

Getting Started on Prevention

The format of this document was inspired by conversations we take part in or overhear while working on preventing and ending labor and sex trafficking.

Each question could and should lead to a much longer conversation; additional resources to facilitate these conversations are or will be available from the Demand Reduction Subcommittee.

The conversation is directed to those who are familiar with human trafficking crisis intervention work but are still trying to figure out how to stop trafficking before it starts. It is intended to be a starting point for understanding the many competing interests to be addressed and numerous cultural shifts that need to occur in order to completely end human trafficking.

	
We have to teach girls how not to become victims.	Hmmm. The issue of victimization is more complex than that. Teaching all youth, including boys, about prevention is also important - and it can be done in a way that victims don't feel ashamed or blame themselves if they weren't able to stay safe.
We can solve this problem by getting prostitutes off our streets.	Wouldn't it be great if we completely ended prostitution and pimping! However, focusing on simply getting prostitution out of your neighborhood does not fix the problem. Unless we address the larger issues with demand for sex and forced prostitution, the pimps can easily pick up and move to a different neighborhood and nothing really changes.
We need to put teeth in our laws to make sure those johns serve time behind bars. That would stop it.	Maybe we should also focus on preventing men from buying sex in the first place instead of relying on prisons. This would keep anyone from being victimized in the first place rather than dealing with the victimization after it occurs.
We have to stop these guys from buying sex!	You're right. Society needs to help men who buy sex focus instead on having healthy relationships. ¹ Healthy relationships are partnerships with equal commitments of the people involved.
Better yet, I think we need to stop the pimps	To do this, society needs to change its perception of

¹ Demand Reduction Johns School report and bibliography

and traffickers from ever doing this to people.	prostitution or why people can still be bought and sold. How will we get people to join us to make these changes?
We need to stop pornography. We need to stop all this violence and sex on TV, in the movies and on social media.	This is a very heated issue. It brings up censorship, free speech, moral decisions and religious beliefs, sex workers' rights, and concerns about decriminalizing prostitution.
Men need to help. This isn't just a women's issue.	Men are fathers, brothers, husbands, boyfriends, sons, uncles, and friends who are getting involved. Working together with women, we are making Ohio safe and violence free. ²
What about labor trafficking?	Labor trafficking occurs in a vast array of settings and circumstances, making it very difficult to comprehend or consider how to prevent. Buying and supporting fair trade products is one way to show support for improved labor conditions.
This is overwhelming. How can I get started?	That will be different for everyone. Learn more about these topics. Engage others in conversation. Look for ways within your personal and professional life that you can take action to make a difference.
What can I say when I hear someone say something inappropriate that makes me uncomfortable? (such as a sexist remark or joke)	Try this: Say it – repeat what you heard; Claim it – explain how it negatively affected you; Stop it – ask them not to do it anymore. Don't be surprised or discouraged if they don't respond well – you have made your point. ³
What will change look like?	True change will occur when people are safe because no one is trying to hurt them. Our world should be focused on positive, healthy, nurturing environments where no one is harmed or neglected. Violence is not inevitable, it is preventable.
Where can I go for more information?	Additional resources on prevention are available from the Demand Reduction Subcommittee; contact Debra Seltzer at debra.seltzer@odh.ohio.gov . There are local coalitions in most parts of Ohio, where people are working very hard to address these issues. Find the coalition in your region at: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Human-Trafficking-Commission

² Ohio Men's Action Network www.mensactionnetwork.com

³ <http://startstrong.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/school-and-districtpolicies-and-appendix.pdf>