



**SOLD: The Human Trafficking Experience**  
**Script**

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## 1. Introduction

### Narrator:

Welcome to SOLD: The Human Trafficking Experience. This sound will guide you through the rooms. When you hear it proceed through the curtains to the next room. As you enter this first room, turn to the wall on your right.

Slavery. You thought it ended nearly two centuries ago. You thought it was illegal and it doesn't happen anymore. It is illegal in nearly every country in the world. But it hasn't gone away. It has simply slipped into new disguises and grown larger than ever into the second largest organized crime in the world. We call it Human Trafficking.

Slavery looks different in every part of the world. Different factors contribute to the demand and to how traffickers prey on vulnerable human beings. We invite you to take a tour of the world, try on the wardrobe of nine different disguises for slavery. In each country, you will experience the story of a human trafficking victim. You will begin to understand why it is happening and how it affects those who are enslaved. You will find hope as you experience rescue and restoration, which is possible when those empowered with the love of Christ stand up for their fellow human beings.

There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today. They are deceived and forced into degrading situations. They are treated worse than animals. They work in homes, fields and factories, brick kilns and rock quarries, brothels and pornographic studios. Slave owners make an estimated 32 billion dollars a year by selling their products over and over and over. These products are people from every country in the world, but they all have one thing in common: they have been SOLD.

Turn clockwise to look around the room. Can you imagine yourself as a slave? Step into their shoes for the next 40 minutes as we travel together around the world. If you have a camera on your phone, take a picture of yourself. Post it to Facebook, tweet it, text it to your friends, or simply keep it as a reminder of the day you became a slave.

## 2. South Sudan

### Narrator:

There are hundreds of thousands of children exploited in military conflicts throughout the world. Child soldiering has been called the cruelest form of slavery

because it incorporates forced physical labor, subjection to war, and sexual exploitation.

Welcome to South Sudan, the newest country in the world. South Sudan shares a border with Uganda, the birthplace of the Lord's Resistance Army, a militia cult formed around its leader Joseph Kony. It began as a resistance movement to the Ugandan government more than twenty years ago. It quickly morphed into a senseless and violent organism, perpetuating itself by abducting children and terrorizing them into becoming brutal killers. In the two years before this writing, the LRA was responsible for nearly 1500 abductions and 800 civilian deaths.

The LRA has currently been pushed out of Uganda and operates from several bases in neighboring countries.

### Sudanese Boy:

You are playing with your brothers and cousins in the bush when you stop dead in your tracks, face to face with an AK-47 held by a boy a few years older than yourself. Several more boys and girls, all with semi-automatic weapons, surround you. The oldest one, a young man in his twenties, shouts orders. You all lay down on your faces as your hands are tied behind your backs.

Then the march begins. You walk barefoot for days, with no food and no water. Your feet are swollen and blistered. But the worst part is the constant terror.

When your brother complains about being tired, The leader snarls, "we should give that young boy a rest." Too naïve to know better, your brother agrees. The captain turns to your cousin Stephen, hands him a machete and points his gun at him.

"You give him a rest," he shouts.

Your cousin is bewildered and just stares back at him while the captain screams at him to cut down your brother. When Stephen freezes, the captain's bullet pierces his skull.

Then he turns to you, hands you the machete and points his gun. He calls to the other soldiers, who give machetes and clubs to the rest of your cousins and brothers. Together, you bludgeon and hack your own brother to death. The captain laughs and says you'll need to get used to death and killing. You're a soldier now.

Whenever anyone tries to escape, they are hunted down and brought back to set an example. Death is made as painful as possible. You always have to watch, and are frequently made to participate. Sometimes you feel sick. Sometimes you feel numb.

You are becoming hardened to violence. Soon you are all given your own guns to use in raids. You steal food and abduct other children like yourself. You obey every

order from the officers and enforcers, maiming, raping, and killing at their whim. It is literally kill or be killed.

You know you cannot go back home. You would be arrested and killed. If you went to the Children of War Center that you've heard about, they would poison you. But one day, you happen to be alone and unguarded a ways from the camp. In a sudden burst of desperation, you make a run for it.

After days of traveling alone through the desert and finding refuge in a village, you are taken to the Children of War center by an aid worker from World Vision. Once there, you realize your fears were based on lies. You – a killer and rapist - are greeted with cheers and singing. You find other children here who share your nightmares and flashbacks. Yet many seem happy and free from guilt. The adults in the center treat you with love and forgiveness. You think that maybe you will be able to smile again someday.

### Narrator:

Returning home is just the beginning of a long journey toward healing and restoration. Many rescued children never finish this journey but instead become lifelong casualties to the violence of the LRA. But World Vision has shown in its Children of War Centers that such a journey is possible through the love and forgiveness of Christ.

### Yemen/Red Hand Room

Child soldiers are often recruited through force or deception, and always exposed to horrific violence. They may begin as messengers or porters, but too often end up on the front lines of combat. Some are forced to commit atrocities and many are sexually exploited. They are denied an education and robbed of their childhood. Many do not survive.

The United States government provides military assistance to several governments implicated in the use of child soldiers. Many of those governments are now cooperating with the United Nations to stop the recruitment of child soldiers and to demobilize and reintegrate current child soldiers. Yemen is a different story.

There are many factors that play into the use of child soldiers in Yemen. Ongoing unrest, lack of rule of law in rural areas, and Muslim extremist sympathies combine to make Yemen a welcoming place for radical jihadists, including al Qaeda.

Desperate to ward off terrorists by keeping some semblance of stability in an unstable nation, the United States government partners with and supports a corrupt and duplicitous government. Our government has been complicit with the Yemeni government in human rights violations that include attacking civilian villages, wrongful imprisonment, and the use of child soldiers.

Yemeni boy:

You met a military recruiter when you were 14. You were quick to accept his offer. You could serve your country, learn to use a gun, get decent meals and clothes, and have money to send your family.

After training with wooden guns, you were stationed with your infantry brigade in Northern Yemen, fighting the rebel Huthis. You remember one battle ending with the deaths of three Huthis no older than yourself. You found scraps of paper in their pockets with promises that they would go to paradise for their sacrifice. Your brigade leader spat on the bodies, mocking the foolish children who had just died.

You make lots of friends in the military. Some were street kids, others came from living with their parents in villages, some were from the big cities. Your brigade fights alongside a tribal militia, which, like yours, includes adults and teenagers. The tribal militia was seething with hatred for the Huthis who steal their land and destroy their villages.

After the 2010 ceasefire, you were transferred to the First Armored Division and stationed at the capital. As a political uprising began, your general defected to the opposition. Your division protected anti-government protesters from attacks by government forces and loyalists.

As the revolution cooled, you moved on to fight against a jihadist militia in the south. At just 17, you are an experienced war veteran with 3 years of combat under your belt. You've seen hundreds of men and children killed, and many more wounded.

Narrator:

The recruitment and use of children under the age of 15 in armed conflict is an international war crime. According to the United Nations, "child soldiers are victims ... regardless of how they are recruited. ... The participation [of children] in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being." Human trafficking includes the use of child soldiers because they are legally too young to make the decision to participate in armed conflict.

Presented with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have - whether by government military, militias, or terrorists - children are easily swayed to participate in something that will have lifelong consequences both physically and psychologically.

We believe American money would be better spent funding programs that promote stability and peace, rather than supporting a military that is known for human rights violations.

## Haiti

### Narrator:

Welcome to Haiti: the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti was once a French colony filled with slaves who fought and died for their freedom. Hundreds of slave rebellions occurred in the New World. But the Haitian revolution of 1791 was the first successful slave revolt and a defining moment in history.

Today, history has reversed itself. An insidious practice called restavek has developed and been accepted for generations.

### Haitian boy:

Your parents died when you were six. You go live with an aunt as a restavek – someone who stays with another family. You hoped you could go to school, but once there, you realize you are not part of the family.

Woman's harsh voice:

Why don't you wake up earlier! You lazy little bum!

Young boy:

You don't understand why she is beating you. You try to stifle your sobs as you get up before the rest of the family to fetch water for them. Pick up your jug and walk across the room, just a few steps on your half-mile journey to the water hole and back.

When you return, you make breakfast for the family. While they eat, you scrub the floor. Later, you eat their scraps.

You work all day while your cousins are at school. You work late into the night after the family has gone to bed.

You finally collapse into bed. You're exhausted, alone, frightened, and hurting. You cry yourself to sleep. In just a few hours, it begins again. You see no hope, no future.

### Narrator:

Restavek is a Creole word meaning "to stay with." Orphans and children of poor families are sent to live with a relative, friend, or a stranger in hope of a better life. They hope they can go to school in exchange for helping the family around the house. They almost never get that opportunity. Instead they are treated as property, used however it is most convenient for their owners. They say it is not the work that is so difficult – it is the isolation. The inferior treatment. The lack of belonging.

There are an estimated 300,000 children who live as unpaid domestic slaves in Haiti. They range in age from 5 to 15. They are restavek. Courageous and committed

advocates for these children are educating host families and biological families, rescuing children and seeing them treated with the love and dignity they deserve. Many are now finding that they do belong, and that Jesus belongs to them.

## Jordan

### Narrator:

Welcome to Jordan, one of the few Gulf region countries that has traditionally had close relations with the United States. According to the US State Dept, Asian men and women encounter conditions of forced labor in some of Jordan's garment factories. This includes unlawful withholding of passports, delayed payment of wages, forced overtime, and verbal and physical abuse.

### Young Sri Lankan woman (15-25):

You grew up in squalor in Sri Lanka. As a young woman, you want you help your family, but there are few jobs available and those pay very little. A man comes to your village offering jobs at a garment factory in Jordan to you and other young women you grew up with.

It sounds like a dream come true: guaranteed work for the next three years. You could go with your friends and send money back to your family. About a dozen of you agree to go. The recruiter travels with you and holds onto all your passports for safekeeping.

Once you arrive in Jordan, you are each given a contract to sign – in Arabic. You can't read it but you are given same promises as before. Except that there is a foreign-worker fee and a travel and recruitment fee that you have to pay off before you can have your passport back. You are concerned, but think that you can probably pay off your debt soon.

Your living arrangements are cramped, six of you in each 10x10 room. You get two lukewarm buckets of water with which to wash each week. There is no heat and no electricity, and the beds are crawling with bugs.

You work 13 hours a day, 18 when a shipment to America is due. Managers use threats, insults, and beatings to increase your productivity. When you don't reach your quota, your wage of 65 cents an hour is reduced. There is no way you can pay off your debt.

As you eat your two pieces of stale bread, lentil soup, and tea at breakfast, you consider your situation. You had intended to bear through it for the three years. But after a few days of work, your manager called you and four other girls into his office, where he raped each of you in front of each other. He threatened that if any of you said anything about it, you would be immediately deported back to Sri Lankan poverty. In shame.

The manager comes up to you and starts shouting curses and insults. He pulls you up roughly, groping you at the same time. You fight back tears and wish you could ask the people who buy your garments to end the abuse you and the other women face.

## Narrator:

In the United States, The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 authorized the annual Trafficking in Persons (or TIP) report and established a global minimum standard for confronting trafficking and slavery.

According to the 2011 TIP report, garment factories in Jordan may be on the mend. But accessing legal remedies to the abuse is still difficult.

In June 2011, the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights released a report revealing working conditions at Classic Brands factory in Jordan, where clothing is produced for major American brands. The story you just heard is based on that report.

Days after news of the rape allegations emerged, US retailers Kohl's, Macy's and Land's End stopped placing orders with Classic, according to Classic's managing director.

As American consumers, we have more power than we realize. Money talks. Our purchases either support injustice and exploitation or they support fair wages and human rights. Research your clothing purchases with the Free2Work app and use your purchasing power to stand for justice.

## Mexico

### Narrator:

Welcome to Mexico, a nation rich in tradition, history, culture, and natural beauty. Mexico produces unrivaled handicrafts and a varied and colorful cuisine. It is also home to powerful drug cartels that control entire towns, making Mexican streets their battlefields. With a Robin Hood reputation, these cartels recruit mainly children and teenagers. These youth get a glimpse of opportunity and a future. But their dream turns out to be a nightmare as they are turned into assassins and mules in the midst of brutal violence.

Mexican drug-funded gang wars have crossed into Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. As Project: AK-47 reports: "No movie could ever exaggerate, over sensationalize or be overly graphic in its depiction of what is currently happening in Mexico. Reality is much harsher than fiction."



## Mexican teenager:

You are the daughter of an alcoholic prostitute in the slums of Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas. Your father died when you were young. You and your brothers are all addicted to drugs. At the age of 11, you started hawking for the local drug cartel. They called you a spotter and gave you a gun, a cell phone, and 4000 pesos twice a month. It was a dream come true.

You see people brutally beaten. And raped. And killed. All the time. It's been a long time since witnessing a murder has horrified you. *Asi es la vida* – Such is life. You feel empowered by the way your cartel sticks it to the government. And a growing anger makes you ruthless. It isn't long before you are doing the same things. As a girl, you are an ideal assassin for the cartel. Posing as a prostitute, you can get in and out without suspicion. There is little the law can do because of your young age.

You first joined the cartel because you needed a way to survive. But now you are driven by even more powerful motives: fear of the bosses and the ravenous need for more drugs.

By the time you are 14, you have become a skilled assassin. After several successful murders, you are arrested. In prison, you connect with volunteers from Project AK-47, an organization devoted to ending the use of children in armed conflict. Because of their love, you begin to hope that escape from the cartel is possible.

## Main Narrator:

These cartels recruit young people from within Mexico and from high schools across the border in the US. Youth are cheap, effective, and legal punishments are minimal.

Youth prisons in Mexico are full of minors who have been arrested for crimes linked to the drug war. There are very few counselors in Mexico to help. Quality education is available only to the privileged few. Journalist Ioan Grillo suggests that American aid would be better spent addressing these root issues than in military funding.

In many areas of human trafficking, the line between victim and perpetrator is blurred. Traffickers are always manipulating those within their power. The victims become pawns of the trafficker, used to control and manipulate others. Nowhere is that distinction more blurred than in the case of child soldiers. Children are drawn into cartels by both the necessity of survival and the glamour and glory that blinds them. But they are kept there by force. Even when their eyes are opened to the evil, they see no way to get out alive.

## US Farm

### Narrator:

Welcome to Washington State. Famous for its fine wine and delicious apples, Central Washington has many excellent jobs for skilled farm workers. But when greed intercedes, a recruiting company focused on dollars rather than humans can turn a dream job into a nightmare.

It is estimated that 14 to 18 thousand men, women, and children from all over the world are tricked or coerced into slavery in the United States each year. The largest human trafficking case to date began with a recruitment company called Global Horizons Manpower that showed a deceptive and enticing promotional video to thousands of impoverished and desperate men in Thailand.

### Thai man:

You are a husband and father in Northwest Thailand. You and your family work in muddy rice fields, managing to survive on a few dollars a month. Then recruiters come and offer men in your village the opportunity of a lifetime. You would have to mortgage your home and your farm to pay to buy-in fee. But with the guarantee of \$50,000 in three years, the cost is worth it. You can pay off your debt in a year, and in the second two years make more than you could hope to make in your entire life in Thailand.

Nearly all the men in your village accept the offer.

But as soon as you board the plane, you begin to get suspicious. The recruiters keep your passports and visas. You are sent in groups of 20 to 100 to farms all over the US. When you get to the apple orchard where you will work, you find that 20 of you will share living space in a container. There is no heat and no air conditioning. There are bugs and mice. Your food is strictly rationed – usually only one meal a day. You ate better back home in Thailand. This doesn't look at all like the promotional video you saw a few weeks ago.

But the biggest blow comes on your first payday. Instead of a check, you receive an itemized list of all the expenses you have incurred since accepting the offer. Food, housing, and transportation are all subtracted from your pay. In fact, you owe more than you have earned. You and your friends quickly calculate again. There is no way you can even pay off the interest, let alone the debt you owe.

When you complain, you are threatened with deportation. Going back to Thailand is not an option – there is no way you can ever earn enough to pay back your debt. Your passport and visa is in the hands of your deceivers. You don't even speak enough English to get by if you had them.

Every night you think of your family. You wish you could see your wife and children again. You hope your aging father won't die before you return. If you return at all.

### **Narrator:**

The situation of around 600 Thai workers was brought to light after a few were discovered. After three years of intimidation and control, the workers were found and rescued in 2007. But they are still awaiting justice. Human trafficking cases are difficult to prosecute. Even though three defendants pleaded guilty, the case was dropped in August 2012 for fear the evidence would be insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt. Civil litigation is pending.

Food chain slavery is not limited to this incident or to Asian workers. There are lots of great jobs for skilled farm workers, and many guest workers that want to have them. But without adequate legal protection, our fellow human beings are easily manipulated by greedy labor contractors. When this happens, farm owners are usually unaware that their workers are being intimidated and controlled.

Strawberries, tomatoes, and chocolate represent some of the food industries tainted by human trafficking. However, this is one of the easiest forms of modern-day slavery to eradicate. Look at your resource sheet to learn how.

## **India**

### **Narrator:**

Welcome to India: Home of the world's second largest population. India is also home to hundreds of thousands of brick kilns where men, women, and children work in debt bondage. 15 million slaves work in brutal conditions in these kilns. It begins with a small cash advance from the brick owner with an agreement to work until the debt is paid off. But rather than decreasing, the original amount increases as food, housing, and interest are added to their costs. Illiterate workers cannot read a contract and do not know what rate of interest is being charged on the loan. Not even death can break the debt, which is passed on from parent to child through generations. This is illegal in India, and has been for 20 years. Yet it continues.

### **Young Indian man:**

You are a young man, engaged to be married to a beautiful young woman. Both of you are very poor, barely making it through each day, and you have no money to get married. You accept an offer of a cash advance from a local business owner with the agreement you will work for him for two years to pay it off. You happily agree and marry your bride.

You begin to work at the owner's brick kiln. You have to wake up early to start work at 6:30 each morning. You work until late with only one short break. You have a

quota of 1000 bricks to make each day. When you don't meet it, the owner beats you with an iron rod.

You realize you can't make that many bricks each day. You enlist the help of your wife and your father. Your wife squats in the mud, rolling the brick mixture, pressing it into a mold, and scraping off the excess. She pounds it flat into a line beside the others to dry. You and your father load the heavy bricks onto a small cart and transport them across the yard to be fired.

You all live in constant fear of beatings and threats. Your hands are raw and your whole bodies are dirty. The three of you crawl into a little hovel to sleep for the night, exhausted. You count down the days until you will be free.

But when the long-awaited day finally comes, you are devastated! The owner says you have not paid off the debt, in fact, you owe more than when you started. He lists off interest fees and food and housing, showing you an official-looking document. Unfortunately, you can't read so you don't know if it is true or not. He tells you that you must work another two years.

Your wife sits working quietly. She never told you what the owner did to her because she was too ashamed, and afraid of what you might do.

She has already borne a child here, and is pregnant with a second. She worked right up to the day she delivered your first-born, and was put to work again the day after. She wasn't allowed to leave even to deliver the baby. Your father had been beaten nearly to death a few days ago for the crime of being too sick to work. You're not sure if he'll survive. You had pegged all your hopes on getting out of here today. Now, looking at your toddler, you realize that he will grow up to be just like you: a slave in a brick kiln.

## Cambodia

### Narrator:

Welcome to Cambodia, a nation devastated by the Khmer Rouge reign of terror. Up to 3 million people died from genocide or related disease and starvation from 1975 to 1979, the country still suffers from its effects. Abject poverty, corrupt government and law enforcement, and a moral vacuum allow Cambodia to supply children to meet the demand of many of the world's pedophiles. Sex tourism is a mainstay of the nation's economy.

### Young Cambodian girl:

You are an eight-year-old girl living in Svay Pak, a town infamous for its sex tourism. Your father is only occasionally employed, and your large family has to split what is

left after he has spent most of it at the local bar. One day, your mother says it is time for you to start earning your keep. You're glad to help and follow her into the village to a dingy building. She takes you inside, where a man greets her and gives her some money.

She tells you that you will stay here and work. If you are a good girl and work hard, the man will send money back to your family. Your stomach tightens as she turns to leave. The door shuts and you are utterly alone. You sit on the wooden bed and look around at the small concrete room that will be your only home for the next three years.

Later that day, an American man comes into your room. He looks at you like he is hungry. He makes you take off your clothes. You don't know the word "rape" but now you know what it means.

Time seems to stand still. Was it an hour or only ten minutes? The man dresses and leaves, but you stay curled up on the bed. Before you can recover, another man enters and your torture is repeated. And again. And again. Before the day is over, you have been violently raped ten times.

You cringe every time the door is opened. Except for the daily food and water, it is only opened to bring you a new rapist. You hope money is being sent to your family. You wish you could see them. But you also feel too ashamed and worthless to face anyone.

## Narrator:

In most forms of human trafficking, there is a temptation to blame the victim. In many cases, the victim willingly went along with a trafficker. They are frequently unaware of the trap into which they are walking. Others are aware – or at least to some extent – of what they are getting into, but see no other option for survival. Some got themselves into vulnerable situations because of their foolish or sinful actions. Many blame themselves for the abuse they have suffered.

No matter what the victim has done or been tricked into doing, there is no excuse for the injustice with which they are treated. We must remember that we were also slaves to sin. Ever since our first parents were tricked into sin, we have each been making the same choices to present ourselves as slaves to sin. But God had mercy on us in our slavery and redeemed us by the death of His Son. He has given us power to be free from the slave-master of sin. How can we do any less for others?

## US DMST

Narrator:

Welcome to your neighborhood. At least 100,000 American-born women, girls, and boys are turned into commercial sex slaves in the United States every year.

They are in massage parlors, residential brothels, hostess and strip clubs, escort services, truck stops, street prostitution, online classifieds and pornography. They are in every city in America.

The average age of entry is 13 years old.

Young girl:

You live with your little sister, mom, and her latest boyfriend in his suburb. You don't really know anyone at your new school.

On the way home, a young man in a nice car says he wants directions. When you answer him, he flashes a smile, and thanks you.

You run into him again a few days later. Hanging out becomes normal. You've never had anyone listen to you like he does. He treats you like you matter. He buys you a beautiful diamond bracelet. You wear it everywhere. You don't tell mom about your new boyfriend because she just won't understand.

He buys you nice presents, especially after you have been intimate. He buys your clothes and gets your nails done. You feel really pretty for the first time in your life. After about six months of dating, he says he is running out of money and has to move back to his old city. You'll do anything to stay with him and agree to go, too.

You're nearly fourteen, you're old enough to decide what you want.

When you get there, four other girls are living with him too. He explains that his job has certain rules, but he doesn't really love any of those other girls. You're the one.

An older girl dresses you and helps with your makeup. She coaches you on the right words and how to be sure to check if the customer is a cop.

Your boyfriend reassures you as he drops you off:

Man's sweet voice:

"Just pretend you're with me, baby. You're gonna knock 'em dead with that smile."

Young girl:

You've had sex before, but not this way. It's violent and humiliating, and you have to pretend that you like it. You service 12 johns that first night. Aching and bleeding, you return home, anticipating his strong arms wrapped around you.

You step out of the shower to that strong arm socking you in the stomach.

Man's angry voice:

"Nobody keeps cash from me!"

Young girl:

You're bewildered by his anger. You already gave him all the money. A customer left a tip in your boot, but you had thought you could keep that.

Slowly you realize this isn't the life you signed up for. After you find him in bed with two of the other girls, you pack your things. He's waiting for you.

Man's voice:

"Where ya goin', baby?"

You tell him you're leaving, you don't want to be a ho. He says you can't change the truth. When you won't give in, he chains you to the toilet for three days. While you're begging to be let out, he cries on the other side of the door, asking why you make him do things like that. Afterwards, he threatens to make your sister take your place if you leave.

You soon find that you're lucky. Other girls are black and blue from regular beatings. Most are given drugs. Johns like that they can do whatever they want if a girl is high.

You see boys out in the life, too. You pass each other at photo shoots. Your pimp sells your photos and videos just like he rents out your body. The pornography will haunt you the rest of your life.

But that's not likely to be more than four years anyway. Plenty of girls have disappeared. Murder is the most common cause of death for prostitutes.

## Rescue and Restoration

Narrator:

In this final room, you will hear three stories of rescue and hope. Turn to the wall on your left to learn more about the organizations that are bringing hope to survivors of human trafficking.

### India

**Narrator:**

In the tradition of heroic Christian leaders like abolitionist William Wilberforce, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King, Jr., International Justice Mission's staff stand

against violent oppression in response to the Bible's call to justice in Isaiah 1:17:  
*Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.*

IJM seeks to restore to victims of oppression the things that their Creator intends for them: their lives, their liberty, their dignity, and the fruits of their own labor. By defending and protecting individual human rights, IJM seeks to engender hope and transformation and to restore a witness of courage in places of oppressive violence.

## Young Indian man:

Life as a slave in a brick kiln is hopeless torture. But one day, everything changes for you.

International Justice Mission's local office discovered the slavery in the kiln and documented evidence of conditions there. Armed with this evidence, and partnering with local government authorities and police, IJM planned a raid of the facility to release you and your fellow slaves.

The team arrives in the morning and enters the kiln. You are each asked to tell your story to a government official.

As word of the raid spreads to other kiln owners, a ripple of panic passes through the slave owners, but a wave of hope washes over you and the other slaves.

While IJM provides support to the government officials documenting the crimes at the facility, owners of other kilns illegally using slave labor begin to arrive on the scene. They are yelling threats at the workers testifying. But with boldness and courage, you and the other slaves continue to speak the truth to the government officials.

IJM staff ensures that you and the others receive official government documentation proving your status as emancipated slaves and bring you to a safe location. After eight years were stolen from you, your wife, your father, and your children, you are finally free.

The next day, while IJM staff begin to compile evidence to pursue the prosecution of the slave owner, IJM aftercare staff bring you back to your native village. There, you begin a new life. IJM enrolls you in Freedom Training and helps you get a legitimate job. They help your children enroll in school, where they quickly begin to make up for lost time. Your son wants to become a police officer so that he can catch all the criminals and help and protect people. He wants to bring his family a good name. Today, your life is one of hope.

## Narrator:

IJM has brought freedom and long-term support to thousands of former slaves. Many more are waiting for release.



The steps away from the kiln are only the first in a long journey towards establishing a life of freedom – a journey that IJM takes alongside every slave freed. IJM aftercare staff shows the love of Christ and stands with former slaves for years. They ensure former slaves receive government assistance, are placed in school or gainfully employed, and are trained in the basic skills needed to thrive as free citizens.

### Cambodia

#### Narrator:

Since 2005 the ministries of Agape International Missions have been focused on ending the evil of child sexual slavery in Cambodia. AIM's mission is to prevent child sex trafficking and restore hope to its victims. They provide holistic aftercare to rescued victims, equip and mobilize the church to take action, and build community centers in sex trafficking hot spots.

#### Cambodian girl:

One day, investigators and police come to the brothel where you have been enslaved for the past three years. The brothel owners are placed under arrest, and you are suddenly free. You feel nervous and happy, worried and delighted.

You are taken to Agape Restoration Center (or ARC), where you receive counseling and care. Now you can study and learn like you always wanted. And for the first time you feel loved. You thought you were worthless, worse than garbage. That was how you had been treated. But now the house mother at ARC treats you as if you matter. She and the other staff truly love you.

In time you begin to heal. You learn about the reason for the love you have seen: it comes from the love of the Heavenly Father who sent his Son to die for you. You realize that no matter what has been done to you or what you have done, nothing can change that truth. You are loved and accepted and valued. Now you have hope.

#### Narrator:

In addition to Agape Restoration Center, Agape International Missions runs community centers to protect and educate children at risk, gyms to reach the traffickers, and career training for those who have graduated from the restoration program. This is all done through the medium of the local church, who live out the love of Christ for these children every day.

### US DMST

#### American girl:

You're sick of your living hell as a prostitute. The only time you are ever alone is in the bathroom. One day you find a soap bar in a hotel bathroom with a phone number stuck to it. It is the national trafficking hotline: 888-3737-888. At last a ray of hope shines through. Urgently, you call the number. The operator who answers helps you develop an escape plan. While your pimp is out running errands, you tell the other girls you are going down to get some snacks. Instead, you run down to meet a volunteer who quickly drives you away.

After a quick stop for some clothes and food, you are given a ticket and put on a bus for a state many miles away. There you are greeted by another volunteer from a survivor-led organization connected through Shared Hope International's Restorative Shelter Working Group. You are taken to a secure place of healing, where you find love and acceptance - what you always wanted from your pimp - in the forgiveness and grace of Jesus. You will have a new identity, free from shame and free from torture and manipulation. Shocked at your escape, you whisper: "Today is my first day of freedom."

## Narrator:

This story represents the life of hundreds of thousands of young women and children and it is happening right now in our neighborhoods.

Even if we could rescue every sex slave today, there would be more back out there tomorrow because the source of this evil is the Demand.

Human trafficking is a commercial enterprise. Men who buy sex by the picture or act create the demand that results in the physical and psychological devastation of children and teens. As it is men who are overwhelmingly the majority of the source of demand, it is men who must end demand.

A Defender is a man who makes a pledge, keeps a promise, and has a plan. This is the pledge:

## Defender:

Recognizing that men create demand for prostituted children and that better men have to end the demand..

And mindful of my own past failure to protect the innocence of kids by tolerating the existence of the commercial sex industry that makes them vulnerable.

Today I make the commitment to becoming a better man and my commitment is demonstrated by the following:

- I will not purchase or participate in pornography, prostitution or any form of the commercial sex industry
- I will hold my friends accountable for their actions toward women and children

- I will take immediate action to protect those I love from this destructive market.

### Narrator:

Men with sexual addiction drive the demand for pornography and prostitution. If you or someone you know are enslaved to sexual addiction, talk to one of our representatives for ways to get started on the right path. There is power in the gospel to redeem all slaves, no matter how invisible their shackles. Men, if you do not suffer from sexual addiction, sign up to be a Defender today. Commit your heart, mind, and resources in defense of our children. Can you afford to do less to protect others?

## Response Room

### Narrator:

Human trafficking is a horrific and overwhelming evil. It is all the more threatening because it is hidden and pervasive. Today you have had a glimpse into the lives of 9 survivors of human trafficking, but that is just a drop in an ocean of an estimated 27 million lives. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the need, the evil, and the suffering.

But we do not have to feel helpless or hopeless. We serve the God who created the world and has authority and power over it.

God is not afraid of evil, nor powerless against it. Somehow, he is working through it to bend all things to his will so that the riches of His glory will be shown to His people.

God is near to the oppressed and hears the cries of the broken-hearted. His wrath is kindled against evil and oppression. He has entered into their suffering by the death of His Son Jesus on the cross. By that death, He paid the penalty for sin and broke the power of shame and suffering forever. He grants new life to all who believe in the effectiveness of His death and resurrection. As His followers, He sends us out to be His hands and feet to a hurting world, commanding us to seek justice.

Take a few minutes to process what you have just seen and heard. Write a one-word description of how you feel. Say a prayer or write a thought for those suffering under oppression, for those fighting against it, and for the traffickers committing it. Help promote this experience by recording a short video message to a victim or to those who don't yet know about human trafficking. Then make a plan to take small steps to fight human trafficking.

Feel free to stay in this room as long as you like, processing, praying, and planning. Please be courteous of others as you use this space together.