

TEENS AGAINST
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

Team Advisor Guide

**Empowering youth to be lifelong ambassadors in the
fight against human trafficking.**

A Letter to Team Advisors

Dear TAHT Advisor,

We are grateful that you are willing to take the time to support a Teens Against Human Trafficking team! This program wouldn't exist without the involvement of dedicated individuals like you.

This guide serves as a basic introduction to your main responsibilities as an adult advisor. You will help cast a vision for the team and help them grow in numbers so they stay sustainable as students graduate. The purpose of the team is to educate students and empower them to raise awareness in their school and community. Ultimately, we hope that teams will be active in their school and community and host awareness events. We hope you'll encourage action steps throughout the team's learning process.

Thank you again for investing in a TAHT team! Together we will fight human trafficking in Iowa and prevent the victimization of our youth.

Sincerely,

Past, Present and Future Teens Against Human Trafficking Ambassadors

Tips for Success

Team Sustainability:

Intentional conversations and focused recruitment are required for teams to thrive year after year due to students graduating each spring. We have found that adult facilitators are key to maintaining team sustainability, and we hope you will see this as one of your top priorities. New students must be recruited to join each year, and must be included and involved in the team activities. These students may require an orientation or introduction to the materials that the veteran team members have already experienced. One way to bridge the gap is by encouraging veteran team members to mentor new members. Team sustainability also requires that younger students participate in team leadership. It is a recommended practice to build a leadership team with at least one representative from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

Shared Leadership:

One of the goals of the TAHT extra-curricular program is that students are empowered to lead and direct their team activities. All team members should have the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Students should share leadership opportunities and encourage one another to step up. If a team is led primarily or exclusively by one student, the team will likely not survive when that student graduates.

Sometimes a TAHT team is started by one student, so it may be appropriate to pursue a core leadership team once a TAHT team has had a few months to get settled.

Guidance:

Your role as an adult facilitator is to guide the team and be a support for them when they struggle with questions, obstacles, or challenges. It is critical that you allow the students to lead modules and plan activities, but you should be involved by asking questions that prompt reflection and helping the leadership team evaluate often what is working and what needs to change.

Safety Procedures

Safety:

Along with helping the team grow and learn, you are there to supervise the team and ensure that all participants are safe. Below are some specific guidelines for ensuring safety.

Reporting Human Trafficking:

If you or your students encounter a situation that you suspect may be human trafficking, do not intervene. It is very dangerous to get in the way of a trafficker; it puts both you and the victim at risk. **In an emergency situation call 911 first, and then report suspected trafficking to the national hotline: 1 (888) 373-7888.**

Mandatory Reporters:

If you are a mandatory reporter, you may be obligated to report suspected human trafficking of a minor. This process includes a verbal report, followed by a written report within 24 hours. Iowa law grants immunity from liability for mandatory reporters who act in good faith and Iowa withholds the identity of reporters from the subject listed in the report. Please see your institution's Mandatory Reporter policy for specifics.

Local Victim Services:

Please familiarize yourself with your local victim services (crisis centers, emergency shelters, etc.) and what services they offer to human trafficking victims. You may encounter a student who is seeking out services. **Please provide the student with the Iowa Victim Services Hotline Number at 1 (800) 770-1650 or text "IOWAHELP" to 20121 to learn more about services in your area.**

Trigger Warnings and Trauma:

Even if you don't encounter students who have directly experienced human trafficking, you will likely encounter students who are emotionally impacted by some of the material covered. Students who have experienced or witnessed familial abuse, sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, stress at home, or other kinds of trauma may need additional support. **Always direct students to mental health resources in the school or community when covering difficult topics.** You are welcome to provide trigger warnings before potentially triggering material if you feel that will create a safe environment for your team.

Please preview all video content in order to best prepare the team.

Social Media Safety:

When utilizing team social media such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, please offer students guidance on appropriate content and privacy settings.