ZONTA SAYS NO — Mini Advocacy Resource Kit

Good information. Reliable resources. Practical tools.

You don’t have to become an expert to become an advocate.

Maybe you’re ready to host an Empty Chair project. Maybe you want a speaker for your club. Maybe you need a good handout for an event. Maybe you simply want to understand human trafficking better.

This little resource kit is a place to start.

We’ve gathered reliable information, educational resources, contacts and practical advocacy tips to help Zonta clubs move from awareness to action—without having to reinvent the wheel.

START WITH GOOD INFORMATION

Michigan Anti-Trafficking Project (MAP) A Michigan-based source for education, training, speakers and practical anti-trafficking resources.

Michigan Human Trafficking Commission Michigan-specific information, resources and myth/fact education.

DHS Blue Campaign Federal educational materials and resources about human trafficking.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR EVENT?

MAP speaker request MAP offers keynotes, workshops, panels, media appearances and resource tables. Plan ahead when possible; MAP recommends allowing about four weeks for speaker requests.

MAP educational experiences / exhibits Ask about MAP's educational experiences, including the End Exploitation immersive experience focused on labor trafficking.

MAP Abolitionist Program Two free 10-week digital learning series designed to build understanding and equip people to respond.

NEED HELP OR WANT TO REPORT SOMETHING?

Immediate danger Call 911.

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733. Available 24/7.

Michigan VOICES4 1-855-864-2374. Call or text; free, confidential and anonymous, 24/7/365.

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan 24-hour help: 231-347-0082 or 800-275-1995. Gaylord office: 989-731-0918.

A reminder Do not investigate or confront a suspected trafficker yourself. Use trained professionals and appropriate reporting/support resources.

GET THE STORY RIGHT

Human trafficking doesn't usually look like the movies. It is not necessarily kidnapping, chains, a stranger in a van or someone being held in a basement.

Trafficking is exploitation, not transportation. A person does not have to be moved from one place to another for trafficking to occur.

Traffickers may be known or trusted people. Recruitment and control can involve force, fraud, coercion, deception, manipulation, threats, dependency and psychological pressure.

People may not look like the victim we imagine. A person may not recognize themselves as being trafficked, may not want help, or may have complicated reasons for staying.

Leaving is not always simple. Safety, housing, money, relationships, fear and other forms of control can make leaving much more complicated than simply 'getting away.'

Avoid sensationalized portrayals. Hollywood-style stories can create misconceptions and make it harder to recognize what trafficking can actually look like.

The truth is serious enough. We don't need the Hollywood version to make it compelling.

A FEW GOOD ADVOCACY HABITS

Use reliable sources. When possible, go directly to the original source.

Link to the original source. Give people a path to verify and learn more.

Protect privacy. Do not share identifying details, photos or stories without appropriate permission.

Give credit. Credit organizations and creators when using their materials.

Check before printing. Web pages, phone numbers, statistics and program details can change.

Check current Zonta branding guidance. Use current Zonta International branding and public-relations guidance when creating club materials.

You don't have to be the expert. It is perfectly acceptable to say, 'I don't know, but I know where we can find out.'

Don't reinvent the wheel. There are good organizations already doing this work. Use their resources and build relationships.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

Michigan Anti-Trafficking Project (MAP) Explore its educational resources, speaker opportunities and training.

MAP speaker request Request a speaker, workshop, panel or resource table.

Michigan Human Trafficking Commission Use Michigan-specific information and resources.

DHS Blue Campaign Find downloadable educational materials and awareness resources.

CLOSING

You do not have to do everything.

You don't have to know everything.

You don't have to create everything yourself.

Choose one thing you can do—and do that.

Awareness is a beginning.

A conversation can be a beginning.

A resource shared with the right person can be a beginning.

A community partnership can be a beginning.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Take the next step.

Zonta Says NO.

And every step toward awareness, prevention and action matters.