



# SEX TRAFFICKING

## LEARNING GOALS

- To understand why human trafficking is a significant but often unaddressed problem throughout the world, including Hawaii and the United States, and why it is a serious violation of human rights.
- To consider the ways in which authorities and governments might provide better support to victims of human trafficking.
- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.

## ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~30 min

- Watch: "[Human Trafficking: Lives Bought & Sold](#)" (18:39)
- Watch: "[The Epstein case is not an outlier. Child sex trafficking is 'pervasive' in the U.S.](#)" (5:36)
- Read: "[Paradise lost: Sex trafficking in Hawaii | US & Canada](#)" (~ 7 min.)

## TERMINOLOGY

- **Child Trafficking:** a modern form of slavery; in the U.S., a child trafficker refers to anyone recruiting or soliciting minors under the age of 18 for commercial sex acts.
- **Pedophilia:** a sexual attraction to children who have not reached puberty.
- **Brothels:** any premise in which prostitutes are available.
- **The Epstein case:** Jeffrey Epstein, a wealthy financier and registered sex offender, was charged in 2019 for trafficking underage girls between 2002 and 2005. Epstein died in 2019 while awaiting trial for these charges.
- **Boyfriending:** An approach men may use to lure girls into the sex trade. Men win the trust of younger girls by befriending and flattering them and then forcing them to have sex with a client.

## KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to Kahoot.it or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 03917240
- Or, use [this link](#)



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some factors/environments that are commonly associated with human trafficking and the exploitation of children?
- What kind of manipulation and fear tactics do traffickers use to find and continually enslave children?
- Why does technology make it easier to exploit children?
- What is the importance of authorities listening and responding to children who are being trafficked and cannot escape their traffickers? Why is it problematic that authorities and first responders sometimes fail to recognize children as victims of human trafficking and instead label these children as “child prostitutes”?
- How is human trafficking similar throughout the U.S., the UK, and Nigeria? What differences are there between the three trafficking systems?
- What are some steps that the authorities, as well as nonprofits, in the US, UK, and Nigeria take to identify victims and stop child trafficking?
- As seen in the Epstein case, what kind of culture results in the normalization of child trafficking, especially in the U.S.?
- What are the demographics of children who are trafficked in Hawaii? How might their experiences be similar to girls trafficked in Nigeria, particularly with regard to being relocated to new cities or countries?
- Why is Hawaii considered an “ideal trafficking corridor”? How can Hawaii better address the issue of child trafficking?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Rights4Girls](#)  
A national organization which advocates for the policy interests of marginalized girls, conducts research on potential solutions addressing the needs of marginalized girls, and provides training for communities on alternatives to detention. Specifically, the organization’s “No Such Thing Campaign” focuses on eliminating the idea of child prostitutes in language and law and advocates for seeing and treating these children as victims of crime.
- [Inside San Diego \\$810m human trafficking industry](#) (9:25)  
A video by The Guardian on the widespread problem and culture of human trafficking in San Diego, and the concrete steps that the city is taking to address the problem.
- [Crisis in Human Trafficking During the Pandemic](#)  
A short policy brief by Polaris looking at the increase in trafficking crisis situations during the pandemic. Includes short and long-term policy recommendations that can be taken to address the increase in human trafficking over the period of a few months. Note: this resource looks at human trafficking as a whole, of which sex trafficking is just one element.
- [Human Trafficking: A Human Rights Violation](#)  
An article by the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking on the specific human rights and UN treaties/frameworks that are violated through human trafficking. Note: this resource looks at human trafficking as a whole, of which sex trafficking is just one element.



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## IDEAS FOR ACTION

### Easier

- Educate yourself: sex trafficking is just one type of human trafficking, which is a serious human rights violation and considered a modern form of slavery. Learn more about what specific human rights are violated through human trafficking, and give a presentation on your findings to your class.
- The Epstein case reflects a culture in which privileged men regularly exploit marginalized girls. Brainstorm some concrete steps that you and your classmates can take to address these norms and any harmful myths about child trafficking.
  - ◊ See the homepage of the [Polaris Project](#) for misconceptions and myths about child trafficking.

### Medium:

- [Ho'ōla Nā Pua](#) is a local organization focusing on preventing sex trafficking and supporting children who have been trafficked in Hawaii. Volunteer with the organization or attend one of their events to learn more about their work and advocacy.
  - ◊ Note: students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult when volunteering.

### Harder:

- Policy advocacy: research bills in the city council and state legislature on measures to provide greater support for victims of human trafficking or prevent human trafficking in Hawaii. Write and submit testimony.

## HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.12.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.7.2](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.8.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.16.2](#)
- Content Standard [SS.MHH.4.9.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.PID.4.10.2](#)
- Action Projects link to [SS.PID.5.7.1](#)

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