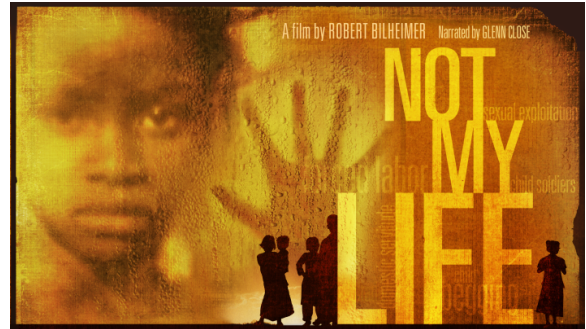


NOT MY LIFE

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:

General Statistics

- Every year, as many as 800,000 women, men, and children are trafficked across international borders (U.S. State Department).
- 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.

SEX TRAFFICKING

- Each year, roughly 3.8 million adults and 1 million children are trafficked for some variation of sexual exploitation (ILO, 2017).
- A disproportionate amount of women and children are victims of trafficking each year. Many factors contribute to their heightened vulnerability, such as lack of job opportunities, gender discrimination, and low levels of education (ACLU).
- According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the average age of a child sex trafficking victim is 15.
- The average age of *all* trafficking victims in the U.S. is 20 (ACLU).
- In 2020 alone, NCMEC reported roughly 17,000 reports of possible child sex trafficking, with boys making up 7% of those victims.



Sexual Exploitation: Stories from Romania, Albania, and Italy.

- Trafficking victims suffer from both physical and psychological abuse, both which often have long-term effects on their lives.
- Clips from the film regarding sex trafficking can be found on our [Explore page](#).

CHILD ABUSE

- There are several indicators of child trafficking or abuse that should serve as red flags when noticed. Some of these factors include, but are not limited to, symptoms of neglect and/or malnourishment, association with or close proximity to an overly controlling adult, possession of material items that don't quite line up with their financial access, tattoos or other branding that the child is reluctant to explain, referencing of multiple cities travelled to while missing (NCMEC).
- There have been several reports of child sex trafficking in **every one** of the 50 states in the U.S.
- According to NCMEC, when children run away from home for long periods of time or on a regular basis, trends show that they are running to or from an unsafe situation. Their absence should be seen as a red flag.
- Clips from the film regarding child abuse can be found on our [Explore page](#).



Forced Labor: Talibé Street Beggars in Senegal

CHILD SOLDIERS

- Child soldiers are captured in a variety of ways, including abduction, coercion, threatening and manipulation.
- According to UNICEF, child soldiers are subject to much more than just fighting as the term may suggest. They often serve as cooks, spies, porters, guards and messengers. Girls especially are subjected to gender-based violence.
- While many children are forced into the line of child soldiers, some join as an act of desperation. These children are often as young as 8 years old (HRW).
- Clips from the film regarding child soldiers can be found on our [Explore page](#).



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

BROTHELS

- An estimate by UNICEF suggests that between one and two million children under the age of 18 are exploited sexually in prostitution each year.
- When children, especially girls, are trafficked for sexual exploitation, they are often kept in cages or rooms guarded by men, where they undergo various horrific forms of sexual abuse and harassment as a form of prostitution that comes at a low price for their customers.
- According to the Global Fund for Children, various other locations can serve as centralized points where this kind of prostitution and sexual exploitation occurs. These locations may include but are not limited to private apartments, spas, dance bars and massage parlors.
- While technology may seem like a positive factor in working toward the end of this type of trafficking, it may be abetting the process instead. Apps and quick forms of communication help consumers and traffickers to fly under the radar, a deadly characteristic when it comes to helping the children.
- In India, the number of trafficked children is so high that it's difficult to find a concrete number, but officials estimate that it easily runs into the millions. According to the Global Fund for Children, the majority of trafficking in India occurs within the country. Those victims who are trafficked internationally, however, typically come to India from Nepal or Bangladesh.
- Clips from the film regarding brothels and sexual exploitation can be found on our [Explore page](#).



Sexual Exploitation: Brothels of Mumbai, India

TRAFFICKERS

- According to a yearly report by the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline operated by the Polaris Project, the number of crisis cases related to human trafficking increased by 40 percent after the **coronavirus lockdown** began in 2020. The difference was recorded in just a one month period, distinguishing a time before shelter-in-place orders, and the time directly after.
- Traffickers use various coercive tactics, both physical and psychological, to compel their victims into working for them against their will (ACLU).
- Trafficking victims often cannot escape due to the various forms of deception practiced by the traffickers. This deception includes, but is not limited to, legal or economic coercion, lying about the future relationship or status of their employment, threatening of the victims' families or of their own lives, etc. (ACLU).
- Because of the amount of people that converge into a city or common area, large events such as professional sporting events and concerts are common targets for traffickers.
- Clips from the film regarding traffickers can be found on our [Explore page](#).



Who are the slaveholders and middlemen who earn their livings at the expense of our children?

IMMIGRATION

- The majority of trafficking victims in the United States, according to ACLU, are immigrants. They are often more vulnerable to human trafficking because of the types of jobs they hold.
- The U.S. states with the highest rates of trafficking cases are New York, California and Florida. These are also the states with the highest reported concentrations of immigrants (ACLU).
- According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics taken in 2019, the highest listed characteristic as a vulnerability to labor trafficking was recent relocation or



Children working at the Ghazipur Landfill in New Delhi, India

migration. The third-highest listed coercion tactic used by traffickers was a threat to report to Immigration.

- Only 6% of victims reported to the Trafficking Hotline in the United States in 2019 were U.S. citizens or lawful residents. The other 94% was comprised of immigrants or those with unknown nationalities.
- Trafficking through the asylum seeking/immigration process is a growing problem and is often an overlooked factor by those seeking information on the subject.

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

More information and/or statistics regarding human trafficking in the United States and around the world can be found on the following websites:

[The Polaris Project](#)

[International Labor Organization \(ILO\)](#)

[American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#)

[Children's Rights](#)

[National Center for Missing and](#)

[Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#)

[UNICEF](#)

[Human Rights Watch](#)



Forced Labor; Fishing boys enslaved on Lake Volta in Ghana