



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

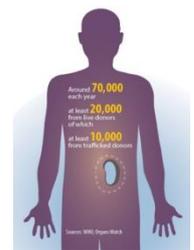
The organ trade

NEW INTERNATIONALIST EASIER ENGLISH
Upper Intermediate READY LESSON

10-15 years
life span of a kidney from a deceased donor

15-20 years
life span of a kidney from a living donor

Source: Explore Transplant



This lesson:

Speaking: what do you know about the organ trade?

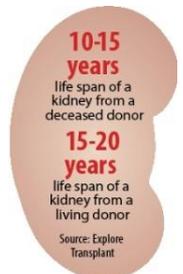
Writing: understanding graphs and infographics

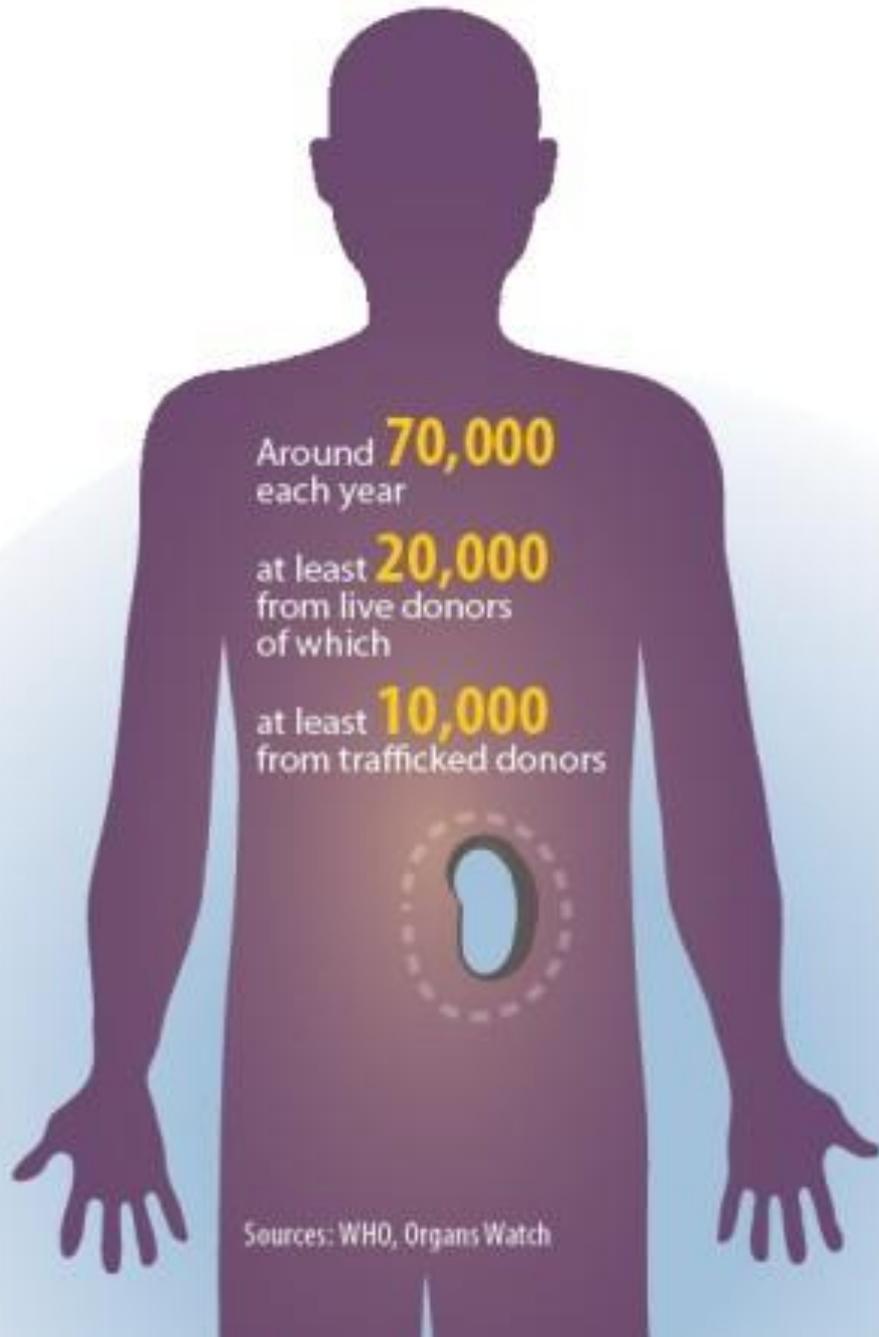
Reading: stories about organ trafficking

Make a poster: about the world organ trade

Speaking: discuss

- 1) How many kidney transplants do you think there are in the world each year?
- 2) What percentage of kidney donors agree to give their kidney?
- 3) In which countries does kidney “trafficking” happen?
- 4) In which countries can people sell their kidney for most money?
- 5) What problems are there with organ trafficking?

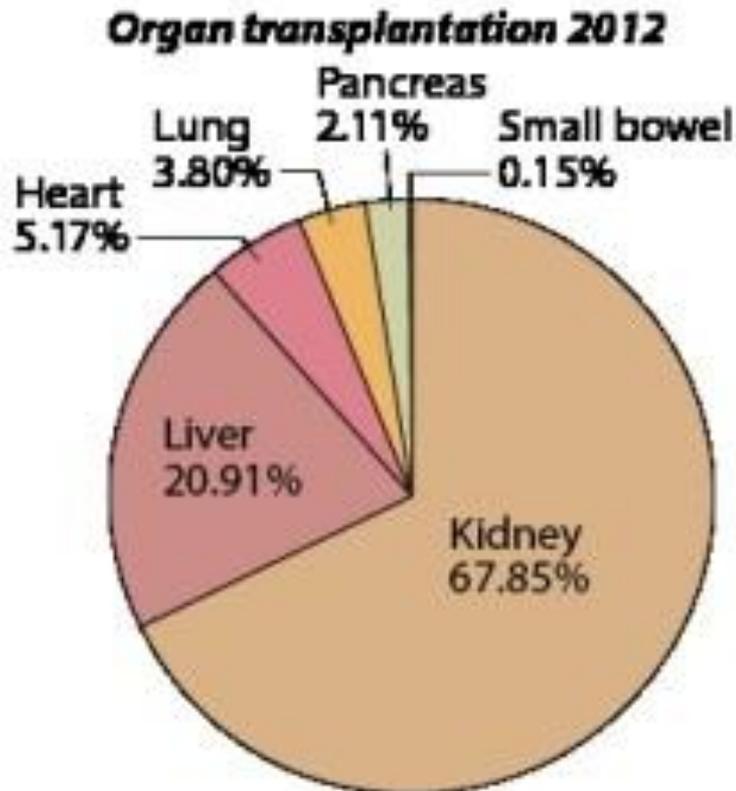




Fill the gaps:

Every year, 1).....
70,000 kidneys 2).....
put into new bodies.
More 3)..... 20,000 of
these are from 4).....
people. More than
10,000 per 5)..... are
taken from people
6)..... do not agree to
donating their 7).....

Now, in pairs, write a sentence to describe what each of these show:



Source: Global Observatory on Donation & Transplantation

10-15 years

life span of a kidney from a deceased donor

15-20 years

life span of a kidney from a living donor

Source: Explore Transplant

114,690

organs reported transplanted in 2012

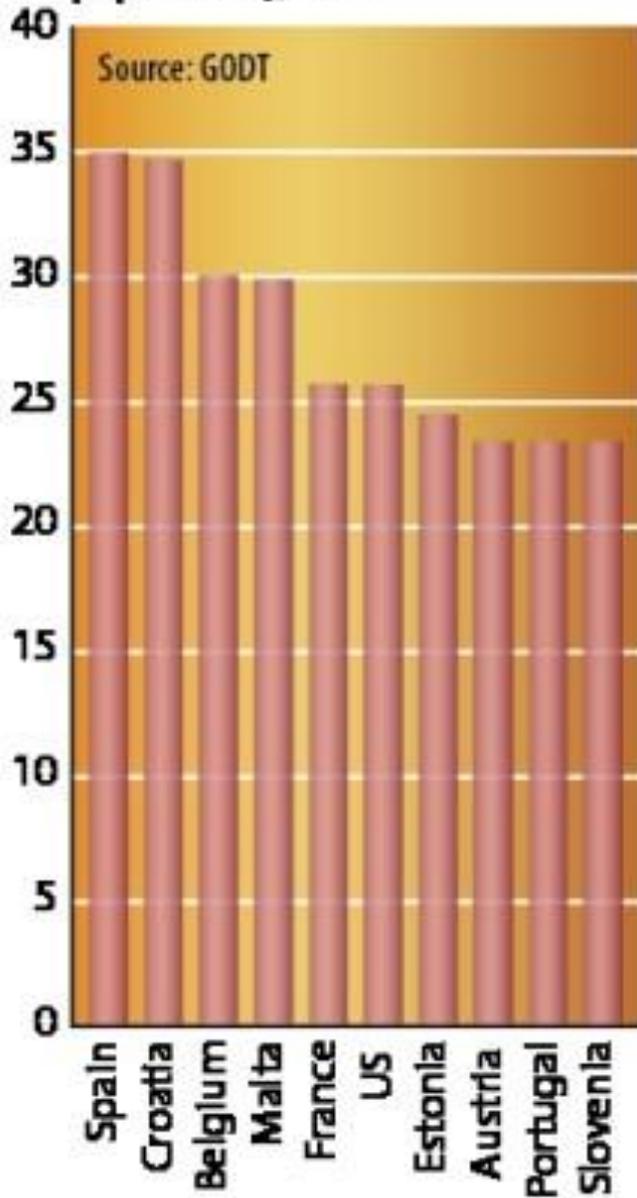
77,818

kidneys transplanted in 2012

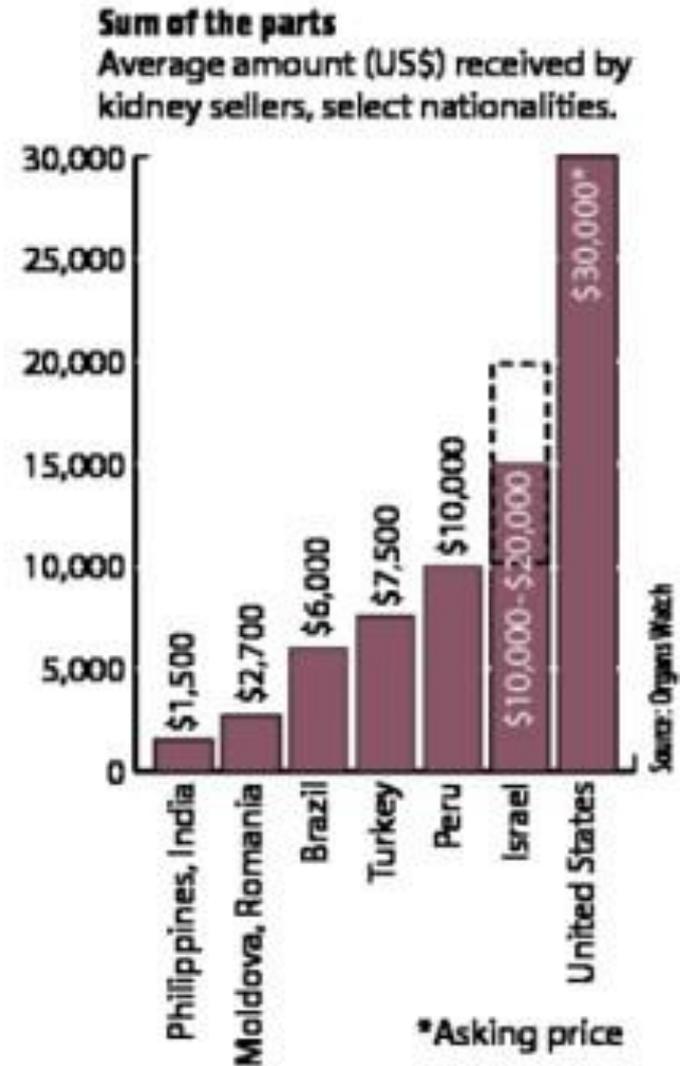
≤10%
of global demand

Source: Global Observatory on Donation & Transplantation

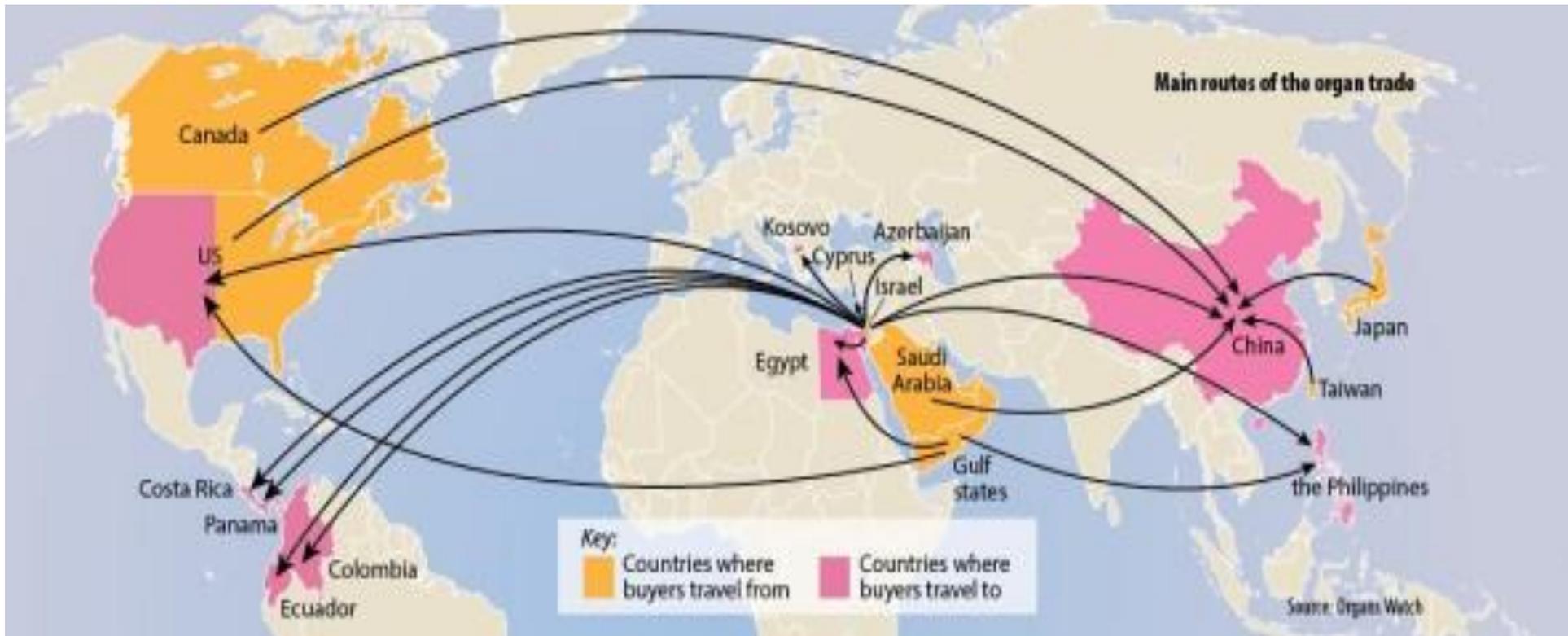
Highest rates of donation from deceased persons (per million population), 2012



And these:



And finally, this one:



Read the story on the next 3 slides to answer these questions:

- 1) Why do people need kidney transplants?
- 2) Why do some people not want kidneys from relatives of people who have died?
- 3) Why do people sell kidneys in the US?
- 4) What are the differences in the hospital treatment of the kidney receiver and the kidney donor?



In summer 2009 someone phoned me.

‘Are you the Organs Lady?’ Jim Deal (not his real name) asked me, a little nervous.

‘Maybe,’ I replied. ‘How can I help you?’

‘My kidneys are really bad and my doctor wants me to start dialysis immediately. Well, I can’t stay next to a machine three days a week. I’ve just started a new company and I have no time. I need a kidney now. Where can I get one? I have money.’

I suggested that he ask his relatives (he had many brothers and sisters), but he said no. They were all busy with their careers and families. I asked if he wanted to do what Steve Jobs did and register at many transplant centres in different regions of the US. This made it more possible that he would get a transplant. He agreed.

But he didn’t want a kidney from someone who had died. He wanted to buy a kidney from a living person. He asked if I could recommend a surgeon or someone who could help. Jim had a grandparent from Iran, so I told him about the system in Iran. They had the only legalized kidney selling programme, but only for Iranian citizens and their families.

‘I’m not going to go to Iran,’ Jim said. ‘I want First World medicine.’

I told Jim that Iran had ‘First World’ surgeons, but he did not believe me. Some weeks later he called to tell me that his family had found several local people who would sell a kidney online through *Craigslist*. He chose the cheapest one: a kidney from 19-year-old college student Ji-Hun (not his real name). He was an immigrant from South Korea and he did not have enough money for his college course and living costs. He was afraid he would be sent back to South Korea if he stopped studying.

Jim paid \$20,000. The night before the transplant, two very nervous Korean brothers met Jim’s relatives near Los Angeles to get the money. An armed guard was watching. The seller wanted half the money before the operation. The family said no, but they agreed to pay the money to the seller’s older brother when both Jim and Ji-Hun were under anaesthesia but before the operation was finished.

When I arrived at the famous ‘hospital for the Hollywood stars’ in Beverly Hills, the surgery was finished. Jim was in a private room with family and friends, flowers, presents, smiles and prayers. Nurses kept going in his room to see if everything was going well.

I had to look very hard to find Ji-Hun. He was in a corner room very far from the recovery rooms after operations. He was a thin young man, no more than 55 kilos. He was in great pain, and he was ashamed when I told him I fight for the rights of ‘kidney donors’. The nurses were worried when I gave them my card with its *Organs Watch* logo. They told me that Ji-Hun could leave hospital that same day. But he had not yet seen a doctor after his kidney removal. He was worried about returning to his one-room bedsitter apartment in a bad area of Los Angeles. Before he left the hospital Ji-Hun gave me his cell-phone number.

A few days later Ji-Hun said that he was still in bed, with a lot of pain. He could not eat, urinate or defecate. His older brother, who worked as a dish washer in a fast-food restaurant, was angry with him. He had no medical insurance, and the \$20,000, which was paid to his brother in a public toilet in the hospital, was nearly finished. He had paid his college bills and sent money to their parents in Korea. I phoned Ji-Hun a few times. Then his phone went dead.

Jim was worried that people would find out, so he emigrated to another country. The last time I heard about him, he was married and able to work. The hospital where they did the operation refused to talk about the story because of patient confidentiality. The nephrologist (kidney specialist) who worked at the private hospital told me that he had seen many other kidney operations like this, but he did not want to talk about it publicly, to be a ‘whistleblower’.

Now read more:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Human trafficking - the terrible organ trade](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Human%20trafficking%20-%20the%20terrible%20organ%20trade)

to find out about problems and solutions with the organ trade



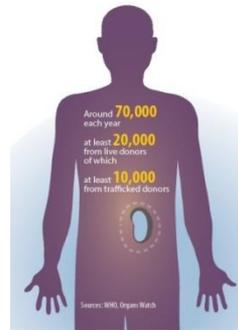
And finally, in groups, make a poster

The world organ trade:

problems

and

solutions



Homework:

Now read the original article about organ trafficking and note down all the new language you learn:

<http://newint.org/features/2014/05/01/organ-trafficking-keynote/>

