

5. Inability to satisfy basic needs as a risk factor in human trafficking



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Reflection #5

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Defenders of Life Network

AIC questions itself:

**Poverty and the processes of
impoverishment as risk factors in
human trafficking and the
trafficking of migrants**





Reflection #5

VISUALIZE: Agree or Disagree



We begin our reflection with an exercise that will reveal our attitude toward various realities:



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Human trafficking only affects the poorest people in our society.

Only people lacking basic needs are poor.

Human trafficking occurs in the poorest countries.

We are not affected by human trafficking because we are poor but because of the reality of social inequality.



Reflection

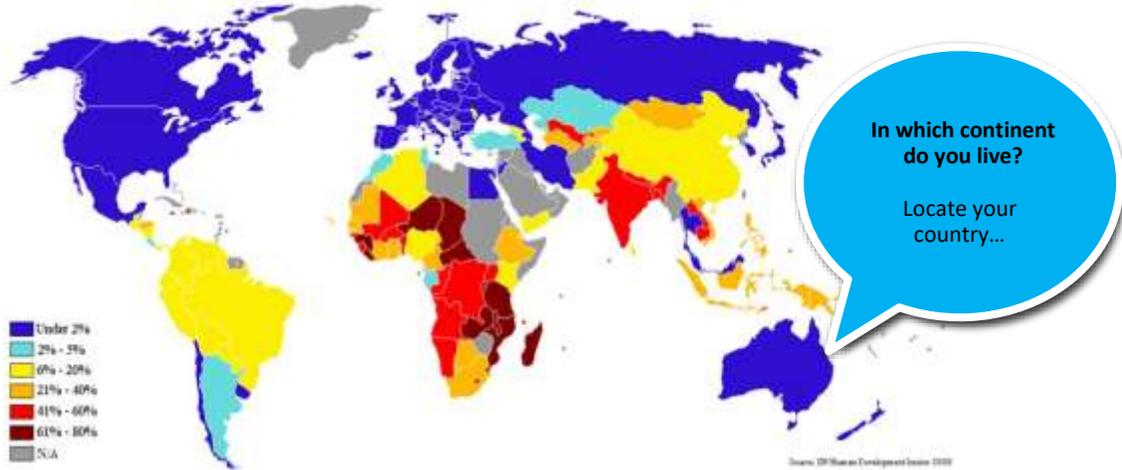
-  There is a myth that leads some people to believe that human trafficking is a problem that only affects the poorest people in our society. However, there are many educated people who have migrated in search of better living conditions and in doing so have fallen victim to human trafficking.
-  Poverty is not measured in terms of income or inability to satisfy basic needs. A person can lack all of those things and still feel satisfied while another person with greater resources might feel unsatisfied... there is a subjective element in this. How do I view myself: rich or poor? Why?
-  It is not in the poorest places that one finds greater risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking, but rather in more developed countries. It is not poverty, but inequality that can lead to human trafficking. Japan, for example, is a world power, and many victims of human trafficking are found there (domestic workers, prostitutes, etc.).



Reflection #5

UNDERSTAND (JUDGE)

Africa, Asia, America (Central and South) and the Caribbean are the continents with the highest percentage of poverty.



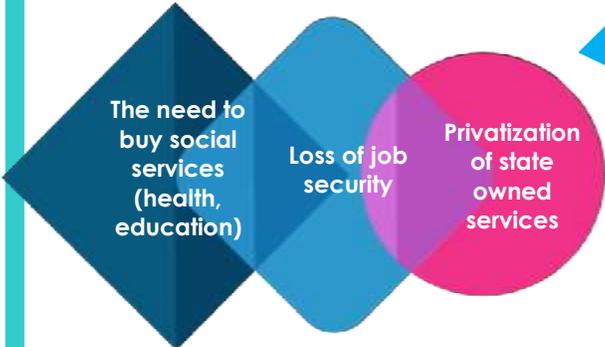
Furthermore, when speaking about poverty we are also speaking about inequality. The three countries with the greatest inequality are Haiti, Angola and Colombia.

Who are the poorest of the poor in your country?

Poverty is complex and has many causes, many faces: workers, farmers, university students, single mothers, orphans, children living in the street, etc...

Poverty is not a situation but a process that is caused by:

How do these processes of impoverishment become risk factors?



Globalization and new rules of international commerce (supply/demand)

- People migrate in search of new opportunities.
- Developed countries have become ideal "destinations" for migrants.
- The present precarious labor situation leads people to make job offers that lead to enslavement.
- There are illegal economic systems that are outside the control of the state.

These causes affect family, social and community relationships and create new forms of poverty and new poor people.

What changes in your country have made people poorer?

Impoverishment is not only economic!

People also become poor as a result of a loss of time spent caring for other family members, diminished quality of life with regard to rest and recreation and mental and spiritual limitations.

What other changes create poverty?

The victims of human trafficking are the new faces of poverty in our world.

Today people speak about being afraid of falling into a situation of poverty and of being afraid of encountering people who are poor. People even become hostile toward poor people and those who lack resources or who are in need.

Another important concept is that of **exclusion**, understood as a lack of participation in society by certain groups of people.

Finally, we see that some groups of people are included in participation in society but in an unequal manner (children, women, the LGBT population, certain ethnic groups, people who are challenged in some way). All of those people are more vulnerable to human trafficking.

REACT (ACT)



We want to propose the establishment of support networks, economic solidarity and strengthening our services as AIC members.

Suggested Exercise:

1. Explain to your companions the process of poverty or impoverishment that you have some first-hand experience of.
2. What have you done to confront that situation?
3. How can the volunteers become part of that support network?
4. What forms of exclusion can you identify in those at whom our various Vincentian services are directed?
5. How vulnerable are the people with whom you work... how vulnerable are they to human trafficking?

After you have responded to the above questions, it is important that you write out a commitment that you will make on behalf of those individuals whom you serve as an AIC member.

Discovering the new forms of poverty is key to our work as AIC members because it enables us to respond in a better manner to the needs of people who are poor or excluded.