

LOVE146

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES

HOW TO TALK TO HOTEL/MOTEL OWNERS
ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION





INTRODUCTION

If you're reading this packet, it means that you're ready to take action in your community to end child trafficking and exploitation. Please know that we are with you all the way!

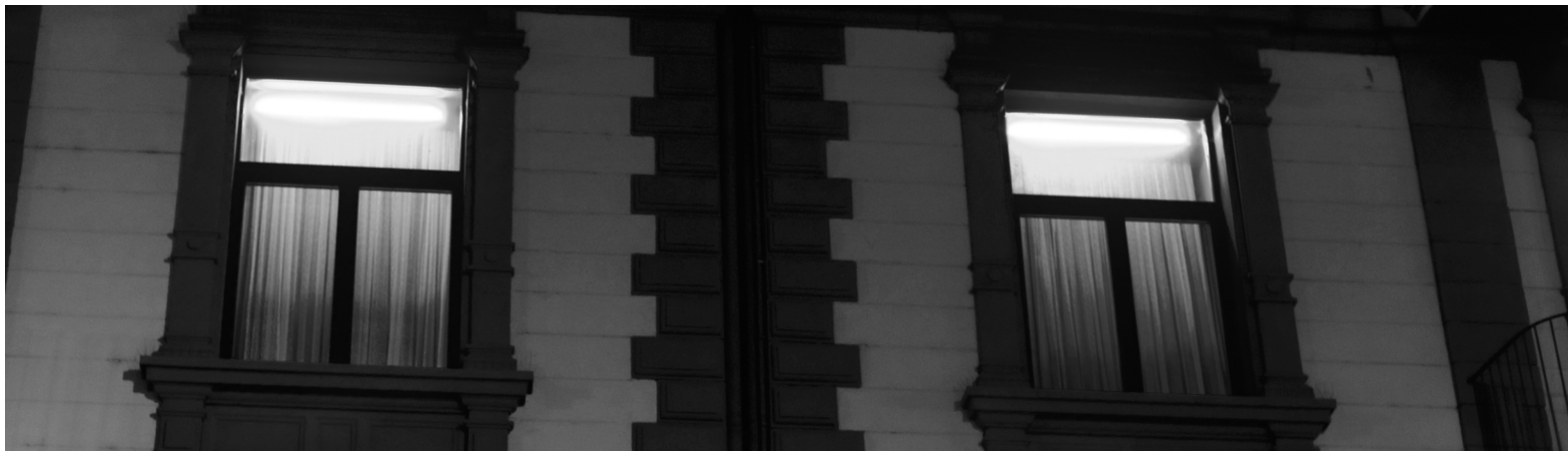
This packet equips you to talk to hotel and motel owners about identifying and reporting potential situations of trafficking and exploitation. It contains detailed instructions, talking points, and additional resources for hospitality staff.

The Capital Region NY Task Force talked to 40 hotels/motels in their city last August at the peak of racing and tourist season. By taking a respectful and humble approach, they found that most of the businesses solicited were receptive and encouraging.

While the provided resources can act as a template, some research and planning will still be needed from you to make this outreach specifically relevant to your community.

We highly suggest that you read through all of the instructions and resources together, and have an organized plan before starting. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, need more information, or just want a virtual high-five (action@love146.org).

Thank you for your tireless commitment to the work of Abolition!



OVERVIEW

The main purpose of this Community Empowerment Initiative is to educate hotel and motel owners to become aware of the signs of trafficking.

Traffickers and pimps often market trafficking victims on the Internet and sometimes use unwitting hotels and motels as places of exploitation. Hotels and motels are also used as a home base for traffickers to post online ads for “in-calls,” using the hotel room as the meeting place for the prostituted minor and the buyer of sex. This gives hotel/motel employees the potential to be key stakeholders in the fight against trafficking.

Hotel owners can be the eyes and ears of the community— and you can train these eyes and ears to recognize trafficking.

This packet will go over instructions on how to talk to managers and owners at hotels and motels about how to identify and report sex trafficking. Ideally, your group will be able to put up a poster in the hotel/motel with information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline where it will be easily visible to employees, and also schedule a training session with the employees to go over the indicators of trafficking.



THE LOGISTICS

Getting Started

- Look up information about trafficking in your neighborhood (i.e. do a Google News search, familiarize yourself with legislation, find out when the highest tourist seasons are).
- If there are any recent news articles about human trafficking cases that come up in your search, consider printing them out and including them inside the packet you give to businesses.
- Open the “Community Empowerment Initiative: Hospitality Businesses Packet Template,” and update it. Throughout the packet, you will notice items that are **highlighted in yellow**; this indicates information specific to you and your region in the template. Replace the highlighted items with information about your area.
- Have the Packet printed and bound.

Necessary Planning

- Gather a group of people and meet together to run through logistics and look through the packet.
- Map out locations of hotels/motels in your area.
 - *See a map of hotels/motels that have already been visited:*
www.love146ACTION.org/community
- Choose the businesses that are most at-risk based on location, proximity to certain businesses, reputation, etc., and give those first priority.
- Request National Trafficking Hotline posters from the Love146 Task Force Team (email action@love146.org with the subject line “Hotel/Motel Community Empowerment - Poster Request.” Include the number of posters you need—estimate about one per business—and your shipping address).

Get Organized

- Split into groups of at least two people, and divide up the locations.
- Have practice conversations with the provided talking points (see next section).

Take Action

- Choose a day/multiple days for your group to come together for a final check-in and split up the packets and posters.
- Talk to hospitality professionals with your partners at the locations you were assigned.
- Regroup to share about your experience and organize follow-up steps for the locations that were receptive to receiving further information/materials.

Share Your Experience

- Let us know how it went! Please email action@love146.org with updates on what you did and what the experience was like. We would love to hear from you and share your stories.

Data for Our Records

After you've gone out to the businesses in your area, send an email to action@love146.org with the numbers of how many people you reached. This will help us continue to find more effective methods of community empowerment.

- List of hotels you visited
 - *This information will be used to ensure that hotels/motels are not being visited multiple times with the same information.*
- Number of locations that agreed to post the hotline poster
- Number of people in trainings (if applicable – see “Providing Additional Resources”)



SAMPLE PITCH & POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

Here's an example of what you could say in your initial conversation with a hospitality professional.

We suggest you take turns role-playing potential conversations to feel comfortable with the information before you start visiting hotels in your area.

"Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for an anti-trafficking non-profit organization called Love146. Is this a good time to talk? Would it be possible for me to talk to the manager? I wanted to talk to you today about working with you to help identify trafficking victims and prevent potential situations of exploitation. We want to clarify that we're talking to you because hotels are often locations for sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors, not because we have any specific suspicions about your business.

"I have a packet for you that outlines overall information about sex trafficking, news on trafficking in our city, information on how to identify situations of sex trafficking, and instructions on what to do if you see something that concerns you.

"Included in the packet is a flyer with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number and guidelines on how to identify victims. Could you post this somewhere visible to all employees? Perhaps in the break room or behind the front desk?"

If you can provide training for the hotel staff (see next section for details):

"Also, we would like to schedule a time to train your entire staff, free of charge, on how to recognize the red flags of sex trafficking. The training will only be about an hour long, and will give your staff an understanding of the indicators of human trafficking."



PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In the template, you'll notice that the last page reads "Additional Available Resources." Be sure to only include the resources in the list that you know you can provide.

A few notes about the resources listed in the template:

Training for Staff

If you're interested in being able to provide a training session for the hotel staff, contact us at action@love146.org. We can send you a PowerPoint presentation that you can use that includes indicators of trafficking specific to hotels/motels, and also go through main talking points with you before you start conducting the training sessions.

Questions? Concerns?

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need more information!

Email us: action@love146.org

Call us: 203 772 4420