



No More Trafficking connects people and resources to collaboratively create and deliver training and solutions to end all forms of human trafficking and exploitation.

We believe this dream is possible when we all unite on mission together.

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The Elephant in the Room

by: *Suzanne Lewis-Johnson, CEO*

An instructor at the FBI Academy, when I went through years ago, told our class a story about being involved in an automobile accident. She said a responding police officer took statements from people at the scene then told her, “Okay, now you can tell me what really happened.” The expectation, the instructor explained, seemed to be that because she worked for the FBI, her perspective would be the fully accurate account.

To explain the flaw in this thinking, she shared a parable that’s been shared for centuries in different forms. In essence, several people, either blind, in the dark, or with their eyes covered, feel a creature and give seemingly contradictory reports about its identity—it’s a snake (the trunk), it’s smooth and pointy (the tusk), it’s enormous and rough (the body). Their different experiences lead to conflict, accusations, and believing the others are not telling the Truth. (They are tricked into wielding trafficking tactics against one another!) But actually they are all bringing parts of the whole picture.

“Someone who doesn’t seem to be in our corner or who says something that seems contrary to what we see might not actually be our enemy.”

The instructor’s caution to our class of New Agents was that seemingly conflicting statements don’t always mean someone is intentionally being misleading or concealing Truth. We need a variety of perspectives from different vantage points to ensure accuracy and as complete of an understanding as possible. When conducting investigations, we know that where accounts and other evidence overlap, we’ve found corroboration of likely Truth. And, where accounts seem to conflict, they might be different parts of the whole picture.

We all look at life through the lens of our own perspective. Someone who doesn’t seem to be in our corner or who says something that seems contrary to what we see might not actually be our enemy.

That’s something to take into consideration not only in individual cases but also with professionals in different fields and the entire conversation surrounding human trafficking. It may not be a question of which one holds the Truth, but rather of how we put together the critical pieces they each bring so we can see a more complete picture. When we do that, we’ll be able to better serve and protect those who have been trafficked, protect those who are vulnerable, and safeguard against inadvertently perpetuating the problem.



CALL TO ACTION - What you can do today to protect your family and community

As part of a monthly No More Trafficking series, we'll build on No More Trafficking CEO and former FBI Agent Suzanne Lewis-Johnson's comments during media opportunities and speaking engagements. Use the video tools and content below to facilitate community groups and professional groups and to begin conversations at home, work, school, sports arenas, and wherever you go, to protect against trafficker tactics and bring freedom.

Combat Predators Through Intentional Community

In an interview connected to a violent abduction in Memphis, Tennessee, NewsNation anchor Marnie Hughes and I discussed why some abductions receive a lot of media coverage while others may never make headlines. This horrific and tragic case had made headlines from the start, because an abduction had clearly taken place.

I said in that interview that though fear may tempt us to try to keep our kids closed off to outsiders to protect them from abduction by a predator, fear-driven decisions are often dangerous decisions. Traffickers and other predators rarely abduct someone suddenly and brazenly. That's why, often, neither the victim nor a potential 911 dialer notice what's happening. And that's why we need to invite healthy people into our lives, and into our children's lives, who can say something when they see hints of a relationship going astray.

Intentionally surrounding ourselves, and those we want to protect, with safe people can provide priceless feedback from different vantage points. No healthy relationship exists in isolation. We all need the accountability that comes through diverse communities (plural!) of people who bring different perspectives and who know us in different contexts. Inviting healthy accountability in the context of community can help us to see ourselves and others more clearly, serving as a warning system and encouraging and challenging us in ways that help us reach our full potential.

Going Deeper.....

- Find video and related material on our website at www.nomoretrafficking.org.
- Email us at info@nomoretrafficking.org if you need help finding the resources.
- Please preview the content before introducing it to others.



Start a Conversation

Consider where you provide accountability to others:

- Have you been invited into that role? How do you protect against becoming controlling?
- Do others also provide feedback and insight? If not, how can you encourage that?
- Is the role mutual? Do you provide accountability to, and help safeguard, one another?

Consider where you, and those in your care, find community:

- What additional perspectives could bring value? Are there gaps?
- Do you see isolated relationships that need the context of community to come into balance?
- Where might community bring a broader view to see a situation and next steps more clearly?