

## A Thousand Words

Look at the four murals again then read the text. Which mural is each paragraph about? Which mural do you like the most? Why?

- 1.** In 2018, a report called the Global Slavery Index estimated that over 40 million people are living as slaves today, and of those, 10 million are minors. In 2012, a group of high school students and their teachers carried out research on human trafficking and modern slavery. One outcome is this powerful mural. Images in the artwork represent different aspects of slavery. For example, on the far left we see marks on wood next to a young child - they represent the endless days of horrific exploitation. The words 'STOLEN and TRAFFICKED' refer to the years of stolen childhood, while the coins at the bottom of the mural symbolize the huge profit from this global crime.
- 2.** This mural in Dayton, Ohio USA, was created to raise awareness of the crime of commercial sexual exploitation. The art project involved the artist, high school students and first year university students, including international students. Look carefully and you will see poetry and statements written in different languages. The image is based on an ancient myth about the Roman goddess, Proserpina, who was kidnapped by the god of the underworld. In the mural we see the struggle between Proserpina's mother as she tries to rescue her daughter, and the power of her kidnapper who is still trying to control her.
- 3.** This mural in Los Angeles shows the power and strength of a young woman, Jessica, who was once a victim of human trafficking. From the age of six, Jessica had been sexually abused and then forced into commercial sexual exploitation. The mural, created by an amazing street artist, has a loud, positive message: I am a survivor of sex trafficking. I hope you never lose your sense of wonder. How would you react if you saw this statement on a wall in your city? Would street art like this make an impact do you think? Or would people ignore it?
- 4.** This beautiful mural is at the entrance to a busy shopping center so everyone who walks past will see it. The smiling woman, Sangeeta, is a survivor of human trafficking herself, and this artwork is based on a photograph that she helped to create - this is probably how she now sees herself. She seems powerful, happy, and strong - as if she's flying. This public street art is in West Bengal, north-east India and was created by international artist who worked with local artists to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking. What title would you give this mural?

1. <https://developmenteducation.ie/blog/2013/03/ty-students-from-bray-use-art-to-investigate-contemporary-slavery/>

2. <https://joelartista.com/ohio-sex-trafficking-awareness/>

3. <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/jessica-s-story/NwHiMzJ6EzhnPQ>

4. <https://joelartista.com/2016/03/18/combating-human-trafficking-through-the-arts/>