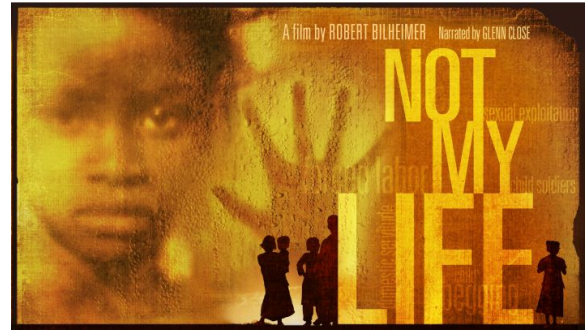


NOT MY LIFE

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Pre-screening Discussion

Suggested Questions for Pre-Screening Discussion

- What is “human trafficking”? Can you give an example?
- Where does human trafficking take place?
- What kinds of people are vulnerable to trafficking? What factors make them vulnerable?
- Who are the traffickers?
- How do you think trafficking is being combated?

Suggested Talking Points to Introduce the Film: (For more info, visit notmylife.org)

General Statistics

- Every year, as many as 800,000 women, men, and children are trafficked across international borders. (U.S. State Department)
- According to recent International Labour Organization estimates, 55% of those trafficked are women and girls –and up to 5.5. million are children.
- There have been cases of human trafficking reported in all 50 U.S. states.
- Today, both children and adults in the U.S. are being exploited and sometimes enslaved.
- According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation.

Segment 1: *Many Boys Die*

Forced Labor: Fishing boys enslaved on Lake Volta in Ghana

Facts and Information

- Over 7,000 children – some estimates are even as high as 27,000 - are exploited daily on Lake Volta.
- These children, some as young as four years old, work 14 hour days, 7 days a week, and receive only 1 small meal a day.
- Eric Peasah, who appears in this segment, is the founder of Right to Be Free, a nonprofit organization which works to rescue children from the fishing trade on Lake Volta.
- Touch A Life Foundation is the first non-governmental organization in Ghana to provide long-term housing, education and care to trafficked children rescued from Lake Volta.



Discussion Topic

Many parents believe they are giving their child up for a better life as fishermen falsely promise to send their child to school or to teach them the fishing trade.

What social, cultural and economic factors might drive a parent to make the decision to give up or sell their child?

Action Items

- **Donate** to Eric Peasah's organization, Right To Be Free, at righttobefree.org/donate
- **Donate** to "Made in a Free World" madeinafreeworld.com/ghana/
- **Learn** more about Touch A Life Foundation, visit touchalifekids.org

Segment 2: They Get Beaten

Forced Labor: Talibé Street Beggars in Senegal



Facts and Information

- In 2010, the international aid group *Human Rights Watch* released a report which revealed widespread exploitation and abuse by Marabouts affects some 50,000 young boy Talibés across the country.
- Talibé children beg for their food and for money on the streets of Senegal for 6 to 10 hours each day.
- Money is given to the "teacher" or Marabout who controls them.
- Children live in unconscionable conditions in "daaras," without access to running water, rudimentary hygiene or nurture, often without shelter and subject to severe abuse.
- Plan, an independent child development agency, is working as a partner in the USAID-funded Basic Education Project. This project supports the introduction of a formal education cycle and better learning conditions into daaras in Louga and Dakar.

Discussion Topic

Senegal's worst Koranic schools routinely force children out onto the street each day to earn their keep, citing it as a part of their religious learning.

Discuss how cultural traditions are vulnerable to corruption and how poor families can be particularly susceptible to handing their children over to traffickers.

Action Items

- **Donate** or sponsor a child from Plan, visit plan-international.org

Segment 3: *It's Like Hell in This Place*

Forced Labor: Children working at the Ghazipur Landfill in New Delhi, India



Facts and Information

- New Delhi produces about 9,200 tons of trash daily, up 50% from 2007. The garbage is expected to double by 2024, leaving Ghazipur and two other landfills overflowing.
- It is estimated that in developing nations, exposure to toxic waste has caused a total of 828,722 lost years of healthy life.
- The 2012 U.S Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report found that the Indian government continued to fund over 100 NGO-run hotlines that help assist vulnerable people, including trafficking victims such as those at the Ghazipur Landfill.
- The Ministry of Labor and Employment in India reported 865 bonded laborers rescued and the equivalent of almost \$170,000 distributed in government-mandated rehabilitation funds in 2010-11, the latest data available. This represents a small fraction of the millions of Indian citizens subject to bonded labor.
- “Children who pick waste are unable to find any other means to support themselves and, often, their siblings. Walking on the road, picking up waste, they are bullied to clean up private homes, beaten by municipal sweepers and police personnel and abused by the general public, even sexually assaulted. Most people see them as greedy thieves, not as disadvantaged, poor children struggling to survive.”

chintan-india.org/initiatives_no_child_in_trash.htm

Discussion Topic

Recent research suggests that exposure to toxic pollutants from contaminated sites such as the Ghazipur Landfill may be equally or more harmful to human health than certain infectious diseases like malaria.

In addition to the emotional effects of child exploitation, discuss some of the other physical issues that might arise in a child trafficked for labor or sexual purposes.

Action Item

- **Support** *Chintan*, an advocacy group dedicated to helping Delhi's waste picker children
chintan-india.org/donate_to_chintan.htm

Segment 4: I Beat Them With My Fists

Who are traffickers? Prosecution for trafficking/ Interviews with traffickers at Zoha Prison in Bucharest, Romania



Facts and Information

- Human traffickers are criminals who exploit other human beings in order to make money. They use force, fraud and coercion to obtain and control their victims.
- Human traffickers act as different ‘links’ in the trafficking chain. Their actions may include one or more of the following: recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, receipt of persons.
- Of the 196 countries in the world, only 116 have laws enacted to prevent all forms of trafficking.
- 62 Countries have yet to convict a trafficker under laws in compliance with the Palermo Protocol.

Discussion Topics

There is no one consistent face of a trafficker. Both men and women commit trafficking crimes. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates.

Identify and discuss some potential trafficking “hot zones” in your community (hotels, malls, massage parlors, farm labor, etc.)

Action Item

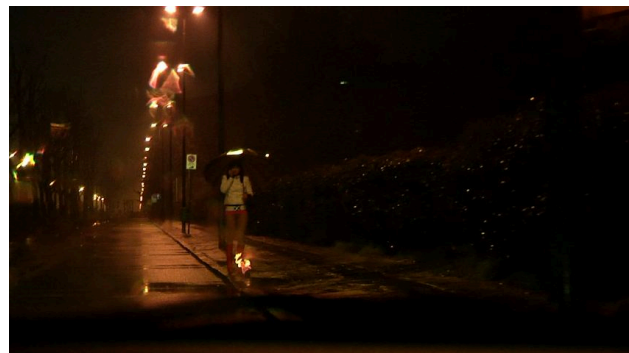
- **Contact** your local and national lawmakers and ask them what they are doing to enact and enforce new and tougher laws against human traffickers and the crimes they commit. Also, make sure your legislation involves protection for victims of human trafficking crimes.

Segment 5: There is a Denial

Trafficking in Europe: Romania, Italy

Facts and Information

- A report released by the European Union in April 2013 gathered statistical data from more than 25 European nations and found that human trafficking increased by 18% between 2008 and 2010. In that same time, trafficking convictions fell by 13%.
- The vast majority of all victims (80 %) are female, and 20 % of the victims are male.



- Victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly female (96 % in 2010) whereas the majority of victims of labor exploitation are male (77 % in 2010).
- In a report released by the EU, most of the victims identified were citizens of Romania and Bulgaria, the two poorest members of the bloc. Neither country has implemented the new laws designed to impose higher penalties on offenders.

Discussion Topics

1. What factors do you think might be contributing to the rise of human trafficking in Europe?
2. This segment depicts stories about violence against women by their traffickers. How can the education of women and girls help in the fight against human trafficking?

Action Item

- **Learn** how the European Union is combating slavery and view a list of National Hotlines at ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/

Segment 6: He Could Have Been My Grandpa

Sex Trafficking: Domestic sex trafficking in the U.S.: Oklahoma, Kansas, District of Columbia, and New York City



Facts and Information

- Trafficking in the U.S. includes both labor and sexual exploitation. For more on specific forms of trafficking, refer to Polaris Project's resource, "Types of Trafficking Cases in the U.S."
- 100,000 - 300,000 - Number of prostituted children in the U.S.
- The average age of entry into prostitution for in the U.S. is age 12-14 for girls and 11-13 for boys.
- Organizations such as *Truckers Against Trafficking* work to educate and create awareness of human trafficking in the trucking industry.

Discussion Topics

1. 75% of girls engaging in street prostitution are controlled by pimps. A prevailing notion among the general public is that these girls are free to leave anytime. How do the traffickers use emotional abuse and control to imprison their victims?
2. How can we create safety nets to prevent young people like Angie from becoming trafficked?

Action Items

- **Learn** more about *Truckers Against Trafficking* at truckersagainsttrafficking.org/
- For **resources** on trafficking in the U.S., visit polarisproject.org/resources

Segment 7: 10 x 10 Space

Child labor & sex trafficking: Brothels and sexual slavery in India, child labor in supply chains



Facts and Information

- 90% of trafficking in India is domestic, with only 10% taking place across international borders.
- India is a destination and transit country for trafficking.
- Of 2.8 million prostitutes in India, 35.47% entered the trade before the age of 18 years.
- *Rescue Foundation* is an NGO working for rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims of human trafficking from different parts of India, Nepal & Bangladesh and sold for forced prostitution.
- *UNICEF* estimates 12 percent of children in India ages 5-14 are engaged in child labor activities, including carpet production .
- The *International Labour Organization* estimates that 215 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor.

Discussion Topics

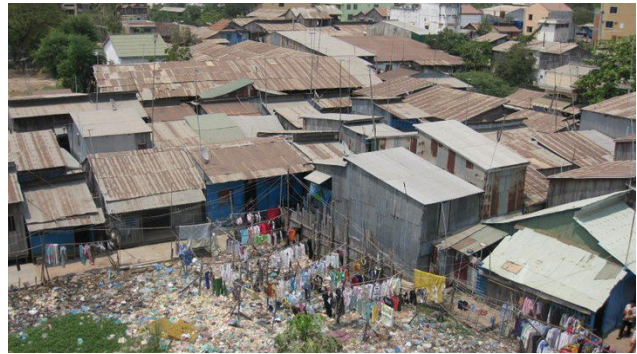
1. In this segment, the brothel owners were women who got very upset because the police and rescue workers were taking away their “livelihood.” Discuss what factors might be involved in this type of situation -- an adult woman exploiting another woman or child.
2. Discuss how and why a business may end up, knowingly or unknowingly, using child labor in their supply chains. What can they do to ensure that their products are not made by child laborers or forced adult laborers?

Action Items

- **Learn** how the products you buy are touched by slavery. SlaveryFootprint.org is building a global community of people demanding products made without slavery by letting you analyze your own “slavery footprint.”
- If you are a business owner, **learn** about best practices through our partners at *End Human Trafficking Now!* endhumantraffickingnow.org
- **Join** campaigns such as Buycott Human Trafficking. The **Buycott App**, which is available for IOS and Android devices, is a tool that lets you organize your consumer spending to help causes that you care for, and to oppose those that you don't.
- **Support** the Rescue Foundation in its efforts to rescue and rehabilitate young women from forced prostitution in different parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Visit rescuefoundation.net/donate

Segment 8: Our Greatest Shame

Sex tourism: Young girls for sale in Southeast Asia



Facts and Information

- Prevalent in Cambodia is the internal trafficking of women and children from rural to urban areas for sexual exploitation. Many victims believe they will be working as domestic servants but are later coerced into sexual exploitation.
- *UNICEF* reports that across the world, there are over one million children entering the sex trade every year and that approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years.
- *Agape International Missions* (AIM), founded by Don Brewster, works in Cambodia to fight trafficking, rescue and restore victims, and transform communities.
- The *Somaly Mam Foundation* is a Cambodian nonprofit organization dedicated to the eradication of slavery and the empowerment of its survivors, based on the vision of Cambodian survivor Somaly Mam who is featured in *Not My Life*.

Discussion Topics

1. In this segment, Sophea Chhun talks about the importance of prevention. She states, “you rescue ten today, twenty coming in tomorrow...so we need to do more than just rescue.” How can we prevent these children from being trafficked in the first place? Education? A focus on demand?
2. In this segment, Don Brewster talks about how the worst pedophiles are from the United States. Discuss the demand side of sex trafficking. What can be done to educate young men about gender equality and respect toward women?

Action Items

- **Learn** more about the *Somaly Mam Foundation*, visit somaly.org
- **Share** *Agape International Mission*'s story. Forward this link to your friends agapewebsite.org/aims-story

Segment 9: Don't Mess With Your Children

Child exploitation and abuse within families in Guatemala City featuring International Justice Mission



Facts and Information

- Guatemala is considered a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children. Children from poor families in Guatemala tend to be drawn into trafficking for purposes of prostitution through advertisements for lucrative foreign jobs or through personal recruitment.
- Internal trafficking for sexual exploitation takes place in Guatemala, with women and girls moved between commercial sex establishments in Izabal, Escuintla, and Retalhuleu.
- Guatemalan adoption legislation was heavily reformed in 2007, and in January 2008, its international adoption program was shut down amid mounting evidence of corruption and child trafficking. Prior to being shut down, the Guatemalan illegal adoption industry had an estimated worth of \$100 million and was the largest source of adopted U.S. babies after China.
- Over the past 32 years, *Covenant House* (La Alianza) in Guatemala has helped hundreds of trafficking victims seek protection, legal support, rehabilitation and other services. Currently, the organization operates one safe house for girls and women, and they are looking to open a similar one for boys.
- *International Justice Mission*, featured in *Not My Life*, is a human rights agency that brings rescue to victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression in countries all over the world.

Discussion Topic

The arrest of Efrain Ortiz was important and symbolic for the Guatemalan people in that community, and has hopefully set the stage for future arrests and convictions of similar trafficking and abuse crimes. For the filming of this segment, the Not My Life film crew had to rent a car for the police so that the arrest could be carried out.

Discuss how lack of financial and human resources for law enforcement, victim service providers and NGOs is helping to perpetuate these crimes around the world.

Action Items

- **Donate** to Covenant House at covenanthouse.org/help-the-homeless or la-alianza.org/index.php/donaciones
- **Inform** A call center has been established in Guatemala to assist victims and migrants, and raise awareness about the crime of trafficking. "Call Centre 1552 Migrants and Trafficking Victims" provides people with a channel to complain or report suspicious activities which might involve trafficking.
- **Learn** more about *International Justice Mission* at ijm.org or donate at ijm.org/give.

notmylife.org

Segment 10: Force, Fraud, Coercion

Domestic Servitude: Polaris Project and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Hotline/ Forced domestic servitude in Washington D.C.



Facts and Information

- Victims of domestic servitude commonly work 10 to 16 hours a day or more for little to no pay.
- Immigration Status – Traffickers often use the threat of deportation as well as document confiscation to maintain control of foreign national domestic workers.
- Means of Control – Traffickers may exert control over their victims through threats of deportation or other harm to the victim or the victim’s family, document confiscation, debt, and/or restrictions on movement and communication.
- Together with NGOs *Polaris Project*, *Liberty Asia* and *La Strada International*, Google has launched the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network to build a global trafficking helpline fueled by data.

Discussion Topic

The trafficker in this segment is an individual that doesn’t fit into the prevailing stereotypes of human traffickers. She is an affluent woman who works at the World Bank. She was arrested and convicted, but received a minor sentence and is still employed at the World Bank.

Discuss why many trafficking crimes are hidden, and, as in this case, accepted in a community.

Action Items

- **Know** the signs of human trafficking. Download *Polaris Project’s* information guide “Types of Trafficking Indicators” here: polarisproject.org/resources/resources-by-topic/human-trafficking. You can also find this document in the *Not My Life* Toolkit, available here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ft3g202rttqynae/hg0pJ4d9-J>
- **Report** any potential cases of human trafficking. In the US, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at **1-888-3737-888** or **text BeFree (233733)**. This is a toll-free, 24-hour anti-trafficking hotline operated by *Polaris Project*.
- **European Union Member State hotlines** can be found on the European Union’s Website: ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/
- **Contact** the *World Bank* and ask them what their policies are about employing individuals who have been convicted of trafficking crimes.

Segment 11: Children Started Killing Themselves

Children in armed conflict: Grace Akallo's Journey to Freedom



Facts and Information

- *UNICEF* defines a 'child soldier' as any child boy or girl under 18 years of age, who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity, including, but not limited to: combatants, cooks, porters, messengers, etc. Also included are girls and boys recruited and abducted for forced sexual purposes.
- It is estimated that some 300,000 children boys and girls under the age of 18 are today involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide.
- Children are more likely to become child soldiers if they are separated from their families, displaced from their homes, living in combat zones or have limited access to education.
- Children may join armed groups as the only way to guarantee daily food and survival.
- Since 1998, over 100,000 child soldiers have been released from armed groups and reintegrated into their communities. *UNICEF* has played a key part in this process across the globe.
- Grace Akallo, featured in *Not My Life*, is the author of *Girl Soldier: A story of Hope for Northern Uganda's Children*. She has also founded the non-profit organization *United Africans for Women and Children Rights*.

Discussion Topics

1. In her story, Grace describes an almost surreal situation in which she found herself abducted by soldiers, beaten, raped and forced to kill her peers. How does a child of fourteen, live through, and come out the other side of a situation such as this and go on to lead a "normal" life? Discuss how the resilience of the survivors depicted in *Not My Life* carried them through their horrific experiences.
2. Dr. Susan Bissell, Chief of Child Protection at *UNICEF*, in part of her interview that was not included in the film states, "Yes, these children do have resilient spirits, but why should they ever have to be resilient in the first place? What is driving our global society to the place where we allow our children to be subjected to this kind of emotional and physical torture?"

Action Items

- **Read** Grace Akallo's book *Girl Soldier: A Story of Hope for Northern Uganda's Children*.
- **Learn** more about children in armed conflict at child-soldiers.org & www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58007.html
- **Support** Grace's organization africanwomenrights.org.