

Leadership in Action Project

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Introduction

Human trafficking is often misconceptualised as a cross-border crime, neglecting the local forms of exploitation which exist within our own communities. Trafficking can manifest through unpaid wages and confiscated documents. In Hong Kong, migrant domestic workers fall victim to structural vulnerabilities such as financial dependence and language barriers, that can aggregate to forced labour. With this in mind, I worked with the frontline STOP team to assist in casework support and facilitating psychosocial workshops.



OBJECTIVES

- 1 Assist in Casework Support & Workshops**
Provided financial support and distributed essentials like hygiene products and food
- 2 Design culturally sensitive materials**
Tailored assessment forms to the communities
- 3 Compile Feedback**
Created needs assessment form to evaluate and improve the psychosocial programme.

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Facilitated photography and Painting workshops: Using creative outlets to allow survivors to express themselves
- Developed multilingual needs assessment forms into eight languages to ensure accessibility
- Compiled feedback and analysed data to evaluate the impacts of psychosocial programme
- Prepare resources for outreach events



TAKEAWAYS

Throughout my project, it constantly challenged me to step out of my comfort zone especially during the casework sessions. During one of my first casework sessions in which I was supposed to be monitoring my senior, the client had difficulties speaking in English. We both had a common language that we could interact in but it was my fourth language so I was not proficient in it. We called an interpreter from another organisation initially to help us communicate, but she was only free for a short period of time. So I attempted to speak to using our common language even though I stuttered and made mistakes. It was an unforgettable moment because I learnt that communication does not have to be perfect for supporting others, but it has to be with presence. Although I was not proficient, the client saw me persistently trying to understand her and encouraged me to keep going. This experience taught me that leadership is about being willing to step into uncertainty and trust that the effort itself matters. It is about meeting people where they are, not where you are comfortable.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Laidlaw Foundation for providing resources for this LIA internship, and to The University of Hong Kong for actively supporting that made this experience possible. Special thanks to Chloe Martin at Branches of Hope, whose mentorship and guidance shaped every aspect of my work with the STOP team. Finally, extending my heartfelt gratitude to the entire STOP team (Azon, Dedy, Chen) who were extremely welcoming in teaching me what it means to lead with purpose.

