

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labor or services by fraud, coercion, force, debt bondage, or in which the person induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

The numbers¹ speak volumes:

- Worldwide there are more than 27 million people in modern day slavery
- 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year
- Every year, 1.3 million children are exploited by the global sex trade
- \$32 billion in total yearly profits are generated by the human trafficking industry
 - \$15.5 billion in industrialised countries
 - \$9.7 billion in Asia
 - \$13,000 to \$67,200 per year is generated on average by each forced laborer

These numbers are astounding and shocking. How can this be happening in our world and in Australia and other western nations? In many instances it is happening in plain sight. David Batstone, author of the book *Not for Sale* and leader of *Not For Sale* (the global forum and abolitionist movement), talks about how behind the façade in any major city or town in the world today you are likely to find a thriving commerce in human beings. Human trafficking victims can be found working in your local restaurants, nail salons, garment factories, farms, hotels, packing factories, and private homes, as well as in street prostitution. In today's high tech world, girls, boys, women and men are advertised online via the internet for the purpose of prostitution.

See the attached Diagram 'Modern Day Slavery'² below.

Fast Facts & Quotes for Church/Group Newsletters³

- People trafficking is the fastest growing means by which people are enslaved, the fastest growing international crime, and one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- 1.2 million children are trafficked every year. Estimate by UNICEF
- Human trafficking is the second largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drugs trafficking. Belser 2005
- 600,000-800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Approximately 80 per cent are women and girls. Up to 50% are minors. US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2007
- At least 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour worldwide. While it is difficult to establish a precise amount, conservative 2005 research estimated trafficking victims as comprising some 25 per cent of this figure. ILO 2012 Global Estimate of Forced Labour
- There are even reports that some trafficking groups are switching their cargo from drugs to human beings, in a search of high profits at lower risk. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- The majority of trafficked victims arguably come from the poorest countries and poorest strata of the national population. global alliance against forced labor, International Labor Organisation, 2005
- You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know. William Wilberforce, British Politician, Abolitionist
- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
- He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

TEAR Project

World Concern Laos (WCL) is a Christian NGO and TEAR partner that is working in the Champassak Province in Laos to prevent the spread of HIV and Human Trafficking. Working in seven remote villages along the Laos – Thai Border, where food insecurity, lack of livelihoods and poor education combine to force many over the border in search of riches and perceived glamour.

This attraction to Thailand is especially so amongst the Young Adults where, as World Concern writes 'young girls seek fashion and beauty and an escape from the rough work of the rice fields, while for many young men working in Thailand is considered to be a process of 'initiation'.

WCL will focus on reducing the impact of 'push factors' that drive the spread of HIV & AIDS and Human Trafficking. One of the primary solutions WCL has developed is the establishment a Youth Center at the town site of Ponthong District that is strategically accessible to the young villagers from all seven villages. The Youth Centre will provide a safe and accessible hub for information, counselling and referrals on a range of health and social factors.

Advocacy & Action!

So, what are some practical ways you can work to help end Human Trafficking? Here are three suggested actions:

- I. Freedom Sunday 17 February 2013 – get your church involved in with this annual International event. Download your Start Freedom Sunday Organisers Pack here www.tear.org.au/static/files/resources/_TEAR_-_Start_Freedom_Sunday_pack.pdf

It provides simple to follow instructions on how to get your community involved.

- II. Fundraise for CHO or one of the other TEAR Projects working with Human Trafficking. Visit www.tear.org.au/give/ or contact your local TEAR staff member.

- III. When will Toblerone be Traffick Free? TEAR is pleased to be partnering with Stop the Traffick and currently we are targeting Toblerone. To find out more, including how to get postcards and other ways to respond, visit the TEAR Australia website

www.tear.org.au/advocacy/actions/when-will-toblerone-be-traffick-free

Notes

1 Thorpe, La Verne (2012) Slaves Among Us – A Study of Modern Day Slavery. <http://www.freedomssunday.org/downloads/DW-HT-2012-SlavesAmongUs-BibleStudy.pdf>

2 Byron, Judy OP (2010) Could I have a Trafficking Footprint? in, AMOS, A matter of Spirit, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Centre, Issue 87. www.ipjc.org

3 Stop the Traffik <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/the-scale-of-human-trafficking>

Human Trafficking Snapshot: Modern Day Slavery



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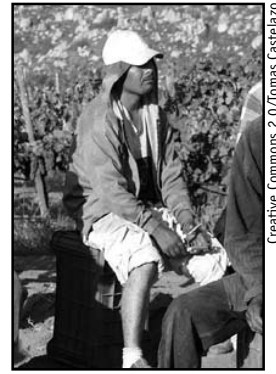
Child Labor:

The main job of children is supposed to be to learn, grow and play. Sadly, the U.N. estimates 1.2 million are sold into servitude each year to work in industries such as fishing, cocoa and rice plantations, brick kilns, factories, housekeeping and on the streets.

Agriculture:

Some agricultural workers are forced to work for little or no pay under threat of violence.

Others are victims of fraud by recruiters and forced to work to pay off their passage to the U.S.



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Our DEMAND

Treating people like commodities\$



for cheap products

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- 27 million victims
- 80% of victims are female; 50% children
- Fastest growing criminal industry (\$32 billion annual profit)
- Slavery is illegal in every country but exists in every country



A seemingly endless SUPPLY



Our pervasive culture of **Sex**

of vulnerable people



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Forced Soldiers:

Since 2001, hundreds of thousands of children have been forced into military service or sex slavery by government forces or armed groups in 19 countries.



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Sweatshops:

Workers in sweatshops in the U.S. and abroad are forced to work long hours in slavery-like conditions with little pay in unsafe conditions.



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Sexual Exploitation:

Millions of women and children are trafficked into the commercial sex industry each year. From forced prostitution to sex tourism and child pornography, sex traffickers and buyers treat human beings as commodities for pleasure and profit.

Domestic Servitude:

In suburban towns and big cities, victims of domestic servitude suffer behind locked doors. Forced to work 15 to 20 hours per day as nannies or housekeepers, they are subject to the constant threat of violence and sometimes sexual assault.

