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## The World of Sex Trafficking

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**Regis University**  
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# THE WORLD OF SEX TRAFFICKING

by

Angienicka West-Wek

A Research Project Presented in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Masters of Criminology

Regis University  
August, 2014

THE WORLD OF SEX TRAFFICKING

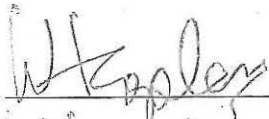
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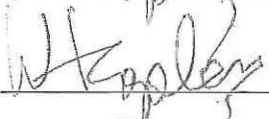
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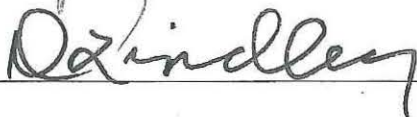
APPROVED:



\_\_\_\_\_, Faculty Facilitator



\_\_\_\_\_, Thesis Advisor



\_\_\_\_\_, Faculty Chair

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## Section I

## Introduction

People who experience freedom typically enjoy freedom. A person can choose what type of car to drive, place of employment, how many children to have, what to eat during the day, what programs to watch on television, among other things. For the majority, there may be written standards that may prevent a person from experiencing freedom at the fullest potential. For example, a person may be denied a job due to not having the required degree to hold the position. A person may also not be able to purchase their dream car because the funding is not available for the person to do so. The upside to both of these situations is that the goal can be obtained but there has to be some extra effort put in to achieve the goal. If a person needs additional credentials to receive a job of their choice, then the person goes to school to achieve the credentials. Once the need has been met, the task can be rehashed and hopefully results in the person obtaining the job. The plan of attack is very similar if finances are preventing a person from experiencing some desired freedom. The price of cars varies according to the vehicle's value. To own a Mercedes, there has to be money to buy the Mercedes, if one job is not enough to reach that goal, two jobs may be required.

Either way, if a person can find additional sources or if the person is just fortunate enough to be wealthy, all of this freedom can be obtained. Usually, the way to go about obtaining freedom is taught through parents starting from an early age. Most people are raised by a mother and father or a guardian. These people take on the responsibility of teaching others within their household how to go about living a productive life. Everybody has different parenting styles and children have different personalities. Parents and or guardians have to do what is best for their children. However, in the process of teaching their children what is best, the children may become defiant and feel their parents do not know what to do or are not doing

the right thing. The child then starts to experience less freedom. If the parents would just let the children go to a party on a school night, the children would be happy. When a child becomes upset with his/her parent, the child may chose not to talk to the parent, instead the child may take different approaches with dealing with their loss of freedom. Some children may sneak out of the house when their parents are sleeping, other children may run away from home, some may confide in a boyfriend or girlfriend, or maybe a complete stranger. People tend to look for love in all the wrong places when there is a feeling of a loss of freedom.

When the loss of freedom is discussed, people generally associate loss with offenders. However, when a victim has been a part of a crime, the victim experiences a great loss of freedom. Anyone can be a victim of a crime. Even if the crime does not cause any physical harm to a person, there will still be a victim. If a thief steals beer from a store, the store owner may have been unharmed, but the owner will have to cover the loss of the beer being stolen. Some crimes specifically set out to harm people. Human/sex trafficking is one of those crimes. There are people of all ages, races, and nationalities that are affected by sex trafficking. By the conclusion of this paper, this author is hoping for the reader to gain additional insight on how serious human/sex trafficking is.

There is a concern that people think that human trafficking only takes place outside of the United States. However, this crime happens right in the United States. Some people may be unaware of what human trafficking really is and all the other crimes that are generally associated with human trafficking. There also may be victims that want to seek help but really do not know from whom to seek help from. Everyone needs to be able to identify a victim that may be involved in human trafficking. The victim may not be willing to step forward at that time but there are trained professionals that can help the victim come forth for help. Human trafficking is



a huge industry that takes place domestically and internationally. There are certain crimes that are linked directly to human trafficking that community members should be educated on. This study was performed to enhance the knowledge of the severity of this crime and to provide education of what this crime involves.

For years scholars have been conducting research to determine why criminals commit crimes. Certain crimes produce certain motives for the criminals to carry out their crimes. There are an abundance of criminological theories that help to explain the criminal's mindset for committing crimes. The Classical and Routine Theory both contribute to criminals committing human trafficking crimes. The Classical Theory involves the benefit of the crime outweighing the criminal being caught. The criminal chooses to carry the crime out on their free will due to their self-interest (Cullen & Agnew, 2006). The pimps and madams involved in human trafficking receive monetary funds for the victims that are used in the crime.

The Routine Theory involves there being an opportunity that is present which is normally not there (Cullen & Agnew, 2006). A lot of people have daily routines to follow. A person's routine can be so consistent that other people may notice when the routine is altered, especially criminals. For example, there can be a family of four that consist of two parents and two children. Both parents have jobs and the parents drop the children off to school every morning, the parents leave their house by 7:15am daily. Most families live in neighborhoods and there are usually several neighbors that live in the area. On the weekend, the family's routine may be different. The children may stay home alone sometimes when the parents are running errands, and people will notice that as well. If there are only two children in the house and the criminal has already sized up their potential, chances are the criminal will try to kidnap, break in, and commit a sexual act or any other type of crime when the parents are not present. By waiting



until the parents leave the house, the situation creates a better opportunity for the criminal to be able to get away with the crime. Children are not as physically strong as adults are. Children are a lot easier to instill fear in than adults. The size of the criminal alone can be enough to prevent the child from attempting to fight the criminal. The child making the choice to not fight the criminal is a smart choice. The child should not take the chance of making the situation more hostile.

Children have to be protected. Parents and guardians should take their responsibility seriously and not leave children unattended without an adult present. Children are taken all the time and lured into sex trafficking. Human trafficking is an international crime that takes place all over. United States citizens are not aware of how big the crime is within the United States. Victims are sometimes scared to come forth for help. There are a lot of cases of sex trafficking that is not reported within the United States. There is also a lack of United States citizens accepting that the crime exists. In today's world, people are so busy and entertain so many various things in their minds that victims of human trafficking are often overlooked. Sometimes citizens just ignore the warning signs that are displayed by the victims. Some citizens may not be aware of the signs and some citizens may be choosing to not get involved. There needs to be attention brought to the problem and information provided to citizens on what to report to law enforcement personnel and information provided for victims to seek help.

Human trafficking is a crime that takes a toll on a victim emotionally. Traffickers use everything within their power to keep control of the victim. Criminals today are often schooled by other criminals on how to carry out a crime. Human traffickers keep their organizations successful by having different entities involved to run the operations. Traffickers that work operations together are like a family. There is a boss, alternate boss, and various other positions

that are employed that help the operations to flow smoothly. Traffickers watch their potential and current victims. Some of the victims could pose threats for the traffickers, depending on things like their family background. If the victim has a family member that is a lawyer that could cause some risk for the trafficker. However, traffickers need people with extended knowledge about the law to avoid situations that may shine a light on their operations. Money entices people. For the right amount of money, traffickers are able to enlist help from others to keep their operations a float. Some of the helpers are ex law enforcement personnel. Traffickers are able to learn information about how to keep their operations covered from people that used to work on the side of the law. The ex law enforcement personnel can coach the traffickers on what to say if questions are asked by current law enforcement personnel. People always have the right to remain silent. Human traffickers are smart people and traffickers use their knowledge to avoid being obvious. Human traffickers do not wear signs that alert everyone of their crime; instead traffickers blend in with the surrounding people. There are traits and characteristics that traffickers look for that will be most beneficially to their criminal operations. Elements that the traffickers choose provide quality for the traffickers.

There are a lot of different elements involved in human trafficking. Some of those elements include but are not limited to age, gender, location, and background. Traffickers usually set out to obtain children as young as 8 years old (Dougherty, 2006). The younger the victims are, the task of manipulating the victim becomes much easier. Starting at young age, children learn to follow directions from adults. Children are usually taught these lessons at home, school, and maybe church. Children do not always follow rules but when force is applied, chances are the children will comply. Boys, girls, men, and women are all victims of human trafficking. Typically most people just hear about women and children (girls typically) being

trafficked. In Ukraine there was a case study performed that involved 685 males that were trafficked (Smit, 2011). This study may not have circulated the way other stories involving women and children do. When traffickers seek out new recruits there are particular areas that traffickers scope out. The United States has 14 cities that are highly known for sex trafficking, those cities are Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, St. Louis, Tampa, and Washington D.C. (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). All of these cities are large cities within the United States and these cities are major hubs for human traffickers.

Within the United States runaways, homeless, kidnapped, and children living in foster care have the highest potential of becoming victims of human trafficking (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). In Atlanta, a study performed by the Fulton County Police Department proved that girls were forced into sex trafficking by being lured from malls, movie theaters, and even bus stops (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). Some of the victims may have poor educational backgrounds. Parents and guardians should inform their children about the importance of education. There is not a single person that is going to know everything. However, learning starts with small things. For example, do not take candy or anything from strangers, or do not let a stranger in the house. Whatever the case is, somebody has instilled some rules, values, and manners within the child. The flip side of this situation would be a child growing up and having parents that do not care. Children should be taught not to trust strangers. If children are exposed to a life where nobody cares to some extent the child is not going to care either. If the child has a desire to have a better life, the child may give into the temptation of taking a chance on a stranger.

There are thousands of victims that give into the temptation. Even though the victim chose to give in there was a reason for their choice. After the victim has been involved in sex

trafficking, there has to be a stronger force for the victim to step forward for help. The victim takes the risk of being made by the trafficker during an escape. In some cases, there could be other victims that tell on the victim that is trying to escape out of fear. There could also be other workers, for example, a transport driver that may be aware of all the victims that could also alert the boss that a victim is trying to escape. However, if a victim is able to overcome their fears and reach out to someone for help, there are agencies available to help the victims.

One agency that can be helpful to human trafficking victims is a rehabilitation center. If rehabilitation facilities are provided can sex trafficking victims be rehabilitated? Are other crimes that are tied to sex trafficking huge contributing factors for victims choosing not to get help? This author feels that victims of human trafficking can be rehabilitated but depending on the severity and length of time the victim has been affected can play a large role in the victim's recovery. Other crimes, for example, illegal drug use could cause some deterrence in the victim stepping forward if the victim is addicted to drugs. These questions will be investigated further throughout this project.

All the information used in this study will be secondary information. The information has already been researched by scholars. The information used will be from a wide range of opinions and scholars with various backgrounds. Below are some defined words that will be used throughout this study.

#### Definitions

Coercion - force

Exploitation – to use someone for personal use

Human Trafficking – modern day slavery involving anything from forced labor to prostitution

Prostitution – a person participating in sexual activity for monetary gain

In summary, so far the ground bases have been laid for what this study will be covering. Human trafficking does exist within the United States. This crime needs to receive some additional attention. There is help that can be provided to the victims. For the United States to be able to slow down the crime of human trafficking, there has to be information provided that will alert citizens about human trafficking. Citizens also need to be aware of the coercion that offenders use to keep their victims held hostage.



## Section II

## Review of the Literature

Clawson, H. J. & Grace, L. G. (2007, September 20). *Finding a path to recovery: Residential facilities for minor victims of domestic sex trafficking*. Retrieved from [www.aspe.hhs.gov](http://www.aspe.hhs.gov)

In this article that was a lot of information provided about the residential facilities. Sex and human trafficking victims need a period of restoration before entering back in the society. The facilities do have rules that the victims have to abide by and the article provides information about some of the rules.

Dougherty, M. E. (2006). Preying on the margins. *America, 194*. Retrieved from <http://web.ebscohost.com>

This article discussed different situations of people being lured into sex trafficking.

Fong, R., & Cardoso, J. B. (2009). Child human trafficking victims: Challenge for the child welfare system. *Evaluation and Program Planning, 33*, 311-316.  
doi:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2009.06.018

This article discussed various outcomes of people involved in sex trafficking. There was a lot of information provided on children being forced into the welfare system because the child had been separated from their parents. This article strongly acknowledged that there is a sex trafficking problem within the United States.

Potocky, M. (2010). The travesty of human trafficking: A decade of failed U. S. policy. *National Association of Social Workers, 55*. Retrieved from <http://web.ebscohost.com>

This article provide a definition for human trafficking and discussed statistical information being off for the United States because there is so much sex trafficking information that does not get reported to the appropriate agency.

Smit, M. (2011). Trafficking in human beings for labor exploitation. The case of the Netherlands. *Trends in organized crimes*, 14, 184-197. doi:10.1007/s12117-011-9123-3

In this article the author discusses male's perspective of being involved in human trafficking. Also, the author provides some information on some of the conditions that victims of human trafficking are forced to live in.

Vijayarasa, R. (2010). The state, the family and language of 'social evils': re-stigmatizing victims of trafficking in Vietnam. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*, 12, 89-102. doi:10.1080/1369105090335927

In this article the author provides education on how stigmas are attached to people who have been involved in human trafficking. There are victims who have the courage to come forth for help, however, once that decision has been made, the victim(s) has to learn to cope with how the society accepts their situation.



## Section III

## Developed Procedures

In 2000, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) was created (Potocky, 2010). The act was created to acknowledge that the United States has a problem with human trafficking taking place in various cities and also to try and provide some protection to the victims involved in human trafficking. The act has been changed over the years to better define what human and sex trafficking involves. For example, human trafficking according to the TVPA is considered a modern form of slavery, even though slavery was abolished years ago, criminals have become creative and use this crime to gain victims (Potocky, 2010). After the victim has been captured, a lot of the victims are used continuously for sex with various clients. Some of the clients are aware that some of the victims are underage and have been forced into the business. However, the clients chose to participate anyway.

Every year there is over \$9.5 billion that is generated from human trafficking (Finckenauer, 2006). Human traffickers also participate in other crimes such as money laundering, drug trafficking, and forgery to run their operations (Finckenauer, 2006). The traffickers need to participate in money laundering to make their criminal operations appear legit. The traffickers always have drug dealers around that can supply drugs to their operations as needed. A lot of the victims are forced to take drugs. After the victim becomes addicted to drugs, the drugs provide a way for the trafficker to keep the victim. If the victim stays, the victim will gain more access to the drugs through the trafficker. Drug addictions are powerful and most people need help to get and stay sober. Some victims that traffickers capture are not legal citizens of the United States. If those victims have any documents such as a passport or driver's license, traffickers usually take that information to use against the victim if the victim tries to escape. A person driver's license usually displays the person's current address. A

trafficker could easily use that information to threaten harm to the victim's family. As law enforcement personnel gain more information about how human and sex trafficking operations are ran, new laws are constantly being created and revised in an effort to protect the victim. Victims need to know that people care about their well-being. Law enforcement personnel and other support agencies aim to restore victims by rescuing, rehabilitating, and reintegrating the victim back into the society (Finkenauer, 2006).

In 2012, the state of Virginia created the STAMP (Smuggler Trafficker and Assets, Monies, and Proceeds) Project (Dale, 2012). This project aims to combat human trafficking within the United States and prevent money laundering schemes through regulations (Dale, 2012). Traffickers using money laundering schemes is another way that traffickers appear to be like everybody else. There is constantly an exchange of money taking place through a consumer and a seller. For example, buying groceries, purchasing a car, eating out in a restaurant, or buying gas. The customer pays for the goods that are received. In a trafficker's case, the consumer is paying to commit a crime upon the victim. So the consumer and the trafficker both become involved with money laundering to prevent being arrested by the police. The trafficker does not want to be discovered because their whole operation ring could be destroyed. Traffickers not only use their money for personal profit, but the money is also used to purchase drugs that may be used to keep control of the victim, and the traffickers use the money to purchase weapons as well (Pena, 1996). Depending on how big the traffickers operation is, the trafficker may be paying off people that work in customs and immigrations to transport drugs and weapons all over the United States (Pena, 1996).

Money laundering allows traffickers to receive profits without being detected by law enforcement. In order for law enforcement to not question where monies are coming from the

money has to appear legit or clean while being exchanged from the consumer and seller. Money laundering was officially made a federal crime within the United States in 1986; the act was called Money Laundering Control Act (Pena, 1996). All banks are already required to make currency transaction reports of any deposits that exceed \$10,000 and traffickers are aware of this (Pena, 1996). The Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 is the law that created this requirement. Also, if any bank suspects any money laundering scheme going on, the Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994 requires the bank to file a suspicious activity report so there can be an investigation done to check into the issue (Pena, 1996). Offenders that are convicted of money laundering can receive a fine up to \$500,000 and imprisonment up to twenty years (Dale, 2012).

Every crime comes with a risk for everybody involved. The offender has a risk of being caught by law enforcement or even being hurt by their victim(s). Victims have the risk of being hurt or murdered by the offender. Regardless of what the crime is, the criminal will not commit the crime unless there is a potential for the criminal to get away with the crime (Classical Theory). Additionally, the criminal will also have better chances of escaping being caught if their location, vehicle, crime of choice and various other obstacles presents the opportunity to do so that are normally not present (Routine Theory). If the criminal has the notion that the crime cannot be committed without getting caught, there would not be any reason that the criminal should participate in the crime. Sex traffickers particularly set out to earn the trust of children. When children make a choice of running away from home, sex traffickers take full advantage of the situation. After the child starts to trust the trafficker, the trafficker ends up isolating the child from their parents permanently (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). If the child causes any problems for the traffickers, for example, fighting back or not complying with orders, the trafficker ends up



using bondage, coercion, drugs, and violence to gain the desired action from the child (Fong & Cardoso, 2010).

Traffickers tend to not work alone. Sex traffickers develop their networks to involve recruiting, transport, and enforce violence on the victims to instill fear to prevent the victims from even attempting to leave (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). Women are particularly lured into sex trafficking by the trafficker initially portraying a romantic relationship that will lead to marriage. Many of these women are not United States citizens, so these women are easily drawn to believing that citizenship will be gained through these men (Smit, 2011). The victims that are involved in sex trafficking that are not legal citizens of the United States have higher risks of accepting more abuse than legal citizens. Due to their illegal presence the victims have a fear of being deported (Smit, 2011). The victims choose to go through with physical and sexual abuse, denial of medical care, poor accommodations, and poor food quality to continue living in the United States (Smit, 2011).

Sex traffickers' gain extended knowledge about their victims which provides an upper hand for the trafficker to be able to keep a tight grip on their victims. The rapport that is initially established with the victim is all a part of the trafficker keeping control over their victims. If the victim were to report the trafficker to law enforcement personnel there would have to be proof that the act was taking place. In some of the victim's cases the crime could be hard to prove. Everybody is innocent until proven guilty. The trafficker sees the profit that can be gained from having multiple victims, the monetary cost alone is enough for some traffickers to take the risk of following through with the crime.

Children particularly are vulnerable to sex trafficking because there is always a need for a child to feel accepted. If the child is having problems at home and chooses to run away,

eventually the child is going to need some type of assistance from somebody just to survive. Everybody has issues with pride sometimes, depending on the nature of the child's situation at home; the child may refuse to go back. When the child is enticed by a smart criminal, such as a sex trafficker, the child may be totally clueless to what is really happening. However, because the child is looking for a family to fit into or to be accepted, the child will go along with whatever the trafficker wants and may cooperate for the sake of getting food.

All of these cause and effects support the Classical Theory. When traffickers are seeking new victims, the traffickers already know where to go. Parents usually encourage their children to have some sort of independency. The problem is children mature at different ages; every child is not a responsible teenager at 16. Usually independency comes with freedom of being able to go places without a guardian. The teenager may go with a friend or maybe even alone, both situations present the opportunity for a trafficker to develop a relationship with the teenager(s). The teenager could in all honesty just carry on the conversation for the sake of being nice, without knowing that the trafficker is gaining useful information. Some teenagers may have specific places for hangouts on the weekend at specific times. This situation also presents an opportunity for the trafficker. Not only does the trafficker know who the teenager does or does not hang out with but the trafficker will also know the time that the teenager(s) are present.

A lot of teenagers have their own vehicle. If their parents are trying to instill responsibility, there is a good chance that the vehicle is not going to be new. The vehicle alone could cause the teenager to stand out. A lot of teenagers are into experimenting particularly with drugs. The relationship with the trafficker could form from the trafficker supplying the teenager with drugs. In a lot of cases with teenagers becoming addicted to drugs the situation starts with the teenager being given the drugs for free in the beginning and then over time, due to the

dependency that is developed for the drug, the teen has to find a way to keep obtaining the drug. In the world of sex trafficking, the teen has to sell their body for the compensation of drugs.

In this study, this author will provide statistical information referencing sex trafficking and also information regarding agencies available to help sex trafficking victims. There will also be secondary information provided from previous victims of sex trafficking. These stories will reveal how the victims were recruited, how the victim was able to escape sex trafficking, and also the victim's current status if the information is available. Some people do not know how to go about receiving help; this study will provide some of that information. This study will also provide scholar information that supports sex trafficking activity that goes on within the United States and other countries as well. Sometimes crime needs to be brought to the forefront for people to take an interest in trying to create change. Crime affects every person and every household differently; however, if there is a person that has been personally affected by sex trafficking, there will probably be some aggressive effort to help educate others on the severity of this crime. Severity not only refers to the nature of the crime but also the frequency of new victims being recruited.

## Section IV

## Research Findings

Victims of sex trafficking are constantly being watched by their owners. Victims usually do not have any access to any phones or anything else that would allow help from the outside world (Lange, 2010). Victims of sex trafficking may experience numerous years of abuse and exploitation. The victims of sex trafficking particularly children suffer a lot mentally (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). Victims who are saved by law enforcement personnel have physical injuries, sexual trauma, substance abuse, pregnancy, prior abortions, mental illness and many other complications (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). Victims of sex trafficking do qualify for services such as getting a T-visa. The T-visa allows the victim to be able to live within the United States without being a citizen, the victim will also be able to get a legal job (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). For the children involved in sex trafficking, if their parents are not within the United States, the children will be placed in foster care. Foster care does come with helpful benefits such as education, mental & medical care, legal representation, and the victim may also be allowed to live on their own after the age of 18 (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). The programs are becoming worldwide. As resources become available, additional programs are created. Currently these programs exist in Georgia, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Florida, Washington State, Colorado, Massachusetts, Arizona, New York, and Philadelphia (Fong & Cardoso, 2009).

Safe Horizon is an Anti-Trafficking Program that is based out of New York. This agency provides rehabilitation services for women and men to include transgender individuals and also children ([www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org), 2014). Safe Horizon aims to provide shelter and housing referrals, legal assistance, material needs, counseling, and other needs ([www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org), 2014). Safe Horizon has been up and running since 2004 and this agency has trained more than 6,500 staff members within the United States on how to recognize and help sex trafficking



victims ([www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org), 2014). Also, Safe Horizon took responsibility in training first responders as well. First responders may be the first person a victim encounters before entering a rehabilitation center. In these cases, the first responder needs to be able to have a conversation with the victim without the victim feeling belittled or afraid. The victim may not open up right away, but with patience the victim will eventually talk to the first responder. Safe Horizon has currently trained over 7,800 first responders on how to help sex trafficking victims, part of the first responder training deals with sensitivity, so the first responder will be knowledgeable on how to approach the victim without being disrespectful or judging the victim ([www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org), 2014).

Every program has rules that the victim must follow after being accepted into the program. All rehabilitation centers have different amount of beds for the number of residents that can be accepted. The number of beds can range from 6 to 30 (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Usually the maximum length of stay at any rehabilitation facility is 18 months to allow the opportunity for other victims to gain help. However, in severe circumstances, the stay may be extended to benefit the victim for the best. Some victims may not need to stay in a rehabilitation center for 18 months. Some may only need 3 to 6 months, and these facilities are able to accommodate short stays as well (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Family members are encouraged to visit their loved ones on occasion while living in the rehabilitation facility. The victim has to learn how to trust people again and the victim needs to know that their family cares about their well being and progress.

For the victim to be able to reintegrate back into society will take time. While the victim is in rehabilitation, the victim will have limited privileges. The victim will be subject to random drug tests, restricted phone use, little access to the internet, unannounced room searches, and

may only leave the facility if a program manager approves the outing unless the victim is voluntarily checking out of the facility (Clawson & Grace, 2007). A huge part of the rehabilitation process is revamping the way the victim thinks. Part of retraining the victim to think on their own is to let go of old habits. The victims are used to only doing something when their pimp says so. The victim has been taught that their existence is not important, and the victim may feel worthless. The victim has to regain their self worth and learn that there is a reason for their existence. The victim has to learn how to function responsibly on their own. If the victim is addicted to drugs, the victim will also have to go through treatment to get sober.

While the victims are in treatment, every precaution is taken to prevent any harm from a prior pimp or madame hurting the victim. Most facilities do not list their location online because the owners want their facility's location to be undisclosed. Nobody gives a thief an open invitation to come and rob their house. Most facilities have 24 hour surveillance so anybody that comes in and out of the facility will be seen. Also, rehabilitation facilities have their facility manned with staff and security personnel 24 hours a day (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Some facilities seem to cater towards helping women and children (female), but there are facilities that help any trafficking victim of any gender or age. Children of the Night rehabilitation facility in California will take any sex trafficking victim, even transgender (Clawson & Grace, 2007).

These programs allow for the victim to become a new person and be able to put their past to the side to start a new life. These agencies provide the victims with all their basic needs, food, clothes, and shelter. Above all of that these agencies also provides numerous programs to help rebuild the victim and to help keep the victim on track. These programs are not free and the cost varies per resident at every facility. The cost ranges anywhere from \$55,000 to \$80,000 per resident (Clawson & Grace, 2007). All of these agencies accept donations from the public to

help keep the agencies flowing strong and to keep all the different support groups to aid the recovery of the victim.

There has been therapy treatment programs created to treat victims that have post-traumatic stress, mental illness, and behavioral problems (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). The Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) has been proven to be successful through testing of random control groups that consisted of human trafficking victims. This therapy not only aims to rebuild the victim but if there is a parent involved, the therapy aims to teach the parent to understand the trauma that the child has been through. TF-CBT also provides lessons on coping skills, desensitization, education, and relaxations skills (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). The ultimate goal for this program is for the victim to be able to function in the society as a normal human being and to be able to avoid being involved in human trafficking again.

The state of New York has a Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) program. This program has the same goals as the TF-CBT program does. However, this organization also takes the time to teach other agencies how to build a program to help victims of human trafficking (Fong & Cardoso, 2009). Some organizations may want to help victims but simply may not have beneficial knowledge on how to be successful in reaching the victims. Most of the organizations that do provide help for victims also allow the victim to return as needed, some people may be successful their first time in treatment, others may not be (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Some of the successful victims (victims that have successfully completed treatment); take a personal interest and role in trying to prevent others from becoming a victim. Here are a few of their stories.

Holly Austin was born and raised in the state of New Jersey. Holly became a victim of human trafficking at the age of twelve. Holly had been having problems at home. Most

teenagers go through a phase of being rebellious. Holly went through this phase and just did not have an outlet to let go of her anger. Holly did have freedom to go different places as a teenager. One of the places Holly visited was a nearby shopping mall. At the shopping mall, Holly met a man and kept in contact with him. After the two had talked for some time, the man convinced Holly to run away with him. The entire time Holly had been keeping in contact with a complete stranger, her parents had no idea of their friendship. After the first day of Holly running away with the stranger, later on that night, Holly was being bought for sex ([www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com](http://www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com), 2014). Holly's stint with human trafficking was a short lived one because a police officer saw her on the streets and knew that Holly was underage, so Holly was arrested ([www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com](http://www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com), 2014). The man who was responsible for Holly being involved in human trafficking was arrested but his sentence was only one year of jail time ([www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com](http://www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com), 2014).

Even though Holly did not have an extensive history with human trafficking, Holly uses her experience to let people know how dangerous this crime is. Holly was saved rather quickly because law enforcement personnel were performing their job and did not ignore the problem. Holly case demonstrates how easily a victim can be lured in by a trafficker. All the trafficker needs to get started is a phone number. A lot of people give their phone number out as an innocent gesture, but not everybody has good intentions in mind. There are very violent criminals that live in our world and those criminals do not care about who gets hurt in the process.

The next victim story is about Barbara Amaya. Barbara is from Virginia and unlike Holly, Barbara actually endured some abuse from her family starting from an early age. After enduring so much abuse, Barbara ran away from home at the age of twelve. Barbara was



actually discovered by a couple that was involved in trafficking. Barbara was hungry and the couple took her in and provided her with food and shelter in the beginning and treated her very nicely. Overtime, the couple started using her for sex trafficking. After the couple had Barbara for a few months, the couple sold Barbara to another trafficker who kept her for several years ([www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com](http://www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com), 2014). During the eight year period with her new trafficker, Barbara became addicted to drugs, and Barbara also experienced an enormous amount of abuse, such as being stabbed, raped, and beaten. Barbara had experienced all of this as a teenager; Barbara was not even 18 yet ([www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com](http://www.richmondjusticeinitiative.com), 2014).

Barbara's trafficker eventually let her go because of her huge drug addiction. Barbara eventually checked herself into a rehabilitation clinic and got off drugs. Since then, Barbara has reconnected with her family, gotten married, and Barbara also has a daughter. During the time frame of building her relationship with her husband and her daughter, Barbara opted not to tell either of the two about her past. However, years later Barbara's daughter ended up running away from home and the situation was a striking reminder to Barbara of her past. Barbara then told her husband and her daughter about her past, and Barbara also got her daughter to see a therapist to talk about issues that were bothering her ([www.richmondjustice.com](http://www.richmondjustice.com), 2014). Barbara is using her story to encourage other people as well. Barbara has not only shared her story with other victims, but Barbara also had to share the story with her daughter. Barbara is another victim that has become a success story. Barbara went through many years of hurt and abuse but through the healing and recovery process, Barbara uses her strength to encourage others.

Dai is another human trafficking victim that initially suffered abuse from her family. Dai lived in Las Vegas, Nevada during her involvement with sex trafficking. Dai was convinced by a military guy to move away with him ([www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com](http://www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com), 2014). Dai

was able to escape her first trafficker but the man had all of Dai's personal identity documents, because of this, Dai was not able to stay at any homeless shelters ([www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com](http://www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com), 2014). After years of living on the streets, Dai was approached by a madame. At the time, Dai was unaware the lady was a madame, but the lady convinced Dai to work for her doing escort services. During the first few months of working for the lady, Dai had become financially stable. As time went on, the madame sold Dai to someone else. Dai's new owner required her to have sex with clients. If Dai chose not to have sex with the clients, her owner would beat her. Dai's clients included a lot of people who are in the blue collar community, such as board trustees, government officials, and other business clients ([www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com](http://www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com), 2014).

Dai eventually gained the strength to attempt an escape and Dai was successful by being bought by one of her wealthy clients. Dai's new owner convinced her to take part on the other side of the business and to become a madame ([www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com](http://www.stophumantrafficking.wordpress.com), 2014). Dai had not experienced any physical or sexual abuse since being with the new owner, so Dai chose to do what her new owner wanted. Dai now was a female pimp and was recruiting women to be exposed to the same abuse and criminal activity that was very familiar to her from personal experience. After years of working as a female pimp, Dai decided to run away from her owner and eventually found help through some local churches. Through some additional research through the internet, Dai was able to find information about advocates for human trafficking. Today, Dai has relocated to a different state and has started her life over. Dai has also taken an active role in helping other victims to escape human and sex trafficking.

Victims are gaining the courage to step forth and informing law enforcement personnel of sex trafficking that is taken place. There are various entities that result in how much time the

trafficker will be sentenced too if convicted. Everything has to be proven. Here are a few stories of some sex traffickers that have been convicted and their sentences that were issued by their judges. In Tampa Florida, a 62 year old male was sentenced to 34 years in prison for human trafficking and illegal prescription drugs (Johnston, 2014). This male made his victims use Roxicodone, Xanax, methadone, and somas (Johnston, 2014). In the state of Florida, prosecutors have to be able to prove that force, fraud, and or coercion was used to prosecute for sex trafficking (Johnston, 2014). In Texas, a woman was sentenced to 15 years in 2013 for running a human trafficking operation and a prostitution ring (Falls, 2013). This woman was 34 years old and lured her victims by finding people that needed a place to stay (Falls, 2013). This woman's youngest victim was 17. This offender also used the same methods as the previous one, forcing her victims to get hooked on drugs and then force the victims to participate in prostitution to buy more drugs (Falls, 2013).

In Boston, there was a husband and wife that received 5 & 6 years prison sentence and both received 5 years of probation to complete once released back into society (Coakley, 2014). This conviction consisted of Homeland Security and three separate police agencies working together to bring the offenders to justice (Coakley, 2014). Due to the extensive time that these investigations take, victims and supportive family members should be aware that the process can be extensive. However, law enforcement personnel are working to bring these offenders to justice. The investigation cannot proceed without evidence to show that the offender has committed a crime. Victims may have go through a grievance or closure process, but if the victim is able to gather courage to speak against their abuser, that starts the process of the victim being able to start the healing process. The victim is showing a healthy vulnerability. When the victims opens up, all the surrounding people that are involved to help the victim out can start



rebuilding the victim a little bit at a time. The supporting people will also know what areas the victim may need some additional time to recover in as well. For example, if the victim was continuously abused by older men, the victim may have some type of fear against all older men in general. Through the healing process, the victim's train of thought will be revamped to be able to make rational decisions about who is trustworthy.

In June of 2014, a 28 year old male was convicted for human trafficking and for kidnapping and forcing a 17 year girl to participate in prostitution (Edgemon, 2014). This offender was sentenced to 50 years in prison (Edgemon, 2014). The victim involved in this case told law enforcement personnel about everything that had taken place. Her story involved details from the time the trafficker kidnapped her, ads that the trafficker used to sell the victim, and even clients that the victim had been with. The victim was even brave enough to tell law enforcement personnel of other victims that the trafficker had physically abused (Edgemon, 2014). Everything that the victim told law enforcement personnel was proven and prosecutors were able to use all the information in court. Closure for each victim can be different. When the offender is arrested, the pain that the victim endured will not automatically go away, but the situation does help to provide some comfort to the victim with the offender no longer being on the streets. Once the offender starts serving time that is another offender that is taken off the streets and the streets become a little safer.

Sex trafficking does exist within the United States and over recent years the industry has increased (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). However, some of the officials that receive the information about sex trafficking victims do not update their statistical documents. Annual data about sex trafficking is collected by most states. Even though a lot of these states choose not to make the information public knowledge (Potocky, 2010). Sometimes sex trafficking estimates make the

State Department reports and other times not (Potocky, 2010). There are programs that exist that aid in helping sex trafficking victims. The Innocence Lost Initiative Program is equipped to assist victims all over the United States (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). This program has specialized law enforcement personnel who address citizens across the United States and provide information about sex trafficking. In addition this program also reaches out to the community for any information regarding any sex trafficking activity. With the help of this program, the FBI was able to return 577 children to their parents or guardians. The FBI also apprehended over 300 pimps and madams for their criminal activity, and to top everything off, over 3 million dollars was seized throughout the operations (Fong & Cardoso, 2010).

Some information involving sex traffickers are not disclosed due to agencies wanting to keep the information close hold. Sex traffickers use all information to prevent being discovered by law enforcement personnel. Children & teenagers need to be encouraged to not talk to strangers. There are people such as sex traffickers that are constantly looking to recruit new people. Even though some agencies do not want to accept the reality of sex trafficking existing, agencies are still working hard and providing information to community members.

## Section V

## Conclusion

Human and sex trafficking is a problem within the United States. Law enforcement personnel and other support sex trafficking agencies are continuously working to provide help for victims and to prosecute all offenders. For a victim to gain the necessary support from any agency requires a lot of money per resident. Citizens that are able to donate to sex trafficking rehabilitation centers should do so. The donation does not have to be monetary. Sex trafficking victims use items such as clothing, toiletries, shoes, and food just like everybody else. There will probably be some guidelines on what items can be donated. Usually when donated items are accepted for a facility, the items may be required to be the same, just to keep everything organized within the facility. Also, everything being the same helps the victims to know that everybody is treated alike.

Public awareness can help slow down sex trafficking. A simple poster with a hotline number posted can help bring a victim to safety. Hotlines are usually manned 24 hours a day. Citizens have to be aware that every sex trafficking victim is going to have a different story. No one deserves to be a victim of any kind. The victim has to be ready to receive help once entered into a rehabilitation center; otherwise the treatment will not work because the victim is not ready. Everybody deserves respect, even if the person has been involved in a crime that society feels that is immorally incorrect. People tend to stereotype everybody. There are some very harsh stigmas that are tied to people that have been a victim of human and sex trafficking. Community members should be aware that a lot of those stigmas are not true. When a person is forced to participate in criminal activity, there is not an option for the person to say no. If the person says no that makes the situation worse. Sometimes people have to go along with bad choices for the purposes of being able to live. People who have never been forced to do anything will probably

never understand why a person was involved in human and sex trafficking. However, community members should make every effort not to judge the person but instead lead the person to find help. There is a lot of information online for agencies that provide help to sex trafficking victims. In house rehabilitation facilities are limited to the amount of people that can be on hand. Even if the victim is only able to receive periodic help due to waiting on a bed in a facility, some help is better than none.

All countries are affected by sex trafficking. This crime seems to be highlighted a lot with countries overseas but as the offenders are being prosecuted in the United States for sex trafficking, there is a light that is shining on the community letting everybody know that this crime exists within the United States. Community members should not ignore this crime. If anybody sees anything that could be involving sex or human trafficking that information should be reported to law enforcement personnel as soon as possible. Everybody can make the world a better place by saving one victim at a time and continuously prosecuting the guilty offenders of this crime.

This crime does not just affect one specific gender. All genders, all races, and all ages can be a victim of this crime. Law enforcement personnel, family members, staff members all have to be aware of the sensitivity of this crime. Victims are made to feel worthless and need to regain their self-worth. During their process of healing, victims may have to relearn how to function as an adult. Every person involved in the victims recovery process needs to be mindful of their state of mind. Victims suffer mentally in a huge way. Recovery takes time; some victims are going to need extended stays in a rehabilitation center to recuperate. However, with time the victim can become a new person and start a new life. There are several victims that go

through the recovery process and go back out into the community to help other victims go through the rehabilitation process. Those victims are heroes!

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