

Eliminating Sex Trafficking

Solutions for a Global and Local Crime
and the Status of North Carolina

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Abstract

Despite popular belief in the United States, slavery of human beings has not been successfully eradicated from our borders. The U.S. Department of State confirms that at least fifteen thousand people are trafficked into the United States each year from abroad, adding to the hundreds of thousands of domestically trafficked adults and minors. Internationally, modern day slavery rages in almost every country. Every day men, women and children are coerced into labor or sex work. Nearly three quarters of these enslaved individuals are sexually abused and exploited through the means of pornography, prostitution and forced marriages. North Carolina ranks eighth among the highest trafficking states in the United States. In the last year alone, over five hundred minors have been rescued from sexual abuse and exploitation from one single county. In North Carolina stories about trafficked individuals surface in the news media, from a five year old being sold online for sex by her mother to brothel raids in major cities. There are hundreds of factors that contribute to this augmenting problem at home and abroad. Most of these causes fall within two categories: cultural acceptance of gender inequality and elements which make trafficking a lucrative criminal business. Fortunately, individuals and organizations have begun to realize the amplitude of the issue and have initiated programs to rescue and support survivors of sex trafficking. Legislation has been created to hold criminals accountable, trainings have been developed for law enforcement and awareness campaigns have commenced. While all of these actions are commendable, true primary prevention of sex trafficking must begin with cultural change. We can eliminate slavery in our lifetime, but it will take a commitment to a legal imperative as well as a dedicated effort transform our global culture into one in which no form of interpersonal violence is tolerated.

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Introduction

There are more slaves in the world today than have ever been in recorded human history before now (Source). Although the real numbers cannot be confirmed, it is estimated by the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that between seven hundred thousand and thirty million people are victims of human trafficking (Source). The exact number of trafficking victims is difficult to estimate because trafficking is a criminal business which is often masked by other “businesses” and when uncovered by law enforcement, inappropriately labeled. The United State’s *Trafficking In Persons Report* estimates that one million new victims will be added to this number every year (2008). Of these victims around seventy percent are female and just less than one quarter are children (Source). In her remarks at the release of the *2011 Trafficking In Persons Report*, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke to this disparity, “Human trafficking unfortunately hurts women and girls disproportionately... trafficking isn’t just a problem of human bondage; it fuels the epidemic of gender-based violence in so many places – here in our country and around the world (Source).”

Within human trafficking over eighty percent of victims are estimated to be coerced or forced into sex acts including, but not limited to, prostitution, pornography and forced marriages (Source). The United Nations Development Fund estimates that one out of every three women will be beaten, sexually abused or raped within her lifetime (Source). This staggering statistic is common throughout every nation, developed or developing. In the United States one in four college women will be raped or attempted raped by the time she graduates (Source). Sex trafficking of women and girls is one form of violence against women which persists around the world because of cultural tolerance and factors that fashion trafficking into a profitable criminal business. Internationally, women and children are considered vulnerable populations because they consistently have less power and opportunity when compared to men. This position of inadequate choice and freedom puts them at a disproportionate vulnerability to being exploited and abused. Rural women and girls may be especially at risk for victimization because of less access to resources and support systems.

In the United States of America, human trafficking continues to rise and more trafficking victims are finding the U.S. to be their destination. Our cultural norms are allowing the demand for women and girls to be sexually abused and exploited to intensify. While a victim-centered approach is necessary to bring immediate awareness and survivor services, we must not forget that the true primary prevention of changing our cultural standards must be our utmost goal. The State of North Carolina, while ranking as the eighth highest state for trafficking to be found

in the U.S., is also making great strides to overcome the challenges associated with this permeating crime. Global and local solutions must work in unison if we are to eliminate sex trafficking and all other forms of gender-based violence.

Defining Modern Day Slavery

Modern day slavery is synonymous with human trafficking. Human trafficking is a growing transnational sophisticated criminal industry which yields upwards of thirty-two billion dollars a year (Source). It is the second largest criminal industry behind drug and arms trafficking (Source.) That amount of income is more than the most profitable company on the Fortune 500 List in 2009 (Source). Free the Slaves contributes the following trends to the rise of modern-slavery: The recent population explosion especially in the developing world, rapid social and economic change resulting in little job security, and government corruption, allowing slavery to go unpunished (Source). Human trafficking is defined by both the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) and the U.S. Department of State through the Human Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) with slight discrepancy. Human trafficking usually is defined by having three separate characteristics within the following parts; an act, a means and a purpose. The UNODC defines human trafficking as a "crime against humanity" in the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons* (Trafficking in Persons Protocol) specifically "as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (Source)."



Source: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

Human trafficking is often split into two main categories, sex trafficking and labor trafficking, of which sex trafficking holds the majority of known cases. Under this definition it is important to note that a person does not have to be physically transported to a new location to be considered a victim of human trafficking. The trafficker or perpetrator usually does move the victim at some point in their bondage in order to further isolate them (Fisher 14). The *2011 TIP Report* divides trafficking even further into eight separate forms: forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers and child sex trafficking (Source). We will look at specific examples of trafficking in the following pages.

Around the world it has been found that traffickers, or perpetrators, use the means of coercion, manipulation, force, fraud or a position of power to control the life of the enslaved person(s). Traffickers control every aspect of the person's life for their own profit. This limitless control creates fear and dependence on the perpetrator and helps the perpetrator maintain control, sometimes even after the victim has been rescued. The UNODC's *2009 Global Report on Trafficking In Persons* found that up to fifty-three percent of traffickers in European countries were women, which is a shift in perpetrator gender (Source). Even so, men are the significant majority of the gender who buy and exploit these women and girls for sex acts (Source). Human trafficking for sexual exploitation comprises the majority of cases of human trafficking today.

Human Trafficking for Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

The category of human trafficking which this paper will focus upon is that of trafficking of humans for the purpose of sexual abuse and exploitation or sex trafficking/slavery. According to the *2011 TIP Report* sex trafficking is "When an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution – or maintained in prostitution through coercion – that person is a victim of trafficking. All of those involved in recruiting, transporting, harboring, receiving, or obtaining the person for that purpose have committed a trafficking crime. Sex trafficking also can occur within debt bondage, as women and girls are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful "debt" purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude "sale" – which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free. It is critical to understand that a person's initial consent to participate in prostitution is not legally determinative: if they are thereafter held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force, they are trafficking victims and should receive

benefits outlined in the Palermo Protocol and applicable domestic laws (Source).” Coercing or forcing a person into other sex acts outside of prostitution, such as pornography, live sex shows, forced marriages and stripping also constitute sex trafficking. Women and girls are most often the victims of sex trafficking. Two million children around the world are sex trafficked within prostitution and pornography, according to UNICEF (Source). In the U.S. the TVPA defines sex trafficking as when a person is coerced, forced or is under the age of 18, into a commercial sex act, which is a sex act when anything of value is given or received by any one person (2003). The average life expectancy for a child forced into sexual slavery is 7 years (source). Sex trafficking might be defined slightly differently from country to country but the key is that in order for a person to legally consent, they must be able to give permission freely and willing, without coercion, manipulation, threats or force, with sound mind and in the knowledge that other, equally beneficial options are available.

The Global Perspective

Countries throughout the world are categorized as either origin, transit or destination countries based on the estimated numbers of enslaved people who are trafficked in, out, or through that country each year (Source). Global South countries, which have a medium to low human development index with relatively lower socioeconomic status and political stability, are more likely to be origin or supply countries, in which humans are trafficked out of (Source). People are more likely to be trafficked out of Global South countries if they do not have a good tourist base, because many areas where people go for sex tourism are hotbeds for trafficking. Many of these countries also have lots of people who want to leave and therefore are more likely to take the risk of being deceived about where they are going and what for. Global North countries, such as the U.S. and many western European nations, have a higher human development index and have more expendable income to buy sex acts.

The International Labor Organization estimates there are 246 million children who are victims of forced labor including trafficking for prostitution and pornography (Fisher 19). Traffickers often fraud their victims with empty promises of a better life and job in a new country, only to take their money and papers once in transit (U.S. Dept. HHS Sex Trafficking Fact Sheet).



Source:
<http://endexploitation.org/resources.html>

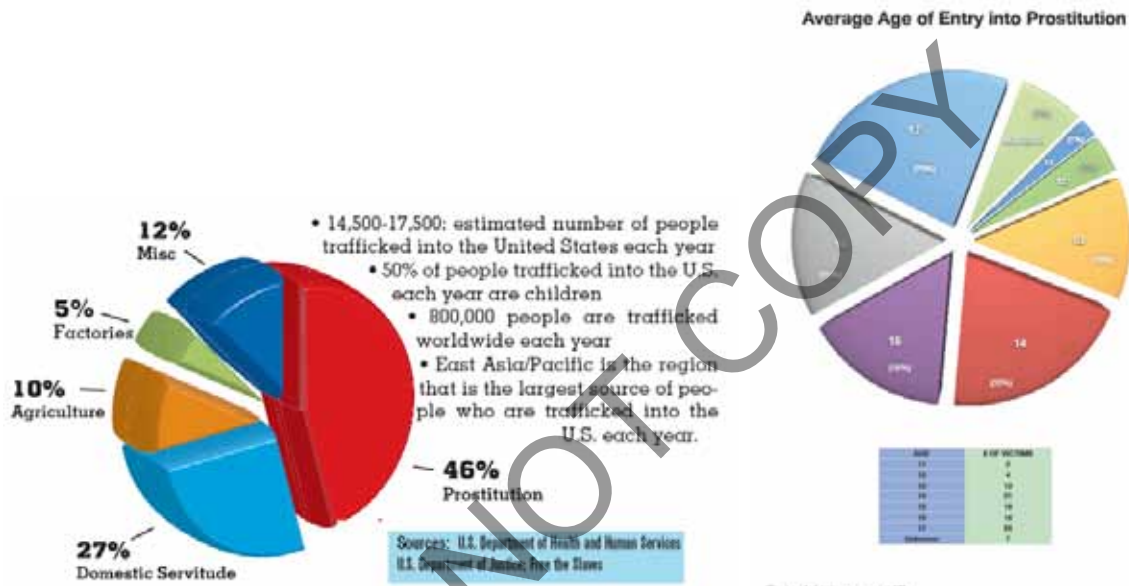
Slavery in the United States

The United States is a destination country for sex trafficking victims because there is a high demand for buying sex in the U.S. Although it has been found that internationally, women are just as likely as men to be perpetrators of human trafficking, in the U.S. traffickers are usually male and over half of the traffickers are U.S. citizens (Source). Sex slavery in the U.S. is divided into two main categories according to where victims come from: International and domestic. The distinction is made clearly between the two because different methods of control are usually used by the traffickers. In cases of women and girls being brought into the U.S. from a different country, victims are often trapped in a web of deceit and fraud that was mentioned above. In this situation many times the person being trafficked is aware of the enslavement. When victims of sex trafficking are U.S. citizens though, many times the victims were introduced to their trafficker when they are youth and do not realize the web of manipulation and lies that the perpetrator has built around them. Gangs are increasingly becoming a presence in the trafficking of international and domestic victims for sexual exploitation too (Source).

The U.S. estimates that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of human trafficking enter the country each year (Source). Even though globally, only twenty-five percent of trafficking victims are children, fifty percent of those victims trafficked into the U.S. are children. In 2010 the majority of foreign victims trafficked into the U.S. were from Thailand, India, Mexico, Philippines, Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic (*2011 TIP Report*). There are two major known sex trafficking networks in the U.S. One is Asian-based under the cover of massage parlors and bars and the other is Latino based cantinas and escort services (Fisher 24).

Domestic victims of sex trafficking victims are more likely to start in "The Life" as children who are U.S. citizens but are throwaways, runaways, troubled and homeless youth (*2011 TIP Report*). A 2001 report by the University of Pennsylvania estimated that about 293,000 American youth are currently at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation (Source). Many of these youth who end up on the streets are running from abusive situations and unfortunately find a new life of abuse on the streets (Source). Although people are still born into slavery, in the U.S. it is most likely that people are coerced into slavery when they are most vulnerable. Pimps are traffickers of usually young girls who they have psychologically manipulated them into selling their bodies for sex. Although our American culture often makes jokes about "pimps and hoes," this relationship is a prime example of human trafficking.

Pimps start by scouting out a young girl by hanging around schools and afterschool programs and especially look for the ones who seem to have the least friends or adults around. These pimps are often older men, over the age of 25. They then seek out to befriend their “target” and shower her with praise and gifts. For a child who has no family or support system this might be the first time in their life they have received any attention at all. Slowly the pimp builds a relationship with the child and eventually rapes her and manipulates her into having sex with other men to prove that she loves him. This is the beginning of the trafficking and psychological control pimps have over their victims (Very Young Girls).



Trafficking in North Carolina

The State of North Carolina, which rests a little over halfway down the eastern seaboard of the U.S., ranks as the eighth most likely state for human trafficking to occur. We have an increased amount of human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, for many reasons. First, North Carolina is a transit state. Our state is characterized as this because of our large relative number of major highways, especially I-40, I-95 and I-85, our central location between New York City, New York and Miami, Florida, and the shipping ports we have because of our coastline. We are also a military state with five bases and unfortunately around military bases with large numbers of men are high numbers of strip clubs and brothels, where many of the individuals being prostituted are victims of human trafficking. In Cumberland County, N.C., where Fort Brag Military Base is located, a crisis center served 595 children most of whom were rescued from trafficking sexual abuse and exploitation. Agriculture is also a major contributor

to our state's economy and to the increase in human labor and sex trafficking. Not only are people trafficked for labor on farms and in rural areas, but many times women are brought in to "service" the trafficked men. North Carolina has many outlets for tourism which also draws business for traffickers bringing victims for sex tourists.

In her book Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Reference Guide, Jennifer Fisher cites that a 2008 study showed that seventy-seven percent of law enforcement do not understand human trafficking or believe that it exists. This is a huge issue because many times law enforcement are the first responders to a trafficking situation and are key in identifying victims of human trafficking. This lack of training for professionals reflects deficits in overall awareness of the issue of human and sex trafficking in North Carolina and within the U.S.

North Carolina has seen many cases of sex trafficking even though accurate statistics and numbers do not yet exist for the extent of trafficking within our state. Gang activity in NC has increased over the past dozen years and in 2010 NC had 550 gangs with over 14 thousand members (Source). Some of the larger cases of sex trafficking which have been highlighted in the media are the Greenville Brothel Raid in the fall of 2011 in which three individuals were arrested for holding a women in sexual servitude in their home (Source). Last April, a Latino girl in Charlotte was kidnapped outside her house and was last seen with men who are known in the community for carrying off young girls for sex trafficking (Source). In 2010, a Korean couple was arrested in Fayetteville after trying to transport women from New York City to North Carolina to be sexually exploited (Source). In 2009, a five year old girl, Saniya Davis, was sold into sex slavery by her mother to pay off a drug debt. Saniya was raped, strangled and found dead just days later (Source). Later that year a man in Charlotte was sentenced to 24 years in prison for sex trafficking young Mexican girls between Charlotte and Washington, D.C. (Source). Also that year, a professor at Duke University was arrested for trafficking a five year old boy for sex over the internet. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement reported that in 2010 they had 650 cases and arrested 300 people for trafficking nationwide with multiple investigations ongoing in NC (Source). Since August 2011, the Salvation Army has served 21 victims of human trafficking, the majority of whom were victims of sex trafficking.

Causes of Sex Trafficking

Former President George W. Bush, when addressing the U.N. General Assembly, September 23, 2003 said "There's a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of [the] sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life, an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished. Those who patronize this industry

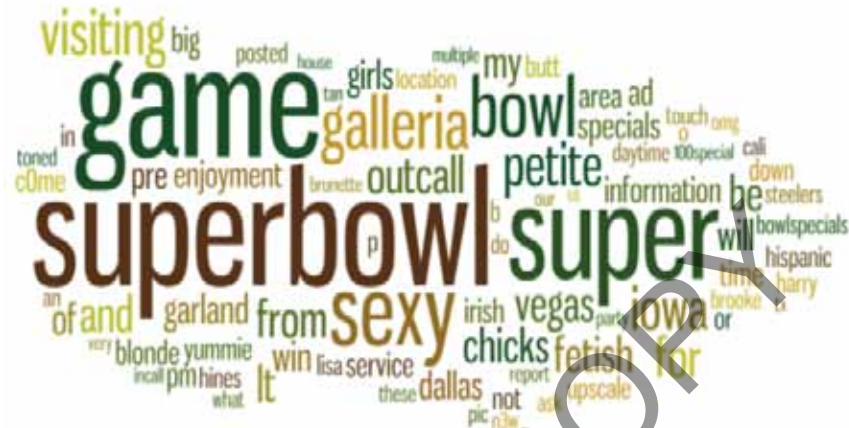
debase themselves and deepen the misery of others (Source)." Within this quote we can see two important factors that contribute to the sex trafficking industry's productivity: the supply of the vulnerable populations of the world and the demand for more victims to perform sex acts. Just like any other business, this illegal and violent industry, is ruled by supply and demand. The U.S. and other Global North countries are destinations for victims of sex trafficking because there is a prolific demand for buying women for sex in the U.S. We will discuss what drives this demand in a moment.

Pimps are one form of trafficker in the U.S. who sells women and girls to other American men. Sex trafficking is a lucrative criminal business because there is little to no investment cost as a slave costs less today than in 1810 (Source). Even if a woman or girls dies or is killed, a trafficker can pick up a new one. Also, there is no marketing cost. The American culture of high consumption of pornography and objectification of women in the media takes care of that aspect of the business. Sex trafficking is a transnational criminal business that is quickly becoming the criminal business of choice because of its potential for monetary success over drug and arms trafficking. While you can only sell a gun or drug once, a person can be sold over and over again for a sex act (Kara). This fact along with the low value of slaves, high demand for sex acts and low risk involved in perpetrating all result in an industry which produced copious amounts of money. This business is also profoundly organized. There are books on Amazon.com on how to be successful as a pimp, including how to target and psychologically control young girls. Although there might be legislation against trafficking the lack of funding for enforcement, investigation and prosecution constitute low actual consequences.

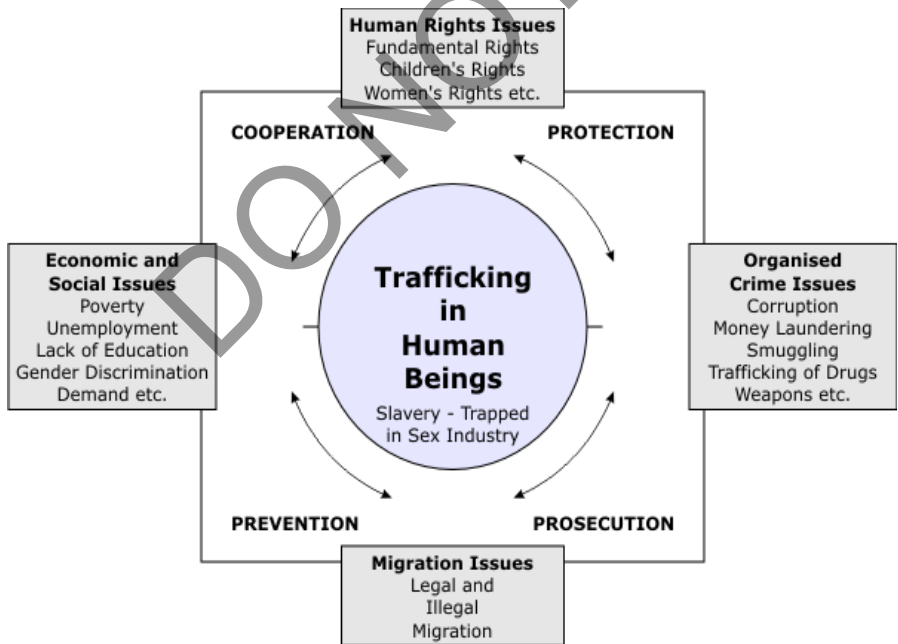
Aside from sex trafficking being a conducive economic venture, our cultural norms enable the demand for victims of trafficking. According to Donna Hughes there are four components of demand (2008). First, are the men who buy commercial sex acts, then the exploiters/traffickers that work the industry, legislation and lack of enforcement which suggests tolerance and finally the culture that legitimizes prostitution and pimping (Hughes 2008). Cultural acceptance of gender inequality and tolerance of other forms of violence against women drive the increased male demand for buying sex acts. Strict gender norms that encourage hyper-masculinity traits of violence, domination, control and sexual promiscuity and strict feminine traits of submission and a singular type of physical beauty as paramount, perpetuate inaccurate stereotypes and create internalized oppression within women and girls. The objectification and sexualization of women in the media and in mainstream pornography dehumanize women and girls thereby contributing to validation of violence that is perpetrated against them. Our society accepts men's violence and destructive behaviors as "boys will be

boys” and yet we are surprised when sex trafficking increases around events that have been pre-determined as masculine by our culture, like the World Cup and the Super Bowl.

Word Cloud for Backpage.com (Dallas) Escort and Adult Posts During Super Bowl XLV



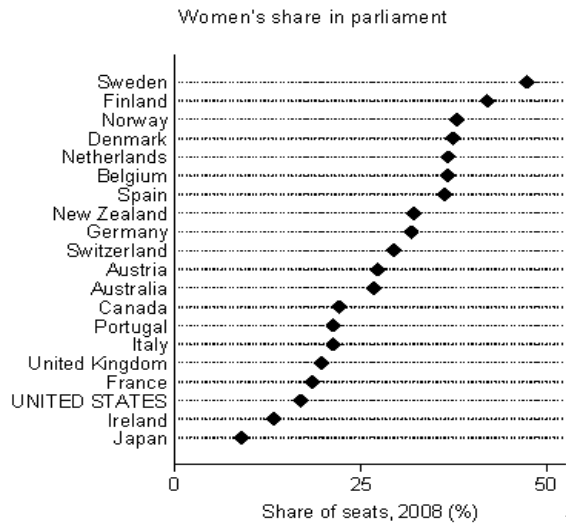
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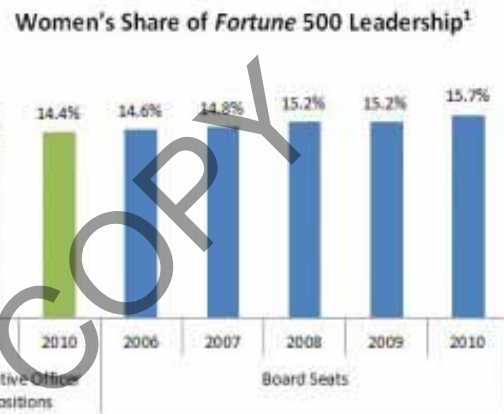
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Gender inequality is prominent in the U.S. as well as the rest of the world as shown by the following statistics and graphs. Gender inequality contributes to poverty, cultural attitudes,

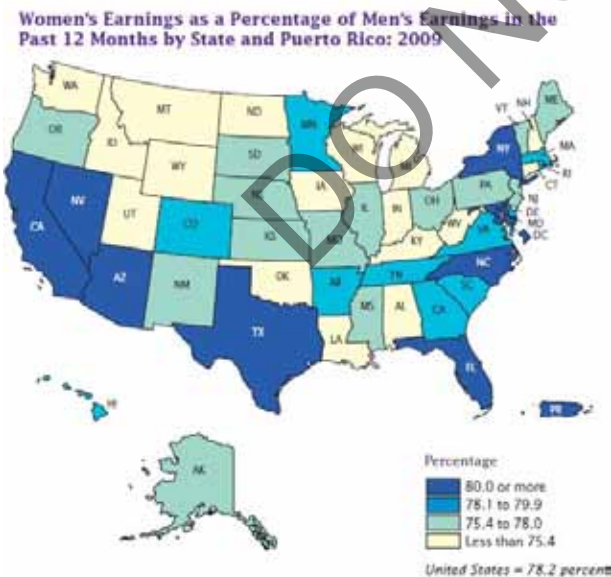
lack of legal protection and lack of education and opportunity. In the United States women are represented by less than 20% in national Congress. In 2010, less than 20% of executive officer positions and board seats of Fortune 500 companies were inhabited by women. In less than a dozen states in the U.S. do women make 80% or more of what men make in annual salary. Only in the construction industry do women make 90% or more of what men make annually.



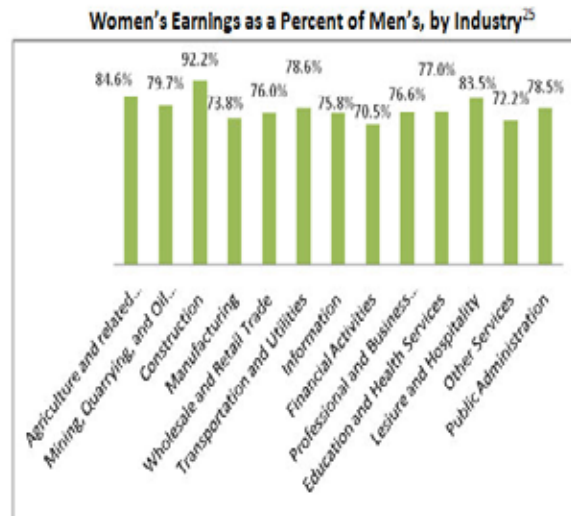
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Current International Responses

There have been varied international responses to human trafficking and sex trafficking over the past twenty years. The main responses I am going to focus on are the Sweden Policy Model, the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). Each of these actions is a commitment to a world without trafficking.

The Sweden Model is a legislative measure in Sweden to eliminate sex trafficking and prostitution. It decriminalizes prostitutes and sex workers but criminalizes traffickers/ pimps and johns/tricks. The reason for decriminalizing prostitution for those being prostituted is because these women and girls are suffering because of a drastic power imbalance that exists in our world as a result of gender inequality (Source). Many argue that this policy has done little more than force prostitution underground and create harsh realities for sex workers. Some also insist that this model could never be replicated because Sweden is such a small, contained country. The only way that this model would truly be able to be effective is if the women selling sex acts were truly given all the resources and care they would need and be able to enter a market at which they could make the same amount of money doing another job. This policy would definitely seem to reduce demand within the country, but I am curious if it would stop the majority of buyers from going outside the borders to buy sex in a neighboring country. More research needs to be done on the differences, if any, between sex work and sex trafficking and the reasons behind women entering this industry by "choice." Additionally the question whether consent can truly be given if money is involved should be attempted to be answered more fully. We can eliminate the option of legalization of prostitution as a solution for eliminating human trafficking because we have seen the results of it failing miserably. Sex trafficking has only increased in Amsterdam and Germany where legalization of prostitution has occurred (Mees 2009).

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons was voted into action by the General Assembly in December 25th 2003. Its purpose is to help facilitate convergence of national policy on human trafficking and promote inter-government partnerships (Source). It contained the first inclusive definition of human trafficking and it is a legally binding document.

The most recent UN initiative to help in the campaign to end human trafficking is UN.GIFT. This campaign was conceived in March 2007 because of a gift by the United Arab Emirates to create cooperation between various UN offices (Source). Some of the offices

involved are International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). UN.GIFT works with all of the different parts of society to interfere effectively in the criminal business of trafficking. It acts as a resource hub for all of the hundreds of projects going on in the world to end human trafficking. The United Nations, in conjunction with countries around the globe, are pursuing the end of modern day slavery.

Current Reponses in the United States

The U.S. Dept. of State *2011 Trafficking In Persons Report* now includes one hundred eighty-four countries, including the United States. Within the *Report* every country is analyzed based on government responsibility, prevention of human trafficking, prosecution of perpetrators, protection of survivors and partnerships with other countries and/or NGOs. President Obama declared January National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month beginning last year, although it must share this awareness month with Stalking (source). The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) funds 39 task forces nationwide which reported a total of 750 investigations in the last year (Source). In collaboration with NGOs, DOJ launched an online task force resource guide, and conducted a national training for 700 task force members and law enforcement, governmental, and nongovernmental partners, which included advanced training to identify, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking cases and assist human trafficking victims. The DOJ task forces trained over 24,278 law enforcement officers last year and in 2010, federal law enforcement charged 181 individuals, and obtained 141 convictions in 103 human trafficking prosecutions, 32 labor trafficking and 71 sex trafficking (Source).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funded short-term shelter programs which served 44,000 homeless and runaway youth and more than 800,000 youth received contact from an HHS-funded street outreach worker. In 2003 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative. Since 2003 thirty-seven task forces have helped rescue over 915 children from sexual exploitation and the NCMEC has processed over 56 thousand endangered runaway cases (Source). Many more beds are still needed for survivors rescued from sex trafficking.

Partnerships and Progress in North Carolina

Partnerships and collaboration are essential to examining and developing solutions for public health problems, especially an issue with such great proportions. North Carolina (NC) has shown marked progress in our ability to defend our citizens and rescue internationally trafficked individuals from sex trafficking situations, but we still have a lot left to do. NC has developed these partnerships and created coalitions and task forces within the state for various specialties.

Funding for training, awareness and survivor services comes largely from federal grants and two organizations within NC, the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) and the Salvation Army. NCCASA is a non-profit organization that works to end sexual violence through education, advocacy and legislation. They provide trainings to their partners year-round and brought human trafficking awareness to their 2011 Annual Conference. The Salvation Army is a charitable and service organization that works to help those in need without discrimination. In August 2011 they opened survivor services to specifically help survivors of trafficking (Source). The Salvation Army and NCCASA prepared and presented a two-day awareness workshop during January 2012 which was free and open to community members. This workshop brought more understanding to the community about human and sex trafficking and the contributing factors to these forms of violence and violations of human rights.

These two organizations are also major partners in the North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT). NCCAHT has built partnerships between survivor advocates, law enforcement, legal services and local civil service organizations to provide survivor services to those rescued from human trafficking. These partners have been organized into seven rapid response teams that are located around the entire state for agile response. Within the last three years there has been a 260% increase in victims identified in NC. The team at NCCAHT has facilitated the creation of a two hour training on human trafficking which now all new law enforcement at The Academy will receive because of an amendment to the State Code (Source). It is imperative that law enforcement receive proper training in identifying victims and working with survivors because they are most likely first responders and proper identification of the crime and documentation is necessary for prosecution of the perpetrator. NCCAHT maintains a website with a resource page and periodically posts new publications, such as letters to local media asking for responsible reporting when it comes to disclosing information about survivors (Source).

Multiple advocacy and awareness groups, such as NC Partners Against Human Trafficking (PATH) and NC STOP Human Trafficking, seek to inform the public and mobilize

volunteers to get involved (Source). These organizations maintain list-serves and send newsletters to locals. Various human trafficking task forces have been created throughout the state due to federal grants and local support. The Pitt County Human Trafficking Task Force just received approval for a federal grant for another two years to aid survivors (Source).

At North Carolina State University (NCSU), located in NC's capital, Raleigh, a student organization called The Movement, educates peers about ending all forms of interpersonal violence through culture change and bystander interventions (Source). During February The Movement, sponsored by the Women's Center at NCSU, is presenting two workshops on sex trafficking to raise awareness on campus among students, faculty and staff.

Solutions for Ending Sex Trafficking

Overall, there are many avenues that should be walked in order to provide adequate services for survivors, support cultural change to stop demand, amend policy and enforce legislation that already exists. It is necessary to build partnerships within communities because the needs of survivors are so vast. Providing appropriate training and funding for law enforcement and other first responders is imperative to rescuing victims. Decriminalizing prostitution for people selling sex acts will make it easier to identify and rescue trafficking victims and get them the resources they need, while criminalizing and holding exploiters accountable is necessary to escalate the costs of trafficking in the hopes of plummeting the profitability of the business. Because so many youth in our country are vulnerable and falling prey to traffickers we must create more options and opportunities for these adolescents to feel loved and safe in an environment outside the grasp of people who would exploit them. Finally, we must use primary prevention to support equal rights for all populations beginning with gender equality. No form of interpersonal violence can be tolerated.

As individuals, we can make changes in our lives every day that help end sex trafficking! You can volunteer and become trained to be a survivor advocate for a crisis center or phone line. Take this information and education yourself and others – there is so much more information outside this paper. You can stand up and speak out when you hear or see discrimination or injustice through bystander interventions. Men, you are given privilege, so use that privilege to make spaces for the women in your lives to be heard. Promote equal rights for all people and populations, including voting NO to NC Amendment 1 on May 8th 2012 and encouraging your senator to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Finally, support media literacy programs for our youth and ourselves. Almost twelve years ago, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said "The trafficking of persons, particularly women and children, for forced and exploitative

labor, including for sexual exploitation, is one of the most egregious violations of human rights which the United Nations now confronts." And we are confronting it and we will prevail to a more peaceful and just world.

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