

THE NEW FACE OF SLAVERY

SOROPTIMIST WHITE PAPER

LEARN ABOUT THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WORLDWIDE, AND FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO END THIS WIDESPREAD PROBLEM...



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women



Natalya lives in a small village in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe. A single mother of two young girls, she must also take care of her sick brother, and struggles to find work in her economically depressed town.

Natalya's neighbor Katerina tells her of an employment opportunity in Odessa, Ukraine, with a local bar owner. Katerina says she can get Natalya work as a waitress in a bar and offers, for a fee, to help arrange Natalya's travel to the northern port city.

Within a few weeks, Natalya is on a plane to Odessa, eager to make money and support her brother and daughters. However, once she arrives, Natalya realizes that she has been horribly deceived—that there never was a bar, or waitress job, and that Katerina—her neighbor and friend—has helped to sell her into sexual slavery.

The bar owner turns out to be a small-time criminal and pimp, and the bar is his brothel. Before she has time to process what's happened, Natalya's passport is confiscated and she is driven from the airport to a cramped apartment where she and a dozen other young women will stay for the duration of her servitude.

Natalya has her first taste of the violence and degradation to follow when she is raped by the pimp who claims he must "try out the goods." Before long, she is forced to service more than a dozen clients a day—business men, locals, and tourists—interested in quick sex for cash.

After several months of sexual abuse and physical violence, Natalya is mentally and emotionally destroyed, resigned to her situation. She no longer dreams of going home. She is broken.

## DEFINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEX TRAFFICKING

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN BEINGS, WITHIN NATIONAL OR ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF FORCED LABOR.** Human rights groups estimate that anywhere between 12.3 million and 30 million people are enslaved in forced or bonded labor, child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given time. The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”<sup>1</sup> The UN is clear to label human trafficking as a crime against humanity.<sup>2</sup> For these reasons, human trafficking is commonly referred to as modern slavery.

Human trafficking is estimated to be a 32 billion dollar a year industry.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime concluded that human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world today.<sup>4</sup> Human trafficking is difficult to track and quantify, and its total cost is probably far higher than officially noted. While the estimates of people involved and the profits earned are shocking, it reveals only part of the story.

Sex trafficking is the most common form of trafficking (79 percent) followed by forced labor (18 percent).<sup>5</sup> Women and girls make up the majority of human trafficking victims (66 and 13 percent respectively), and constitute nearly all sex trafficking victims.<sup>6</sup> Sex trafficking includes the recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer or sale of women and girls for sexual exploitation. Frequently the term “trafficking” is used to describe international or cross-border activity, but it is increasingly clear that the majority of trafficking takes place domestically within nation-state boundaries.

### **SEX TRAFFICKING IS A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM, INVOLVING NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.**

International sex trafficking appears to be growing in scope and magnitude as a result of globalization and the relative ease with which traffickers are able to transport victims between countries.<sup>7</sup> Domestic sex trafficking is also on the rise: according to the U.S. Department of Justice, domestic human trafficking has become the second fastest growing criminal industry in the nation, just behind drug trafficking.<sup>8</sup>

- Estimates suggest that between 700,000 and two million women are trafficked across international borders each year. Adding domestic trafficking would bring the total much higher, to perhaps four million persons per year.<sup>9</sup>
- 66 percent of all human trafficking victims are women, and 13 percent are girls.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Human Trafficking*. Accessed October 23, 2012. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> State of California Department of Justice, *What is Human Trafficking?* Accessed September 22, 2014. <<http://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/what-is>>

<sup>4</sup> Migration Policy Institute, *Human Smuggling and Trafficking into Europe: A Comparative Perspective*: Page 2. 2014. Web. <<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/human-smuggling-and-trafficking-europe-comparative-perspective>>.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Human Trafficking FAQs*. Accessed September 22, 2014. <[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#What\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_commonly\\_identified\\_form\\_of\\_trafficking](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#What_is_the_most_commonly_identified_form_of_trafficking)>

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2009*: Page 11. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>>

<sup>7</sup> Not For Sale Campaign, *Trafficking and Globalization*. Accessed September 22, 2014. <<https://notforsalecampaign.org/human-trafficking/>>

<sup>8</sup> Tresa Baldas, *Human Trafficking a growing crime in the U.S.* USA Today, September 22, 2014. <[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2012-01-22-us-human-trafficking\\_N.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2012-01-22-us-human-trafficking_N.htm)>

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Population Fund, *Trafficking in Human Misery*. Accessed September 22, 2014. <[www.unfpa.org/gender/violence1.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence1.htm)>

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2009*: Page 11. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>>

- Sex trafficking constitutes 79 percent of all human trafficking, and nearly all victims of sex trafficking are women and girls.<sup>11</sup>
- About three million women and children are held in sexual servitude around the world, but many experts believe the actual number is far higher.<sup>12</sup> Because of its clandestine nature, it is difficult to determine the magnitude of sex slavery. In fact, it is estimated that the number of identified human trafficking victims represents just four percent of the total number of all victims in the world.<sup>13</sup>
- Only around five percent of trafficking cases are ever reported.<sup>14</sup>
- Sex trafficking happens in both public and private locales. In some cases, trafficking victims are highly visible and engage in street-level prostitution. In most cases, though, sex trafficking takes place in underground venues, such as private homes or brothels. Often, public and legal locations such as massage parlors, spas and strip clubs will be a front for illegal prostitution and trafficking.<sup>15</sup>

Many countries lack any type of anti-trafficking legislation. In countries where legislation is in place, laws often go unenforced. One reason for this lack of enforcement is widespread police corruption, which often makes it unsafe for trafficking victims to approach local and national authorities. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “victims of trafficking in persons have reported complicity of public officials at all stages of trafficking, indicating that bribery and abuse of power of public officials or influential people are often part of the process.” Furthermore, relatively few trafficking cases are ever prosecuted, and of those cases, very few result in convictions.<sup>16</sup>

Occasionally, women and girls are rescued from traffickers and receive support, care and compassion. Unfortunately, many are treated like criminals by the police. Women and girls arrested in international trafficking circles are often processed as illegal immigrants rather than trafficking victims. When this occurs, trafficking victims are immediately deported to their home countries where, lacking economic alternatives, they begin the cycle of trafficking and exploitation all over again. Similarly, domestic trafficking victims are often arrested for prostitution and subsequently jailed or fined rather than being provided with support.<sup>17</sup>

## SEX TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION

Soroptimist includes prostitution in its definition and analysis of sex trafficking as the two are inextricably linked - it is impossible to know where one ends and the other begins. Prostitution is often treated as a valid form of employment for women and a choice that prostituted women have made. However, the distinctions that exist between prostitution and sex trafficking are false. Nearly all prostituted women and girls have been forced or coerced into prostitution against their will, either directly or by their circumstances, including addiction, poverty, an unstable or abusive home life, lack of education and lack of opportunity.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Kristof, Nicholas D., and Sheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. <<http://www.halftheskymovement.org/issues/sex-trafficking>>

<sup>13</sup> United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*: Page 7. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Issue Paper: The Role of Corruption in Trafficking in Persons*. 2011. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2011/Issue\\_Paper\\_-\\_The\\_Role\\_of\\_Corruption\\_in\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2011/Issue_Paper_-_The_Role_of_Corruption_in_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf)>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014*: Page 12-14. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226844.pdf>>.

Perpetuating the idea that women are prostituted by choice ignores the fact that it is nearly impossible to tell the difference between a victim of sex trafficking and a victim of prostitution. The myth of choice fails to address fact that in the United States, the average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 14 years old<sup>18</sup>. It discounts that across nine different countries, 73 percent of prostituted women have been physically assaulted and 57 percent have been raped while in prostitution<sup>19</sup>; that 67 percent experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the same range as combat veterans and victims of torture<sup>20</sup>; that 89 percent want to exit prostitution but cannot due to a lack of healthcare, money, education, and other basic resources.<sup>20</sup>

## THE NEW FACE OF SLAVERY

**TRAFFICKING IS THE TERM MOST FREQUENTLY USED TO DESCRIBE THIS PHENOMENON, BUT SLAVERY IS A MORE ACCURATE AND DESCRIPTIVE TERM.** Sex trafficking is the new face of slavery because it retains many of the same characteristics of a slave (trafficking victim)/master (trafficker) relationship: the victim is sold against her will by a third party to the trafficker, for whom she is forced to work and to whom she is forced to concede all profits engendered from such work.<sup>21</sup>

There are, however, a few stark differences between modern and historic slavery. Today, more individuals are living as slaves than at any other point in history. Slaves are also cheaper and generate higher economic returns than ever before. Globally, the cost of a slave is just \$90<sup>22</sup>, while traffickers reap an estimated \$21,800 annually per victim of commercial sexual exploitation<sup>23</sup>. Furthermore, since slavery is now illegal, it requires crime and corruption to continue.<sup>24</sup>

## THE SUPPLY: WHO IS TRAFFICKED

**THE MAJORITY OF SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS.** Certain women and girls are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking and prostitution. These include impoverished, uneducated and drug-addicted women and runaway girls. These women and girls have few economic alternatives beyond prostitution. Runaways, in particular, are highly susceptible to the false love and support proffered by traffickers and/or pimps. In all cases, poverty contributes to the vulnerability of women and girls.

Internationally, many Eastern European and Asian countries, which struggle with rampant poverty and political and social corruption, are fertile breeding grounds for the trafficking industry. Children are often kidnapped by traffickers or sold into sex trafficking by their parents, who either believe their children are being sold to adoption agencies or knowingly broker their daughters into sex slavery. Women and older girls are often tricked into sex trafficking by promises of legitimate work. According to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, “the rise in competition in the labor market, unemployment and the loss of job security have undermined women’s incomes and economic position. A widening gender wage gap, an increase in women’s part-time and informal sector work, as

<sup>18</sup> Walker-Rodriguez, Amanda, and Rodney Hill. "Human Sex Trafficking." *Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Bulletin* (2011): Mar. 2011. <[http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march\\_2011/human\\_sex\\_trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march_2011/human_sex_trafficking)>.

<sup>19</sup> Giobbe, Harrigan, Ryan and Gamache; *Prostitution: A Matter of Violence against Women*. Cited in *Encyclopedia of Women and Gender: Sex Similarities and Differences and the Impact of Society on Gender*, Volume 2: Page 882. San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 2002.

<sup>20</sup> Melissa Farley et al., *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*: Page 43. 2003.

<sup>21</sup> Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. University of California Press: Berkeley, 2004.

<sup>22</sup> "Modern Slavery." Free the Slaves. Accessed February 25, 2014. <<https://www.freetheslaves.net/sslpage.aspx?pid=301>>

<sup>23</sup> United States Department of State, *Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights: The Economics of Forced Labor*. June 2014. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/228263.pdf>>.

<sup>24</sup> BBC, *Modern Slavery: Compared to historical slavery*. Accessed September 24, 2014.

<[http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/slavery/modern/modern\\_1.shtml#section\\_2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/slavery/modern/modern_1.shtml#section_2)>

well as atypical work arrangements have pushed women into poorly paid jobs and long-term and hidden unemployment,” leaving them vulnerable to traffickers.<sup>25</sup>

Runaway girls are particularly susceptible to domestic trafficking, especially in developed nations. Research of prostitution in the United States consistently confirms the correlation between running away and becoming exploited through prostitution. For instance, studies have shown that the majority of prostituted women in the US had been runaways: 96 percent in San Francisco, 72 percent in Boston and 56 percent in Chicago. Within 48 hours of running away, an adolescent is likely to be approached to participate in prostitution or another form of commercial sexual exploitation by a pimp and/or trafficker.<sup>26</sup> Runaways are often lured into prostitution with promises of love and security by their pimps/traffickers, who exploit their vulnerability and desperation.

All victims of sex trafficking and slavery, no matter how young or old, no matter their original circumstances, share one thing. They are all human beings—somebody’s daughter, mother, sister, friend- who are worthy of protection and assistance.

## THE SUPPLIERS: WHO TRAFFICKS

Organized crime is largely responsible for the proliferation of human trafficking. Crime groups involved in the sex trafficking of women and girls are often also involved in the trafficking of drugs and firearms, and frequently use violence as a means of carrying out their activities.<sup>27</sup>

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the greatest numbers of international traffickers are from Asia, followed by Central and Southeastern Europe, and Western Europe. Traffickers tend to have strong national connections to the victims’ destination countries and are thereby able to cultivate strong client bases and develop channels of cooperation with local protective authorities and local crime groups.<sup>28</sup>

Domestic traffickers and pimps often operate within organized crime networks and gangs as well.<sup>29</sup> In the United States, for example, 70 percent of prostitution is linked to organized crime.<sup>30</sup> Indeed, trafficking is becoming an increasingly popular form of profit for gangs, who formerly had been primarily involved in illegal drugs and weapons dealing. In 2011, authorities uncovered five cases of human trafficking by the Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13 gang in Fairfax County, VA, one of the wealthiest counties in the country. Neil MacBride, the top federal prosecutor in the area, commented on the issue, saying, “we hear about child brothels in Thailand and brick kilns in India, but it’s something that’s in our own backyard, and in the last year we’ve seen street gangs starting to move into sex trafficking.”<sup>31</sup>

Organized crime groups are not the only culprits, however. Many individuals and small groups of individuals partake in human trafficking at all levels. Some kidnap or lure women and girls and keep them captive while soliciting them to men. Others will purchase trafficked women and girls for this purpose. Some small business

<sup>25</sup>Monica O’Connor and Grainne Healy, *The Links Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: A Briefing Handbook*: Page 6. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the European Women’s Lobby, 2006. <<http://action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/handbook.pdf>>.

<sup>26</sup> Heather J. Clawson, Nicole Dutch, Amy Solomon, and Lisa Goldblatt Grace for the US Department of Health and Human Services; *Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature*. August 2009. <<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/litrev/>>

<sup>27</sup>Ibid: Page 24.

<sup>28</sup>United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, *Global report on Trafficking in Persons*. February 2009. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/Global\\_Report\\_on\\_TIP.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf)>

<sup>29</sup> Stoecker, Sally. "The Rise in Human Trafficking and the Role of Organized Crime." *The Rise in Human Trafficking and the Role of Organized Crime* (n.d.): n. pag. George Washington University, Jan. 2008.

<sup>30</sup> Not For Sale Campaign, *Real Stories: Legal Efforts to Curb Sex Trafficking*. Accessed September 24, 2014. <<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/NFSHighSchoolCurriculum.pdf>>

<sup>31</sup> Carrie Johnson, *Gangs Enter New Territory With Sex Trafficking*. National Public Radio, November 14, 2011. <<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/14/142300731/gangs-enter-new-territory-with-sex-trafficking>>

owners, for example, purchase trafficked women and girls to work for them, providing sexual services behind the guise of a legitimate business like a spa, massage parlor or strip club.

Unfortunately, due to the secret nature of the behavior, the vulnerability of victims, and corruption among local and national protective authorities, traffickers are rarely apprehended or prosecuted. Additionally, most trafficking cases are dependent on victims' complaints, but trafficking victims rarely speak out,<sup>32</sup> fearful of being ostracized by their families and communities for engaging in prostitution and pre-marital sex. If prosecuted, human traffickers in the United States typically receive lighter sentences than drug traffickers.<sup>33</sup>

## HOW WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE TRAFFICKED

As mentioned, impoverished and/or drug-addicted women and runaway girls are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Some women and girls are lured into trafficking with the offers of legitimate and legal work, such as shop assistants or waitresses. Others are lured with promises of love, marriage, educational opportunities and a better life. Some are sold into trafficking by boyfriends, friends, neighbors or even parents.

International trafficking occurs in three main phases: recruitment, transport and exploitation. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 46 percent of trafficking victims know their recruiter.<sup>34</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING VICTIMS OFTEN PASS AMONG MULTIPLE TRAFFICKERS, MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.**<sup>35</sup> A recruiter in the Ukraine, for example, may traffic her neighbor to Turkey. Once there, she may sell her victim to a Turkish trafficker, who will take the woman to Thailand, her final destination where exploitation will occur. Often, victims' passports and official papers are confiscated and held. Victims are told that they are in the destination country illegally, which increases victims' dependence on their traffickers, and they are often kept in captivity. Victims are also trapped into debt bondage, whereby they are obliged to pay back large recruitment and transportation fees before being released from their traffickers. Many victims report being charged additional fines or fees while under bondage, requiring them to work longer to pay off their debts.<sup>36</sup>

**DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION VICTIMS ARE OFTEN "GROOMED" FOR EXPLOITATION.** An analysis of prostitution in San Francisco concluded that "many [prostituted women] are homeless runaways who are desperate to survive, but lack the skills or age needed for legitimate employment. Some are escaping abusive households, and, looking for love and protection, they are deceived into thinking they have found it in their

<sup>32</sup> United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*: Page 7. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>>

<sup>33</sup> United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; *The Race Dimensions to Trafficking in Persons—Especially Women and Children*. 2001. <[http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/trafficking\\_e.pdf](http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/trafficking_e.pdf)>

<sup>34</sup> Transparency International: *The Global Coalition Against Corruption, Corruption and Human Trafficking*: Page 3. March 2011. <[http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working\\_Paper\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_28\\_Jun\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working_Paper_Human_Trafficking_28_Jun_2011.pdf)>

<sup>35</sup> In 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) examined the flow of trafficking victims around the world. Countries were ranked according to their involvement in the trafficking industry and their role in the cycle of trafficking. Origin countries are countries from which trafficked women and girls originate. Typically, origin countries are developing countries with high levels of economic strife and social unrest. Major origin countries include Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Lithuania, Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the Ukraine. The UNODC found 127 countries of origin. Transit countries are countries through which trafficked women travel. Transit countries may also function as destination and origin countries for various populations of trafficked women. Major transit countries include Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Thailand. Though there is less data available on transit countries, the UNODC identified 98 transit countries. Destination countries are countries to which trafficked women are sent to work in the sex industry and the point of exploitation. Major destination countries include Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey and the United States. In all, the UNODC, found 137 destination countries.

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), *Trafficking in Persons Global Patterns*: Pages 17-20. 2006.

<[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/traffickinginpersons\\_report\\_2006ver2.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/traffickinginpersons_report_2006ver2.pdf)>

<sup>36</sup> United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014*: Page 29. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226844.pdf>>.

pimp.”<sup>37</sup> In one typical scenario, a man—who is either a pimp/trafficker or working for one—befriends a vulnerable woman or girl. He capitalizes on her vulnerability, entices her into a sexual relationship, and persuades her to stay away from home more and more frequently. Eventually, she ceases returning home altogether. This type of manipulation facilitates increasing dependency on the pimp/trafficker for emotional and financial support. Over time, the man convinces the girl that he loves her and will take care of her. One day, however, he tells her that they need money and that if she loved him, she would sell her body to make some money for them. If she resists, he uses physical force.<sup>38</sup> Either way, she soon cedes full control of her life to her pimp/trafficker as part of the group of girls he has “working” for him.<sup>39</sup> In another common scenario, the pimp focuses his attention on runaway girls. One of the MS-13 trafficking cases uncovered in Fairfax County, VA in 2011 involved a 12-year-old runaway girl who was approached by a gang member at a Halloween party and offered a place to stay for the night. Within hours of the meeting, the young girl was forced into prostitution.<sup>40</sup>

Both men and women participate in the trafficking of women and girls into sex slavery. Men generally control a trafficking ring, but women are instrumental in effectively managing the trafficking victims. Female traffickers gain the trust of their victims in order to better psychologically manipulate them. In some cases, female trafficking victims become perpetrators as a means of escaping their own victimization.<sup>41</sup>

**PIMPS AND TRAFFICKERS USE MULTIPLE TOOLS TO CONTROL THEIR VICTIMS.** Trafficking victims experience various stages of degradation and physical and psychological torture. Victims are often deprived of food and sleep, are unable to move about freely and are physically tortured. In some cases they are forced to take drugs, on which they then become addicted. In order to keep women captive, traffickers prevent their victims from leaving by telling them their families or children will be harmed or murdered if they try to escape or tell anyone about their situation. Their own lives are threatened, and they are beaten and raped.<sup>42</sup>

Often, before servicing clients, women are forcibly raped by the traffickers themselves in order to initiate the cycle of abuse and degradation.<sup>43</sup> Some women are drugged in order to prevent them from escaping. Once “broken in,” victims of sex trafficking and prostituted women are forced service up to 30 men a day, and are vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and unwanted pregnancy.<sup>44</sup>

International victims often experience another layer of psychological stress and frustration because they do not know the language or country to where they have been trafficked. Kevin Bales of the non-governmental organization Free the Slaves states that, “the physical path of a person being trafficked includes stages of degradation of a person’s mental state. A victim gets deprived of food, gets hungry, a little dizzy and sleep deprived. She begins to break down; she can’t think for herself. The take away her travel documents and you’ve

<sup>37</sup> Shively, et al.; *Final Report on the Evaluation of the First Offender Prostitution Program*: Page 49. March 7, 2008.

<<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221894.pdf>>

<sup>38</sup> HSTC *Intelligence Note: Traffickers Use Old Tricks to Control Victims*. Rep. no. HSTC2011010024. Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, 24 Jan. 2011. Web. 24 Sept. 2014. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/155768.pdf>>

<sup>39</sup> Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, *Domestic Trafficking: An Internal Issue*: Page 4. 2008.

<<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/113612.pdf>>.

<sup>40</sup> Carrie Johnson, *Gangs Enter New Territory With Sex Trafficking*. National Public Radio, November 14, 2011.

<<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/14/142300731/gangs-enter-new-territory-with-sex-trafficking>>

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Human Trafficking FAQs: Who are the victims and culprits of human trafficking?* Accessed September 24, 2014.

<[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#Who\\_are\\_the\\_victims\\_and\\_culprits\\_of\\_human\\_trafficking](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#Who_are_the_victims_and_culprits_of_human_trafficking)>

<sup>42</sup> HSTC *Intelligence Note: Traffickers Use Old Tricks to Control Victims*. Rep. no. HSTC2011010024. Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, 24 Jan. 2011. Web. 24 Sept. 2014. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/155768.pdf>>

<sup>43</sup> Skinner, E. Benjamin. 2008. *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery*. New York, NY: Free Press.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*



made her stateless. Then layer on physical violence, and she begins to follow orders. Then add a foreign culture and language, and she's trapped".<sup>45</sup>

Gary Haugen, President and CEO of the global human rights agency International Justice Mission, emphasizes how comprehensive coercion can be. Haugen states that "there's a vast misunderstanding of what coercion is, of how little it takes to make someone a slave," identifying unseen coercive factors like "the destruction of dignity and sense of self, these girls' sense of resignation."<sup>46</sup> In both domestic and international cases, trafficked women and girls feel a deep sense of shame and worry about returning to their families for fear of what they will think. Their fears are often justified, for in socially conservative countries, families and occasionally entire communities will ostracize victims of sex trafficking.

Additionally, after consistent emotional and physical abuse at the hands of their trafficker or pimp, some victims begin to experience "Stockholm Syndrome." Stockholm Syndrome is a psychological phenomenon in which victims misinterpret temporary lack of abuse as an act of kindness and learn to express empathy towards their abusers, sometimes to the point of defending them. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in domestic trafficking, where "pimps prey on vulnerable girls and women, using a cunning mix of violence and tenderness to alternately degrade and then elevate them. The result is that these girls and women become psychologically attached to their pimps, and do not turn against them out of a dependency that is equal parts fear and misplaced affection."<sup>47</sup> For many women and girls, economic and emotional vulnerabilities compounded with misplaced empathy for their captors eliminates any possibility of escape.

The role of governmental corruption in human trafficking cannot be overemphasized, for "travel agencies, border guards, customs officials, consular officers, and other diplomatic personnel must be bribed or extorted for trafficking to be successful."<sup>48</sup> Indeed, in recent decades, the growth of public sector corruption has correlated closely with the rise in human trafficking. Many countries that are ranked poorly on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index also tend to be among the largest source countries for human trafficking victims, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, the Philippines and Pakistan. However, even countries that have comparatively low levels of corruption are involved in facilitating human trafficking. In the 1990s, high-level staff members at the Belgian and French embassies in Bulgaria were found guilty of selling visas to trafficking victims and organized crime networks. More recently, similar incidents of corrupt Western embassies have been reported in Pakistan and Senegal. Government corruption, then, goes beyond mere oversight in the trade of human beings. Rather, it actively contributes to the undermining of justice, human rights and human dignity.<sup>49</sup> According to the global NGO Transparency International, "corruption allows the trafficking process to remain protected from prosecution and facilitates the victimization of innocent people... Corruption undoes institutional safeguards, rooted in basic human rights and other international norms, which should legally protect the victim."<sup>50</sup>

## THE CAUSE OF SEX TRAFFICKING

<sup>45</sup> Peter Landesman, *The Girls Next Door*. The New York Times, January 25, 2004.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/25/magazine/25SEXTRAFFIC.html?ei=5007en=43dbe6ef76e45af8ex=1390366800&pagewanted=1>>

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Shively, et al.; *Final Report on the Evaluation of the First Offender Prostitution Program*: Page 49. March 7, 2008.

<<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221894.pdf>>

<sup>48</sup> Migration Policy Institute, *Human Smuggling and Trafficking into Europe: A Comparative Perspective*: Page 10. 2014. Web.

<<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/human-smuggling-and-trafficking-europe-comparative-perspective>>.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Transparency International: The Global Coalition Against Corruption, *Corruption and Human Trafficking*: Page 2. March 2011.

[http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working\\_Paper\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_28\\_Jun\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working_Paper_Human_Trafficking_28_Jun_2011.pdf)

The phenomenon of sex trafficking is rooted in structural gender inequality. Entrenched cultural beliefs lead people to believe that women are a commodity that can be bought and sold. As a result, there is little perceived stigma attached to purchasing sex for money, and demand for purchased sex exists unfettered.

Though sex trafficking takes place around the world—on city streets, in suburban neighborhoods and in rural villages—little emphasis has been placed on the demand-side of the trafficking equation. **DEMAND IS AT THE ROOT OF SEX TRAFFICKING; TO ERADICATE SEX TRAFFICKING, DEMAND MUST FIRST BE ERADICATED.** Sex trafficking, prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation follow the laws of economics. Without demand for purchased sex, there would be no need for supply (women and girls) and sex trafficking would diminish rapidly. Demand fuels both domestic and international trafficking. At the heart of demand is gender inequality which creates and reinforces the belief that women are a commodity that can be bought and sold.

### WHO PURCHASES WOMEN AND GIRLS?

There is no one profile of a man who purchases sex. Male participants or “johns” are widely diverse in age. One sociological study conducted in Canada found that the average age of men at the time they first purchase sex ranged from as young as 12 to as old as 57.<sup>51</sup> Men who demand purchased sex are similarly not limited to any one race, education level, socioeconomic status or religion. A study of men who purchase sex in Chicago found that 40 percent were African American, 36 percent were white, 14 percent were Latino, 5 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 5 percent were multicultural or “other”.<sup>52</sup> Their education levels ranged from a few years of high school to graduate degrees.<sup>53</sup> The yearly income levels amongst the male participants ranged from less than \$20,000 to more than \$140,000.<sup>54</sup> Of these men, 44 percent were not religiously affiliated and 56 percent were—and of these, they were divided between Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, and Jewish.<sup>55</sup> Sixty-two percent of these men had a romantic partner, and 38 percent were unattached.<sup>56</sup>

A study of men who purchase sex in London also found that the men are highly varied. In this study, 47 percent of men were white, 11 percent were black or African, 10 percent were Asian, 10 percent were Indian or Pakistani, 4 percent were Eastern European, four percent were multicultural, and another 14 percent included men of Afghan, Australian, Brazilian, Central American, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Western European, South African, and African American heritage.<sup>57</sup> Their incomes ranged between less than \$32,000 and more than \$80,000.<sup>58</sup> Half of these men were politically moderate and the other half were split between right-leaning and left-leaning.<sup>59</sup> 54 percent of these men were in a relationship, and 44 percent were not.<sup>60</sup>

These numbers do not necessarily represent an exact profile of all men who purchase sex, but they illustrate a critical point - men who purchase sex and create demand for victims are incredibly varied. It is thereby impossible to dismiss any type of man as innocent of purchasing sex or to claim that any one group of men is solely responsible for purchasing sex. Men of all kinds engage in this practice. Indeed, according to a compilation of 20 different studies of male clients in 15 different countries, anywhere from 9 to 80 percent of the male population

<sup>51</sup> Kennedy, Alexis M., Boris B. Gorzalka, John C. Yuille; *Men Who Solicit Prostitutes: A Demographic Profile of Participants in the Prostitution Offender Program of British Columbia*, Prepared for the Vancouver Police Department and the John Howard Society of Lower Mainland, February 2004.

<sup>52</sup> Durschlag, Rachel and Samir Goswami; *Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution: Preliminary Insights From Interviews with Chicago Men Who Purchase Sex*. 2008.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Melissa Farley et al., *Men Who Buy Sex: Who They Buy and What They Know*. 2009.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

has purchased sex at least once in their lifetime.<sup>61</sup> With increased technology, buying sex has become ubiquitous. For example, in her study on “johns” in Boston, clinical psychologist Melissa Farley expressed that it was extremely difficult to find non-sex buyers for her control group. Her team eventually had to adjust the definition of a non-user in order to fill the 100-person group.<sup>57</sup>

Sex tourism and its customers are a major component of the proliferation of trafficking. In 1995 the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) adopted a Declaration on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism, which defines sex tourism as “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination.”<sup>62</sup> Sex tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide. In 1998, sex tourism made up between 2 and 14 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand;<sup>63</sup> this number is assumed to have only grown since, as more women and children are forced into trafficking and prostitution as a result of the global economic crisis. Many sex tours explicitly feature prepubescent girls, marketing almost exclusively to pedophiles who prey on young children, and men who believe that having sex with virgins, or young girls, will cure sexually transmitted diseases. Often, these men spread HIV and other STDs to their young trafficking victims, creating localized disease epidemics.<sup>64</sup>

Additionally, a study from the UN Commission on Human Rights found that “the influx of international aid workers, military personnel, peacekeepers and employees of international organizations in situations of armed conflict or political instability often brings about a demand for services deriving from sexual exploitation.”<sup>65</sup> In an effort to combat this, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has enacted a zero tolerance policy regarding trafficking by NATO forces and staff.<sup>66</sup> This policy was enacted in 2004. The Palermo Protocol also holds countries accountable to end trafficking as it calls upon governments to take social and legislative measures to discourage demand. As of November 2012, 117 countries had signed onto the protocol.<sup>67</sup>

One of the things that all of **THE MEN WHO PURCHASE SEX SHARE IS A BELIEF THAT THE BODIES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THEIR SEXUAL PLEASURE FOR A PRICE.** And that once the price has been paid, those women and girls will do what the men want. These men can turn a blind eye to the reality of these women and girls and believe the faked smiles and come-ons. As Victor Malarek, a prominent Canadian journalist and author that studies trafficking and demand puts it: “Without men, there would be no demand. There would be no supply, either: it would not be profitable for pimps and criminals to stay in this business if platoons of men weren’t prowling side streets in search of purchased sex—male buyers who are willing to close their eyes and shell out \$50 or \$100 for a few minutes of physical bliss while deepening the misery of countless women and children.”<sup>68</sup>

<sup>61</sup> “Percentage of Men (by Country) Who Paid for Sex at Least Once.” ProCon.org. 2010. Web. 29 Sept. 2014. <<http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=004119>>.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations World Tourism Organization, *UNWTO Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism*. 1995. <<http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/other-information-regional-consultations-and-policy-documents>>

<sup>63</sup> The International Labour Organization, *Sex industry assuming massive proportions in Southeast Asia*. August 19, 1998. <[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS\\_007994/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_007994/lang--en/index.htm)>

<sup>64</sup> International Labour Organization, *Toolkit on Poverty Reduction through Tourism*: Page 21. 2011. <[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---sector/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms\\_162289.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_162289.pdf)>

<sup>65</sup> Commission on Trafficking. *Integration of the Human Rights of Women and a Gender Perspective*: Page 18. 2006. <<http://action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/Special%20Rapporteur%20trafficking%202006%20report%20demand.doc>>

<sup>66</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organization, *NATO Policy On Combating Trafficking In Human Beings*. Accessed October 24, 2012. <[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50315.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50315.htm)>

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Treaty Collection, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. Accessed October 18, 2012.

<[http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsq\\_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsq_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en)>

<sup>68</sup> Victor Malarek, *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy it*: Page xv. Arcade Publishing, New York: 2009.

## THE HIGH COST OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking of women and girls has astronomical costs for women and girls and for society as a whole. Trafficking is an abuse of physical and mental integrity, security of the person, freedom of movement, and privacy. Trafficking is a form of slavery that violates the universal declaration of human rights, of the right to life, liberty and freedom from slavery.

Pimps and traffickers employ similar methods of control as domestic violence abusers, including physical violence, sexual assault, verbal abuse, economic abuse, isolation, threats and intimidation. Additionally, victims regularly experience physical abuse, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, stalking, and rape at the hands of the men who purchase them. A study of prostitution in 9 countries found that 64 percent of respondents had been threatened with a weapon while in prostitution, 73 percent had been physically assaulted while in prostitution, and 57 percent had been raped while in prostitution.<sup>69</sup> This study also found that in addition to being at much higher risk of being prostituted than men, women are at higher risk of being threatened, assaulted, and/or raped while in prostitution than men. Due to these risks, prostituted women have a death rate that is 51 times higher than the next most dangerous occupation for women, working in a liquor store.<sup>70</sup>

Such physical experiences are severely detrimental to victims' mental and emotional health: across nine countries, **67 PERCENT OF PROSTITUTED WOMEN EXPERIENCE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) IN THE SAME RANGE AS WAR VETERANS AND VICTIMS OF TORTURE,**<sup>71</sup> 75 percent of prostituted women attempted suicide, and prostituted women comprise 15 percent of all completed suicides.<sup>72</sup>

Physical risks include physical injuries like broken bones, concussions, burns, and gynecological trauma; traumatic brain injury resulting in memory loss, dizziness, headaches, numbness; sexually transmitted diseases; HIV/AIDS; sterility, miscarriages, menstrual problems; unwanted pregnancy and forced or coerced abortions; drug and alcohol addiction. The psychological harms include mind-body separation, shame, grief, fear, distrust, hatred of men, self-hatred, suicide, and suicidal thoughts. Victims are at risk for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which includes anxiety, depression, insomnia and self-loathing.<sup>73</sup>

As previously mentioned, victims are often blamed and rarely receive the necessary treatment – physical and emotional – to properly recover from their experiences.

### SEX TRAFFICKING ALSO HAS WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES:

- Sex trafficking breaks down existing communal ties by removing women and girls from their families and communities. If and when victims are able to return to their communities, they often find themselves doubly victimized by social stigmatization, discrimination and rejection.
- Sex trafficking fuels organized crime groups that usually participate in many other illegal activities, including drug and weapons trafficking and money laundering.

<sup>69</sup> Melissa Farley et al., *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*: Page 43. 2003.

<sup>70</sup> Kristof, Nicholas D. "Do As He Said." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 12 Mar. 2008. Web. 29 Sept. 2014. <[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/13/opinion/13kristof.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/13/opinion/13kristof.html?_r=0)>.

<sup>71</sup> Melissa Farley et al., *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*. 2003.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Office of Refugee Resettlement (an office of the Administration for Children and Families), *Fact Sheet: Sex Trafficking*. August 2, 2012.

<<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/fact-sheet-sex-trafficking-english>>

- Sex trafficking negatively impacts local and national labor markets, due to the loss of human resources. The effects of trafficking on economies include “depressed wages, fewer individuals left to care for elderly persons, and an undereducated generation. These effects leads to the loss of future productivity and earning power,” especially in child trafficking victims.<sup>74</sup>
- Sex trafficking burdens public health systems. Trafficking victims often suffer from severe physical and psychological traumas, including sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Victims also often suffer physical complications from unsanitary living situations and poor nutrition.
- Sex trafficking erodes government authority, encourages widespread corruption, and threatens the security of vulnerable populations.<sup>75</sup>

## ENDING SEX TRAFFICKING

In order to end the sex trafficking of women and girls, women and girls must be provided with the opportunities to lift themselves from poverty, including access to education. Demand for purchased sex must also be addressed through public education, and laws must be crafted to prohibit the purchasing of sex, incriminate traffickers and assist trafficking victims.

Demand for purchased sex is rooted in issues of gender inequality. Therefore, **IT IS CRUCIAL TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT PARITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.** Addressing gender inequality is important for supply-side solutions to ending trafficking as well. Educational and economic opportunities must be developed for potential trafficking victims. According to world-renowned survivor and anti-trafficking advocate Somaly Mam, such initiatives should include micro-lending programs, job training and counseling, educational programs, and grants to non-governmental organizations to accelerate and advance the political, economic, social and educational roles of women.<sup>76</sup> Women and girls are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation because of the dearth of economic opportunity, exacerbated by gender inequality. Creating gender parity and engineering avenues for women and girls to become economically stable and self-sufficient will help to protect them from being vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.<sup>76</sup>

The demand for purchased sex must also be targeted in the fight against sex trafficking. **WITHOUT DEMAND FOR PURCHASED SEX, THE MARKET WOULD COLLAPSE,** and the women and girls forced to supply their services would no longer be trafficked and exploited. It is critical that men and boys be educated about the truths behind sex trafficking and prostitution, as well as about healthy relationships and respect for women. One way to achieve this is through a “John school,” an unofficial term used to describe a form of educational intervention for men who purchase sex. John schools are typically offered as an alternative to criminal prosecutions for men arrested for soliciting prostituted women. In other cases, they are a mandatory requirement that accompanies probation. Since the first comprehensive John school program was established in San Francisco, CA in 1995, John schools have been established across the United States as well as in Canada, South Korea and the United Kingdom. The San Francisco

<sup>74</sup> Stephanie Bailey, *Policy Simulations Could Help Combat Sex Trafficking*. Policy Innovations, a Publication of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs: August 27, 2012. <<http://www.policyinnovations.org/ideas/innovations/data/000222>>

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Mam, Somaly. "How To End Modern Slavery And Human Trafficking." *Forbes*. Forbes Magazine, 15 Nov. 2013.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/skollworldforum/2013/11/15/how-to-end-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/>>.

program has been shown to alter the manner in which Johns view prostitution and prostituted women, and cut the recidivism rate of offenders nearly in half, from 8 percent to less than 5 percent.<sup>77</sup>

While prostituted women are trafficking victims, they are rarely treated as such and are instead prosecuted for selling sex. For this reason, trafficking victims often do not receive adequate assistance. A recent report from Anti-Slavery International found that authorities tend to give trafficking victims irregular migrant status, rather than consider them as victims of trafficking, which makes it difficult to track and manage cases of trafficking as well as prevents trafficking victims from getting the social services they desperately need. The report also found that trafficking victims lack access to shelters and legal services, as well as inadequate security and few alternatives if returning to their homes. Most countries lacked special services for trafficking victims under 18.<sup>78</sup> **LEGAL INCRIMINATION MUST BE SHIFTED FROM THE VICTIMS TO THOSE THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VICTIMS AND PERPETRATE TRAFFICKING, TRAFFICKERS AND JOHNS.** Prohibitive laws that punish men for commercial sexual exploitation must be crafted to end demand. Furthermore, governments must recognize the need to support trafficking victims and establish proper protocols to do so. These must include efforts must to encourage domestic violence shelters and social support services to develop programs to handle the needs of trafficked women and girls. Rehabilitative transitional living programs should also be implemented to serve trafficked women and girls who are attempting to return to mainstream society.

Efforts to apprehend traffickers must be expanded among all levels of governance. Studies have shown that ratification of the 2000 UN Human Trafficking Protocol increases the likelihood that nations will in fact criminalize trafficking.<sup>79</sup> There must be increased international pressure from the international community on nations that have not yet ratified the protocol to do so. Additionally, a more stringent domestic and international focus must be placed on organized crime, from international crime networks to local street gangs. Sex trafficking is typically one of many illegal activities in which organized crime groups engage. As such, law enforcement officials must understand the nature of human trafficking and how to identify potential trafficking situations while conducting other investigations pertaining to organized crime activities.<sup>80</sup> Efforts must be especially aimed at the leaders of crime groups: “the majority of those arrested are so-called ‘foot-soldiers’, lowly-paid thugs who, though performing the majority of the basic tasks of the trafficking ring, are easily replaced. It is their bosses, those with international contacts and multiple transport operations, that need to be targeted.” Until the leaders are targeted and apprehended, international efforts to combat organized crime groups’ role in sex trafficking will remain ineffective.<sup>81</sup>

Of course, these ameliorative measures cannot be appropriately carried out without the eradication of governmental corruption and involvement in sex trafficking. **THERE MUST TO BE A CONSENSUS REACHED AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT HOW TO INCORPORATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA,** and vice versa. Unfortunately, “the fluctuating economic situations of countries and the unstable political contexts faced by many nations have eroded the political will to successfully tackle the complex

<sup>77</sup> Shively, et al.; *Final Report on the Evaluation of the First Offender Prostitution Program*: Page 66-81. March 7, 2008.

<<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221894.pdf>>

<sup>78</sup> Arocha, Lorena, and Mike Dottridge. *Wrong Kind of Victim? One Year On: An Analysis of UK Measures to Protect Trafficked Persons*. Rep. Anti-Slavery International, June 2010.

<sup>79</sup> Beth Simmons, *Subjective Frames and Rational Choice: Transnational Crime and the Case of Human Trafficking*. July 17, 2012.

<[http://government.arts.cornell.edu/assets/psac/fa10/Simmons\\_PSAC\\_Sep10.pdf](http://government.arts.cornell.edu/assets/psac/fa10/Simmons_PSAC_Sep10.pdf)>

<sup>80</sup> Polaris Project’s North Star Blog, *Organized Crime and Human Trafficking*. April 28, 2010. <<http://www.blog.polarisproject.org/2010/04/28/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/>>

<sup>81</sup> Rahul Bhide, *Human Trafficking and Organized Crime: Solutions?* The Diplomatic Courier: October 19, 2012.

<<http://www.diplomaticcourier.com/news/regions/asia/1234>>

issue of corruption and human trafficking.”<sup>82</sup> The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) should be leveraged to help fight corruption regarding human trafficking. The UNTOC and its three protocols enable states to tackle the problem of trafficking in a comprehensive manner. This is important as trafficking operations are often only one small part of organized crime and corruption networks that have formed. For its part, the UNCAC has relevant articles that include the criminalization of bribery as well as obstruction of justice and money laundering, two issues which facilitate trafficking. Additionally, international governing organizations need to assess trafficking in specific origin and destination countries to better understand the role corruption plays in human trafficking. Governments should also provide clear goals for actions steps to combat corruption and should raise awareness of corruption and its role in sex trafficking among the international community.<sup>83</sup>

## THE NORDIC MODEL

SIA advocates for the adoption of the Nordic Model (originally referred to as the Swedish Model) of anti-prostitution legislation at all levels of government in all member countries. In 1999, with the approval of over 70 percent of its surveyed population, Sweden passed groundbreaking legislation that criminalized the buyer of sexual services. The law does not target prostituted women but rather mandates that prostituted women are provided with comprehensive social support services. It calls for public education efforts so that citizens can fully understand the horrific nature of sex trafficking and its connection to prostitution and for careful training of law enforcement officers to ensure proper implementation.<sup>84</sup> This legislation was a critical component of a larger Violence Against Women bill and is based on the foundation that the system of prostitution is a violation of gender equality. According to the prominent feminist scholar Dr. Janice Raymond, “Sweden’s legislation officially recognizes that it is unacceptable for men to purchase women for sexual exploitation. Equally important, its law acknowledges that a country cannot resolve its human trafficking problem without addressing the demand for prostitution.”<sup>100</sup>

A decade after this model was enacted, the Swedish government published an evaluation of the effect of the law, which was extraordinarily positive. Over ten years, street prostitution had been cut in half; there was no evidence that the reduction in street prostitution had led to an increase in prostitution elsewhere (“underground” or on the Internet); increased services were available for women to exit prostitution; and Sweden was the only European country where prostitution and sex trafficking did not increase over the course of the decade. In all, the country became an unattractive market for traffickers to sell sex, causing trafficking to decrease overall.

This model has served as a guide for several other countries, such as Finland, Iceland and Norway, which is why it is now referred to as the Nordic Model. As in Sweden, the model has had positive results in these countries as well: one year after Norway adopted the model, authorities estimated that the number of women in street prostitution had decreased by 20 percent with underground prostitution also down by 16 percent. Police reported that advertisements for prostitution had dropped 60 percent. Also, the police effectively monitored telephone numbers of buyers who respond to advertisements. This monitoring process allowed police to identify and charge the sex buyers and also revealed a wider network of criminal groups involved in sex trafficking pornography and drug trafficking.<sup>85</sup>

## HOW SOROPTIMIST WORKS TO END SEX TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

<sup>82</sup> Transparency International: The Global Coalition Against Corruption, *Corruption and Human Trafficking*: Page 5. March 2011. <[http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working\\_Paper\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_28\\_Jun\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/CSOs/TI-Working_Paper_Human_Trafficking_28_Jun_2011.pdf)>

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Janice Raymond, *Trafficking, Prostitution and the Sex Industry: The Nordic Legal Model*. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. July 20, 2010.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

As an organization of business and professional women working to improve the lives of women and girls and local communities throughout the world, Soroptimist undertakes a number of projects that help potential trafficking victims.

**SOROPTIMISTS STOP TRAFFICKING**—In 2007, Soroptimist launched this campaign aimed at raising awareness of sex trafficking. Soroptimist club members place sex slavery awareness cards in highly visible locations including police stations, women’s centers, hospitals, legal aid societies, etc. The program has evolved to include a multi-dimensional approach to end sex trafficking including raising awareness, assisting victims, preventing slavery, and advocating for better laws and enforcement. For more information about the campaign, visit the website at [http://www.soroptimist.org/whoweare/program\\_StopTrafficking.html](http://www.soroptimist.org/whoweare/program_StopTrafficking.html).

In addition, Soroptimist undertakes a number of projects that help victims and potential victims. These projects provide direct aid to women and girls—giving women economic tools and skills to achieve financial empowerment and independence:

**SOROPTIMIST LIVE YOUR DREAM: EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARDS FOR WOMEN**—Soroptimist’s major project—provides women who have primary financial responsibility for their families with the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. By helping women to receive skills and resource training, Soroptimist provides past, present and potential trafficking victims with economic options. Each year, more than 1,000 women receive almost \$1.5 million dollars through this program.

The Live Your Dream Awards (formerly Women’s Opportunity Awards) addresses trafficking from two directions by preventing vulnerable women and girls from falling victim to trafficking by providing them with access to education and increasing their economic potential, and also by providing trafficking victims with the resources to create a better future.

Each year, Live Your Dream Awards are awarded to survivors of trafficking and prostitution. 2010 Live Your Dream Awards Federation Finalist Myla from the Philippines experienced the “typical” international trafficking scenario described earlier - she was tricked into trafficking by a neighbor who promised her a more lucrative job abroad. While Myla was able to escape her traffickers, she was left homeless and eventually thrown in jail. Once released, a cellmate was able to contact Myla’s mother who was eventually able to arrange her daughter’s release from prison. Myla is now reunited with her children and working on her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at Baliwag University, majoring in computer science.

**SOROPTIMIST CLUB GRANTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS** provide Soroptimist clubs with cash grants for innovative projects benefiting women and girls. Many clubs undertake projects benefiting trafficking victims and addressing the demand side.

Two Soroptimist clubs in Japan recently used their Soroptimist Club Grant to provide a multi-language hotline counseling service for immigrant women and victims of sex trafficking, and to support the operation of a shelter for women and girls who are victims of violence. Funds were used for the costs of setting up the hotline service, expenses for personnel training and the operational costs of the shelter. Club members participated in sex trafficking lectures and legislative campaigns, helped distribute domestic violence prevention and hotline cards, donated daily necessities and raised funds for the shelter. Over 350 women and 80 girls benefited from the project.

**SOROPTIMIST DISASTER GRANTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS** provide financial assistance to regions affected by environmental disasters or acts of war, to specifically benefit women and girls. Women and girls affected by disasters are often vulnerable to traffickers.



A Japanese club that was recently awarded a Soroptimist Disaster Grant decided to work with Polaris Project Japan, an anti-trafficking organization, to implement a local project to assist women and girls affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Grant funds were used to produce and distribute small safety cards that included safety tips and emergency contact information for women and girls. Alarm whistles and personal care items were also purchased and distributed along with the cards. Roughly 20,000 women and 1,000 girls were reached through this project.

Soroptimist also sponsors **LIVE YOUR DREAM** ([liveyourdream.org](http://liveyourdream.org)), an online volunteer network of self-motivated individuals who wish to support women and girls in their quest to lead better lives, while gaining inspiration in their own lives. Live Your Dream offers numerous volunteer opportunities online, for individuals to take action offline in their own communities. One volunteer opportunity is dedicated to raising awareness of sex trafficking and ending this crime through grassroots activism. Other volunteer opportunities aim to decrease violence against women and increase women's educational and economic opportunities.