



# NOT A #NUMBER

A CURRICULUM TO PREVENT CHILD  
TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION  
DEVELOPED BY LOVE146





*Not a #Number* is designed to teach youth information and skills, inspiring them to make safe choices when they encounter potentially exploitative situations and utilize healthy support systems to decrease their vulnerability.

**I AM NOT A PRICE.  
I AM NOT A STATISTIC.  
I AM NOT A LABEL.**

**I AM  
NOT A ~~#~~NUMBER**

AND MY HUMANITY  
CANNOT BE REDUCED.



## WHAT IS NOT A ~~#~~NUMBER?

*Not a #Number* is an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. *Not a #Number* uses a holistic approach focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities.

Effective prevention often starts by raising awareness of harmful stereotypes and attitudes that create vulnerabilities and keep youth from seeking help. Through open conversations, engaging activities, the use of media, and opportunities for self-disclosure, participants will:

- Raise their awareness of what constitutes human trafficking and exploitation.
- Learn how to recognize recruitment tactics and understand vulnerabilities.
- Challenge harmful stereotypes and societal attitudes.
- Identify healthy support systems.
- Develop skills to safely navigate potential and existing exploitative situations.
- Learn how to access community resources when situations occur that increase their vulnerability (or if exploitation is already underway).

**“I learned so much! I’ve encountered people who have gone through these situations. Now I know how to help.”**

—A youth reached by *Not a #Number*



“The youth took in a lot of the information, internalized it, and shared how they were able to use it right away. Two youth recognized red flags, as well as their vulnerabilities in certain situations, and were able to apply safety-planning skills.”

—A *Not a #Number* facilitator

## WHAT MAKES NOT A ~~#~~ NUMBER UNIQUE?

- It is based on strong program theory and grounded in empirical literature and best practices in the field of prevention education.
- It moves beyond the “information deficit” model and supports positive peer influence, attitude and behavior changes, and skill development.
- It is designed to impact youth across the risk spectrum, from low to moderate to high.
- It considers all genders as potential victims and perpetrators of human trafficking and exploitation by providing nuanced activities for co-ed, male, female, and/or LGBTQ groups.
- It addresses a diverse set of traffickers, including individual (e.g., pimp, peer), gang, family, and others.
- It provides resources for a whole-school or entire-system response, including additional resources for professionals, parents, and caregivers.



**“This is often the first time youth have ever said certain struggles and labels they’ve experienced out loud.”**

—A *Not a #Number* facilitator

## WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE OF NOT A #NUMBER?

*Not a #Number* is relevant to a variety of populations and has been embraced by schools, child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, and other youth-serving organizations. *Not a #Number* will fit well within a health education or life skills program, as well as history lessons that draw connections between historical and modern-day slavery, current events addressing violence, and social movements. It can also be used as part of an after-school or community program or to complement other psychoeducational efforts in existing therapeutic programming or services.

***The curriculum was developed for youth ages 12-18, including male, female, and youth that identify as LGBTQ. Not a #Number is applicable across gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.***

Youth with high-risk indicators such as low socioeconomic status, history of abuse and/or neglect, exposure to violence, risky sexual behavior online and offline, history of alcohol or substance abuse, and mental health diagnosis will particularly benefit. While youth who have experienced human trafficking and exploitation may benefit from *Not a #Number*, the curriculum is designed for prevention and early identification for vulnerabilities and exploitation. It is not intended to be used as a primary intervention tool.



***Not a #Number* moves beyond the traditional awareness model and provides youth with information and skills in a manner that inspires them to make safe choices and utilize healthy support systems to decrease vulnerabilities.**

## WHY DOES MY COMMUNITY NEED NOT A ~~#~~ #NUMBER?

Youth are at risk of being trafficked or exploited in urban, suburban, and rural communities. *Not a #Number* is designed to reach at-risk youth in schools, child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, and other youth-serving organizations.

*The need to address the issue has risen to the highest levels of our government.*

“School personnel are uniquely positioned to identify and report suspected abuse and connect students to services—actions that can prevent trafficking and even save lives,” the U.S. Department of Education stated in its 2015 guide *Human Trafficking in America’s Schools*.

Likewise, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families noted the importance of improving prevention and education within the child welfare system. “Many trafficked children have had contact with child protection services in some degree,” a 2013 report states. “In some cases they may even have been recruited and victimized by traffickers while they were receiving these services. Therefore child welfare caseworkers can help prepare vulnerable groups of youth to better protect themselves from potential traffickers and recognize potentially risky situations.” This is true of other systems and services as well – such as the juvenile justice system or programs for at-risk youth.



# HOW WAS NOT A ~~#~~NUMBER DEVELOPED?

*Not a #Number* has been developed in consultation with experts in the fields of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, education, and research and evaluation, including:

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**STEVEN L. PROCOPIO, ACSW, LICSW**

Consultant on CSEC Boys/Adolescent Males

The *Not a #Number* curriculum was piloted in Connecticut, Florida, and Texas through Love146, Aspire Health Partners, and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families—reaching over 2,500 youth in schools, child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, residential programs, and other community settings.

“I managed to get away. I made an excuse and got out of there as fast as I could... Because of what we’ve talked about at *Not a #Number*, I paid closer attention and knew to trust my gut...”

—A youth reached by *Not a #Number*



We're training and equipping professionals to facilitate *Not a #Number* accross the United States.

## HOW CAN I BRING NOT A ~~#~~NUMBER TO MY COMMUNITY?

*To learn more about Not a #Number, visit*  
[WWW.NOT146.ORG](http://WWW.NOT146.ORG)



If you are a professional who works with youth and are interested in learning more about *Not a #Number*, licensing and certification process, visit [WWW.NOT146.ORG](http://WWW.NOT146.ORG)



If you are a parent, caregiver, or professional who works with youth and would like to learn more about protecting children from trafficking and exploitation, visit [WWW.LOVE146.ORG/PARENTS](http://WWW.LOVE146.ORG/PARENTS) or [WWW.LOVE146.ORG/PROFESSIONALS](http://WWW.LOVE146.ORG/PROFESSIONALS)

Founded in 2002, Love146 is an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care and prevention. We serve children from our offices in The Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The trafficking and exploitation of children is one of the darkest stories and most severe human rights abuses imaginable. But for us, the hope of ending it is a reality. Love146 is helping grow the movement to end child trafficking while providing effective, thoughtful solutions. We believe in the power of love and its ability to effect sustainable change. Love is the foundation of our motivation.

# LOVE146

END CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

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*Love146 is one of only a few hundred organizations that has met all 20 standards of charity accountability set by the Better Business Bureau, and in 2015 was considered in the top 13% of charities all rated by Charity Navigator.*