

Trafficking: Millennium Abolitionists Addressing the Wounds

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Defining Trafficking

- Trafficking is the recruitment and transportation of persons within or across boundaries by force, fraud, or deception for the purpose of exploiting them economically. Trafficked people most commonly work in sweatshops, restaurants, on farms, in manufacturing, prostitution and as private domestic workers.

Defining Slavery

- Slavery is the labor or services that are performed or provided by another person and are obtained or maintained through an actor by cause and/or use of threats, physical threats and/or restraints, abuse of the law an/or legal process, withholding of documents, use of blackmail, and/or use of financial control over any person.

Statistics

- According to the 2005 US State Department's Annual report, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, with 14,500 to 17,500 trafficked into the U.S.

Effects of Trafficking

- Emotional
- Physical
- Cognitive
- Behavioral
- Relational
- Economic
- Spiritual
- Somatic

Harm to Trafficking Victims

- Much of the abuse and harm to victims is intentional. Traffickers use a wide variety of methods to control their victims, including every form of abuse imaginable - physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, etc. Psychological abuse is usually persistent, extreme and intended to demolish any and all mental, emotional and physical defenses.

Traffickers Methods of Control

- *Intimidation and threats*
- *Lies and deception*
- *Money*
- *Unsafe, unpredictable and uncontrollable events*
- *Emotional abuse*
- *Emotional manipulation*
- *Social isolation*
- *Forced / intentional drug addiction*
- *Identity control*
- *Traffickers fathering children of victims*

Trafficking harms society

- *Trafficking in Persons Is a Human Rights Violation*
- *Trafficking Promotes Social Breakdown*
- *Trafficking Fuels Organized Crime*
- *Trafficking Deprives Countries of Human Capital*
- *Trafficking Undermines Public Health*
- *Trafficking Subverts Government Authority*
- *Trafficking Imposes Enormous Economic Costs*

Racialized and Gendered Component

- Disproportionate trafficking of women
- Disproportionate trafficking of persons from Developing Countries and within the US of ethnic minorities
- Hierarchy of cost value
- Lack of responsiveness

United Nations Program Goals for Addressing Trafficking

- **At the national level the Program aims to:**
- promote awareness-raising (such as public awareness campaigns) of trafficking in human beings and especially strengthen institutional capacity;
- train law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges;
- advise on drafting and revising relevant legislation;
- provide advice and assistance on establishing and strengthening anti-trafficking elements; and
- strengthen victim and witness support.

UN Program Goals Internationally

- **At the international level the Program aims to:**
- provide assistance to agencies, institutions and governments as part of an interdisciplinary effort to design effective measures against trafficking in human beings.

Psychologists work at the UN

- Education
- Advocacy
- Monitoring
- Examples of relevant conference topic areas:
Commission on the Status of Women,
Conference on Indigenous People, World
Conference Against Racism, Sustainable
Development, UNICEF, HIV/AIDS

Role of APA non-UN representatives

- Conducting and submitting research
- Educating self and students about the UN system and trafficking
- Nominate self for expert speaker on topic
- Monitoring and notifying UN team of countries' responsiveness and lack of responsiveness

Intervention Needs

- Social Services
- Legal Services
- Training and Advocacy
- Sustainable Development
- Media (intervention and prevention)

Legal Services

- Specific examples of the legal services that clients need include:
- representation in removal proceedings
- securing release from detention
- advocacy to protect rights as victim witnesses
- preparation for criminal trial
- advocacy to obtain Continued Presence and Certification as a trafficking victim to establish eligibility for refugee benefits
- assistance in filing T-Visa, U-Visa, and VAWA applications
- obtaining child custody and restraining orders

Training Needs

- **TRAINING**
- Training programs needed for various audiences such as social service providers, faith-based organizations, the community at large and government agencies on a local, state and national level.
- A training philosophy based on a human rights approach in addressing the issue of slavery and trafficking.
- Training for social service providers, refugee issuing agencies and local and federal law enforcement.

Advocacy Needs

- **ADVOCACY**

Policy advocacy, media advocacy, outreach, public education and leadership development through community organizing on the local, state and national levels to raise awareness on trafficking, protect the rights of trafficking survivors and improve their access to services.

- Directly informed by the real experiences of survivors

- Ensure that public policies are victim-centered

Social Services

- Need provision of comprehensive mental and physical health services tailored to the specific needs of trafficking survivors
- Ensure that clients have access to a broad, diverse, and culturally-linguistically appropriate range of services, ranging from traditional talk therapy to the expressive arts

Needs for Shelter

- Provide physically and psychologically safe housing for trafficking survivors
- Assist clients in their efforts to establish independence and self-sufficiency and to build community and expand their own supportive networks.
- Multi-cultural, multi-lingual staff with extensive expertise in working with survivors of trafficking and other forms of trauma.

Model Program (CAST in LA)

- crisis intervention
- case management
- social services coordination
- help for clients to access food, shelter, health and mental health services, education, legal services, English as a Second Language, job training, referral, and education on human rights and workers' rights.
- help clients become self-sufficient.

Additional Resources for Psychologists Interested in Healing the Wounds of Trafficking

- Thriving in the wake of trauma: A multicultural guide by Thema Bryant-Davis
- Trauma and Recovery by Judith Herman
- Disposable People by Kevin Bales
- Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress by Melissa Farley
- Sex Trafficking by Kathryn Farr

Internet Resources

- www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/
- www.un.org
- www.castla.org
- www.traumacenter.org
- www.africancommunitycenter.org/trafficking.html
- www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/international/programs/inttraffick.html
- www.Humantrafficking.org