

DEFINITION

- ❖ Human trafficking is the **modern-day slave trade**.
- ❖ Definitions vary worldwide; however, the US refers to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, under which the legal definition of a "severe forms of trafficking in persons" is:
 - a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- ❖ Most definitions generally include 3 main criteria, as bolded in the following definition: Human trafficking is the exploitation of people **against their will** for **monetary profit**, while only allowing victims **little or no pay**. (Note differences in comparison to human smuggling)

OVERVIEW

- ❖ There are approximately **27 million** victims worldwide (Free the Slaves), an estimated **80% are female** and **50% children** (US State Department).
- ❖ Victims are trafficked for a variety of purposes, but primarily **forced labor** involving commercial sex acts, agricultural labor, industrial labor, and/or domestic servitude. Approximately 63% of cases involve some form of **bonded labor**, including debt bondage (Siddharth Kara).
- ❖ Human trafficking is a market-based economy that exists on principles of **supply and demand**. It thrives due to conditions which allow for high profits to be generated at low risk (Polaris Project).
- ❖ It is the **fastest growing criminalized industry** in the world, which is attributed to the end of the cold war and globalization. Recent research suggests it has just past the illegal arms trade, making it **the 2nd largest** criminalized industry (Polaris Project).
- ❖ It is estimated that the total yearly profits generated by the human trafficking industry are around **\$35 billion** dollars. \$15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries; \$9.7 billion in Asia; \$13,000 per year generated on average by each "forced laborer." This number can be as high as \$67,200 per victim per year (Polaris Project).
- ❖ There is no **one consistent face of a trafficker**. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized networks, and international organized criminal syndicates (Polaris Project).
- ❖ **Different countries** may be primarily sites of origin, transit, destination and/or internal trafficking (Polaris Project). An estimated **800,000** victims are trafficked across international borders each year (US State Department).

UNITED STATES

- ❖ There are approximately **200,000** victims currently within the U.S., of which an estimated **14,500-17,500** foreign nationals are trafficked into the US each year (DOJ, HHS, DOS, DOL, DHS, and USAID).
- ❖ Annually, **30,000** victims are transported through the US to other international destinations (Not for Sale Campaign).
- ❖ Some researchers consider the U.S. to be the **#2 destination** for human trafficking, after Germany, but there is not enough evidence for rankings. However, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime considers these countries, along with seven others, to be the top destinations for victims of trafficking (UNODC).
- ❖ Cases of human trafficking have been reported in **all fifty states** of the United States (Free the Slaves).
- ❖ The majority of victims in the U.S. are **commercial sex trafficking** victims (US Department of Justice).
- ❖ From when the TVPA (2000) came into effect, until 2008, there had been: 998 cases opened, 196 cases investigated, 531 prosecutions and **419 convictions**. Despite this progress, the annual percentage of cases solved in the U.S. is **less than 1%** with an average sentence of only **9 years** (Polaris Project).

OHIO

- ❖ Over **60 cases** of human trafficking have been identified in Ohio over the past nine years (Abolition Ohio)
- ❖ Until 2010, Ohio was considered one of the **“Dirty Dozen,”** which is comprised of states that either ignore human trafficking or employ a very weak approach to their legislation (Polaris Project). Legislation that passed in 2010 and 2012 improved Ohio’s ranking to one of the top ten states.
- ❖ **1,078 children** in Ohio are currently presumed to be trafficked, with **3,016 children** at high risk (Ohio Trafficking In Persons Study Commission).
- ❖ **Toledo, OH is considered a significant “origin city”** by the FBI, meaning pimps are known to recruit victims from Toledo, meaning pimps are known to recruit victims from Toledo. These victims are frequently taken to other states to engage in prostitution activities.
- ❖ Ohio is so **vulnerable** because it has an extensive highway system, the most truck stops, a sharply rising immigrant population, a large commercial sex industry, and significant pockets of high unemployment and poverty.
- ❖ In Ohio, **85%** of surveyed law-enforcement officials, attorneys, and social workers believed they had dealt with human trafficking cases. While, only **20%** were aware of relevant Ohio laws criminalizing it (Greater Cincinnati Human Trafficking Report).

If you suspect a case of human trafficking call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s (NHTRC) toll-free hotline at 1-888-3737-888.

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