

Creative Ideas to End Human Trafficking

(gleaned from participants at IPJC Human Trafficking Events in Portland, Seattle & Spokane, Fall 2008)

Advocacy

- Ask members of Congress to reauthorize Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
- Call police stations to inquire if law enforcement is considering women as potential victims of trafficking when there are “prostitution sweeps”
- Encourage enforcement of existing laws & to train officers to recognize victims
- Host a letter writing party
- Increase tariffs on goods suspected of being produced in sweat shops
- Investigate pending immigration legislation & impact on trafficking
- Monitor legislation at state, national & international level
- Prosecute & increase consequences for purchasers of sex
- Support just laws regarding international adoption
- Train people to be court advocates for victims of trafficking
- Use Legislative Advocacy Tool via www.ipjc.org to write legislators
- Have a fair trade chocolate, tea & coffee tasting party
- Hold Spanish-Language workshop
- Host an art show with works from trafficking survivors
- Host a movie night
- Make & sell “Stop Trafficking” bracelets
- Print information on cup holders at coffee shops
- Promote Call+Response movie—ask theaters to show film
- Put up posters in multiple languages in public places
- Start a Book Club
- Start small group to learn about trafficking
- Support education among families

Awareness Raising & Education

Church/Parish

- Ask Archdiocese to sponsor day of awareness on a specific Sunday
- Ask OCP to include a prayer for victims of trafficking in Music Issue
- Educate clergy—provide resource materials for homilies/preaching
- Encourage Social Justice Committees study, educate & advocate on issue
- Host a prayer service/vigil
- Invite speakers to churches
- Organize network of churches
- Place announcements in church bulletins

Community Based

- Canvas/leaflet
- Create a sign with 800 number for victims—place in restrooms, buses, etc...
- Educate refugees & immigrants in community (English classes & empowerment)
- Educate homeless young adults about coercion, sex for money, etc...

Personal

- Educate ourselves about local & global international situation
- Learn about available services information in case someone asks for help
- Look at our own lives & challenge any objectification of persons
- Read/listen to stories between the lines for signs of trafficking
- Send an e-mail to friends with link to IPJC website
- Share information about human trafficking with family & friends

Schools & Universities

- Approach Campus Ministry programs for support & advocacy
- Ask libraries to have books for children related to trafficking
- Educate school counselors about identifying victims of trafficking
- Have speakers in schools on awareness days (January 11 & February 27)
- Incorporate in high/middle school curriculums (social studies & health)
- Organize student video project on coercion, (trafficking/drugs/bullying)
- Teach younger children the principles of respect & dignity
- Video night at colleges & universities
- Write a grant for education on how to stop the demand



Workplace

- Educate emergency room staff, paramedics, police about how to recognize signs
- Educate internet & cable installers, plumbers, & other with access to homes
- Offer training at social service agencies—disseminate materials
- Post information about trafficking at your place of employment
- Share information about sex trafficking with members of Armed Forces to prepare them for what they will encounter overseas

Fundraising & Volunteering

- Combine fundraising with awareness raising
- Donate money to local organizations working to end trafficking
- Organize a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
- Organize a “Walk Against Trafficking & for Victims of Trafficking”
- Provide economic support to families in need across the globe, such as micro loans
- Provide support to local shelters working with at risk populations
- Volunteer at local community organizations working with at risk populations

Media

- Advertise hotline numbers for victims
- Advocate for Public Service Announcements
- Affirm the media when they cover human trafficking
- Ask national & local media to do a story
- Make a website targeted to teens
- Use Social Networking sites (My Space/Facebook/Blogs) to raise awareness
- Write article & letters to the editor for local newspaper & newsletters

Networking

- Become familiar with social service agencies that work on trafficking
- Bring groups together to talk about human trafficking (i.e. law enforcement, health providers, teachers)
- Build a “seamless alliance” on Stop the Demand Campaign
- Donate to Tronie Foundation & other direct service organizations (www.troniefoundation.org)
- Invite area churches to education night
- Join local Human Trafficking Task Force

Purchasing Practices

- Ask stores & manufacturers to explore their policies regarding sourcing
- Ask schools to make sure school uniforms are “sweat-shop free”
- Consider products you purchase—educate yourself, research, where/how produced
- Encourage hotels to follow the code of conduct (thecode.org)
- Explore own approach to consumerism—needs vs. wants
- Identify goods produced with slave labor
- Practice responsible shopping—child labor & sweat shop free
- Promote Alternative Giving/Donations to Charitable Organizations
- Promote Fair Trade Goods
- Use fair trade coffee at work, church, home

