



Session 4 Community Mapping: Confronting Demand Part 1 – In the World through Legislation and Law Enforcement

Confronting demand for sex trafficking in the world happens through legislation and through partnership with local law enforcement. We have seen that significant progress can be made in prevention of sex trafficking when the laws focus on criminalizing demand and decriminalizing the supply. The problem in the United States is that we treat the girls like criminals when they are victims, and we treat sex buyers like victims of their sex drives rather than criminals.

Law enforcement responds to the voices of the community. If local law enforcement hasn't made confronting demand for sex trafficking a priority, it is at least in part because the community has not made their voices heard on this issue. According to the Sacramento police chief, "One handwritten letter from a pastor community leader, or business owner in the community is worth 100 complaint letters or calls."

In this section, you will begin to learn about the local laws in your city and state and how to partner with law enforcement to confront demand in the world. The community mapping homework is designed to be adapted for your individual or group's needs. Each homework assignment is divided into smaller steps that can be done in a day (A), a week (B), or over a longer period of time (C).

Step A: Research pending state laws concerning demand that you can advocate for/support. There are several websites that include useful tools for learning about existing legislation, including:

- Polaris Project (<http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy>)
- IJM Freedom Commons (<http://freedomcommons.ijm.org/>)
- Demand Forum (<http://www.demandforum.net/>)
- Shared Hope International (<http://sharedhope.org>)

The following are basic instructions for using the Shared Hope International website to research legislation and for Demand Forum, to learn about the different types of interventions available in your state and possibly region.

Shared Hope International's website makes it simple to research and support legislation related to domestic minor sex trafficking.

1. Go to SharedHope.org
2. Under the "What We Do" tab, click on "Policy Development."
3. Scroll down to find a map of the United States, shaded to show each state's overall score on anti-trafficking legislation.
4. Explore their resources. Pay special attention to the following:
 - a. Your state's score on "Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand."

- b. Your state's Protected Innocence Challenge Report Card
 - c. Issue Briefs: An explanation and sample legislation for the 41 components of the law that are analyzed in the Protected Innocence Initiative
 - d. Contact Your Legislator: Provides you with current Action Alerts on legislation you can support
 - e. Track Legislation in Your State: See a list off all current bills applicable to domestic minor sex trafficking.
5. Sign Up for their Action E-list to receive Action Alerts to support relevant legislation.

Demand Forum (<http://www.demandforum.net/>), is an online resource that contains information about 12 different tactics (<http://www.demandforum.net/tactics/>) that communities around the United States have used to confront demand for sex trafficking. You can search through their website both by tactic, to see where each tactic is currently being used, but also by region, to see what, if any, tactics are being used in your area. This is a useful tool to see what type of work may be ongoing in your community already as well as to learn more about other tools that might be effective in your area.

1. Go to demandforum.net
2. Read through the information about the 12 different tactics under "[Tactics](#)."
3. Click on "[Browse Locations](#)" and select your state and type in your city.
4. If your city is not listed you can also go to "[Map Locations](#)" and zoom in to your region or state.

Step B: Partner with local law enforcement. Do this as a group effort. Some in your church or group likely already have a relationship with law enforcement officers, and could do the first two steps. Others may have the leadership and organizational skills to oversee and implement the ideas that come from those steps.

1. Do your research first. As much as possible, try to figure out what is already happening in your community. Read the following supplemental materials:
 - a. Guide to Researching Municipal and County Laws (and research your own local laws)
 - b. Legal and Law Enforcement Strategies to Combat Demand in the United States
 - c. You don't want to waste your law enforcement officers' time. Remember, they have a very important job that keeps them very busy!
2. Set up a meeting with local law enforcement. From your research in Session 4, you should be getting an idea of who the key players are in your community, and who in law enforcement is aware of this issue and interested in confronting demand. Set up a meeting with a few law enforcement officers from your city or county, as well as any mutual connections that may facilitate a relationship. The point of this meeting is to find out how you and your church can help them. Remember to approach the meeting with humility – they have a difficult job and your purpose to offer assistance where it is useful, but only as they would find it useful. Some potential ideas:
 - a. Neighborhood watch programs
 - b. Adopt-A-Cop program (www.adoptacop.com)

- c. Supporting policy changes that help them do their job more effectively (for example, neighboring cities working together, fines from arrests to go back into the local police budget and victim services, cop-testing laws, etc.)
 - i. For more information about different types of policy changes, refer to the supplemental material on Legal and Law Enforcement Strategies Used to Combat Demand in the United States and the Guide to Researching Municipal and County Laws.
3. Attend the meeting. Be courteous, gracious, and professional. Listen well and take good notes.

Step C: Follow through and begin organizing the implementation of one or two of the key ideas from the meeting.

1. Get community leaders to write letters to key officials (sheriffs, mayors, police chiefs, etc.) about the policy changes that would help law enforcement more effectively confront demand.
2. Rally members of your church or organization to implement a neighborhood watch program, Adopt-A-Cop, or other program that law enforcement suggested in the meeting.