Activity 72: Who are the Victims? (12+)

Length of Activity: 60 - 90 minutes
This activity is a continuation of the *Who are the Victims? (12+)* activity found in the equality module.

This discussion may prompt the Participants to self-identify as a victim of abuse or trafficking or share stories about others who may be victimized. Be prepared for this situation and know the mandated reporter requirements and protocols!

Materials:

- Screen with Audio
- Internet Access
- Child Trafficking Victim Interview (play until 2:30): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0miuAILOIhI
- I was groomed and sexually abused by 30 or 40 adult men (2:36) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur27vTcCaA8

This activity's purpose is to reinforce and apply terms and concepts learned. Being able to identity the signs of a person who is attempting to recruit you into sex trafficking can make young boys and girls less susceptible to recruitment efforts. Also, being able to identify signs of someone participating in sex trafficking can result in saving that individual's life. Thus, it is vital that the Participants can use critical thinking to analyze real world scenarios, so they can recognize and become more resilient to exploitative efforts from individuals in the sex trafficking industry. Remember that a perpetrator or victim can be anyone regardless of age, income, religion, socio-economic status, etc.

Discussion Questions:

- Who is at risk of being trafficked for sex?
- Who are the exploiters/pimps/ traffickers?
- What are some of the risk associated with being prostituted or exploited?
- What should you do if you identify someone involved in sex trafficking?

Activity:

1) Begin the activity by reminding Participants of some of the characteristics that make someone more susceptible to sex trafficking, such as:
    - Homeless youth
    - Living in neighborhoods where gang activities, prostitution, and sex crimes already occur.

2) Now remind Participants of some of the approaches and signs of someone attempting to involve you in sex trafficking. The Facilitator can expand further than just the ones listed below. Some of those approaches are:
    - They are much older than you.
    - They want to give you money in exchange for "favors".
    - They want to isolate you from your loved ones and friends.

3) The Facilitator will now read the following scenario and discuss it with the Participants. The Facilitator can change the names in the scenario to make the scenario more relatable to the Participants. The scenario, questions and possible answers are as follows:

    Scenario 1: Sarah and John have been dating have been dating for two months now. Sarah is 15 years old and John is 16. John surprises Sarah all the time with presents. He is always taking Sarah on dates. Sarah seems really happy with him. However, recently, Sarah and John have been arguing a lot. I also saw Sarah crying after class because of an argument that Sarah had with John.

Questions	**Possible Responses**
Is John attempting to recruit Sarah into sex trafficking?	No
Why not?	Because they seem to have a mutual relationship.
One of the key things that a sex trafficker does to recruit someone is say that they love them but hurts them emotionally. Sarah seemed like she was emotionally hurt by John. Why isn't this a clear sign of trafficking?	It is true that perpetrators try to inflict emotional harm on people, but from this situation it appears that Sarah and John only had an argument. This is common in most relationships.
What are some other signs that John is not attempting to exploit Sarah?	John is not trying to isolate Sarah from friends and family. He is not attempting to have her take drugs or get a tattoo.

4) Scenario one's purpose was to show a distinction between a regular relationship and a pimp attempting to recruit someone into sex trafficking to exploit them. Please ensure that all Participants have a clear distinction between a mutual and manipulative relationship.

5) The Facilitator will now read the following scenario and discusses it with the Participants. The Facilitator can change the names in the scenario to make the scenario more relatable to the Participants. The scenario, questions and possible answers are as follows:

Scenario 2: John, who is 12 years old, has been having a lot issues with his family. John's parents make him clean his room, do dishes, and even wash the car. John is really tired of doing all of these things and began expressing his anger on social media. Soon after John's first post, he made a new friend named Beth. Beth really wants to be there for John. John has been talking to Beth for several months now. Recently, John finally met Beth in person. Beth has given John money and asked him to run away from home and live with her. Beth tells John that if you live with me you will not have to do any chores and we can just have fun all day. John agrees to run away with Beth because he believes that Beth will treat him better than living with his parents and he will not have to do chores anymore. Beth tells John that she will pick him up in her car at 5:00.

Questions	**Possible Responses**
Is John being recruited into the sex trafficking industry?	It is highly likely that he is being recruited for exploitation.
Who is the individual attempting to recruit John into sex trafficking?	Beth
What are some of the warning signs that Beth is trying to recruit John into sex trafficking?	Beth is giving money to John. Beth is encouraging John to run away from home. Beth is much older than John because she has a car and can freely give him money.
What are some of the things John should have done to avoid exploitation?	John should have talked to his parents about his issues. John should not have shared personal information on social media.

6) After the Facilitator has read and discussed the previous scenario, the Facilitator will read and discuss the final scenario with the Participants. The Facilitator can change the names in the scenario to make the scenario more relatable to the Participants. The scenario, questions and possible answers are as follows:

Scenario 3: Sarah has a friend name Joy. Sarah and Joy are best friends they hang out all the time and use Musical.ly together. Joy met a guy on Musical.ly

and they began hanging out a lot. Joy doesn't talk much about the guy she met on Musical.ly. Soon after Joy and the guy started seeing each other, Joy began to come to school with a new phone, clothes, and shoes. Joy even got a new tattoo. Sarah thought it was pretty cool that Joy had all these nice things. However, Joy slowly stopped talking to Sarah even though they were best friends. As weeks went by and Joy stopped talking to Sarah all together. Several months later, Joy approached Sarah and asked Sarah if she would like to hang out and meet the mysterious guy that Joy has been hanging out with. Sarah agrees because she misses her friend and is excited to meet the guy who has been giving Joy all of this cool stuff.

Questions	**Possible Responses**
Did Joy get recruited into sex trafficking?	yes
Who was Joy recruited into sex trafficking by?	The guy Joy met on Music.ly.
What are the warning signs to tell you that Joy was recruited into sex trafficking?	Joy had a new phone, clothes, and shoes. Joy also got a new tattoo. Joy became very isolated from her friends.
When Joy stopped talking to Sarah then reproached her after several months what was Joy's intentions?	Joy was attempting to recruit Sarah into sex trafficking.
What are some of the things Sarah and Joy should have done to avoid being recruited into sex trafficking.	Joy should have not met with a stranger over social media. Sarah should have recognized that her friend was recruited into sex trafficking and told an adult so that they could help her.

Please ensure that you inform the Participants that this video is very emotional and me hard to watch.

7) After the Facilitators discuss scenario three with the Participants, play the video *Child Trafficking Victim Interview (play until 2:30):* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0miuAILOIhI. The objective of this video is to show Participants that exploiters can be anyone, including your family members.

8) Once the video ends, the Facilitator will ask the Participants the following questions:

Questions	Possible Responses
Who were the exploiters in this video?	The women offering the daughter a job and the mother.
How did the woman persuade the mother to allow her daughter to participate in sex trafficking?	She offered her money.
How would you feel if you were that young girl?	Betrayed. Having a trusted family member do that to me is unimaginable.
Do you have a list of trusted adults that you can contact if you ever feel uncomfortable?	Yes (should have from the previous activity). No (the Facilitator should assist the Participant in creating a list of trusted adults to contact).

9) Now the Facilitator will play the video *I was groomed and sexually abused by 30 or 40 adult men* (2:36): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur27vTcCaA8

10) Once the video ends, the Facilitator will ask the Participants the following questions:

Questions	Possible Responses
Who were the exploiters in this video?	The guys that Ben met online.
How did the guys persuade Ben into participating in sex trafficking?	They told them that it was normal for him to experiment.
How would you feel if you were Ben?	I would feel terrible. Especially because I went to the police and they did not help me.

11) Conclude the activity by reiterating characteristics that make individuals susceptible to sex trafficking and approaches exploiters use to recruit people into sex trafficking. Remind Participants that this activity is not meant to scare them, but to make more knowledgeable about the dangers people have to face on a daily basis. Being able to effectively recognize these techniques people use for sex trafficking recruitment and noticing individuals involved in sex trafficking will make them more resilient and possibly save someone's life.