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Sex trafficking Florida's response to the international organized crime

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**SEX TRAFFICKING:
FLORIDA'S RESPONSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

by

CANDICE TORRES

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Honors in the Major Program in Political Science
in the College of Sciences
and in The Burnett Honors College
at the University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida

Spring Term 2011

Thesis Chair: Dr. Houman Sadri

ABSTRACT

Florida has the second-highest incidence of human trafficking in the country. Sex trafficking of women into and out of the state of Florida is defined by various terms from international, national and local terms. The United Nations defines sex trafficking in Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as: "Trafficking in persons: shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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". This study explores the experiences of women who have been trafficked as well as the recruitment strategies by which women are trafficked and to what extent their life changes. This study aims to understand the extent to which local nonprofits in the state of Florida have tackled the issue as well as the international, federal and state government laws are enforced. The findings will provide useful guidelines to help nonprofits in the state of Florida work together to combat the issue as well as be used as an informative research proposal for the community to push stronger legislation and raise more awareness.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated for the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking and Catholic Charities of Orlando, for your enthusiasm and work in combating human trafficking.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express gratitude to my committee members, who have been gracious with their experience and guidance in enabling me to complete this project. Special thanks to my thesis chair Dr. Sadri for his guidance. Thank you Dr. Aubrey Jewett for your support. Thank you Dr. Mary Eastep, for sharing your invaluable insights. I would also like to thank Denise Crisafi and Kelly Astro for their encouragement, advice, and support throughout the process. A special thank you to the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program for being my biggest support group in my research efforts.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery. Contrary to common misconceptions, the crime of human slavery exists today. Sex trafficking is an underground phenomenon that occurs in every country in the world as a source, transit or destination for trafficking victims. At least 800,000 to four million persons annually, primarily women and children, are trafficked within or across international borders (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2009). It is estimated to be an industry generating nine billion dollars in profit making it the second most profitable international crime to drug trafficking. Human slavery is so prevalent in today's era that this figure is estimated to be higher due to unreported crimes. There are more people being bought and sold at this moment, than in the entire three hundred year history of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Presently every thirty minutes, a person is trafficked into the United States. Eighty percent of those trafficked are women and children and seventy percent are trafficked into commercial sex as slaves. This does not include individuals that are trafficked within their own national borders.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the end of the Cold War, international borders are easier to cross than any other time in history. This had led to increased mobility of the world's most impoverished people. While nations have experienced financial growth, international poverty has increased since 1989, leaving many around the globe desperate to seek new means of survival for their families. With more fluid borders and increased international poverty, human trafficking is easier in our global society. Until recently, most studies on human trafficking have been done by human rights campaigners and journalists because they

expose and denounce human rights violations; however they lack deep research on the extent of human trafficking.

Major forms of human trafficking include: forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude and forced child labor. Human trafficking encompasses sexual and labor trafficking. Therefore sex trafficking is a subset of human trafficking. These terms are used interchangeably but the difference is noted here. This research will focus on the sex trafficking of adult females. Although males and children hold a significant number in human trafficking, it will not be included in this research. Sex trafficking may comprise a smaller portion of overall human trafficking but it also falls under labor trafficking and will be distinguished as an “adult who is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution, or maintained in prostitution through coercion” (U.S. State Department, 2010). Anyone involved in the recruitment, transportation, harboring, receiving or obtaining a person for those purposes, has committed a human trafficking crime. This research will address sex trafficking that occurs within debt bondage. This occurs when women are forced to continue prostitution through the use of unlawful “debt” incurred through their transportation, which is when exploiters insist they must pay off their “debt” before they can be set free. The difference between a woman entering prostitution knowingly, is that a victim has been forced physically or through psychological manipulation, and therefore is considered a trafficking victim under the Palermo Protocol.

Purpose

Sex trafficking is significant because it represents a modern day form of human slavery which deprives people of their human rights and freedoms. It is also a global health risk because

of the international diseases it accelerates, by women illegally entering the U.S. from other countries. It also strengthens international organized crime by enabling visa fraud as it undermines the safety and security of all nations because it fuels passport theft and illegal immigration. Sex trafficking also impacts the individual by causing emotional and physical abuse by rape, threats against the individual and family, passport theft, and death.

For the purposes of this paper, the problem of sex trafficking is defined by international, domestic and state terms since the enactment of the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000*. The discrepancies of accuracy in data are explored, as well as the methods of research undertaken. This paper addresses the recruitment processes and strategies used to carry out this crime, how trafficking occurs within the United States (in Florida specifically), what occurs during sex trafficking, what the demand is for sex trafficking, the harboring of victims, the rescue process and the prosecution of criminals. This research provides the qualitative data available and field work on how many victims have been documented and how many traffickers have been convicted. This research also describes the interactions between the migratory laws nationally and internationally, the impact nonprofit organizations and NGOs have on targeting criminals; the preventative measures that are being implemented (such as education for women); training for law enforcement; awareness practices; and the rehabilitation efforts by nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations. This paper concludes with proposed awareness methods that would help curb the problem of trafficking within Florida. Although human trafficking involves children, males, labor and drug trafficking, I will focus on the sex trafficking of adult females.

This research is broken down into five chapters. The first chapter includes the proposal, a research design and a comprehensive annotated bibliography. The second chapter includes a comprehensive definition of the problem of sex trafficking by various social service providers. It highlights the importance of defining the proper terms used in this study, as well as addresses the extent of sex trafficking in Florida, the available statistics, and their plausible discrepancies. The third chapter analyzes the recruitment tactics and factors related to human trafficking such as poverty, education, visa fraud, the internet and the involvement of the Immigration Customs Enforcement. The fourth chapter includes common misconceptions within law enforcement and the current training programs being undertaken to combat this problem, including the procedures for rescuing victims. This chapter will also address the governmental regulations by local law enforcement, nonprofits the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations. This chapter also includes case studies of rescue and rehabilitation. The fifth chapter will put forth several alternatives for awareness initiatives that can be implemented by nonprofits in Florida and global awareness strategies.

Research Design

Sex trafficking will be defined by all terms associated with human trafficking, an explanation of the problem, the drawbacks with finding accurate information and the methods by which information will be researched according to the United Nations, the U.S. State Department and the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. I will provide a substantive definition of the normative terms. Field methodologies used were interviews and criminal reports.

Literature Review/ Annotated Bibliography

The Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 is the United States' report on human trafficking.

The report provides annual policy priorities and methodologies of modern day slavery every June. Also included are global law enforcement data, victims' stories and the placement of countries on tiers based on their improvement in preventing trafficking crimes within their countries. The U.S. assesses each country based on their compliance with the minimum standards set forth in the Trafficking of Victims' Protection Act. The 2010 Trafficking in Persons' Report is a diagnostic tool reflective of current efforts at combating sex trafficking. This year's report reflects improvements for 23 countries and downgrades for 19 countries, a strong indication of scarce victim protection programs and inadequate legal structures. For the first time, this year's TIP Report includes a U.S. ranking as well as a full narrative on U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking. The ranking reflects the contributions of government agencies, public input, and independent research by the Department of State. This report is significant because it provides an overview of the problem within U.S. borders (U.S. State Department, 2010).

The First Aid Kit for use by Law Enforcement First Responders in addressing Human Trafficking is a global initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking the (UN.GIFT). This document explains the differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling as well as the initial actions that need to take place when encountering trafficking victims. It provides examples of possible settings such as local contact points, how to identify human trafficking patterns and clues, and what not to do in regards to addressing human trafficking victims. This initiative was put in

place to define international legal instruments of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants so that law enforcement can address the issue properly (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2009).

The Trafficking of Victims Protection Act of 2000 was enacted to combat trafficking in persons, (particularly the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude), and to reauthorize certain federal programs that promote the prevention of violence against women. It was enacted by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives the U.S. Congress. The purposes of this Act are to combat trafficking in persons, which is defined within the Act as “a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children”), to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect trafficking victims. Congress has found that as the 21st century begins, the degrading institution of slavery continues throughout the world, just as it did in the 17th century (State Government, 2000).

The Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking Rescue & Restore Coalition is the development of Coalition partners such as the local government, civic groups, labor and immigration organizations, community health providers, faith-based organizations and social service organizations. The Coalition partners provide campaign information and resources to intermediaries who may come in contact with victims of trafficking to inform them of the services available. The Rescue & Restore Coalition’s partners also have access to effective communications and outreach strategies for identifying and interacting with victims of human trafficking. One of the goals of this organization is to meet every other month with individuals in order to build a safety network of partnerships that will work together to identify, rescue and restore victims in Central Florida. The objective is to continue to have a diverse representation

from law enforcement, educational entities and community service providers (Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, 2010)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), is designated as the agency responsible for helping victims of human trafficking become eligible to receive benefits and services so they may rebuild their lives safely in the U.S. As part of this effort, HHS has initiated the Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign to help identify and assist victims of human trafficking in the United States. The intent of the Rescue & Restore campaign is to increase the identification of trafficking victims and to help those victims receive the benefits and services they need in order to live safely in the U.S. The first phase of the campaign focuses on outreach to those individuals who most likely encounter victims on a daily basis, but may not recognize them as victims of human trafficking, i.e. such as salon owners or massage parlor employees. By educating health care providers, social service organizations and the law enforcement community about the issue of human trafficking, the agency hopes to encourage these intermediaries to look beneath the surface and recognize clues because they may be the only outsiders with the chance to reach out and help victims. A critical component of the Rescue & Restore campaign is the creation of the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center*, which connects victims of trafficking to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who can help them in their local area. This campaign is crucial to my research because it is the basis for the rescue and rehabilitation aspect of victims as well as the educational efforts needed for awareness (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010).

The Covenant House Florida runs the national toll free hotline for reports of human trafficking. It is sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the Department of Justice. President Bush announced major public awareness efforts to combat human trafficking and help its victims with this toll-free hotline. The toll-free number (888-373-7888) allows victims of trafficking to be instantly referred to a pre-screened aid organization in the victim's area. The number became active in 2003. A website (www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking) that serves as a clearinghouse on helping victims of human trafficking was also launched, in addition to a public service television announcement, shared by HHS and the United Nations, to educate the public, on a national level, on the issue of human trafficking (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010)

Public Affairs Today Interview with Mark Lanier, Ph.D on Human Trafficking Sept. 22, 2009. Dr. Mark Lanier, former professor at the University of Central Florida, discussed the issue in America and the new project being conducted by graduate students. This piece is helpful because it is a recent document of the issue here in the country. It illustrates the substantial need for more awareness and research in the area of human trafficking (Lenier, 2009).

Kristi House

During the Super Bowl Trudy Novicki, director of Kristi House reported that on February 5, 2010, the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking helped rescue six girls off the streets of Orlando and another five were rescued from trafficking recruiters. The victims then provided police with information on nine traffickers. Novicki stated that a number of Miami's juvenile prostitutes have been smuggled in from South America and are now runaways in the U.S. This

article displays the ignorance that exists regarding human trafficking in the state of Florida (FCAHT, 2010).

The Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights Human Trafficking Project Team put together a report that was divided into nine chapters, each one detailing important and significant aspects of human trafficking in Florida. The first chapter introduces the topic, and the conclusion covers a series of recommendations for future work. The report describes human trafficking, both in the United States and globally. It summarizes several Florida trafficking cases and describes both the victims and the traffickers. The report also gives more detail on the TVPA and how it can provide relief and support to victims of trafficking so that they are eligible for immigration relief. It also discusses how victims of trafficking face a number of needs, everything from secure shelter to health care and legal services. The report then offers law enforcement guidelines concerning the important role police play as “first response” to crime scenes. The report explores ways in which communities can form multi-disciplinary responses to trafficking, including standard features to effective coordinated community responses, such as requiring the State to continue to support the work of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University (Florida State University Report, 2010).

The Clearwater Florida Police Department was awarded a Department of Justice grant to fund the creation of the Clearwater Area Task Force on Human Trafficking (CATFHT) in October 2006. The mission of the task force is to identify and rescue victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and to deliver social, legal and immigration services to human trafficking victims in the Clearwater and

Tampa Bay area. The Task Force will serve as a mechanism for communication and strategic collaboration between law enforcement agencies and service providers; coordinate community resources; promote community awareness of the human trafficking; and train intermediary communities on human trafficking indicators and responses (Clearwater Area Task Force on Human Trafficking, 2006).

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Child Sex Slavery in Broward and Dade Counties, Florida document reports the findings of trafficking in certain areas in Florida. The estimates of child sex trafficking that have been identified were attributed to the lack of training and awareness of the first responders. The assessment provides Florida statutes and the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. This document also reviews the media coverage of the arrests that were made in the Miami-Dade County and Broward County areas. Although my focus is not domestic minor sex trafficking, this raises the point of the lack of training by Florida law enforcement and the impact the media has on sex trafficking. This source is very useful for my research because it provides data of law enforcement agencies that lack knowledge of domestic minor sex trafficking in Broward County, Florida. Officers often report rescued children as juvenile delinquents and not victims.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) was conceived to fill the need for a cooperative effort to combat criminal activities that were organized, well-financed, and operated freely across jurisdictional lines of the existing law enforcement agencies. The MBI was created in December of 1978 as a specialized group of investigators assigned to concentrate on mid-level narcotics trafficking, organized crime, racketeering, and vice-related offenses such as prostitution, gambling, and illegal adult entertainment activity. During an interview with Master

Sergeant Samuel "Buddy" Riggi, Jr. from the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation Vice/Organized Crime Section Supervisor, he explained the difficulty in statistics on human trafficking arising from the fact that service providers receive government funding and therefore need to prove their necessity. Statistics will always vary according to the service agency, and they will also depend on whether a victim is considered to be within a specific county. Riggi also described the visa process and how it is a huge aspect in human trafficking. Riggi stated that increasing billboards on major highways would raise awareness addressing human trafficking (Riggi, 2010).

Stop Child Trafficking Now is a non-profit organization that targets the sources of child trafficking, i.e. predators who supply the sex industry in the community. Community marches and rallies are being held to raise awareness in local neighborhoods throughout Florida. This site provides information about local sexual predators and it is a service provider for victims in the area. This site provided contacts to further my investigation, including Amy Towells and Shasaree Hendricks, where I learned of new cases that are being investigated and how citizens can get involved (Stop Child Trafficking Now, 2009).

CHAPTER 2 PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

On July 21, 2010 Tomas J. Lares, Co-Founder of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Rescue & Restore Campaign serving East Central Florida, spoke ardently on the issue of sex trafficking in Florida. He emphasized the significant impact that nonprofit organizations can have as a joint task force with the support of passionate volunteers in the community such as religious groups, university leaders, local law enforcement agencies and social service providers. Due to the sensitivity of this subject, human trafficking does not garner the widespread awareness that it deserves. Society commonly overlooks human trafficking and considers it an “international issue” affecting “developing nations” and not the United States. However, after popular modern films such as *Taken* (2008) and *Trade* (2007) have shed light on this issue, discussion has increased in the media via documentaries and news stories, and many grassroots community organizations are making efforts to raise awareness.

Definition of Human Trafficking

Sex trafficking can be defined by various terms and the data available may not be completely accurate because it is often skewed depending on the social service provider, law enforcement agency or government entity in charge of documentation. It is also very difficult to discover with full accuracy all of the victims in Florida because cases are dependent on the number of convictions. Convictions are made possible by victims who come forward and testify, which is rare due to the fear and lack of education that trafficking victims possess.

Commercial sex is defined by the TVPA, to include “any sex act, on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. Many victims of trafficking are

exploited for the purpose of commercial sex, including prostitution, stripping, pornography and live-sex shows. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to compel women to engage in these activities. Force involves the use of rape, beatings and confinement to control victims” (TVPA, 2000).

Forced servitude is a common factor in all cases of human trafficking. Victims customarily service twenty plus customers a day. All victims spend time alone. They are only together when one has “disobeyed” and there will be a meeting with the staff master who will then kill or injure the victims to display their “disobedience” as an example.

Fraud often involves false offers that induce people into trafficking situations. An example of this would be when women reply to advertisements promising jobs as waitresses, maids and dancers in other countries, and are subsequently trafficked for purposes of prostitution once they arrive at their destinations.

Coercion involves “threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; and scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process”(TVPA, 2000).

Victims of trafficking are often subjected to “debt-bondage”, usually in the context of paying off transportation fees into the destination countries. Once victims have been taken to a new destination, traffickers often threaten victims with injury or death, or the safety of the victims’ family back home. Traffickers commonly take away the victims’ travel documents and isolate them in order to make escape difficult, if not impossible.

“Human smuggling” according to the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, is defined as the “importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigrant laws”. This offense includes bringing illegal aliens into the United States, as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of aliens who are already within the United States (FCAHT, 2010).

It is important to understand the difference between smuggling and trafficking. Smuggling requires illegal crossing of international borders. Smugglers will make their profit once the immigrants reach the United States. Smuggling is part of the trafficking scheme because it ends once immigrants have crossed the border. Trafficking on the other hand involves a forced labor or service by a human. It is a modern form of slavery because traffickers often use a smuggling debt to exploit and control their victims. Human trafficking does not require the movement that smuggling requires because many trafficking victims are U.S. citizens.

Human trafficking terms have been used interchangeably by media and law enforcement which is why it is important to define the various terms properly to avoid confusion and misleading interpretations. Negotiations leading up to the United Nations 2000 Protocol on Trafficking revealed the differences between two distinct viewpoints as the definition of “trafficking in persons” was debated. The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) argued that “trafficking” should include all forms of recruitment and transportation for prostitution, regardless of consent, while the Human Rights Caucus (HRC) supported the view that prostitution is employment and that force was the important factor in defining trafficking.

This article displays an example of the conflicting terminology and how this raises debate in court and the media.

There are several differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Human trafficking victims typically do not consent to their situations. However, if they do initially consent, that consent is meaningless by the actions of the traffickers. The ongoing exploitation of victims generates illicit profits for the traffickers. Sex trafficking according to the UN does not need to entail physical movement of a person, but it must involve the exploitation of the person for commercial sex. Migrant smuggling includes those who consent to being smuggled, which is transnational and affects the nation's borders.

According to the Trafficking in Person's Report of 2010, trafficking in persons is not considered the kidnapping or unlawful buying or selling of children for the purposes of illegal adoption. Trafficking in Persons is also not considered the trade in human organs, prostitution or child pornography. Regardless of the legal status of these actions, they do not fall under human trafficking.

Scope of Human Trafficking

With the poverty rate increasing in the United States, there are nearly forty million Americans living in poverty. Using humans instead of drugs is a more profitable business because humans are reusable, and easy to exploit, whereas drugs and artillery are not. Health problems common in victims of human trafficking are sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, resulting from rape or prostitution, bruises, scars, substance abuse addictions, malnourishment and serious dental problems, infectious diseases like tuberculosis, undetected diseases such as diabetes or cancer, and psychological trauma including depression, stress-

related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks due to the several dangerous conditions they are forced into (Bales, 2009).

Victims of trafficking can be found in: commercial sex, domestic situations such as nannies or servants, sweatshop factories, construction, farming or landscaping, fisheries, hotel or tourist industries, panhandling, janitorial services, and restaurant services. The immediate services victims need are housing, health care, immigration assistance, food, income, employment, legal assistance and psychological care.

A question that is not commonly asked is how people can become slaveholders. Most of the presentations and studies research the factors related to how someone is trafficked, why they are trafficked, what happens to them and, the efforts of how to help them and future conviction processes of traffickers. However, the root of the problem may be to look into how human beings enslave and traffic other humans. How it is possible for them mentally to have no moral attitude towards this and how they must justify it. Psychological agencies looking into this just like with any other mental disease may be a response. Slaveholders are both men and women from all economic backgrounds. Some are gangsters and some are even housewives. Slaveholders according to Kevin Bales rationalize that they are at least helping bring people to the United States from poor countries. They are at least better off in this regard. For the mind of a slaveholder, power is a key variable. The ability to have absolute power over another human being is addictive and a person may enjoy it. Pimps and slave holders have their own cases of anger and frustration and may redirect these into abuses and control. Victims are treated as un-human and innocent actions can be treated as mistakes such as falling asleep, and the slave master may “redefine his own actions to correct the slave” (Bales, 2009).

Data Discrepancies Found

The illicit and secretive nature of human trafficking makes gathering reliable statistics difficult. However, for the purposes of this research statistics will be used that are generally accepted by international standards such as the United Nations, U.S. State Department and U.S. NGO's. Eighty percent of all victims are women. 9.5 billion dollars in profits have been made off the bodies of young girls and women in sex trafficking. 200,000 to 350,000 American girls and boys are at risk of being exploited for sexual purposes, and 20,000 non-American individuals are trafficked into the United States each year (U.S. State Department, 2010).

Research on sex trafficking is difficult because statistics depend on the social service provider and the location. More specifically, it relies on the actual victim being discovered, which mainly needs to be done with them coming forward and identifying themselves as victims. They also need to identify their perpetrators, which does not generally happen because victims are fearful or unaware of how to escape due to language barriers and unawareness of their location.

One of the constraints encountered in conducting this research was the accuracy of currently available statistical data. The data that is available does not account for the countless number of victims who do not come forward due to fear of death, deportation, threats to their families, or continued abuse. Another problem in addressing human trafficking issue are the discrepancies arising in the statistics reported by different countries, NGO's, local law enforcement agencies and nonprofit organizations. Because not all victims are reported, the data are skewed according to the source depending on where a victim was reported, convicted, the definition of trafficking according to the location and the need for nonprofits to validate their

funding from the government. According to Simone Monasebian, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Representative and Chief of the NY office, only one out of every one hundred victims is actually rescued. The number of cases does not correspond to the number of investigations that are conducted. Victims are sometimes reported twice because of this issue. There is more accurate income value on drug and artillery trafficking than there is on human trafficking.

Sex Trafficking in Florida

Many people tend to believe that human trafficking only occurs outside of the United States, but recent studies have supported the notion that this international crime takes place in the U.S., including within the state of Florida. According to “FloridaNow”, a multi-issue political organization working on bringing systematic change to institutional structures affecting women rather than offering temporary aid, Florida is listed along with New York and California as one of the top three destinations for trafficking victims in the United States. Victims of sex trafficking typically wind up in large cities, vacation and tourist spots, and near military bases, where the demand for sex trafficking is high. Labor trafficking victims are typically utilized in areas where there is a demand for unskilled labor, which is present in sectors such as seasonal agriculture, garment manufacturing, construction and domestic servitude.

Florida’s economic climate and large dependence on agriculture and tourism, renders it an ideal destination for human trafficking victims. Florida’s accessibility makes it a major hub for sex trafficking. Trafficking is made accessible via major international airports located in popular cities such as Miami and Orlando. Florida is not land locked due to its peninsular geographic shape, and victims can be easily smuggled from other states. The ports and access to

the sea make international trafficking easy. Florida also has a reputation for being a vacation state, and thus many brothels go unnoticed because of the abundance of mobile homes.

A number of recent Florida sex trafficking schemes have relied on decidedly “low-tech” means of advertising in order to evade law enforcement detection. The *Melchor* and *Monsalve* sex trafficking rings in north and central Florida depended on the distribution to local Hispanic males of small “business cards” which contained only the trafficker’s cell phone number and a silhouette of a taxi or a nude woman. The same two cases also confirmed that Florida sex trafficking has very much become a multinational venture: while the perpetrators use mobile brothels to avoid getting caught it helps, sex trafficking victims being brought in from out-of-state to Florida cities for large scale events such as the Superbowl in the state of Florida where there is an influx of people from other regions seeking new girls to traffic (Florida State University Report, 2010).

Additional factors that create a high demand for victims of human trafficking in the state are Florida’s eight military bases and South Florida's geographical location, which makes it a strategic entry point for traffickers bringing victims from Latin America and the Caribbean into the United States. Predators seek countries where the rule of law is most vulnerable. They look into Caribbean islands such as Haiti for example after the earthquake, there has been a rise in trafficking victims. Traffickers also change their patterns due to demand and they use different strategies of trafficking women to specific countries where transit is not as easily detected. In fact, Miami International Airport is ranked as one of the top entry points in the United States for foreign human trafficking victims. Finally, the rich demographic composition of Florida, ranking third for the number of immigrants living within its borders, provides a steady supply of

vulnerable victims for traffickers to prey on. Florida offers a high demand for traffickers to profit from prostitution, indentured servants, and migrant farm workers.¹ Victims enter the state not as sex workers, but they become sex workers in the industrial sectors. Florida's large service industry and agriculture make the state attractive to traffickers. With increased economic competition, there are higher demands for cheap labor for higher profits, and Florida is largely dependent on agricultural production. Imookalee, Florida for example is a migrant town. There are many similar communities in Florida (FloridaNow, 2010).

There are a number of reasons why victims do not escape. The victim is afraid of being beaten or killed if they attempt to flee and fail. The slaveholder has also effectively instilled a fear of the outside world. The slaveholder may show television shows or films depicting violence in America, where the victim is taught to fear the police and court system. They are taught that the police are corrupt and immigration authorities will deport them and they will be worse off than how they started. Primarily the victim is filled with terror of anything happening to their family which the slaveholder threatens that they will have the victims' family killed.

Many victims also do not speak English or their geographic isolation leaves them immobile. Education and poverty plays a huge role in this regard. Victims are completely unaware of the resources available and are unable to communicate in a foreign language. According to Kevin Bales, author of the *Slave Next Door*, the slaveholder has taken complete control of food and rest for their victim. The slaveholder provides enough to allow the victim to work the long hours in a day, but makes sure to keep the victim sleep deprived to be confused and too weak to fight back or escape. On three hours of sleep per night a slave is kept submissive for years while still working fifteen to twenty hours a day for months and even

years. Freed slaves explain that with all of the fear, exhaustion and injuries they experience, it leads them to a depression where they can only cope by mentally and emotionally shutting down, where with time they stop feeling anything and go blank. When rescued they have difficulty remembering aspects of their abuse.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation combats organized criminal activities in Orange and Seminole Counties. Its target areas are strip clubs, escort services, advertisements on Craigslist.com, massage parlors and brothels. The utilization of mobile brothels in Florida makes it easy to circuit victims frequently and move them quickly to another location if they hear that police enforcement is suspicious. They are often being brought in from out-of-state to a variety of Florida cities for short periods of time or large scale events where many out- of- towners will be present, for example during events such as the Super Bowls.

According to Samuel Riggi from the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation five brothels were discovered in Central Florida, but it is assumed that there could possibly be twenty in the region (specifically in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties). During the interview, Riggi explained that most Latin American women are trafficked into brothels. Eastern Europeans and Brazilians are generally recruited to work in strip clubs, and Russians, Colombians, Asians and Dominicans have been found in massage parlors. Riggi also explained that the level of education plays a huge factor in where women will end up if trafficked. The poorer and illiterate tend to work in the brothels, whereas those that speak English tend to enter the escort services (Riggi, 2010).

Since a trafficking case cannot be prosecuted unless a victim comes forward and testifies, there has only been one human trafficking case prosecuted at the federal level in the state of

Florida in which a trafficker was convicted. According to Sergeant Riggi there are currently only four ongoing cases of international sex trafficking in Florida. Victims do not come forward for the following reasons: fear of law enforcement, language barriers, and low self-esteem. There are instances when victims also escape law enforcement or safe houses and return to the offenders due to their fears. Stockholm syndrome may be a factor as to why sex trafficking victims return to their offenders. Hostages who develop Stockholm syndrome often view the perpetrator as giving life by simply not taking it. In this sense, the captor becomes the person in control of the victim's life itself. The hostage endures isolation from other people and thus has only the captor's manipulation. This in turn leaves the victims in fear of law enforcement. The captive considers that it is safer to obey the perpetrator and endure the hardship of captivity, than it is to resist the captor and face the possibility of murder. In cases where Stockholm syndrome has occurred, the victim is in a situation where the captor has stripped nearly all forms of independence and gained control of the victim's life, as well as their basic needs for survival. In many cases, the perpetrator threatens to harm the victim's relatives, thereby further immobilizing the victim through fear (Riggi, 2010).

Potential indicators of sex trafficking are the presence of any overly controlling or abusive "boyfriend" or "daddy" or any family member, if there is a constant traffic in and out of a hotel room, if there appears to a "look-out" or body-guard, if there are numerous girls in a hotel room with a controlling male or female figure with them, if they unable or fear making eye contact and have a nervous or submissive demeanor, if they display signs of physical abuse or injuries, if they have restricted or scripted communication, if they have an excess amount of cash they carry on them, if they have several hotel room keys, any lying about age or false

identification, carries numerous condoms or lubricants in purse. If someone is suspected of being a victim of trafficking, citizens are urged to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1.888.3737.888. This hotline provides housing, health care, immigration assistance, food, income, employment and legal assistance.

CHAPTER 3 RECRUITMENT TACTICS

Sex traffickers have various recruitment tactics making it difficult for victims to escape and easy for them to remain captive. Women have been found to be significant in recruitment. The status of women in society is one of the leading causes of the victimization of women. Women are easily lured by other women. Female recruiters easily lure other women into the sex trade. Since females are not as easily detected as criminals or predators, they are not suspect to investigation. There is less suspicion and more trust. Women who have previously been trafficked and have never been rescued can only work to achieve the status of “madame” where their position entails the recruitment of poor young girls hoping to make money. A “madame” may return from the United States to her local village in a developing nation and lure young girls and the victim’s families so that if the young girl comes with the “recruiter” to work, the young girl will find wealth (UNODC, 2009). Women at times can be kidnapped or lured by traffickers who take advantage of their aspirations of employment abroad, but are instead sold to pimps, and locked in brothels. Female traffickers may have legitimate jobs undercover and take women to other countries to work as domestics, and some are sold to traffickers later. After the fall of the Soviet Union, it has become easier for traffickers to find desperate girls and cross borders. Females with no education can be easily fooled and persuaded to go abroad. A trafficker lures some girls and leads them to legitimate jobs abroad, but will have other girls trafficked and enslaved. Victor Malarek, author of the New Global Sex Trade says it is difficult for women to escape because they see how other women are beaten when they disobey their pimp and fear being beaten or killed. There should be offices at airports, boat ports, and train stations specifically addressing victims’ who may enter a port. Westerners have business cards asking

for potential girls and traffickers sale the women to North America. Newspaper ads are also often used by recruiters.

Seventy percent of European women have been found to be aware of human trafficking and twenty percent agree to be exotic dancers, and the other ten percent are completely unaware. Once they arrive, they confiscate their passports and are told they will receive their passports later. However, they do not expect to be treated as slaves. It is common for a trafficker to know their victim, making it easy to deceive them (Bienstock, 2006). Traffickers trick women so that they can work their way to freedom. This debt bondage amount is easily inflated by pimps. Pimps then accuse the victims of fines, and women end up working for free. Pimps will then sale the women to other pimps. According to the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking, in most countries trafficked women are treated as illegal immigrants with no access to the justice system. In the U.S. there is aid for foreign victims but not as much for domestic victims. Victims are often not willing to testify because there is no witness protection and pimps and traffickers are rarely pursued. Traffickers and pimps also know that their trafficking victims have children or families and use them as a threat to instill fear. Without victims willing to testify, traffickers and pimps cannot be persecuted. Most often during police raids in Europe, victims are immediately taken to immigration authorities and deported to then be re-victimized in the system and are then found again in the United States.

Trafficking occurs primarily for labor and most commonly in domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, hotel services, construction, health, elder care, hair and nail salons, and erotic dancing. In some human trafficking cases, workers are victims of fraudulent recruitment practices and have incurred large debts for promised employment in the

United States, which makes them susceptible to debt bondage and involuntary servitude. Trafficking cases also involve passport confiscation, nonpayment or limited payment of wages, restriction of movement, isolation from the community, and physical and sexual abuse as means of keeping victims in compelled service. There are cases of domestic workers, and immigrants with A3 and G5 visas being subjected to trafficking-related abuse by diplomats posted to the United States.

A convicted trafficker agreed to explain how the trafficking occurs. The average trafficking ring has three to four middle men. The transporter takes her on a boat to another country. She is transferred and sold to a pimp. Lax visa requirements of certain countries make them easy ports of entry and therefore easy to go through customs. Sometimes women know they are going to work illegally in a country, so they help the trafficker by lying to the customs officials, which makes it easier for them to enter. Once women are sold into slavery they must quickly be put to work to make a profit for their new owners. This is how the entire trafficking ring makes a profit from the expenses they made transporting the victim and selling them along with any other costs they may incur along the way of transport. Despite the events of September 11, 2001, and raising concerns over the United States' border control, the country continues to remain the number one destination country in international migration, legal and illegal.

The people who are often preyed upon by traffickers do not speak English, are very poor and are vulnerable due to age, disability and education. The tactics traffickers use such as kidnapping and the intentional misrepresentation of better lives and work in the U.S. are effective because many of the victims who are trafficked come from unstable and economically devastated places. They may have been victimized or abandoned and are seeking work so that

they can provide for themselves and their families. Traffickers count on economic deprivation, high rates of illiteracy and desperation. Recent estimates show that the human trafficking business yields approximately nine billion dollars in profits each year (UNODC, 2009). According to the UN, reasons women enter the sex industry include poverty, gender inequality, low levels of education, humanitarian emergencies, and post-conflict situations.

Visa Fraud

There are three types of visas for workers from overseas. The A-3 visa is for household employees of diplomats. The G-5 visa is for domestic workers of household employees of international agencies such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The B-I visa is for the domestic workers of American citizens with permanent residency abroad. All of these visas cover house-hold workers. No records are kept of the whereabouts of B-I workers, and there are only addresses listed for the A-3 and G-5 application forms with no follow-up. Around four thousand of these visas are given out each year. Since their employer has diplomatic immunity, they cannot be charged with criminal or civil violations. The State Department can investigate and request for their immunity to be waived but in these cases the diplomats have occasionally been sent to another country and the enslaved domestic workers are deported. To get a visa, an employer just has to state that they will provide “reasonable living and working conditions” (Bales, 2009.)

Visa fraud plagues the United States. Traffickers will contact a business or possibly a middleman or broker in the United States that will contact an agency seeking workers. This could be service providers such as restaurants or hotels. The trafficker will confirm double the amount of potential workers, the business will agree and the work visas will be distributed

allowing all of the immigrants to enter the U.S. Yet when the trafficker brings the immigrants to the business, he or she will usually bring fewer workers, and the others will enter the underground sex industry. The trafficker can then claim to the business they no longer had enough workers and the business usually does not question the status of the visas. This contributes to the illegal immigration issue because this process involves illegal smuggling. Social service providers should work with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The illegal immigration issue fuels human trafficking.

Foreign exchange students are granted J-1 visas. This allows them to stay and work for a designated period of time in the United States. The main purpose of the J-1 visa is to promote cultural exchange among students. A recent investigation by the Associated Press found that 100,000 students pay to come to the U.S. on J-1 visas every year, but it was not until 2010 that the State Department began keeping record of the complaints made by students who were deceived and tricked into working for strip clubs to live in poor housing conditions and sold into sexual slavery. The State Department was not monitoring the working or living conditions of the students, but leaving it to the companies who sponsor the students.

Internet

The internet is one of the ways that modern sex trafficking has been able to grow and expand. In previous decades, those seeking sexual services could log onto internet sites that offered certain services or vacation sites with sex tourism. Those sites were too explicit and were shut down quickly by law enforcement. In the last decade however, popular internet sites such as *Backpage.com* and *Craigslist.com* have helped sex trafficking flourish. Craigslist is the new internet site that is very easily promoting a wide range of sexual activities. Although there

may be many women posting their own ads for sexual services, this can be a very tactful way to allow sex trafficking to take place. Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist.com in 2006, displays on the site that all advertisements are screened and monitored by staff that manually screens all ads. If an ad is put up by a minor or has anything sexually explicit, they have said they “would report any minors to the Metropolitan Police Department”, but there were still many sex ads found during an investigation. When asked to comment by CNN 360 special report, Craig Newmark made no comment. Craigslist has been described as the “Wal-mart of online sex trafficking in the United States” by Andrea Powell of the anti-trafficking group The FAIR Fund. Powell stated that “Most of the young women we've worked with who have been exploited online talk about Craigslist" (CNN, 2010). In 2008, Craigslist announced it would report any minors to the Center for Missing Children, but since then the site has reported less than 100 cases and there have been thousands of minors displayed on the site. The site is therefore very easily accessible to predators, but the staff behind Craigslist turned a blind eye on sex trafficking and claimed they should not be responsible for all of the advertisements on their site. Legislation needs to demand more responsibility on behalf of the site so that sex trafficking is not as easily maneuvered by way of the internet. Craigslist, is also a popular web site for classified ads, has blocked access to its “adult services” section and replaced the link with a black label showing the word “censored.” The ads in the adult section, which cost \$10 to post and \$5 to repost, are a big revenue source, analysts say. Craigslist is private and does not report financial figures, but adult ads are expected to bring the company \$45 million in revenue this year, according to the Advanced Interactive Media Group, an organization that analyzes Craigslist (Miller, 2009). The problem continues despite the recent blocks.

CHAPTER 4 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Currently, there are approximately 27 million people enslaved throughout the world with 2.5 million located in the United States. Human slavery was supposed to end in the U.S. with the passing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 and Thirteenth Amendment in 1865. However, statistics show that slavery is still occurring throughout the U.S. Every thirty minutes a person is trafficked into the United States. Eighty percent of those trafficked are women and children and seventy percent are trafficked into commercial sex as slaves. (U.S. State Department, 2010) This does not include individuals that are trafficked within their own national borders.

Every June, the United States' State Department issues the Trafficking in Person's Report and ranks countries around the world on a 4-Tier system in terms of their commitment to fighting human trafficking. Countries that are characterized as Tier 1 do not comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's standards, but are attempting to bring their countries to that level are ranked under Tier 2. Countries that are ranked as Tier 2 Watch List are characterized similarly to Tier 2, but the countries experience severe trafficking problems. Countries that are characterized as Tier 3 are making no effort to combat human trafficking within their borders (U.S. State Department, 2010).

The United States passed the Trafficking of Victims Protection Act in 2000 to protect victims by providing the T Visa. This means that up to five thousand victims can become permanent residents of the U.S. This act prevents victims from being treated as illegal immigrants and being deported. Under this act, victims are also able to be part of the witness protection program.

Law Enforcement: Misconceptions and Trainings

The Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking offers training free of charge. Trainings are conducted to help communities form their own task forces, coalitions and community partnerships. Presentations range from twenty to sixty minutes and trainings from half of the day to full day. Programs are tailored to the specific audience. FCAHT will also provide the agency with technical assistance at no cost. Their training video library includes trainings, documentaries and human trafficking movies from many countries around the world. Since the enactment of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, 2000), state-level awareness of trafficking has grown. Victims of human trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the TVPA to the same extent as refugees.

Every state has their own set of rules for determining criminal sentences. Besides Georgia and Virginia, almost all states only make individuals liable for crimes and not companies employed illegal migrants. There needs to be provisions for businesses and corporations to be found criminally liable for slavery or trafficking. Terry Coonan from Florida State University has been working on a statewide project to propose a Florida law on human trafficking because of how prevalent the crime is in Florida.

Combined federal and state human trafficking information indicates that more investigations and prosecutions have taken place for sex trafficking offenses than for labor trafficking offenses, but law enforcement identified a comparatively higher number of labor trafficking victims as such cases often involve more victims (U.S. State Department, 2010).

Another drawback in identifying sex trafficking victims is that law enforcement officers are not fully trained and aware of the extent of sex trafficking in the U.S. When law

enforcement officers find a victim, they commonly attribute the situation to “prostitution” and do not usually understand that a female may be a victim. This delays the process of rehabilitation because the law enforcement officer may not reach out to nonprofits to address the needs of the victim such as shelter, psychological aid, and physical protection. All too often, victims are released and returned to their traffickers for a continued life in the sex industry. The same way there is a database for terrorists and prosecuted pedophiles in the country, there should be a statewide intelligence database in Florida for law enforcement in regards to human trafficking leads and perpetrators.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security relies on tips from the public to find victims that cross state lines for the purpose of forced prostitution. They fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. ICE also has an awareness campaign titled “Hidden in plain sight”. It is a media initiative informing the public on the prevalence of human trafficking. ICE also has a Victim Assistance program that coordinates services such as counseling.

The Florida Human Trafficking Task Force through the Department of Children and Families, provides reports to pending legislative efforts related to human trafficking such as the Senate and House Bills, the Florida Strategic plans, and resources on human trafficking such as city and county reports within Florida.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement held a human trafficking summit in 2009 in Miami. Workshops included coordinating local, state and federal law enforcement efforts, social work education and scholarship opportunities for nonprofits and prosecution of

trafficking cases. These are recent initiatives by law enforcement to combat human trafficking (Florida Department of Children and Families, 2009).

The second step is for prosecutors to be more educated on human trafficking and to properly file charges. Offenders tend to plead to the lesser crimes of fraud or coercion and therefore the misdemeanor charges never reach the federal level. As a result, the government is not demonstrating the extent of the charges on human trafficking in the United States. For some time, NGO's such as Catholic Charities in Central Florida only received funding to deal with immigration issues and not domestic issues. This also provided a lapse in identifying cases because there were not enough funds in the nonprofit level to address the issue locally for victims rescued in the state of Florida. Nonprofits especially need funds to provide for coordination efforts after a victim is identified, i.e. drug and rape tests which determine if they are identified as a victim or a prostitute. However this raises an issue because a victim may be a drug addict due to a life in the sex trade and thus be considered a criminal. ⁱⁱVictims are often forced to do drugs while they are held captive.

It is imperative that law enforcement investigators establish relationships with the potential sex trafficking victims. Victims often do not self-identify immediately, and will only disclose the complete details of their exploitation after a measure of trust has been established with their interviewer. The full magnitude and complexity of commercial sexual exploitation may become discernible only after a more in- depth assessment of what may initially appear to be consensual prostitution. Potential victims should be "interviewed" and not "interrogated."

The psychological coercion exercised against trafficking victims assumes many forms and should not be underestimated by law enforcement investigators. One of the most formidable

strategies to aid in the rescuing of victims is to partner with international businesses. Hotels, restaurants and airports are all common maneuvers for predators to transport victims. If local businesses put in place a zero-tolerance policy that is visible in their location and educate their employees on the issue, predators seeking the demand would be more reluctant to commit the crime, or at least more aware that there are repercussions. For instance, if hotel rooms had the human trafficking hotline phone number in a drawer next to the phone on the desk, or if the maids or ushers who were educated on human trafficking saw any suspicious activity (such as too many young girls quietly entering a room with older men and speaking different languages or looking unkempt or afraid), they could immediately contact local law enforcement. Even if restaurants simply displayed the hotline number in restrooms, this would also raise suspicion about the activity of human trafficking in a local community. Motel and apartment complex employees could also be trained to report any suspicious activities, such as men moving out of the rooms every few days with young foreign girls. This type of awareness initiative in the community could make a huge impact in the fight against modern day slavery.

International Non-Governmental Agencies

According to the Trafficking in Person's Report of 2010 by the U.S. Department of State; the United States is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children, specifically for the purposes of forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution. "Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year" (UN, 2010). Sex trafficking stems from labor trafficking, although there are more foreign victims found in labor trafficking than sex trafficking. Some victims have entered the country under fraudulent programs under work or student-based visa programs. "Primary countries of

origin for foreign victims certified by the U.S. government were Thailand, Mexico, Philippines, Haiti, India, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic”. Many of these victims are trafficked into the international sex trade, by force, fraud, or coercion.

According to the United Nations, trafficking is a punishable crime under international law. Prevention requires international cooperation, but this can be difficult to achieve because law can be manipulated to have divergent interpretations by different nation states.

The United National Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, also known as the Palermo Protocol considers trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation as “selling or buying, procuring, harboring, taking or causing a person to be taken from one place to another for commercial sexual exploitation”. Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, according to the UN, includes prostitution, pornography and, sex-tourism, and it can take place under the façade of service providers such as tourist circuits, massage and beauty parlors, and bars. This constitutes the first attempt to internationally criminalize all acts of trafficking via the governmental response that incorporates the “3Ps”: paradigm: prevention, criminal prosecution, and victim protection (UNODC, 2009).

The United Nations plays an immense role in passing legislations to combat human trafficking. Sex trafficking is a transnational organized crime that affects all 192 countries in the United Nations, it is important for every country to adopt the General Assembly’s resolution by enforcing the 2000 treaty which is the Global Plan of Action. Transnational crimes do not only mean border crossing crimes, but also when a crime or issue has the potential to affect

another nation such as human trafficking. Only two thirds of the General Assembly has adopted this review mechanism. The United Nations is discussing the establishment of a trust-fund for victims and a bi-annual report from the UN Protocol. It is the fastest growing criminalized industry, but it still receives only limited funding from the UN. The goal of the UN is to address Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights as a rule of law. Human trafficking falls under all of these areas and the UN is putting many mechanisms in place to address the issue. In 2009, there were 4,166 successful trafficking prosecutions (U.S. State Department, 2010). However there are a104 countries without laws, policies, or regulations preventing victims' deportation.

From 2008-09, the UN received 794 million dollars to address problems associated with drugs, terrorism and crime. By using these funds, the UNODC will formalize a treaty to oblige all countries to ratify the Human Rights Treaty. The UN will put in place public service announcements to raise awareness, the research division will provide bi-annual reports, and technical assistance will be given to NGO's. Only ten percent of the UN regular budget addresses human trafficking and the other ninety percent comes from voluntary agencies. This presents a problem because countries can influence the budget according to their needs. A country that donates a particularly large amount may direct more focus to issues that another country is dealing with and sway the resources and funds away from human trafficking if it is dominant in the host country. Voluntary contributions are not reliable because a country may not approve the report by the UN or the Trafficking in Person's Report by the State Department, and not donate as much funds the next year (UNODC, 2009).

International Women's Day was held on March 8, 2011 and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) announced a Grants Facility for victims of human trafficking. The UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov announced that the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking would help those most affected, with approximately one million U.S. dollars supporting legal and financial aid to victims so they may rebuild their lives (UNODC, 2009).

Eighty-six percent of countries have not reported more than one conviction. All countries are at fault in the issue of human trafficking because it affects all nations, and governments have a duty to protect their citizens from crimes such as this. Some countries provide more financial aid to the UN than others but some still do not have the capacity or laws to criminalize human trafficking within their own regions.

Free the Slaves is the main antislavery organization in the United States with a global focus. The Polaris Project includes operating local and national crisis hotlines and conducting victim identification.

Case Studies

Anna Rodriguez is the founder for the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking. Her first experience with a Human Trafficking case was in 1999; in the U.S. vs. Tecum case.

The Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT), an International and Domestic Anti-Trafficking Agency, is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been helping victims of human trafficking since its creation in 2004. FCAHT's founder, Anna Rodriguez, had her first experience with a human trafficking case in 1999; U.S. vs. Tecum (868 F. 2d 1014). Anna served as a victim advocate with the Collier County Sheriff's Office as well as an outreach coordinator for the Immokalee Shelter for Abused Women in Collier County, Florida, for ten years. Her first human trafficking case arose from a "home visitation", in response to a follow up on a domestic violence incident. She noticed the presence of a young female who turned out to be a victim of human trafficking. Anna identified "red flags" that made her suspicious and eventually she helped rescue the victim. This is a significant source in my research because there have been few cases related to human trafficking in Florida and it is imperative to include what efforts are being made for the conviction of offenders.

The Tecum case, has become a major case study by agencies including the United States Department of Justice, Florida State University, Croft Institute for International and New York Times. Anna Rodriguez, the aforementioned founder of FCAHT, was also able to identify and work with the FBI and USDOJ on a domestic servitude and sex trafficking case known as the "Blackjack" case, in which she also assisted U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement. FCAHT works closely with community service providers to provide victims with emergency food and shelter, medical and psychological treatment and other services to help these individuals restore

their lives and their freedoms. FCAHT provides training to law enforcement agencies, medical facilities, faith based and, civil and community organizations to bring awareness and recognition to the signs and symptoms of human trafficking.

Rodriguez served as a victim advocate with the Collier County Sheriff's Office and an outreach coordinator for the Immokalee Shelter for Abused Women in Collier County, Florida for ten years. Rodriguez' first human trafficking case developed when she visited a home following up on a domestic violence incident. She had noticed the presence of a young female. Rodriguez became suspicious of the victim because the victim looked afraid and would not speak to her. The young female turned out to be a victim of human trafficking and Anna Rodriguez helped rescue her. Today, the Tecum case has become a major case study by agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, Florida State University and the New York Times.

Rodriguez has conducted trainings in various countries and was invited to speak at the United Nations during the premier of the investigative documentary of "Lives for Sale". She also spoke during the Florida Premier of the film "Trade". Most recently, Rodriguez was a presenter at the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives convening at a roundtable discussion entitled, "Faith-Based and Community Solutions to Combat Human Trafficking". In 2004, Rodriguez founded the Immigrant Rights Advocacy Center Incorporated which later became the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking in Naples, Florida. Today, the FCAHT has offices in Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville and their headquarters is in Bonita Springs, Florida. They have recently established four new Rescue and Restore Coalitions in the State of Florida as well as three human trafficking task forces. This is an example of how

important it is for law enforcement, community organizations and faith based organizations to get involved in trainings about human trafficking and raise awareness in their communities.

The Cadena case was one of the most recent in U.S. history as a high profile Florida case with a lot of media exposure. The Orlando Sentinel reported that a prostitution ring was luring young women from Mexico and holding them as sexual slaves. The U.S. State Department estimates that 800,000 to 900,000 persons are trafficked across international borders annually and that 18,000 to 20,000 are trafficked into the United States each year for purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Local Florida law enforcement agencies may be simultaneously investigating similar cases, which is a waste of time and resources. This is why cooperation is needed between local law enforcement and the federal government. The database should include any suspects, known pimps, businesses identified or suspected of human trafficking, massage parlors and their owners, vehicles, phone numbers, addresses and license plates of potential suspects, agricultural brothels, subcontractors in Florida agriculture, hospitality and service sectors that typically rely on labor.

The Tampa Bay “Treasure Island” sex trafficking case that is still ongoing (2009), is where Detective Jeremy Lewis of the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office discovered a sex trafficking case in the Tampa community called Treasure Island. The case revealed that pimps were exploiting numerous U.S. citizen women for forced prostitution and dancing in Tampa, Florida strip clubs. The pimps allegedly held them in slavery in the pimps’ homes and had confiscated their clothes, credit cards, identification documents and money. The women were subjected to extreme physical violence and emotional abuse and torture. They would face nightly beatings and sexual assaults. One of the perpetrators would sleep in front of the door at

night to prevent the victims from escaping. The women were forced to take alcohol and drugs and were only allowed to watch movies on their one day off a week. Neighbors said they barely saw the women except for occasionally in the early evenings when they would leave to work. The accused perpetrators include three men who resided with the victims in the luxury home, as well as a female dancer from one of the Tampa strip clubs who allegedly recruited the young women for exploitation. The three pimps allegedly took the women six nights a week to the Vegas Showgirls strip club in Tampa where they were forced to dance and prostitute themselves as participants in local escort services.

The victims in this case were 18-26 years old and mostly from outside of Florida. Since the womens' families were out of the state it was hard for them to figure out how to escape safely. The first victim to be identified reported initially as a sex crime victim, but chose not to pursue a case against her traffickers. This is common among rescued victims because they fear their traffickers' harassment. The victim however agreed to show investigators the home where the other women were held. The traffickers sought young American women from difficult backgrounds and promised them a better life. One victim was held for eight months. This case is significant because the alleged perpetrators were charged with human trafficking under the Florida statute, and the criminal investigation is still ongoing. Law Enforcement officers from the Clearwater Human Trafficking Task Force (including Clearwater police and FDLE investigators) were able to provide support for the investigation. There are currently multiple units within the Pinellas County Sheriff's office that are involved in the case, including officers from homicide, economic crime, narcotics, patrol and crimes against persons. There are also

three different Florida search warrants used in the investigation: warrants for searching residences, vehicles, and computers (FSU, 2009).

The case is also being investigated by a Florida Sheriff's office, prosecuted under Florida anti-trafficking law, by a state attorney. This case provides the common examples of physical force and psychological coercion found in cases of trafficking against U.S. victims. Florida's adult entertainment industry in sex trafficking is greatly prevalent and this is why various law enforcement agencies need to be involved in working together.

The Tallahassee and Clearwater Melchor and Monslave sex trafficking case (2008) is another example. In July of 2006, two Guatemalan women were crying out in Spanish for help outside an upscale home in a Tallahassee neighborhood. The two women were fleeing a Colombian national, Jorge Melchor who had held them for two days in a home in the same neighborhood and was driving the women each night to trailers and apartments in the outskirts of Tallahassee where they were forced to engage in multiple sex acts as part of a larger prostitution scheme. This case led to Florida law enforcement agents in a two year, multi-jurisdictional investigation that eventually dismantled an international sex trafficking ring.

The U.S. State Department follows the three P's: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution, in addressing the problem of sex trafficking in the United States. The annual Trafficking in Persons Report, released every June, defines Sex Trafficking as: "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act or exploitation". The crime therefore must involve causing people to perform commercial sex against their will, by force, fraud, or coercion. The time span of this research will be from the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Congress passed the

TVPA in October 2000 and amended it in 2003. Prior to the enactment of the TVPA , there was no comprehensive federal law to protect victims of trafficking or to prosecute traffickers. This law provides tools for the U.S. to combat trafficking in persons, both domestically and abroad. The TVPA is intended to “prevent human trafficking overseas, to increase prosecution of human traffickers in the United States, and to protect victims and provide federal and state assistance to victims so that they can rebuild their lives in the United States”. The TVPA provides a means for non-citizen victims in the U.S. to apply for a special visa and other benefits and services. Among the social services that qualified victims can access are legal assistance, housing, job placement, health care, and access to various educational assistance programs. The TVPA is reauthorized every two years to account for new adjustments.

The Palermo Protocol is a protocol to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations in Palermo, Italy in 2000. The Trafficking Protocol entered into force on 25 December 2003. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is responsible for implementing the Protocol. It offers practical help to states on drafting laws, creating comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies, and assisting with resources to implement them.

In March 2009, UNODC launched the Blue Heart Campaign to fight human trafficking, to raise awareness, and to encourage involvement and inspire action. The Protocol commits of ratifying states to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and promoting cooperation among states in order to meet those objectives.

CHAPTER 5 GLOBAL AWARENESS INITIATIVES

As with any crime it needs to be understood first before it can be solved. Human Trafficking needs to be documented and researched to understand the factors that contribute to it. Population growth, economic change and corruption in each country needs to be carefully analyzed. People need to realize that although slavery has been abolished in the United States, it can still erupt in the necessary conditions, and is currently evolving to adapt to our global society. Slavery is illegal in all countries but it continues to exist because all slaves have one factor in common. First, they are being exploited economically, and second they are all held under the threat of violence. In order to prevent innocent victims from believing in promises of “work abroad” they need to be educated and not economically desperate. No matter how poor a population is, citizens need to be educated. This is social protection they can help them not fall into the lies and deceptions that lead to human trafficking.

Three steps need to be taken to end human trafficking, which is possible in the next few decades. The first step is for human trafficking to be abolished if existing laws are enforced, new ones are developed, and certain provisions are taken to help those victims that have been freed from slavery. The complexity of human trafficking requires an investigative unit. Even for Central Florida, there needs to be specific agents focused solely on the search for trafficking criminals. There needs to be researchers looking at the recruitment, transfer, and result of how a human being is trafficked. Along with ending the common misconceptions on human trafficking by educating the masses on its existence today, global economic sanctions by politicians also helps against slavery.

Awareness and education are very much key to combating human trafficking. In November 2010, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, administered by a five-member geographically representative board of trustees, where Dr. Saisuree Chutikul of Thailand expressed the importance of NGOs working with the state so that all members of society are knowledgeable on human trafficking. The UNODC aims to protect victims from re-victimization as witnesses when assisting the State in prosecuting a trafficker.

Collectively NGOs and civil society can make a difference and work with the government to contribute resources and aid. Victims who have been rescued and survived the devastation of being trafficked can become motivational speakers and empower others. They should be invited as speakers to rallies, conferences and schools. There are many misconceptions on trafficking, and the more the issue is discussed, the more victims will come out and be identified properly. Case workers easily call certain cases prostitution because they are overwhelmed with work. Classifying a victim a case of sex trafficking would elongate the process of rehabilitation and can be exhausting for case workers (Riggi, 2010).

Other than public service announcements, there is a key strategy to raising awareness internationally and locally on sex trafficking- publicity. When police sting operations occur and the rescuing of victims and imprisonment of predators makes headlines in the news, this arouses the community both nationally and globally. The atrocities of human trafficking make citizens speak more openly about the issue and motivate them to get involved to help the cause. It also promotes trafficking education in schools. In turn, families teach their children that anyone can be trafficked. Celebrities and large corporations hosting auctions and banquets to raise funds to help victims will also raise awareness on an international scale. Films such as *Taken* and *Trade*

induce a sense of empathy where global citizens can feel affected by the issue and take a stance. For instance, the General Assembly at the United Nations was instructed to watch the film *Trade*. Films such as these are very motivational in regards to rehabilitation because victims need to be provided vocational skills education to be able to recover, including education on their human rights. This is done by NGO's and local nonprofits that have the funds to provide for these programs. Documentaries and dateline specials should also be shown more often by CNN and MSNBC. Continuous efforts in having conferences and rally walks to promote awareness in the community is also a positive effort. Promotional items by certain celebrities or business campaigns promoting a product may also serve the purpose of awareness. Marketing tools can be used by nonprofits or businesses selling their product and advertising that proceeds will benefit sex trafficking efforts. The 2008 prosecuted case in Immokalee, Florida, inspired the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a Florida-based organization that advocates for the rights of farm workers. A traveling museum was created on a produce truck that houses the Florida Modern-Day Slavery Museum because it is similar to the vehicle used to enslave farm workers in Immokalee, Florida. It toured the state in April 2010.

The state department describes anti-trafficking laws that should include broader definitions of terms to manifest all aspects of modern forms of slavery. There are governmental practices according to the U.S. state department, that aid in the continuation of human trafficking. There are legal and administrative penalties imposed on trafficking victims for engaging in prostitution or immigration offenses, which is clearly not their own fault. Without birth certificates, national identifications cards or other identity documents, stateless persons are more vulnerable to being trafficked. There are internal migration problems because if people

within a country can move within the country's borders only with special permission, they get involved in the underground economy of trafficking.

Human Trafficking research is integral for the government's understanding of this crime. In the last decade there has been an increase in reports and journal articles on human trafficking. There needs to be growing government support for evidence-based research with suggestions for effective strategies and reports on successful current counter trafficking initiatives. There is a Global Database on Human Trafficking (IOM) that contains information from 13,650 victims.

Partnerships are required for the abolishment of human trafficking. This issue involves response from the government along with NGOs such as human rights, labor and employment, health services and law enforcement. The abundance of resources and expertise from all of these areas is needed to make an improvement. There needs to be more task forces among law enforcement agencies to share intelligence across jurisdictions and borders working collaboratively. Businesses also need to form associations that seek slavery-free supply chains. Anti-human trafficking efforts of regional partnerships among nations need to come together for advocacy purposes. The same way human traffickers communicated and work with each other on a world wide scale, so do the government and NGOs need to in a public manner.

Kevin Bales is the leading abolitionist in the world. He has provided policy recommendations. The UNODC launched the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking. It promotes wearing a blue heart as a symbol to combat trafficking and supports Facebook, company websites, publications and products with the symbol. It is a different way of mobilizing support and inspiring people to fight against this crime and promote awareness (UNODC, 2009).

It is very common for victims to escape and return to their trafficker after being rescued for fear of the law enforcement. The only comfort victims may have of their life if they do not work on a skill to help them survive and improve their self-esteem may be working in the sex industry. They may learn to believe that is their only worth in life. This plays a huge factor in the issue of sex trafficking because victims often times have such low self-esteems that they cannot help themselves and do not recognize they can be rescued and improve their life. There should be an evaluation of progress made in preventing trafficking, assisting victims, and prosecuting traffickers in Florida, including information regarding available federal, state, and local programs which provide services to victims of trafficking. More cooperation is needed with agencies so that work is not duplicated and stronger ties are built. NGO's need to work with local nonprofits to coordinate mechanisms to fight the crime together, and make the most out of the resources available.

On Monday, August 16, 2010 Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and the city Commissioners made a Proclamation Against Human Trafficking and officially partnered with the Orlando Rescue & Restore Coalition for the Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day scheduled for Sunday, January 16, 2011 at the Lake Eola Amphitheater in Orlando, Florida. The 3rd Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day was attended by hundreds of people in Central Florida.

There should be an airborne government team that can locate, extract and destroy facilities and serve as a slave extraction team. A slave extracting team could prove successful if this is made a primary initiative by the government. The United States should create a nationwide discussion to make trafficking inhospitable. This is difficult because every administration has immediate domestic and economic issues it needs to confront and combating

sex trafficking is a long-term initiative. The State Department needs to form a collective effort with other nations for a common goal and a realistic timeframe. The recession has been the biggest obstacle in combating human trafficking in the U.S. because the price has gone down for slaves and more people are desperate for work and it is cheaper to have slaves. Former President Bill Clinton signed the first executive order his second term for combating human trafficking before it gained global significance. There needs to be a U.S. goal to eradicate trafficking by rallying citizens nationwide. There needs to be substantial training programs in the country. Specialists are needed in all police departments because this is a problem that comes from an international level that reaches the local level. The U.S. needs to be the first to set an example based on the Trafficking in Persons report. Countries have asked the U.S. to not be included in the TIP report. Although this international organized crime is the fastest growing, Florida legislation is making progress. There are various suggestions for improving sex trafficking in Florida, the United States and the globe overall, but addressing the problem should be the first goal set. Although sex trafficking is such a convoluted crime, there is hope for improvement. Collaborative efforts will be key to dissolving sex trafficking with maximum effort.

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