



Amsterdam's Red Light District

Sex Trafficking

Prepared by Robyn Hyden

WARNING: Learning about the modern-day slavery conditions in which many of the world's women live is disturbing. It will be difficult to investigate this travesty without gaining a desire to seek to influence a change in the situation and involve oneself in meeting needs.

How to use this Study Guide

- Read over the entire guide before you meet with your Global Women (GW) community and determine which parts you will want to use when you gather. Ask different ones to present the various parts of the guide in creative ways. In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your preparation and to open the hearts and minds of those who gather to ways they can personally respond to the needs mentioned.
- When you gather as a community, begin with prayer and then ask some opening discussion questions to help focus thoughts on the topic; use the suggested scripture; investigate the topic using the materials presented below; determine ways your GW community can address/meet the needs mentioned on both a local and global scale; consider further ways your GW community can influence decision-makers about these needs.

Suggested Scriptures

"The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me.
He sent me to preach good news to the poor,
heal the heartbroken,
Announce freedom to all captives,
pardon all prisoners.
God sent me to announce the year of his grace—
a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies
and to comfort all who mourn WITHOUT A VOICE." Isaiah 61:1

These categories and scripture references are taken from the *Prayer Guide for the Victims of Sex Trafficking* available from the Salvation Army Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking, PO Box 269, Alexandria, VA 22313 or by calling 703.519.5893.

- Remembering the Victims: Isaiah 42:22, Leviticus 19:29, and Joel 3:3

- Considering the Traffickers and Exploiters: Psalm 10
- God's Purposes: Isaiah 61:1-3
- Life and Liberty through Christ: John 8:36, John 10:10

Overview of the Issue

Women and children from economically impoverished areas around the world are being captured, sold, or forced to work as slaves at this very moment, often in the sex industry. Sex trafficking comes in many forms and has many different faces, but make no mistake: all forms of sex trafficking are a form of slavery. All of them may affect your community. And the problem will not go away unless we do something about it.

In some types of human trafficking, young children are sold into the trade by relatives who want money. These victims are then enslaved until they can pay for their own release. In another common scenario, women are lured to a far-away place with false promises of easy work and high pay in a tourism job, a study abroad program, or some other industry, only to find that the work is prostitution and the pay is non-existent. These women are then forced to work until they can pay back a debt to their captors. In a third scenario, women and young girls are kidnapped and sexually exploited for money. Alternately, women and girls may be lured into a relationship with a pimp with gifts, flattery, and alcohol or drugs, before she becomes dependent upon him and is sexually exploited.

While these situations may sound extreme or unlikely, make no mistake: they can, and do, happen daily, all over the world. The CIA estimates that *each year, anywhere from 700,000 to two million people* become victims of human sex trafficking. However, this estimate may be conservative, depending on how you define human trafficking. By one definition human trafficking involves *any transport of humans for sexual exploitation of any kind*. Sex trafficking exists in a shadowy illegal underworld, breaking local and international laws. For this reason, the exact number of victims of human trafficking is hard to estimate. What is clear is that it remains a huge problem.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery.

The US Department of State estimates 600,000-800,000 trans-national trafficking victims each year.

Today, 27 million people are enslaved, more than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade (Christian Science Monitor, September 1, 2004).

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world (UNICEF).

1.8 million estimated child sex-trafficking victims around the world each year (ILO 2002).

Over 80per cent of human trafficking victims are sexually exploited and abused (UNICEF 2003)

The U.S. State Department estimates that 80 per cent of trafficking victims are women or girls (about 640,000 each year).

The Council of Europe estimates that \$42.5 billion, annually, is grossed in the world human trafficking industry.

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and it is the fastest growing.



Worldview

Some well-known centers of sex trafficking include Southeast Asia, Central America, West Africa, and Eastern Europe. However, the sex trafficking network extends around the globe. Victims are transported from these areas into wealthy Western nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia. The FBI estimates that as many as 100,000 children are currently involved in sex trafficking in the United States alone; these children come from overseas, or from within the United States.

Trafficking can occur internationally or even right here in the USA: right here in our own back yards. As an advocate I see and hear of trafficking happening in our everyday communities with our young women and girls. It doesn't have to be done across borders. It can happen across a state or a community line. If a person takes a woman from point A to point B with the intent of prostituting her body, it is trafficking, says Brenda, a sex trafficking survivor, who is now an advocate for The Salvation Army "Promise" (Partnership to Rescue our Minors from Sexual Exploitation) program.

Victims of human trafficking disproportionately come from third-world countries, and are often poor, uneducated, and otherwise disadvantaged. They are prevented from escaping through physical restraint, physical threats, drug dependency, and economic dependency. Young men and boys as well as women and young girls can be victimized. Local and national governments often collude or turn a blind eye to trafficking within their own borders, effectively condoning the sale, enslavement, and sexual exploitation of human beings.

Like drug traffickers, sex traffickers profit from the sale of an illegal product – yet in the case of sex trafficking, the product is a human body, which can be sold and exploited repeatedly. Sex trafficking is extremely lucrative. In order for the sex trade to thrive, paying clients must be complicit in the abuse, exploitation, and illegal activities that they condone by paying for sex. Sometimes these clients knowingly exploit victims by participating in sex tourism to seek out child victims; in other cases, they may meet a prostitute in a bar and pay for sex, not knowing that she will keep little or none of the profits, and will have no chance to leave her *employer*. In order to maximize profits, pimps coerce victims, resorting to brutal tactics to make them dependent and compliant, resulting in a modern, world-wide slave trade.

Victims of sex trafficking are not always foreigners, or children. Victims can be taken from affluent areas of North America and Europe as well, tricked by promises of a modeling career or a lucrative job, or in some cases kidnapped by an acquaintance. However, all victims of human trafficking, whether they come from Cambodia, Columbia, or Cleveland, Ohio, share one thing in common: bondage. Sex slaves are often rendered powerless by being moved to a new area where they do not know anyone, kept in debt bondage, and sometimes forced to work for no compensation until they pay their captors for release. This can take years, since captors may also dock their pay for the cost of food, shelter, and medical care. Often, all of their identification documents and personal belongings are confiscated, so that they feel powerless and have no chance of escape. Being relocated also means that these victims likely have no way to communicate with outsiders, who may not even speak the same language, and have no way to navigate the local culture to seek help.

On top of this hopeless situation, enslaved women and children are often demoralized, physically abused, sexually assaulted, and bought and sold like commodities. Women who give birth while in captivity may see their children kept from them, as insurance that they will not attempt to escape. Enslaved women and children may also be told that their families will be harmed if they do not comply. These victims thus become completely dependent on their captors for food, shelter, and their basic survival, and are then coerced into participating in sex acts.

Global Issues Affection Women: Sex Trafficking

Victims of trafficking can be found in the commercial sex industry but also in domestic situations as nannies or servants, sweatshop factories, construction, farming or landscaping, fisheries, hotel or tourist industries, panhandling, janitorial services or in restaurants.

As you read this, women, children, and men around the world are being held against their will, abused, and forced to work with little hope of escape.

Impact

The leading health risk of sexually trafficked persons is premature death. The most common causes are homicide, suicide, drug- and alcohol-related problems, HIV infection and accidents. According to the Canadian Medical Journal in 2004, 89 percent of 785 persons in prostitution from nine countries wanted to escape prostitution. 75 percent of those in prostitution had been homeless at some point in their lives. 68 percent of 827 persons in different types of prostitution in nine countries met the criteria for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The severity of PTSD symptoms of participants in this study were the same range as treatment-seeking combat veterans, battered women seeking shelter, rape survivors, and refugees from state-organized torture.

One Global Women Response

Luda is a young woman that came into GW partner Yulia Ubeivolc's life as she met with young women who had been trafficked or involved in prostitution. Luda was trafficked out of Moldova but managed to escape and find her way home, but without documents, a welcoming family or means to support herself. Out of desperation, she returned to the only life she knew and became a prostitute. When Yulia met Luda, she was three months pregnant and considering her eighth abortion. With consistent, loving counsel and friendship from Yulia and members of her social work team, Luda chose to seek a different life and decided to keep her baby. Not long after his birth, Luda said of Alex, *he is the reason for my life now.*

Through Yulia's ministry, Luda began working through years of pain she has endured and also received parenting skills and job training. She is graduated from culinary school and hopes to get a job in a restaurant. Luda was recently married. A man she knew as a teenager found her, and began courting her. She finally agreed to marry him. They have asked for prayers because he is not a believer, yet. But, they feel he is a good man who loves Luda and Alex and will provide well for her, giving her the opportunity to continue with her career plans.

Survivors Stories and Testimonies

For stories of women from all across the globe log onto <http://actioncenter.polarisproject.org>.

Ideas for Involvement

Be alert to identify possible trafficking victim(s). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Campaign to *Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking* offers these clues:

- Is the person accompanied by a controlling person or boss; not speaking on their own behalf?
- Does the person lack control over their schedule, money, I.D., or travel documents?
- Are they transported to or from work?
- Do they live and work in the same place?
- Is the person rarely allowed in public, expect for work?
- Can you detect any bruises, depression, fear, or is the person overly submissive?



Global Issues Affecting Women

Asking the right questions can help you determine if the person you are concerned about is a victim of trafficking who needs your help. Before questioning a person who you think may be a victim of human trafficking, discretely separate the person from the individual who is with her. This could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, family member, or employer. Key questions to ask are:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave the job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to go to eat/sleep/to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors/windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?
- Does anyone keep you from having friends or going to religious services?

If you encounter what you believe to be human trafficking victim or situation, contact your local authorities, or call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 1-888-373-7888.**

Become informed. Understand that sex trafficking affects women and children from around the globe, and can even happen in your own backyard. Read the testimonies. Then talk about it. The more people know about the problem at here and abroad, the more can be done to put an end to modern-day slavery.

Visit Websites such as www.iast.net, www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking, www.nightlightinternational.com, www.notforsale.org, www.faastinternational.org, www.ecpatusa.org, www.catwinternational.org or <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes>.

Partner with a ministry helping restore trafficking victims for the purpose of sending care packages for the persons they serve. The items will vary so be sure to coordinate with program directors before sending packages. Here are two suggestions:

The Rescue Project, part of the Dream Center, seeks through a Christ centered approach to rescue and restore the lives of young women who have fallen victim to commercial sexual exploitation through Human Trafficking. Welcome baskets are needed for girls 11-17. Send items to The Rescue Project, c/o Brittany Hernandez, 2301 Bellevue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

In a laundry basket pack:

- A (girly appearance) journal
- A Bible (modern translation)
- An age-appropriate book
- Slippers
- Pens and highlighters
- Stationary
- Stamps
- Photo frame
- Shampoo and conditioner

Global Issues Affection Women: Sex Trafficking

- Body wash and loofa
- Body spray and lotion
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Hairbrush and comb
- Hair ties
- Deodorant
- A blanket (if handmade imagine the girls knowing that someone cared enough about them to make a blanket specifically for them)

Other needs include gift cards to Target, H&M, Forever21, Bed Bath & Beyond, Visa Gift Cards, and movie theaters AMC, Regal, Pacific theaters. Birthday box items are also needed and include G-rated movies, board games, books for teens, pampering items, nail polish, jewelry, etc

Stop the Traffik is an initiative of Oasis International, an organization that seeks to end human trafficking. When trafficked women are recovered, Rescue Kits help provide a hope-filled transition from bondage to freedom. Due to limited storage, Oasis can only hold 25 kits at a time. Please contact the Global Women office for an updated number of kits needed before beginning this project. An alternative to the rescue kit is to donate the requested Target gift card or International Calling Card. Ship to Oasis-Stop the Traffik, Hope International Church, 1741 South Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia CA 91007.

Pack all the following items in a new duffle bag.

- Fleece throw or soft blanket
- Journal & pen
- Handheld stress ball
- Socks
- Shampoo & conditioner (travel size)
- Soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry soap (travel size)
- Underwear
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Towel & washcloth
- Deodorant
- \$10 International Calling Card
- \$20 Target gift card
- Playing cards
- Pajamas
- Razor
- Sports bras
- Brush and hair tie
- Compact mirror

Advocate for policy changes at home and around the world. One starting point is to criminalize the buying of sex, not the selling of sex, and to strictly enforce such laws. Criminalizing prostitution does nothing except punish women who are often already victims of abuse, sexual exploitation, and drug addiction. If clients, rather than prostitutes, are punished with strict enforcement, the demand for the sex trade decreases dramatically.



Global Issues Affecting Women

Sweden and Norway have both adopted similar laws, and so far, both countries have seen a huge decrease in human trafficking. *All men who are thinking about buying sex should bear in mind that it's usually trafficking victims who are affected*, notes Anders Oljelund, the Swedish Government's ambassador for international cooperation against human trafficking. When criminal charges affect the patrons instead of the victims of the sex trade, we will start to see justice.

However, in countries where sex trafficking is endemic, laws and enforcement against human slavery may not even exist. In forty percent of countries with trafficking problems, not a single conviction for the crime has been recorded (UN Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Encourage the U.S. Congress to pass the Child Protection Compact Act, a bill to support poor countries' efforts to fight child trafficking. Sign the abolition petition to encourage your Congressman to support the bill (IJM.org/justicecampaigns).

Protect your own community from the sex trade: keep your eyes open for women and children who may be exploited. Often, young women and children from low-income or neglectful households are especially vulnerable. Also, help your own friends and children to become educated about the sexual exploitation occurring in our own communities. Organize to enforce zoning laws to close gentleman's (strip) clubs and massage parlors which are often fronts for prostitution and trafficking.

Discuss the issue of trafficking with people you know or meet. Make brochures and other literature available at information tables throughout your church and community.

Volunteer with existing agencies and community organizations to develop outreach to help women and children exit the sex industry. If none exist consider starting one. Start by identifying and mapping where the sex industry has a presence in your community. Then organize prayer teams to do prayer walks or prayer drive-bys in these areas. Strategize creative ways to do outreach to the women on the street or in strip clubs. Check with local police and social services providers for suggestions.

Shop on-line. There are ministries and businesses that sell merchandise produced by women and girls who have escaped exploitation. Your purchases can help sustain these enterprises. Here are a few of the sites you can visit: www.nightlightinternational.com, www.madebysurvivors.com, and www.freesetbags.com.

Translate. If you are fluent in a language other than English, consider volunteering to translate materials into other languages. To volunteer contact the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking at 703.519.5896.

Pray for those currently enslaved, those helping to fight slavery around the world, and the survivors of human trafficking.

Matters of Prayer

Participate in an International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Sex Trafficking. A prayer guide is available at <http://www.iast.net/documents/PrayerGuide.pdf>.

Investigate More About It

Log on to the Salvation Army's Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking (IAST) Website at www.iast.net and email anti_sextrafficking@salvationarmy.org and request an Advocacy Packet and/or ask to be added to their email distribution list to stay informed about efforts to abolish this travesty. Check out the extensive resource section on their Web site.

Read *Stop the Traffik: People Shouldn't Be Bought and Sold*. Order online: www.stopthetraffik.org/downloads/order-form-book.pdf

Download this packet, by Stop the Traffik (UK), for a free guide on how to tackle sex trafficking in your own community: <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/downloads/acts-pack.pdf>.

Host a viewing of International Justice Mission's *At the End of Slavery: The Battle for Justice in our Time* narrated by Danny Glover. This film shows undercover footage and first-person testimony of victims of sex trafficking. More information and a viewing guide available online: www.AtTheEndofSlavery.com. A viewing guide with discussion questions is also available on this Web site. Viewers can sign and mail abolition postcards from the site too.

View the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) film, *Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking*. Other resources are available on their Web site at www.usdoj.gov.

Read the *Trafficking in Persons Report* available at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm.

Discover what one teenage girl is doing to address this issue at <http://justustoday.org>.

Resources

The Salvation Army's Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking (IAST) Website at www.iast.net features an extensive resource section including books, videos, Web sites, articles and a list of advocacy and human service organizations addressing this issue.

Look Beneath the Surface materials in English and Spanish are available from the The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking. Their campaign is called *Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking*.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has resources available on their Web site at www.usdoj.gov.

Human trafficking is illegal. Visit www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/tpwetf.htm for information from the Trafficking in Persons and Work Exploitation Task Force.

Books

Adams, Carol J. *Violence Against Women and Children: A Christian Theological Sourcebook*. New York: Continuum, 1998.

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Global Issues Affecting Women

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Farley (Ed.), Melissa. *Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress*. New York: The Haworth Press, 2003.

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