

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS

Invite a speaker or moderate a panel discussion with members of a local anti-human trafficking task force to share experiences.



0307



Objective

Coordinate a visit from a guest speaker such as a human trafficking survivor, law enforcement officer, prosecutor, victim advocate, or victim service provider in your area. If possible, include a subject matter expert who has identified as having lived experience. Those with lived experience can provide unique expertise and insight. Task force contacts may be able to help coordinate with lived experience experts who would be willing to participate. You can arrange for a panel discussion with multiple members of an anti-human trafficking task force to address predetermined talking points and answer student questions. Guest speakers and panelists can reinforce concepts from previous meetings and build student confidence in their understanding of the issue.

Planning the Event

Decide if you'd like to have one speaker or a panel discussion. Either way, it is important to bring in the right people for what you want to cover. Also, a lecture format should be avoided as it discourages participation from the students until the speaker is done. You may also decide to start with a single speaker, and depending on the student response, eventually expand to a panel.

- Set a date and time, with a target time of 45 minutes to an hour.
- Send the speaker or panelist(s) a single pre-event email listing at least three questions you plan to open with and ask them if there are other topics that should be covered.
- Don't overthink the event or over-plan. The approach should be to have a relaxed and dynamic dialogue between you, the speakers, and students.
- Invite panelists to ask each other questions during the event to further the discussion.
- Have students write down questions that they have on note cards which you can pose to the speaker or panelists, giving the option for students to maintain anonymity.

Moderating

It's your job to introduce the speaker or panelists, set the tone for the discussion, and keep things on track. You should have a general idea as to how much time you want to spend on each talking point. State the objectives of the session and involve the students within the first five minutes.

Here are some additional points for moderating:

- As a moderator, it is usually best to sit with the panel during introductions. After introductions, you may want to move into the audience and be more fluid (without moving around too much), collecting question cards and learning with your team.
- Your speaker or panelist should be eager to interact with students and willing to listen to their questions and concerns.
- As a moderator, you cannot be a panelist as well. This is the time to let the experts be heard and share their experiences. You may repeat certain points made by presenters to help the audience develop a better understanding of the statement, reinforce an idea, or connect one topic to the next.
- In most cases, you should introduce each panelist. Say just enough about them to highlight their relevance to the objectives, such as their work on the task force and their specific role, rather than providing an extensive background.
- In some cases, particularly if someone is invited to share their lived experience or another connection to the purpose of the panel, the panelist can introduce themselves and share information in the way that they are most comfortable.
- Mix up the order in which the panelists can chime in. Don't start with the same person each time.

Facilitator Notes

Upcoming Meeting Dates: __/__/__
