

1. What is Trafficking?



DEFENSORES
DE VIDAS
COLOMBIA



Reflection N° 1

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Defenders of Life Network

**AIC QUESTIONS ITSELF ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND**
**Joins the 20,000 hearts campaign against trafficking at
global level**





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BACKGROUND:

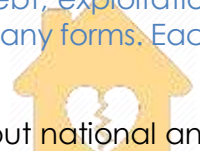
Mobilising ourselves in the face of two topical forms of poverty in the world: **Migrant Smuggling** and **Human Trafficking**, means that every day we become **Defenders of Life** in our own contexts, sparking thought-provoking questions, being suspicious of misleading offers, bearing the **Vincentian** message, inspiring adults - those who are primarily responsible for protecting the lives of the **newer generations**, and most of all, promoting the pedagogy of love as a means of prevention.

*Let's join the fight against Human Trafficking on **30th July**
(World Day against Trafficking in Persons)*



MAKING IT VISIBLE (SEEING)

- ♥ Human Trafficking is a crime that robs human beings of their freedom and dignity. It is estimated that there are 40 million people living in conditions of slavery in the world.
- ♥ Slavery "is a practice that has deep roots and continues to manifest itself today and in many different ways: trafficking of human beings, exploitation of work through debt, exploitation of children, sexual exploitation and forced domestic work are some of the many forms. Each one is as serious and inhuman as the others" (Pope Francis).
- ♥ Human trafficking destroys families, distorts global markets, makes rules about national and international rights less effective and along with other transnational crimes, such as arms and drug trafficking, affects national security (US Department of State).



LIFE STORIES:

Life stories are a way of recognising the crime, as well as of empathizing.

This is the story of Martín García

"Martín García responded to a job offer for an international show, which had performances in different countries. After receiving her documents, she was contacted by the person in charge of the show, who informed her that she needed to complete some administrative procedures for the trip and that the organisers of the show would pay the costs: the ticket and the procedures for a one year contract.

She left Colombia and arrived in the destination country, where her passport was taken from her and she was informed of a change in conditions. She was told that she had a debt because of the costs of her administrative procedures and travel and that to cover the debt she needed to work for two years. The accommodation was inadequate and without a proper bathroom.



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For the show, they went to another country, the journey was by sea and they travelled illegally, meaning that they could not dock at the port and had to remain for several days in high seas without food or water. At this time they temporarily gave her passport back to her so that she could present it to the authorities and get off the boat. The show began, there was a tour within the country and at one of the performances, Martín had an accident and had to be taken to hospital. Those in charge of the show insisted it was not a work accident, because they did not pay any type of insurance to their employees. Because of this situation, they paid the medical expenses in full, but they obliged her to cut short her sick leave so that she paid the sum of the costs by working.

Her medical situation worsened, and she was in another region of the country when she had to go to the emergency services again, where they said she must take a complete rest. With this new instruction, those in charge of the show refused to pay her and obliged her to continue working.

She decided to quit, but they didn't give her identity documents back to her. So she went to the offices of the Ministry of Work in that country, where she was told that her complaint could not be received as she did not have any identity documents and that given that the company had no formal headquarters in this country, there was no way of making the complaint."



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Can we still talk of "slavery" today? Why?
- 2) Can you identify any situations of slavery around you? What are they? What makes them possible?
- 3) At AIC, how can we make them visible and get people to question them?



UNDERSTANDING (ADJUDICATING)

Human trafficking is one of the biggest violations of human rights of our time. It consists of exercising total control over a person, over their time, their belongings, their decisions and their autonomy, turning them into a negotiable object for the benefit of others on a routine basis. Human trafficking **ALWAYS** implies **EXPLOITATION** and has many forms, such as: slave work, begging, illegal extraction of organs, slavish marriages, the forced recruitment of minors, the use of children and adolescents to commit crimes, sexual exploitation of minors in the context of travel and tourism, among others.

Guiding words for human trafficking:

Recruitment

Welcome

Transfer

Transportation

Reception



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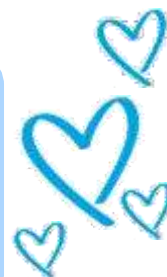


REACTING (ACTING)

WE CAN ALL DEFEND LIVES AS VINCENTIAN VOLUNTEERS OF CHARITY: To remain silent is to encourage exploiters and traffickers

We are invited to join the call being promoted by the Daughters of Charity across the world and many other organizations to put ourselves firmly on the side of the victims and demand that States prosecute the crime, arrest the traffickers and above all protect the victims. Human trafficking is **a cruel, slavish and inhumane practice**. Remaining silent is a form of complicity, it allows this crime to continue growing and ruining the lives of thousands of people, especially children, adolescents and young people.

The blue heart is the symbol of the fight against human trafficking, promoted by the United Nations. For us it is the colour of freedom, nature is covered in blue. God's project is a world without slaves, a world of brothers and sisters, committed to breaking all the chains. **Life is sacred, it is not negotiable, it comes first.**



The Defenders of Life network has created the **"20,000 hearts against human trafficking" campaign**, and we want your heart to join this fight. **We need to make ourselves visible as members of AIC** and to do this, we suggest making a visual or audiovisual tool.

Invite your group members to:

- ♥ Divide themselves into three sub-groups. Each group should come up with the script for a photographic sequence or video, no longer than two minutes, to demonstrate through slogans or small actions, your rejection of human trafficking and your commitment to life.
- ♥ The videos and photographs, indicating the city and country from which they are sent, will be added to the **"20,000 hearts" campaign**. Send them to us through the website www.pequeñasacciones.com, or by e-mail:

defensoresdevidas@gmail.com



A Vincentian heart CANNOT TOLERATE TRAFFICKING.

From Bogota we are counting on you.

LET'S MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.