OVERVIEW

_We are all connected_, and in so many ways: through our interests, families, cultures, geographical location, identities, beliefs, hobbies, work, etc. In other words, we are connected by _community_. When we recognize that we are all connected, we accept a deep responsibility for the ways our choices impact everyone around us – for good or for harm.

If we are serious about “ending sex trafficking,” we must choose to transform the conditions in our communities that allow trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) to happen in the first place. The _Don’t Buy It Project_ (DBIP) asks men – everyday, good men – along with people of all genders in the community to move beyond awareness about trafficking and CSE, towards becoming effective allies who will address the root causes and end the demand for commercialized sex.

The _We Are All Connected Community Learning & Engagement Curriculum_ is a resource for men and others in the community who want to be involved in the local response to sex trafficking, but who are unsure of what role they play. This four-phase, 10-topic curriculum clarifies the role of allies, provides foundational knowledge about all forms of CSE, and identifies strategies for addressing the root causes of CSE and challenging harmful norms, attitudes, and behaviors that contribute to demand.

- OPEN YOUR EYES
- DON’T BUY IT
- BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ALLY
Phase 1: We are all connected
Laying the groundwork for transformation.

Phase 1 introduces learners to the core belief that we are all connected. Engaging in demand for commercial sexual exploitation supports violence and oppression, limits our collective potential, and creates separation in the community. Being part of a community means recognizing that we are all interdependent and responsible for the well-being of one another.

Phase 2: Open your eyes
Start seeing how oppression intersects with CSE.

Phase 2 explores the ways in which commercial sexual exploitation intersects with other forms of oppression. The more a group of people is impacted by oppression, the more likely they are to be exploited. CSE thrives on the effects of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, poverty or any other instance of power imbalance. If we are serious about ending CSE, we must commit to addressing these root causes at the community-level.

Phase 3: Don’t buy it
Don’t buy CSE in any form.

Phase 3 encourages learners to recognize the many ways in which commercial sexual exploitation has become normalized throughout our culture. Participants will explore ways sex trafficking and other forms of CSE cause a broad variety of harm. In this phase, learners will have an opportunity to envision a world in which “People are more than products. Men are more than consumers.”

Phase 4: Become an effective ally
Working towards transformation.

Phase 4 moves learners towards a process of transforming the conditions existing in mainstream culture and society that enable commercial sexual exploitation to occur – starting with sexuality. Being an ally requires that learners start with themselves, then utilize their influence to effect transformation within their relationships, community, and society at large.