

Slavery was thought to be abolished in 1863, yet it continues to exist today primarily due to poverty, profound corruption, deception and greed. A modern day form of slavery, human trafficking impacts almost every country in the world. Next to the drug trafficking trade, due to its high profit potential it has become one of the most lucrative international, criminal enterprise. What is disturbing is the immoral, degrading and destructive crimes committed and how they are being inflicted upon the victim by another human being and not by some other source. Even more disturbing is oftentimes those apart of the organized network are not strangers to the victims but family, friends, neighbors or acquaintances.

With the promise of an economic opportunity that would improve life, thousands of people, especially women and children each year regardless of geographical locations, age, gender, ethnic origin or cultural background fall into the pathway of traffickers who lure and ensnare them into forced labor, sex trafficking and organ removal, exploiting their vulnerabilities for unimaginable profits. Those who fall victims to this multimillion dollar crime suffer tremendous physical and psychological harm at the control of others who deprive them of their freedom, violating their human right while they reap the financial reward. This is a serious global problem that cannot be ignored. The world must be sensitized to the atrocious, criminal extent of human trafficking and how the lives of so many people are being destroyed as they are taken advantage of and forced into providing services against their will.

Before looking at some ways of suffocating the financial benefits of this modern day atrocity. First and foremost, it is important to understand what human trafficking is, the various types, those affected by it, the actors involved in the network, indicators, global strategies to eradicate it and spiritual implications.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What is human trafficking? In simple terms it refers to the movement of a person from one location to another against their will. A more detailed definition as outlined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking persons defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat of use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or the position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another for the purpose of exploitation.

It is important to note that within the trafficking in person's process there are three interdependent elements. Firstly, the Action/Mobilization or (what is done) involves the recruitment, providing for, transfer, transportation, harboring and receipt of persons. Secondly, also affecting this process by use of force, fraud or coercion is the Means or (How this is done). The use of force refers to the physical and sexual abuse, assault or confinement of a victim. Fraud on the other hand includes false promises of work or living conditions, withholding promised wages or contract fraud. Coercion may include threats of harm to others, debt bondage, psychological manipulation, or document confiscation all for the Purpose (why it is done) of exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor services, slavery practices similar to slavery servitude or removal of organs.

There are more human slaves in the world today than ever before in history. In fact, there are an estimated 27 million adults and 13million children around the world who are victims of human trafficking. Profits of anywhere from \$9 billion to \$31.6 billion dollars is estimated to be made annually with half of these profits being made in industrialized countries. Those identified by the National Human Resource Centre who stand to benefit from trafficking are the recruiters, who are responsible for arranging the sale, followed by the middle man or a network of drivers, escorts and security officers who ensures that the victim is transported to the employer, trafficker or pimp who then exploits the victim. What does a trafficker look like? There is no one face for a trafficker who can either be male or female legitimate small business owners, labor brokers, intimate partners, growers and crew leaders in agriculture, factory owners, gangs, criminal networks and employers of domestic servants.

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There are four types of Human Trafficking identified linked to slave criminal practices. There is Sexual Exploitation that involves any non-consensual or abusive sexual acts performed without a person's permission. In the commercial sex trade a human trafficker can earn 20 times what he or she paid for a girl. Ludwig Tarzan Fainberg, a convicted trafficker, said "you can buy a woman for \$10,000.00 and make your money back in a week if she is pretty and young. Then everything else is profit." The initial investments made by criminals to traffic a person is not high but once the victim has been recruited the profit one can make by repeatedly exploiting them is very high.(IOM Counter Trafficking Training

Module) In their heartless pursuits of illegal financial gain, some traffickers have even recruited handicapped girls particularly those diagnosed with Downs Syndrome into the sex industry.

As sex slaves women are expected to meet a quota, forced to have unprotected sex with as many 15 customers per night while monies made is paid directly to the trafficker. Regional Coordinator, Asia and Pacific, for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Caitlin Wieson-Antin, HIV/AIDS said “Trafficking...contributes to the spread of HIV significantly increasing the vulnerability of trafficked persons to infections. In some cases victims experience sterility, miscarriages, forced abortions as well as anal and vaginal trauma. A victim's refusal to comply with a customer's request can and has led to brutal and sometimes fatal consequences. To protect their investments or prevent them from escaping, sex traffickers use a variety of ways to control their victims by subjecting them to starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, torture, confinement, threats of violence, forced drug use and shame.

Victims of forced labor, adults as well as children are compelled to work very long hours often in factories, on farms, construction sites, fishing vessels and mines under substandard, hazardous, conditions. In most cases, victims are only fed one meal per day and have to hand over the majority if not all of their wages to their traffickers which may be as the result of an unpaid debt. Movement is restricted, little or no medical assistance received and the victim is confined to the work area. Living conditions are deplorable, sleeping arrangements overcrowded and victims have no contact with family members. Passports and other forms of identification usually are withheld from the victim.

Imagine that in some countries like Vietnam, Romania and Nigeria, children have been intentionally maimed by their trafficker and forced to beg on the streets. In such cases sympathy from others serves as a means to drive the profits higher. A 2009 Washington Times article confirmed that, the Taliban bought children as young as seven years old to act as suicide bombers. The price for the sale of these innocent children was said to be between \$7,000-\$14,000 dollars.

Recruitment and exposure of children in armed conflict is cruel. To think that minors who should be allowed to experience normal childhood development are being enlisted into military groups that thrive on violence. Consequently, the chances of them ever attending school or reaching the age of adulthood is interrupted by devious plans of the trafficker.

Domestic servants are forced to work in private households performing domestic duties to include, cooking, child care, custodial work and are paid low wages for countless hours of service. Isolating and keeping the victims away from environments where they do not speak in their native language or persons of familiar background only serves as a means for traffickers to maintain full control of the victim.

Apart from sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour others caught in the snare of human trafficking also include persons trafficked for the illegal sale of their organs. UN.GIFT.ORG reported that vulnerable migrants, children, homeless and illiterate persons fall in this category of victims who have been either deceived by recruiters into giving up an organ, been ill, treated for an ailment and had their organ removed without their knowledge or were cheated and not paid for the organ sold. Oftentimes kidneys and liver parts are sold to repay a debt and by the time the body part is removed and sold not only is the promise of follow up medical services not rendered, money from the sale of an organ is still insufficient to repay the debt owed. Thus, the victim never achieves economic freedom or stability.

Human trafficking is often overlooked simply because persons are unaware of the signs that would help to identify a potential victim.

Some Common Indicators or “Red Flags” of Human Trafficking includes;

- A certain amount of money must be earned everyday as with certain amount of clients to be entertained
- Debt Bondage
- A Person is rarely alone and always have an escort with them
- A Person exhibits submissive behavior
- A Person shows signs of emotional distress, depression or anxiety
- A Person unable to move to a new location or leave their job
- A Person lives with multiple people in unsanitary living conditions
- A Person not in control of their documents, such as passports, ID cards etc.
- A Person is not paid for their work or paid very little
- A Person has no choice in the kinds of sexual acts they engage in, whether with or without condoms. The victim’s is sacrificed for the needs of their clients.

TIER PLACEMENTS

The Trafficking in Persons 2016 Report is the US Government's principal diplomatic tool (TIP) in reporting the efforts of various foreign governments and where resources are most needed to eradicate human trafficking. The U.S. Department of State also places each country onto one of the three tiers based on the extent of their government's efforts to comply to the minimum standards to eliminate it. Countries whose governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) minimum standards are placed on TIER 1. Under tier 2 are countries that do not fully meet the TVPA'S minimum standards but are making significant efforts to meet those standards. Whereas in tier 3 the governments of some countries do not fully meet the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. Some countries do not have counter trafficking legislation, therefore even to address the issue of human trafficking is a challenge.

STEPS TO SOFFOCATING THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS

The Child Soldiers Protection Act (2008) requires a list of foreign governments be published in the Trafficking in Person's Report to identify those governments known to have armed forces that recruit and use child soldiers. Governments identified on the list are subject to restrictions on security assistance and commercial licensing of military equipment. Close monitoring of governing bodies identified is not only necessary to prevent the recruitment of children into the armed forces, this will interrupt the financial flow in the exploitative activities. The 2016 CSPA List includes governments in Burma, Iraq, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Laws vary from country to country therefore, in order to address the issue of human trafficking and how to suffocate the proceeds from it requires legislation such as confiscation laws that will ensure that monies derived from any form or aspect of human trafficking is taken away. The enforcement of such orders not only deprives the trafficker of enjoying the lifestyle only available to them, it also removes the ability to use that money to fund future criminal activity according to the National Crime Agency. The National Crime Agency further provides a detailed criminal list of outstanding Confiscation Orders that the public can access to assist law enforcement in recovering all assets available to the trafficker that remain hidden.

Awareness raising is key to educating persons who are most vulnerable to human

trafficking. Women will be more guarded and in a position to make informed decisions. Those residing in impoverished countries must be informed regarding the dangers of it. To this end, the information should be translated in different languages and where applicable posted on billboards, in restaurants, health care facilities, schools, airports as well as hotels. Additionally, the profiles of traffickers should also be publicized for the purpose of increasing the risk of them being caught. To this end, surveillance and monitoring will minimize the presence of traffickers within a country. This could work nationally or internationally. Cross boarder cooperation is necessary in the apprehension of a trafficker who crosses borders in another country. If the offender is captured, the money is suppressed.

Hot lines for reporting and getting information should be made available for public access.

Training managers of hotels, landlords of apartments and other legitimate business owners of hair salons, bars and spas to identify victims a potential victim of sex trafficking can lead to the arrest of a trafficker, pimp or recruiter. Imposing stiffer penalties on business establishments involved with the practice of human trafficking will disrupt the business.

Laws for medical professionals, hospitals, staff clinics and other health care facilities should be adjusted to the standards of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Article 3 which includes organ removal and sale, as with the Conventions of the Rights of the Child (1989) that prohibits the sale of children. Persons working in the health care profession ought to be trained to observe that the business of human trafficking is a criminal offense no matter at which level it occurs. The recruiter as well as the driver who receives payment for transporting the organ to where it would be harvested is also an offender. Incentives offered to victims to cooperate with authorities to assists with investigations will lead to the arrest of a trafficker which will likely lead to the recovery of funds.

The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs are known to produce a list of goods and their source countries which it has reason to believe are produced by child labor and forced labor that violates international standards. Increasing pressure on companies to map their supply chains and make information public will restrict the importation of products made by trafficked or slave labor thereby reducing the profits gained from the exploitative activities.

Based on the magnitude and horrific extent of human trafficking, it is not only clear that no one government can or will ever be able to eradicate it. There is no earthly solution for this as well as many other global issues hence the need for divine intervention. This is not to underrate or dismiss the efforts or successes of the various stakeholders, law enforcement agencies, civic organizations, training and strategies in the fight against human trafficking in dismantling some of the various networks involved. I am simply of the belief that the one component necessary to disrupt the flow and eventually suffocate the financial proceeds of human trafficking in its entirety that is lacking in the fight against human trafficking, is prayer. Something that does not require anti trafficking or government funding. I am persuaded that a multidisciplinary, approach under girded with intercessory prayer will bring about global change.

Prayer mapping is a creative way of approaching the issue whereby regional spiritual intercessors can be appointed who would commit to interceding on behalf of countries, victims, traffickers and the like. While victims in the crime of human trafficking suffer tremendously and deserve the kinds of attention and social assistance rendered, skills training, resettlement and education, very little or no focus has been on the rehabilitation of the trafficker with the exception of prosecution, who after he would have exploited his victim will re-offend again. To this end, there is a need to work simultaneously on the trafficker in attempting to transform their lives. Targeted prayer is a weapon/tool to destroy the evil that exist behind human trafficking. The trafficker is not aware of the presence of the spirit of greed operating within him that drives him to commit atrocious crimes against his fellowman. Therefore fervent prayer as the catalyst will weaken and expose the spirit in operation, change the mindset of the offender and lead them to repentance.

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