



Part 1 of 2 . . .

Slavery Was Not Abolished in 1864; It Still Exists Today

Edited by Judy Helein and Karole McKalip

The League of Women Voters of the United States at their convention in June 2014 adopted the Human Trafficking Position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey as follows: “The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.”

The unit discussion article this month is in large part taken from the League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s Human Trafficking Study and Consensus. This study was conducted by Elizabeth Santeramo and Doris Schapira, with assistance on specific research items from Norma Blake, Loretta Lynch, Joy Scally and Rhea Tabakin. The entire study with many resources can be found on the League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s website, www.lwvnj.org. The New Jersey study included information on the state of New Jersey and Essex County that is not included in this article.

Human Trafficking Part 2 will be presented in February 2015 and will include information on Virginia and Fairfax County

Definition

“Trafficking in persons” and “human trafficking” have been used as umbrella terms for the act of: Recruiting, Harboring, Transporting, Providing, or Obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It includes: compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.

Human trafficking can include but does not require movement. People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked.

Common Methods of Control include:

- Restriction of movement
- Confiscating passports, visas, and/or identification
- Constantly accompanying the victim
- Insisting on answering questions on behalf of the

- victim, and/or translating all conversations
- Isolating the victim by not disclosing his or her location or address
- Requiring the victim to live and work in the same location
- Harmful living conditions
- Restricting access to food and appropriate clothing
- Forbidding access to appropriate medical care
- Not allowing time off or sufficient time to sleep
- Harmful working conditions
- In exchange for work opportunity, charging a large fee that is difficult or impossible to pay off
- Requiring unusually long work hours with few or no breaks
- Restricting the number of days off
- Providing little to no pay or irregular pay

Selling Stolen Babies

One other area, which is also human trafficking but does not fit neatly into the previous definitions, is the selling of stolen babies. This involves kidnapping or in other ways obtaining babies that are wanted by their birth families, but passing them off as orphans. They are sold for huge profits to desperate would-be parents, who do not know that the babies have been stolen and who think they are saving the



baby from a life in an orphanage or on the street.

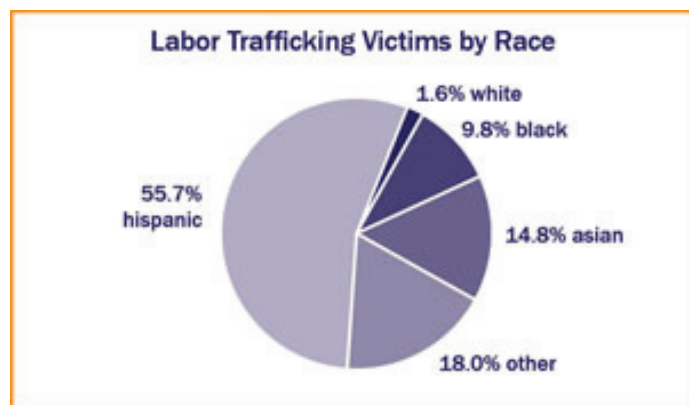
REPORTED INCIDENTS 2008-2010

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, provided the following figures in April 2011.

- Federally funded task forces opened 2,515 suspected incidents of human trafficking for investigation between January 2008 and June 2010.
- About 8 in 10 of the suspected incidents of human trafficking were classified as sex trafficking.
- About 1 in 10 incidents were classified as labor trafficking.
- Federal agencies were more likely to lead labor trafficking investigations (29%) than sex trafficking investigations (7%).
- More than half (62%) of the confirmed labor trafficking victims were age 25 or older, compared with 13% of confirmed sex trafficking victims.
- Four-fifths of victims in confirmed sex trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens (83%), while most confirmed labor trafficking victims were identified as undocumented aliens (67%) or qualified aliens (28%).

Trafficking.org Statistics

- Minor victims were sold an average of 10-15 times a day, 6 days a week.
- 1 out of 5 pornographic images is of a child.
- The sale of child pornography has become a \$3 billion dollar industry.
- Over 100,000 websites offer child pornography.
- 55% of Internet child pornography comes from the United States.



How Many People Are Actually Trafficked?

The United States Department of State 2012 and 2013 Report on Trafficking in Person (TIP) states estimates that as many as 27 million men, women, and children around the

world are victims of what is now often described with the umbrella term “human trafficking” at any given time. The work that remains in combating this crime is the work of fulfilling the promise of freedom -- freedom from slavery, for those exploited, and the freedom for survivors to carry on with their lives.

Gender Estimates

According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime: Women account for 55% to 60% of all trafficking victims detected globally; women and girls together account for about 75%. Twenty-seven percent of all victims detected globally are children. Of every 3 child victims, 2 are girls and 1 is a boy.

Estimates--Not Statistics--for the United States

The Congressional Research Service estimates that as many as 17,500 people are believed to be trafficked into the United States each year, and some have estimated that 100,000 U.S. citizen children are victims of trafficking within the United States.

Incidence in the United States

The following is a list of available statistics estimating the scope of human trafficking within the United States from Trafficking.org. *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the United States:*

- There are 100,000 to 300,000 underage girls being sold for sex in America.
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 12-14 years old.
- 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year.
- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of running away from home.

A good resource is this website, which is constantly updated: <http://human.globalincidentmap.com/home.php> When you view it, scroll to U.S., and magnify the map. Be sure to click on legend to see what the flashing symbols mean.

THE POLARIS PROJECT

The Polaris Project, a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, was founded in 2002 and is named after the North Star that guided slaves to freedom in the U.S. From working with government leaders to protecting victims' rights, to building partnerships with the world's leading technology corporations, Polaris sparks long-term change that focuses communities on identifying, reporting and eliminating trafficking networks. This comprehensive

model puts victims at the center of all that the organization does – helping survivors restore their freedom, preventing more victims, and gathering the data to pursue traffickers wherever they operate.

The Polaris Project operates the free central 24-h our National Human Trafficking Resource Center for the United States, connecting professionals, victims and community members to information services. Call 1 (888) 373-7888 or text HELP or BE FREE (233733) to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in a specific area; or to request training and technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources.

Polaris' policy program is viewed as a premier source of human trafficking legislation and policy expertise in the United States. During the past 4 years, Polaris has rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws that are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors. 2014 is the final year of Polaris' State Ratings on Human Trafficking laws. This year's analysis shows that 37 states passed new laws to fight trafficking in the past year. Delaware, New Jersey and Washington have perfect scores, meaning that they have laws fulfilling all 10 categories. Twelve states have failed to make minimal efforts to pass laws that support victims.

Polaris Project Statistical Snapshots

Sex trafficking

Sex trafficking exists within the broader commercial sex trade, often at much larger rates than most people realize or understand. Sex trafficking has been found in a wide variety of venues of the overall sex industry, including residential brothels, hostess clubs, online escort services, fake massage businesses, strip clubs and street prostitution.

Fake Massage Businesses

- "Johns" who frequent fake massage businesses make it a "hobby" to buy sex and to track all such brothels nationwide. There are more than 5,000 brothels disguised as massage businesses nationwide.
- Standard pricing structure: Johns pay a house fee of \$60 - \$90 per half hour/hour plus they occasionally pay tips; the women are pressured to "please the customer."
- Standard day for a woman in a fake massage business: 10 a.m. - 2 or 3 a.m., 7 days a week.
- Estimated average number of men a woman must have sex with daily: 6 - 10.

Internet-Based

- When the U.S. Craigslist Adult Services Section was available, there were 10,000-16,000 adult services postings/day in the U.S. alone. This was estimated to be 40% of the total online sex ads in the U.S. each day at the time.
- Law enforcement across the U.S. has identified online sex ads as the number one platform for the buying and selling of sex with children and young women.
- An FBI investigation found that more than 2,800 ads of prostituted children were posted on Craigslist in 2008 alone.

Residential Brothels

- Standard price for 15 minutes of sex at a Residential Brothel: \$30
- Standard day for a woman or child at a Residential Brothel: 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 12 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Estimated number of men a woman or child must have sex with daily: 25 - 48 men.

Street Prostitution

- Estimated number of men that victims must have sex with daily: 1 - 15
- Standard quota per night: \$500 to \$1,000 or more per night
- Minors as young as 12 years old are recruited into prostitution in the United States.

Hostess & Strip Clubs

In the 2008 study "Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution," conducted by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 46% of the 113 interviewees had bought sex at strip clubs and 49% of interviewees believed that there were girls under 18 years of age working at strip clubs.

Escort Services

While statistics on the scope of sex trafficking in escort services are not available, a 2008 study provides insight into the dynamics of the network. It states that of the women and girls interviewed, 41% of the women and girls were escorts, and 28% started as escorts when first recruited into commercial sex. Ninety-three percent had pimps when they were first recruited. Of the 41% who were escorts, 67% had experienced violence by their pimps and 59% said that they had been coerced.

Truck Stops

Victims working a truck stop typically earn \$5 - \$100 per sex act. All earnings are confiscated by the pimp. Victims of pimp-controlled sex trafficking are

commonly forced to meet quotas of \$500 to \$1,000 a night. The availability of statistics is limited due to the crime's hidden nature and limited awareness by law enforcement and social-service providers

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines labor trafficking as: "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 bondage or slavery."

Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farm workers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay. In the United States, these forms of forced labor are more prevalent than many people realize.

Agriculture & Farms

Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, numerous cases of slavery have emerged in agriculture. In the state of Florida alone, the Department of Justice has prosecuted 7 labor trafficking cases, assisting over 1,000 victims. Most recently, on September 2, 2010, the Department of Justice issued an indictment alleging that Global Horizons, a labor recruiting company, recruited over 400 Thai workers and forced them to work in agriculture in at least 13 states by ensuring the workers accrued a substantial debt, confiscating their passports and visas, and deporting workers that didn't cooperate with the company's demands.

Domestic Workers

Victims of domestic servitude in the U.S. are most often foreign national women with or without documentation living in the home of their employer. Men and boys may also be victims, but these cases are less common.

Restaurants & Food Service

Cases of human trafficking in restaurants have been investigated in multiple states, including Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the prevalence of labor trafficking in restaurants has been

commonly cited by human trafficking investigators and service providers as an area of concern.

Factories/Manufacturing

Labor trafficking in manufacturing occurs in the garment industry and in food processing plants in the United States. Victims, both men and women, have been forced to work 10-12 hour days, 6-7 days per week with little or no break time. People may be trafficked into garment industry jobs such as sewing, assembling, pressing, or packing apparel. Others may be forced to work in food processing operations that include slaughtering, preserving, canning and packing goods for distribution.



An Example Several workers paid large fees to labor recruiters who brought them to the U.S. with falsified documents. When the workers arrived in the U.S., they had to work at a canning plant in a small, rural town in Kansas to pay their enormous debt. Then recruiters required that the workers live in overcrowded conditions in housing that they provided. Because of its isolated location, the workers had to rely on the recruiters for food and basic

supplies. Recruiters took the majority of the workers' paychecks, claiming that the money went to their debt, housing, and food. *This information is based on calls received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

Peddling & Begging Rings

Peddling and begging rings are estimated to cumulatively earn \$50 million annually. Victims may take in as much as \$100 per day, but are allotted barely enough to cover meals, usually \$8 to \$15 per day. They typically don't have enough money to buy a bus ticket home.

Hospitality Industry

Over 1.5 million people in the U.S. work in the accommodation industry. The extent of trafficking within the industry is unknown.

PROSECUTION & PROTECTION LAWS

This part of the study focuses on existing anti-trafficking laws which deal with the prosecution of offenders as well as victim protection and services.

United States Law

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) is a federal statute passed into law in 2000 and renewed in 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2013. It created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking, with a significant focus on the international dimension of the problem. The law provides a three-pronged approach:

- • Prevention through public awareness programs overseas with a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program;
- • Protection through a new T-Visa and services for foreign national victims, and
- • Prosecution through new federal crimes laws.

Pending U.S. Legislation

A new law is being considered in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 1732) “Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act.” This bill was introduced with bipartisan support, including co-sponsorship by the late New Jersey congressman Donald Payne.

Some minors who are sex-trafficking victims have had contact, often multiple times, with a child welfare system not always prepared to help them. This bill is low-cost because it focuses on the utilization of existing resources and reporting frameworks. provides for the use of existing resources to better protect and serve these vulnerable youth.

According to Polaris Project, a 2007 study conducted in New York State shows that more than 85% of identified commercially sexually exploited children in New York State had prior child welfare involvement. The information identified by this reporting requirement will help child welfare officials to better meet their child protection goals by encouraging better identification of trafficked children, and greater understanding of their specialized support and services needs.

Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States

On April 9, 2013, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote in part:

“Now, for the first time in more than a decade, the federal government has created a coordinated “Strategic Action Plan to strengthen services to victims of human trafficking in the United States. Together with the Department of

Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, we are co-chairing this process and working with partner agencies of the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. We released the proposed Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States this morning to the public for comment... Human trafficking is wrong. It is illegal. Join us in the fight for dignity for some of the most vulnerable among us.” (The complete federal strategic action plan can be found on the website. See End Note #3.)

Bradley Myles, CEO, Polaris Project, issued the following statement with regard to the federal strategic plan: “We strongly support the recommendations offered for the U.S., and agree that increasing funding for service for all victims of human trafficking -- including U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, men, women and children -- should be a top priority. The U.S. government’s first-ever federal strategic action plan to strengthen services for trafficking victims is an important milestone, and we strongly support an increase in funding to accelerate the government’s ability to implement this plan.”

The States

Today, all 50 states have human trafficking laws. But the laws vary greatly in definition and areas covered. The implementation of these laws is dismal, judging by the few cases brought to the justice system in proportion to the extent of the crimes.

Safe Harbor Laws

Bradley Myles, CEO, Polaris Project, emphasizes that it is still possible for child victims of sex trafficking to be arrested and prosecuted for prostitution in dozens of states. He urges more states to pass ‘Safe Harbor’ laws that provide support for these young victims of exploitation and abuse.

The Opposite Point of View

- One woman, Laura Agustin, claims on her website: “Millions of people around the world make a living selling sex, for many different reasons. What are they expected to do? This would take away their livelihoods. Selling sex may be their preference.”
- Media outlets such as Backpage.com, and the classified ad section of numerous print and online publications, make their money selling sex ads. Their business would not be as profitable if they did not sell ads.
- Traffickers make millions of dollars selling sex or labor and they don’t want to be deprived of their income.
- Some may feel that these efforts might be too costly.

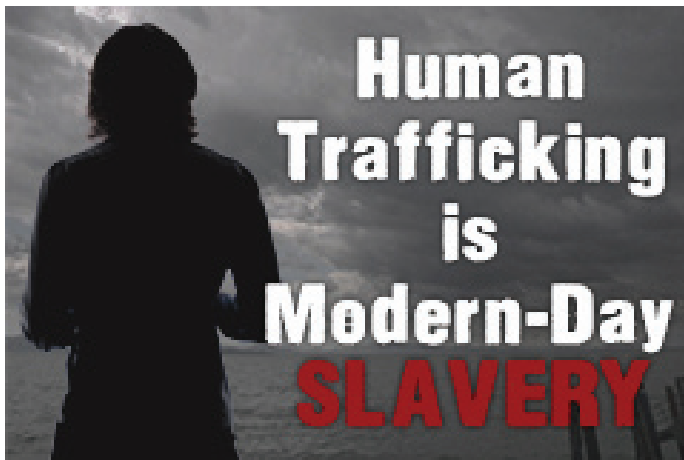
COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Many Americans have little – if any – awareness of human trafficking. Even those who have heard of human trafficking are uninformed. Some believe that incidents of trafficking might occur somewhere else in the world – probably in some distant foreign country – not where they live or work. Not in the U.S.A.

The belief is often held that women from poor foreign countries choose to come to this country and work as prostitutes or in low paying jobs because it is better than the life they left behind. The truth is that they are tricked into a slave trade. Men, women and children are then exploited for both sex and labor. It most definitely exists in our neighborhoods and workplace, and might even involve our own children.

Many are horrified when they learn that people with whom they interact every day – a maid, a manicurist, a landscaper, a restaurant worker – may in fact be held against their will, exploited and abused.

More people are enslaved today than ever were in the transatlantic slave trade of the past.



Some patrons who visit a neighborhood business where trafficked individuals are working, may get a gut feeling that “something is wrong or off,” but fear keeps them from taking action. Factors that keep the community-at-large from recognizing human trafficking in their communities and taking corrective action are lack of awareness of:

- the forms of human trafficking
- the signs that human trafficking is taking place in their community
- the fact that many community businesses that have trafficked individuals working for them operate under the radar of concerned citizens because they

are not a public nuisance

We hope that this article has increased your awareness of the extent of the Human Trafficking problem in the United States. In February we will delve into what is happening in Virginia and Fairfax County.

END NOTES:

1. League of Women Voters New Jersey Study Human Trafficking http://www.lwvnj.org/images/issues/HT/2013_HT-Study-FactsIssues.pdf
2. The Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org>

Discussion Questions

1. Did the article help you to understand the scope of human trafficking in the U.S.? Were you aware of the widespread areas that use the labors of people who are being “trafficked”?
2. How many members and/or guests who attended the unit meeting were aware of the Polaris Project? What does it do?
3. Discuss the Federal laws/actions that are currently in place or proposed. Do we need more laws or more effective prosecution?
4. What actions, if any, can we as individuals take to address the issues around human trafficking, i.e., its exposure, support for victims, preventive laws?

Virginia Moves to End Veteran Homelessness

September 24, 2014, marked the kickoff of the statewide 100 Day Challenge to house veterans experiencing homelessness. On any given night, 617 veterans in Virginia are homeless based on the 2014 Point-In-Time Count, a survey of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. Understanding the gravity of this situation, Governor Terry McAuliffe and mayors from Alexandria, Hampton, Richmond, Petersburg, Salem, Roanoke, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News signed the Mayors Challenge. The initiative is designed to encourage community leaders to collaborate on strategies targeting veteran homelessness.

This 100 Day Challenge is a step toward ending veteran homelessness by the end of December 2015. It follows a two-day Boot Camp in which community partners from Roanoke, Richmond and Hampton Roads teamed up to create local goals based on unique challenges that each