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Governor Tony Evers
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Dear host,

On behalf of the many people who worked to bring this film into being, and most of all, the survivors who participated, we appreciate you reading this guide. This guide is intended to help you feel confident in your role as a host and to be ready for some of the questions and reactions people may have. While it is true that this is a challenging topic to talk about, we believe you can be an important ambassador to help create change and address the very real and present problem of human trafficking in our communities.

Please note that the scope of human trafficking includes topics not covered in this film. Human trafficking is a global criminal enterprise that includes labor trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. It affects people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, and there are complexities and differences in various types of human trafficking. *This film is specific to one facet of that bigger picture: the domestic commercial sexual exploitation of minors.* For more information about other types of trafficking happening in Wisconsin and around the world, visit the [Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign](#).

Part 1. PLANNING AND GUIDING QUESTIONS

This guide is meant for those viewing the film in a group setting with facilitated discussion. Screenings can be as simple as watching and discussing during a quarterly staff training or as complex as a public viewing hosted at a library with survivors and local service agencies in attendance.

What can we achieve through this film screening?

- Training service providers and others who work with youth
- Raising community awareness about commercial sexual exploitation of youth
- Linking viewers to specific help
- Fostering compassion and acceptance for survivors
- Generating energy and discussion for next steps in your community

What is my role?

- Foster a space that is welcoming and safe, both physically and emotionally
- Connect individuals to resources and build awareness
- Bring together experts, advocates, survivors and interested parties in your community

What do I need to do to prepare?

Dependent upon the complexity of your screening, it is recommended that you establish a planning group to develop a plan and timeline. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Choosing a screening date
- 2) Arranging a venue space and audio/visual technology
- 3) Inviting other experts, including therapy/mental health support and a survivor/advocate expert
- 4) Getting local sponsorship for food or other expenses as needed
- 5) Marketing your screening to the community in an appropriate way
- 6) Obtaining or developing informational materials for attendees.

How much time should I plan?

Recommended total event time: 2 hours.

The film is divided into segments. For most public screenings with audiences of adults or mixed ages, we recommend that you watch the entire film straight through, with the segments in the order they appear.

Potential outline of timing:

- Welcome and host introductions: 10 minutes
 - Introduce local experts, survivor advocate if present, mental health support
- Film running time: 35 minutes
- Break: 10 minutes
- OPTIONAL: local expert/ survivor brief intro 10 – 15 minutes
- Facilitated Audience Discussion: 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how engaged people are
- Closing remarks/Care for audience: 5 – 10 minutes
 - Directing people to resources, next steps,
 - Invitation to socialize or take care of self, eat and drink, wind down and show compassion and support as people wish.

Marketing your screening

Do not use images that perpetuate myths and stereotypes. Images of handcuffs, bar codes, or youth who look scared and tortured dehumanize and distort survivors' real experiences. Even worse, they create harmful expectations that cause problems for survivors in the justice system and our society. Many survivors of trafficking are thriving and strong people.

To learn more about the types of images to avoid, please visit the [Ethical Journalism Network](#).

What other professionals should be included?

This film can trigger emotional reactions. While it is not required, we encourage organizers to have a mental health professional on site, or on call, to support people.

Your community may have professionals working with trafficked or at-risk youth. It makes sense to let them know and include them. They will enrich your event and support community response after the screening. Youth service organizations, women's shelters, and school resource officers are all potential resources.

Survivor Speakers

We highly recommend including a survivor advocate in your screening, either through consulting with them or by inviting them to be present. Here are some things to consider.

The best source for insight into the reality of human trafficking is an empowered survivor who chooses to raise awareness among others. In some cases, family members of survivors also fill this critical need.

If you want a survivor speaker to support your event, at least three months advance notice is recommended. Stipends or honoraria to survivor speakers are also a best practice and appropriate as a sign of respect and gratitude, even though some survivor advocates are so passionate about the work that they offer to help for free. *Don't take advantage.* Imagine how you would feel if you were offering to talk about some of your most personal and traumatic experiences to a group of strangers! The same considerations for any professional apply: travel time, mileage, and preparation time are all involved.

LOTUS Legal Clinic can help you connect with a survivor speaker. Please reach out to Austin Reece, Director of Survivor Empowerment at Austin@LotusLegalClinic.org or 414-885-1469.

Part 2. REACTIONS, DISCUSSION, and QUESTIONS

What reactions should I be prepared for?

Know your audience! Prior to showing the film, it may help you to do a quick poll of who is in the room and what their background is. Do people have some basic knowledge?

Do you have people from healthcare, the faith community, schools, businesses, social service agencies? Grandparents and parents? Any teens?

When the film ends, acknowledge that a range of reactions are normal. You may choose to give people a break to gather themselves before reconvening for discussion. You can also offer some moments of reflective silence before opening things back up.

Shock is a fairly common reaction; the film shows real people who are from our own communities and who suffered extreme trauma and pain through being trafficked as young people or as their loved ones. Breaking through stereotypes and [misconceptions](#) is hard - you can expect people to react in many ways.

The best approach is to accept that all reactions are normal. You can help most by setting the tone for compassionate non-judgement. Even reactions of disbelief should be acknowledged and approached with curiosity and an eye toward progressive dialog; for example, someone might say “these kids are all the same, it’s obvious they made these bad choices.” You might respond with asking “I hear you saying you think youth need to take more responsibility for their actions. Can you say more about that? Would that help us help them more?”

Other reactions may include:

<p><i>“I want/need to do something to help.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share with your viewers the Department of Justice’s 10 Things You can Do Today To Help Fight Human Trafficking• Encourage your viewers to visit the Department of Children and Families WI, we need to talk website to learn more about trafficking and gain access to free public awareness materials.
<p><i>“I am so worried that someone I care about may be involved in trafficking - I just didn’t realize it before. What can I do?”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you suspect someone you care about is involved in trafficking, call 9-1-1. Additionally, if the individual is under the age of 18, you can contact your local child welfare agency. More information on reporting, to include anonymous reporting, is available later in this guide.

<p><i>“I’m overwhelmed by memories and reactions to my own trauma/past experience of victimization and I wasn’t ready for that”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If on-site mental health support is available, direct the individual to the appropriate contact. • If your agency has an employee assistance program, provide the individual with contact information. • If the viewing is open to the public, refer the individual to 2-1-1 who can assist in the location of mental health support services.
<p><i>“Why didn’t the victims leave when they had the chance?”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffickers use a variety of tactics beyond physical control to maintain control over the victims. • Please see the Human Trafficking Power and Control Wheel to explore some of these tactics used to create a climate of fear and intimidation for the victims. • In Their Shoes: Understanding Victims’ Mindsets and Common Barriers to Victim Identification is also a resource that explains barriers to leaving.

How can I get the audience to engage?

Some audiences may need very little prompting. Less is sometimes more.

Open-ended question examples:

- Is there anything that stood out to you after watching the film? Any first reactions?
- What surprised you the most?
- Which part or parts of the film really spoke to you and made a powerful connection?
- Is there anything that really surprised you or shocked you? Why?
- Are there things that still seem like they don’t make sense to you or are hard to understand?

Other potential discussion questions:

- The stories of each individual are very different. Were there things you could see that all of them had in common?
- The child advocacy system and the criminal justice system play a big role in shaping the experiences of victims and survivors; it can be positive or very negative. Did you get a sense from the different stories of what each person’s experiences were like?
- Do you think our community is prepared to help address the problem on any level? How?

- What are some of the missing pieces that might need more attention, resources or teamwork?
- Do you know of examples of things others are doing that could help prevent trafficking of youth for commercial sexual exploitation?
- There are many roles that the film illustrates, including siblings, parents, survivors themselves, and professional partners; two roles are not depicted. What do you think we could learn from perpetrators or buyers of sex?
- Pick one thing that you might share with someone who hasn't seen this film; what would it be?
- Is there something that you personally feel you can do to make a difference?

What questions might be asked of me as the host that I should refer to resources or experts?

There are some questions that it is not your role as a facilitator to have all the answers to. Human trafficking is complicated and it's important that people seek information that is accurate and up to date. Here are some common questions paired with trusted resources to educate yourself for context, and to refer people to for more information.

Question	Comment	Resource
What are the laws surrounding human trafficking in Wisconsin?	Human Trafficking is a crime under international, federal and state law. Beyond the crime of trafficking, other laws affect survivors, including prostitution, solicitation, or other criminal offenses that often co-occur with trafficking (i.e. drug or alcohol offenses), victims rights, and immigration law. It is not uncommon for victims of trafficking to have lengthy criminal records.	Free legal assistance for victims is available. For more information, contact 2-1-1 . To learn more about Wisconsin's Human Trafficking Laws, please visit the Department of Justice's website.
Why aren't buyers and traffickers punished more heavily?	The prosecution of crimes depends on many things: law enforcement being trained or having the resources to investigate properly, prosecutors choosing to prosecute the crime, and the victim's being available and supported in the prosecution of the case are some factors. There are many variations across the state in levels of experience and success of prosecutions and sentencing.	This national article explains some of the challenges

<p>I think I know someone who is being trafficked, what can I do?</p>	<p>You should report any suspicions of trafficking to local law enforcement or child welfare agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 9-1-1. • If the individual is under the age of 18, you can also contact your local child welfare agency. • You can also report through the national toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888.
<p>I wanted to report something once but I was afraid of being wrong - can I report without giving my name, and will it matter?</p>	<p>Survivors have repeatedly told us that someone who called a hotline or reported something they sensed was wrong saved their life. Reporting suspected trafficking can also create chains of evidence, tips that law enforcement can act on, and needed data points that help build essential knowledge of the problem.</p>	<p>The National Human Trafficking Hotline will allow reports via text message and anonymous calls/texts. That applies to self-reports as well.</p>
<p>I'm a parent and I'm so worried about my kids online; how can I protect them?</p>	<p>Parents and other caring adults can help youth learn to be resilient and have solid instincts about online experiences that are risky or exploitive. Strong peer leadership also works well. Kids can learn to be more self-aware of privacy and online safety.</p>	<p>The Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force has a wealth of information for parents to help protect kids online. To learn more and listen to informative podcasts, visit the Wisconsin Department of Justice's website.</p>
<p>I've heard so much about pornography and how that fuels trafficking. Where can I learn more?</p>	<p>Not all pornography is non-consensual. This issue is extremely complicated and fraught with misinformation. Taking time to listen to survivors, read the studies and avoid sensationalizing the matter further is the better approach. Get informed.</p>	<p>Fight the New Drug is an organization dedicated to raising awareness of connections between the pornography industry and sex trafficking demand.</p>
<p>I still am not quite sure I get the difference between prostitution and human trafficking?</p>	<p>By law, any time a minor is involved in a sexual act in exchange for something of value (including basic survival needs), that is illegal and the person who benefits may be charged with trafficking of a child (Wis. Stat. §</p>	<p>Trafficking of adults involves the elements of Force, Fraud, or Coercion.</p> <p>Wisconsin's Human Trafficking Laws</p>

	948.051). There is no such thing as child prostitution.	
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What other resources are available?

For general information about human trafficking (labor and sex, adults and juveniles) visit the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.

There are many organizations throughout the state you can reach out to for help.

- Do you need support for a potential victim?
- Are you witnessing suspicious activity?
- Are you looking for ways to involve your community further?

Agencies in your region may be able to provide any of the following:

- Moderator/film screening support
- Survivor speakers
- Information/brochures
- Survivor support and wraparound services
- Free legal help
- Consultation
- Community building/grassroots engagement

To learn about resources in your area, please contact the Department of Children and Family Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator at DCFAHT@Wisconsin.gov.

Last words

To help you stay centered on your goals and the best intentions for screening this film, here, in their own words, are the hopes for you and your audience from survivors who took part in making the film.

"We truly are #StrongerTogether than we are apart. Now that you know, let's grow, then go make a difference! When even one person increases in knowledge there will be one less victim." Nancy Yarbrough-Banks

"As my son was trafficked I really felt alone and really misunderstood the signs. This film will educate all ages on what trafficking looks like - breaking many of the myths and stereotypes. By watching this film, you will now have the tools to recognize some of the signs and know how to report it. As a mom I hope you never need to use this information but as an advocate I know you need to understand what it is." Lisa McCormick