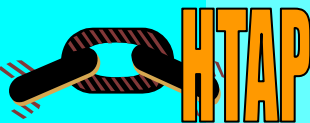




Your Role in Combating Human Trafficking

Presented by Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva
Karen Pati and Nola Theiss
District 11 Conference
September 29, 2006
Hilton Head, SC



Human
Trafficking
Awareness
Partnerships, Inc.

Awareness and Action are the keys to ending slavery.



What is “Human Trafficking”?

- **Modern-day SLAVERY**

Slavery is not a metaphor, it is a reality.

- Two basic situations:

1. **Forced Commercial Sex**

2. **Forced Labor**

- It is a **HIDDEN CRIME**. Victims may be:

- Here illegally or legally
- “Missing” or kidnapped American kids or homeless Americans

- Victims are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, **then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions**

- It is **NOT** an illegal immigration issue. It can happen to those who enter a country legally, illegally or who are citizens of the country

Why Should I Care?

- **“ALL THREE KINDS OF SLAVERY HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED HERE.”** *Doug Malloy*, US Prosecuting Attorney

1. Indentured servitude (in agriculture)
2. Sexual slavery
3. Domestic servitude

- **“IT IS A DEVASTATING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION.”**

Sister Mary Ellen Dougherty, Director of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING program

- **80% of the victims are women and children**

It could happen to someone you know.



How Big a Problem Is It?

- An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders yearly, not including millions who are traded within their own country.
- About 80 percent of these victims are females, and 50 percent are children.
- Human Trafficking generates approximately \$9.5 billion internationally annually, making it one of the top 3 international crimes, along with trafficking of drugs and guns.
- What has been accomplished so far?
 - About 700 trafficking victims have received temporary visas in the United States since 2000.
 - There were more than 3,000 convictions worldwide related to trafficking from April 2004 to March 2005.
 - New anti-trafficking legislation was enacted in 39 countries in the previous year and 24 states.

Statistics taken from State Dept.'s Trafficking in Persons Report 6/06
(All numbers are estimates due to the hidden nature of the crime.)





What's the Difference Between Smuggling and Trafficking?



■ **Smuggling is voluntary**, where one agrees to be transported across a border illegally.



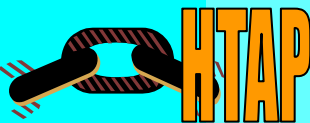
- Smuggling can turn into trafficking
 - Traffickers impose large debts for border transportation
 - A smuggled individual unable to repay the debt is sold and forced to 'work off the debt'



■ **Trafficking is involuntary**: The victim is either forced or tricked into slavery. The trafficker holds the victims' documents, threatens them and/or their family, and may physically harm them.



- The debt is 'never' paid off. Charges for housing, food, clothing, and/or interest, are always more than they will earn.



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Who Is the Typical Victim?

- Vulnerable
- Poor
- Unemployed or Underemployed
- Little or no formal education
- May believe in witchcraft, voodoo, hexes
- Desperate to escape conditions from their 'home country' or their home
- Believe in debt repayment
- Distrust authority: government, police, healthcare facilities
- Often young, easily misled
- **MINDSET: Don't self-report out of fear or misplaced loyalty**
- To cope/survive, they may develop loyalties toward their trafficker
 - **They may believe that their traffickers are their protectors.**
- Fear for their safety and that of their families at home
- **Current situation may be tolerated because of their hope for the future**



What Happens to the Children?



CHILD PROSTITUTION & PORNOGRAPHY

- Over 1 million children are forced into the sex trade each year
- Any child under 18 persuaded to perform a commercial sex act is defined as a victim of trafficking

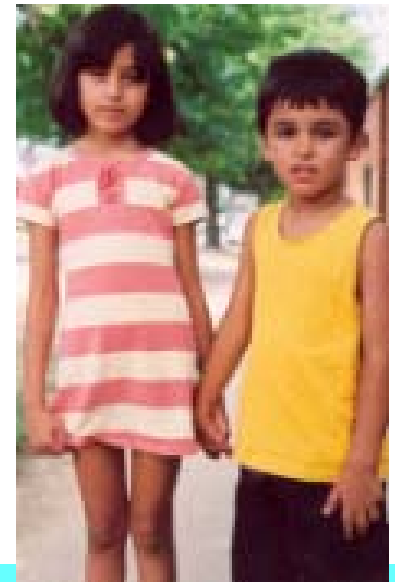


MAY BE SOLD THROUGH UNSCRUPULOUS ADOPTION SCHEMES



THE PRICE OF A CHILD*

- \$114 Asia
- \$250 South America
- \$3,500 W. Europe
- \$5,000 US



* Source: Tiny Stars

Where are the Victims?

- In agricultural fields
- In homes as Nannies, maids, landscapers
- At restaurants, hotels, resorts, restaurants
- In sweatshops & factories
- At construction sites
- At nail spas, massage parlors, beauty shops

Forced into crime:

- On the street prostitution or in brothels, especially near military bases or migrant worker housing
- In pornographic films, photos, on the internet



How Are Trafficked Victims Treated?

■ Physically and mentally abused

- Raped, beaten, tortured
- Starved
- Subjected to death threats
- Isolated
- Threatened with harm to their family
- Shamed by what they are forced to do so they lose the will to seek help

TRAFFICKED PERSONS ARE RARELY LEFT ALONE

■ An accompanying person may be posing as a

- Spouse, parent or other family member
- Employer

■ **Red Flag if a victim does not speak for him or herself**



Why Don't They Escape?

- May not know what city or state they are in
- They've become reliant on their captors
- Moved frequently to escape detection, avoid relationships
- Or, never moved, never let out of confinement
- Confined to small spaces to work, eat, and sleep
- They are too frightened and don't think anyone would help them if they did escape
- They are ashamed of what they've been forced to do



How Do Traffickers Control Victims?

- Seize trafficked persons' travel documents
- Keep trafficked persons' incomes
- Prevent trafficked persons from earning enough to pay off debts
- Physically and mentally abuse and manipulate them through threats and fear
- Inhibit contact with outside world
- **May allow regular phone calls, minor fund transfers home**
 - To reduce suspicion
 - To keep the home village open for recruiting



How Can I Recognize a Victim?

LISTEN INTENTLY & LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING CLUES

- Evidence of being controlled: physical or psychological
- Evidence of inability to move or leave job
- Poor working conditions
- Overly dependent or fearful of boss, spouse or others around him
- Fear or depression
- Non-English speaking or not allowed to speak to customers
- Recently entered U.S. from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada, Africa or India
- Observe nonverbal behavior: posture, facial expressions and tone of voice
- The victim does not possess or control their identification documentation
- **Red Flag if a victim does not speak for him or herself**



What's Being Done?

- Federal law
- State laws
- Human Trafficking Task Forces
- Government and Non-Profit Organizations
- Action Projects:
 - Service Clubs
 - Faith-based Projects
 - Community-based organizations



The Trafficking & Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

- Designed to Prevent, Protect & Prosecute severe forms of trafficking
- **Article A:** Protects against sexual exploitation for commercial purposes
 - It covers people:
 - Forced, Tricked, Coerced or
 - Any Victim under 18 (even if not forced, coerced, etc.)

Article B: Protects against Forced labor:

- Involuntary servitude
- Peonage/Debt bondage
- Slavery
- **FORCED LABOR IS:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- Falls under Homeland Security, with responsibility in the FBI, ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) and the US Dept. of Justice (DOJ)



The TVPA 2006 Revision

- Targets purchasers of sex acts from trafficking victims
- Specifies the existence of domestic trafficking victims
- Provides additional funds to aid trafficking victims
- Provides for the establishment of residential care centers for underage children
- Provides for a statistical study every 2 years
- Creates a yearly conference on best practices





State Legislation

As of August, 2006, 24 states have enacted anti-human trafficking legislation. Some include victim protection and assistance and criminalization of forced labor, sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking. Some are stronger than others. They are:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Washington – 24 states*

Most of these laws were enacted as a result of advocacy by human service providers, law enforcement, and **COMMUNITY, FAITH-BASED AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS** like yours.

*Source: Polaris Project



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What Happens to the Traffickers?

■ LIFE SENTENCE FOR:

- Sex Trafficking
- Kidnapping
- Sexual abuse
- Death

■ UP TO 20 YEARS FOR:

- Forced Labor
- Trafficking into servitude
- Involuntary servitude
- Peonage

■ UP TO 5 YEARS FOR:

- Conspiracy against rights

■ STATE OF FLORIDA, 14 YEAR MAX

- Thus, the need for federal prosecution
- The FBI needs to be notified of all cases



What About the Rescued Victims?

- May be eligible for numerous benefits, regardless of immigration status
- Victims from abroad are asked to stay in the country to aid in prosecution
 - **T-Visa** allows trafficked persons residence in the US
 - For 3 years, but can become permanent
 - “There is no case without a victim”
- Children are issued a letter of eligibility entitling them to all the benefits available to refugee children
- Most receive food stamps, medical and legal benefits and work permits
 - Financial, health, counseling services
- Some choose to remain in the US, some choose to return home



Who Can I Call?

1. Call 911 if the victim is at risk of imminent harm or is a juvenile

- Inform law enforcement of The Trafficking Victims Protection Act
 - To assure the victim is not treated as a criminal & involve FBI

2. Call Law Enforcement to investigate suspicions and follow-up on 911 calls

A. FBI Local Agent Jim Roncinske 239-337-7171

- FBI 24 hour emergency line 813-273-4566 is open 24/7

B. Lee County Sheriff, Anti-Trafficking Specialist Detective Shawn Ramsey 239-477-1050

- Or Collier County Sheriff Anti-Trafficking Unit 239-793-9326

C. US Prosecuting Attorney Doug Malloy 239-461-2200

- Cell 239-872-3261

3. To assure victim rights or for further information

A. Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc. 239-395-2635

B. Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking 239-390-3350

C. Department of Justice Human Trafficking Hotline 888-428-7581

- Can determine if you encountered a trafficking victim
- Gives instant referral to local organizations/resources to help victims

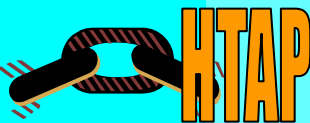




How Can I Help?

Spread the word: slavery is here, now,
but not to stay if we all do our part:

- Know how to identify a victim/criminal
- Know who to call
- Encourage police & government officials to work on this issue in your community
- Use your skills and those of your organization to help by
 - Advocating for stronger laws, better training and enforcement
 - Assisting organizations dedicated to fighting slavery
 - Telling as many individuals about the crime as possible
 - Organizing awareness campaigns through your church, neighborhood, service club, social groups
 - Making a financial contribution to a group combating human trafficking.



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