

Educate!

Show a Film

Choose from the following selection of films or find another film that highlights the issue of child exploitation.

You can show a film in one of your classes, after school, or find a donated space somewhere in the community. Advertise your film showing in the local newspaper or on local radio stations. Put up posters around your school and neighborhood. Set up a table and provide information about your group to those who come see your film.

Film Selections

Plan USA has a variety of films made by youth from around the world that highlight the issue of child exploitation. Contact us for free copies of these films.:

"Bonded Generation" (child labor)

Length: 11 min

The film was made by children of Myrada, Plan India.

Though the government maintains that bonded labor no longer exists, the children of Karnataka State in India reveal otherwise. This startling film exposes the truth; that bonded labor still exists and that it is thriving in the interior villages of Karnataka. The film explores the reasons in which the tradition still finds form and explains the social implications of being branded a bonded laborer.

Discussion questions:

What is a bonded laborer?

If a child's father and grandfather are bonded laborers does that mean the child is destined to be a bonded laborer too?

Why do you think Indian society thinks it acceptable to abuse bonded laborers?

Copies available

"Seeds of Sorrow" (child labor)

Length: 9:30 min

This film was made by the children of Samuha, Plan India.

Did you know that the farmers who grow seeds for big seed companies prefer children to work on their fields? Many of these farmers use children as laborers for the tedious task of bending and carefully cross-pollinating flowers for hours as the job requires flexible bodies and small hands. Who would be better suited for the job than children? "Seeds of Sorrow" brings to light the lucrative practice of growing seeds, which is consuming the future of thousands of children in the Koppal district of Karnataka.

Discussion questions:

Why are farmers growing seeds instead of crops?

Why do farmers prefer to hire girls?

How do children from neighboring villages end up on the seed farms?

Do you think it is more important for children to go to school, or to help support their families?

Copies available

"Dark Alley"

Length: 8 min

Produced by Plan India

This is a drama based on a real story that begins with a father who was a cycle-rickshaw driver. A devastating illness causes him to go blind and the burden of providing for his family of 10 (4 girls and 4 boys) falls to the mother. She soon finds that scavenging vegetables at the marketplace is not enough to support her family so she resorts to selling her body and also her daughters'. What begins as a short term solution quickly becomes a way of life. As a daughter moves out of the home for different reasons, the next daughter is inducted into this precarious lifestyle to sustain the family—while all along the oldest son gambles away his mother's and sister's earnings.

Discussion questions:

How and why did the women in the film get involved in prostitution?

Do you think the mother should have resorted to selling her body to take care of her family? What was more important money or their reputation in the village?

Why didn't the oldest son work and provide for the family? Do you think it should have been his responsibility to provide for the family or the mother's?

Copies available

"Life in Darkness" (child trafficking)

Length: 16 min

Made by children and youth of HELP-Plan.

The film argues that the children of sex workers are most likely to fall prey to their mother's profession when they grow up. They base their argument on five reasons; the environment in which the children grow up, lack of education, lack of parental love, the strong hold of pimps and brokers and social apathy. The film effectively demonstrates that most children of sex workers grow up to be either sex workers, pimps or brokers.

Discussion questions:

Do you think working in the sex industry is a profession that people chose to do?

Why do sex workers bring their children into the trade?

Do you think sex workers make a lot of money?

Copies available

“Lives of Sale”

Length: 58 min

Type: Documentary

Recommended for High School and up

This documentary shows the connection between immigration and human trafficking. It shows why immigrants are willing to risk anything — even slavery — for the American Dream. It exposes the rarely seen human side of illegal immigration, especially the growing black market of human beings. This film also looks at alternatives to these realities.

Discussion questions

What are some reasons people risk their lives to live in the United States?

What are some major decisions immigrants have to make?

What are some reasons that people fall into the hands of traffickers?

What kind of alternatives to illegal immigration and human trafficking are there?

"Where does the Journey End?" (child trafficking)

Length: 12:24 min

This film was made by children of HELP-Plan.

The sex trade is rapidly increasing across India, and the majority of victims are from economically marginalized sections. The film looks at the various factors that are responsible and questions how any civil society can allow the lives of young innocent girls to end up in the sex trade; a trade that most victims can only escape by death or disease.

Discussion questions:

How do men lure girls into the sex trade?

In what ways do parents use their children to obtain money?

Why isn't Rani welcome back home after she has been rescued?

Copies available

You can find the other films at your local video store or library, such as:

“Hotel Rwanda” (child soldiers)

Based on a true story

Length: 2 hours

Rated: PG 13

Ten years ago some of the worst atrocities in the history of mankind took place in the country of Rwanda. But in an era of high-speed communication and round the clock news, the events went almost unnoticed by the rest of the world. In only three months, one million people were brutally murdered. In the face of these unspeakable actions, inspired by his love for his family, an ordinary man summons extraordinary courage to save the lives of over a thousand helpless refugees, by granting them shelter in the hotel he manages.

Discussion questions:

What is genocide?

What two ethnic groups were involved in the genocide?

Is the international community to blame for allowing this to happen?

Teachers guide available at

http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/pdf/rwanda_brochuredivided.pdf

Back to top

“Night Commuters: Uganda’s Forgotten Children of War” (child soldiers)

Length:

From: Human Rights Watch

www.witness.org

“The world’s worst forgotten crisis,” is the case in Uganda according to the United Nations. Each day, thousands of children as young as 6 years, walk to Northern Uganda to avoid being targeted by rebels who are part of the Lord’s Resistance Army. Since the war, 300,000 children have been abducted and forced to be sex slaves, domestic servants, and child soldiers.

Discussion questions:

What is the future for these young children?

How are these children’s lives disrupted?

Why do child soldiers continue to exist?

Back to top

“Invisible Children” (Child Trafficking/Child Soldiers)

Documentary

Produced by Jason Russell, Bobby Bailey, Laren Poole and People Like You.

Length: 55 minutes (35 minute alternative option)

Not Rated

Website: <http://www.invisiblechildren.com>

In the Spring of 2003, three young Americans traveled to Africa in search of a story. What they found was a tragedy that disgusted and inspired them. "Invisible Children" exposes the effects of a brutal, 20 year-long war on the children of Northern Uganda. They live in fear of abduction by rebel soldiers, and are being forced to fight as part of a violent army. Many have lost parents due to the ongoing military conflict and the AIDS epidemic. The film provides a unique perspective on the harsh realities of everyday life for these children, but also uncovers an amazing source of strength and inspiration.

Discussion questions:

Where does the film take place?

Why are so many children living without their parents?

Where do the children sleep?

What are some differences between your daily life and the life of the children in the film?

What can be done to help the children and country as a whole?

[Back to top](#)

"The Devil's Miner" (Child labor)

Length: 83 Minutes

The film documents the story of 14-year-old Basilio Vargas and his 12-year-old brother Bernadino as they work in the Bolivian silver mines of Cerro Rico, which date back to 16th century. Living with their mother in virtual poverty, the boys must assume many adult responsibilities.

Discussion questions:

Where are the boys from?

Where do they work?

Why are they working there?

What are some of the risks the boys face daily?

What are some of the risks you face daily?

Why can't the boys just go to school?

[Back to top](#)

"Born into Brothels" (child trafficking)

Documentary

Some subtitles

Produced, directed, and filmed by Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman; some scenes were filmed by the seven children in the film.

Length: 85 minutes

Rated R for strong language

Zana Briski originally went to Calcutta, India to capture the illegal activity of the red light district, but she found that the corruption she searched for was hidden when her camera appeared. As a result Zana finds seven kids who are children of prostitutes and who also face the same destiny. Her mission in Calcutta changes slightly and she begins to teach the children photography so they can take the cameras into the brothels. Briski also tries

diligently to get the children out of their present environment, and into boarding schools. The documentary shows just how dire and brutal the condition of the red light district really is, but also shows the optimism and talent that the children possess.

Discussion questions:

What does it mean to be “put in the line”?

Do you think it is common for prostitutes to have husbands and families that they live with?

Why didn't the mothers want to send their children to boarding school? Didn't they want their children to get out of the brothel and create better lives for themselves?

