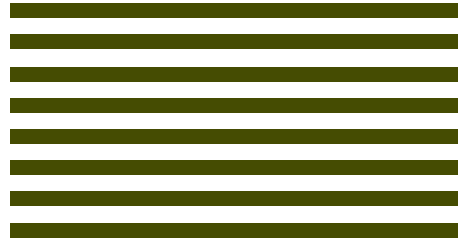


PROJECT NOREST

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE FIELDS | JORGE VIDEO | TRAINING GUIDE



I had to work. I was afraid of what was going to happen to me.



JORGE'S STORY

Human traffickers exploit vulnerabilities and use force, fraud, or coercion to make others perform labor or sex acts for profit.

The unique situations of individual agricultural workers are often manipulated by traffickers for their own gain, and as means to exert power and control over them.

As you watch this video, take note of Jorge's situation. What elements in his life and work create points of vulnerability? What factors make it difficult for him to leave?

Farm workers like Jorge, may be exploited, made to feel powerless, fearful, and without rights. Traffickers capitalize on these feelings to continue the cycle of exploitation.



JORGE VIDEO

Play the video without pause the first time. To prompt group discussion, play a second time and pause at the following points

Discussion

Pause Points:

- 0:15- How does Jorge's situation make him vulnerable to exploitation?
- 0:35- What means are used by the contractor to control Jorge?
- 1:23- How does fear contribute to Jorge's feeling of powerlessness?
- 2:21- What rights do migrant farmworkers have?

NOTE ABOUT H-2A VISAS

The H-2A visa is an annual temporary work visa allotted to foreign nationals who come to the US to perform agricultural labor. The visa is tied to a particular employer, and the worker is not free to resign or to seek employment elsewhere without forfeiting their documentation and legal permission to be in the United States.



Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the vulnerabilities experienced by Jorge?
2. Does anyone force, fool, or frighten Jorge as a means of control? How is this control maintained?
3. Jorge eventually leaves the exploitative situation and is seen reunited with his daughter. How did this come to pass? How do we institutionalize "lucky breaks" in order to increase the possibility of this occurring?
4. What are some of the elements needed for workers to ask for help?
5. What rights do migrant agriculture workers have?
6. How can you ally with farmworkers and other agencies to increase the safety net for workers in your region?
7. How might we improve the safety net for agricultural workers? Especially within a larger immigration system? Does your agency have a protocol in place for you to ally with farmworkers? If so, what is it?
8. What role can the public play in supporting fair agriculture labor practices?
9. Are there policy changes that you would recommend?
10. What are your reactions to Jorge's story?



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**Línea Nacional Contra
la Trata de Personas**

The National Human Trafficking Hotline

llama

1-888-373-7888

Answers:

1. Jorge is a foreign national with an H-2A visa, tied to a single employer. His daughter is sick and in need of medication which is his motivation for migrant agriculture work. He is physically isolated on the farm with no access to transportation, and is afraid of deportation if he were to leave. There are also cultural differences that make Jorge vulnerable to exploitation.
2. At first coercion and control are subtle and incremental. Jorge is lured with the promise of making enough money to pay for his daughter's medication. His cousin worked on a farm in the U.S. and was treated fairly, therefore Jorge does not expect his experience to be different. When he arrives, Jorge is forced to give the labor contractor his documents and the control becomes more overt. He is forced to work long hours, while sick, and is prohibited from accessing health care. He is unable to leave the farm, and is threatened with never seeing his family again if he does not comply with demands from the contractor. Deception and manipulation are key ingredients of this coercion, which is the most common form of control.
3. A trusted outreach worker visited the work site when the labor contractor was not present, thus Jorge was able to ask for help. There is fear of retaliation when workers ask for help, and the lack of privacy makes this a big risk. If the labor contractor had been present, Jorge likely would not have taken the chance to ask for help and would remain in the exploitative situation. The outreach worker happened to be in the right place at the right time to help Jorge, and had visited this farm before gaining some trust. To institutionalize this "lucky break", it is important for outreach workers to make regular visits, build trusting relationships, and provide information and resources to workers in a confidential and swift way. Frequent visits increase the odds of turning these lucky breaks into routine.
4. First, it is important that workers are able to trust that help is available and not a trick intended to further manipulate or control them. Workers need opportunities to ask for help, assurance they will be protected throughout the process, and not face retaliation. Finally, they need privacy and confidentiality to access resources and help when they have the opportunity.
5. Migrant workers have the right to a living wage, fair working conditions, safe and suitable living conditions, and rights consistent with other employees. They are protected under federal and state law, and by US and NC Department of Labor regulations.
6. Working to build trusting relationships with farmworkers is a crucial way to ally with farmworkers. Find out who in your community is already a trusted ally. Who is doing outreach to farm camps? Where do farmworkers currently seek services? What organizations and networks have they created to meet their own needs? Build on credible relationships that already exist to foster your own partnership. Learn more about policies and legislation that directly impact agricultural workers. Maintain awareness of structural points of vulnerability in the H-2A farm labor visa system, the farm labor contracting licensing regulations, and local agricultural practices.
7. Call the National Human Trafficking hotline at 888.373.7888 for suspected labor trafficking and collaborate with local agencies to build protocols all can follow. Does your region have a Rapid Response Team designed to mobilize in cases of suspected human trafficking? Who is the point of contact? Does the

team address labor as well as sex trafficking cases? What are your department's protocols for reporting suspected exploitation?

8. As consumers, being aware of where things come from in order to make informed decisions when purchasing. Supporting local businesses and Fair Trade help to ensure things are made in an ethical way, promotes safe working conditions, fair wages, and sustainability.

*Participants should discuss questions 9 and 10 in small groups, then come back together and share as large group.