

100  
MILLION

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# CHILD TRAFFICKING FEBRUARY ACTION PACK



## WHY COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING THIS FEBRUARY?

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the UN and many other organisations and governments around the world will observe the tenth annual World Day of Social Justice. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of and learn about all forms of social justice – from gender equality to fair labour laws and the rights of minority groups.

Social justice is the realisation of the human rights which we should all enjoy, regardless of who we are, where we were born or how much money we have. Yet it is estimated that over 1.2 million boys and girls around the world are denied all access to any kind of justice by being trafficked. **That's almost 23,100 children per week** ([ILO, 2005 – the most recent data that exists](#)).

In September and October 2017, over 800,000 marched in the ground-breaking Bharat Yatra (India March) to campaign for victims of child trafficking (learn more by watching the [video here!](#)). Children who are trafficked are removed from their homes, often promised a job that doesn't exist, and taken to an unfamiliar and unsafe environment, becoming some of the most exploited and vulnerable people in the world.

We are inspired by the Bharat Yatra and what the campaigners in India have achieved and will continue the call for all children's fundamental freedoms and human rights to be protected. Join us this February in demanding social justice for all.

## STEP 1: KNOW

The first step to advocating for an end to child trafficking is understanding the issue ourselves.

What do the words 'freedom' and 'security' mean to you? In what ways do you enjoy freedom and security in your everyday life? Does anybody in your community, region, or country not have their rights to freedom and security upheld? If so, why?

Victims of child trafficking are neither free nor safe. The UN defines child trafficking as when a child is **moved** from their home so others can **exploit** them.

According to the ILO, over **1.2 million children and young people worldwide are trafficked annually**. Victims of child trafficking are forced or sold into modern slavery (i.e. forced and unpaid labour) in all sectors of the economy.

Children are most commonly **trafficked into mining, commercial sexual exploitation, agriculture, domestic labour, entertainment, and illegal, street-based activities (like selling drugs)**. Some young people (particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa) are even forced to be **child soldiers**.

East Asia and the Pacific experiences over two thirds of all trafficking worldwide, but all countries are affected to some extent – there could be victims of child trafficking in your community right now.

As we can see, child trafficking is a global phenomenon that violates many different youth rights simultaneously – if you're not safe or free, you can't get an education or live a full, happy childhood.

But which children and young people are particularly at risk of child trafficking? Do the exercise opposite to find out.

(Facts from [this report](#) by the UNODC and [this report](#) by the ILO)

## CHILD TRAFFICKING – WHO'S AT RISK?

To complete this exercise, you'll need a coin. Flip the coin to see where you could live and what your life could be like – if you get heads, choose (a) answers, if you get tails, choose (b) answers (and make a note as you go). At the end, have a discussion about what situations put children and young people most at risk of trafficking.



- (a) I was born in a country where basic services like free healthcare, education and police officers aren't available
- (b) I was born in a country that has good, functioning services for all



- (a) I need to work to support my family, so I don't have time to go to school
- (b) Everyone in my family has finished their education and I will too



- (a) My country is dominated by political violence, like war or civil conflict
- (b) My government is stable and acts democratically



- (a) Family life is hard and I want to run away
- (b) I'm happy at home and know who to talk to if I'm ever in trouble



- (a) There aren't any jobs in my community, so I accept the offer of a family friend to go to a city and work for his colleague there
- (b) Mine and my family's financial situation allows me to finish school before moving away for work

## AS A GROUP:

- What factors put children and young people at **higher** or **lower** risk of trafficking?
- By tossing a coin, you had no power over the answers you got and the life you led. How did it feel to have the choice taken away?
- Think about your own life - what choices have been made by you, and which ones by your family? Were any of them outside your and your family's control?
- Has this made you think differently about trafficking, and who might be trafficked?

This exercise shows us that, while there are some personal steps we can take to reduce our risk of being trafficked, so many of our circumstances can be determined just by where we are born and grow up.

## STEP 2: CONNECT

Part of what makes child trafficking so damaging is the physical and psychological impact it has on its victims. So, while it's important to learn facts and figures surrounding this issue, it's equally important to learn from the stories of the young people who have experienced it.

This month our 'Connect' action is listening to and sharing the experiences of child trafficking survivors.

As part of your 100 Million campaign group, read aloud or put on a video of a child trafficking survivor's story in a class, assembly or seminar, in the playground or canteen, or even in a public space like a park or local library (remember to ask permission first!).

If you have time, read or show different experiences of child trafficking in its many forms (i.e. forced industrial labour, commercial sexual exploitation, child soldiers).

After the reading or screening, encourage your group to reflect on what they have heard or seen.

1. How do you feel? Were you surprised or shocked by anything?
2. How do you think the victims felt?
3. What should we do about child trafficking in our communities or nationally and internationally?

If anyone in the group hasn't yet done so, they can start to combat child trafficking by taking [our campaign pledge online](#).

On the page opposite, you'll find a story to get started with in your 100 Million campaign meeting. If you want to show a video too, try [this one](#) of a Nigerian girl sold into sexual slavery in Italy, made by UNICEF.

There are lots of other resources available online, but it's important to choose stories which are reflective of the reality of child trafficking. Child trafficking is often highly violent and disturbing, so not all stories or videos are suitable for younger audiences.

Feel free to find further appropriate child trafficking stories or videos from reliable websites like [www.stopthetraffick.org](http://www.stopthetraffick.org), [www.ecpat.org](http://www.ecpat.org), and [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org).

Have any other suggestions? Email [campaign@100million.org](mailto:campaign@100million.org) and let us know – your input could be included in future packs!

## CHILD TRAFFICKING: MY EXPERIENCE

Originally from a village in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India, Fardeen was 11 years old when he was brought to Delhi by a hotel owner. He was promised a good salary and a good life in the city, but instead he was sold to work in a denim factory.

"I had several scrapes and injuries at my work in the factory. You can see some of the scars yourself. Some are from scissor cuts, some from beatings – we were beaten by whatever the owner could lay his hand on."

"I would wake up at 8am, bathe and have breakfast and go to work by 9am to 9.30am. We'd have lunch around 1pm. I was made to work from 9am to 11pm. If the work was done incorrectly, I would get beaten up."

One day, he was rescued, together with five other children, by the NGO [Bachpan Bachao Andolan](#) (Save the Childhood Movement). Fardeen feels safe and happy at the BBA's boys home Mukti Ashram: "It feels like home. Everyone loves us here."

Now 14 years old, Fardeen wants to become a doctor so he could treat poor people for free. "I will stay here, study and take care of my sister when I start earning."

(Case study from BBA. You can also watch Fardeen's story on YouTube [here](#))



## STEP 3: MOBILISE

The next step to ending child trafficking is encouraging others to take action against it. Activism isn't just about worldwide campaigns or writing to parliamentarians, it also happens in the local community! This February, show your commitment to ending child trafficking by taking the **#100Million** challenge.

The idea is simple: you and your 100 Million group (and any friends, relatives or classmates from school or university who want to get involved!) together commit to making small changes to your lifestyles or behaviour over the month.

These changes can be as creative as you like! Check out these articles on how [chocolate](#) and [tea](#) are linked to child trafficking and think about how you, your friends and school/university might avoid them. Could you hold an art exhibition or create a blog to raise awareness about child trafficking? There are loads of options – the only requirement is that these changes should be realistic and relevant to ending child trafficking.

Once you've decided, make sure to post your commitments on social media with the hashtags **#100Million** and **#EndChildTrafficking**. If you're struggling for ideas, check out our examples of **#100Million** challenges below!

**THIS MONTH, I AM TAKING THE #100Million CHALLENGE!**

**THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY, I WILL HELP TO COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING BY...**

- 1** SHARING **FACTS** AND **FIGURES** ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING
- 2** TALKING TO MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS ABOUT WHY EVERY CHILD DESERVES **FREEDOM** AND **SECURITY**
- 3** EXPLAINING THE **DANGERS** OF TRAFFICKING TO OTHER CHILDREN IN MY SCHOOL, SO THEY ARE LESS VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKERS

## STEP 4: INFLUENCE

Child trafficking always involves transportation – whether this is a short trip from the victim's village to the capital city or a long flight across continents.

Whilst on the move, children and young people are less controlled by their traffickers and there is more opportunity for government or civil society organisations to intervene and hopefully prevent further danger. But many police officers and border guards don't know how to spot trafficking victims.

So this month, we're encouraging you to write to a local transport-based law enforcement agency – your country's border guard agency, security at a regional airport or the community transit police – so they know the signs of child trafficking. If you're not sure who to write to, look online or ask your teachers and parents.

*Dear NAME/To whom it may concern,*

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February the world celebrates the World Day of Social Justice, but children worldwide are denied justice every day. According to the ILO, there are around 1,225,000 victims of child trafficked annually.

This global crime goes beyond regional and national boundaries, so *transit police officers/border guards/airport security personnel* like you are vital to rescuing the victims and stopping the perpetrators of child trafficking. That's why we want to ask:

- 1) Do you and your colleagues know the signs of child trafficking?

Children who are being trafficked may: a) **travel with adults that are not their parents**, b) **not have access to their own travel documents**, c) **show signs of abuse and neglect, like having scars or burns or being very hungry or fearful**.

- 2) What does your *agency/police station/border crossing* do to ensure that children are protected from traffickers?

*I/we* strongly encourage you share this information in your workplaces and look forward to your reply. With your help, all children can have justice.

Sometimes it's difficult to send letters to government officials – don't worry! For a bigger impact, try using social media to contact your national or local authorities publicly, quickly and directly or upload a photo of yourself sending the letter.

Please let us know if you get a response ([campaign@100million.org](mailto:campaign@100million.org)) and we can help with the next steps!