

Human Trafficking

A Victim-Centered Approach

"Recognizing the Signs: Identifying and Understanding Human Trafficking"

three elements



On the basis of the definition given in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, it is evident that trafficking in persons has three constituent elements;

The Act
What is done

Recruitment, transportation, transfer,
harbouring or receipt of persons

The Means
How it is done

Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction,
fraud, deception, abuse of power or
vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits
to a person in control of the victim

The Purpose
Why it is done

For the purpose of exploitation,
which includes exploiting the
prostitution of others, sexual
exploitation, forced labour,
slavery or similar practices and
the removal of organs

EXPLOITATION

What are the various forms?



Major Forms

Child Sex

Each year, more than two million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade. Many of these children are trapped in prostitution. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is trafficking, regardless of circumstances.

Child Sex Tourism

Child sex tourism (CST) involves people who travel from their country--often a country where child sexual exploitation is illegal or culturally abhorrent---to another country where they engage in commercial sex acts with children.

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking comprises a significant portion of overall trafficking and the majority of transnational moder-day slavery. Sex trafficking would not exist without the demand for commercial sex flourishing around the world.

Child Soldiers

Many children are abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made unlawfully to serve as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies . Many young girls are forced to marry or have sex with male combatants and are at high risk of unwanted pregnancies. Male and female child soldiers are sexually abused.

cont ...

Domestic Servants

Domestic workers may be trapped in servitude through the use of force or coercion, such as physical (including sexual) or emotional abuse. Children are particularly vulnerable. Domestic servitude is particularly difficult to detect because it occurs in private homes.

Debt Bondage

Some abuses of contracts and hazardous conditions of employment do not in themselves constitute involuntary servitude, through use or threat of physical force or restraint to compel a worker to enter into or continue labor or service may convert a situation into one of forced labor.

Bonded Labor

One form of force or coercion is the use of a bond, or debt, to keep a person under subjugation. This is referred to in law and policy as “bonded labor” or debt bondage.” It is criminalized under U.S. law and included as a form of exploitation related to trafficking in the UN TIP Protocol.

Forced Labor

Most instances of forced labor occur as unscrupulous employers take advantage of gaps in law enforcement to exploit vulnerable workers. These workers are made more vulnerable to forced labor practices because of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, & political conflict.

FOREIGN & DOMESTIC

Trafficking

Who are the victims . .

Victims of trafficking can be of any age and any gender. However, a disproportionate number of women are involved in human trafficking both as victims and as culprits. Female offenders have a prominent role in human trafficking, particularly where former victims become predators as a means of escaping their own victimization. Most trafficking is carried out by people whose nationality is the same as that of their victim.

Countless Victims!

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

It could be you, your child, your friend

Organized Crime . .



Trafficking is almost always a form of organized crime and should be dealt with using criminal powers to investigate and prosecute offenders for trafficking and any other criminal activities in which they engage. Trafficked persons should also be seen as victims of crime. Support and protection of victims is a humanitarian objective and an important means of ensuring that victims are willing and able to assist in criminal cases.

A Hot Commodity!

Trafficking victims have become another commodity in a larger realm of criminal commerce involving other commodities, such as narcotic drugs and firearms or weapons and money laundering, that generate illicit revenues or seek to reduce risks for traffickers.

As with other forms of organized crime, trafficking has globalized. Groups formerly active in specific routes or regions have expanded the geographical scope of their activities to explore new markets.

Industries Involved . .



Most trafficked forced labor affects people working at the margins of the formal economy, with irregular employment or migration status. The sectors most frequently documented are agriculture or horticulture, construction, garments and textiles under sweatshop conditions, catering and restaurants, domestic work, entertainment and the sex industry.

More Crimes!

Trafficking victims have become another commodity in a larger realm of criminal commerce involving other commodities, such as narcotic drugs and firearms or weapons and money laundering, that generate illicit revenues or seek to reduce risks for traffickers.

Human trafficking also affects other quite mainstream economic sectors, including food processing, health care and contract cleaning, mainly in private but also in public sector employment, such as the provision of healthcare services.

Caught & Convicted . .



The number of convictions is increasing, but unfortunately, it is not proportionate to the growing awareness and extent of the problem. There are several likely reasons for the low number of convictions of human traffickers. One of the reasons is the absence of anti-trafficking legislation in some countries. Alternatively, there may be legislation addressing human trafficking but law enforcement officials and prosecutors might not be properly trained to utilize it.

Opportunities Exist!

Further to this, sometimes prosecutions are not successful because of the unwillingness of victims to cooperate with the criminal justice systems where they have been threatened and intimidated by traffickers.

Sometimes situations of human trafficking are mistaken for situations of migrant smuggling; this can result in inappropriate and inadequate sentences applied to crimes. Another potential obstacle to securing convictions may also be corruption.



TRAFFICKING

VS. SMUGGLING

Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Human Trafficking

Unlike smuggling, which is often a criminal commercial transaction between two willing parties who go their separate ways once their business is complete, trafficking specifically targets the trafficked person as an object of criminal exploitation. The purpose from the beginning of the trafficking enterprise is to profit from the exploitation of the victim.

Human Smuggling

Smuggled persons may become victims of other crimes. In addition to being subjected to unsafe conditions on the smuggling journeys, smuggled aliens may be subjected to physical and sexual violence. Frequently, at the end of the journey, smuggled aliens are held hostage until their debt is paid off by family members or others. It is also possible that a person being smuggled may at any point become a trafficking victim.

It may be difficult to make a determination between smuggling and trafficking in the initial phase. Trafficking often includes an element of smuggling, specifically, the illegal crossing of a border. In some cases the victim may believe they are being smuggled, but are really being trafficked, as they are unaware of their fate. For example, there have been cases where women trafficked for sexual exploitation may have knowingly agreed to work in the sex industry and believed that they would have decent conditions and be paid a decent wage. What they did not realize is that the traffickers would take most or all their income keep them in bondage and subject them to physical force or sexual violence.

Human smuggling is the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents. Often, human smuggling is conducted in order to obtain a financial or other material benefit for the smuggler, although financial gain or material benefit are not necessarily elements of the crime.

Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Human Trafficking

Unlike smuggling, which is often a criminal commercial transaction between two willing parties who go their separate ways once their business is complete, trafficking specifically targets the trafficked person as an object of criminal exploitation. The purpose from the beginning of the trafficking enterprise is to profit from the exploitation of the victim.

Human Smuggling

Smuggled persons may become victims of other crimes. In addition to being subjected to unsafe conditions on the smuggling journeys, smuggled aliens may be subjected to physical and sexual violence. Frequently, at the end of the journey, smuggled aliens are held hostage until their debt is paid off by family members or others. It is also possible that a person being smuggled may at any point become a trafficking victim.

- **Must Contain an Element of Force, Fraud, or Coercion (actual, perceived, or implied), unless under 18 years of age involved in commercial sex acts.**
- **Forced Labor and/or Exploitation.**
- **Persons trafficked are victims.**
- **Enslaved, subjected to limited movement or isolation, or had documents confiscated.**
- **Need not involve the actual movement of the victim.**
- **No requirement to cross an international border.**
- **Person must be involved in labor/services or commercial sex acts, i.e., must be “working.”**

- **The person being smuggled is generally cooperating.**
- **There is no actual or implied coercion.**
- **Persons smuggled are complicit in the smuggling crime; they are not necessarily victims of the crime of smuggling (though they may become victims depending on the circumstances in which they were smuggled).**
- **Persons are free to leave, change jobs, etc.**
- **Facilitates the illegal entry of person(s) from one country into another.**
- **Smuggling always crosses an international border.**
- **Person must only be in country or attempting entry illegally.**

Behavioral Indicators



- Sudden Change in behavior.
- Appears frightened, resistant, or frightened of authorities.
- Looks to others before answering.
- Does not self-identify as a victim.
- An individual seems coached when talking to law enforcement.
- Individuals use trafficking terms like “Trick,” “The Life,” or “The Game.”
- Money is the main topic of conversation.
- Difficulty making eye contact, especially with male officers.

Physical Indicators



- Signs of Physical abuse.
- Malnourishment or Poor Health.
- Untreated Injuries or Illnesses.
- Tattoos or Branding.
- Fatigue and Exhaustion.
- Lack of Personal Possessions.
- Restricted Movement.
- Inappropriate Clothing.
- Fearful or Anxious Behavior.
- Avoidance of Eye Contact.

These indicators, especially when observed together, can suggest that a person might be a victim of human trafficking. However, it's important to approach such situations with care and sensitivity, as some of these signs might also be present in individuals who are not trafficking victims.

Living Condition Indicators

- Crowded or Unsanitary Living Spaces.
- Lack of Personal Space.
- Restricted Freedom.
- Locks on the Outside of Doors.
- Constant Supervision.
- Lack of Personal Belonging.
- No access to health care.
- Signs of Fear or Intimidation.
- Inconsistent Stories.
- Isolation from the Community.



Travel Indicators



- Does the person know his/her final destination?
- How will they get there?
- Do they know who they are meeting at the final destination?
- Are they traveling with someone who does not appear to be their real parent/guardian?
- Are they in possession of their legal documents - passport, driver's license, or birth certificate?

A Victim Centered Approach & Resources



[DHS Roll Call part 1](#)

[DHS Roll Call part 2](#)



Resources

- Lily Pad Haven in Charlotte, NC - 704-312-2011
- Jasmine Road in Greenville, NC - 864-325-6916 - ask for Beth Hessick
- Cry Freedom in Goldsboro, NC - 919-920-5189 -ask for Beverly Weeks
- True Justice International NC - 910-554-1524 - ask for Tracy Kelin - two offices located in New Bern and Jacksonville N.C.
- The Formation Project SC - 843-990-4734 - ask for Maddie
- Toby's Place - Columbia SC - 803-210-9408 - ask for Julie Armstrong

References

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

U.S. Department of Justice

Homeland Security/ Blue Campaign

Polaris

MacAfee Institute



Thank You!

For more information Contact:

Glenda H. Skipper

gskipper@onechildrescue.com

843.536.5624

www.onechildrescue.com

ONE CHILD AT A TIME