Small Group Activity - Case

Clara met Eduardo a naturalized U.S. citizen when he came back to his hometown to visit his family in El Salvador. Eduardo started dating Clara, who was raising her 9 year old son Miguel. Eduardo began regularly coming to visit Clara, who became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl Lupe. When Lupe turned 1 year old Eduardo decided to bring Clara, Miguel, and Lupe to the U.S. to live with him. Upon their arrival in the U.S., Eduardo took Clara, Miguel, and Lupe's passports and became physically and sexually abusive of Clara. Eduardo's abuse turned toward Miguel when he tried to protect his mother from Eduardo, and Lupe was also physically beaten by Eduardo when he said she "misbehaved". Within a year following their arrival in the U.S., Eduardo forced both Clara and Miguel to work for his family's business and never paid them for their labor. One night when Miguel was 13 and Lupe was 5, Eduardo's rage led to severe beatings with a belt of Miguel and of Lupe. When Clara intervened to protect the children, Eduardo strangled her until she passed out. The neighbors called the police for help. Police arrested Eduardo for attempted murder and child abuse. The police came and took Clara to the hospital and took both children into care of the state.