

NOT A NUMBER

LOVE146'S CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION CURRICULUM

Not a Number is an interactive child trafficking and exploitation prevention curriculum designed to provide youth with information and skills in a manner that inspires them to make safe choices. When they encounter potentially exploitative situations, youth learn to identify and utilize healthy support systems that may decrease their vulnerabilities.



WHAT WILL YOUTH LEARN?

MODULE 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

- Complete a pre-test assessing their baseline knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and skills as related to human trafficking and exploitation.
- Define key terms: exploitation, human trafficking, vulnerability.
- Recognize who can be affected by human trafficking (both sex and labor) and exploitation, and the strategies that traffickers/exploiters employ to recruit youth.
- Identify signs and red flags of grooming and recruitment.

MODULE 2: SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- Analyze how social and cultural norms influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- Challenge stereotypes and judgements we make of individuals in society.
- Understand present laws regarding technology, messaging, and social media use.
- Reject the idea that engaging in risky behavior makes abuse the victim's fault.

MODULE 3: RED FLAGS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Define consent.
- Learn how to recognize unhealthy relationships and build healthy relationships by analyzing examples of both, identifying their characteristics and red flags, and recognizing abusive behavior as abusive.
- Identify how people utilize technology to build relationships and to abuse and exploit.

MODULE 4: VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE

- Identify personal and peer vulnerabilities (e.g., individual, relationship, environment, society) and risk factors.
- Identify language that can be potentially harmful to one's self and to others.
- Recognize it is important to acknowledge and communicate one's specific feelings.
- Challenge youth to develop healthy language alternatives.
- Identify recruitment tactics designed to exploit vulnerabilities.
- Identify individual pressures that may make people vulnerable and more likely to engage in risky behaviors.

MODULE 5: REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIOR AND GETTING HELP

- Know how to locate and use community resources.
- Create a safety plan for a potentially risky situation.
- Encourage a peer to seek support should they be experiencing vulnerabilities or abuse/exploitation.
- Apply safety planning strategies to complex real-world situations.
- Demonstrate refusal or negotiation skills that avoid or reduce risk.
- Determine when situations may require adult and/or professional support.

WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR *NOT A NUMBER*?

- The curriculum was developed for youth ages 12-18, is inclusive of all genders, and is designed for applicability across gender, ethnicity, sexual identities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It is available in both English and Spanish.
- All youth are inherently vulnerable to exploitation. However, youth with high-risk indicators such as involvement with systems (e.g. juvenile justice, child welfare), history of abuse and/or neglect, exposure to violence, risky sexual behavior on and offline will particularly benefit from the knowledge and skills they will develop through the curriculum.
- The curriculum is designed for primary and secondary prevention and early identification of vulnerabilities and exploitation. While youth who have experienced human trafficking and exploitation may benefit from *Not a Number*, it is not intended to be used as a primary treatment tool.
- *Not a Number* focuses on empowering youth through education. By creating the space for instruction and honest dialogue with young people on topics such as human trafficking, exploitation, abuse, vulnerability, and violence, they gain knowledge and skills to advocate for themselves and others.

HOW IS *NOT A NUMBER* DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUTH?

- It moves beyond the traditional “information deficit” model and instead encourages peer-to-peer prevention, as youth often confide in one another before alerting an adult. It motivates youth to advocate for themselves and others through an environment that fosters mutual support. It establishes a safe and respectful space for youth and adults to have open and informed dialogue necessary for effective prevention.
- It prepares youth to navigate content specific to their experiences as young people, including recognizing how the internet and social media can be used by traffickers, questioning the cultural norms created by media, reducing risky behavior in physical and digital setting, and identifying the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- It takes a cooperative, holistic approach to young people’s needs focusing on social-emotional abilities, such as empathy, respect, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities.

WHAT DOES *NOT A NUMBER*’S LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

- Schools, child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, as well as other youth-serving organizations, are eligible for licensing. Organizations who become licensed can have facilitators complete the three-day Facilitator Certification Training, and be certified to implement the curriculum.
- Strong candidates for certification, selected by their organizations, are individuals with experience working with at-risk youth in a professional capacity. Individuals with facilitation experience, that have utilized other prevention curricula and have group facilitation as part of their role, are a good fit for certification (e.g., school counselors, teachers, and social workers).
- To maintain certification, facilitators are required to: implement and submit data that fulfills the obligations based on your license/scholarship agreement; and participate in annual online recertification activities.

WHAT WOULD I NEED TO BRING *NOT A NUMBER* TO THE YOUTH IN MY ORGANIZATION?

- A group of 5 to 30 youth.
- Approximately five 50-minute time blocks. The program can also be taught in four sessions or expanded to six sessions if needed.
- At least one facilitator per group. Based on your agency’s needs, you may select a Love146 certified facilitator to implement the program or you may obtain a license to utilize the program directly and send a staff member to a training to become certified to administer the curriculum.