<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt>
2. Smart Traveller website:  
<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips/child-sex-offences.html>
3. Australian National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015 –19:  
<https://www.ag.gov.au/CrimeAndCorruption/HumanTrafficking/Documents/Trafficking-NationalActionPlanToCombatHumanTraffickingAndSlavery2015-19.pdf>
4. Polaris Project:  
<http://www.polarisproject.org/>
5. IJM:  
<http://www.ijm.org.au/>
6. Trafcord:  
<http://www.trafcord.org/?lang=en>
7. Chab Dai:  
<http://www.chabdai.org/>
8. MTV Exit:  
<http://mtvexit.org/>
9. ECPAT:  
<http://www.ecpat.net/>
10. ZOE:  
<http://www.zoefoundation.org.au/>
11. Ethical Fashion Guide:  
<http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/assets/Be-Fair-Section/Ethical-Fashion-Guide16.pdf>