

Human Trafficking and Slavery: A Global Problem

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The Faces of Trafficking

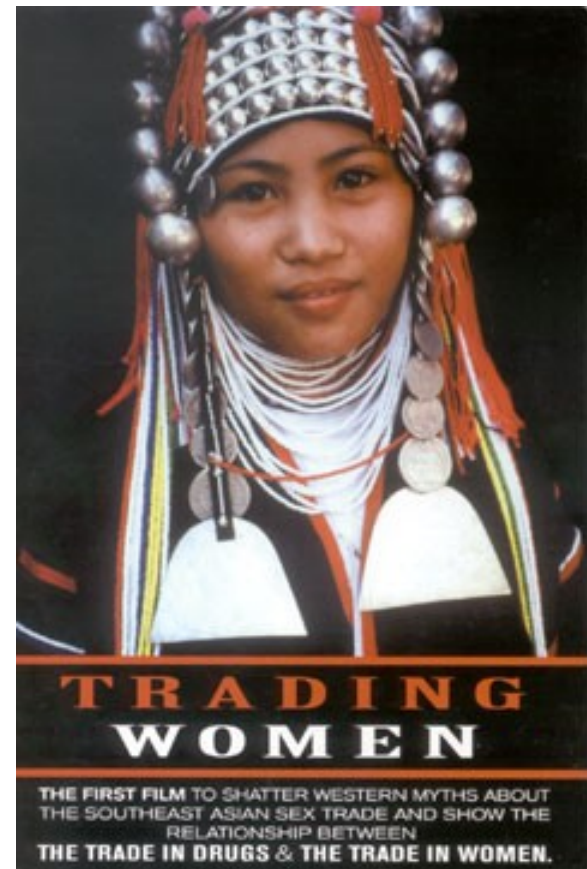


What is meant by trafficking

Trafficking

- ...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of abduction, fraud, deception, coercion, or the abuse of power or by 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...

(Art. 3 of the Palermo Protocol)



Smuggling

- ...the procurement of the illegal entry into or illegal residence of a person in a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit...



Smuggling of Migrants versus Trafficking in Human Beings

Smuggling



Facilitation of illegal border crossing for financial or other material benefit

Crime against the state

Trafficking



Threat or use of force, deception or other means to subject a person to
EXPLOITATION

Crime against an individual

Numbers Estimates and Guesstimates

- “The nature of the crime makes it difficult to estimate exactly how many victims are trafficked ... but there are reasons to believe that they should be counted in the hundreds of thousands.”—Europol
- “Of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors.”—State Dept.

Forms of Trafficking

- Sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography
- Forced labor, including agriculture, manufacturing (sweatshops), domestic servitude, fishing
- Forced marriage and illegal adoption
- Child soldiers
- Organ trafficking

Causes of Trafficking

- Supply-side factors
 - Lack of economic opportunities
 - Gender discrimination, particularly in access to employment and education
 - Tolerance of gender-based violence
 - Conflict and displacement from natural and manmade causes
 - Breakdown in law and order
 - Cultural practices (e.g., ‘apprenticeships’)

Causes of Trafficking

- Demand-side factors
 - Growth of global, commercial sex industry
 - Restrictive immigration policies that prevent legal admissions for legitimate work purposes
 - Unregulated labor markets that enable exploitive practices to flourish
 - Military and peacekeeping operations
 - Gender discrimination and tolerance of violence

Causes of Trafficking

- Facilitators of trafficking
 - Organized criminal operations
 - transnational
 - domestic
 - Official corruption
 - Technology (and its misuse)
 - Transportation
 - Communications
 - Transnationalism

Trafficking intersects with concerns about:

- Labor exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Irregular Migration
- Human rights
- Gender roles
- Transnational crime
- Conflict
- Poverty and under-employment



Policy focus today

- Sexual exploitation—prostitution, child pornography, etc.
- Less emphasis on other forms of trafficking
- Criminal trafficking operations, rather than end users of exploited labor
- Public information and education rather than underlying causes
- Trafficking across borders, not internal trafficking

Strategies to Address Trafficking

- Prevention
 - Empowerment of women
 - Skills training and income generation opportunities in home countries
 - Public education and awareness programs
 - Effective protection for refugees and displaced persons and conflict/disaster affected persons
 - Reduction in demand for exploitative labor

Strategies to Address Trafficking

- Prosecution (Law Enforcement)
 - Statutes that criminalize human trafficking
 - Meaningful penalties
 - Prosecution of traffickers, not trafficking victims
 - Prosecution of corrupt officials
 - Specialized anti-trafficking units
 - Training of law enforcement officials
 - Consultation and coordination with civil society institutions

Strategies to Address Trafficking

- Protection
 - Identification of trafficking survivors
 - Protection against retaliation by traffickers
 - Witness protection for those who testify
 - Protection of families if needed
 - Reintegration assistance if return takes place
 - Legal status in host country if return is not safe or desirable

In summary:

- Trafficking is a global problem
- Addressing trafficking requires multi-faceted approach that goes well beyond law enforcement
- Need also to focus on economic development, human rights protection, women's empowerment and conflict prevention and resolution
- We must remember the faces of trafficking, keeping in mind the protection of those who are exploited and abused.

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