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Child Prostitution: Inadequate Response by the Church

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# **Contents**

Abstract	Page iii
Introduction	Page 1
Method	Page 4
Chapter 1: Affected Individuals and Groups	
A. Some Were Sold by Their Parents	Page 6
B. Some Were Runaways That Were Pimped	Page 10
C. Some Were Promised Jobs Under False Pretense	Page 14
D. Some Were Kidnapped	Page 16
Chapter 2: The Extent of Child Prostitution	Page 18
A. The United States	
B. Europe	Page 26
C. Asia	
D. Australia	
E. Latin America	
F. Africa	Page 39
Chapter 3: Long-Term Effects of Child Prostitution	Page 41
A. Lifetime in Prostitution	
B. End Up as Drug Addicts	_
C. Psychological and Medical Problems	_
D. Giving Birth Resulting in Second Generation Problems	_
Chapter 4	
1: Christian Response to Child Prostitution	Page 52
A. Christian Organizations	_
B. Church Outreach Ministries	_
2. The Current Inadequacy of the Response	_
Chapter 5: Solutions to Child Prostitution	Page 67
A. Prevention Through Education	_
B. Tougher Laws and Stiffer Penalties Against Perpetrators	_
C. Sustainable Economic Development Projects	_
D. Service to Survivors	-
Conclusion	Page 79
Bibliography	Page 84
Appendix: Thesis Approval Sheet	Page 92

#### **Abstract**

Child sex trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained eighteen years of age. Based on that definition, there is an alarming number of children that are being sexually enslaved. This paper specifically focuses on child sex trafficking or child prostitution. It presents a detailed analysis of the extent of child prostitution worldwide, discusses the long-term effects of child prostitution, analyzes the adequacy of the Church's response, and proposes solutions for the eradication of child sex trafficking.

The purpose of this study is to bring light to a problem that is affecting a great number of children. It argues that child prostitution is extremely pervasive, and permeates every fiber of society, leaving no regions untouched. Trafficking is present in all the habitable continents. In the US, trafficking currently exists in all fifty states, Washington D.C., and the territories. Sex trafficking is currently the most rapidly expanding form of global criminal activity, and is the second most lucrative crime, second only to narcotics. Children are specifically being targeted, and there is a strong demand for young virgins, which has been fueled by the child sex tourism. Consequently, younger and younger children are being exploited.

This study also shows that the Church has largely neglected its responsibility, and has not properly responded to the problem of child sex trafficking. The Church largely uses its resources on itself, and allocates very little to what should have been its primary mission. Whatever the reason for the inaction, whether it is because of conflict between proclamation and social action, the Church has a mandate to show compassion and to liberate those that are being held captive, which include the victims of child sex trafficking.

### Introduction

The child prostitution problem needs champions for its complete eradication. Normally, this is the role of the Church as it is predominantly concerned with liberating souls to point them to the Savior. The worsening of this dilemma calls for an understanding of the role of the Church in its solution. It also suggests that Church involvement as a mean of resolving the plight of child prostitutes to date is inadequate. Secular entities and government agencies are equally feeble in containing a human scourge that enslaves innocent children. It is a complication that confounds the best intentions of myriad civic, government, and ecumenical organizations to mitigate its effect. This difficulty necessitates an investigation to identify its quantitative impact, the source of its continuing growth, and finding solutions for its demise.

Child sex trafficking is defined as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained eighteen years of age." It is a significant global dilemma that must receive the appropriate attention to protecting children from this treacherous epidemic. The extent of this dilemma is quantified below for a clear picture of the problem that is being addressed. Its continuing increase in volume also shows a gender complexity in light of the overwhelming number of victims being

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Emily Davila, "A Human Rights-Based Approach to Advocacy: The Role of the Church," *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 9 no.2 (February 2009). http://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/404. Accessed on November 25, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jennifer Cole and Ginny Sprang, "Sex Trafficking of Minors in Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Rural Communities," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 40 (2015): 113.

female. <sup>3</sup> Albanian society is an example of this problem with females being viewed as property. <sup>4</sup> This is contrasted with the opposite reality of sexual predators of children being males. This situation acknowledges gender violence. <sup>5</sup> It also provides an understanding of the problem which will be helpful in the search for a solution that is a needed step as this global complexity continues to worsen. Solutions have been scant to date.

A look at the Church's efforts towards safeguarding the well-being of affected children is consistent with ministerial purviews to save souls. After all, children are very important to God, as demonstrated by Jesus who stated to his disciples: "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children" (Luke 18: 16). It has to be an abomination before God when children as young as five years of age are being prostituted. The Church needs to be at the forefront of the fight to protect children. An assessment of church failings in this specific need to protect under-age sex workers has to be undertaken. Such an examination could highlight the Church's ability or inability to resolve the human rights violation of minor children. A study reveals that a total of 26 million people worldwide are victims of sexual trafficking, 27% of this figure is calculated to be minors. These

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Amy M. Russel, "Victims of Trafficking: The Feminization of Poverty and Migration in the Gendered Narratives of Human Trafficking," *Societies* 4, no. 4 (2014): 533.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Eglantina Gjermeni and Mary Van Hook, "Trafficking of Human Beings in Albania: The Role of Faith-Based Programs," *Social Work and Christianity* 39, no. 4 (Winter, 2012): 437.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Edward Snajdr, "Beneath the Master Narrative: Human Trafficking, Myths of Sexual Slavery and Ethnographic Realities," *Dialectical Anthropology* 37, no. 2 (06, 2013): 229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the Holy Bible, NLT Version.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Deanna Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 34 no. 11/12 (2014): 801.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Jordan Greenbaum, "Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States," *Current Problem Pediatric Adolescent Health 44* (2014): 245.

numbers demonstrate an explosive problem of minors being trafficked around the world and forced to work as sex slaves. It is a figure of at least seven million children who are sex trafficking victims based on the above-stated statistics; however, other sources have estimated the number to be much higher, it is reported that ten million children are being trafficked. A civilized world needs to protect its next generation for the continuity of humanity and the expansion of knowledge that younger people help foster. When minor children are sold, kidnapped, or otherwise forced into sex slavery, it is a problem that calls for immediate attention towards a permanent solution in addressing the issue of sex trafficking of minors in accordance with the United Nations declaration of human rights. This interest shows the desire of the Church to resolve one of the worst problems of humanity.

Although the magnitude of child sex trafficking remains unknown, Chung and English estimate the number of One million children entering sexual enslavement each year;<sup>11</sup> and UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund, reports that at least 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.<sup>12</sup> The problem may be more pervasive than people realize as child prostitution is not limited to a specific geographic area. It is prevalent in places people would not think of, including in the United States (US), where a study places the number of children entering prostitution at 300,000 every year.<sup>13</sup> The Church has a mission to seek to heal the world,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Davy, 797.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> David Pfrimmer, "A Faith Based for 60 Years of Human Rights Work by Churches," *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 9 no.2 (February 2009). http://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/402. Accessed on November 25, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Richard Chung and Abigail English, "Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Adolescents," *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*, 27 no. 4 (August 2015): 428.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929\_58005.html. (Accessed on November 25, 2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Chung and English, 428.

including child sex trafficking victims, which is in keeping with Jesus' mission to save the lost and to release the captives from their bondage (Luke 4:18-20). This essay, with the help of Scriptures, primary, and secondary sources, will present a detailed analysis of the extent of child prostitution, analyze the adequacy of the church's response, and propose solutions for the complete elimination of child sex trafficking.

#### Method

The referenced information identifies and quantifies the dilemma of sexual enslavement of minors in the world. This paper will present the extent of the problem by reviewing a wide body of literature on sex trafficking complexities and their debilitative impact on society. <sup>14</sup> There is also inexhaustible literature on the Church and its ministries. The combination of the two sources of information help to identify the inadequacy of the Church's response to a continuing problem, and the different ecumenical methods that could bring a welcome change to the sex trafficking of minors.

Information is sourced from organizations like the United Nations, Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, International Labor Organization, Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, United States (US) State Department, US Justice Department, and events like the universal declaration of human rights, international treaties, and conventions. Church-related information is gathered from the World Church Organization, Lutheran Ministries, World Relief, A-21 Campaign, Agape International Mission, Children of the Night, The Dream Center, The Coalition of Catholic Organization Against Human Trafficking, The Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Christian Reform

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> David R. Hodge and Cynthia A. Lietz, "The International Sexual Trafficking of Women and Children: A Review of the Literature," *Affilia* 22 no.2 (May, 2007): 163.

Church. Many of the sources are from academic journals; however, some of the information is pulled from articles published in non-academic journals for their relevance to the subject matter. The totality of the sources provides a sound format for both quantifying and analyzing the problem being reviewed. This will lead to a conclusion supporting the hypothesis that the Church needs to be innovative in its methods for resolving this problem effectively.

### **Chapter One**

# **Affected Individuals and Groups**

Visual impressions of civilized life come from modes of entertainment that depict opulence as interpretive of the human imagination. <sup>15</sup> This is a glorification of wealth that demeans the lack of financial abilities. Individuals and groups living without wages or earnings sufficient to support a modern lifestyle tend to gravitate to prurient behavior. That element is the driving force behind the acquisition of minor children in all possible aspects of enslavement. In fact, a specific study done in the United States show that the second most contributing factor to child trafficking is "material needs." <sup>16</sup> In addition, studies also reveal that trafficked children suffer greatly. As reported by Tasha Perdue on children trafficked in Ohio, "they have been bought, sold, battered, and abused while involved in sex trafficking." <sup>17</sup> The different categories below will analyze the causes that landed the children in sex trafficking.

# Some Were Sold by Their Parents

Adults who may not find it profitable to work as prostitutes, because of advanced age, sometimes turn their kids over to others in return for money. Some reports show that some children have been trafficked either by their parents, relatives, or partners of their parents.<sup>18</sup>

There are adults whose motivation for selling their kids is simply being able to get food to eat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Edward O. Wilson, *The Meaning of Human Existence*, (New York, N.Y.: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2014), 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Cole and Sprang, 118.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Tasha Perdue, Michael Prior, Celia Williamson, and Sandra Sherman, "Social Justice and Spiritual Healing: Using Micro and Macro Social Work Practice to Reduce Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," *Social Work and Christianity* 39, no. 4 (Winter, 2012): 450.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Cole and Sprang, 120.

This is coupled with the dual result of not having to feed the child that has been sold. This reality creates a breeding ground for slave traders and sexual predators to scour the hinterlands of poverty for opportunities to purchase minor children. It is difficult to imagine a mother selling her child after going through nine months of labor and painful delivery. However, it does happen more frequently than is imagined. Such cases are reported all over Asia where mothers sell their daughters' virginity.

In Cambodia, for example, a mother sold her virgin daughter for five hundred dollars to a trafficker because she needed the money for the survival of the family. <sup>19</sup> It also happens in poor countries like Nepal as reported by Chung and English, who stated that: "In Nepal, teenage girls are sold and taken to brothels in India." <sup>20</sup> It is an unfortunate fact that is born out of poverty. The phenomenon of children being sold into trafficking by their parents is also prevalent in Southeast Asia. It is reported that: "because of extreme poverty families in the Southeast Asia region have been known to be manipulated into giving up their children to recruiters to make ends meet when faced with bleak economic opportunities." <sup>21</sup> In fact, it is reported that in Cambodia, "Between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of parents sell their children for sex." <sup>22</sup> It is further reported that "Some children are turned over to recruiters by their families as part of an ancient practice known as debt bondage." <sup>23</sup> It involves children, usually girls, who are forced to work in brothels until the debt taken on them is fully repaid. <sup>24</sup>

 $<sup>^{19}\,</sup>http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2013/12/13/cfp-cambodia-mother.cnn, Accessed on November 25, 2015.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Chung and English, 427.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Davy, 794.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ibid., 801.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid., 794.

As heartbreaking that the practice of selling one's child into prostitution may sound, that practice is not limited to other continents and other countries. It takes place in the United States as well. A study conducted in the United States by Kennedy et al. shows that "Over 12% of the prostituted women interviewed reported being forced to work on the streets by their mothers, fathers, foster parent, or older sibling."<sup>25</sup> A girl reported having been turned over to prostitution by her father at the age of ten to support his drug addiction. <sup>26</sup> Similarly, another girl reported being sold into prostitution by her mother when she was ten, and others "worked with their mothers in prostitution."<sup>27</sup> In the same vein, a study conducted by Marcus et al. in New York showed that parents or authoritative figures were the driving force behind their children's prostitution. Specifically, they stated that: "This type of pimping (parental) accounted for some of the youngest ages of initiation into sex work, and was the most coercive type of relationship."<sup>28</sup>They encountered a young girl who was initiated into prostitution by her mother's ex-boyfriend when she was 11-years-old, and another girl who was 13-years-old when first prostituted by her foster father. He insisted that she contribute to the household and the way to do it was by turning her into a prostitute.<sup>29</sup>

Moreover, some children may not be directly sold by their parents; however, they are expected to take care of the family from a young age. Often times, those children do not have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Montgomery, Heather Montgomery, "Focusing on the Child, Not the Prostitute: Shifting the Emphasis in Accounts of Child Prostitution," *Wagadu: A Journal Of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies* 8, (September 2010): 167.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Kennedy et al., 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Marcus, et al. 236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ibid., 236-237.

any skills that would allow them to earn a living or have the ability to care for their families. As a result, they end up in prostitution as it is the only available means by which they can carry the task thrust upon them. Such is the case in Thailand where the "family structure is described as matrilocal and matrilineal."<sup>30</sup> It means that the girls carry the responsibility of having to provide for their families, which "drives Thai girls into prostitution, and that the sex trade provides a means of survival for many of the rural poor."31 In those instances, the parents encourage the girls into prostitution as long as they are able to send home remittances.<sup>32</sup> In other cases, some children are born into prostitution, and are pushed into the same "trade" as their mothers. It is very common for girls of prostitutes to become prostitutes themselves as reported by Harasankar Adhikari who stated that the girls "were directly involved in the sex trade." <sup>33</sup> Because of their mothers' status as prostitutes, the girls are often shunned socially, and other opportunities become scarce, if existent at all. As a result, some are drafted into prostitution once they reach puberty.<sup>34</sup> Such is the case reported in India where a study revealed that roughly 73% of the girls having either directly entered into prostitution outright, or were providing assistance to their mothers in their capacity as prostitutes.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Davy, 802.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Montgomery, 173.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Harasankar Adhikari, "Beyond Generational Representation of Children of Female Sex Workers (FSWs) in Sex Trade (a Syigmatized Hidden Profession): A Desparate Self Strategy of FSWs," *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology* 5, no. 6 (09, 2013): 223.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Harasankar Adhikari, "Growing up in Adverse Milieu: Education and Occupations of Sex Workers' Children," *Indian Journal of Social Work*, 68 (2), (2007):302.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Ibid., 305

# Some Were Runaways That Were Pimped

Some children are abandoned by their parents along roadsides and other public locations. They are referred to as *throwaways*. <sup>36</sup> There are other children who run away from home for various reasons ranging from hunger to parental abuse. A runaway is defined as a child under the age of eighteen who left home without permission and does not return. <sup>37</sup> Both groups of children end up on the street with no family support, social assistance, or earning abilities. They turn to the first offer of help that usually comes from the same predators preying on minors for sexual exploitation. <sup>38</sup> Another problem with this group is their lack of information pertaining to survivability. There are orphanages that forever look to help stranded children from falling into a life of ill repute. However, many of the potential beneficiaries do not know of those programs or their location, and the ones that they have attempted to join turned them away, often citing that they are not of age or lacked parental consent. <sup>39</sup> They instead become prey to perpetrators who work as pimps of sex workers as "the runaways and throwaways are most vulnerable to falling into the abyss of the sex trade." <sup>40</sup> In fact, Jim Walters and Patricia Davis report that the "Runaways and thrownaway children comprise the largest 'at risk' group. These minors often

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ira Colby, "Runaway and Throwaway Youth: Time for Policy Changes and Public Responsibility," *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* 2 no. 1 (4) (2011): 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Ronald B. Flowers, *Runaway Kids and Teenage Prostitution: America's Lost, Abandoned, and Sexually Exploited Children*, Vol. no. 54. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001), 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Colby, 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Ibid., 4.

find themselves in the company of violent, sexually-exploiting, or drug-abusing companions."<sup>41</sup> Those children run significant risks of substance abuse, homelessness, and sexual exploitation, which includes prostitution. <sup>42</sup> They often times meet someone who, under the guise of helping them, drug them and coax them into prostitution, if not by force.

An example of such a case was reported in Miami in 2013 where a thirteen-year-old runaway girl was given drugs and alcohol, and was forced to have sex with men for money. At some point, the child threatened to leave which prompted her pimp to use force against her, and had his name tattooed on her eyelids. His actions signify that he owned her, and he has branded her for life. Branding of a child does not seem to be an isolated incident. A Herald Tribune Special Report mentioned a similar occurrence during a police investigation in Tampa Bay, Florida. The report stated: "One of those arrested was a 15-year-old girl, a runaway, transported to the bust by her pimp. The pimp's name was tattooed on her neck." As repulsive as those actions may be, that may not be the worst to happen to the victims of child sex trafficking. Those children are usually subject to violence, isolation, and a loss of their travelling documents thereby rendering them totally dependent, and under the complete control of their abusers. It is widely accepted that those prostituted may be subject to systematic abuse by pimps. As It is also a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Jim Walters and Patricia H. Davis, "Human Trafficking, Sex Tourism, and Child Exploitation on the Southern Border," Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk 2 no. 1 (6) (2011): 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> http://www.miamiherald.com/latest-news/article1948651.html. Accessed February 25, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> http://thestolenones.heraldtribune.com. Accessed February 25, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Walters and Davis, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Anthony Marcus, Amber Horning, Ric Curtis, Jo Sanson, and Efram Thompson, "Conflict and Agency among Sex Workers and Pimps: A Closer Look at Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Volume 653 1(05/2014): 242.

known fact that those prostituted are often oppressed, and sometimes held captive.<sup>47</sup> Likewise, it is well documented that pimps used different methods in the recruitment process of those to be prostituted. They reportedly use "love, debt, addiction, physical might, and authority" to entice and coerce women and girls into prostitution.<sup>48</sup>

Love seems to be the coercion method of choice for a lot of pimps to recruit girls into prostitution. The pimps start by giving attention to the girls that they are targeting and buy them gifts. Once the girls enter into a relationship with them, they turn around and ask them to become prostitutes. This is a pattern that is employed by pimps all over the globe. In New York, a 12-year-old girl is reported to have been approached by a pimp who told her that he loved her. He became her boyfriend, however, his intention was to turn her into a prostitute. They are often sad to realize that the men that they thought loved them were "more interested in acting in a pimp-like role than that of a boyfriend." Same story is repeated in Mexico where a 12-year-old girl entered into a relationship with a young man who pretended to love her, only for him to turn around and force her to sleep with at least thirty men a day, seven days a week. In Seattle, a 15 year-old girl was earning \$3,000 to \$6,000 a week for her pimp. She stated that she was in love with him and did everything required of her to be with him. She was abused as well. She

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Marcus et al., 242.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> M. Alexis Kennedy, Carolin Klein, Jessica T. K. Bristowe, Barry S. Cooper, and John C. Yuille, "Routes of Recruitment: Pimps' Techniques and Other Circumstances That Lead to Street Prostitution," *Journal Of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* 15, no. 2 (November 2007): 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Marcus et al., 234.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Ibid., 235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> CNN Freedom Project: Mexico Trafficking Survivor, November 2015, http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/10/americas/freedom-project-mexico-trafficking-survivor/index.html. Accessed on November 25, 2015.

reported that: "He said I wouldn't have to do this forever and that he hits me because he loves me." Another case in Mexico involved a 16-year-old girl who thought that she was in a relationship with a young man who, unbeknownst to her, was a pimp. As reported by Walters and Davis, "The day came when Maria was asked to have sex with other men to make money for the young man who had brought her into the house. When she refused, Maria was raped by the man and four others." She was abused, and forced to have sex with thirty men a day. As she was being forced, she tried to run away, which subjected her to more violence. She

Violence seems to be a recurring theme when girls try to leave a pimp. A 14-year-oldd girl in New York was brutalized and raped by her pimp when she decided to leave him; he even threatened to kill her. <sup>56</sup> Whatever method the pimps used in recruiting the girls, one fact is certain is that "the majority of pimps used violence to keep the women in the trade." Those children's lives are in constant danger. Willis and Levy said it best when they stated that: "Prostituted children are at risk of injuries, including rape, as a result of violence from pimps, clients, police, and intimate partners." This echoes the thoughts of Ronald B. Flowers on the same subject. He stated that: "In the process of becoming child prostitutes and delinquents,"

 $<sup>^{52}\,</sup>http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/natalies-story-life-as-a-child-prostitute/. Accessed on February 25, 2016.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Walters and Davis, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Marcus et al., 236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Kennedy et al., 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Brian Willis and Barry S Levy, "Child Prostitution: Global Health Burden, Research Needs, and Interventions," The Lancet 359 (April 2002): 1419.

runaways will encounter perils at almost every turn that will further rob them of their childhood and, in some cases, their life."<sup>59</sup> That may be what happened to the 16-year-old girl named Maria that was previously mentioned. By age 19, Maria had disappeared and was never heard from. "They fear that hers may be one of the more than 250 bodies of young women discarded each year in vacant lots and fields around Ciudad Juarez."<sup>60</sup>

### Some Were Promised Jobs Under False Pretense

In many countries like Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and others in the Americas, recruiters actively pursue sex workers of all ages under false pretenses. Usually, the offer of a good job is made to get a prospective victim. It is for the purpose of getting them to agree to travel to other countries when the real intent is for them to be sold into prostitution. This is a rather common method used by trafficker. In a study conducted about sex trafficking in South Asia, it was revealed that 55% of those surveyed fell prey to traffickers "based on promises of economic opportunities." In Central and Eastern Europe, it is reported that recruiters would advertise in newspapers what seem to be legitimate employment opportunities, which also included modeling. What sounded like an opportunity to become financially stable often "results in a life of sexual exploitation." This method is not limited to specific countries or regions. It is also practiced in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Cherish Adams

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Flowers, 51.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Walters and Davis, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Neha A. Deshpande, and Nawal M. Nour, "Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls," *Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 6(1), (2013): e23–e24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> J.G. Silverman, M.R. Decker, and J. Gupta, "Experiences of Sex Trafficking Victims in Mumbai, India," *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 97 (2007): 222.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Swanee Hunt, "Deconstructing Demand: The Driving Force of Sex Trafficking," The Brown Journal of World Affairs Volume XIX, II (Spring/Summer 2013): 227.

explains how recruiters identify pretty girls as young as ten years of age for recruitment into the sex trading world. They befriend their targets with compliments while they ask questions to identify areas of individual vulnerabilities.<sup>64</sup>

Those areas of weakness can be a struggling single parent at home barely able to support the daily meals of the family. Other possibilities are illnesses in the family without the financial support for medical attention, or families that hope to get out of poverty by sending their children abroad to work.<sup>65</sup> Whatever the residential limitations, a recruiter is guick to zero in on them while showering their desired victim with flattery about their appearance as reasons for deserving more in life. Potential victims are often offered glamorous employment as models in European or North American cities, and lured into thinking that they will become rich. <sup>66</sup> Poverty seems to be a recurring and prevalent factor in the recruitment of the victims of child sex trafficking. In the study conducted by Silverman, Decker, and Gupta, they reported that "poverty was described by all women and girls as a predisposing factor contributing to their vulnerability to being trafficked."67 Similarly, Cherish Adams reported the same factors, and stated: "Most sex trafficking victims come from poor families in underdeveloped countries who see sending their child to work abroad as the only way to escape poverty."68 Moreover, a study conducted about sex trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia also found that "most trafficking victims come from families in poor communities lacking in economic and job opportunities. It is in such

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Cherish Adams, "Re-Trafficked Victims: How a Human Rights Approach Can Stop the Cycle of Re-Victimization of Sex Trafficking Victims," The George Washington International Law Review 43, no. 1 (2011): 201.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., 204.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Silverman, Decker, and Gupta, 224.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Adams, 204.

environments of dire poverty that traffickers prey, luring unsuspecting young victims with false promises of employment."<sup>69</sup> This echoes the findings of Sigma Huda who declared that: "with dire poverty and lack of opportunity creating fertile ground for traffickers."<sup>70</sup>

## Some Were Kidnapped

Another method used by human traffickers is the outright kidnapping of their victims.<sup>71</sup> Some traffickers lure their victims either into a car, a hotel, a warehouse, or wherever they are able to use force against them without the glare of passersby. Others choose to drug their victims at a social setting and then kidnap them.<sup>72</sup> A study about sex trafficking in Mumbai, India revealed that those kidnapped to be sold into trafficking made the second largest group of victims; a total of 26.3 percent were kidnapped. The total includes victims that were drugged before being kidnapped, and those that were kidnapped outright.<sup>73</sup> They then restrain their victim with chains no different than an animal being controlled by its owner. The predators deal with complaints very severely and violently as a way of establishing their control over their slaves. This means severe beating, cutting, and rape.<sup>74</sup> Abusive behavior is also expressed in the form of limited food availability and sleep deprivation.<sup>75</sup> This is part of treating sex slaves as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Davy, 799.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Sigma Huda, "Sex Trafficking in South Asia," International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics 94 (2006): 375.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Silverman, Decker, and Gupta, 222.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Walters and Davis, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Ibid., 4.

commercial stock for trading purposes. Victims are grouped according to physical traits like female attributes, age group, or cultural background. Young boys are also grouped according to age or physical attributes. Each group becomes a *lot* that is offered for sale to the highest bidder in consumer countries in Europe, Asia, and North America. It is a way of branding the exploited victims as a commodity for the purpose of commercial trading. A *lot* is moved across country borders with the risk of exposure to hunger, thirst, disease or even death while in transit to their destination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Shannon Devine, "Poverty Fuels Trafficking to Japan," *Herizons* 20.3 (Winter 2007):19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Michelle Tomes, "A Child is Not a Commodity: Stopping Domestic Child Sex Trafficking," University of Florida Journal of Law & Public Policy 24, no. 2 (August 2013): 233.

# Chapter 2

### **The Extent of Child Prostitution**

Baker and Grover report that human trafficking "affects nearly every country in the world." Marina Kaneti listed 161 countries affected by sex trafficking. With an emphasis on recruiting children into sex trafficking for their perceived purity: Ochild sex trafficking is a global problem with children reportedly being trafficked all over the world. The demand for young virgins has been fueled by the child sex tourism which "pushes the age of a virgin back more and more so that younger and younger children are being exploited." Chung and English, in their assessment, stated that sex trafficking causes "severe harm to adolescents of every nationality, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age, income, and educational level." To emphasize the magnitude of the problem worldwide, they further added that: "In Atlanta, sex tourists purchase sex acts with adolescents. In Nepal, teenage girls are sold and taken to brothels in India. In Chicago, teenage boys trade sex for drugs or shelter. In Africa, school-age girls are trafficked to European countries and forced into prostitution."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Debra A. Baker and Elizabeth A. Grover, "Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: Interagency Awareness, Housing Services, and Spiritual Care," *Social Work and Christianity* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 308.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Marina Kaneti, "Project Trafficking: Global Unity in Addressing a Universal Challenge," Human Rights Rev 12 (2011):346–347.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 805.

<sup>81</sup> Walters and Davis, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 801, 805.

<sup>83</sup> Chung and English, 427.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

Trafficking is so pervasive throughout the world that it is reported in 2013 to be the third most profitable criminal activity in the world, just after drug and weapons trafficking. <sup>85</sup> Updated information furnished by the CNN Freedom Project reports that, as of July 2015, sex trafficking is the second most lucrative crime, second only to narcotics. <sup>86</sup> In fact, those involved in narcotics are showing a penchant for sex trafficking. Traffickers feel that "people can be 'used' over and over again, while a drug can only be consumed once." Sex trafficking is also reported to be "currently the most rapidly expanding form of global criminal activity." As of 2011, it is estimated that sex trafficking to be a thirty-two billion-dollar industry. <sup>89</sup> A closer analysis of the different regions will further expose the extent of child sex trafficking.

#### The United States

Child prostitution is a growing problem in the world with the US being no different. In fact, R. Barri Flowers reports that child prostitution is on the rise in the US.<sup>90</sup> This phenomenon has been attributed to "more aggressive recruiting by pimps, with the prostituted youth predominantly homeless runaways or throwaways, illegal immigrants, and poor urban youth."<sup>91</sup> Although some reports estimate the number of children entering prostitution at 300,000 per

<sup>85</sup> Baker and Grover, 309.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> CNN Freedom Project: Children for Sale, http://www.cnn.com/videos/intl\_tv-hows/2015/07/28/freedom-project-children-for-sale.cnn, accessed November 25, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> Walters and Davis, 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> Stacy J. Cecchet and John Thoburn, "The psychological experience of child and adolescent sex trafficking in the United States: Trauma and resilience in survivors," Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy, 6(5) (2014): 482.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Kaneti, 347.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> R. Barri Flowers, *Street Kid: The Lives of Runaway and Thrownaway Teens*, (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2010), 119.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

year, 92 others have reported much higher numbers. Case in point, Flowers cited a Justice Department data that put child sex trafficking between 100,000 to three million cases per year. 93 He also reported the findings of other experts that put the estimate of children under sixteen being victims of child sex trafficking at half a million up to double or triple the number when sixteen and seventeen year-olds are included. 94

Several factors contribute to the difficulty in obtaining an actual number of victims. Celia Williamson and Michael Prior stated that the elusive estimate is due to the "illegal and the hidden nature of the activity." The traffickers keep the victims hidden, rendering it not only difficult to take into account but also difficult for law enforcement to prosecute. Besides hiding the victims, traffickers may also move them "from one place to the next, in an effort to evade detection by law enforcement and to provide variety for buyers." In addition, it is challenging to identify victims of sex trafficking because those "subjected to trafficking typically do not self-identify, often due to shame, fear, guilt, close monitoring by the trafficker, limited knowledge of the culture, distrust of authorities or lack of perception of oneself as being exploited." Another factor involving those that are in the country illegally is the fear of deportation. This point is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Chung and English, 428.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> Flowers, 118.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> Celia Williamson and Michael Prior, "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Network of Underground Players in the Midwest," *Journal Of Child & Adolescent Trauma* 2, no. 1 (March 2009): 46.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> Emily K. Harlan, "It Happens in the Dark: Examining Current Obstacles to Identifying and Rehabilitating Child Sex-Trafficking Victims in India and the United States," *University of Colorado Law Review* 83.4 (2012): 1130.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid., 247.

underscored by Harlan, who stated that: "foreign child victims are so effectively discouraged from identifying themselves to law enforcement. Pimps and captors threaten their foreign child sex-trafficking victims with indefinite detention or deportation by federal immigration authorities to deter the children from fleeing or reporting the traffickers to the authorities." Those factors have greatly contributed to the underreporting of child sex trafficking. In fact, Greenbaum stated that: "Existing data suggests that known victims represent only a small fraction of the total number of people subjected to human trafficking." 100

However difficult it may be to have an accurate number of instances of child sex trafficking, the prevalence of such an abomination cannot be denied. Based on a US Department of Housing and Urban Development study, it is revealed that on an annual basis, 1.6 million youth are considered homeless, or have run away. According to Harlan who stated that the runaways are at high risk of being prostituted, "It is estimated that one in three of these children will be lured into prostitution within her first 48 hours on the street." Based on that fact alone, at least 533,000 children are victims of child sex trafficking in the US per year. The high number of recent arrests seems to bear truth to how prevalent child prostitution has become. In March 2013, Miami-Dade police arrested a man who drugged and prostituted a 13-year old girl who had run away from home. That girl's sexual services were advertised on Backpage.com, which is considered to be "a bulletin board for men to traffick children, including some recent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> Harlan, 1132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Greenbaum, 247.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Flowers, 118.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Harlan, 1129.

<sup>103</sup> http://www.miamiherald.com/latest-news/article1948651.html

cases involving Florida foster children in the Homestead and Jacksonville areas."<sup>104</sup> In 2014, police freed sixteen juveniles and arrested more than forty-five pimps and their associates who were transporting the children to a Super Bowl championship that was taking place in New Jersey. The juveniles were between thirteen and seventeen. <sup>105</sup> Super Bowls are described as the "single largest human-trafficking incident in the United States," with "tens of thousands of women and minors" trafficked to that destination. <sup>106</sup> In New York, in 2015, a man was found guilty in federal court for recruiting two teenage girls for prostitution. <sup>107</sup> It is said of the man that he "left a trail of child exploitation 'thousands of miles long." <sup>108</sup> Those occurrences represent only a sample of what has become a staple in the American culture.

The trafficking is not limited to one region in the US. In fact, it is reported that trafficking currently exists in all fifty states, Washington D.C., and the territories. Many major cities have become hubs for trafficking, but other places that people would not have thought about are also involved. Case in point, Minneapolis has been identified as one of thirteen cities in the US heavily involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Other cities where child sex trafficking is prevalent include, but not limited to Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia,

<sup>104</sup> http://www.miamiherald.com/latest-news/article1948651.html

 $<sup>^{105}</sup>$  http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/02/04/super-bowl-prostitution/5207399/. Accessed on March 20, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> Hunt, 226.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Josh Kovner, "New York Man Guilty in Child Sex Trafficking Case," *TCA Regional News*, Jan 26, 2015.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> Walters and Davis, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> Alexandra Pierce, "American Indian Adolescent Girls: Vulnerability to Sex Trafficking, Intervention Strategies." *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research (Online)* 19, no. 1 (2012): 38.

Detroit, Chicago, Miami, and Las Vegas.<sup>111</sup> Some cities are considered recruitment cities, others are "destination cities, and bidirectional cities."<sup>112</sup> It has been found that "smaller cities in the Midwest have been identified as recruitment areas, both manipulating and forcing youth into prostitution and then moving them around to various destination."<sup>113</sup> Most favored destination cities are reported to be Detroit, Las Vegas, and Chicago.<sup>114</sup> Those cities notwithstanding, it is reported that three states have the highest instances of child sex trafficking, Texas, New York, and Florida.<sup>115</sup>

Florida has become a central hub for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking to the point that the Florida Legislature has been at the forefront of the fight in recent years. The state is known as a destination for "tourists, transients, migrant workers, runaways, and organized crime." Florida's tourism is one of the factors that "make the state a top destination for the commercial exploitation of children." The following is an illustration of the magnitude of child sex trafficking in Florida:

In Oakland Park, an industrial Fort Lauderdale suburb, federal agents in 2011 encountered a brothel operated by a married couple. Inside 'The Boom Boom Room,' as it was known, customers paid a fee and were given a condom and a timer and left alone with one of the brothel's eight teenagers, children as young as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> Williamson and Prior, 46.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> http://www.thestolenones.heraldtribune.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Janelle Zabresky, "Creating a Safe Harbor for Florida's Children: An Overview of Florida's Legislative Evolution in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," *Florida State University Law Review* 40.2 (2012-2013): 415.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> Ibid., 421.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> Ibid.

13. A 16-year-old foster child testified that he acted as security, while a 17-yearold girl told a federal judge she was forced to have sex with as many as 20 men a night... In nearby Miami, federal agents in 2012 charged four men with operating a prostitution ring. The victims, ages 15 to 17, were in foster care because of previous physical or sexual abuse. ... In Bradenton last year, a pimp named Eric Bell was convicted of running a prostitution ring with underage girls lured from bus stops. Bell and an accomplice offered the girls a place to live, then took sexually explicit photos to solicit clients on the Internet. The four victims recovered by federal agents were between 15 and 17. ... And then there was this illuminating week in May: Two men were arrested in connection with a sex trafficking ring that included at least 16 victims and stretched from Tampa to Sarasota. Three days later, also in the Tampa Bay region, four more arrests were made, involving a separate trafficking ring. Again during the same week, 92 people were arrested as part of a child sex sting in nearby Polk County. One of those arrested was a 15-year-old girl, a runaway, transported to the bust by her pimp. 119

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem that is compounded by the increasing use of sex tourism around the world. As of 2003, the US was reported to be the second largest consumer of sex trafficking in the world. This is echoed by Michelle Tomes, who stated that: "The United States is one of the top three destinations in the world for human sex trafficking." The highest number of foreign victims brought into the U.S. for trafficking are reportedly from "Mexico, Thailand, the Philippines, Honduras, Indonesia, and Guatemala." International criminal networks are involved in sex trafficking. Case in point, a drug cartel has reportedly trafficked a seventeen year-old from Honduras to Mexico to the US. Traffickers use different methods and strategies to get victims into the US. Some victims may

<sup>119</sup> http://thestolenones.heraldtribune.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Cecchet and Thoburn, 489.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> Tomes, 214.

<sup>122</sup> Greenbaum, 247.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> Harlan, 1131.

come on a student visa, and overstay in the country after the expiration of the time allotted.

Others may come with a work permit, or with fake documents that the trafficker may have provided. Many come as mail-order brides who are then forced into prostitution. Regardless of how the foreign victims arrived in the US, child sex trafficking is not a foreign problem. It is reported that 80% of child sex trafficking victims in the US involve American children.

Globalization and the wide use of the internet have made it easier for traffickers to recruit children into sex trafficking. Some children are recruited directly by the traffickers through Facebook, online chat rooms, and other Internet related venues. 127 Others are recruited by peers "who are often victims of sexual exploitation themselves." The internet has also made it easier for traffickers to keep victims hidden to avoid detection by law enforcement. As mentioned by Harlan, "Johns can choose and 'order' a girl from the privacy of their own homes," and no longer "on the streets or truck stops where law enforcement can see them." Traffickers use popular internet sites to offer the victims' services. This is echoed by Kimberly Kotrla, who stated that: "U.S. children are being sold for sex by pimps, not only on the streets, but via craigslist." Another popular website, as previously mentioned, used by traffickers is Backpage.com as underscored by a story involving a 15-year-old runaway. Specifically, the article stated: "The calls started pouring in the moment Natalie's ad was posted on the online

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> Greenbaum, 250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> Hunt, 226.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> Greenbaum, 250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup>Ibid., 249.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Harlan, 1130.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> Kimberly Kotrla, "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the United States," Social Work 55, no. 2 (04, 2010): 182.

classified-advertising site, backpage.com."<sup>131</sup> According to the victim, "The second they posted me, the phone would not stop vibrating. At least 40 guys called in the first 15 to 20 minutes."<sup>132</sup> The frustration and heartbreak caused by trafficking are best summarized by the victim's father who, after searching for his daughter through the popular site, stated: "There were just so many girls on there, you couldn't even go through them all. It was so frustrating to search and see all these kids, these young, beautiful girls."<sup>133</sup> On March 17, 2016, the US Senate unanimously voted to hold Backpage.com in contempt for its failure to comply with a request for documents showing screening for advertisings that may be promoting sex trafficking.<sup>134</sup>

### Europe

The complexity of child sex trafficking in Europe cannot be overstated. Like in many other places, it is difficult to have an accurate number and the estimates tend to vary. Hodge and Lietz stated that the difficulty in the assessment was due to the shadowy nature of the activity. However, there is no doubt that human trafficking has reached "epidemic proportions." The authors report that regardless of the general estimate of international trafficking, "approximately 2 million to 4 million persons are trafficked within their home nations." There is a certain pattern to sex trafficking, it flows from nations of origin, transit, and destination. <sup>137</sup> This is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/natalies-story-life-as-a-child-prostitute/

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

 $<sup>^{134}\</sup> http://www.reuters.com/article/usa-congress-trafficking-idUSL2N16P1N4.$  Accessed on March 27, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> Hodge and Lietz, 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> Ibid., 165.

echoed by Williamson and Prior, who stated that: "When speaking of international trafficking there are *recruitment* countries, where victims are manipulated or forced into trafficking, *destination* countries, where victims are sent to work in the sex trade, and *bidirectional* countries where victims are both recruited and working." Originating countries tend to be poor while destination nations tend to be wealthy. All three patterns are found in Europe. Some countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (Countries of the former Soviet Union) are where sex trafficking originates, Eastern Europe is considered a transit region and the most prominent destination countries in Europe are: Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Turkey. 140

Of the four million women that Gabriella Lazaridis estimates that leave their country of origin and end up in the sex industry each year, she stated that 70 to 80 percent are from Eastern and Central Europe. <sup>141</sup> In keeping with that point, Venera Bekteshi, Eglantina Gjermeni, and Mary Van Hook reported that "Sex trafficking has especially impacted Eastern European countries such as Albania, Romania, Moldova, and the former Soviet Union Republics." <sup>142</sup> The factor that seemed to have affected the Eastern European countries was the collapse of the communist system that left those countries poor and their citizens vulnerable. <sup>143</sup> Dr. Hatim

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Williamson and Prior, 46.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> Hodge and Lietz, 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> Gabriella Lazaridis, "Trafficking and Prostitution: The Growing Exploitation of Migrant Women in Greece," *European Journal of Women's Studies*, Volume 8, Issue 1, (02/2001): 70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> Venera Bekteshi, Eglantina Gjermeni, and Mary Van Hook, "Modern day slavery: sex trafficking in Albania," *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, Vol. 32, 7/8, (2012): 481.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> Gjermeni and Van Hook, 436-437.

Omar reported having witnessed child prostitution in the streets of Romania and Bulgaria like he never experienced before. More specifically, he stated: "The most disturbing thing I saw there, however, was the emergence of child prostitution." He reported being sadden to witness children as young as 10 involved in prostitution. 145

Perhaps the complexity is best explained by Siddharth Kara, who reported what he encountered in the streets of Rome. One of the stories is about a girl who was trafficked from Romania to Rome when she was fourteen. She was promised a job in a restaurant, but instead ended up in Rome where her pimp would lock her up in an apartment during the day and brought her to the streets at night. She had to service at least twenty clients every night, otherwise, she would not eat. The girls that Kara met were from Russia, Moldova, Albania, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, and Bulgaria. Prostitution is legal in Italy, child prostitution is not; however, of the thirty-one girls that Kara reported meeting one night, twenty-eight of them were minors that he described as "half-naked children stripped down to bras and panties." Similarly, He stated that the girls that he met were teenagers forced to have sex with twenty men per night.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> Hatim A. Omar, "Child and Adolescent Prostitution," *J Pediatric Adolescent Gynecology* 15 (2002):329.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Siddharth kara, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2009), 83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> Ibid.. 184.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Ibid.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid.

Another European country where child sex exploitation is rampant is the United Kingdom (UK). However, there is no consensus between what is characterized as child sex trafficking and child sex exploitation. Whatever the term used, Helen Brayley and Ella Cockbain have reported a flow of arrests that make the problem worthy of attention. The trend that they have observed show that the victims were girls that were moved to different locations, and they were "typically aged 12-17-years old." While the debate of what label should be given to children in the UK that are being prostituted continues, the dilemma is so pervasive in that country to the point of "many child victims disappearing without a trace from local authority care." The European Union is not much help with current anti-trafficking laws pertaining to the sex trade "remaining ineffectual and may even be counterproductive." 153

#### Asia

Asia presents an even bigger challenge for addressing the problem of sex trafficking of minor children and ending the interest of patrons from engaging with young kids for sex. The prevalence of sex trafficking in that continent cannot be overstated. Similarly, Camelia Tepelus added that: "Asia is at the center of child prostitution, with 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines, 400,000 in India, 800,000 in Thailand. Most of them are girls under the age of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Helen Brayley and Ella Cockbain, "British Children can be trafficked too: Towards an Inclusive Definition of Internal Sex Trafficking," *Child Abuse Review* Vol 23 (2014): 173.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Ibid., 174-176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Farrah Bokhari, "Falling Through the Gaps: Safeguarding Children Trafficked into the UK," *Children and Society* 22 no.3 (2008):201.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Heli Askola, "Violence Against Women, Trafficking, and Migration in the European Union," *European Law Journal* 13 (2) (2007): 204.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> Jhumka Gupta, Elizabeth Reed, Trace Kershaw, and Kim M. Blankenship. "History of Sex Trafficking, Recent Experience of Violence, and HIV Vulnerability Among Female Sex Workers in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, India." *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 114 (2011):102.

16, or boys in the case of Sri Lanka's 20,000 child prostitutes." <sup>155</sup> Crawford added that: "the sex trafficking problem is most acute in Asia." <sup>156</sup> It is further estimated that "more than a million girls and boys, aged 17 and younger, are engaged in forced prostitution in Asia." <sup>157</sup> Sex tourism is alive in Asia where it is reported that more than 250,000 sex tourists visit annually. <sup>158</sup> Included in that estimate are those who seek to have sex with children, better known as child sex tourism. <sup>159</sup> It is also an area known for much greater violence towards sex slaves. For example, Japan is home to ten thousand commercial sex establishments, and where an estimated one hundred fifty to two hundred thousand women and girls are trafficked each year. <sup>160</sup> It is reported that the sex trafficking in Japan is tightly controlled by the Yakuza, which is the Japanese mafia. <sup>161</sup> The Yakuza is reputed to inflict great physical harm upon a child prostitute as part of their pleasure, especially if the child tries to escape. <sup>162</sup> Otherwise, much of this continent presents a unique aspect of "loosely organized groups of men and women who traffic girls from countries like Nepal." <sup>163</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>155</sup> Camelia M. Tepelus, "Social responsibility and innovation on trafficking and child sex tourism: morphing of practice into sustainable tourism policies," *Tourism & Hospitality Research* 8.2 (4/2008): 104.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Mary Crawford, Sex Trafficking in South Asia: Telling Maya's Story, (London: Routledge, 2010), 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 797.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> Devine, 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> Ibid., 19.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> Crawford, 26.

Nepal is considered a source country, a country that is less developed, less stable and less wealthy. Nepalese girls are "trafficked both within the country and across its borders." The sex trafficking problem is so prevalent in Nepal that children as young as seven have been trafficked. They are usually sold to brothels in India where they are forced to have sex with forty clients a day. It is estimated that there may be as many as 200,000 women and children from Nepal involved in the sex industry in India. Anti-trafficking investigators discovered that "virtually all the Nepali girls and women" in brothels in Calcutta, Delhi, and Mumbai appear to have been victims of trafficking. Studies suggest that up to 11,000 Nepalese women and girls are trafficked into India annually, 70% of which involve girls that were under sixteen at the time of trafficking. Nepalese girls are also trafficked to Pakistan, Western Asia, and the Middle East via India. The

As it happens with most poor countries, child prostitution in Nepal is attributed to poverty. The some parents find it more beneficial to sell the girls as they cannot afford to get them

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>164</sup> Crawford, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>165</sup> Ibid., 7.

 $<sup>^{166}</sup>$  http://thediplomat.com/2014/02/women-and-girls-a-commodity-human-trafficking-in-nepal/ (accessed March 30, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> Harlan, 1127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>169</sup> Crawford, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Christine Joffres, Edward Mills, Michel Joffres, Tinku Khanna, Harleen Walia, and Darrin Grund, "Sexual Slavery Without Borders: Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in India," *International Journal for Equity in Health* 7 no. 22 (December 2008): 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> Willis and Levy, 1417.

married for the girls' parents have to pay what is considered a large sum to the groom's family. 173 Other parents report that their children had gone to work in factories in India and never returned. 174 Then, there is a heartbreaking story of a father whose daughter was raped when she was twelve. Fearing the stigma for what she had gone through, he accepted a job offer for her to work in a clothing factory in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. In the two years that she has been gone, prior to the report, he has never heard from her. 175 As is sometimes the case, she may have been sold to some brothels in India to be prostituted. 176 Besides India, Nepalese girls are also trafficked to Shanghai, the Middle East, and internally to work in massage parlors where they are sexually exploited as well. 177 Poverty is not the only cause of trafficking in Nepal; there seem to be some organized networks composed of Nepalese men and women involved in trafficking women and girls to India. 178 Joffres et al. also reported that the "trafficking of Nepalese girls to Indian brothels had been taken over by Nepalese rebel groups in order to fund their fight against the state." 179

Another country in South Asia where children are prostituted is India. In fact, Harlan stated that: "India has more human trafficking victims than any other country in the world." Christine Joffres et al. stated that India represents a two edged sword of high trafficking for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> Kara, 70-71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> Ibid., 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> Kara, 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Ibid., 69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>177</sup> Ibid., 71-72.

<sup>178</sup> Crawford, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>179</sup> Joffres et al., 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>180</sup> Harlan, 1124.

commercial exploitation from state to state or within states, and an international supplier of trafficked women and children to other nations. They further added that "India is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls trafficked for CSE (Commercial Sex Exploitation). The society where young virgins are auctioned off to the highest bidder, and men pay a considerable amount of money to be the first to have sex with her. Because of the sex tourism industry, and new destinations, there is "increasing demand for younger children and virgins. While an exact number of trafficked in India for commercial sexual exploitation. While an exact number of trafficking victims is difficult to assess for reasons previously discussed, it is estimated that 15% of the victims started when they were younger than fifteen, and 25% between fifteen and eighteen. A particular study has further revealed that 51.9% of those victims were minors.

Another region in Asia where child prostitution is pervasive is Southeast Asia. It is estimated that "a third of all sex workers in Southeast Asia are between the ages of 12 and 17." Cambodia and Thailand are in that region, and they enjoy relative stability and economic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Joffres et al., 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>183</sup> Harlan, 1125-1126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>184</sup> Joffress et al., 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>186</sup> Harlan, 1124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> Ibid., 1125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>188</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 797.

prosperity in addition to borders that are easy to cross. Those factors make them a destination for those looking for work. Consequently, women and children are recruited into the sex sector. The children in that sector generally have low level education, and they are "are trafficked either within their own countries or over the border into neighboring countries, for example from Laos to Thailand or Cambodia to Thailand, or Thailand to China, or Myanmar to Laos, and so on."

Deanna Davy reports that "Child sex trafficking occurs in all Southeast Asian countries."

Some countries in the region are considered source or origin; some are transit and others are destination countries. <sup>192</sup> Of the countries in the region, it is said that Cambodia is one of the most affected by child sex trafficking. <sup>193</sup> In fact, it is reported that "among the tourism centers of Southeast Asia, Cambodia is well known as a haven for child sex tourists." <sup>194</sup> Cambodia is now a destination country with children from outside the country being trafficked into Cambodia to work in the sex industry. <sup>195</sup> Although there is no real estimate of sex trafficking in Cambodia, Davy stated that the difficulty in identifying victims makes obtaining estimates "virtually

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>189</sup> Deanna Davy, "Understanding the Motivations and Activities of Transnational Advocacy Networks Against Child Sex Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion: The Value of Cosmopolitan Globalization Theory," *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 5, no. 1 (January 2013): 43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>190</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Motivations and Activities of Transnational Advocacy Networks Against Child Sex Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion: The Value of Cosmopolitan Globalization Theory," 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>191</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia,"793.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>192</sup> Ibid., 793-794.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>193</sup> Ibid. 799.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> Ibid., 800.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>195</sup> Ibid., 801.

impossible,"<sup>196</sup> there is no doubt as to the magnitude of child sex trafficking in Cambodia. It is reported that "Significant numbers of Asian and Western men travel to Cambodia for sexual encounters with children."<sup>197</sup> Case in point, a study shows that 51% of the girls who participated in that study had lost their virginity to a tourist. <sup>198</sup>

When it comes to Thailand, it is considered "unique because it is involved in three functions—it acts as a receiving country, a sending country and a transit point for victims of trafficking." Moreover, Carmen Lau stated that "There appears to be a long history of child prostitution in Thailand." Apparently in Thai history, the king used to charge a tax on all farmlands, and if someone was unable to pay the taxes or any other debts, they could place themselves, their wives, and children in debt bondage. Debt bondage slaves could be resold, and daughters were often resold. That practice may have desensitized that society to the point that they regard their children as a commodity to be sold to anyone for the right price. The best illustration of that point involves a girl who was three when she started watching an eight-old neighbor masturbating a British tourist. By the time she was six-years-old, "she was initiated into having regular intercourse with the man." He paid her family money to have sex with her. 203

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia,"797.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> Ibid., 800.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>198</sup> Ibid., 797.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>199</sup> David W Engstrom et al., "Halting the Trafficking of Women and Children in Thailand for the Sex Trade: Progress and Challenges." *Journal Of Social Work Research & Evaluation* 5, no. 2 (Winter 2004): 193.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>200</sup> Carmen Lau, "Child Prostitution in Thailand," Journal of Child Health Care Vol 12 (2) (2008): 145.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>201</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 802.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>202</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>203</sup> Crawford. 2.

Moreover, Crawford further reported that "an ethnographic study of child prostitution in Thailand reported that girls and boys as young as three years of age were sexually abused by Western tourists who were pedophiles, and their families were often aware of and complicit in their trafficking."<sup>204</sup> Globalization has caused sex tourism to expand in Thailand with increasing number of sex tourists traveling to Thailand.<sup>205</sup> In fact, it is suggested that the "Thai government had openly promoted the growth of sex tourism until the late 1980s."<sup>206</sup> In the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) issued by the U.S. government, Thailand had received a Tier 3 rating. The report stated that: "Sex trafficking remains a significant problem in Thailand's extensive sex trade."<sup>207</sup>

#### Australia

Australia shares its limitation in dealing with anti-social behavior. Its main challenge pertains to the difficulty the government has in implementing a community awareness program against child sex trafficking.<sup>208</sup> It is a design aimed at educating the law enforcement, civic, and social communities in preventing, reporting, and enforcing the laws against child sex enslavement. The program is not successful because the Australian sex trade manages to stay outside of mainstream society. In fact, there has been increasing call to the sex trafficking

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>204</sup> Crawford, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>205</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 802.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>207</sup> http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/ accessed April 6, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>208</sup> Melina Czymoniewicz-Klippel, Elizabeth Hoban, and Erica Kotnik, "Human trafficking in Australia: The Challenge of Responding to Suspicious Activities," *Australian Journal of Social Issues 42*(3): 369.

advocates to treat all forms of labor trafficking equally without emphasizing sex trafficking.<sup>209</sup> According to the 2015 TIP report, "Australia is primarily a destination country for women and girls subjected to sex trafficking... Child sex trafficking occurs involving a small number of Australian citizens, primarily teenage girls, as well as foreign victims exploited within the country."<sup>210</sup> In 2004, the Australian Crime Commission issued a report that "sex-trafficking into Australia is a significant problem that needs to be taken seriously."<sup>211</sup> In 2015, Australia is rated a Tier 1.<sup>212</sup>

#### Latin America

Latin America as a bloc serves as an origin, transit, and destination for child sex trafficking.<sup>213</sup> Seelke added that trafficking is a major problem in the Caribbean and Latin America.<sup>214</sup> While child sex trafficking is difficult to assess everywhere, it may even be more difficult in Latin America. Some countries have more instances of child prostitution based on the level of their sex tourism. For example, it is reported that there may be more than 100,000 involved in the sex industry in the Dominican Republic, 25,000 of which are minors.<sup>215</sup> The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>209</sup> Frances Simmons and Fiona David, "The Road to Effective Remedies: Pragmatic Reasons for Treating Cases of "Sex Trafficking" in the Australian Sex Industry as a Form of "Labour Trafficking"," *Anti - Trafficking Review*, no. 1 (06, 2012): 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>210</sup> http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>211</sup> Anna Dorevitch and Michelle Foster, "Obstacles on the road to protection: assessing the treatment of sex-trafficking victims under Australia's migration and refugee law," *Melbourne Journal of International Law* 9.1 (2008): 3.

<sup>212</sup> http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>213</sup> Clare Ribando Seelke, "Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and The Caribbean," *Current Politics and Economics of South and Central America*,6(2) (2013): 255.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>214</sup> Ibid., 259.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>215</sup> Alda Facio, "Trafficking in Women And Children For The Sex Trade: Reflections From A Latin American Human Rights Feminist," *Canadian Woman Studies*, 22(3), (2003):139.

U.S. State Department reports that "Commercial sexual exploitation of local children by foreign tourists and locals persists, particularly in coastal resort areas of the Dominican Republic."<sup>216</sup> That country is reported to have the second largest sex workers in Latin America, second only to Brazil.

Brazil was reported in 1998 to have 200,000 children and adolescents that have been prostituted.<sup>217</sup> Ten years later, in 2008, the estimated number of child prostitutes jumped to 500,000.<sup>218</sup> The TIP report for 2015 states that: "Child sex tourism remains a problem, particularly in the resort and coastal areas; many child sex tourists are from Europe."<sup>219</sup> Mexico and Haiti are two countries that have a high level of young children being trafficked across their borders for sex enslavement. After the earthquake in January 2010 that claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people, countless Haitian children became orphaned. Girls as young as ten were trafficked across the border to the Dominican Republic into the sex tourism industry.<sup>220</sup>

Mexico has a high instance of internal trafficking. One trafficking survivor from Mexico, Karla Jacintho, reported to being trafficked at the age of twelve. She was forced to have sex with about thirty men per day, an ordeal that lasted for four years.<sup>221</sup> Furthermore, Mexico has a thriving sex tourism industry where it is reported that "Tens of thousands of Mexican women

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>216</sup>http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>217</sup> Dorianne Beyer, "Child Prostitution in Latin America, In Forced Labor: The Prostitution of Children," *Trends in Organized Crime*, *3*(4) (1998): 62.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>218</sup> Sara Dillon, "What Human Rights Law Obscures: Global Sex Trafficking and the Demand for Children," *UCLA Women's Law Journal* 17.1 (2008): 129.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>219</sup> http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>220</sup> http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/crime/article24597628.html. Accessed March 5, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>221</sup> CNN Freedom Project: Mexico Trafficking Survivor, November 2015, http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/10/americas/freedom-project-mexico-trafficking-survivor/index.html. Accessed on November 25, 2015.

and girls (as well as men and boys) work as prostitutes in all of the major cities of Mexico."<sup>222</sup> The Mexican border is reportedly a center for child sex tourism, and "an estimated 16,000 children are currently involved in prostitution, pornography and sex-tourism in Mexico."<sup>223</sup>

#### Africa

Part of the history of the African continent is forcing minor children into commercial sexual activity as part of a political agenda geared towards social control in contrast to social development.<sup>224</sup> This practice has turned the continent today into more of a feeder of child prostitutes than a location for sex tourism. However, street prostitution of minor children as young as eight is common in countries like Liberia and Cameroon.<sup>225</sup> Besides South Africa where child sex trafficking is on the rise,<sup>226</sup> the country in Africa that seems to have a serious child sex trafficking issue is Nigeria. Nigeria is considered a transit and destination country. Nigerian trafficking victims "are taken to locations in the West and Central African countries like Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, Chad, Benin, Togo, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Gambia."<sup>227</sup> Nigeria is also a source country, a reported 17,100 victims have been trafficked to Europe, especially in Italy, and an additional 5,700 trafficked every year.<sup>228</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>222</sup> Walters and Davis, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>223</sup> Ibid., 9-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>224</sup> Zosa Olenka De Sas Kropiwnicki, "The Politics of Child Prostitution in South Africa," *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 30, no. 2 (April 2012): 235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>225</sup> Thomas Jaye, "The Security Culture of the ECOWAS: Origins, Development and the Challenge of Child Trafficking," *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 26, no. 2 (April 2008): 151.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>226</sup> Dillon, 129.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>227</sup> Lukman Raimi, "Faith-Based Advocacy as a Tool For Mitigating Human Trafficking In Nigeria," *Humanomics*, Vol. 28 (4) (2012): 298.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>228</sup> Adams, 217-218.

It is undeniable that child sex trafficking is prevalent worldwide. Whether it is in the US, Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia, or Africa, younger and younger children are being recruited to work in the sex industry, which is fueled by sex tourism. It is heartbreaking and horrifying to think of five and six year-olds being prostituted. Child sex trafficking is a scourge that needs to be eliminated. It has long-term consequences, not only for the victims, but also for society as a whole. Less educated than those that enter the sex industry as adults, victims of child prostitution are preconditioned to spend a life in prostitution, become drug addicts, and suffer from permanent debilitating diseases, among other complications.

## **Chapter Three**

# **Long-Term Effects of Child Prostitution**

The sex trade is the most barbaric of the human trafficking problem in the world. <sup>229</sup> Prostituted children are subject to the worst treatment. A typical initiation of children into prostitution may include starvation, beating, and drugging. Case in point, about some children, trafficked to a brothel in India, Kara stated that "Minors are starved and beaten when they first arrive. The *gharwali* gives them opium so they will have sex. If they do not behave, the *malik* makes the radio high and beats them until they go unconscious." One girl who was sold to a brothel in India when she was eleven explained how she would bleed from wounds in her vagina resulting from intercourse with clients with whom she was forced to have sex. Every time her wounds would open up, they would stitch them, and then forced her to continue having sex with clients. She kept suffering that type of injury and going through the process of being stitched up a total of twelve times.<sup>231</sup>

As inhumane as that type of treatment may appear, it is not an aberration. Physical and emotional abuse of child sex trafficking victims are not the exception, they are the norm.<sup>232</sup> Greenbaum further added that "physical injury is common."<sup>233</sup> The physical injuries can be very severe and may include broken bones. Kara reported that when a girl, who was sold to a brothel in India, initially refused to have sex, the owner broke her arm.<sup>234</sup> The prevalence of injuries can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>229</sup> Kara, 6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>230</sup> Ibid., 49.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>231</sup> Ibid., 69-70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>232</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>233</sup> Ibid.

be further explained by this reported data, "35% of domestic sex trafficking victims sustained a broken bone, 80% sustained bruises, 47% reported head injuries, and 53% experienced oral/dental injuries. Nearly 70% developed "major illnesses." A brothel owner in South Asia even went as far as putting a thirteen-year-old child "in a coffin with biting ants for days at a time." Similarly, Dillon stated that: "Prostituted children can be raped, beaten, sodomized, emotionally abused, tortured, and even killed by pimps, brothel owners, and customers." That type of violence that the children have to endure causes long-term effects. The children grow up and develop illnesses and diseases that may be long-term. As referenced studies show, some have not been able to escape the past sufferings that they had endured. There are lifetime consequences resulting from child prostitution which are being analyzed in this chapter.

### Lifetime in Prostitution

The worst part about children victims of sex trafficking is the status of their cognitive development at the time of their enslavement into that illicit activity. They are victims that may not resist their indoctrination into the sex trade.<sup>238</sup> They are simultaneously forced to perform an abhorrent behavior in return for their survival, and cessation of bodily pain. It is a form of conditioning that goes into their emotional development to the point that they learn a way of life that will be difficult to eliminate from their character even with intense deconditioning.<sup>239</sup> It is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>234</sup> Kara, 49.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>235</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>236</sup> Crawford, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>237</sup> Dillon, 128.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>238</sup> Willis and Levy, 1417.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>239</sup> Becca C. Johnson, "Aftercare for Survivors of Human Trafficking," *Social Work and Christianity* 39, no. 4 (Winter, 2012): 373

double victimization for the suffering they endure to their body and their personality. Becca Johnson explains how the traumatization of children sex workers becomes ingrained in their psyche in the process of forcing them into sexual performance.<sup>240</sup> It causes children victims of this inhumane disposition to be lifetime prostitutes.<sup>241</sup> It is a life they learn, understand, and revert to upon the slightest discomfort in the search for a new life. It is a syndrome of their traumatic experiences.<sup>242</sup> As Deshpande stated: "Once women and girls become involved in the sex trafficking industry, it becomes very difficult for them to escape."<sup>243</sup>

Moreover, several other factors contribute to keeping those recruited into prostitution as children to remain in the sex industry most of their lives. Women who managed to get out of prostitution report having stayed very long because of guilt, shame, low self-esteem, and a sense of worthlessness.<sup>244</sup>In addition, victims of child sex trafficking have very little education because of their recruitment at such a young age.<sup>245</sup> As a result, they end up staying in prostitution as they feel that they have no other viable alternatives. Prostitution is all they know. It is reported that most women in prostitution started as children, the average age of recruitment being 13 years.<sup>246</sup> This is echoed by Kotrla, who reported the findings of two studies, and stated that at least 70

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>240</sup> Pemberton, 400.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>241</sup> Angela Duger, "Focusing on Prevention: The Social and Economic Rights of Children Vulnerable to Sex Trafficking," *Health and Human Rights* 17 no. 1 (June 2015): 119.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>242</sup> Augustine Brannigan and Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, "Youthful Prostitution and Child Sexual Trauma," *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 20 no. 3 (1997): 339-340.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>243</sup> Deshpande, e24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>244</sup> Cecchet and Thoburn, 488.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>245</sup> Davy, "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia," 804.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>246</sup> http://thestolenones.heraldtribune.com/default.aspx

percent of women in prostitution started as minors. <sup>247</sup> She reports the average age of recruitment to be between 11 and 14. <sup>248</sup>

Those women remain in the sex industry as they feel stuck, and even become madams when they are no longer able to work as prostitutes. Adams said it best when she explained that "Many of these madams are former victims, locked into a market they did not enter willingly because they have nowhere else to turn."<sup>249</sup> Another factor that may contribute to women staying in prostitution is drug addiction. As we will discuss below, in the process of their indoctrination, victims were given drug and alcohol, sometimes by force. A particular study revealed that 16% of women reported being in prostitution to support their drug addiction.<sup>250</sup>

## End Up as Drug Addicts

The slave masters of minor sex workers are typically involved in drug dealing and other types of criminal activity.<sup>251</sup> They have constant availability of illicit drugs that they use on their child sex workers for both a dependency on their supply and a form of absolute control over their victims' behavior.<sup>252</sup> Johnson discusses how child prostitutes become drug addicts in the course of their confinement in the sex enslavement work. Their experience may include, but not limited to "Rape, violence, torture, assault, humiliation, abuse, degradation, confinement, threats, and isolation."<sup>253</sup> In addition to exercising control over their victims, traffickers also introduce kids to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>247</sup> Kotrla, 182.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>248</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>249</sup> Adams, 205.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>250</sup> Kennedy et al., 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>251</sup> Devine, 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>252</sup> Chung and English, 429.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>253</sup> Johnson, 374.

drugs and alcohol to foster their addiction and to obtain their continued compliance into activities that they would otherwise find too dangerous or too risky.<sup>254</sup> Traffickers use drug addiction and other degrading acts as "victim-conditioning techniques."<sup>255</sup> One girl, who was twelve at the time, became a drug addict after being injected with cocaine by her father who had a drug addiction problem, and forced her into prostitution to support his habit. As reported by Kennedy et al., "she was forced to prostitute herself on the streets to support their joint drug habits."<sup>256</sup> In many cases, pimps would supply the girls with drugs to get them addicted. Once they become drug dependent, it becomes easier for the victims to agree to exchange "sex for drugs" as a way to feed their habit.<sup>257</sup> Greenbaum also reports high rates of drug use among victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Specifically, she stated that the drugs included "marijuana (used by 89% of victims), ecstasy (54%), cocaine (34%), and methamphetamine (27%)."<sup>258</sup>

Furthermore, some victims used drugs as a coping mechanism to escape the harsh reality of their lives, and to survive the frequent beatings and rapes to which they may be subjected.<sup>259</sup> In those cases, the drug and alcohol use became their survival strategy.<sup>260</sup> Whatever the cause of the start of alcohol and drug use, it becomes a habit that leads to addiction, which may progress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>254</sup> Greenbaum, 252.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>255</sup> <u>Elieth P. Eyébiyi</u>, <u>Peter Herrmann</u>, and <u>Veronica Sheen</u>, *Global Crossroads in Social Welfare*, (WI: BOD, 2010), 342.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>256</sup> Kennedy et al., 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>257</sup> Leonard Territo and Nataliya Glover, *Criminal Investigation of Sex Trafficking in America*, (Florida: CRC Press, 2014), 117.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>258</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>259</sup> Mary De Chesnay, *Sex Trafficking: A Clinical Guide for Nurses*, (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2012), 209.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>260</sup> Eyébiyi et al., 342.

slowly or rapidly.<sup>261</sup> Willis and Levy reported that "a high percentage of prostituted children probably abuse various substances from tobacco and alcohol to inhalants and opiates."<sup>262</sup> Mary De Chesnay reports that sex trafficking victims are most likely to be addicted to heroin, cocaine, and alcohol.<sup>263</sup> This problem becomes tougher to eliminate as the addicts develop a chemical dependency that remains active without intensive detoxification program over an extended period. The danger of drug addiction is that it "is considered a multifactorial health disorder that follows the course of relapsing and remitting chronic diseases."<sup>264</sup> This also means that child victims are likely to have a lack of common sense; an inability to differentiate between good and bad; and an extreme sense of depression, or euphoria depending on their chemical use. These are characteristics indicative of long-term psychological damage.

## Psychological and Medical Problems

Another long-term effect of child prostitution is the plethora of medical problems contracted by the victims. Huda presented a list of medical problems that includes "sexually transmitted diseases, pelvic inflammatory disease, hepatitis, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases; unwanted pregnancy, forced abortion, and abortion-related complications." In fact, Willis and Levy stated that the children that are the victims of prostitution are at a high risk of many infectious diseases like HIV, syphilis, and chancroid. 266

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>261</sup> Eyébiyi et al., 342.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>262</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>263</sup> De Chesnay, 203.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>264</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>265</sup> Huda, 378.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>266</sup> Willis and Levy, 1418.

Cervical cancer is also a possibility as a link with infection with human papillomavirus has been established. The victims' risk of developing cervical cancer is also "associated with a high number of sexual partners and young age at first intercourse." As a result, victims of child sex trafficking "have an increased risk of cervical cancer; they also have a high risk of being diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease, for which successful treatment is less likely." Pemberton adds to the list of multiple types of diseases befalling child sex workers the fact that the brutal rapes that many, if not most, had suffered leaves physical scars that may not heal correctly. Other contributory factors that may impact them into their adulthood include poor living conditions, chronic stress, inadequate access to healthcare, poor nutrition, and violence, just to name a few. They are not treated for problems by medical professionals on a regular basis, and that causes their illnesses to fester into greater problems that could eventually become lifetime diseases.

One of the lifetime diseases that victims of child sex trafficking are prone to that merit some attention in this document is HIV/AIDS. In addressing this problem, Dillon stated that: "very large number of children are used for commercial sexual purposes every year, often ending up with their health destroyed, victims of HIV/AIDS." Some of the factors that caused them to be prostituted at a young age are the very reason they are exposed to HIV. Some men prefer to engage in sexual activities with younger children because they believe it to be safer as children

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>267</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>268</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>269</sup> Pemberton, 402.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>270</sup> Chung and English, 429.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>271</sup> Dillon, 128.

are less likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS.<sup>272</sup> More often, the children do not demand that their customers use protection. Case in point, Greenbaum reports that "Many North American and foreign children have little or no understanding of HIV/AIDS and are not aware that condom use is important to prevent infection."<sup>273</sup> Those that are aware may still end up having unprotected sex for their refusal may trigger them being beaten, either by their trafficker or the customers.<sup>274</sup> This means that their failure to use protection will end up exposing them to more viruses and contact with patrons having infections that are forced onto them, which will further threaten their lives.

The most sickening is a phenomenon reported to be taking place in South Asia. Huda stated that: "One common myth fueling the demand for young girls in South Asia is that sex with a virgin can cure sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS."<sup>275</sup> This further exposes them to the disease, which explains the undeniable prevalence of HIV/AIDS among all sex trafficking victims. This is echoed by Huda, who stated that "Women and children victims of sex trafficking in South Asia have a high prevalence of HIV and other STDs. Over 5 million people in South Asia are living with HIV/AIDS."<sup>276</sup> Other data shows that of the 2,000,000 reported prostitutes in India, 60% of those in Mumbai are HIV positive.<sup>277</sup> It is further reported that "In

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>272</sup> Lau, 147-148.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>273</sup> Greenbaum, 259.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>275</sup> Huda, 378.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>276</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>277</sup> Huda, 378.

some communities, up to 86% of sex workers are infected with HIV."<sup>278</sup> Another study of Nepalese girls trafficked into India shows a 38% of HIV infection.<sup>279</sup> Additionally, a study of 1,000 girls rescued from brothels in Thailand showed that 20% of the victims were HIV positive.<sup>280</sup> After another rescue of 12 girls, 11 of them were tested positive for HIV.<sup>281</sup> The other added effect of HIV infection is the heighten risk of tuberculosis. "There is little uncertainty that their risk for developing active TB dramatically increased as a result of acquiring HIV. Increased rates of breakdown to active TB disease are well described after HIV infection."<sup>282</sup> The other problem with HIV/AIDS, like other infectious diseases, it spreads. Across the globe, sex workers are identified as a key factor in the spread of HIV.<sup>283</sup>

In addition to medical problems, it is well documented that victims of sex trafficking suffer from a number of psychological problems. In fact, Chung and English stated that victims are likely to suffer "from a variety of psychological consequences of their experiences." This is echoed by Greenbaum, who stated that adverse psychological effects are frequent in victims of sex trafficking. Similarly, Willis and Levy report that "Child prostitution often results in serious long-term psychological harm, including anxiety, depression, and behavioral

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>278</sup> Willis and Levy, 1418.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>279</sup> Ashwin S. Dharmadhikari, Jhumka Gupta, Michele R. Decker, Anita Raj, and Jay G. Silverman, "Tuberculosis and HIV: A Global Menace Exacerbated Via Sex Trafficking," *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 13 (2009): 544.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>280</sup> Siroj Sorajjakool, "Theological and Psychological Reflection on the Functions of Pastoral Care in the Context of Child Prostitution in Thailand," *The Journal of Pastoral Care* 54 no. 4 (Winter 2000): 431.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>281</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>282</sup> Dharmadhikari et al., 544.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>283</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>284</sup> Chung and English, 429.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>285</sup> Greenbaum, 253.

disorders."<sup>286</sup>A study of trafficked girls in Cambodia reports that they "felt helpless, damaged, degraded, betrayed, and shamed."<sup>287</sup> Others have reported feelings of depression, hopelessness, inability to sleep, nightmares, and poor appetite.<sup>288</sup> Other reported emotions include: feeling of grief, loss of self, sense of guilt, worthlessness, dirtiness, helplessness, anger, and anxiety.<sup>289</sup>There is an alarmingly high percentage of those that either attempted suicide or at least thought about it. Willis and Levy report that "Prostituted children are also at high risk of suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder. In the USA, 25 (41%) of 61 pregnant prostituted adolescents reported that they had seriously considered or attempted suicide."<sup>290</sup> Likewise, Cecchet reported that between 30 to 46 percent of juveniles in prostitution have attempted suicide.<sup>291</sup>

Giving Birth Resulting in Second Generation Problems

Children having children is a common occurrence in the sex trafficking industry. "Sexually active adolescents who do not use contraception have a 90% chance of becoming pregnant within one year." While this is not a disease, it is a condition of unsafe environments. Child sex workers get pregnant and give birth to offsprings who end up with severe medical problems. It is reported that "Infants born to prostituted girls are at risk of HIV, HBV, and HCV infections. An estimated 600 000 children worldwide are infected with HIV every year, most

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>286</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>287</sup> Ibid...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>288</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>289</sup> Sorajjakool, 433.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>290</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>291</sup> Cecchet, 483.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>292</sup> Willis and Levy, 1419.

through transmission from their mothers."<sup>293</sup> The children that survived are being raised in the industry only to become second generation child prostitutes.<sup>294</sup> This is in keeping with Lau, who reported that "there is a risk of the 'chain effect', where mothers tend to be at great risk of perpetuating the behavioral cycle of physical, emotional or sexual abuse with their offspring."<sup>295</sup> In fact, it becomes almost second nature for children of sex workers to end up as prostitutes themselves.<sup>296</sup> As previously discussed, it is very common for girls of prostitutes to become prostitutes.<sup>297</sup> A study in India revealed that 73% of the girls whose mothers were prostitutes became prostitutes as well.<sup>298</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>293</sup> Willis and Levy, 1420.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>294</sup> Pemberton, 400.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>295</sup> Lau, 150.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>296</sup> Willis and Levy, 1417.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>297</sup> Harasankar Adhikari, "Growing up in Adverse Milieu: Education and Occupations of Sex Workers' Children," *Indian Journal of Social Work*, 68 (2), (2007):302.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>298</sup> Ibid., 305

### **Chapter Four**

## **Christian Response to Child Prostitution**

#### and

# The Current Inadequacy of the Response

The child sex trafficking problem had brought together unlikely partners. Feminists, politicians, and Christians alike have joined forces to attempt to eliminate sex trafficking that they consider being a human right problem.<sup>299</sup> Although those groups are not generally on the same side of most social issues, sex trafficking was one that they all regarded as detrimental to society. Christian participation brought legitimacy to the fight against sex trafficking in a way that the other groups could not. Understanding the importance of the alliance, a leader stated that "Having faith-based groups come in with a fresh perspective and a biblical mandate has made a big difference."<sup>300</sup> Some notable Christian organizations, which are part of that alliance, include Focus on the Family, National Association of Evangelicals, Catholic Bishops Conference, Traditional Values Coalition, Salvation Army, International Justice Mission (IJM), Shared Hope International, and Religious Freedom Coalition, among others.<sup>301</sup>

## **Christian Organizations**

There are some Christian organizations that have been at the forefront of the fight for the elimination of child sex trafficking, which is part of the overall fight against human trafficking.

One Christian NGO that received federal funding to engage in the "reviving movement to stop

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>299</sup> Ronald Weitzer, "The Social Construction of Sex Trafficking: Ideology and Institutionalization of a Moral Crusade," *Politics Society* 35 (2007): 448-449.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid., 449.

<sup>301</sup> Ibid.

human trafficking"<sup>302</sup> is the Salvation Army. With its mission to "preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination,"<sup>303</sup> the Salvation Army, through its "STOP-IT" program, has been providing services to survivors of human trafficking since 2006.<sup>304</sup> The STOP-IT services labor and sex trafficking victims, adults and minors, males and females, US citizens and undocumented immigrants, in Illinois and one Indiana county, regardless of the victims' religious beliefs.<sup>305</sup> Similarly, IJM combats sex trafficking in the Dominican Republic, India, and the Philippines. Their four main areas of involvement include: "Rescue Victims, Bring Criminals to Justice, Restore Survivors, and Strengthen Justice Systems."<sup>306</sup> IJM participated in a rescue operation in the Philippines on April 8, 2016, which freed four young women including a 17-year-old girl.<sup>307</sup>

There are other organizations that are doing substantial work of providing assistance to victims of trafficking in addition to rescuing them. One such organization, which is at the forefront, is A21 Campaign. They opened their first shelter providing service to survivors of trafficking in Greece in 2008.<sup>308</sup> It believes in and pursues what it calls the four Ps, Prevention, Persecution, Protection, and Partnership. A21 Campaign's goal is to abolish human trafficking in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>302</sup> Erin Knowles Wirsing, "Outreach, Collaboration and Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking: The Salvation Army STOP-IT Program's Work in Chicago, Illinois," *Social Work and Christianity* 39, no. 4 (Winter, 2012): 468.

<sup>303</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>304</sup> Ibid., 469.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>305</sup> Ibid., 468-470.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>306</sup> https://www.ijm.org/casework/sex-trafficking. Accessed April 15, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>307</sup> http://www.news.ijm.org/he-used-social-media-to-advertise-girls-now-theyre-safe/? ga=1.225074010.1553211254.1461680565. Accessed April 15, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>308</sup> http://www.a21.org/content/about-us/gkt9wo. Accessed November 26, 2015.

the twenty-first century by providing education to potential victims to become aware of tactics used by traffickers. They attempt to rescue victims, and then provide shelters and rehabilitation services including medical, psychological, and spiritual care. They also help pass legislation to protect victims, enforce existing laws, and help prosecute traffickers.<sup>309</sup>

Another Christian organization, which devotes considerable resources in the fight against trafficking, is Agape International Missions (AIM). With the goal of driving out darkness by shining the light and love of Jesus in the communities affected by sex trafficking, AIM establishes itself in areas of Cambodia where trafficking is prevalent "to become a part of the community." The statement on their website says it all about the impact that they are having in the community. It reads: "Aim is Christ's church fighting the ground war on sex trafficking in Cambodia. Our projects prevent, rescue, restore & reintegrate, impacting 10,000+ people a year." Other Christian organizations that join forces to combat what they call modern day slavery include Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking, Covenant House, and CBN Ministries, among others. Although there are those that lament the role of the Christian organizations for their focus on morality and soul saving, there is no denying that they are bringing attention to an issue that needed to be addressed. In addition to raising public

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>309</sup> http://www.a21.org/content/our-solution/gkr9dk. Accessed November, 26, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>310</sup> Byun, 127.

<sup>311</sup> http://agapewebsite.org/. Accessed April 22, 2016.

 $<sup>^{312}\</sup> http://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/christians-human-trafficking-humanitarian-organizations/2015/10/27/id/634700/. Accessed November 26, 2015.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>313</sup> Claudia Cojocaru, "Sex trafficking, captivity, and narrative: Constructing victimhood with the goal of salvation," *Dialectical Anthropology* 39, no. 2 (2015): 185.

awareness to sex trafficking, some Christian NGOs succeeded in helping Congress pass a law to protect victims of trafficking, namely the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.<sup>314</sup>

### Church Outreach Ministries

Baker and Grover, reporting the involvement of Christian churches of various denominations, mentioned the involvement of several Christian denominations, which include, but not limited to the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, the Presbyterian Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Christian Reform Church in North America, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. 315 Additionally, Carrie Pemberton explains the allure of sex trafficking in Europe, and the role churches can play in getting Christians away from this problem.<sup>316</sup> This is a practical method of identifying creative ways as used by the European church in lowering the number of patrons looking to engage in this type of illicit activity. It is a sound concept of decreasing demand in order to force a reduction in the supply of minor children in the sex trade. It supports the strength of the church in Europe and provides an example of what can be attempted in North America in a faith-based attempt at stemming the flow of this inhumane calamity. Christian European churches did not shy away from the problem. The Conference of European Churches released a statement in 1999 stating: "Churches are a part of the problem. Most find it impossible to acknowledge the existence of sexual abuse in their communities and homes, and yet hidden among their members, protected by the culture of silence, they include perpetrators as well as victims of trafficking."317 Such

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>314</sup> Foerster, 155-156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>315</sup> Baker and Grover, 311.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>316</sup> Carrie Pemberton, "For God's Sake Not for Sale: Trafficking and the Church in Europe," *Gender and Development* 14 (3) (2006): 403.

<sup>317</sup> Ibid..

awareness is very helpful in the fight against trafficking, as further reported by Pemberton, "the church as an institution is a powerful social influence, and could have a profound impact on changing attitudes to trafficking, were churches to seriously engage with the challenge of reducing supply, and of raising awareness in their congregations about the issue." This is true in every way imaginable.

## The Current Inadequacy of the Church Response

The plethora of children being prostituted is an abomination before God. One needs to look at what the body of Christ, that is the Church, is doing to end this tragedy. This is echoed by Margaret Gecaga, who states that "the Church has a moral obligation to nurture and protect the children." However, while some individuals, Christian NGOs, and a few church organizations have worked vigorously against sex trafficking, the Church has largely left that issue to feminist and secular groups. It may be due to the fact that the Church considers the child sex trafficking problem a social issue, which many evangelicals do not associate with. As a result, the evangelical churches' opposition to the social gospel has left a vacuum that was filled by others. Rick Warren said it best when he stated that "many American churches have abandoned their social responsibilities by overly relying on para-church and secular organizations to provide physical, spiritual, and social support to vulnerable communities." Some have even gone as far as shunning those that are involved in the fight against sex trafficking. Such was the fate of a particular pastor, who started to be criticized and condemned

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>318</sup> Pemberton, 404.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>319</sup>Margaret Gecaga, "The Plight of the African Child: Reflections on the Response of the Church," *Studies in World Christianity* 13, no. 2 (2007): 142.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>320</sup> Katy Tangenberg, "Saddleback Church and the P.E.A.C.E. Plan: Implications for Social Work," *Social Work and Christianity* 35, no. 4 (Winter, 2008): 392.

for turning into a "social gospel church." Others questioned his judgment by using veiled comments like: "I am worried about you..., I don't like what I am hearing about the direction you're taking your ministry." 322

Such a disconnect in the body of Christ! The relationship between proclamation and social action has been the subject of much debate. However, they should go hand in hand. To repeat the words of John R. Scott, "social action is an equal though independent partner of evangelism." One can never discount the importance of preaching the good news; however, humanitarian work is most helpful and necessary. It helps an individual like a victim of child sex trafficking to see the human face of God if Christians are indeed God's co-workers. As Siroj Sorajjakool aptly puts it: "Who is God to this 16-year-old girl after she has been drugged, raped, sold, and whipped with an electric cord?" Faced with such inhumane treatment of "little girls as young as eleven or twelve who are being betrayed by someone they trust and love, sent away, locked up, raped by pimps and men who seek young girls to satisfy their perverted sexual gratification, beaten, and threatened," how can the Church talk about fulfilling God's mission, but will not show compassion to those that have been used and abused.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>321</sup> Eddie Byun, *Justice Awakening: How You and Your Church Can Help End Human Trafficking*, (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2014), 78.

<sup>322</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>323</sup> Edward L. Smither, *Mission in the Early Church: Themes and Reflections* (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2014), 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>324</sup> Craig Ott, Stephen J. Strauss, and Timothy C. Tennent, *ENCOUNTERING THEOLOGY OF MISSION: Biblical Foundations, Historical Developments, and Contemporary Issues* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), 139.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>325</sup> Siroj Sorajjakool, "Theological and Psychological Reflection on the Functions of Pastoral Care in the Context of Child Prostitution in Thailand," *The Journal of Pastoral Care* 54 no. 4 (Winter 2000): 429.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>326</sup> Sorajjakool, 432.

Social action, when it is faith-based, should be the mission of the Church as it is Jesus' mission. Faith-based social action, which is defined as "the intentions and efforts of a church (individually and collectively, locally to globally) to create positive change in the lives of persons, families, and communities,"327 should be the cornerstone of Christian missions.

Christians should always strive to show compassion. Such is the mission of those who are involved in the holistic mission approach, "incorporating God's good news for the body, mind and spirit."328 The importance of addressing the need of a whole person cannot be overstated. In fact, Woolnough added that the holistic approach "recognizes that the needs of the world are not purely materialistic, dealing with poverty, disease and injustice, not even mental and emotional, but involve underlying spiritual causes."329 In the case of child sex trafficking, as it is with many ills in society, the spiritual does not work without first addressing the physical. In that sense,

Providing holistic care is not new. God's concern for the poor and his "hatred for injustice" may have been mentioned up to 800 times in the Bible. This is not surprising considering that Jesus, who is the embodiment of God, showed a lot of compassion by caring for the needs of others during his earthly ministry. In one of such instances, Jesus showed compassion for the crowd by healing the sick and feeding more than 5,000 people (Matt 14: 13-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>327</sup> Amelia Roberts-Lewis and Tonya D. Armstrong, "Moving the Church to Social Action," *Social Work and Christianity* Vol 37, no 2 (2010): 117.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>328</sup> Brian E Woolnough, "Christian NGOs in Relief and Development: One of the Church's Arms for Holistic Mission," *Transformation: An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies* 28(3) (2011):195.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>329</sup> Woolnough, 196.

<sup>330</sup> Ibid.

<sup>331</sup> Ibid.

21). Christians are called to emulate Jesus as He is the model. The Bible says: "Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did" (1 John 2: 6). As followers of Jesus Christ, Christians are to act in a way that is pleasing to God. After all, "Christians are called to resist and seek to heal all the results of sin in the world: spiritual, psychological, social and physical." Sex trafficking, more specifically, child sex trafficking is one "sickness" that we Christians should seek to heal. Failure to act is nothing short of a tragedy. Roberts-Lewis and Armstrong said it best when they stated: "To the degree that the experiences of life oppress or marginalize God's creatures, social action is a powerful representation of God's response to suffering through God's people."<sup>333</sup>

Another mark of the Church's commitment lies in the manner in which it uses its funds. It is best to view ministerial budgets in terms of financial analysis. This approach is consistent with the purview of money as a unit of measurement for purchasing power. A review of the use of money by churches provides a clear picture of what they deem important, and whether they are engaged in seeking solutions for different problems plaguing communities. This is accomplished by way of analysis for average budgets of evangelical Christian churches, businesses, schools, and other ministries. The third quarter 2012 budgets of 1,836 member organizations of the Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU) were tabulated for averages that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>332</sup> Tim Keller, "Cities and Salt: Counter-Culture for the Common Good," *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, ed. Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pasadena, California: William Carey Library, 2009), 617.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>333</sup> Roberts-Lewis and Armstrong, 117.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>334</sup> Felix Martin, *Money: The Unauthorized Biography*, (New York, N.Y.: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 52.

became part of a research report by ECCU's research department.<sup>335</sup> The table below provides information pulled from the report for analytical purposes:

**Expense Classification** 

Micro Small Med. Large

Church Church Church Avge.

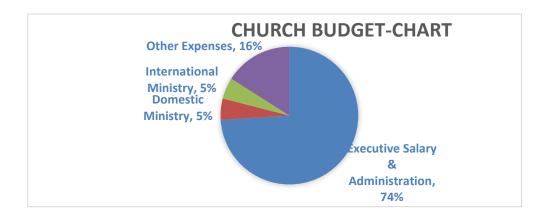
Pastoral / Executive Salary	36%	36%	36%	36%	36%
Pension Plan Contribution	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Employee Benefits & Other Personnel	11%	8%	12%	3%	9%
Expenses					
Payroll Tax	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Part time, Fundraising, & Professional help					9%
Facilities & Administrative Expenses					24%
Assets and Reserves					3%
Total Salary and Administrative Expenses					85%

As the chart reveals, eighty-five percent of all funds go to the salary of pastors and their executive staff. This leaves roughly 15% for all programs around their communities and the world. A review of the remaining 15% shows a delineation of 3% for children and youth programs, 1% for local benevolence and 2% for international benevolence for a total of 6% to programs that could conceivably include the resolution of child prostitution. However, with housing, hunger, natural disasters, and health care competing for the same resources, it is highly unlikely that a bulk of this small percentage goes to the sex enslavement crisis in the world. The remaining 9% goes to worship, outreach, music, scholarship, and other programs.

<sup>335</sup> 

http://web.archive.org/web/20141019033209/https://www.eccu.org/resources/advisorypanel/2013/surveyre ports20. Accessed November 26, 2015.

The next analysis is a church budget priority survey conducted by National Christian Poll on behalf of Christianity Today International. 336 The survey queried a sample size of 1,168 Christian churches in the US. The participants represented a substantial portion of their demographic. Surveyed annual budgets ranged from lower than \$200,000 to more than \$1million. The budget median was \$295,300 while 14% of all respondents had budgets in excess of \$1million. The result of the survey shows a similarity of church expenditures irrespective of the size of their budgets. This shows a functionality within Church operations that is best described as cost modeling. It is a concept of operational infrastructure based on costing modalities that pre-determine the behavior of an organization. 337 The survey results show that wages and benefits for pastors and church administrators account for 38%, building and operational cost come to 36%. Ten percent of the budget is distributed among domestic and international ministry expenses, which include support for education, healthcare, daycare, financial assistance, poverty elimination, youth services, and other programs. The result is presented in the chart below:



 $<sup>^{336}\</sup> http://www.christianitytoday.com/special/ycresources/pdf/exec-report_churchbudgetpriorities.pdf. Accessed April 15, 2016.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>337</sup> Arthur A. Thompson, Jr. and A.J. Strickland III, *Strategic Management Concepts and Cases*, 13 ed. (New York, N.Y.: McGraw-Hill), 155.

Other items include expenses like accounting, banking fees, denominational contribution, worship needs and miscellany.

If one were to agree that spending is the true indicator of an organization's intent, one would have to admit that church spending regarding sex enslavement does not bode well for the body of Christ.<sup>338</sup> The fact that the above results represent typical expenses of 1,168 churches indicate a disconnect between what the actual mission of the Church is, to reach the lost, and what it does in reality. An analysis of both surveys shows that at least 80% of churches' revenues are spent on salaries and administrative costs and very little going to missions. This is echoed by Terry Austin, who, after reviewing numerous surveys and studies about churches' spending, stated that "ninety-seven percent of all money that people give to the church is spent on the people who give it."339 He added that "A successful church is expected to have multimillion dollar buildings, professional staff to minister to everyone in the family, as well as firstclass media and entertainment resources."340 With this type of model, the Church has certainly lost its way. If churches are to ever address the scourge of child prostitution, they first have to direct more of their budget to ministerial work. How can the Church justify spending so much in other endeavors and very little on noble causes such as the elimination of such a terrible cancerous wound?

There are notable exceptions to the spending model shown above. There are evangelical churches that spend a considerable amount in outreach ministries. For example, Saddleback

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>338</sup> Martin, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>339</sup> Terry Austin, "97% of Church Money Spent on People Who Give it? Something's not Right," http://www.generouschurch.com/churches-spend-money-internally. Accessed April 20, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>340</sup> Ibid.

Church in Lake Forest, California, under the leadership of Pastor Rick Warren, developed the P.E.A.C.E. Plan that "provides an example of a missiological innovation that emphasizes the role of local churches in ameliorating social problems in the U.S. and abroad."<sup>341</sup> The plan, which forms the acronym, includes: "1) Promoting reconciliation; 2) Equipping servant leaders; 3) Assisting the poor; 4) Caring for the sick; and, 5) Educating people."<sup>342</sup> Pastor Warren developed the plan after he learned of the hardships of some African pastors who had limited resources. As of 2008, some 400,000 pastors, from 162 nations, are part of the Purpose Driven church network. One particular ministry that has received rave reviews involves the Warrens' work with those that are afflicted by HIV/AIDS. In reference to their motivation, they stated, "Our task is to make the invisible God visible. By opening our arms in acceptance, by being his hands and feet, we make him visible."<sup>344</sup>

However, for all the different ministries that Saddleback is involved in, there is no mention of any sex trafficking related ministries, neither for children nor adults.<sup>345</sup> One could argue that victims of child sex trafficking may be served by their many Care ministries. While that statement may be true; however, child sex trafficking victims have unique needs that have to be considered separate and apart from the general care that the ministry provides. Similarly, another Christian organization that has done great work is Tearfund.<sup>346</sup> By way of history,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>341</sup> Tangenberg, 392.

<sup>342</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>343</sup> Ibid., 394.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>344</sup> Kay and Rick Warren, "Wiping Out HIV," *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, ed. Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pasadena, California: William Carey Library, 2009), 621.

<sup>345</sup> http://www.saddleback.com/connect/ministries#care. Accessed April 15, 2016.

<sup>346</sup> Woolnough, 198.

"Tearfund developed out of the Evangelical Alliances refugee work in Biafra, Hong Kong, and Vietnam in the early 1960s to become Tearfund in 1968." Headquartered in the UK, Tearfund works mostly with local churches in the receiving countries with their five areas of concern including: "defeating disease, tackling disasters, resolving economic disasters, restoring the environment, and improving basic services." Their stated aim is to "see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches." While Tearfund is to be commended for the work that they do, it is sad that "tackling problems of sex or child trafficking" is not something that they are interested in. Considering how prevalent child sex trafficking is and the devastating long-term effects that are the lot of its victims, it is surprising that such important organizations are not spending any resources to right the injustice that has been done to those children. Faced with such inaction, one does not need to look too far to understand why such a plague persists.

There is a need for greater involvement by the body of Christ. There are some models that churches that want to be involved can emulate. AIM is a pioneer in the fight against sex trafficking by the programs that they have established. They "fight trafficking, restore victims and transform communities." One of the remarkable things that they have done is to open a gym to target traffickers and to befriend them with the hope of sharing the gospel. 352 This is a

<sup>347</sup> Woolnough, 198.

<sup>348</sup> Ibid., 199.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>349</sup> Ibid.

<sup>350</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>351</sup> Byun, 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>352</sup> Ibid., 127-128.

great strategy, for no one is beyond redemption. It may be difficult to sympathize with traffickers, but it is God's desire that everyone be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 2: 4). Through their program, one trafficker had in fact come to accept Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit has transformed him; he is no longer a trafficker.<sup>353</sup>

Another group with similar strategy worth mentioning is HOPE Be Restored, headquartered in South Korea. Their stated aim is to "help, heal and restore lives through the power of God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ." Their areas of focus include 1) Releasing Intercessors; 2) Raising Awareness; 3) Research and Investigation; 4) Relationship Building and Networking; Restoration and Healing; and 6) Rescue and Prevention. HOPE also focus their attention on Men's Ministry by hosting conferences to not only get them aware of the evil of sex trafficking, but also to get them involved. The idea is that "to break the chains of human trafficking in this world, men need to learn how to be men of God." The importance of ministering men to be godly cannot be overstated. When international organizations are able to engender arrests for child sex trafficking, they find that Americans account for 80% of world arrests pertaining to child prostitution. The exact number of those arrested who are church-going is not known, but it is estimated that some of them are regular church attendees. Rooting out the demand should be the focus in helping men be what God intended for them to be.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>353</sup> Byun, 128.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>354</sup> Ibid., 101.

<sup>355</sup> Byun, 101-106.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>356</sup> Ibid., 115-116.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>357</sup> CNN Freedom Project: Children for Sale, http://www.cnn.com/videos/intl\_tv-shows/2015/07/28/freedom-project-children-for-sale.cnn. Accessed December 5, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>358</sup> Byun, 117.

Although some churches and Christian NGOs have been involved in the fight against child sex trafficking, much more is needed. The Church needs to change the way it spends its funds, not only to benefit the body, but also to release those that have been held captive by sex trafficking. It is not a coincidence that those types of issues like child sex trafficking are perpetuating while the Church spends its money on itself. Churches can also take a more active role in their communities. AIM offers an anti-trafficking training program to churches that want to become involved in working against sex trafficking. They help churches "create a prevention plan, cut off the supply and confront the demand." Other rescue and rehabilitative programs and services will be discussed in the next chapter that offers solutions to child sex trafficking; however, the training program is a great way for churches to start making an impact, and transform their communities right away.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>359</sup> Byun, 129.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Solutions to Child Prostitution**

To provide solutions against the enslavement of young children, it is important to understand key factors that are driving it. Many have differing views on what is the best course of actions. However, what is certain is that the lack of resources is one of the key components. 360 This is a point of view that is supported by Parrot and Cummings as they declare that: "lack of economic resources, illiteracy, cultural expectations, family obligations... may force women to seek a better life or escape a tortuous one, making them more vulnerable to forces that can exploit them." Solutions to the child prostitution problem will be effective if they look to stem the flow of child victims; return child prostitutes to regular life; and eviscerate the conditions conducive to this dilemma. This will be accomplished through appropriate education, tougher laws against perpetrators of child sex trafficking, vigorous enforcement of enacted laws, elimination of corruption within the enforcement corps, poverty elimination, and services to survivors of sex trafficking. This multi-pronged approach incorporates multiple corrective elements that address the different situations that caused the problem in the first place, and uses a broad-based plan that seems to work in some communities. 362

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>360</sup> Roland Hoksbergen, *Serving God Globally: Finding Your Place in International Development*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2012), 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>361</sup> Andrea Parrot and Nina Cummings, *Sexual enslavement of girls and women worldwide*, (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2008), 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>362</sup> Celia Williamson and Lynda M. Baker, "Helping victims of prostitution and trafficking: It takes a community," *Groupwork* 18, no. 3 (2008): 12-14.

## Prevention Through Education

It is undeniable that educating potential victims about the dangers of being trafficked is an important element in the fight against sex trafficking. Many organizations have decided to spread as much information as possible to educate potential victims. One organization involved in the fight, A21 Campaign, makes education a priority through its four Ps motto; one P stands for Prevention which it accomplishes through awareness and education. <sup>363</sup> Other organizations are doing the same as reported by Baker and Grover who stated that "various Baptist conventions are leading human trafficking awareness events and interagency partnerships in their communities as a response to the growing identification of the problem of human trafficking."364 Awareness is key in helping would be victims recognize situations that they should avoid. Byun echoed this sentiment when he stated that "there are still many who are either unaware or have misconceptions about modern-day slavery."365 To raise awareness, Byun's church has been holding annual justice conferences with the goal of equipping churches to join the fight against sex trafficking. He also has been partnering with several after-care centers "to let the public know what is happening to the millions of trafficked victims around the world."366 Awareness is a powerful tool that the Church can use to prevent innocent and children from being trafficked.

The need to educate unsuspecting children as a mean of prevention cannot be overstated.

In fact, Yvonne Rafferty stated that prevention is just as important as protection. She further

<sup>363</sup> http://www.a21.org/. Accessed November 26, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>364</sup> Baker and Grover, 311.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>365</sup> Byun, 102-103.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>366</sup> Ibid., 103.

stated that it is important to recognize the need for a comprehensive response.<sup>367</sup> Different methods must be used; even what may be considered unconventional. One country that is in the middle of a massive unconventional campaign to bring awareness through education is China. The Chinese government is currently putting forth an advisory campaign that informs its female citizens of the danger of falling in love with "foreign men" who may be using romance as a ruse for something nefarious.<sup>368</sup> The government has used posters in the street, subway stations and residential compounds, and used their first National Security Education Day as a platform, which results in the education of the public at large.<sup>369</sup> Although China's campaign is for a purpose separate and apart from trafficking, their concern is to alert the public of the danger posed by foreign spies; however, their method of educating the public can be emulated. Besides, as previously discussed, traffickers had used mail-order brides, or pretend to marry young girls from different countries, only to turn around and prostitute them.<sup>370</sup>

## Tougher Laws and Stiffer Penalties Against Perpetrators

A solution to child sex trafficking may also be achieved through prosecution. Many countries have passed laws and treaties to the effect that "the protection of children from all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, is a core dimension of these treaties."<sup>371</sup> It is understandable that the United Nations and other countries would focus on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>367</sup> Yvonne Rafferty, "Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: A Review of Promising Prevention Policies and Programs," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 83 no 4 (2013): 564.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>368</sup> Didi K. Tatlow, "China's 'Dangerous Love' Campaign, Warning of Spies is Met With Shrugs," *New York Times* (April 21, 2016).

<sup>369</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>370</sup> Greenbaum, 250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>371</sup> Marta Santos Pais, "The Protection of Children From Sexual Exploitation Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography," *International Journal of Children's Rights* 18, no. 4 (November 2010): 552.

enacting laws to punish the perpetrators of sex trafficking. In fact, Engstrom et al. states that: "the trafficking of women and children for the sex trade is considered one of the worst and most exploitive forms of human trafficking."<sup>372</sup> The United Nations, in 2000, adopted the Protocols to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which were signed and ratified by many nations.<sup>373</sup>

The US has also been concentrating its efforts on anti-trafficking policies and enforcement.<sup>374</sup> In 2000, it passed the Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA).<sup>375</sup> The purpose of the law was to "prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers.<sup>376</sup> The law makes it illegal to entice, recruit, or benefit from prostituting or engaging a minor in commercial sexual activities; prosecutes those that travel outside of the country for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities with minors; and prohibits crossing of state lines to engage in commercial sex acts with a minor. The law carries a penalty of up to thirty years of imprisonment.<sup>377</sup> Moreover, the law also created a task force to help with the anti-trafficking effort,<sup>378</sup> in addition to the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force, to help with investigations, and to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>372</sup> Engstrom et al.,193.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>373</sup> Mary Graw Leary, "Fighting fire with fire: technology in child sex trafficking," *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy* 21(2) (2014): 290.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>374</sup> Grace Chang, and Kathleen Kim, "Reconceptualizing Approaches to Human Trafficking: New Directions and Perspectives from the Field(s)," *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights* 3 no. 2 (August, 2007): 318.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>375</sup> Baker and Grover, 310.

 $<sup>^{376}</sup>$  Miriam Potocky, "The travesty of human trafficking: a decade of failed U.S. policy," *Social Work* 55.4 (2010): 373.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>377</sup> Flowers, 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>378</sup> Baker and Grover, 310.

facilitate justice for the victims who want to pursue it.<sup>379</sup> The enactment of such important legislation also brought a shift in the way that people conceptualized child sex trafficking. As a result, all fifty states have passed trafficking laws with some states specifically treating the minors involved as victims, instead of criminals.<sup>380</sup> Under the law, victims that have been trafficked into the US may receive immigration assistance. However, as stated by Harlan, "the immigration process has not been particularly kind to child victims of sex trafficking."<sup>381</sup> Foreign child sex trafficking victims are often held in detention by immigration officials for months, and sometimes even years.<sup>382</sup>

There have been many changes to the law since 2000, some of which were positive.

Originally, the law focused mostly on the international sex-trafficking problems, but neglected sex trafficking within the US.<sup>383</sup> In doing so, "federal legislators have emphasized the plight of foreign child sex-trafficking victims in federal trafficking laws, largely ignoring domestic victims."<sup>384</sup> With various amendments in 2003, 2005, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, the law has effectively shifted its focus to domestic sex trafficking.<sup>385</sup> With those amendments coupled with joint task forces and professional networks working together in a nationwide effort to rescue runaways and throwaways that have been

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>379</sup> Perdue, Prior, Williamson, and Sherman, 458.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>380</sup> Leary, 291.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>381</sup> Harlan, 1131.

<sup>382</sup> Ibid.

<sup>383</sup> Harlan, 1132.

<sup>384</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>385</sup> Potocky, 373.

prostituted, law enforcement has been successful in arresting and prosecuting those trafficking children. Flowers listed a sampling of cases as of 2010 that is worth mentioning:

"in 2009, the FBI arrested over fifty alleged pimps and rescued forty five prostitutes between the ages of thirteen and seventeen..... forty-four person were arrested in Chicago on child prostitution charges, including a number of customers or for running a child prostitution ring..... In June 2008, 345 people were arrested by the FBI in a nationwide crackdown on child prostitution.... In a 2005 nationwide crackdown on child prostitution.... law enforcement agencies arrested nineteen and charged more than thirty, while identifying thirty prostituted youth." 386

Despite the relative success that has been reported in the US regarding domestic child sex trafficking, enforcement remains problematic throughout the world. Leary reports that "fewer cases of human trafficking have been identified and prosecuted than would be expected based on estimates of the problem." It means that perpetrators are not being brought to justice, and the victims have not received justice. More troublesome is the fact that the US government has not been as aggressive in persecuting trafficking cases. Case in point, Potocky reports that from 2001 to 2007, the US government has only prosecuted 449 cases. Although the US attorneys enjoy a very high conviction rate, 96 percent of the trafficking cases that they have prosecuted resulted in convictions, they decline to prosecute 60 percent of the trafficking cases, which is very high when compared with only 25 percent of all other criminal cases. As Potocky stated, this is an indication that "prosecution of human trafficking is highly problematic." The US government has to do much better in prosecuting perpetrators to significantly impact trafficking. Flowers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>386</sup> Flowers, 167.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>387</sup> Leary, 294.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>388</sup> Potocky, 374.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>389</sup> Ibid., 375.

<sup>390</sup> Ibid.

shares the same sentiment. More specifically, he stated that there has to be a greater focus by authorities in prosecuting and stiffening the penalties against perpetrators "if the extent of runaways and thrownaways involved in prostitution, pornography, pedophilia, and other forms of profitable sexual victimization is to be reduced significantly."<sup>391</sup>

The US is not the only country with difficulties prosecuting the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. A study of criminal laws and practices of five European countries reveal a terrible disconnect between the existing laws aimed at deterring traffickers and the effect of the application of those laws. While all the countries subject to the study criminalize the purchase of sex from minors, the degree to which those that do can be prosecuted varies considerably. Case in point, in countries like Australia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, and New Zealand where it is legal to purchase sexual acts from adults, the laws aimed at protecting the children are more difficult to enforce. The purchasers can always claim lack of knowledge as a defense. The practice is different in the countries like Iceland, Norway and Sweden where purchasing sex from adults is illegal. In the latter countries, the laws aim at protecting children by imposing stiffer sanctions on those that purchase sexual acts from children. However, sentences are not uniform. In a country where there is a presumption of prison for an offender who purchase sex from a child, the study revealed that out of 26 cases, only four received a prison sentence. The practices could not be starker than in the case of the UK and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>391</sup> Flowers, 168.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>392</sup> Katalin Kelemen and Märta C. Johansson, "Still Neglecting the Demand that Fuels Human Trafficking: A Study Comparing the Criminal Laws and Practice of Five European States on Human Trafficking, Purchasing Sex from Trafficked Adults and from Minors," *European Journal Of Crime, Criminal Law & Criminal Justice* 21, no. 3/4 (July 2013): 278.

<sup>393</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>394</sup> Kelemen and Johansson, 281.

Italy. In the UK, there is a presumption of the knowledge of the victim. However, in Italy, there is no such presumption. An offender only needs to claim ignorance of the victim's age as an excuse to avoid prosecution. Sometimes, girls may be required to testify as was the case of a young girl from Moldova, who was trafficked to Italy. She refused to testify against the traffickers out of fear that they would go to her village and hurt her family as they had threatened.

This is not the only complicating factor making it difficult to prosecute offenders in Italy. Corruption is also a major hurdle. Kara reports his experience in Rome, Italy when twenty-eight out of thirty-one prostitutes that he met one night were clearly minors. He thought it to be abnormal to have all those minors in the streets since child prostitution was illegal in Italy. When he enquired as to why the police did not help those girls, who were forced into prostitution by pimps, he was told that the police were the main clients.<sup>397</sup> This phenomenon of having those in law enforcement breaking the laws that they swear to uphold is not unique to Italy. "Researchers found nearly two-thirds of recruits to the Thai Army had had sex with commercial sex workers."<sup>398</sup> Such high percentage shows the hurdle that one faces in bringing a halt to child sex trafficking. In a lot of developing and third world countries, corruption is the norm. Case in point, Nigeria, where there is a serious child sex trafficking issue, is one of the worst corrupt countries. In fact, Osita Ogbu states that: "Corruption is pervasive and widespread in Nigerian

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>395</sup> Kelemen and Johansson, 281, 284-285.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>396</sup> Kara, 86-87.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>397</sup> Ibid., 85.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>398</sup> Engstrom et al., 197.

society. It has permeated all facets of life, and every segment of society is involved.<sup>399</sup> This statement does not bode well for anti-trafficking efforts. However, Nigeria is not alone. All the organizations involved in anti-trafficking, report that corruption is a major problem in Thailand as well.<sup>400</sup> It is challenging to overcome the involvement of corrupt officials, who receive bribes to look the other way or provide protection to the traffickers.<sup>401</sup>

### Sustainable Economic Development Projects

It is undeniable that poverty plays a huge role in sex trafficking. It is recognized that the causes are systemic and structural. According to Gretchen Clark Hammond and Mandy McGlone, structural factors are those involved with societal circumstances, which include lack of employment available to those with few marketable job skills. Other factors may include lack of adequate housing, homelessness, poverty, lack of education, and lack of adequate services within the community to meet these complex needs. Those considerations are germane to any effective prevention or exit plan. In fact, Vidyamali Samarashinghe and Barbara Burton add that Developmental activities designed to improve the vocational and educational status of women and girls and raise their individual income are increasingly recognized as essential in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>399</sup> Osita Nnamani Ogbu, "Combating corruption in Nigeria: a critical appraisal of the laws, institutions, and the political will," *Ann. Surv. Int'l & Comp. L.* 14 (2008): 99.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>400</sup> Engstrom et al., 199.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>401</sup> Osita Ogbu, "Corruption and Human Trafficking: The Nigerian Case," West Africa Review (2003): 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>402</sup> Gretchen Clark Hammond and Mandy McGlone "Entry, Progression, Exit, and Service Provision for Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Implications for Effective Interventions" *Global Social Welfare* 1, no. 4 (2014): 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>403</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>404</sup> Ibid.

preventing trafficking."<sup>405</sup> Similarly, a study conducted by Marcus et al. finds that the young people in prostitution would benefit from continued education, job training to obtain marketable skills, and stable housing, among others.<sup>406</sup>

Understanding the role that poverty plays in the sex trafficking of children, the Dream Center, which is a Los Angeles based non-profit agency, has been "aiding victims of poverty since 1994." Poverty elimination programs are areas where church involvement is much needed. One particular program that seems to have worked in alleviating poverty in Kenya is one aimed at "delivering services and promoting community development through projects." To accomplish that, "the Churches have facilitated the establishment of income generating projects by providing financial assistance (micro-financing) to the poor in the rural areas." As part of their strategy to fight sex trafficking and transform communities, AIM "provide quality health care through a clinic that is available to all people in their community. And they have a school that teaches reading, math, life skills and ESL." In addition, they also teach literacy, English, life skills, Bible stories, arts, crafts, and music to more than 400 children in their community. And they have a school that are opposed to social justice should be happy to know that AIM's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>405</sup> Vidyamali Samarasinghe and Barbara Burton, "Strategising Prevention: a Critical Review of Local Initiatives to Prevent Female Sex Trafficking," *Development in Practice* 17 no 1 (February 2007): 58.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>406</sup> Marcus et al., 243.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>407</sup> Baker and Grover, 310.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>408</sup> Mike Dottridge, "Trafficking in Children in West and Central Africa." *Gender and Development* 10 no. 1 (2002): 38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>409</sup> Gecaga, 153.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>410</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>411</sup> Byun 130

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>412</sup> Ibid.

ministries have resulted in the plant of more than one thousand village churches throughout Cambodia.<sup>413</sup>

#### Services to Survivors

Lastly, after efforts to liberate victims from the grips of sexual oppression, their return to a normal life requires careful attention and accommodation. Hammond and McGlone emphasize that "formal services and informal support are essential to ensure that the individual's needs are met and that she does not feel the draw to return to her former situation to survive." In fact, they explained that support for the victims has to play a big role in the exit and reintegration strategy. Services have to be provided, and they have to "meet victims' needs regarding health care, housing, education, ..., which safely reintegrate trafficking victims into their home communities." Understanding the above-stated needs of sex trafficking victims, AIM, through Agape Restoration Center (ARC), "seek to meet the physical, psychosocial, educational, vocational and spiritual needs of those rescued." In addition to new career opportunities for those rescued to earn income, ARC also provides victims with "a safe place to live, nutritious meals, counseling, therapy, education, job skills and spiritual feeding for their holistic growth." A21 provides a 12-week rescue program as part of their rehabilitation services to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>413</sup> Byun, 130.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>414</sup> Hammond and McGlone, 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>415</sup> Ibid.

<sup>416</sup> Harlan, 1132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>417</sup> Byun, 129.

<sup>418</sup> Ibid.

victims. Their program is tailored to each girl rescued, and provides "medical and psychological care, legal assistance, and vocational and life skills training."

Because of the beatings, violent rapes, and purely inhumane conditions that most child sex trafficking victims have endured, which often resulted in long-lasting physical, psychological, mental, and emotional problems, any plan for rehabilitation and restoration must include Trauma Therapy. In *Sexual Violence and Abuse: AN*, Judy Postmus explains that trauma occurs when someone has been subjected to physical or sexual violence, among other crimes, and the related symptoms that may last days, weeks, months, and even years after the trauma is over may include "depressive symptoms, anger, anxiety, changes in eating and sleeping habits, heightened startle response and flashbacks." The purpose of trauma therapy is to provide healing for the victims by addressing their specific symptoms. Postmus emphasizes that "The objective is to eliminate or decrease the unpleasant effect left after a distressing experience." The goal and the hope are that the victims will regain their emotional balance and sense of security, and go on to live healthy lives.

Although there has been little research on therapy as part of the reintegration and rehabilitation of sex workers in society, one Nepalese investigation provides encouragement in the use of the therapeutic approach. This examination gave clear indication that "current rehabilitation and reintegration programs are producing positive results for affected victims."

 $<sup>^{419}\,</sup>http://www.thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2011/06/16/abolishing-sex-slavery-by-helping-one-girl-at-a-time/. Accessed April 15, 2016.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>420</sup> Judy L. Postmus, ed. Sexual Violence and Abuse: AN Vol 1 (ABC-CLIO, 2012), 691.

<sup>421</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>422</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>423</sup> Mary Crawford and Michelle R. Kaufman, "Sex Trafficking in Nepal: Survivor Characteristics and Long-Term Outcomes" *Violence Against Women* 14 no. 8 (August, 2008): 905.

This information forms a basis upon which other agencies can incorporate therapy as part of victim rehabilitation. All of the combined efforts need to be incorporated within a transnational advocacy network consistent with the globalization of the sex trafficking dilemma. Because medical care was not regularly provided to those that were victimized, It is of extreme importance that they receive extensive medical care As previously discussed in this document, the victims might likely suffer from drug addiction, having the use of a detox facility will also be of great importance for the successful reentry of the former victims into the community.

#### Conclusion

The mere discussion of children enslavement in the sex trade around the world is heart breaking. It is an appropriate emotion for the realization of the extent of this problem and its continuing expansion globally. Whatever the cause that landed the victims into sex trafficking, whether they were duped, kidnapped, ran away from home, or sold by their parents, there is no question that child sex trafficking is extensive. There is no denying that this is a problem that touches all countries; third-world, underdeveloped, and wealthy countries alike are all involved whether as a source, transit, or destination countries. The flow of trafficking goes from poor to wealthy, making no one exempt or unaffected. One common denominator that the victims share is that they all seem to have been marginalized in some ways. The information discussed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>424</sup> Deanna Davy, "Understanding the Motivations and Activities of Transnational Advocacy Networks Against Child Sex Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion: The Value of Cosmopolitan Globalization Theory," 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>425</sup> Wirsing, 473.

throughout this document supports the claim of David Feingold that "social instability is at least partly responsible for human trafficking." <sup>426</sup>

It is well documented that all the continents, not counting Antarctica, have a child sex trafficking problem. Reasonable data shows that the US has between 300,000 to over a million children entering prostitution every year. 427 Child sex trafficking proves to be very complex in Europe with approximately 2 to 4 million individuals trafficked within their home countries. 428Of those victimized in Europe, about 70 to 80 percent are from Eastern and Central Europe. More specifically, they are from Albania, Romania, Moldova, and Former Soviet Union Republics. 429 Destination countries where child sex trafficking is prevalent include Italy, Germany, Greece, Turkey, and the Netherlands. 430 Asia is even more problematic. Considered to be at the center of child prostitution because of its child sex tourism industry, Asia has the largest concentration of child prostitution in the Philippines with 60,000, India with 400,000, and Thailand with 800,000. With 250,000 sex tourists visiting Asia every year, and children as young as five and six-years-old having sexual intercourse with grown men, that continent is indeed a bastion for child sex trafficking. 431 Australia, Africa, and Latin America are not exempt with 25,000 minors in the Dominican Republic, 500,000 in Brazil as of 2008, and Haitian children as young as ten being trafficked into the Dominican Republic since the 2010 earthquake rendered a multitude of them orphans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>426</sup> David A Feingold, "Human Trafficking," Foreign Policy, no. 150 (Sep. 2005): 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>427</sup> Flowers, 118.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>428</sup> Hodge and Lietz, 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>429</sup> Bekteshi, Gjermeni, and Van Hook, 481.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>430</sup> Hodge and Lietz, 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>431</sup> Davy, 797.

There is a sense of sadness when one thinks of all the violence and brutality that those children have suffered at the hands of their captors. Their sufferings are well-documented, so are the long-term effects of their trafficking. It is undeniable that long after they have been rescued, some victims suffer from physical ailments including secondary effects from countless forced abortions, hepatitis, syphilis and HIV/AIDS, among others. Besides the physical ailments that plague them, the victims usually suffer from psychological trauma, they end up addicted to drugs, and their children run a much higher risk of ending in prostitution as well. They also run the risk of spending a lifetime in prostitution. It is documented that 70 % of women in prostitution started as minors with the average recruitment age between 11 and 14.433

Considering that sexual sins are the worst as they are against one's own body (1 Cor 6:18), that lifestyle cannot be what God desires for them.

Faced with such scourge, the Church has a mandate to act. Followers of Christ are called to follow in his footsteps. 434 Victims of child sex trafficking are among the marginalized and the downtrodden that the Savior died for. If Christians are indeed followers of Jesus, then his mission ought to be the mission of every Christian to save those children that are subjected to a lifestyle, not of their choosing. 435 Some Christian organizations and churches have answered the call, and they have rescued and nurtured the victims. However, much more is needed. There is a great need for involvement as children that are affected lack basic services. Currently, only nine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>432</sup> Huda, 378.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>433</sup> Kotrla, 182.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>434</sup> Byun, 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>435</sup> Justin Holcomb, "Sex Trafficking Is the Work of the Devil, and it's All Around You" *IX 9 Marks Journal* (June 27, 2012).

states and the District of Columbia offer public benefits like shelters for trafficking victims. Harlan reports that there is an "absence of specialized shelters for child sex-trafficking victims in a majority of the states." US government spending shows that their priority lies elsewhere, they spend 150 million dollars per year for human trafficking efforts; however, they spend 30.5 billion dollars to combat the war on drugs. 437 The body of Christ has not acted differently. It is rather clear the Church has not given priority to this problem. The response of the Church to this problem has been grossly inadequate. One only needs to see how the Church spends its money to have the picture. It is time for the Church to rise up and treat the victims of child sex trafficking the way that Christ prescribed, and walk in his footsteps and show compassion for those victims by shifting more resources to the cause. It is time for the Church to respond adequately to this tragedy that is child sex trafficking.

#### Recommendation

There is already voluminous literature on the extent of the child prostitution problem. There is also ample information about some churches' involvement in working to resolve the problems. Academia can play a part in helping to resolve the problem of child prostitution and human enslavement through more targeted investigation that focuses on hypothesis testing of coordinated solutions. This would include a detailed analysis of the use of church resources and the adjustment in the financial model of church expenses that could direct greater fiscal resources to the problem of child prostitution and other missionary endeavors. Considering the many different economic models used by various social organizations, there is a need to find a formula that produces better results. These studies can, upon their successful completion, guide church

<sup>436</sup> Harlan, 1141.

 $<sup>{}^{437}\,\</sup>underline{\text{http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/27/opinions/human-trafficking-generation-freedom-krulak/}.\ Accessed\ April\ 28,\ 2016.$ 

leaders on the best way forward. This could be similar to healthcare organizations studying appropriate methodology to reduce the cause and errors in the disposition of medicinal therapies. It is a role that academics should embrace in light of the persistence of child sex trafficking. To really make an impact in the lives of the children that are affected, every Christian needs to be involved. This is not the work of a few, but the entire body of Christ. Jesus sets the standard for involvement, for He said "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you" (John 20:21). Consequently, Jesus' mission to bring compassion and redemption to mankind, which include child sex trafficking victims, ought to be the mission of his Church. With at least 10 million children being trafficked, and another 1.2 million entering sex trafficking every year, it is incumbent on the Church to act expeditiously.

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## **APPENDIX:**

Thesis Approval Sheet

Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

Master of Arts in Global Studies (MA-GLST)

## LIBERTY BAPTST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# THESIS APPROVAL SHEET

A	_
GRADE	
FRED SMITH	
THESIS MENTOR	
JEFF BRAWNER	
JELL BRANNER	
READER	