



Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery

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Presentation Overview

- The violence of sex trafficking
- Expanding global business
- Trafficking and prostitution
- Trafficking and domestic violence
- International definition
- Different global paradigms for fighting trafficking
- The TVPA and T-Visas
- The Faith Imperative
- Who can help and how
- Empowering Women



One of the most severe and escalating practices of gender-based violence is commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, sex trafficking, the Internet bride industry, pornography, and sex tourism.

Anti-trafficking poster from Eastern Europe. It reads, “They are not toys.”



Why discuss trafficking now?

- Growing industry that is becoming more profitable than the drug trade
- The Super Bowl will bring additional traffickers into this area where trafficking occurs daily.
- The Super Bowl is the vehicle to shine a light in the darkness and open some eyes to the horrors of trafficking.



Trafficking myths

- Fiction: Most trafficking victims have been trafficked from other countries.
- Fact: Most victims have been trafficked domestically.
- Fiction: Traffickers are all members of organized crime rings.
- Fact: Many traffickers operate on their own or with one other person.



Trafficking myths

- Fiction: If there are no signs of coercion it isn't trafficking.
- Fact: Many traffickers obtain control of their victims by preying on their poverty or manipulating them psychologically.
- Fiction: Trafficking and prostitution are unrelated phenomena.
- Fact: Most trafficking is for the purpose of prostitution. The demand for prostitution creates the economic incentive for trafficking.



Trafficking is not a new phenomenon

- Abolitionists in the last two centuries challenged both race-based and sex slavery.
- Decades of organizing and activism bore fruit in five UN Human Rights Conventions: from the Convention Against Slavery (1926) to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (“the 1949 Convention”).



Trafficking Overview

- Each year 4 million people are trafficked; 2 million girls between age 5 and 15 brought into the sex industry (UN).
- Each year 17,500 trafficked into the U.S.
- Trafficking generates \$19 billion annually (Interpol).
- These statistics do not include practices of “disguised trafficking,” like the internet bride trade.



Trafficking Patterns

- International trafficking is primarily from poor countries, mostly the global South and East and Eastern Europe (sending countries) to wealthier countries, Western Europe, U.S./Canada, Japan, Australia and the Middle East (receiving countries).
- Domestic trafficking takes place within countries, often from poor rural areas to more affluent, urban areas.



Trafficking into the U.S.

- State Department research shows that of the women and children trafficked each year into the U.S.:
 - **The largest percentage are from Southeast Asia (China, Thailand, Vietnam);**
 - Then from Eastern Europe (Russia, the Ukraine, the Czech Republic);
 - Most of the rest from Latin America (Mexico, Brazil, D.R., Honduras).



Trafficking within the U.S.

- There is a large incidence of trafficking from state to state and within states.
- Domestic trafficking is often ignored and victims are viewed simply as “workers” or “prostitutes.”
- International and domestic anti-trafficking laws, however, do not distinguish between domestic and international trafficking.



Trafficking Overview (cont'd)

- Sex tourism: Reverse of sex trafficking.
- The demand travels to poor countries, primarily in the South and East.
- Facilitated by the Internet.
- \$5 billion-dollars a year in profits.



Trafficking is a Gender-Based Violation of Human Rights

- The vast majority of trafficking victims, as many as 80%, are women and girls.
- Of these, the majority (the State Dept. estimates 70%), are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation.
- Women and girls trafficked for labor exploitation frequently encounter and endure sexual violence.
- Trafficking is facilitated by, manifests, and promotes, gender-based discrimination.



Push Factors and Victims' Vulnerability: Social, Political, and Economic Conditions

- Poverty, e.g., migrant workers from Latin America
- Gender, racial, and ethnic discrimination, e.g., sex trafficking victims from Eastern Europe
- Gender, racial, and ethnic violence, e.g., runaway youth in the U.S.
- Civil unrest and armed conflict, e.g., Bosnian survivors of ethnic cleansing
- Natural disasters, e.g., Indonesian survivors of the tsunami



Pull Factors and demand

- Global demand for sexual exploitation,
especially prostitution
- Global demand for cheap labor and products



Traffickers are often perpetrators of psychological torture (Amnesty definition)

- Isolation of the victim
- Induced debility, producing exhaustion, weakness, or fatigue, e.g. sleep or food deprivation
- Monopolization of perception, including obsessiveness and possessiveness
- Threats of harm to the victim or her family and friends and other forms of threat



Traffickers are often perpetrators of psychological torture (Amnesty definition)

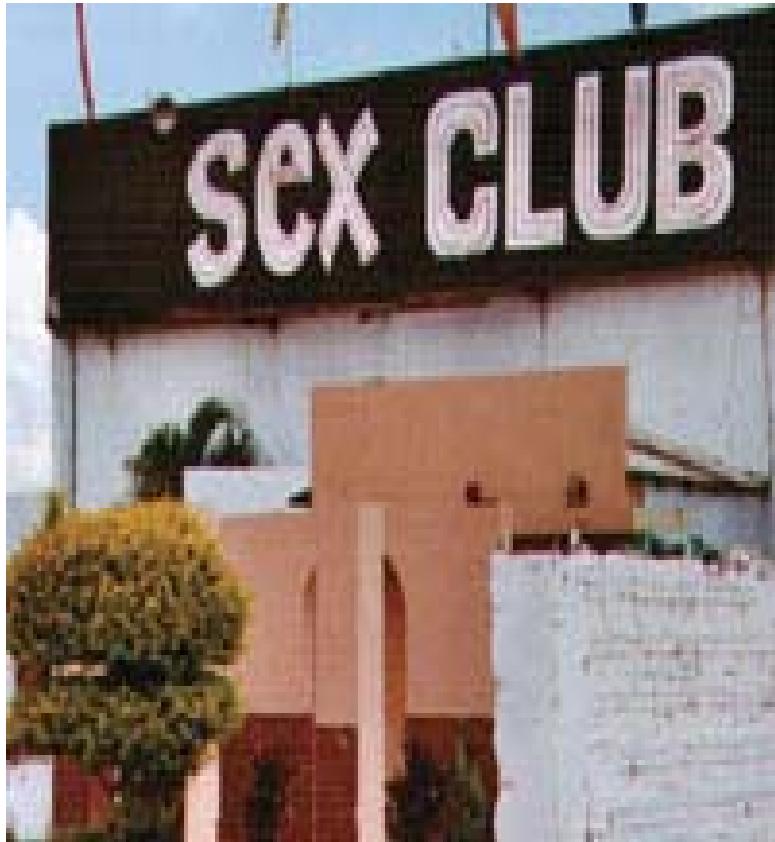
- Degradation, including humiliation, name-calling and insults, and denial of privacy or personal hygiene
- Forced drug or alcohol use
- Altered states of consciousness, e.g. dissociation
- Occasional random and variable reinforces or indulgences, partial reinforcers that keep alive the hope that the torture will cease.



Trafficking Defined

“Trafficking in persons” is 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;

Trafficking Defined



**The consent of a victim
of trafficking to the
intended exploitation ...
shall be irrelevant where
any of the means set
forth in [above] have
been used.**



Significance of the definition

- The definition protects not only those victims who were forced, or where coercion, abduction, deception or abuse of power were used, but also those who were pushed into exploitation by less explicit means of abuse of a victim's vulnerability.
- Abuse of a position of vulnerability means taking improper advantage of any situation in which the person involved has no real and acceptable alternative to submitting to the abuse.

Significant International Conventions

- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) (2000)



U.S. Federal Law: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act

- The U.S. legislative response to trafficking—the Trafficking Victims Protection Act— was passed and signed into law in 2000 and reauthorized in 2013.
- Created a federal crime of trafficking.
- Strengthened penalties against traffickers.
- Established a “Tier System” that ranks other countries’ response to trafficking. The “Tier System” cuts aid to those in the highest level, Tier 3.



U.S. Federal Law: The Trafficking Victims ~~Protection Act~~

- Created a Trafficking in Persons Office to monitor national and international response to trafficking.
- Provides T visas for cooperating victims who have been subjected to “severe trafficking” and face “extreme hardship” if removed to their home countries. The government can issue up to 5,000 T Visas a year.



Demand and legalization: the “Dutch Approach”

- Directs criminal sanctions against traffickers using force and coercion.
- Legalizes prostitution and regulates it as work.
- Based on the belief that legalization will curtail trafficking, child prostitution, and organized crime.



Demand and legalization: the Dutch reality

- Since legalization in 2000, only 4% of prostituted people in the Netherlands have registered as “sex workers.”
- Whereas in 1960 95% of prostituted people in Holland were Dutch, currently 80% are immigrants.
- 70% of prostituted people in the Netherlands are undocumented.



Demand and legalization: the Dutch reality

- ChildRight reports that the number of prostituted children in Holland has increased from 4,000 children in 1996 to 15,000 in 2001, 5000 of whom are immigrants.
- The Dutch gov't reaps \$1 billion \$202 million annually in taxes from prostitution.
- Over the last decade, the Dutch sex industry has grown by 25%.
- Some government officials have recognized this model is not effective.



Sweden's Approach

- Sweden realized that supply was only part of the problem.
- Of equal importance was demand--created by Swedish men whose buying of women's and children's bodies made trafficking into Sweden profitable for traffickers.
- Sweden concluded that along with the traffickers, buyers should be held accountable and sanctioned.



Sweden's Approach

- In 1999 Sweden enacted laws against violence against women to combat trafficking.
- The laws eliminated criminal penalties against prostituted people and funded services; directed strong penalties against pimps, brothel owners, and traffickers; and required the arrest and prosecution of buyers.
- At the same time, Sweden initiated an intensive public education campaign against demand for trafficking.



Sweden's Approach

- The result was a decline in sex trafficking into Sweden.
- The danger of prosecution coupled with diminished demand made Sweden unfriendly territory for traffickers.
- The Swedish model has influenced other jurisdictions.
- In 2003 the Philippines passed legislation against “any person who buys or engages the services of a trafficked person.”



Views on prostitution

- The Episcopal Church has never taken a position on prostitution: whether it should be legalized or not
- Will legalizing it help trafficking victims or hurt them?
- Many feel “sex work” is legitimate and people can do what they want with their bodies; the law should not get involved
- Legalizing prostitution will de-stigmatize trafficking victims
- Trafficking victims will not be involved in the criminal justice system so there will be less repercussions.
- Trafficking victims are easily distinguishable from people who chose prostitution
- Some communities feel the only acceptance they have is when they are selling themselves for sex.

Why should you, as a member of a faith community, care?

To love our neighbor as our self.

- The young girl sold into the sex trade is my neighbor and my sister. The young boy sold into the sex trade is my neighbor and my brother. What do we see when we look into the face of an exploited child? Do we see Christ looking back at us?

- The prophets had a vision of society in which **JUSTICE** was the basis for the ideal community, a harmonious unity of people committed to the well being of all. Isaiah exhorts us to seek justice and encourage the oppressed (Isaiah 1:16-17), Amos to let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream (Amos 5:24), and Micah to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly before our God (Micah 6:8). We are called as people of faith to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to put on justice as our robe, to be eyes to the blind and feet to the lame, to take up the case for the stranger (Job: 29-11-16).



Why should you, as a member of a faith community, care?

General Convention 2003:

Condemn Sex Trafficking

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention condemn domestic and international trafficking in all persons for sexual purposes as an affront to human dignity and human rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council request the appropriate Standing Committee to set up national and international plans of action for The Episcopal Church to prepare an educational campaign for parishes and dioceses on the topic of sex trafficking, and to prepare a model for a church initiative bringing together faith-based people with nongovernmental organizations, government, and law enforcement officials to create a victim-centered approach to anti-sex trafficking operations, finding ways to meet the medical, psychological, legal, and spiritual needs of persons who have been brought out of these horrendous circumstances; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be sent to every Province in the Anglican Communion.



Who can assist trafficking victims?

- **Domestic violence service providers:** understand dynamics of trafficking and have access to vital resources, especially shelter and counseling.
- **Rape crisis counselors:** expertise in addressing sexual trauma.
- **Immigrant rights advocates:** address cultural, linguistic, and immigration barriers faced by internationally trafficked victims.



Who can assist trafficking victims?

- **Health care providers:** trafficking victims need confidential, comprehensive, and compassionate treatment for physical and psychological harm.
- **Criminal justice professionals:** zealously investigate and prosecute traffickers and their confederates, treating trafficked people with the respect accorded other victims of serious crimes and offering them the same protections and remedies.



Who can assist trafficking victims?

- **Legal services providers:** trafficking victims have multifaceted and complex needs: legal immigration status, advice about criminal matters, family law needs.
- **Community and faith-based organizations:** educate communities about the harm of trafficking; help them recognize trafficking situations and connect victims to assistance and services; push for strong state and local anti-trafficking laws.



Who can assist trafficking victims?

- **Clergy and other faith leaders:** discuss prostitution and trafficking with your followers; understand the Church's position on trafficking and prostitution; know the resources available for victims; support victims who want to be free; understand they are victims and need support not judgment.



Frequent Questions Victims Have

- **Why do people blame themselves?**
- **But what if I did something stupid or bad that led to rape or trafficking?**
- **What if my friends and family blame me?**
- **Did this happen because God was punishing me?**
- **Why does God allow people to be raped or trafficked?**
- **I was sold into bondage to pay debts caused by an “act of God.” Didn’t God cause that?**
- **But doesn’t the Bible talk about God punishing people with floods or droughts?**
- **And doesn’t the Bible talk about protecting those who “walk through the valley of the shadow of death?”**



Frequent Questions Victims Have

□ **What can I do to feel better?**

- Start by forgiving yourself. You have been hurt enough: don't keep hurting yourself.
- Try not to let your anger and pain make you bitter or hopeless. Use healthy ways to release anger like hitting a pillow or screaming out your frustration when you are alone. Or use the anger as psychological energy to overcome your situation.
- Pray to be relieved of the pain, shame and guilt. Pray for positive strength, determination and willpower to cope with what has happened and to make a better future. Allow God to help you through this.
- Many victims are helped by finding other people who have gone through the same thing. They form a support group to help each other find the strength and courage to go on.
- Rebuild your life and help others to do the same.
- Tell yourself the truth: that you are loved by God no matter what has happened.
Many people around the world are trying to stop the crimes of rape and trafficking, and praying for you and others who have suffered. They, like us, see you as a courageous survivor and totally without blame. We write this with loving prayers for your recovery,

Taken from Anglican Women's Empowerment "An open letter to people who have been raped or trafficked", as published in the booklet "Human Trafficking: Freeing Women, Children and Men"



What can you do?

- Name trafficking for the evil it truly is – lasciviousness, exploitation, and greed.
- Break the culture of silence around trafficking
- Obtain the support and backing of your Bishop and Diocese in denouncing this evil
- Become aware of the particular nature trafficking shows itself in your community
- Work closely with other faith groups, NGOs, civil society, and governmental organizations, sharing resources and information
- Set up projects to combat trafficking, assist victims, and counsel survivors
- Give money and support to the organizations
- Empower women and girls to understand trafficking so they are not taken in
- Teach society that men and women are equal and gender does not make a lesser person

Ending Trafficking by Empowering Women

- Trafficking is a gender based crime.
Trafficking is pervasive because of gender inequities in society, such as:
 - Girl's lack of education
 - Women's lack of inheritance rights
 - Women's and girls' lack of control over their own bodies and reproductive rights
 - Girls' perceived "burden" on their family
 - Women's inability to own property in their own name
 - Forced marriage, unpunished rape, and domestic violence



Working to Empower Women

- Recognize these gender inequities, understand their past histories, acknowledge their current forms and work within communities to change them.
- Change comes when women are given power, either political power, economic power or social power.