



Middle School Engagement- Grade 8

Labor Trafficking & the Legal System

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION IS THE SOLUTION

Connect for Freedom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to providing free **online safety** and **human trafficking awareness** materials to education stakeholders.



Lesson



Labor Trafficking & The Legal System

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction to Labor Trafficking

- Definition
- Statistics
- Risk Factors
- Recruitment

2. Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story” Videos (7 min.)

- Discussion Questions

3. Child Labor Laws

4. U.S. Department of Labor Handout: Child Labor & Forced Labor

5. Activity

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud, or coercion to induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals.

Methods of control and abuse in labor trafficking situations:

- Economic abuse
- Threats
- Denying needs or wants
- Destruction of important documents
- Excessive working hours
- Emotional abuse
- Fraud/misrepresentation of job
- Isolation
- Physical abuse



Child Labor Trafficking Statistics

The Data



In 2021, **310 minors** were labor trafficked.

Polaris Project

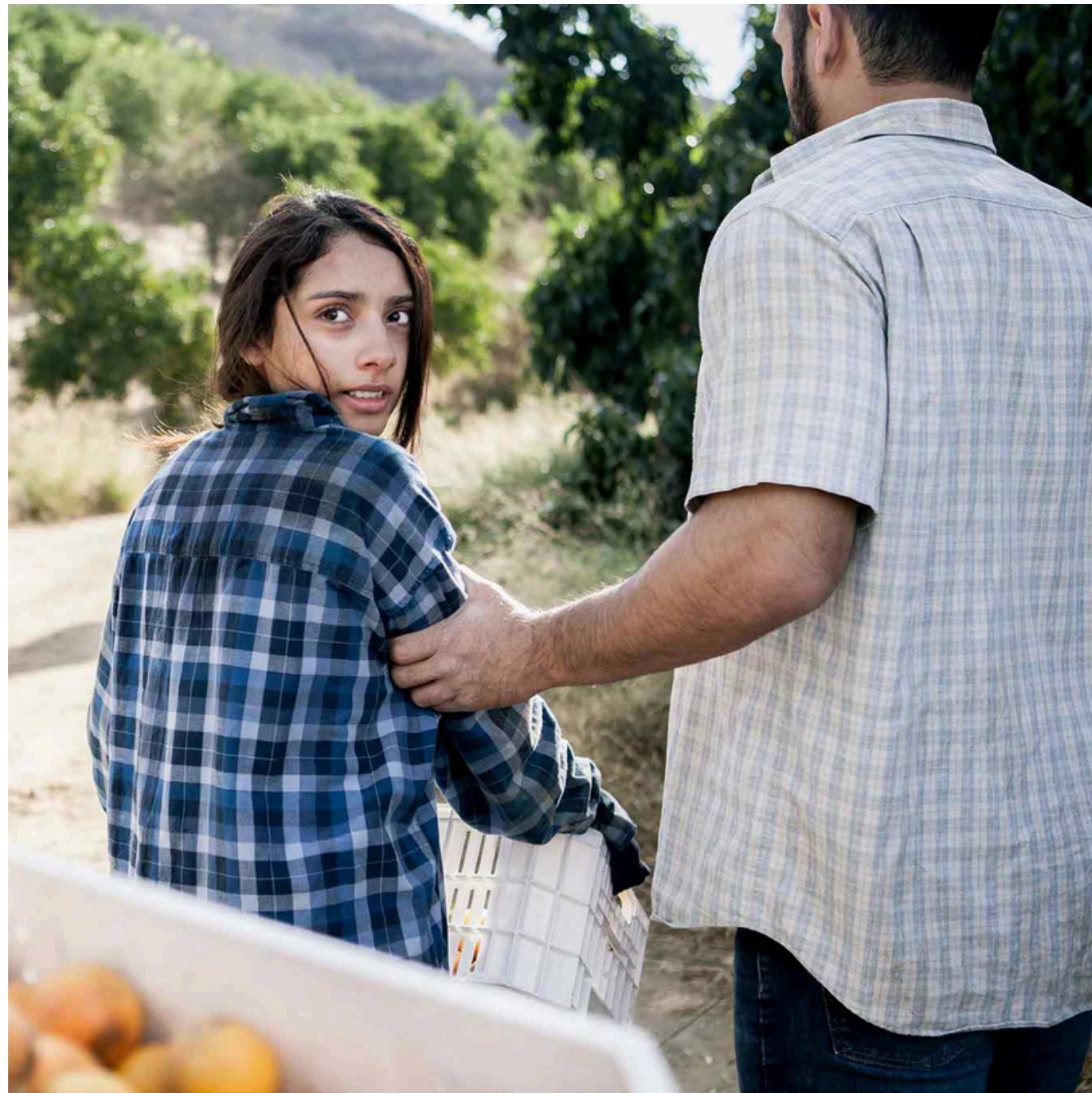
There was a **30% increase** of labor trafficking incidents involving minors from 2020 to 2021.

Polaris Project

54% of labor trafficking incidents began through online recruitment.

Polaris Project

Risk Factors of Being Labor Trafficked



- Recent migration/relocation
- Unaccompanied refugee minor
- Unstable housing
- Mental or physical health concern
- Economic hardship
- Experienced abuse or violence
- Intellectual or developmental disability
- Criminal record/history
- Recent financial debt
- Runaway/homeless youth
- Substance use concern

Recruitment Location & Methods

Recruitment location:

Online (Facebook & dating websites/apps)

Institutional shelter

School

Detention Facility



Recruitment methods:

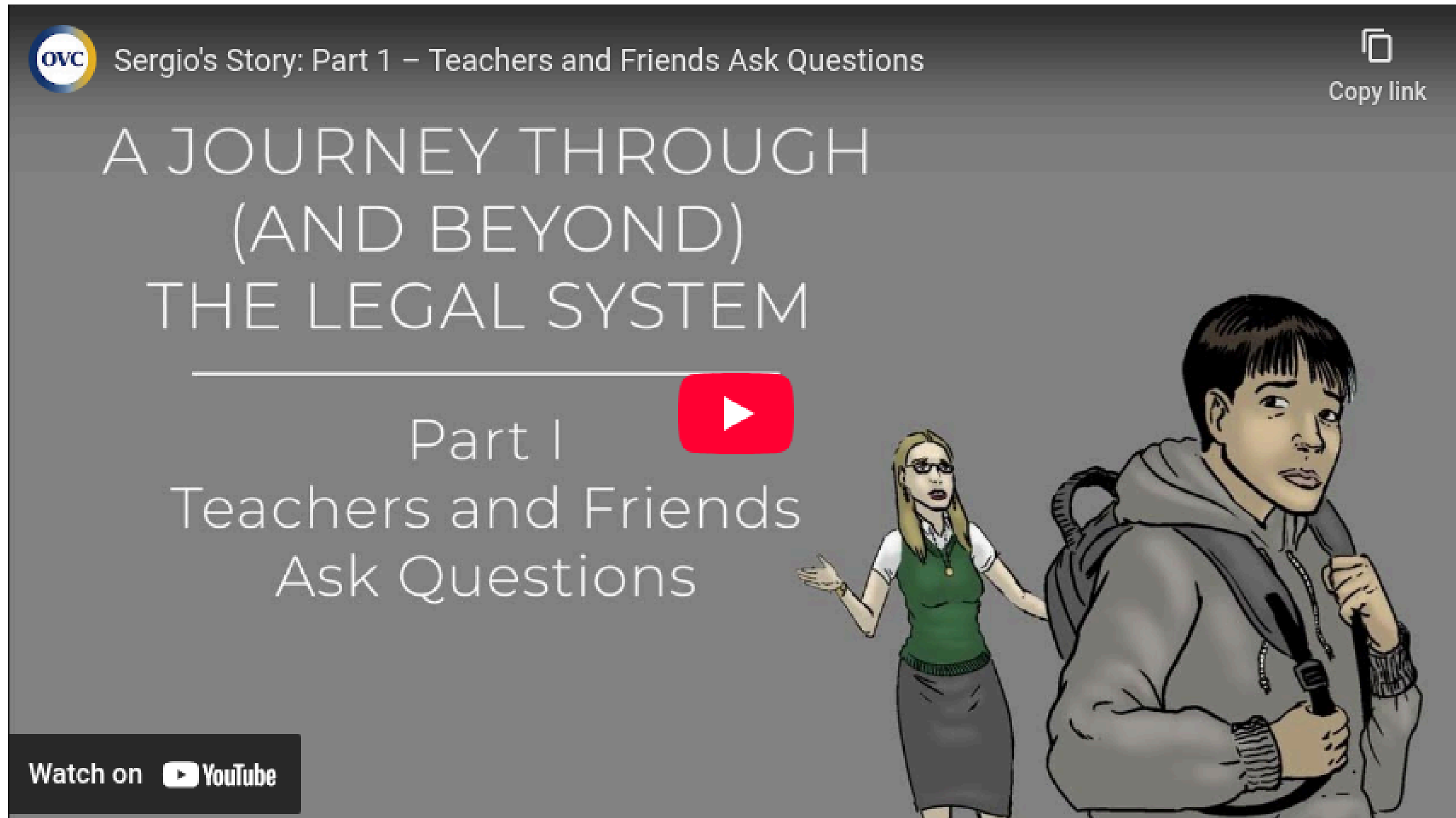
Job offer/advertisement

False promises/fraud

Smuggling-related



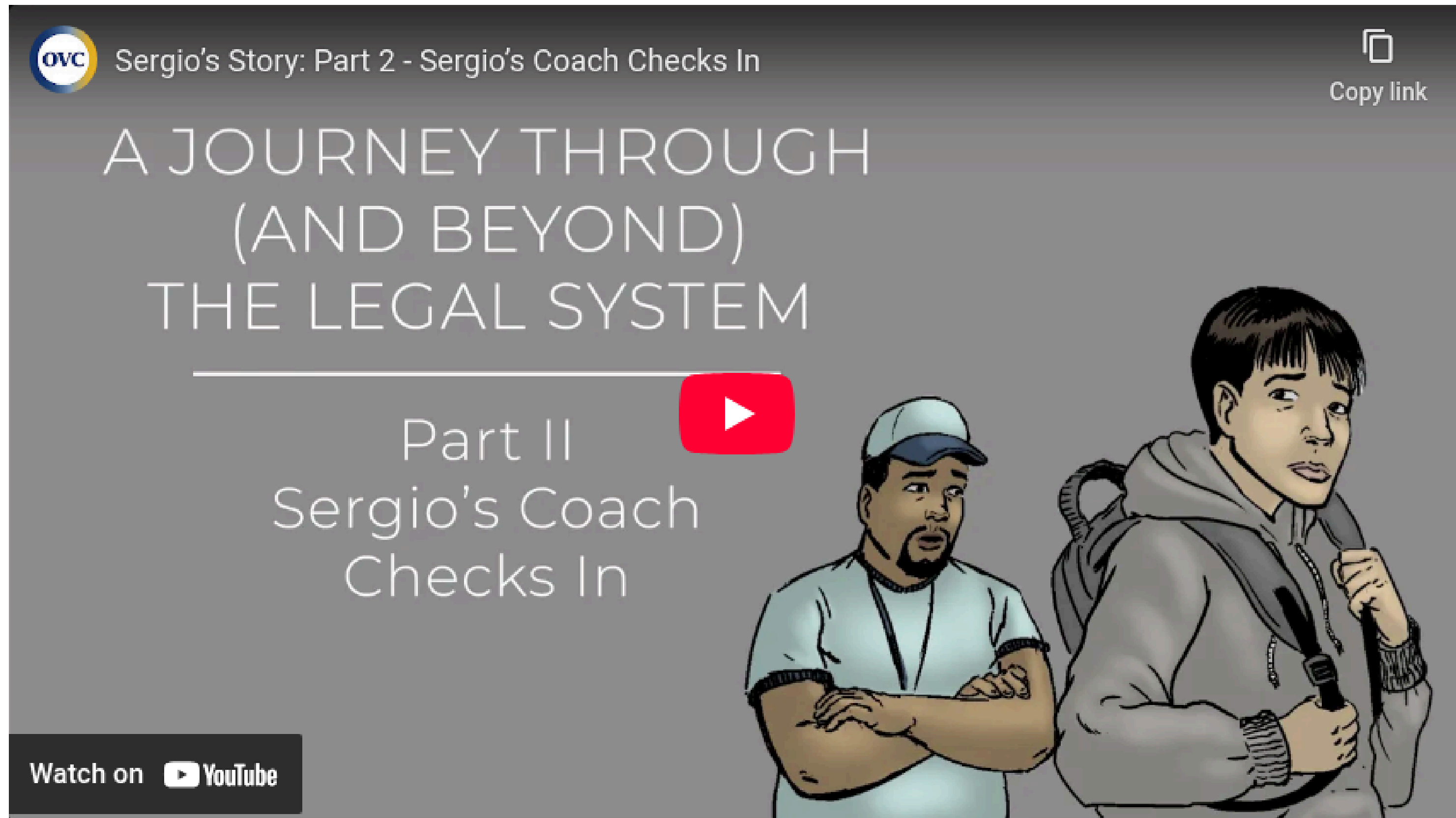
Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 1” Video



Duration: 1:19 minutes

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jKG_cbBA3Q

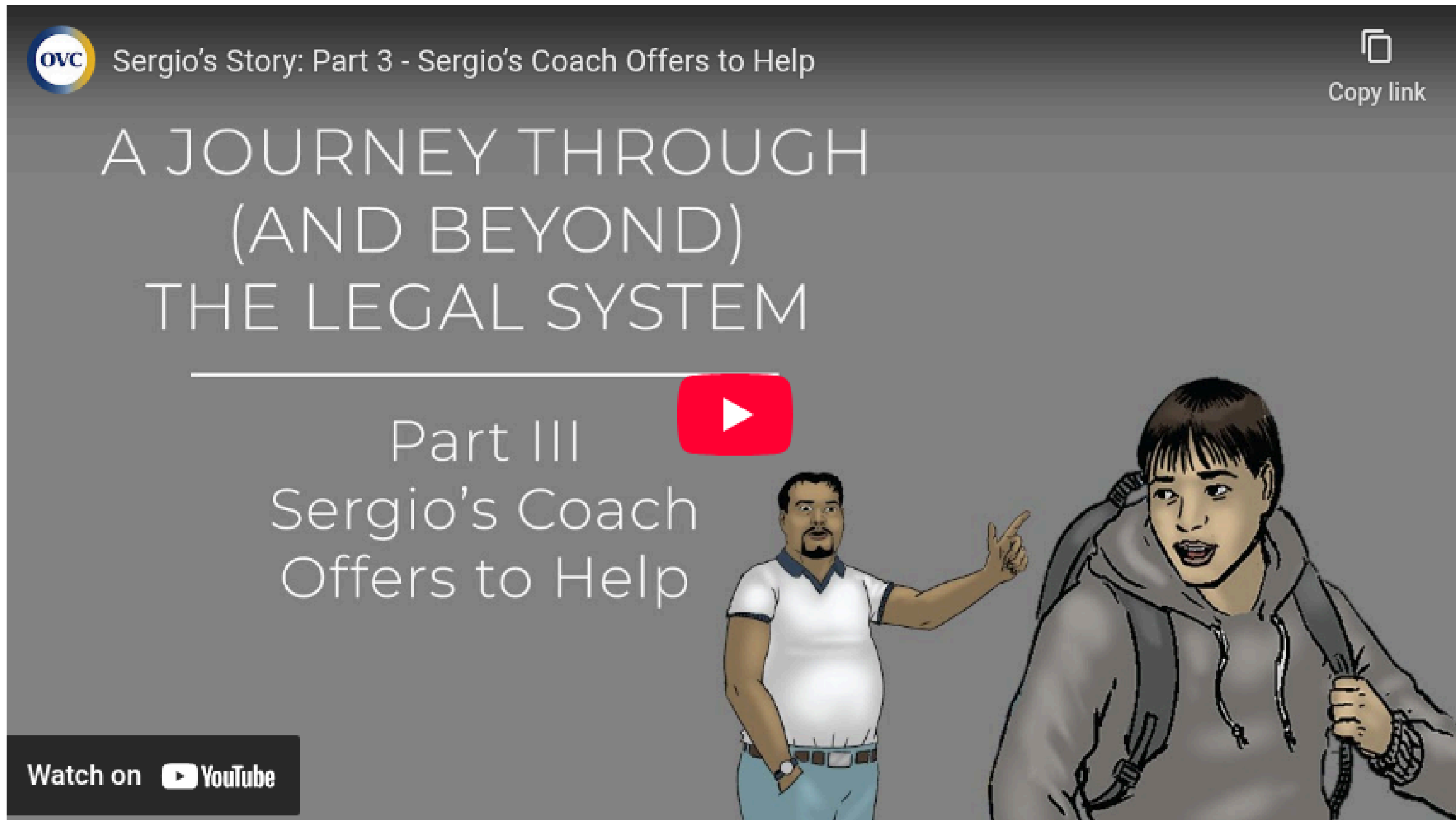
Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 2” Video



Duration: 1:42 minutes

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4umJqEip1Gw>

Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 3” Video



Duration: 2:30 minutes

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3m1BXGBPwMg&t=2s>

Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 4” Video



Duration: 1:25 minutes

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrTJNLsmNIw>

Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story” Discussion Questions

The class should get into 2 groups and the teacher will designate each group a number. Each group will answer the questions correlated with their group number and then present the answers to the class.

Group 1 Questions

What do you think was the biggest red flag that Sergio was being labor trafficked?

Do you think this happens or could happen in your neighborhood? Why or why not?

Group 2 Questions

How do you think Sergio was feeling during this process? Give examples of why.

What would you do if you or a friend was in a similar situation?

Child Labor Laws



There are special labor laws for anyone under the age of 18 in the United States.

Child labor laws are designed to protect the educational opportunities of youth, as well as prohibit employment in jobs that could detrimentally impact their health and safety.

There are restrictions on the number of hours you can work, the amount of money you should be paid, and your right to stop working whenever you want.

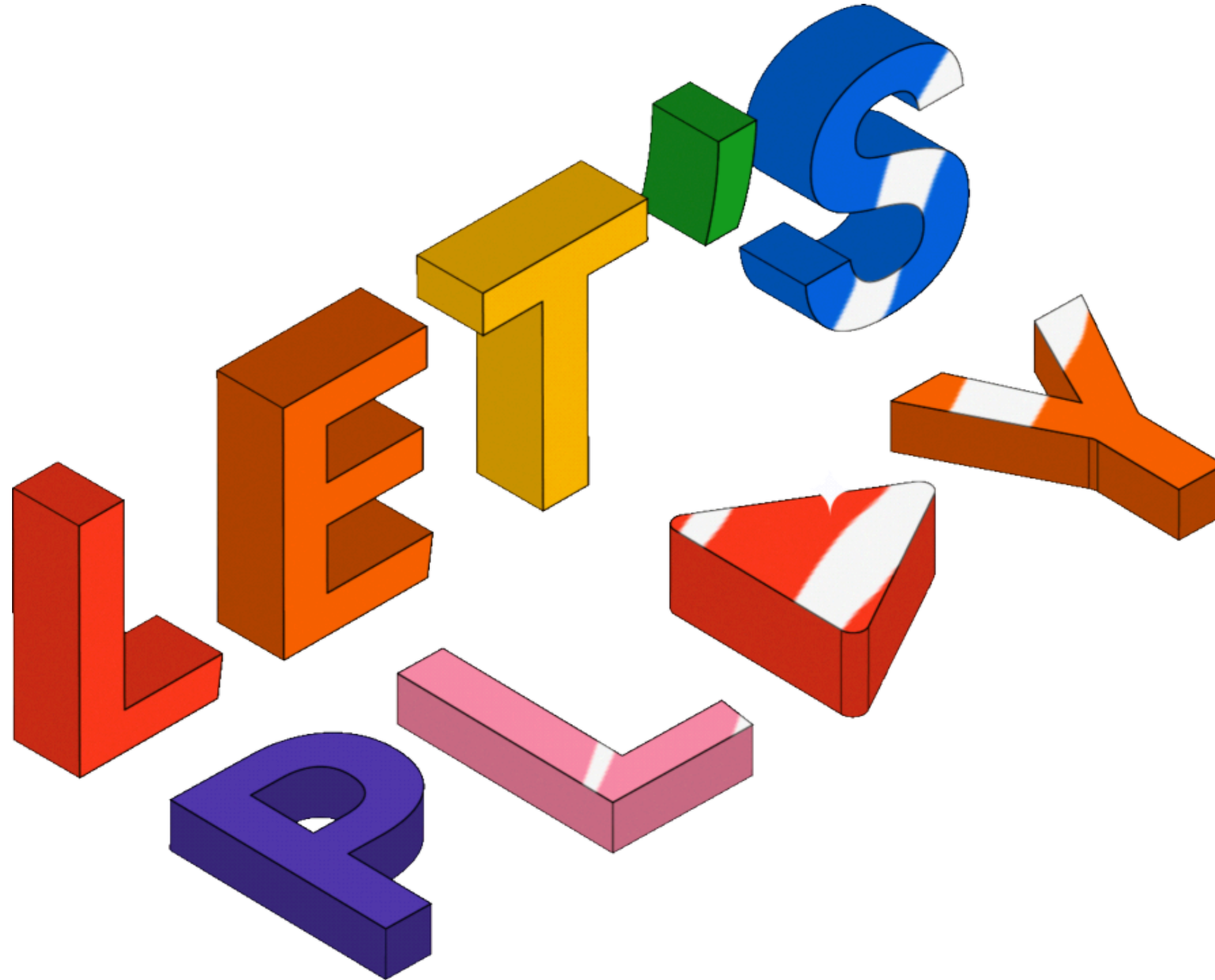
Check Your State's Child Labor Laws

Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's website below and check your State's various restrictions for each age group.



Source: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/state/child-labor>

Activity



Activity

We recommend playing
Connect for Freedom Labor
Trafficking Word Search.

THE
END

Lesson Handout from U.S. Department of Labor

WHAT CAN **YOU** DO TO HELP ADDRESS CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR?

ASK QUESTIONS

Do workers have a **voice** to speak out against labor abuses where these goods are made?

What are the **companies I buy from** doing to fight child labor and forced labor in global supply chains?

What are **governments doing** to combat child labor and forced labor?

Could some of the goods I **buy** be made by child labor or forced labor?

TAKE ACTION

Empower yourself with knowledge about this problem: Download DOL's *Sweet & Toil* app.



Make your voice heard: spread the word among friends, family, and the companies you buy from and invest in.



Show your support for organizations that are working to end these abuses.



DEMAND CHANGE

Advocate for a world in which:

Workers everywhere can raise their voices against child labor, forced labor, and other abuses.



Companies make serious commitments to addressing these issues.



Your investments have a positive social impact by promoting responsible labor practices in supply chains.



Governments work vigorously to adopt the country-specific Suggested Actions in DOL's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report.



Learn more: dol.gov/EndChildLabor
To contact us, please email GlobalKids@dol.gov

Links to Lesson Materials

[Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 1” Video](#)

[Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 2” Video](#)

[Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 3” Video](#)

[Office for Victims of Crime “Sergio’s Story Part 4” Video](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor “Child Labor & Forced Labor” Handout](#)

[Connect for Freedom Labor Trafficking Word Search](#)

Recap of Lesson

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