

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED.

DON'T BUY IT PROJECT

We Are All Connected

Community Learning & Engagement Curriculum

OVERVIEW

We are all connected, and in so many ways: through our interests, families, cultures, geographical location, identities, beliefs, hobbies, work, etc. In other words, we are connected by *community*. When we recognize that we are all connected, we accept a deep responsibility for the ways our choices impact everyone around us – for good or for harm.

If we are serious about “ending sex trafficking,” we must choose to transform the conditions in our communities that allow trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) to happen in the first place. The *Don't Buy It Project* (DBIP) asks men – everyday, good men – along with people of all genders in the community to move beyond awareness about trafficking and CSE, towards becoming effective allies who will address the root causes and end the demand for commercialized sex.

The *We Are All Connected Community Learning & Engagement Curriculum* is a resource for men and others in the community who want to be involved in the local response to sex trafficking, but who are unsure of what role they play. This four-phase, 10-topic curriculum clarifies the role of allies, provides foundational knowledge about all forms of CSE, and identifies strategies for addressing the root causes of CSE and challenging harmful norms, attitudes, and behaviors that contribute to demand

 **OPEN YOUR EYES**

 **DON'T BUY IT**

 **BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ALLY**

PHASE 1: WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Laying the groundwork for transformation.

Phase 1 introduces learners to the core belief that we are all connected. Engaging in demand for commercial sexual exploitation supports violence and oppression, limits our collective potential, and creates separation in the community. Being part of a community means recognizing that we are all interdependent and responsible for the well-being of one another.

Module 1

Values and Beliefs

Module 2

What is an Ally?

PHASE 2: OPEN YOUR EYES

Start seeing how oppression intersects with CSE.

Phase 2 explores the ways in which commercial sexual exploitation intersects with other forms of oppression. The more a group of people is impacted by oppression, the more likely they are to be exploited. CSE thrives on the effects of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, poverty or any other instance of power imbalance. If we are serious about ending CSE, we must commit to addressing these root causes at the community-level.

Module 3

Intersections: Sexism

Module 4

Intersections: Racism

Module 5

Intersections: Poverty

PHASE 3: DON'T BUY IT

Don't buy CSE in any form.

Phase 3 encourages learners to recognize the many ways in which commercial sexual exploitation has become normalized throughout our culture. Participants will explore ways sex trafficking and other forms of CSE cause a broad variety of harm. In this phase, learners will have an opportunity to envision a world in which *"People are more than products. Men are more than consumers."*

Module 6

Illegal Forms of CSE:
Sex Trafficking &
Prostitution

Module 7

Legal Forms of CSE:
Strip Clubs & Pornography

Module 8

CSE in the Mainstream

PHASE 4: BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ALLY

Working towards transformation.

Phase 4 moves learners towards a process of transforming the conditions existing in mainstream culture and society that enable commercial sexual exploitation to occur – starting with sexuality. Being an ally requires that learners start with themselves, then utilize their influence to effect transformation within their relationships, community, and society at large.

Module 9

Healthy Sexuality

Module 10

Transforming Conditions