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**A STORY ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY: HOW TO COMBAT DOMESTIC
SERVITUDE IN THE UNITED STATES**

**A thesis submitted to
Regis College
The Honors Program
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For Graduation with Honors
By**

Elizabeth Arellano

May 2018

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PREFACE

Modern slavery is a global problem which is present in every country (Rezaie, 2016). It also presents itself in various forms (U.S. Department of State, 2017). I personally know someone who has been through this. She was exploited in Phoenix, Arizona in the 1980s by a family whom she knew before being exploited. She was exploited as a domestic servant which is a prevalent type of slavery in the United States (Laure et al., 2005). However, public misconceptions of human trafficking (O'brien, 2016; Cunningham & Cromer, 2016) as well as societies' perceptions of domestic workers (Hsu, 2007) put this issue in the shadows. Before I dive into the logistics, I would like to use this woman's story to paint what human trafficking could entail.

The following story is true. It is a first-hand account of a woman who was enslaved when she was 9 years old. The story starts in Vietnam during the Vietnam war which was the event that led her to be trapped as a slave for 20 years. The story then continues to the United States when she, and the family she lived with could move away from the war. They lived in Phoenix, Arizona in an all Caucasian neighborhood. This woman came to me to tell her story. This story is something she really wanted to share. She wants people to know what she has been through and that this is a reality of our world today, even in the United States. She wants other people who have been through this to stay strong and know that there can be a light at the end of the tunnel. Stories such as hers are ones we can utilize to understand modern slavery.

Also, throughout her story she encounters many people who were completely oblivious to her situation. Some helped her along the way unknowingly and some didn't. However, the people who assisted her or befriended her made a world of a difference. Without their assistance she

may have never found her freedom. I would like to note that some things are not included in this story out of respect for this woman and her family. Thus, I would like to begin the story of a former modern slave who was enslaved while she was in the United States.

Note: This story was not recorded, except for what is on this paper and the drafts. Small things like dates, ages, etc. were written down to ensure accuracy. The woman who told the story read this over to ensure accuracy. All interviews were in English. To ensure confidentiality of all the people in this story no names are given.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank my thesis adviser Prof. M. Sobel, and my reader Prof. D. Palmer. Without their assistance and dedicated involvement in every step throughout the process, this paper would have never been accomplished.

I would also like to thank the Regis University Honors Program for the support and knowledge acquired to accomplish this thesis. I would like to thank my colleagues and my honors cohort for their assistance, sympathetic ear, and support throughout this. I would especially like to thank Prof L. Narcisi and Prof C. Kleier for their guidance and involvement throughout this. Without them and the honors program I would not have accomplished this.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my family and specifically my parents. Which I would not have accomplished so much without their love, support, and guidance. They truly have been extraordinary role models. They have always done their best and pushed me to make sure I do the best I can.

FIGURES

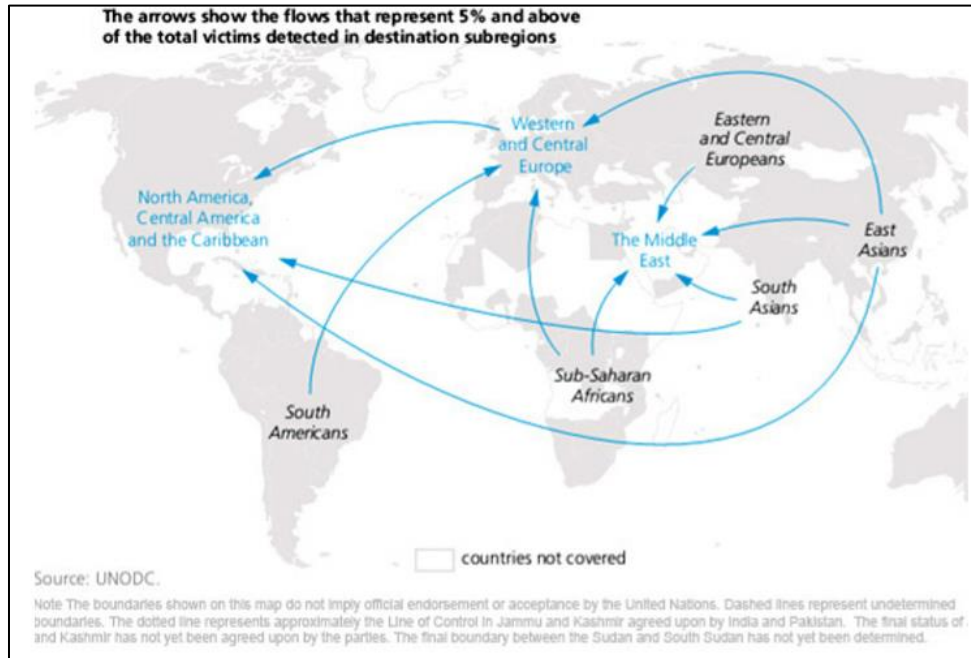


Figure 1. United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (2014) research on origin countries and destination countries as well as the route between these countries.

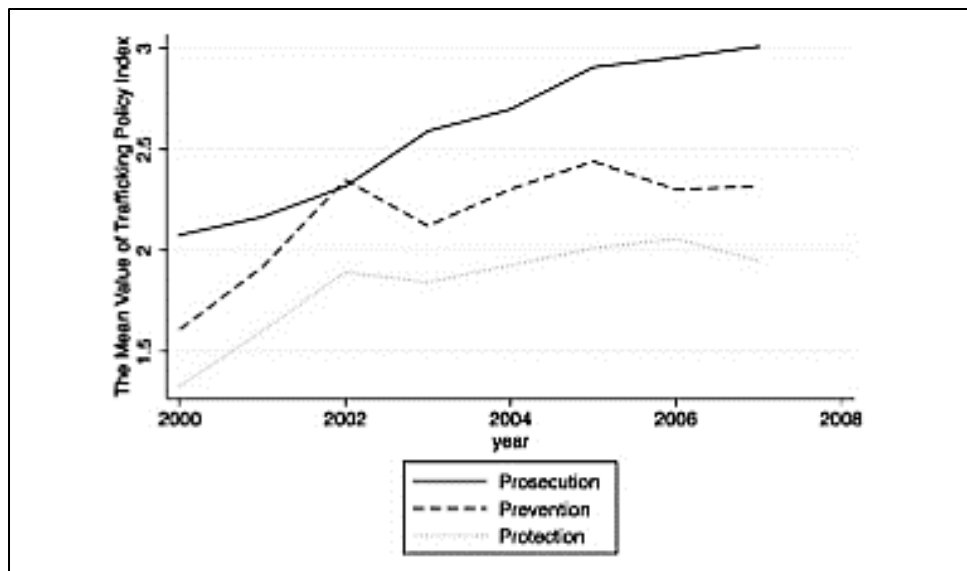


Figure 2. Yoo, 2015. Analysis of prosecution, prevention, and protection policies of various governments.

Physical
<p>Malnutrition or dehydration.</p> <p>Delayed health care.</p> <p>Signs of physical trauma, including being beaten, punched, kicked, burned, stabbed, strangled, or shot.</p> <p>Signs of sexual abuse.</p> <p>Head or facial injuries.</p> <p>Tattoos indicating that the victim is property.</p> <p>Signs of self-harm.</p> <p>Serials cases of STIs.</p> <p>Signs of substance abuse.</p> <p>Need for reproductive health services at a young age.</p>
Behavioral
<p>Accompanied by overbearing employer or other adult.</p> <p>Conflicting or inconsistent history.</p> <p>Depressed mood.</p> <p>Reluctance to speak to clinician.</p>

Figure 3. Bohnert, 2017 signs of and symptoms that could possibly indicate a human trafficking victim.

A Story About Modern Slavery

My family had fled from China to Vietnam because of the communism. My father was a wealthy business owner who had owned a funeral business [sic]. Unfortunately, communism had followed us to Vietnam. I was born in Saigon during the war in 1961. At this time, Saigon was not a part of the Viet Cong. I lived in a home with maids, chauffeurs, and butlers. I spent my time playing with my neighbors and siblings and I did not worry about the war.

As time went on, the war worsened. By the time I was 4, I had seen massive tanks driving through the streets and there had been soldiers who shot at my house at night. We were told to not go outside at night and the whole city would be locked down. We had to sleep under a trap door in the kitchen while the army went through the house. I heard gun shots and the war went on while we slept. My family was lucky though. We had money to pay off the military. They tried to recruit my brother multiple times to fight in the war. My brother would hide under the trap door and wait as the Vietnamese army would walk through the house asking my father where his sons were at. He would bribe them with money and say "there is no one else here" and then they would leave without saying a word.

I had been fighting with my mother a lot so, I was sent to a family friend at 9 years old. However, before I was 9 my mother had owed some family friends money. She made a deal with them which stated that she would give me to them in order to pay her debt. My father had no idea of this debt or this deal. He sent me there in order to keep me away from my mother because she used to abuse me and he couldn't be home to protect me since he was always at work. I do not wish to disclose the kind of abuse I was put through as it is heartbreaking for me to

remember it. However, little did I know that I was going to be working there as their house servant. While there, I would have to get up before sunrise to make breakfast. They would make me cook every single meal and clean the whole house. When I was not working at the house they would have me sell oils in the market place to make them money. I never got a cent of this money nor was I paid to clean and cook. The only thing that I would look forward to, was the time I got to spend with my family which was very seldom. My father was always busy with work, but I would see them every once in a while. My Grandma, didn't believe I was safe at the Lady's house and so she found out where I was at and would visit me often. She would bring me stuff with these visits which I am grateful for, even to this day. The last time I ever saw my grandma, she had bought me two new sets of clothes. The war worsened and eventually the Vietcong took over. This was in 1975 and I was 14 years old. When this occurred, my father had to get rid of money because we had too much according to the government. Every family could only have \$500 thus my father would put coffins outside of our house filled with money for people to take.

Once the South Vietnamese government fell, things had gotten worse. Everyone was required by the Vietcong to go to army who was of age, thus I was under risk. I had to hide under the table every time the army came by and the Lady, my oppressor, would pay them off so that they would not take me away. One day my father came by and gave me a bag. He told me "pack up all of your stuff. We are leaving to the United States. We will come back to pick you up later tonight." Thus, I packed up all my stuff and waited for them. I waited and waited, but they never showed up. They never showed up. They never showed up [sic]. My family forgot about me and I was stuck with this terrible family as their servant in Vietnam while the Vietcong took over.

One day, the Lady had enough money to move us all to the United States. She had my birth certificate and all of my documents so I could go to the United States with them. However,

she also paid for all of my documentation to get there. She used this as something to guilt me into staying in the future. When I had heard this news, I was scared because I did not speak the native language. I didn't know anybody in the United States. It was going to be this strange place and it was not home, but it was safe. I also didn't know if I would ever see my family again. They were in the United States though, so it gave me hope. We then traveled to Hong Kong. There, The Lady ended up taking some of my prized possessions including a ring that my best friend from Vietnam gave to me. She ended up throwing them away and telling me that I didn't need them. Then, I ended up staying in Thailand for about forty days while all of my paperwork was being processed. I also had to get checked for diseases while I was there.

The first place I had arrived at in the United States was Seattle, Washington. It was absolutely beautiful and I long to return there again. I also distinctly remember that it was the first day that Reagan's second term started (1985). However, we didn't stay in Seattle long and we had traveled to Phoenix, Arizona after a day. This was very different from what I was used to in Vietnam. The people were different and spoke in languages that I didn't know. The weather was also a lot dryer than what I was used to in Vietnam. However, Arizona is so much warmer than Seattle was and I am not a fan of cold weather. I couldn't understand anyone and everything seemed faster paced. Things were a lot nicer though. I was very excited to be able to sleep on something that wasn't the ground. We first stayed in a low-income duplex. It was old and worn down. There were two small rooms. I didn't get a room and had to sleep on the couch. The neighborhood was coarse and our neighbors were different from anyone I had ever seen. They spoke a language that was unknown to me and it wasn't what I knew to be English. It was very fast and they spoke very loud. They had darker skin and dressed in clothes that were 3 sizes

too big. Come to find out later that these people were Mexican and they spoke Spanish, a language I ended up learning later.

While I was there my duties besides selling oils continued. I was expected to clean everything and if I didn't clean it to their satisfaction then I wasn't allowed to eat. So, I made sure to sweep, mop, vacuum, and scrub everything very thoroughly. I also would have to cook every meal for them including getting up at 4 am every morning to make tea, coffee, and breakfast. I usually wasn't done with my household duties until 11 pm or midnight. Even when I did get to eat, I would have to eat whatever was left over after three days which is considered an insult. I was always taught as a child by my aunties and uncles to never eat leftovers. In my culture, this means that you are a servant and are nothing in society [SIC]. And that is exactly what these people thought of me. Thus, I never got to eat any of the meals that I had cooked that day.

The Lady had me work for this sewing company instead of selling oils in a market. How this company worked was that they would send you home with boxes of show clothes (for dancers, actors, performers, etc.) and then you would get paid about \$200 per box that was returned tailored. Thus, The Lady would come home with about five boxes per week for me to sew. It would take me the whole week to sew all of the clothes and so I spent a lot of time constantly sewing while trying to balance all of my household chores. I would get paid \$25 for all the boxes at the end of the week. To put this in perspective the injustice of this, they would get paid about \$1000 each week for the work I did, while I made \$25. And I had to use the \$25 to buy my toothpaste, toothbrush, sometimes food, and other necessities so I would have no money by the end of the week. I was completely unaware of the unjustness at the time since I was in a

whole new country and they didn't tell me how much they made with my work. This is something that I found out later and by then I did understand how little \$25 was in comparison.

Also, every year they would have me pay taxes on the \$25 I made every week. They would bring in a tax consultant who would calculate everything. I didn't know how this worked and I wasn't sure how they were taxing me. All I knew was that at the end of this process I would owe about \$300 every year. Which The Lady would have me pay in full. So, during tax time my \$25 would go to her until I could pay for \$300.

4 years later we ended up moving out of the duplex. We moved into this large house which meant more work for me unfortunately. The house was very nice, but it was in an older neighborhood. It was made of brick and it was much larger than the duplex. It had 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. In the Lady's house I had my own bedroom, but my bed was uncomfortable. However, I was used to sleeping on the ground in Vietnam so having a bed was nice. The neighborhood was also much different as my neighbors all spoke English and they were all white. Between the house and the neighborhood this seemed to be a much nicer and wealthier area. Despite the niceness of it, my life didn't get much better. At this new place The Lady put my sewing machine outside of the house in our backyard. I had to sew outside no matter what the conditions were. In Phoenix, Arizona this meant that I would have to sit outside hours upon hours sewing away in the burning hot sun. I would have to sew outside even if it was over 100 degrees. I still did it without question. However, as time went on I couldn't tolerate being treated like this. I ended up rebelling and telling The Lady that I didn't want to sew anymore. I ended up sewing less and less boxes so she would make less money. I wasn't getting paid very much and I ended up discovering how unjust my situation was. However, whenever I rebelled I was told that my parents didn't want me and that they left me and she was the person who was kind enough to

take care of me. I also was told that my mother gave me away because she owed her money and it was my job to repay it. My mother didn't want me and so I was the one that got chosen to be given away. Hearing her say those words, struck me so hard that I would stop rebelling at the time.

While I was living there I had gotten to know a girl in the neighborhood whose family knew The Lady and her family. We met when we went over to her house and I had to go grocery shopping for them. She was my first friend here in the United States. Whenever they sent me to do errands I would try to talk to her. I also would go to her house and visit when The Lady would visit the family. It was nice to have a friend here especially since I didn't have my family anymore. The Lady tried to stop this as much as possible. The girl never got to come to the house and I was never allowed to go out and see her on my own accord. Also, whenever The Lady did see her she would treat her horribly. She would call her names and was very rude to my friend. I never told my friend about my situation out of fear. I was scared that The Lady would do something to me or that she would just leave me in this foreign country with nowhere to go. I didn't know the language and I didn't know what I would do. So, I kept it a secret and enjoyed the little time that I got to spend with my friend.

One thing I remember distinctly, which really bothered me was the Lady's husband. When he would come home every day he used to take all his clothes off except his underwear and would walk around the house trying to seduce me. I was told by The Lady that she had wished me to become his second wife [SIC]. They were even going to have me change my last name to his so that I would be his other wife. When they told me this, I was livid and took a stance to fight against them which they ended up dropping this demand. However, she still would make me hand-wash just his clothes while I did the children's laundry with the washer and dryer. An

incident occurred when I was taking a nap on the couch. I had worked a very long day and I was rewarded with a nap. However, I am not so sure how much of a reward this nap was. I was laying with my back to the room and my face towards the couch. Thus, The Lady and her husband thought I was asleep. However, I was not completely asleep and I was aware that they were in the room with me. They crept up behind me and slowly tried to take my shirt off. Since I was not completely asleep, I batted them away which scared them since they thought I was asleep the whole time. I was 17 years old at the time. There was no possible way I would ever marry that vile man! After I batted them away that time they never tried to do anything like that ever again. I still had to deal with him walking around basically nude and hand-wash his clothes, but at least he never touched me like that ever again.

However, I had dreams as well. I wanted to go to school and to learn how to drive. At this time, I was already 23. The Lady made a deal with me that if I was to be schooled or if I wanted to learn how to drive, then I would have to work at it. I would have to work even harder and I would be given more work to do. That is what I did. I ended up waking up at 4 am every day to make Kon-gee (breakfast soup), to make tea and coffee. I also mopped the floor multiple times a day so that I could go to school. I worked so hard that she allowed me to be schooled 3 days a week for 3 weeks. I was sent to an ESL class where I learned basic things. I learned the alphabet and about numbers. I also learned simple English phrases such as “Hi” and “Thank you.” But I was grateful for the opportunity. It allowed me to start learning this foreign language and I felt a little less lost. However, I never got the opportunity to get my driver’s license. She always told me I could get one, but The Lady didn’t want me to have any identifiers and she didn’t want me to be able to drive. She held me back and did everything she could to stop me from leaving. She told me that no one here would help me and that since my family abandoned

me why would anyone else want to help me or care about me. Again, her response made me not question it anymore.

People would often come over for dinner parties and get together. Each of them were oblivious to my situation. To outsiders, I was this girl who The Lady took in and cared for as if I was her daughter. However, this was not the case. Although, some caught on and would ask the Lady why I never got to go out. They would ask me, "why don't you have any friends?" I would tell them that I had a friend and that I got to hang out with her occasionally. The Lady would tell them that she was protecting me because she didn't want me to get into anything bad or join a gang. This was all to look like she was the good caretaker who took care of a girl whose parents had left her in Vietnam. She would also complain to these people about me. She told them "I've treated her like my own daughter and all she ever does is argue with me. She is ungrateful and still wants to see the parents that abandoned her!" But little did they know I wasn't treated like her daughter. I fought her because she took advantage of me. I was a slave and a pawn that she used. I did everything for her and I never got paid nor was I allowed to do anything. I saw how she treated her children and I was not treated like one of them. To these people at these dinner parties she appeared as a saint, but in reality, she was corrupt.

As time went on I had started rebelling more and more. I was of course punished for it. When I did this, she would tell me I owed her and she would not allow my friend to come over, I was not allowed to eat, and the \$25 I was given each week for my utilities was taken away from me. However, I remained strong and kept on pushing back.

The part when I was found was a blessing.

When I was 25, I was attending a wedding with The Lady. She told me to behave and not to talk to anyone. I don't understand why she even brought me along in the first place. I was sitting at one of the tables doing exactly as she told me to while they walked around and talked to family and friends. However, one of my father's friends happened to be at the wedding sitting near us and he recognized me! He came up to me at the table I was sitting at which I was worried that The Lady would see this. He asked me if I recognized him which I stated I did. He was my father's best friend. He told me that my family was in New York and that they had been looking for me for the past 3 years. He asked me if I had gotten my father's letter from 2.5 years ago. I was thrilled and furious to hear this as I had never received such a letter. My family had not forgotten about me, but The Lady had kept this letter from me as I found out. He told me that 2.5 years ago he had given a letter from my father to The Lady's mother, whom he was close to, which was about me. They had kept this from me after all this time. He asked me if I had talked to my father, which I told him that I have not had contact with him for a long time. He said that he would give me my father's phone number when he would see me next time. The Lady's mother saw me talking to him and they hurried to get me out of the wedding. They were worried about getting caught for what they have done to me. The chat with my father's friend only lasted 5 minutes. However, my dad's friend trusted The Lady's mother as they were close and never tried contacting the authorities or anything. However, he did tell me that he would tell my family where I was at.

After the wedding, I confronted The Lady and yelled at her for not giving me the letter. She always told me that I wasn't wanted and that night I had found out that I was. I wanted to see this letter. She told me that the letter didn't say much and she would not let me see it. I was

furious. I screamed at her and told her that everything she had been telling me is a lie. She never loved me or cared for me as she always had said. I wanted to leave and kept fighting her back.

For the next few months, I did not receive anything from my family. No phone calls, no letters, nothing. This made me sad and I started thinking that my dad's friend had never gotten around to telling my family about me. Maybe I wasn't going to get to see my family after all.

Then one day I found out I was wrong in my assumption. My father's friend had told my parents about me and even where I was at! They had found out where I was located and who I was with. They had contacted me a year later. Turns out my father's friend had given my dad The Lady's phone number so they could contact me. My older brother had tried calling this number multiple times. He would ask for me, but he was always told he had the wrong number. However, one day I picked up the phone and was so happy to hear my brother's voice again. He then asked me what my first name and last name was. Which I responded with what my family name was. He then asked me if I had any brothers and sisters and I said, "Yes I do, I have two brothers and two sisters" [SIC]. He was ecstatic to find out it was me. He told me that The Lady had picked up ten minutes ago and said that he had the wrong number again, but he knew that this was the house I was at so he kept on calling. He then proceeded to give me my older sister's number and told me that they wanted me to come see them in New York. My sister's husband wanted to fly me out to New York and he would pay for the trip.

I had never been so happy and hopeful in my life. I would finally see my family again. Then I heard someone coming. I told my brother goodbye and that I would see him soon. When this was brought up with The Lady she was completely livid. She said I was stabbing her in the back after all she did for me, raising me and getting me to the United States. She also stated that there was no possible way for me to go see them as I had no money and no way to get there. I

told her that my sister was going to pay for the trip so I did not need her help to pay for it. I was determined. I hadn't seen my family in so long and I was going to go whether she wanted me to or not. The Lady could see this determination and said that I could go as long as she controlled everything for my flight to New York and back. I told her that I wanted to go for two weeks. Since I knew I had the upper hand in this, I also asked for my social security number and birth certificate.

My family was able to get the money to me and I flew out to New York a few months later. Seeing my family again was the best feeling in the world. I was wanted by them. Even though they abandoned me in Vietnam, I forgave them and enjoyed my two weeks in New York. My family told me to not go back. I could stay with them and get a real job. However, I felt guilty since The Lady did raise me and decided to go back. My family was understanding of this decision and said they weren't going to make me stay, although they did not agree with it. They gave me their phone numbers and address, and said if I ever wanted to go back to New York they would pay for my flight and everything there, I just had to escape to the airport.

When I returned to the Arizona, I demanded to get a real job. The Lady wanted me to return to my old house work of cleaning, cooking, and sewing. I pushed back and told her that I wouldn't work. I didn't care that she wouldn't provide for me as I now knew that my family was there for me and I could go back to them. I asked for a driver's license, schooling, and a real job. She had always told me that she would teach me how to drive, but she never did. I only had the 9 classes of English which I had to work for.

I wanted a real job away from her. One day, the airport had many job openings since they had signed a contract with a new airline. Thus, The Lady took me to get my paperwork done, which allowed me to work in the United States legally and helped me get a job at the

airport. I worked as a janitor which also entailed cleaning, but I was relieved to start working outside of that house. Even then, the Lady used me. I had wanted a driver's license and a car so that I could drive to work as the airport was very far from where I lived. But I wasn't allowed. So, I had to take the bus and then walk two hours to work. This was brutal as my shifts were eight to nine hours daily. I slept on the bus often and would miss my stop. I wasn't allowed to eat at home anymore and I wasn't allowed to use the kitchen anymore. Therefore, I would buy those travel sandwich packages to eat for lunch and dinner. The Lady still wanted me to clean, cook, and sew for her which I completely refused. I never touched a sewing machine at that house again. After a long 16 hours of work and traveling, I ended up sleeping for only a few hours every day anyways. I always came home exhausted. However, since I didn't work for The Lady anymore and I had a real job, she made me pay for my own food, rent, utilities, toiletries, etc. She would tack on more and more things if she could find an excuse to charge me. For example: if I flipped on a light switch, that meant I would have to pay for the electric bill. If I used the water, I would have to pay for the water bill. Every little thing had a bill attached to it. By the time I had paid all of that to her, I was left broke with no money for anything I ever wanted like school, license, or a car. So, I still was trapped. I was still basically working for The Lady since all of my money went to her. I wish I would have just stayed in New York. However, at the airport I learned quite a bit and made friends. I worked with a lot of Mexican people who were very nice to me. They taught me how to speak some English as well as Spanish. I had people there who would stay behind to try to teach me English and Spanish. I had one friend in particular who was from Canada. She would take me to get the sandwiches for lunch and would take me to get dinner occasionally. She also taught me a lot of English. She ended up being one

of my closest friends and was there for me the most. I never told her about my history or my situation either though.

Another person at the airport helped me as well. A man who drove the shuttle buses drove the route I would walk. He had always seen me walk every day to and back from work. One day he stopped and asked me if I wanted a ride since he was driving to the airport anyways. Since I knew what the airport shuttles looked like and I knew enough English by then to know that he seemed genuine, I agreed to have him drive me. He asked me what terminal I worked at and what I did. This man was very nice and friendly. When he dropped me off he told me that he didn't want to ever see me walking again. From then on out, would come pick me up from the airport to take me to the bus stop when I got off and that he would come pick me up at the bus stop to take me to work. He kept his word and I no longer had to walk for two hours to work which was a nice relief.

However, this man didn't work all of the time and he did not always work the same hours I did. So, he told one of his friends who also worked as a shuttle driver about me. He arranged a meeting with his friend and had his friend come with him on his route to show him where I could be found. He didn't want me to have to walk to work. His friend was also very nice. One day the man's van broke down and he called his friend come pick me up. From then on out his friend would come pick me up every once in a while.

With these rides to work I learned a lot about the shuttle bus driver's friend. He was from Denver, Colorado and had recently moved here to get away from home. He also had a rough childhood and we had a lot in common regarding some of our background. I found out I was also a lot older than him. I was twenty-eight now and he had just turned twenty-one. However, he told me I looked very young for my age and he thought I was in high school. We would have

dinner occasionally and became good friends. He had his own apartment which I also visited a couple of times. He only had hot dogs, ketchup, and eggs in his fridge which I thought was strange.

I still lived with The Lady. I took him to The Lady's house after dinner one time when she was not home and she did not like it at all. She never met him, but she found out about his visit from her son. After that, the fighting worsened and we ended up fighting daily. I was just about done living with her.

My friend from Canada took me to go open a bank account so that I could save my money to move out and I got another job packing gauze to ship to the hospital on my days off. I saved enough to move out. I was 28 when I finally decided to move out.

I announced that I was going to move out of The Lady's house. I would pay for my own stuff and I would find my own way around. I knew English well enough and I also knew Spanish which was commonly spoken. I had my friend from Canada help me get an apartment and I no longer needed The Lady in my life. My friend had a car to move me out. All I had was some clothes and shoes so moving out was easy. I rented an apartment which had furniture in it already. It was \$350 per month (including utilities) as opposed to the \$400 for just rent that The Lady would make me pay. I didn't know that The Lady was overcharging me to live there until my friend helped me shop for my own apartment.

The Lady did not take this well, but she couldn't do anything about it. I had won and she had to let me go. I never contacted anyone nor told anyone about what she did to me until years later.

From then on out, my life came together. I worked and went to school. Which was still exhausting, but everything I did was on my own accord. The shuttle bus driver's friend became a

better friend and we started dating. He taught me how to drive and I went to driving school. I was ecstatic to start learning and drive myself everywhere. I accidentally crashed his car into the wall of my apartment the first time I drove his car by myself, but he still stayed with me anyways. He taught me more English and taught me more about American culture. Later, we moved out together into a larger apartment. I ended up marrying this man and we had a son. We moved back to Denver because that's where his family was at and we had a little girl after that. When I had my son and then my daughter, I promised myself that I would always be there for them and I would do everything I could to take care of them. My husband and I were both poor and struggled, but we both agreed that we would give our children a better life than we both had.

Today, we live near my husband's family in Denver, CO. My siblings besides my youngest sister lives in New Jersey/New York. The rest of my family lives in Australia. My father passed away about 8 years ago. My mother is still alive. She's 78 years old and lives in Australia under the care of my little sister. We don't talk often. I also never addressed my parents as to what happened with me over those 20 years. Why was I chosen to live this life? Why did they leave me in Vietnam when they all went to the United States? Why did it take so long for them to find me? Part of the reason why I never have addressed this is out of respect for my parents. Part of it is that I am too scared to ask. This occurred 25 years ago and it's in the past. I am happy with my life now. I love my husband and am grateful for him. My children are happy. They both graduated high school and are growing up. One of them is studying to become a doctor and the other wants to study theology or physics. I love my family. They mean the world to me and are the reason why I can cope with such a history. I know some people are not as lucky to have such a good support system. These skills that I have obtained from being a domestic servant has allowed me to be a better mother and wife. I am known for my delicious Chinese food. I can hem

and sew my children's and husband's clothes when they don't fit right. Our house doesn't look spotless as my husband and children do not have my cleanliness, but my experience has made me be able to keep a tidy house with some help from my family. There are some other skills, but these are the ones worth mentioning.

However, my past has not completely left me. I have suffered chronic back pain since I was in my 20's and it continues to worsen as I get older. I was hit in the head once by a board from one of The Lady's kids. Now, my head is very sensitive to the touch and I have chronic headaches as a result of this. I cannot wear hats very long because of the pain from it. These are constant reminders of what I experienced, but again, my family makes it better. My kids and husband will give me massages and they respect my space when it comes to these things. I haven't told many people my story, but I thought it was finally time to let everyone know. Even though talking about this now hurts me and is very difficult, I can say that I was blessed with my ending. Not very many people get to be this lucky.

I am thankful for everything that I have. My past is my past and I just want to put it behind me [sic]. I am thankful for my family. They are the reason why I stay strong today. However, I did luck out with all of the help I received along the way. Between my father's friend, my family's persistence to find me, my neighborhood friend, my friend from Canada, the ladies at the airport, my airport shuttle friend, my husband, and all the other people who were kind enough to help me I would never had ended up where I am at today. I wish I could contact The Lady and I hope that she was able to forgive me for leaving. I love them too despite what they did to me. Now I sometimes I wish I could confront her to make her understand how she made me feel and make her understand that what she did to me was wrong. Between her and my

mother, they should not have done that to me, but I forgive them both. I am who I am because of this experience and it has allowed me to love my children and husband more.

This story is told by my mother. She is one of the strongest people I know and one of the happiest. Sometimes her past comes up and you can see it still haunts her occasionally, but then somehow, she goes back to her happy and optimistic self. My mom has dedicated a good portion of her life to me and my brother. She has always made sure to be there for us, no matter what. Of course, we have had rough patches as every family does, but the love that surrounds my mother is one that she thrives on. She loves talking to people, engaging with others, laughing, and making jokes that sometimes don't make sense, but I find to be completely adorable. My mother is fluent in English, although some people have a hard time understanding her and she struggles with small slang phrases. She still knows Cantonese, Vietnamese, some Mandarin, and she can understand some Spanish. My mother is one of the most impressive and inspiring people I have ever known. She taught me that no matter how hard things get there should always be a smidge of hope to keep one going. She taught me that smiling and laughing is the best medicine. And she taught me that when someone needs help, you should give it because you never know where that person is at in their life.

There are two main things I would like to note in her story that I think are important lessons. The first is the people in her life that made a difference. For example, the shuttle bus driver who picked her up every day and made sure she always had a ride no matter what. This also ultimately led her to meet my father and changed her life forever. This kind of generosity can be substantial to another person. The shuttle bus driver didn't know her story nor will he probably ever know it, but he helped her because he saw someone who could use help and offered it. Not only that, but he made sure she had a ride everyday even when he couldn't give

her a ride. He went above and beyond which made the world of a difference for someone like my mother who was in a terrible situation.

The second thing I would like to point out is my mother's forgiveness to the Lady and her mother for what they did to her. My mother does not talk to her mother often, but she still contacts her family in Australia and made sure I met my grandmother when I was little. Even though I can't actually speak to her because of a language barrier, we still talk with my mother or auntie translating. It is easy to fall to prey to hatred in such a scenario. People's automatic reaction is to hate the trafficker for obvious reasons. What they did or are doing is wrong and yes, they should be punished for what they did. However, it doesn't help to hold onto something like that. One thing that my mother has done to cope with this past is by letting it go and forgiving the people who had done her wrong. As she said, "my past is my past and I want to let it go." She has turned this awful portion of her past into something positive by utilizing those skills she obtained to take care of those around her. She uses the lack of love she had to fully love her family, friends, and co-workers. Forgiveness and compassion saved my mother from her situation and continues to save her today.

Now that you know my mother's story I would like to dive into some logistical matters. The story provides imagery and a description as to what modern slavery is, but modern slavery can present itself in various ways and my mother's story is just one example. Thus, I will explore what modern slavery is, how it occurs, how it has been combated, what further can be done, and how stories such as the one above are vital in combating human trafficking.

HOW TO COMBAT DOMESTIC SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES

I. WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

Modern slavery is defined “[T]he 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” (United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, 2000, article 3, para a). Slavery presents itself in different ways thus every story varies. My mother’s story is one of many. The United States Department of State reports there are 10 various categories to slavery (US Department of State, 2010). The main types of modern slavery are: domestic servitude, sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, child labor, and forced marriage. All of these and the subcategories can be intertwined.

Forced labor: This is the most common type of slavery and most of the others fall under the umbrella of forced labor. Forced labor is all work/service which is performed involuntarily through “force, fraud, or coercion” (US Department of State, 2010, para. 5).

Domestic servitude: The above story is one that would be categorized under domestic servitude. Domestic servitude is a form of forced labor as well. It is the exploitation of a person as a nanny, butler, maid, etc. in one’s own home. The point where a home

employee becomes a slave is when they are not allowed to leave at their own free will or considered indebted to the person (US Department of State, 2010).

Sex trafficking: This is one of the most well-known types of slavery, especially in the United States. It is when a man/woman is exploited sexually to perform commercial sex acts through "force, fraud, or coercion" (US Department of State, 2010, para. 3).

Bonded labor: This is when a person is exploited to pay off a debt or bondage that they accumulated or that they inherited from a relative. When a worker works in brutal conditions and the debt becomes unpayable. Then, the enslavement becomes permanent. This occurs when the trafficker consistently tacks on other expenses like living, food, etc. so that the debt grows and it then becomes impossible to pay (US Department of State, 2010).

Child labor: This is when labor is extracted from anyone under 18 years old using force, fraud, or coercion. One-fourth of slaves in the world are child slaves. Also, any work environment which is considered harmful, mentally, physically, or emotionally to the child is considered child labor. Children are often placed in domestic servant positions, forced labor positions, forced soldiers or in sex trafficking (US Department of State, 2010).

The type of slavery that people are most aware of is sex trafficking, being that it is the most prominent in the world (O'Brien, 2016), but there are many other types of slavery. I would like to focus on domestic slavery which can be intertwined with sex trafficking or the other categories above. The reason why, is because domestic slavery is one of the most prevalent that falls under forced labor, (Hsu, 2007) but not very many human trafficking policies have

combated this, and there are public misconceptions about what trafficking is and/or entails (O'Brien, 2016; Cunningham, 2016). These misconceptions can feed into the lack of identification of victims which I will explore some other reasons for lack of identification in the following paragraphs.

People can be exploited by companies, family, friends, households, one person, etc., but they also can be exploited by multiple groups. For example, a person may be sent as a slave by their family, but exploited by a larger company (Crane, 2012). However, when a victim is exploited by a single person or small group of people such as a family, it makes the number of victims harder to identify (Crane, 2012). This is because it usually takes place in one's own home and the victim and trafficker are harder to identify which feeds into why the number of victims worldwide is unknown.

There are many different estimates regarding how many human trafficking victims there are in the world today. The Walk Free foundation with the International Labour organization (ILO) and International Organization for migration (IOM) estimates that there are about 40.3 million slaves in the world today (Walk Free, 2017). The United States Department of State (2013) estimates about 27 million and Siddarth Kara states there is 28.7 million (2008). This has increased significantly as opposed to the 20.9 million reported in 2012 by the ILO. It is present in every country (Collins, 2014), even in the United States.

There are an estimated 57,000 slaves in the United States according to the Walk Free 2016 GSI report. However, although broad, in 2009 there was an estimated 50,000- 150,000 people enslaved in the United States (Crane, 2012). There are 5,544 reported human trafficking cases by the National Human Trafficking Referral Directory, NHTRC hotline in 2015 (Polaris, 2016).

Some of the reasons as to why this number is unidentifiable is that many people who are exploited under the above conditions don't know that they are/were slaves (Sigmon, 2008). Victims are sometimes unaware of the position they are in and may see it differently from another. They may see this exploitation as a part of their culture or something that is normal (Sigmon, 2008). Sometimes, they are not educated on their own rights and thus think this kind of mistreatment is allowable (Sigmon, 2008).

Another factor that contributes to the lack of identification of modern slaves is that many people are scared admit that they were slaves (Sigmon, 2008; Rezaiean, 2016). This may be due to fear from when their trafficker/recruiter had threatened them at some point and/or fear for the safety of themselves and/or family/friends (Sigmon, 2008, Rezaiean, 2016).

There are other reasons such as law enforcement corruption that leaves the victims unidentifiable or un-assisted (Sigmon, 2008). Also, the definition of what 'modern slavery' is changes frequently and thus the definition has broadened over the years, which expands the number of people who are considered slaves every year (Sigmon 2008).

I would like to note that there are origin countries and there are destination countries for victims. Origin countries are defined as the location victims are from and destination countries are where they are exploited (Rezaeian, 2016). This has changed over time and there is various research about what these countries primarily are.

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) (2014) states that main origin regions are East Asia, South Asia, East Europe, Central Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South America. Primary destination regions are the Middle East, Western Europe, Central Europe, North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Figure 1 below demonstrates popular

transportation routes of victims between origin regions and the destination regions according to UNODC (2014). These are paths in which human trafficking is popular from the recruitment to the exploitation. Which some of these paths may be easier to transport victims (UNODC, 2014). Andrew Crane (2012) states that human trafficking is most prevalent in Subcontinental Asia, West Africa, East Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. The Global Slavery Index (GSI) indicated that human trafficking is most prevalent in India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Uzbekistan (Global slavery Index, 2017). This research depicts how much varying and certain information there is about human trafficking.

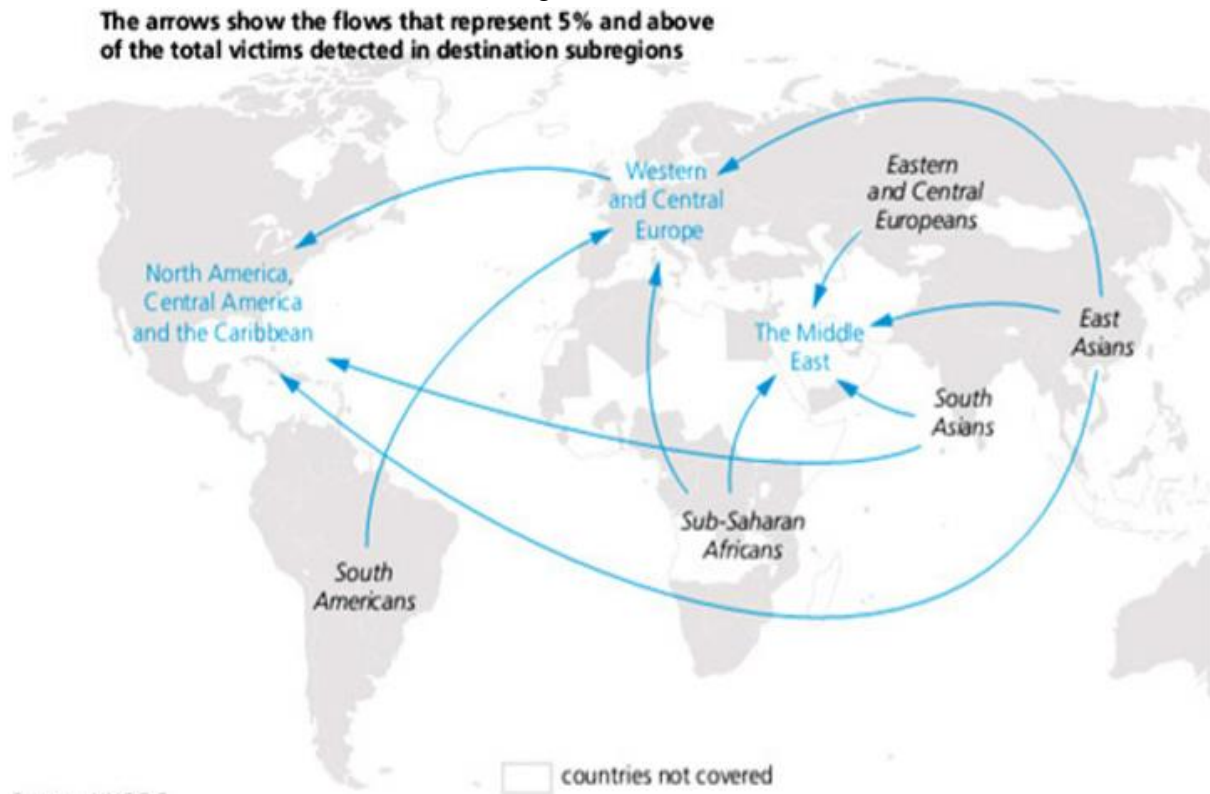


Figure 1. United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (2014) research on origin countries and destination countries as well as the route between these countries.

However, people are very unaware of the above facts or even that human trafficking occurs in the United States (Cunningham & Cromer, 2016). Many people are aware of sex trafficking, but they are not aware that there are other types of slavery prevalent (O'Brien, 2016). Domestic slavery makes up 27.2% of trafficking in the United States which is the second largest in the United States (Laure et al., 2005).

A survey performed in 2016 by Walk Free Foundation revealed that only 12% of Americans knew that there was any kind of a human trafficking hotline. Despite the fact that domestic slavery is the second largest type of human trafficking in the United States (Laure et al., 2005), there have not been very many policies that have been made to prevent and combat against it. Even the United States Department of State acknowledges this in their 2016 human trafficking report.

This information is something I didn't know about until I heard my mother's story and did my own research. My mother is a former domestic slave of 20 years and not very many people knew this until now. While she was a slave, no one knew about her situation and even if there was suspicion, no one ever did anything about it. Thus, I will focus on domestic slavery in the United States as it is a prominent type of slavery that is not being combated effectively and is in the shadows of our society. My mother's story provides insight into this type of slavery. I believe domestic slavery is most effectively combated through methods of education of professionals, specifically health care professionals and law enforcement with accurate information which stories can help provide.

II. HOW DOES MODERN SLAVERY OCCUR?

As I had stated earlier, people's stories vary thus how they find themselves as human trafficking victims also varies. My mother's story is just one in a million and each one is unique, but these stories provide insight as to how human trafficking is implemented in various ways. The recruiting process is different for different types of slavery, but there are also some commonalities between them. Trafficking generally has three stages. One: the recruitment process. Two: the transportation process. Three: exploitation (Stanojoska & Petrevski, 2014).

However, before I dive into this, one common definition that gets confused which I would like to clarify from the beginning is the difference between trafficking and smuggling. In smuggling, the person being smuggled can have no further contact with their smuggler and is not exploited after the smuggling (Collins, 2014). In trafficking, they are not released and end up being exploited. A person who may think that they are being smuggled can end up being trafficked (Collins, 2014). How this may result is that transporters will use different tactics to keep the victim in a debt like withholding their falsified documents and the victim is then forced to work to pay off their supposed debt (Owen, et al., 2015). Sometimes, the victims end up in a different location than originally planned (Collins, 2014) and then may be fearful of deportation. Some victims have been found to pay their trafficker up to \$7,000 because they believed the trafficker was a "broker" for traveling (Collins, 2014). People who are being smuggled are easy prey for traffickers, but these two are not necessarily the same (Sigmon, 2008). However, this pattern of smuggling falls into the common human trafficking initiation which stems from victims migrating for a better life (Sigmon, 2008; Collins, 2014).

Even though smuggling is one example of how people end up as human trafficking victims, usually people who become exploited start out in a rough situation (Perry & McEwing, 2013). They are usually desperate in some sort of way (UNICEF, 2006; Collins, 2014). These people go to work in the hopes of making money to send back to their family in times of need. Some, are tricked by recruiters with false promises. Such as: promises to see distant family members, promises for fame, fake job offers, or promises for a better life (Collins, 2014; Gjermeni, 2008). Others are sent into this life by their relatives or friends. Typically, children are sent by their family to assist them financially (Gjermeni, 2008). Some of the key factors of human trafficking is family poverty, maltreatment, or lack of education (Gjermeni, 2008). I would like to concede that people who are United States citizens and/or financially stable are also vulnerable to exploitation (Owen, et al., 2015). My mother came from a wealthy family. It is just less common than those who are in desperate situations which can make them more vulnerable and easier to recruit.

Women are found to be trafficked more than men due to multiple factors such as social constraints of duty to family, poor education, and poverty (Jani & Anstadt, 2013). Women are also from popular source countries such as Asia where women are less valued and they are sold to pay off debts because of this lack of their importance (Collins, 2014 ; Jani & Anstadt, 2013). My mother's situation also reflects this lack of importance. She has other siblings, two of which are boys and it is considered better to give away a daughter in Chinese culture than it is to give away a son (Jani & Anstadt, 2013). Also, my mother was a child who my grandmother felt to be a burden and gave her away to pay off a monetary debt.

My mother's story not only aligns with how women are so easily given away, but also how children oftentimes end up as human trafficking victims. When a family is in a desperate

financial situation, this can lead to the giving away of their children/ child (Gjermeni, 2008). Thus, the family negotiates a deal with the trafficker to send their child to work to receive money (Gjermeni, 2008). A common occurrence in the United States are Chinese children who are sent to work in Chinese restaurants or in households to pay off a debt (Owen, et al., 2015). Thus, these children have no control over the situation and find themselves in a foreign place to work in horrible conditions to assist their families (Gjermeni, 2008).

Another factor that contributes to the initiation of modern slavery are family problems themselves (Gjermeni, 2008). In a study done in Albanian child victims said that one of their parents would come home and beat them (Gjermeni, 2008). Sometimes parents do not know of the situation that the child will face abroad or sometimes the parents play part in the arrangement knowing the child's future work environment (Gjermeni, 2008). However, usually the parents don't know they won't be paid for this (Gjermeni, 2008). Since these families are in desperate situations, they will believe in false promises. However, often the false promises will come from someone that the family knows (Gjermeni, 2008).

My mother's situation matches with the causes in which children become trafficked. She was 9 years old therefore, she did not have much control over her situation. Her mother, more specifically, was in a desperate financial bind even though her family was wealthy. This was a matter of her mother not wanting her father to know about this debt. Also, my mother was abused from her mother, so a strong factor in her story is maltreatment. The trafficker was someone known to the family, but she never had to go through a recruiter or a transporter. This is similar with regards to the trafficking of domestic laborers. There is usually only one or two people who are involved in the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of the victim (Owen, et al., 2015).

Law enforcement involvement has revealed the groups involved in trafficking. A study was done in 2015 which interviewed law enforcement and human trafficking victims to assess suspected traffickers and their process of recruiting. Regarding domestic slavery, 46% of the suspects exploited a person domestically with 44% of these being in private residences and 2% being in an assisted living facility (Owen, et al., 2015). Of the 46% many of them were both recruited and employed by the same person (Owen, et al., 2015). 76% of the domestic slavery suspects were not United States citizens (Owen, et al., 2015). Most of the victims of domestic servitude were a single victim who was a woman (Owen, et al., 2015). These results show how difficult it is to track domestic slaves. If a victim has one or two people handling the whole trafficking process, and that individual is the only one being exploited, then it much harder to track because less people are involved in the process. Overall, only 48.5% of the suspects were ever arrested (Owen, et al., 2015).

When a person is being exploited by one or two people, the trafficker, recruiter, and exploiter is usually one or two people who took advantage of a situation where they could exploit the individual (Owen, et al., 2015). Victims were also often told by their trafficker that no one would help them or that they have powerful connections who can hurt them or their close family or friends (Owen, et al., 2015; Sigmon, 2008). Other types of forced labor consist of a more complicated recruiting process usually with other middle men helping, as the trafficking process is much less personal (Owen, et al., 2015).

Trafficking of suspects can present itself in different ways. However, to combat situations such as these, especially those of domestic servitude where not very many people are involved in the whole process, preventive measures are essential to implement. The United States government has implemented some policies and programs to assist with this.

III. CURRENT POLICIES TO COMBAT MODERN SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States has worked vigorously to combat human trafficking, especially since 2000 when the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was created. The TVPA works towards protection of trafficked victims worldwide and locally as well as combating human trafficking (U.S. Department of State, 2017). With this, the U.S. has been developing more policies towards the protection of victims, prevention of human trafficking, and prosecution of traffickers. Among the countries of the world, the United States is considered “first tier” (U.S. Department of State, 2017). The tiers are a categorization method from the US trafficking in person’s report, based on standards explained in TVPA which is based on a minimum standard. The TVPA minimum standard can be summarized by the four following statements:

“(1) The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking.

(2) For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault.

(3) For the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense.

(4) The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons”

(Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000; U.S Department of State, 2017, P. 25-29)

Tier 1 are countries that completely meet this minimum standard. Tier 2 are countries who do not meet this standard, but are making significant efforts to change this (U.S Department of State, 2017, P. 25-29). Tier 2 watchlist falls under the above tier 2 definition, but the absolute number of victims known is significantly high and/or increasing (U.S Department of State, 2017, P. 25-29). Also, there is a failure to provide evidence for their significant efforts to meet this standard, and the country has presented a plan for the next year to meet this. Tier 3 does not meet these requirements and are not making significant efforts to do so (U.S Department of State, 2017, P. 25-29).

Below are the policies in place in the US which have provided significant improvement toward combating human trafficking (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017). These policies and groups have been effective in identifying victims, protecting victims, and prosecuting traffickers. Below are short explanations of their roles in the fight against human trafficking.

In 2007, the US Department of Justice created the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) which specializes in prosecuting criminals related to sex trafficking, and conducts research toward human trafficking. They partner with U.S. Attorney's offices and law enforcement across the country to help develop human trafficking prosecutions and investigations (Department of Justice, 2017). The HTPU also works with Mexico to exchange information, expertise, and leads to prosecute traffickers in the United States and Mexico (Department of Justice, 2017). Lastly, the HTPU collaborated with law enforcement and other partners to provide training and guidance to help identify traffickers and victims (Department of Justice, 2017). The HTPU also has created programs as well, such as the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) and Violent Crimes Against Children Section (VCACS) to combat

child sex trafficking (Department of Justice, 2017). The Civil Rights Unit (CRU) in the FBI investigates sex trafficking and labor trafficking (Department of Justice, 2017).

However, there are far more acts that are being done. To name a few: The Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), The Mann Act, The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT), and The National Defense Authorization Act (Polaris, 2016). RICO allows the federal government to effectively prosecute members of organized crime which include human trafficking (Polaris, 2016). The Mann Act works specifically towards sex trafficking, which criminalizes transporting minors and coercing adults for commercial sex across state and international borders (Polaris, 2016). PROTECT further protects children from human trafficking by enhancing the penalties if convicted of engaging in sex tourism with children (Polaris, 2016). PROTECT also provides grants for housing for children of sexual assault and notifies the public through the Amber Alert system when a child is found to exploited or abducted (Polaris, 2016). The National Defense Authorization Act tries to limit human trafficking associated with government contractors (Polaris, 2016). Thus, government contractors can terminate any contract or grant associated with human trafficking without penalty (Polaris, 2016). It also requires all grants over \$500,000 to have a contract stating that no party will engage with human trafficking and if there is any suspect of human trafficking associated with the contract then it can be investigated (Polaris, 2016).

Even though there are all of these wonderful policies and anti-trafficking services, there is only one policy in my research which is specifically focused on domestic servitude. The 2008 reauthorization of the TVPA protects domestic workers who have visas under diplomats (TVRPA, 2008). This protects the rights of domestic workers and requires a written contract

which allows the Department of State to monitor domestic worker's conditions and suspend such visas if the diplomatic personnel of country of the diplomat has exploited A-3/ G-5 workers or tolerated such abuse (TVRPA, 2008, §1375c). Some states such as New York ("About the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Law", 2010) and California ("The Domestic Worker Bill of Rights", 2014) have created a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights which protects domestic workers from underpay, days off, harassment, and overtime hours.

The United States anti-trafficking programs have been successful in prosecuting human traffickers. In recent years, between 2006-2016 the amount of human trafficking cases filed has increased by 79% with an increase by 68% of defendants prosecuted (Department of Justice, 2017). The FBI has many investigations in place which are related to human trafficking. The FBI reported in the United States Department of Justice 2017 "National Strategies to Combat Human trafficking" that approximately 1/5th to 1/3rd of their labor investigations were domestic servitude situations which shows the prevalence of it. The most trafficked victims came from Mexico, China, and the Philippines (Department of Justice, 2017).

Although there has been a significant increase in prosecutions, the number of cases is a very small fraction of what the estimated number of victims is. The Department of Justice from 2001-2005 charged 248 defendants and convicted 140 (Department of Justice, 2017). However, the Department of Justice (2017) estimates the number of victims brought into the United States is 17,500 yearly. Also, some of the policies in the United States actually hurt domestic labors, and traffickers use these policies to control them (Hsu, 2007).

The Fair Labors Standards act, which controls minimum wages and maximum hours does not apply to domestic employees because there are no max hours for residing employees (Polaris, 2011). Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prevents sexual harassment and employee

discrimination in the workplace, but this only applies to employers with 15 or more employees which is usually not the case with domestic workers (Polaris, 2011).

The National Labor Relations Act, which defines worker's rights as an allowance to organize, strike, or bargain, does not include domestic workers (Polaris, 2011). Thus, domestic slavery is considered a whole separate category by the United States which in society has been proven to be lowly and under the control of a "master" (Hsu, 2007). The United States government has not properly addressed domestic slavery. These laws which exclude domestic laborers, can be and have been used against victims to keep them in fear (Hsu, 2007). The victims are scared of the consequences and they do not know the groundwork of these laws which traffickers can use to keep them in check (Sigmon, 2008).

Even though the United States has made significant efforts in combating human trafficking, there has not been enough efforts made towards domestic slavery. The FBI reported that domestic slavery made a significant portion of their labor investigation, but there are not many policies made to combat this specifically (Department of Justice, 2017). Many programs and policies made have been geared towards sex trafficking and child slavery. Even the United States Department of State report of 2016 acknowledged that not many of their prosecutions within the past 10 years have included much labor trafficking and was primarily focused on sex trafficking. Thus, there needs to be more done to assist those who find themselves in situations that are not in sex trafficking and child trafficking. One of the key factors in combating other types of slavery, specifically domestic slavery is through preventive measures and education.

IV. ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGNS AND MISPERCEPTIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There are many anti-trafficking programs and campaigns. However, these campaigns can be misleading (O'Brien, 2016). This could be a contributory factor to the lack of identification of victims. Stories can teach us about what human trafficking truly is as each one is unique and traffickers' tactics can change. There is also a primary concern about prosecuting victims (Yoo, 2015) which leaves the prevention of human trafficking, and protection of victims at the bottom of government's concerns. This lack of concern for prevention and protection as well as the misconceptions of human trafficking can further push domestic servants in the dark of anti-trafficking movements.

There hasn't been a concern regarding prevention of trafficking and protection of victims in the world's governments, but nations have been more focused on prosecution of traffickers (Yoo, 2015). This is not only true in the United States, but in other countries as well. A study in 2015 that evaluated multiple countries' human trafficking protocols from 2000-2006, found these focuses across the board (Yoo, 2015). The policy index evaluates multiple countries, individually, on their efforts in combating human trafficking as defined by the United Nations, using multiple factors

In figure 2, there is only one point in time where prevention is just as important, if not a little higher in the policy index (Yoo, 2015). However, despite that sharp increase of the line in 2002, the mean value dramatically drops in 2003 while prosecution continues to ascend (Yoo, 2015). Protection is at the bottom of government's concern which is also just as important in combating human trafficking (Yoo, 2015). Rodgers (2008) states that prevention through public awareness

and professional education is not enough to combat human trafficking and although I agree with this statement, there have not been as many protocols towards prevention, thus there needs to be major improvements on this front. Also, across the board, prosecution policies continue to increase as prevention and protection policies plateau.

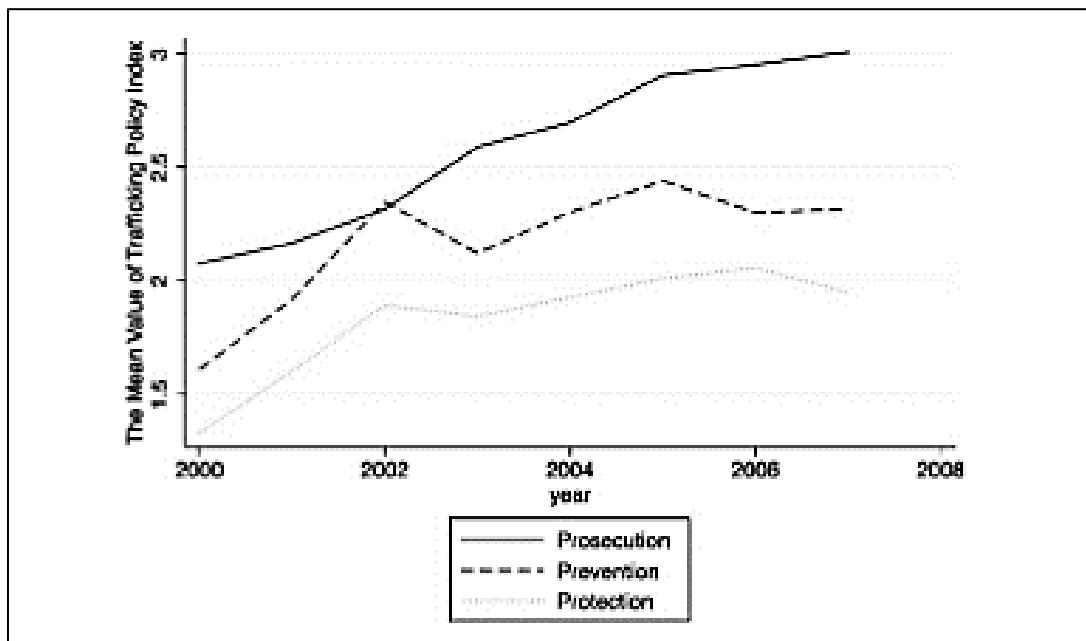


Figure 2. Yoo, 2015. Analysis of prosecution, prevention, and protection policies of various governments.

Gallagher (2010) argues that prevention and protection are vital for successful prosecution. However, to deepen this argument even more, case studies have shown that education affects effective prosecution and protection (Lebov 2010; Simeunovic-Patic,& Copic, 2010). This statement indicates that prevention is one of the most important aspects in combating human trafficking (Lebov 2010; Simeunovic-Patic,& Copic, 2010). Some studies suggest that if effective prevention strategies are not put in place soon, then human trafficking can exceed other types of trafficking (Wheaton, 2010). Prosecution is much easier to implement and people want to see traffickers prosecuted for their crimes (Yoo, 2015). However, it is difficult to prosecute someone if they cannot be identified in the first place. This is one of the difficulties of domestic

servitude. The trafficker and the victim are not easily identified. Prevention, is more effective and just as essential. Stories such as my Mother's provides a framework for understanding human trafficking. These various stories contribute to the understanding of the process of trafficking and ultimately the trafficker (O'brien, 2016). Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken a grasp on prevention and through education of the public (O'brien, 2016).

However, anti-trafficking campaigns which provide public awareness of human trafficking, may also provide false understanding of what human trafficking is and who is involved (O'brien, 2016). These campaigns often times depict a "young female, kidnapped or duped into forced prostitution" (O'brien, 2016, p. 208) and they are often times under the control of Johns, brothel owners, or pimps. This common depiction of what human trafficking is like leaves out other types of trafficking. Also, this leaves the audience to believe that the trafficker is a disagreeable member of society and not one's neighbor or friend/family. Also, media largely affects public awareness and their perception of human trafficking (Farrell & Fahy, 2009) which has been inaccurately portrayed and focused on sex trafficking (Brennan, 2010; Cheng, 2008).

What these campaigns and the media do, is skew the public's view of what trafficking is and provide a misperception or ignorance of the victim and the trafficker (Farrell & Fahy, 2009). The creation of these "heroes and villains" contributes to the social problems contributing to human trafficking (Stone, 2002). Also, Cunningham and Cromer (2016) in a survey of the U.S. public found that people who believed human trafficking myths such as "human trafficking must include elements of physical force, restraint, bondage, and/or violence" (Cunningham & Cromer, 2016, p.240) deny or justify trafficking and either blame the victim or excuse the trafficker. There are many villains and heroes that people do not perceive to be there. For example, governments although moving forward to combat human trafficking can contribute to the

problem. Some of the labor policies given previously, are examples of this. Public awareness and attitude towards human trafficking is also affected by stereotypes against illegal immigrants which can prevent the identification of victims (Roby, 2008). Bishop, Morgan, and Erickson in 2013 surveyed European citizens regarding their awareness of human trafficking and people who were more concerned with human trafficking had strong views about immigration and immigrant rights.

However, there are other problems that occur due to the lack of awareness and treatment of domestic slaves. One of the main problems with domestic slavery is that domestic work is considered lowly in society, so people completely disregard domestic workers (Hsu, 2007). Domestic workers are often women, immigrants, poor (Hsu, 2007) and do not speak English well, if at all. This contributes to people disregarding them and making them harder to identify. When people would go to the Lady's house for dinner parties or visits they would be suspicious but considered my mother to be what the Lady told them she was. My mother could be a maid or a Chinese girl who she took in while she was Vietnam. Maybe someone did know, but this will never be known as there was no one who did anything to try to free her. Like how my mother's trafficker coerced her, many domestic servants are threatened and kept using psychological tactics. Since, domestic workers are often at the mercy of their trafficker for necessities, withholding food is a common punishment or use of control towards domestic slaves. (Hsu, 2007). There are cases of women who have been quickly deported without the identification of them being trafficked or consideration of such a possibility (Hsu, 2007).

Many victims are scared to get help due to these threats or they do not know where or who to get help from (Rezaie, 2016; Sigmon, 2007). Even if they do have authorities nearby, many workers do not trust the authorities or fear deportation (Rezaie, 2016; Sigmon, 2007).

Thus, many misconceptions of trafficking and the fear from the victim keeps them from being identified (Cunningham, 2016; Sigmon, 2008).

Education is vital for the prevention of human trafficking (Bishop, 2013). Education of professionals is key to identifying victims. Law enforcement and health care providers encounter victims and oftentimes can provide a "safe space" for them (Ahn, 2013). For specifically domestic servitude, I believe law enforcement and health care provider education is essential, as they are first responders and likely encounter human trafficking victims (Helton, 2016). Understanding, what human trafficking really is and how various processes of it works is vital in combating it. Since every story, such as my mothers', is unique they contribute to our understanding of the human trafficking process which in turn assists in how to combat it. With this understanding, health care professionals and law enforcement will be able to successfully identify victims prior to being exploited and/or while being trafficked as they are first responders.

V. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPACT

The United States government has done a lot to combat human trafficking, but there have also been a lot of efforts to combat human trafficking through means other than implementing laws. Health care professionals, law enforcement, social workers, and non-profit organizations, among other groups have also done plenty to combat it, which is beneficial to assist to prevent, protect, and prosecute. However, I would like to focus on health care professionals and law enforcement because the collaboration of the two would be effective in combating human trafficking, especially those of domestic servitude. Both professions encounter human trafficking victims and can assist the victims to safety (Helton, 2016). However, due to lack of awareness,

many victims go unidentified (Ahn, 2013). Regarding domestic slavery, identifying victims is difficult due to many reasons and through the collaboration of law enforcement and health care professionals this may make identifying victims easier.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL INTERVENTION IN IDENTIFYING VICTIMS

Health care involvement is vital since victims suffer from multiple symptoms post-trafficking and even while being trafficked (Sian, 2016). My mother, for example suffers from chronic back pain and chronic headaches. However, she is considered one the lucky ones regarding her health problems as many survivors sustain more injuries and psychological problems post-trafficking (Sian, 2016). Also, many trafficking victims encounter a health professional while being trafficked (Nursing for Women's Health, 2016) thus the importance of health professionals' awareness and identification of victims is essential in combating trafficking.

A study done in England explored the mental and health effects of victims, pre-trafficking, during trafficking, and post-trafficking (Sian, 2016). This survey incorporated people of all types of trafficking and consisted of men and women (Sian, 2016). 90.7% of the labor victims were victims of domestic servitude (Sian, 2016). Many of these labor victims were under extreme restriction movement (Sian, 2016) which shows why it is difficult to identify domestic labors. They are usually kept in the home of the trafficker and not allowed to leave the premises without a chaperone (Sian, 2016). Psychological problems reported were PTSD, depression, and anxiety which were present in 79% of women (Sian, 2016). The most common symptoms reported were chronic headache, fatigue, chronic back pains, dizzy spells, and memory problems (Sian, 2016). My mother has two of the above symptoms (chronic headaches and back pain). Of

this study, only 13% of the participants were asymptomatic with regards to psychological problems (Sian, 2016). Thus, my mother is in the low percentage of people who do not suffer from a psychological diagnosis. And I think one of the most important statistics in this survey is that 71% of people reported that they are still afraid of their trafficker (Sian, 2016). Fear of the trafficker is a large reason why victims are hard to identify since victims won't identify out of fear that their trafficker will harm them (Sigmon, 2008).

My mother also is in the minority of victims in that she is not afraid of her trafficker. She has tried to find her trafficker years after escaping exploitation to talk about what happened. I think the mentality that my mother has towards her trafficker, contributes to her lack of psychological symptoms. However, this mentality also contributed to her enslavement as she thought of her trafficker as family. This mentality can be dangerous in some aspects since she returned to her trafficker, but once freed she didn't live in fear as most victims tend to (Sigmon, 2008). This sort of mentality again, has helped her cope.

However, these trafficking statistics show that health care involvement in the care and identification of victims is important. The approach at which health care providers treat victims is important because many victims are still scared of their trafficker and do not trust people of authority. In a study done in 2014 on sex trafficking victims reports that 87.8% of victims reported interacting with a health care professional while being trafficked (Lederer and Wetzel, 2014). In another survey by the family violence prevention fund, 8% of victims encountered a health care worker while being trafficked and were not recognized (Nursing for Women's Health, 2016). Oftentimes the trafficker will fill out forms and speak on behalf of the victim which can be a red flag (Bohnert et al., 2017). Even when the trafficker is not present there is still the fear factor as reported above. Victims also usually do not trust people of authority. As a

provider and health care professional, it is vital to create a “safe space” for the victim (Ahn,2013) as a way to build this trust. There are multiple things a health care provider should do in order to successfully identify the victim.

Identifying victims relies of certain symptoms and social cues which can be listed in the below table.

Physical
Malnutrition or dehydration.
Delayed health care.
Signs of physical trauma, including being beaten, punched, kicked, burned, stabbed, strangled, or shot.
Signs of sexual abuse.
Head or facial injuries.
Tattoos indicating that the victim is property.
Signs of self-harm.
Serials cases of STIs.
Signs of substance abuse.
Need for reproductive health services at a young age.
Behavioral
Accompanied by overbearing employer or other adult.
Conflicting or inconsistent history.
Depressed mood.
Reluctance to speak to clinician.

Figure 3. Bohnert, 2017 signs of and symptoms that could possibly indicate a human trafficking victim.

Some other symptoms that also should raise a red flag according to the National Human Trafficking Resources Center, is debris in the vaginal vault and/or rectal vault, jaw/neck problems, inability to keep appointments, and lack of documentation, immunization records, or health care encounters. These cues and symptoms are just some of the symptoms to be aware of when encountering a trafficking victim. Another main thing to take into account when coming in

contact with a victim is to respect the patient and be non-judgmental (Nursing for Women's Health, 2016) as these patients are fearful to be identified as human trafficking victims.

The United States health care system has made efforts to incorporate human trafficking programs to teach health care providers as such. The American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Emergency Physicians has made programs to increase awareness (Powell, 2017). American health professionals' awareness has increased in recent years because of programs such as these (Powell, 2017). A study was done to see the effectiveness of these programs. What was found is that consistent information regarding the information of human trafficking and what to look for is vital in these lessons, but also teaching the awareness of the different types of trafficking because all stories are different (Powell, 2017). It was also found that health care providers do not know treat patients of human trafficking which needs to be more incorporated in lessons rather than just the awareness part (Powell, 2017). Despite these efforts, a study reported that only 4.8% of emergency physicians felt confident with identifying victims (Bohnert, 2017).

At the University of Louisville a required class called the Medical Student Instruction in Global Human Trafficking (M-SIGHT) was created to teach medical students how to address signs and symptoms of human trafficking (Bohnert, 2017). Long term research has not been conducted on this program, but pilot data reported students who took this course showed an increase in their ability to identify and assist victims (Bohnert, 2017). Medical school is a vital point in a health care providers' education and incorporating human trafficking awareness and treatment in its curriculum would be beneficial in the human trafficking movement to assist victims. It is vital to make sure to teach health care professionals how to treat and deal with human trafficking victims. Although, there are many medical professionals in the field currently

who come in contact with human trafficking victims (Nursing for Women's Health, 2016). There needs to be resources for them to access as well, as these providers are past the point of being in school. Roy Anh, et al. (2013) found that there were 27 resources relating to training health care professionals to identify victims. All of them were established sometime from 2003-present which is indicative of the increased awareness of human trafficking in health care (Ahn, 2013). Even though there are these resources available, many providers do not take these courses to become aware. The American Journal of Nursing provided continuing education credit to take the course if the health care professional passed a post-test (Ahn, 2013) which could provide a sort of incentive for health care professionals to attend these courses.

However, improvements need to be done towards refining health care awareness and effectiveness of lessons. What was also found in the above study was that most of these resources did not distinguish signs and symptoms between labor trafficking and sex trafficking (Anh, 2013). Most, also did not provide tactical advice on how to work with the patient and ways to separate the trafficker and the victim in the room (Anh, 2013). This study shows that even though these programs are being implemented they are still developing in terms of quality. Thus, there needs to be long term studies to assess the effects and improvement of these programs.

Health care professional awareness is one of the key factors to combating human trafficking. People in the health care system come in contact with human trafficking victims while being trafficked and after trafficking (Nursing for Women's Health, 2016). They can provide assistance in identifying victims by creating a safe space and looking for certain social cues (Anh, 2013). There is a movement in the health care system in providing education for health care professionals, but it is newly formed and still developing. The same goes for law

enforcement and I believe the collaboration of the two would be beneficial in helping with this improvement.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPACT ON MODERN SLAVERY

Law enforcement plays a vital role in identifying victims as they are first responders to many incidents. In a survey done in Georgia, it was found that a majority of cases that involved human trafficking was discovered through investigations involving other crimes, traffic stops, or house calls (Grubb, 2012). This survey shows that local law enforcement does play a role in identifying and assisting victims. However, there are many factors that complicate the role that law enforcement plays in combating human trafficking.

Yvon Dandurand (2015) explores the obstacles that prevent or complicate this. With regards to labor trafficking specifically, traffickers will change their methods of trafficking patterns and recruitment to defeat these efforts. Also, victim cooperation plays a role into this struggle. Victims provide the most evidence in prosecuting a trafficker and it is important that they step forward in this process. However, many victims are fearful of their trafficker as stated in the prior health care section (Sigmon, 2008). Victims are reluctant to participate in the justice system, not just out of fear, but because they don't trust law enforcement (Farrell, 2012). Thus, to combat human trafficking effectively, it is important to understand how traffickers utilize various tactics control victims. Stories as my mother's assists in providing inside information. Another, obstacle in law enforcement is that human trafficking characteristics are like that of other crimes such as migrant smuggling (Yvon, 2015). It is difficult to tell the difference between someone who is being trafficked as opposed to someone who is being smuggled (Tinti, 2016). However, as noted earlier someone who originally was smuggled can become a

trafficking victim (Collins, 2014). Also, many human trafficking legislation conflicts with immigration enforcement policies (Loftus, 2011), which provides a whole other problem. Many law enforcement officers have had little to no training and/or are unaware of the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States (Grubb, 2012). Therefore, smuggling can be easily confused with trafficking (Grubb, 2012). In the same study in Georgia, 75.5% of agencies had human trafficking victims in the past 4 years (Grubb, 2012). Many station blame expenses for such training or they state that it is not a problem of the local police and is more suited for federal investigations (Grubb, 2012). There are many factors that present difficulty in implementing human trafficking teams and training in local enforcement. Although, there is unknown causes as to why some stations are more successful in developing proficient human trafficking protocols (Farrell, 2014).

However, as stated before, local authorities have such an influence on identifying victims (Grubb, 2012) which can be more effective if there is collaboration between health care professionals and law enforcement. This combination would assist in creating a safe space for the victim and building trust between the victim and the authorities. Helton (2016) makes this proposal as there are benefits with this. He proposes a joint task force which is comprised of a human trafficking resource officer, front line health care providers, and a local human trafficking law enforcement task force. The human trafficking resource officer would be an in between position of health care providers and law enforcement. They are knowledgeable about both medical issues regarding human trafficking as well as law enforcement protocols developed to combat human trafficking. However, how realistic this proposal is could be questionable as a main concern in the medical field as well as in law enforcement is money. Helton (2016), proposes using federal government grant incentives to provide the money for such a program.

Which, this would be very possible, but setting up a task force in every state, at every region would take some time. Also, although the collaboration of law enforcement and health care professionals would be beneficial for victims, this would create problems with the health insurance portability and accountability act (HIPPA) (Helton, 2016). Helton's solution is to modify HIPPA to benefit victims, which could be possible, but there is conflict in the patient's desires and whether they feel safe contacting the authorities. Health care professionals who can provide a safe space as stated previously (Anh, 2013) may be able to assist victims in trusting law enforcement as well. With the collaboration of the two professionals, there may be resolution of some of these underlying problems that come with law enforcement involvement and health care involvement in identifying victims.

There are many benefits with collaborating health care professionals with law enforcement in identifying victims because having multiple eyes and insights to identify victims would be effective. However, there are many problems that are present with this collaboration. Although, these hindrances can be costly and time consuming, it is a possibility for the future which would assist in prevention, protection, and prosecution of victims.

VI. CONCLUSION

Human Trafficking is prevalent in every country including the United States. However, some people have misconceptions as to what human trafficking is and what it entails (O'brien, 2016). The reality is that human trafficking is present in many different forms and every story is unique. My mother's story is one example of what human trafficking could entail. She is a former domestic servant which is the second most reported type of trafficking in the United States by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline (Polaris, 2016).

Stories such as my mother's provide a framework for our understanding as to what human trafficking is and how to combat it which is why it is vital to listen to them.

Her story also provides insight as to how she copes with such a history and shows the significance of the impact that the people around her had and still have today. It's through her support system and the forgiveness of her trafficker as to why she is able to cope with this. However, her story also gives insight and a description as to what domestic servitude can be here in the United States. Someone who the public may see as an in-house maid could have a whole different background story. Thus, it's important to listen and be there for those who we may just disregard. If the people who helped my mother just ignored her, such as the shuttle driver or her dad's friend, she may have never found her freedom. Listening to stories of victims makes us realize what impact, even with the little things, we could have to assist in this global problem.

Efforts are being made by governments all around the world (Department of Justice, 2017). The United States is at the forefront of this movement and non-governmental organizations have made significant efforts regarding trafficking (Department of Justice, 2107). However, there are problems with some of these efforts and there needs to be further development in this movement.

The United States has not made enough efforts to combat domestic servitude and victims are difficult to identify due to multiple factors. These include: victim's fear, recruiting strategies, public perception of domestic work, etc (Sigmon, 2008; Yvon, 2015; Cunningham, 2016) Even though the United States is at the forefront of the movement against human trafficking, it fails to meet the needs of all types of trafficking in the current policies. However, policies are not the only and most effective way to combat human trafficking. Thus, there has been other efforts made by non-profit organizations and companies. This is beneficial, but some of these anti-

trafficking campaigns may provide false or skewed imagery which can alter the public's view of what human trafficking is (O'brien, 2016). There are many factors that go into the difficulty in identifying human trafficking victims especially domestic servants. Some of these policies and misconceptions play into it the lack of identification of victims.

However, something I think would be beneficial especially with combating domestic servitude is education of professionals, specifically health care professionals and law enforcement since they are first responders and able to collaborate to combat this. Also, providing accurate information which includes training in all types of trafficking is beneficial to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. Stories, such as my mothers are important to listen to because they are first-hand accounts and can provide vital information needed to understand what human trafficking entails pre-trafficking, during trafficking, and post trafficking. These stories can be used to effectively identify victims as well as prevent, protect, and prosecute. Although, this type of push is relatively new and thus many of these programs have not evaluated the long-term effects of it. Therefore, there needs to be further studies done in the upcoming years of the long-term effects of these programs on professionals' skill at identifying victims as well as the quantitative impact. Accurate education of professionals and education of the public through these stories can help effectively combat human trafficking and assist those victims in need of it.

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