

## **True Stories – Module 1: What is Human Trafficking? Sophie's Story**

### **Core Lesson material – Case Studies**

If you have volunteers assisting with the lesson, ask them to read part. If not, facilitator to tell story in third person.

Note: Please do not ask students to read any of these roles, as the content is not appropriate for them to play the roles.

### **Sophie – Part One**

#### **Footstep 1**

My name is Sophie. I grew up in the North of England, in a small town. When I was 18 I became friends with a guy from Albania who was a web-designer. He was a really lovely guy. Over a period of 5 years we became good friends. He was always there for me and I could tell him anything ... he was my best friend. *Place Footprint on floor and step forward.*

#### **Footstep 2**

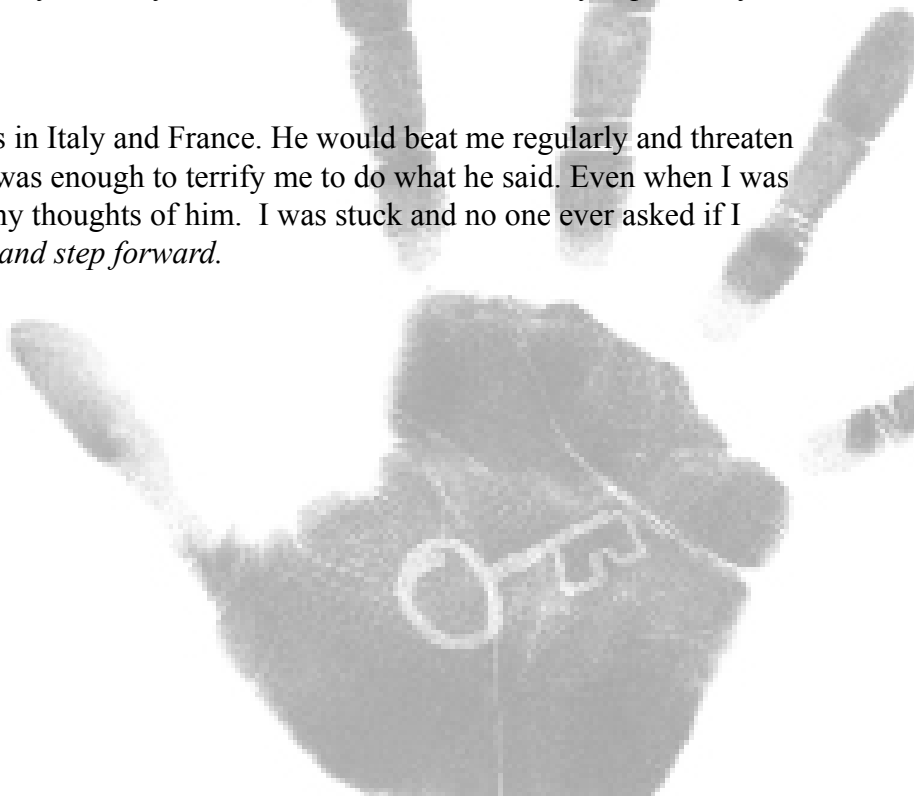
I had been really sick in hospital and he visited me every day. To recover he invited me to go to France for a holiday. 3 days into our holiday he sat me down one night and explained that he wasn't really a web designer - that everything he had told me was a lie. He said that he was in debt for over 100,000 euros from a drug deal which had gone wrong. He explained I had no choice but to help him pay off the debt. He looked directly at me and said the only way for me to pay off that debt was for me to work as a prostitute for him. At that moment I was so scared, it was like I was watching someone else. I couldn't believe it. *Place Footprint on floor and step forward.*

#### **Footstep 3**

Even though I was scared, I explained to him I couldn't do that, that wasn't who I was. At that moment his face changed and I knew I was in trouble. He grabbed me and slammed my head against the wall, beat me and threatened me with a gun. He demanded from now on I had to obey him - that his word was law and he was now like God to me. He threatened me saying, if I ever told my family or asked for help he would kill my family, take my little brother and kill me. *Place footprint on floor and step forward.*

#### **Footstep 4**

He forced me to sell sex on the streets in Italy and France. He would beat me regularly and threaten me with a gun. Just a word or a look was enough to terrify me to do what he said. Even when I was away from him I was scared just by my thoughts of him. I was stuck and no one ever asked if I needed help. *Place footprint on floor and step forward.*



## **True Stories – Module 1: What is Human Trafficking? Masud's Story**

### **Core Lesson material – Case Studies**

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### **Masud – Part One**

#### **Footstep 1**

My name is Masud I was born in Bangladesh. When I was 12 years old a friend of the family talked to my parents about me travelling to England with him. He promised my parents that I would have a better life and future there. He offered to take me with him; he assured my parents he would look after me. So I went with him; it seemed like an adventure, and I got to go on a plane. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 2**

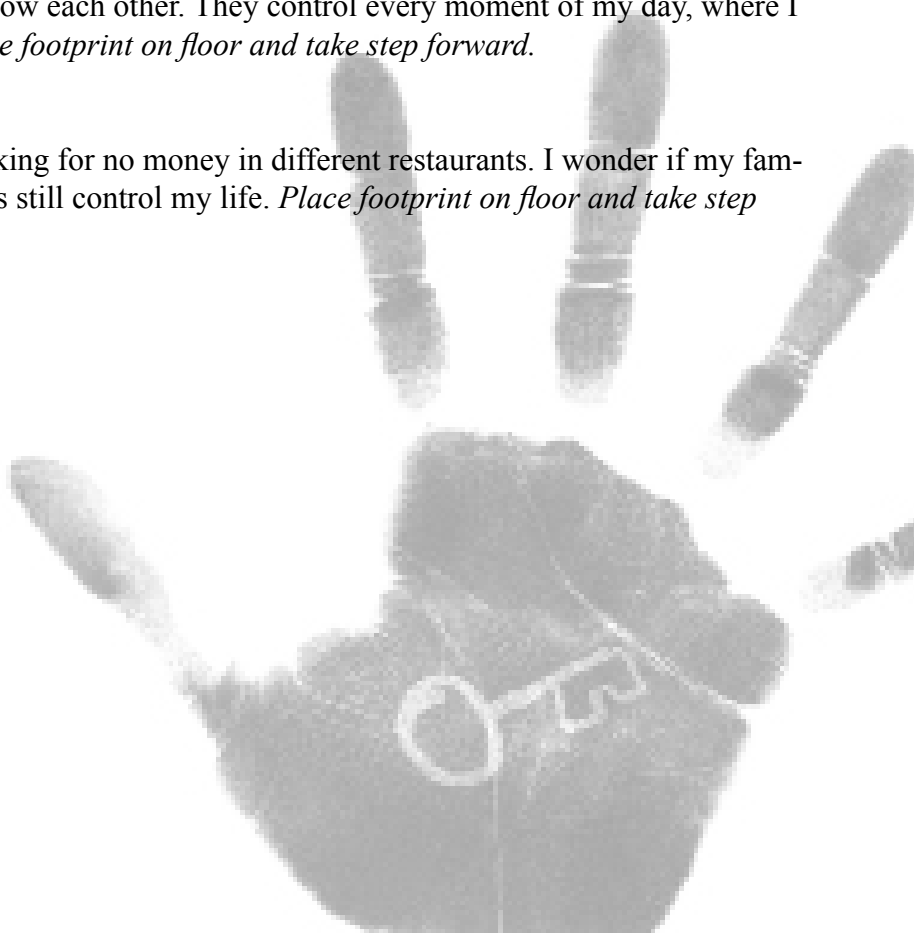
When we reached the airport a man I did not know met us there. My friend took some money off him and told me this man would look after me. When I arrived in England we travelled to Bristol. In Bristol I was made to work in an Indian restaurant in the kitchen for no money. My bed was in the store room. I would work 15 hours a day. I was beaten if my work wasn't good enough. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 3**

I am not allowed to go to school nor have any friends. I go from restaurant to restaurant working long days. All the owners seem to know each other. They control every moment of my day, where I go, when I eat and when I sleep. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 4**

I am now 28 years old; I am still working for no money in different restaurants. I wonder if my family is still alive. The restaurant owners still control my life. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*



## **True Stories – Module 1: What is Human Trafficking? Ms A.J.'s Story**

### **Core Lesson material – Case Studies**

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### **Ms A.J. – Part One**

#### **Footstep 1**

My name is Ms A.J and I grew up in Erode District, in Western Tamil Nadu, India. My family were very poor and relied on farming for income. I wanted a better life. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 2**

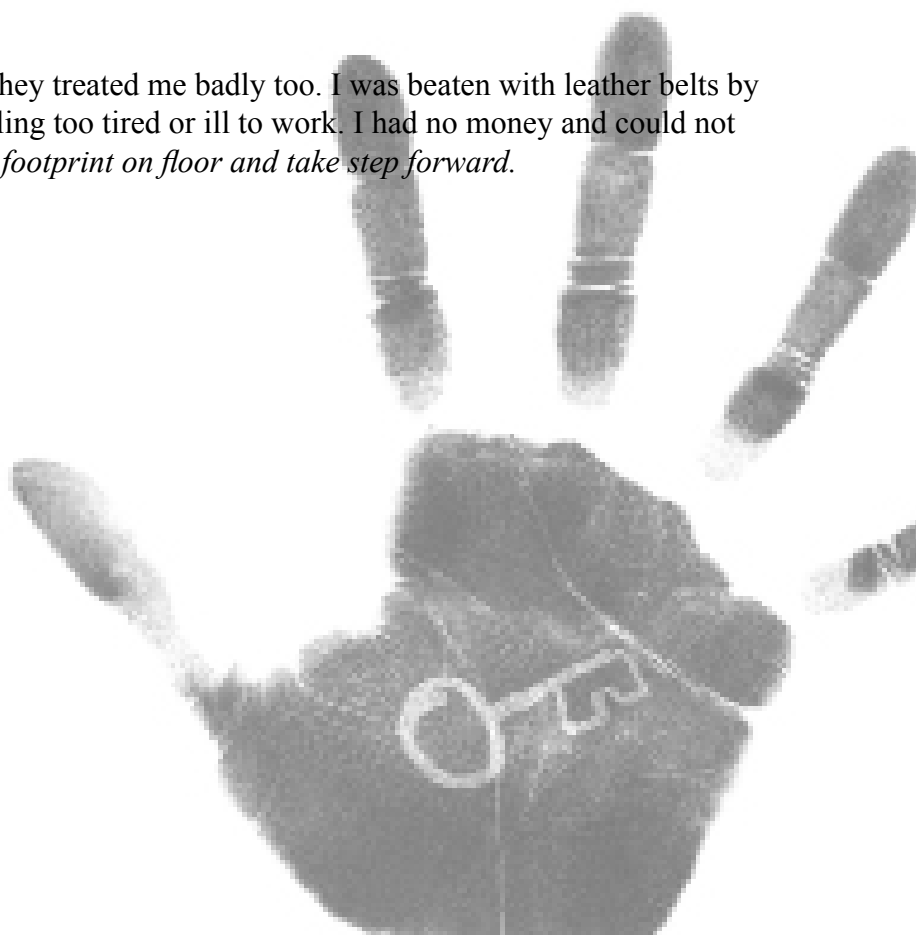
A man approached me in my village and said he could get me a well paid job, with great accommodation working in one of the 50 mills located around the town. It was called the 'Sumangali Scheme'. I was taken to a mill and was employed in the cleaning section. My management told me that after 3 years of work I would get Rs. 30,000 (£300). This would be enough to pay a dowry. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 3**

Once I began my work, I was not paid a monthly salary, but was provided with a small amount of food and crowded lodging. I was tortured by the male workers but could not tell my parents, as I had no access to a phone or any other means of communication. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 4**

I wanted to tell the management but they treated me badly too. I was beaten with leather belts by them if I refused too work or was feeling too tired or ill to work. I had no money and could not escape from the mill premises. *Place footprint on floor and take step forward.*



## **Completion of True Stories – Sophie Part Two**

### **Facilitator to go through steps out of exploitation**

#### **Footstep 5**

Sophie ended up in hospital in Italy as she was in such a bad way; her trafficker went with her. Before she travelled abroad Sophie had agreed a code phrase with her mum, which she would say if she was ever in trouble. She was supposed to ask, ‘How is Auntie Linda?’ Sophie managed to speak with her mum on the phone at the hospital. Her Mum thought there was something wrong, so she asked Sophie, “do you need to ask me how Auntie Linda is?” Sophie responded, yes. This was Sophie’s first step out of exploitation. *Place footprint on the floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 6**

Her parents got into their car and travelled just over 24 hours to the hospital to see her. They managed to drive Sophie back to the UK. When Sophie returned she didn’t talk to anyone about what had happened because she was so traumatised. But eventually she spoke with the anti-trafficking police about what happened. Very slowly she began to rebuild her life – but it wasn’t easy to get the support she needed. *Place footprint on the floor and take step forward.*

#### **Footstep 7**

Sophie gave evidence to the police about what had happened to her. After a couple of years she decided to set up a charity to help people who had gone through similar experiences to her. The charity is called the Sophie Hayes Foundation; it offers support to people who have been trafficked. *Place footprint on the floor and step forward.*

## **Completion of True Stories – Masud Part Two**

### **Facilitator to go through steps out of exploitation**

#### **Footstep 5**

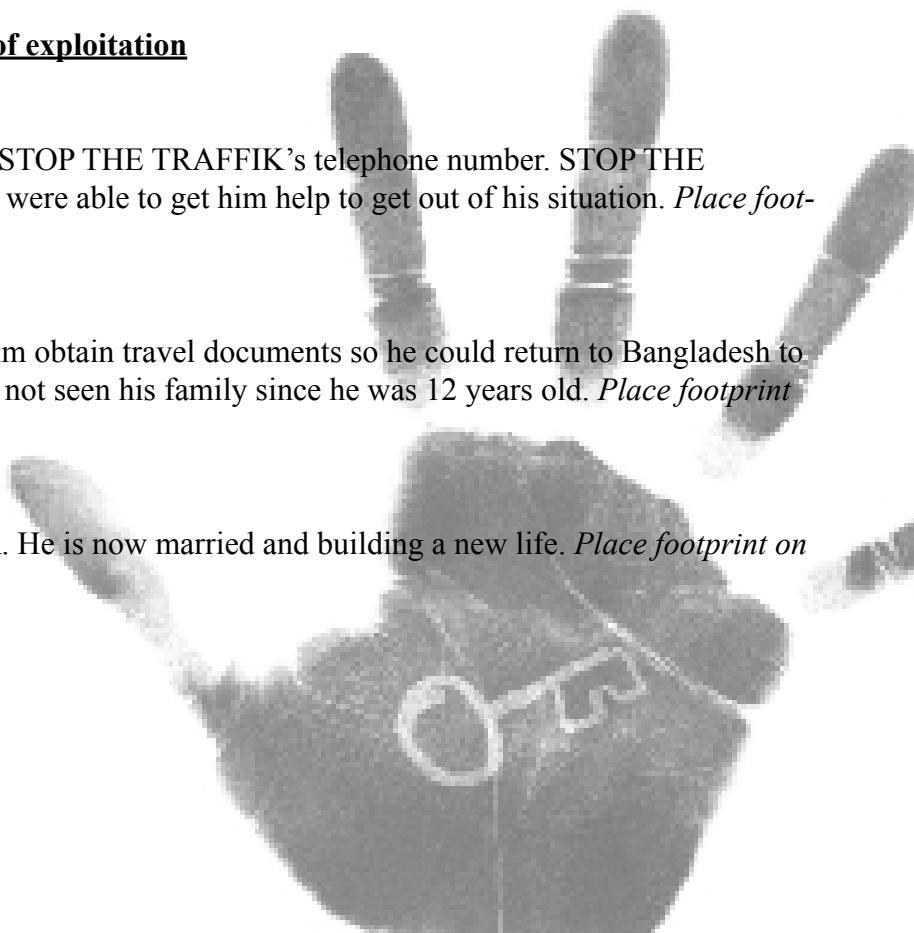
When Masud was 28 he came across STOP THE TRAFFIK’s telephone number. STOP THE TRAFFIK contracted the police, who were able to get him help to get out of his situation. *Place footprint on floor and step forward.*

#### **Footstep 6**

The police and immigration helped him obtain travel documents so he could return to Bangladesh to visit his family. Just imagine - he had not seen his family since he was 12 years old. *Place footprint on floor and step forward.*

#### **Footstep 7**

Eventually Masud returned to the UK. He is now married and building a new life. *Place footprint on floor and step forward.*



## **Completion of True Stories – Ms A.J Part Two**

### **Facilitator to go through steps out of exploitation**

#### **Footstep 5**

When I was 19, I had a visit from a couple of people from a charity called SAVE. They said they had heard that the management had been physically and sexually harassing employees at the mill. They said there were 150 girls aged 14-21 years working for this scheme. Place footprint on floor and step forward.

#### **Footstep 6**

The owner of the mill would not let me go as I had only worked for a year. SAVE filed a petition in the Magistrate's court to set me free. Place footprint on floor and step forward.

#### **Footstep 7**

The court heard my complaints and analysed the evidence produced before the magistrate by SAVE. The court set me free and suggested I file another case to claim compensation and my salary. I left the mill and moved to a home in Coimbatore to study and work for a paid position. Place footprint on floor and step forward.

