

issue brief

Human Trafficking



This CAFAmerica Issue Brief presents a synopsis of facts, research and funding opportunities for causes you care about. It isn't meant to be a comprehensive report, and for that reason, provides a list of resources and website where you can learn more.

We hope you will use this as a starting point to investigate your funding interests, and find out how you can make a global difference.

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BACKGROUND

Like all for-profit industries, human trafficking relies on supply and demand. This 21st century manifestation of the slave trade is currently a multi-billion dollar industry built on consumer demand for a single product—fellow human beings. Human traffickers offer consumers several 'products'—child soldier, domestic servant, exotic dancer, manual laborer, etc. However, the main motive behind human trafficking remains sexual exploitation. According to the International Labor Organization, there are over 12 million people in forced labor or sexual servitude at any given time throughout the world. The majority of these victims are women; half are children.¹

Traffickers often ensnare their victims through fraudulent advertisements that promise a better life abroad via a good job or a chance at an education. Other victims are kidnapped outright or sold by their own relatives. Throughout the world, ignorance, poverty, unemployment, and regional instability ensure a steady availability of victims to exploit.

Traffickers routinely confiscate their victims' passports or identification papers, forestalling any hope of escape or possible rescue by legal authorities. They also often play a dual role as pimp, forcing the women they prostitute into an enduring state of debt and dependence.

CHALLENGES

The commerce in human beings, unlike the illicit trade in arms or drugs, is extremely difficult to accurately monitor and prevent. Estimates of

persons trafficked worldwide range from 4 to 27 million, indicating that the problem may be more extensive than reported.²

Traffickers often face little resistance from victims who are fearful of being prosecuted themselves if taken into custody. Sadly, this fear is warranted; victims, especially female prostitutes, are routinely treated as criminals by legal authorities. This fear is further compounded when victims find themselves in a foreign country. Unable to communicate, with no understanding of the culture or where to turn for help, they are truly isolated and alone.

In addition to being an obvious violation of human rights, human trafficking poses severe risks to health. Trafficked victims suffer from immeasurable psychological damage, as well as critical physical and sexual abuse. A multi-country report published in 2003 found that nearly 70% of women prostitutes studied met the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.³ The report also noted the high prevalence of depression and anxiety among the women.

Sexually transmitted diseases pose an additional risk for prostituted women and contribute to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The incidence rate for HIV/AIDS among women trafficked from Nepal to India is nearly 40%. The rate increases to 60% among girls younger than 15 years old.⁴ Cervical cancer is another threat for women forced to have sex with multiple partners at an early age. Coerced, unprotected sex also results in an increase in abortions, often illicit and performed under unsafe conditions.

¹ Trafficking in Persons Report, June 12, 2007, The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State, www.state.gov.

² *Ibid.*

³ Farley, Melissa et al. "Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder." *Journal of Trauma Practice* 2 (2003): 33-74.

⁴ Silverman, Jay C. et al. "HIV Prevalence and Predictors of Infection in Sex-Trafficked Nepalese Girls and Women." *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 298 (2007): 536-542.

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WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Human traffickers benefit from the same factors that abet all criminals worldwide—ignorance, greed, and corruption. Despite these formidable human obstacles, international organizations, governments, and legal authorities around the world are making headway to prevent and prosecute human trafficking.

Forging International Cooperation

Increased globalization and more porous boundaries have made it easier for human traffickers to escape detection. In particular, the fall of the Soviet Union and concomitant collapse of Eastern European borders has made it possible to lure hundreds of thousands of young women into prostitution rings across the world. Final destinations for these women are mainly countries in Western Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States. To combat transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, the United Nations adopted the Palermo Convention in 2000. Ratified by over 100 member countries, the Convention includes a protocol to prevent and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Raising Awareness

Traffickers profit from both general ignorance of human trafficking and stigma that stifles discussion of the issue. Increased awareness and understanding, both among victims and the general population, is therefore crucial to combat human trafficking. In June 2007, the U.S. Congress established a day to remember human trafficking victims and raise national awareness; January 11, 2008, marked the first Human Trafficking Awareness Day in U.S. history.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to call the Department of Justice Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-428-7581 to report any suspicions of human trafficking.

Changing Attitudes

A major challenge to effective prosecution of human traffickers is an alarmingly widespread tendency to treat victims as criminals. The United States Department of

Health and Human Services (USDHHS) has implemented a public awareness campaign to combat this pattern, and to ensure that victims of human trafficking are accorded both compassion and justice. The USDHHS is also working to guarantee victims of human trafficking the same assistance currently offered to refugees. In addition, the US Department of State promotes a victim-centered approach that affords trafficking victims the opportunity to speak with trained counselors and translators.⁵

FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH CAFAMERICA

Unfortunately, nonprofits committed to fighting human trafficking often receive little recognition and are consequently under funded. As CAFAmerica grants are entirely dependant on donor suggestions, we hope that these grantee profiles inspire you to give. If you would like to suggest a grant to the following organizations, please contact us at info@cafamerica.org.

Animus Association Foundation, Bulgaria

For the past two decades, the Animus Association Foundation (AAF) has been helping Bulgarian trafficking and domestic violence victims rebuild their lives. Since 1988, the Animus Association has been fighting human trafficking through the “La Strada Program for Prevention of Trafficking in Women in Central and Eastern Europe.” La Strada concentrates on three main issues: social assistance and victim support, prevention and press campaigns, and advocacy.

AAF is currently developing new strategies both to prevent human trafficking among minors and to treat minor victims of the crime. A successful program implemented in 2006 led to the psychosocial rehabilitation of children victims. The program includes life skills’ training for children in state institutions, and counseling for victims and their parents.

AAF future plans include increased cooperation with the Bulgarian travel and tourism industry. They are lobbying for a new code of conduct within the industry to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. To learn more, visit www.animusassociation.org.

European Network of Women, Greece

From its base in Athens, Greece, the European Network

⁵ Trafficking in Persons Report, June 12, 2007, The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State, www.state.gov.



of Women (ENW) runs anti-violence campaigns and free help lines for victims of human trafficking. Their programs provide information on local resources, and free legal advice and assistance. The ENW also supports advocacy work and training for professionals working to combat human trafficking.

In 2006, the ENW welcomed 24 trafficking victims to their women's shelter and received calls from 25 areas throughout Athens, many involving children either as victims or as witnesses. The network also provided legal advice and psychological and medical support to over 500 women.

Through their efforts, the ENW hopes to "contribute to the economic, physical, moral, and psychological independence of women." In 2006, CAFAmerica granted approximately \$50,000 to ENW; the grant was used to cover shelter and hotline costs, and meet other needs of the women served. For more information about this organization, visit www.enow.gr.

Save the Children UK, United Kingdom

Save the Children UK, one of over 25 Save the Children member organizations worldwide, exists for one purpose – to fight for children. In order to do so, Save the Children implements programs in five arenas, including "child protection." Current projects focus on ending child labor and the use of child soldiers, as well as reuniting orphans or children separated from their families as a result of conflict or natural disaster.

Save the Children UK runs on the ground operations in 15 countries on five continents. Projects include coordination with local employers, education programs and poverty reduction initiatives, as well as a two faceted approach for child soldiers: direct contact with children in conflict zones susceptible to recruitment and demobilization of those already in armed combat.

Anti-human trafficking efforts are focused in south and East Asia, where an alarming percentage of sex workers are children (one third according to Save the Children UK). Current programs in China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Thailand include preventative measures to help women

and children vulnerable to traffickers and reintegration efforts to help trafficked children return home.

To learn more about this organization, visit www.savethechildren.org.uk. To support Save the Children UK, and the above programs in particular, contact CAFAmerica at info@cafamerica.org and indicate "child protection" on your gift form.

Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement – End Human Trafficking Now! Switzerland

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) focuses on peace and reconciliation efforts, particularly in the Middle East, while stressing the involvement of women in their initiatives. Through the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign and coordination with national and international business partners, SMWIPM hopes to make significant advances to eliminate human trafficking.

Through the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign, the organization asks business partners to commit to the Athens Ethical Principles: "a code of conduct evidencing their commitment to put an end to human trafficking, both from the point of view of sexual exploitation and forced labour, with a zero tolerance front." Committing to zero tolerance means companies pledge to not condone or benefit from human trafficking in any form.

Since 2004, the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign has been raising awareness through PSAs, publications, and advertisements. The campaign also contributes to needed research on issues surrounding human trafficking and collaborates frequently with the United Nations and other NGOs. The movement took advantage of the 2006 World Cup in Germany to raise awareness among football fans, especially among the women and children present who represented potential victims of human trafficking.

To learn more about this organization, visit www.endhumantraffickingnow.com.

To give to the organizations listed here, or another international charity of your choice, contact CAFAmerica today at info@cafamerica.org.



RESOURCES

Reports and Publications

People Trafficking: Upholding Rights & Understanding Vulnerabilities. Forced Migration Review No. 25, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, May 2006. FMR is a multi-language resource dealing with refugee and migration-related themes. This edition tackles trafficking in South Asia, responsibilities of the destination country, and many more diverse topics. To find out more and access additional issues, visit www.fmreview.org.

The Small Hands of Slavery. Save the Children UK, 2007. Published 200 years after the end of the British slave trade, this report examines the predominance of child slavery today, including child prostitution, forced labor, and child soldiers. To download the report, visit www.humantrafficking.org.

Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe. United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF/UNOHCHR/OSCE ODIHR, 2005. This UNICEF report explores the factors behind human trafficking in South Eastern Europe, and reasons they are not being adequately handled. To download the full report, visit www.unicef.org.

Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, April 2006. Through this comprehensive report mapping international trafficking trends, the UNODC hopes to raise global awareness and motivate member states to improve their own reporting of human trafficking. To read this report, visit www.unodc.org.

Websites

Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org

Anti-Slavery, www.antislavery.org

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, www.catwinternational.org

Council of Europe Action Against Human Trafficking, www.coe.int

ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), www.ecpat.net

Human Trafficking Website, www.gvnet.com/humantrafficking

International Organization for Migration, www.iom.int

Polaris Project, www.polarisproject.org

UN.GIFT – Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, www.ungift.org

United States Department of Health and Human Services, www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

CAFAmerica...Your World. Your Move.

CAFAmerica connects US donors with charities worldwide, helping them make a difference for people and causes they care about. We work with individuals, families, corporations and foundations. We also enable foreign charities to fundraise easily in the US.

With a network of offices around the globe, we are experts in global giving and identifying local needs. CAFAmerica is an independent member of the CAF International Network, which spans six continents and manages more than \$4 billion in charitable funds.

CAFAmerica makes global giving effective and secure for everyone.

We're changing the culture of global giving, by creating a world where international giving is not uncommon, but done every day.

Join us in our commitment to make lasting change. Call us today for a free brochure, *Your Passport to Global Giving*, or visit our new website at www.cafamerica.org.