

Abolition Ohio School Trafficking Outreach Program (AO STOP)

After School Event / AHT Club Ideas and Guidelines

Once your students have been exposed to the problem of human trafficking, many will feel sad, angry, or overwhelmed. It is important to channel their new awareness and energy into positive action. A recurring message to students must be that we/they *can* do something about human trafficking. The following quotes may be useful motivators.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." (disputed origin: Burke, Mill, Kennedy,...)

"It is not enough to be compassionate – you must act."- His Holiness The Dalai Lama

"The people are the only ones capable of transforming society."- Rigoberta Menchu

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it." -Helen Keller

"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim." -Elie Wiesel

Once students are "fired-up," you must help guide them toward appropriate and effective actions. General guidelines are

1. Students should examine their own lives and reduce any harm they may be causing.
 - a. Be more aware consumers
 - b. Respect others
 - c. Be good examples
 - d. Don't be bystanders when they see something that they feel is wrong
2. Students should increase their own knowledge about human trafficking
3. Students should share what they have learned with peers, family, and neighbors

Many students will want to do more than this. They should be guided toward awareness-raising and fund-raising activities. Volunteering with existing victim services programs is also a fine idea. Contact local shelters, programs, or your local antihuman trafficking coalition for details. Discourage plans for direct outreach or intervention. Such activities are inherently dangerous and complex. Students could end up causing harm to themselves or to the victims they are attempting to "rescue."

Awareness Raising and Fund Raising Activities

Student activities can either be one-time only or on-going actions. For example, holding an after-school awareness fair, a book club, or organizing an anti-human trafficking club. General guidelines and ideas for each of these examples are below.

Abolition Ohio has help organize many different types of awareness-raising events. Combine several of the ideas below to create an interesting, active-learning event.

1. Student presentations
 - a. Student teams can research aspects of human trafficking and present speeches, PowerPoints, posters, dramatic interpretations, ...
2. Film screenings
 - a. Many films are available online for free. They range from several minutes to feature length. A good place to start is to go to Youtube.com and search for “human trafficking”
3. Poster exhibits/artwork
 - a. Have a class room, school, or neighborhood awareness poster/artwork fair and contest
4. Student videos
5. Use of online interactive tools
 - a. Students can set up and run several different computer stations to demonstrate tools and facilitate use by attendees. Two powerful websites are below:
 - i. Slaveryfootprint.org—an interactive survey of consumer habits that computes “How many slaves work for you?”
 - ii. Free2Work.org—a website and free device app that allows users to scan barcodes of products and “grades” manufacturers based on their anti-slavery policies.
 - b. Students can assist others in updating their social media profiles at the event
 - i. Update profile pics, share facts, ...
 - ii. Use the United Nations’ *Blue Heart Campaign* images, take a photo of the student holding a large “bar code” paper in front of their eyes, ...
6. Hold a book club or discussion on a reading
 - a. *The Slave across the Street* by Theresa Flores is powerful and appropriate for high school students.
 - b. Upper level students may use *Renting Lacy: A Story of America’s Prostituted Children* by Linda Smith and Cindy Coloma
7. Form an Anti-Human Trafficking Club—students in the club will meet regularly to learn more about human trafficking and to plan and hold awareness and fund-raising events.
 - a. Contact AbolitionOhio@gmail.com for more information



www.AbolitionOhio.org
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