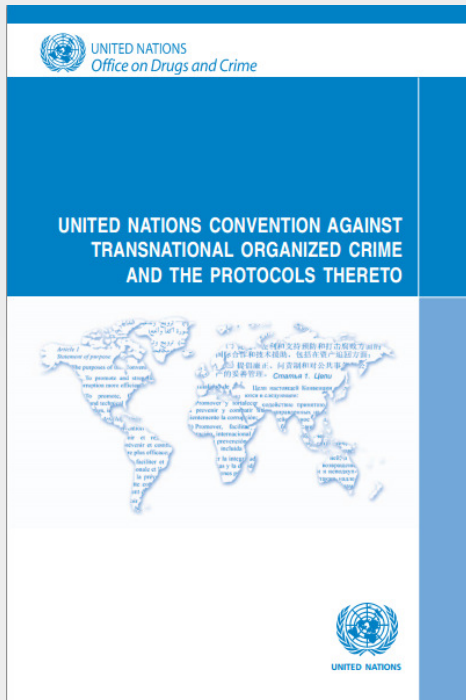




Background Information



“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs...”

(United Nations, 2000)

Not Just Prostitution

Sex Trafficking vs. Prostitution

Trafficking

Elements of force, fraud, or coercion (Exception: CSEC)
 Limited/no freedom of movement
 Limited/no freedom to leave
 Little/no control over earnings

Prostitution

- Elements of consent (Exception: CSEC)
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom to leave
- Control over earnings

Table 1. Differences Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking

| Prostitution | Sex Trafficking |
|--|--|
| Woman is generally aware of the type of work in which she will participate (voluntary involvement) | Woman is generally unaware of the type of work she will be doing (involuntary involvement) |
| Women work independently or with a pimp | Women always have a pimp or trafficker |
| Commonly work in the same geographic location | Commonly are moved by the trafficker to different locations |
| Women are paid | Women are generally not paid |
| May be legal or illegal | Always illegal |
| Does not always involve force, fraud, or coercion | Always involves force, fraud, or coercion |

(New York Anti-Trafficking Network, 2009)

(Dovydaitis, 2010)

Trafficked: My Story of Surviving, Escaping, and Transcending Abduction into Prostitution

"Just a few years ago everything changed. I was trafficked. I was fooled. I was deceived by a man who said that he loved me. The tragedy is that I believed him. Now I know that love is not shown by forcing me to work on the streets, beating me up, force feeding me and turning me into someone with no mind of my own. For people like him my life meant nothing, I was a product and a vehicle to make money but I am a survivor."



- British girl, abducted in her 20s
- Trafficked across international lines
- Was friends with her kidnapper
- Rescued by family

Walker-Rodriguez and Hill (2011):

- Victims are found through forced abduction, parental pressure, or deception
- Traffickers can be men or women
- The average age of victimization is between 11 to 14
- The use of force, drugs, emotional tactics, and financial methods is extremely common
- Traffickers often take their victims identity forms

Lopes (2014):

- \$32 billion industry with 2.5 million victims
- Busiest day of the year is the Superbowl
 - 50 Johns



- In 2000, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) implemented standardized counter trafficking data management
 - 89% trafficked individuals are female
 - Majority trafficked outside own country
 - 54% aged 20-30
 - 34% had children
 - 25% completed at least high school education
 - 59% reported poor SES
 - 84% recruited via personal connection
 - Sites of trafficked workers:
 - Bars and nightclubs, streets, private houses, in sauna/massage parlors, escort agencies



(Di Tommaso, Shima, Strom, & Bettio 2009)



Correlation Between Occupational Injustice, Health, & Well-being

Oppression and Sex Trafficking

- o Leaves individuals subjected to discrimination, exploitation, and abuse
- o Power driven and based on gender, class, and ethnicity
- o Live in fear, are perpetually traumatized, forced into silence
- o Stigmatized by their communities for being sexually exploited
 - Preventing individuals from seeking help
 - o When individuals seek out help, they are often treated like criminals rather than victims by authority



(Hodge,2008)

- Underserved and under-identified populations due to:
 - Fear of deportation
 - Experience of corrupt law enforcement
 - Language barriers
 - Lack of social support
 - Trafficker has identification
 - Debt bondage
 - Threats to family
 - Loss of confidence in their own decision-making abilities
 - Brainwashing

“Coercion and fear are the primary weapons used to keep trafficked workers hidden in plain sight” (slide 28).

“Service providers and law enforcement are not adequately trained to distinguish between human trafficking and : prostitution, exploitative labor conditions, and smuggling- particularly in undocumented immigrant communities” (Slide 27).

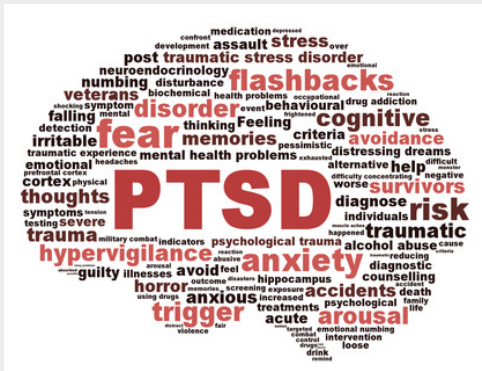
- Chronic Pain
- Cigarette Burns
- Contusions
- Fractures
- Depression, PTSD, Anxiety, Suicidal Ideation
- Headaches
- Gastrointestinal Problems
- Oral Health
- Pelvic Pain/Vaginal Pain
- STI
- Weight Loss

Common Health Problems Among Trafficked Individuals



Occupational Injustice & Mental Health

- Strong relationship between trauma and mental disorders
- 204 interviews conducted with individuals who experienced sexual exploitation through trafficking and were receiving post-trafficking services
 - Injuries and sexual violence associated with higher levels of PTSD, depression, and anxiety
 - Sexual violence



(Hossain, Zimmerman, Abas, Light, & Watts, 2010)

120 trafficked female survivors 18 y/o+ interviewed by social workers from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to gain information about women's pre-trafficking and post-trafficking experiences:

- Average duration of trafficking was 9.6 months
- 80.8% trafficked for sexual exploitation
- 79.2% reported abuse in childhood:
 - 30.8% - sexual, 65.8% - physically, 71.7% - emotional
- 54.2% had some type of DSM-IV mental order
 - 35.8% had PTSD (alone or co-morbid), 12.5% had depression without PTSD, 5.8% had another anxiety disorder



(Abas, Ostrovschi, Prince, Gorceag, Trigub, & Oram, 2013)

- “However, abused women are different from other victims of violent crimes in that the assailant is an intimate and previously trusted partner [...]The psychological repercussions include loss of a sense of trust and safety and intense feelings of helplessness. There is confusion as the woman attempts to absorb the impact of being hurt by someone who was thought to be caring and protective. High anxiety, passivity and/or apathy often characterize the woman's response” (Gharaibeh & Oweis, 2009)
- 96% of victims denied basic working rights and freedom to choose clientele
- 82% victims suffered some type of abuse (denial of food/medical care 35%, physical assault 31%, sexual assault 17%)
- Victims worked on average 7 days/week, 13 hours/day (Abas, Ostrovschi, Prince, Gorceag, Trigub, & Oram, 2013)





Beliefs, Values, Roles, Customary Practices Of Victims

Beliefs:

- Stockholm syndrome
- Feel like “property”
- Helpless

Values:

- No sense of self-worth
- Survival
- Performing actions that may go against their values

Roles:

- Lose all roles other than “employee”

Customary Practices:

- Don't seek services
- May use drugs as a coping method



The captives are so afraid and intimidated that they rarely speak out against their traffickers, even when faced with an opportunity to escape (Walker-Rodriguez & Hill, 2011).

“Perhaps some people will find it hard to understand why Sophie didn’t try to escape or tell the police what was happening to her. But, if they do, it’s probably because most of us have never experienced real, paralysing fear – the sort that blows apart your established mindset and all the things you thought you knew about life, and then freezes your mind so that the only thing you can think about is getting through the next few minutes, the next hour and, if you’re really lucky, the next day” (Hayes, 2012, p.431-432).

“Part of the problem was that I couldn’t seem to get past the fact that I hadn’t tried to escape from Kas. Even in France, when he’d left me on my own for several days, I’d carried on working and doing all the things he’d told me to do. And although I knew that it was because of the fear he’d so carefully and deliberately instilled in me, I still felt as though I’d somehow colluded in what had happened to me – despite knowing, deep down, that nothing could have been further from the truth” (Hayes, 2012, p. 358).

A Survivor's Perspective



What are some obstacles that either you have faced personally or that you find some of your clients have faced after this incident?

T.: “After the incidence the first and primary problem that a child or a person who has survived something like sex-trafficking faces is trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD is huge...that is why we had to start a behavioral health company to address the trauma portion. Because umm, as a grown woman I had to survive through the traumas. So I had to get psychotherapy and I had to get alternative therapy which would include meditation and yoga to be able to go back into society and function. And so with a child as young as 12 or 13 you can only imagine the type of situations they’ll go through. So they’ll occur. They have the trauma and there’s no trust. And they give up on life very easily. And they also will have relapses. They suffer a lot of relapse. You can save them from the trafficker but usually 90% of my girls try to go back to the industry. Because it becomes all they know, and they also identify with the trafficker. [...] So it takes a very long time to reverse what they’ve gone through. Umm, if you have a girl whose been trafficked a year its gonna take double triple that amount to reprogram what’s been programmed in her mind. To get the self-esteem up. The self-love. To erase the, you’ll never erase the trauma. But to where she’s functioning at her highest level of functioning it takes a lot of work. So another part of what we go through is not enough services for the young ladies. Uh, there’s no home. So the young lady can’t go back home because she has no, she can’t go back. She’s afraid to put her family into danger cuz he knows where they live so you have to deal with that. Just not having enough funding, not having enough services, and not having somewhere for these girls to live. That’s my major downfall when servicing these clients” (T., Personal Communication, February 19, 2014).

Do you find that religion is helpful for a lot of your clients?



T.: “Spirituality is. Religion is something that you practice. So spirituality is what saved my life. I’m also a poet. I wrote a book. So with girls we teach them creative writing. We allow them to journal. And just to allow them to express themselves. I have girls that do art and, umm, a lot of spoken word and it’s just amazing. You allow them to express themselves and give them an ear to listen. You have to be compassionate. You have to be open and non-judgmental. And it helps when you have someone that’s been there in that lifestyle and they can identify and they know how. Cuz these girls can be highly manipulative cuz they had to. They come from the streets and they had to learn to survive. We have of course, we have legal in place. But they don’t know. And then you have therapy. You have to have psychotherapy, but that’s just them meeting with a therapist one hour. So you have to have someone to hold their hand and to be with them every step of the way. So that’s where the basic skills training, BST workers and PSR workers come in cuz their one on one intense mentoring. To help grab their hand, help become court advocates, take them to their therapist. These people are on call 24 hours a day. No matter what time of day their called they get up out of bed. 2 to 3 in the morning. Their on the phone for suicide calls, suicide attempts”(T., Personal Communication, February 19, 2014).

What is the best advice you have ever received that has helped you overcome these difficulties? Either you or your clients.

T.: “This too shall pass. Each day you wake up you have hope. I give my clients hope. Because seeing me you’d never know that I’m a survivor. But once they realize that and go oh, well, I can survive too. Not only survive but I can thrive. It’s not enough to merely survive. You must thrive. So if you wake up God has given you purpose. So that’s what’s pushing you on. You have purpose. You have to instill purpose in them. So let them know that they have a reason for living. And they too have something to give back to the world”(T., Personal Communication, February 19, 2014).



Addressing Advocacy

Focus on prevention, rescuing, and recovery on a local and state level

- o Support legislation
- o Build awareness
- o Victim support
- o Mental health services
- o Free or low cost services to victims
- o Programs in high trafficked areas



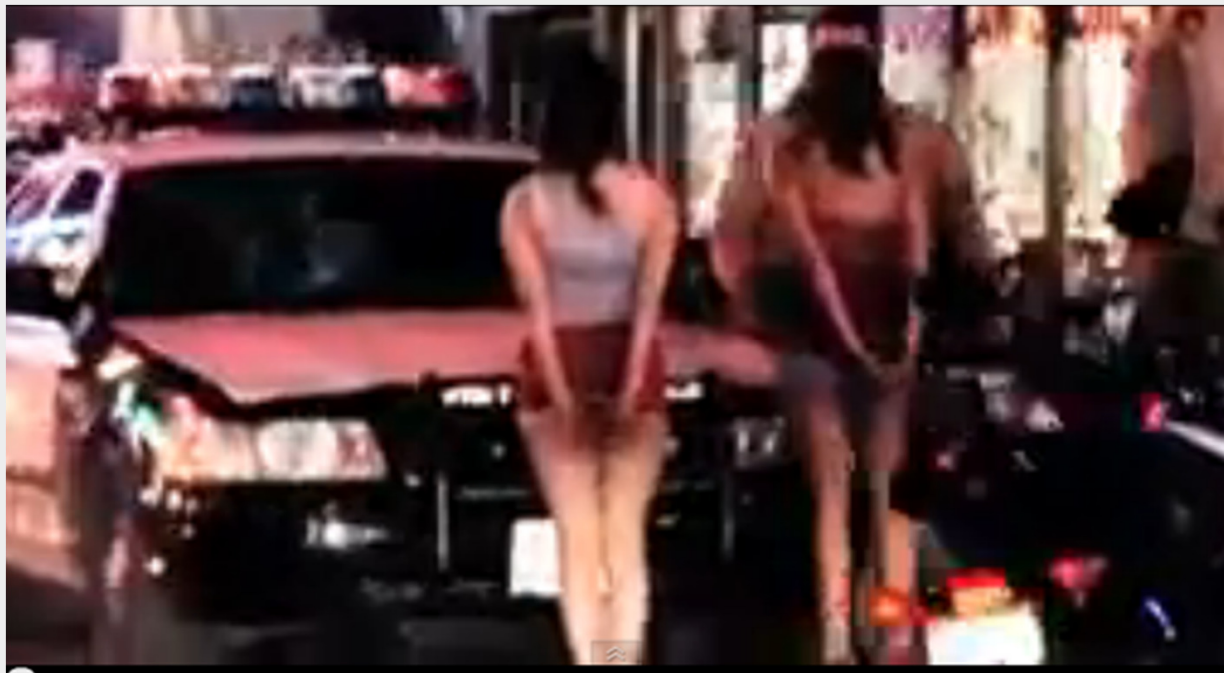
If You Suspect Trafficking

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (1-888-373-7888) can be called by health care provider or victim.

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act

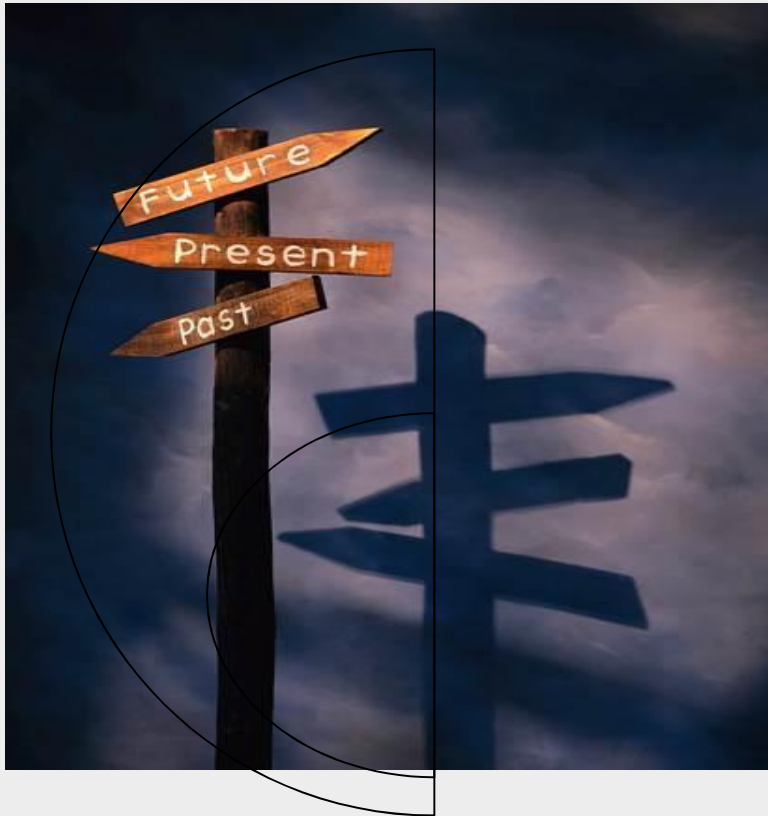
- Victims can be provided a visa to stay in the US legally and receive benefits
 - Visa criteria: be a trafficked victim, assist with prosecution of trafficking cases, be unable to assist because of psychological trauma, complete T-visa
 - May become permanent residents after 3 years
- Citizens eligible for all services

Video



<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/24540286/encore-presentation-of-trafficked-no-more>

Discussion



What message about sex trafficking do you most want to communicate to the public?

T.: “Umm, thank you for recognizing it but the work is just starting. It starts with you. That’s it. It starts with you. Each one of you. So you know now. What are you going to do?” (T., Personal Communication, February 19, 2014).

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