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# CHALLENGING EVIL

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



One of the fastest growing crimes of the 21st century, human trafficking (particularly sex trafficking) is a present evil in today's world. Virtually every country is affected by the globalization of sexual exploitation that demoralizes and harms women, children and men. In the historical setting of the Maiden Tribute Campaign in Britain, The Salvation Army fought to change the circumstances of girls caught in the clutches of sexual exploitation. Salvationists created schemes to bring exposure to the issue and followed with political pressure to change laws that contributed to the social evil. In many ways the reality of human trafficking in today's world is quite similar.

### **Definition:**

"Trafficking in human beings" is a multi-billion-dollar form of international organized crime, constituting modern-day slavery, according to Interpol.

Victims are recruited and trafficked between countries and regions using deception or coercion. They are stripped of their autonomy, freedom of movement and choice, and face various forms of physical and mental abuse.

There are three main types of human trafficking:

Trafficking for forced labor;

Trafficking for sexual exploitation;

Trafficking for the harvesting of tissue, cells and organs.

It is happening. Deception nurtures inaction and complacency among the people of any land. "It doesn't happen here" is the common delusion. But it does. In fact, men women, and children are trafficked within their own countries and across international borders every day. Trafficking affects every continent and most

countries. Due to the hidden and illegal nature of human trafficking, gathering statistics on the scale of the problem is a complex and difficult task. There are no reliable national or international estimates as to the extent of trafficking. Figures are usually counted in the countries that people are trafficked into and often fail to include those who are trafficked within their own national borders. The following statistics may represent an underestimation of trafficking, but are the most credible and frequently quoted.

### **Human trafficking worldwide:**

The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally.

**68%** of them are trapped in forced labor

**22%** of them are victims of forced sexual exploitation

**26%** of them are children

**55%** are women and girls

**91%** are exploited by private individuals or enterprises

**9%** are exploited by state or rebel groups

Human trafficking affects every country of the world, as countries of origin, transit or destination—or even a combination of all, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Victims of 152 different citizenships have been identified in 124 countries across the world.

At least 510 trafficking flows have been detected.

Forced labour in the private economy generates US\$150 billion in illegal profits per year.

Domestic work, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and entertainment are among the sectors most concerned.

The fight against sexual slavery is woven throughout the pages of Salvation Army history. In recent years, The Salvation Army has continued this vigilance in trying to address the issues of people trafficking around the globe. International Headquarters convened an International Anti-trafficking Task Force of representatives from around the world to raise awareness of and advocate for the eradication of sexual slavery.

In the United States, The Salvation Army has taken the leading role in the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking, joining with other churches, non-government organizations, and faith-based organizations to lobby the United States Congress. The Salvation Army is also working in “source” countries to educate women and to try to provide them with alternatives to sex-slavery.

In Tanzania, for example, The Salvation Army's KWETU Street Girls program works to support and educate street children, in particular homeless girls, many of whom have been forced into prostitution in order to keep themselves and their families alive. The impetus of KWETU is to offer alternative economic activities for girls and includes vocational training opportunities, the provision of loans for income generating activities, and resettlement assistance to rural areas. This program has enabled women to turn their lives around and start providing for themselves and their families.

Progress is being made in the fight. Salvationists can be proud of the programs and projects initiated to combat this evil, but there is much more that needs to be done. God is at work to restore our broken world and he has chosen to work through his Church. The global scope of the problem demands that Christians inform themselves, change their perceptions, educate others, speak out on behalf of voiceless victims and give of their time, energy and finances to bring about justice. These efforts, supported by our confident and sincere prayers, can change us and our world.

**Discussion questions:**

1. What are the similarities of the Maiden Tribute campaign and the present horrors of human trafficking in our world?
2. What modes of protest did the campaigners use?
3. Are these appropriate today? Why or why not?
4. What risks did The Salvation Army incur?
5. What costs did they result in?
6. Did the costs match the benefit? Why or why not?
7. Are we prepared for those risks and costs today?
8. What do you know about human trafficking in your country today?
9. The Modern Tribute campaign was focused on changing the law in Britain. How does the global nature of today's sex-trafficking affect our campaigning?