



The New Caribbean Basin Initiative: Demystifying the scourge and taking action for Social Justice .

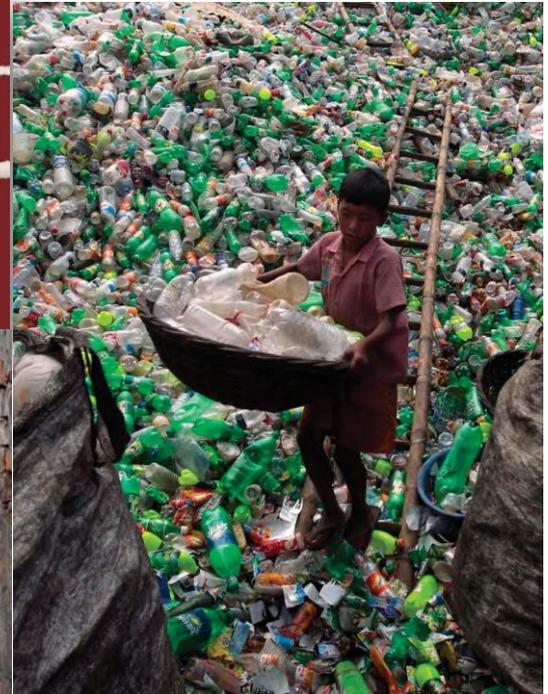
Presentation: Association of Caribbean Social Work Educators (ACSWE) 11th Biennial Conference Curacao July 8-12

Dr. Sylvester Bowie, Associate Professor California State University, Sacramento

Introduction:

- *“If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong.”*
- – Abraham Lincoln
- How much of a problem is Human Trafficking back home?
- The leaders of the countries of the Caribbean region are coming to the realization that Human Trafficking an act described by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as “a crime against humanity” is a scourge that is rearing its ugly head.
- The University community through its academies and Social Work practitioners in the field must be at the forefront of efforts to limit the impact of such activities on and involving the unsuspecting peoples of the area.

Photos from the 2013 TIP report



perception

- A two day workshop 2010 put on by the Organization of American States (OAS) one of their security experts Fernando García-Robles explained the following when he said:
- “A number of Caribbean countries that are favored tourist destinations are now the center of a growing sex tourism industry.”
- His concerns as he expressed them were: that the Free Movement of Skilled Nationals in CARICOM could result in increased human trafficking.
- And that in this dangerous cycle, children are a particularly vulnerable group in this type of trafficking.

Intent

- This presentation will define, discuss, and identify the state of Human Trafficking in the Caribbean region and explore strategies for practitioners to pinpoint and help in the prevention, protection and support of victims of such acts.
- It involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them.

Human Trafficking

- How would you describe/define what Human Trafficking is?
- And how is it perceived in your home country?



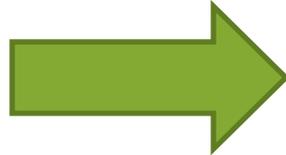
Defining Human Trafficking

- The United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>) defines Trafficking in Persons as:
 - “The **recruitment**, **transportation**, **transfer**, **harbouring** or **receipt of persons**, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of **coercion**, **of abduction**, **of fraud**, **of deception**, **of the abuse of power** or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”
- The group Stop Traffic Fashion (STF) (<http://stoptraffickfashion.com/about-us/about-human-trafficking/>)
- “Human trafficking is the fastest growing form of international crime and the second largest source of income for organized crime, surpassing even the drug trade.”

Definition cont.

- The Jewish federation of the Sacramento region: Human Trafficking is "modern day slavery".
- *The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/ Migration and Refugee Services*: Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person.
- They define human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion (same definition as others).

Local argument (Caribbean Basin)



Marissa Thomas is Programme Coordinator for Trinidad at the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)

Trafficking is a very real phenomenon in the Caribbean.

It is fueled by the feminization of poverty, gender based violence, and aspirations and hope for a better life.

Also, it is often facilitated by corrupt immigration and police officers and other intermediaries across the region.

What others are saying

- While not offering the evidence to support the claim MNI Alive makes the statement that:
- Barbados is a haven for women who are victims of trafficking, as well as men who are forced into construction, and children who are exploited for sex. In some cases, parents or guardians receive compensation for the child's participation in sexual activity.
- In the Dominican Republic, child sex tourism is a lucrative industry. It's sickening to think that tourists travel to island destinations to engage in pedophilia.

Definition Cont.

- Peters, Lederer and Kelly (2012) makes the critical point that pornography, prostitution, and sex trafficking are related phenomena. They say that women are trafficked into the production of hardcore pornography, and hardcore pornography in particular may trigger and exacerbate sexual desires and pathologies that motivate men to seek out the services of prostituted women.
- The link between human trafficking and pornography is further demonstrated with this important and profound statement: Pornography fuels prostitution, and prostitution fuels the sex trade.

What happening in the Caribbean

- According to the latest “Protection Project” report from John Hopkins University (<http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TIP-Review-2012-Final.pdf>), most of the island in the Caribbean are either “tier 2” or “tier 2 watch” countries.
- The ranking of countries and their compliance in combating or even recognizing the issue of human trafficking is a major project of the United States Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Reports).
- Besides the United States and Canada only two countries from the Americas (Nicaragua and Columbia) are ranked as Tier 1 countries.
- Most of the countries in the Caribbean are regarded as “tier 2” states while countries such as *Jamaica, Barbados and Surinam are described as on the “Tier 2 watch list”.
- * [Jamaica is now tier 2, but no longer on the watch list](#) (but really!)

Explaining the rankings

Tier Ranking	Explanation	Examples of countries
Tier I	countries whose governments fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons	United States, Canada, Israel, Sweden, Spain Nicaragua and Columbia (the two countries besides Canada and the US from the Americas) (total of 33 countries)

Tier 2 and tier 2 watch countries in the region

Tier 2	countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards	Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Curacao, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, St. Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines (total of 94 countries)
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Tier 2 watch list	countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards to take additional steps over the next year	Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Venezuela Kenya Lebanon, Liberia, Macau, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Suriname, Thailand (total of 41 countries)
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At the bottom of the heap

Tier 3	countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.	Algeria, Central African Republic, Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Korea, North, Cuba, Kuwait, Yemen and Zimbabwe (total of 17 countries)
Special Case		Somalia

Source: THE PROTECTION PROJECT REVIEW OF THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2013

<http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TIP-Review-2013-Final.pdf>

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Preventing Human Trafficking:

- Rapid report and response
- Advocacy for the victims
- Identify the sources or root causes of the activities.
- Prevent Human Trafficking an organization describing themselves as the second anti-trafficking organization in the US (<http://prevenhumantrafficking.org>) posit that ways to prevent Human Trafficking includes: the rapid use of technology to get the message out about the issue and issues such as:
 - unsafe migration
 - poverty
 - globalization
 - wars and
 - economics

What to do to prevent human trafficking Cont.

- The US State Department offers up a list of 20 things that can be done to combat Human Trafficking these include:
- Ideas that are not operationalized here nor is it being suggested that the list can be easily converted into practice/policy ideas, but the people of the Caribbean are creative and have been known to “Tun dem han to mek Fashion” translation- used opportunities to be creative.

#	Activity	Result
1	learning about the red flags that might indicate that trafficking is going on	so that you can help identify a potential trafficking victim
2	call the human trafficking resource center (in the US its (1-888-3737-888) Jamaica (1-888-PROTECT or 1-888-776-8328.)	
3	Be a conscientious consumer.	Discover your human trafficking footprints
4	Incorporate human trafficking information into your professional associations' conferences, trainings, manuals, and other materials	Talk about it discuss it keep it on the front burner
5	Join or start a grassroots anti-trafficking coalition.	
6	Meet with and/or write to your local, state, and federal government representatives to let them know that you care about combating human trafficking in your community	Find out what is being done to combat HT

7	Distribute public awareness materials	
8	Volunteer to do victim outreach or offer your professional services	
9	Donate funds or needed items to an anti-trafficking organization	
10	Organize event to raise awareness and funds for group	
11	Host an awareness event to watch and discuss a recent film or documentary	
12	Encourage your local schools to partner with students and include the issue of human trafficking in the curriculum	
13	Set up a Google alert to receive current human trafficking news.	
14	Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about human trafficking in your community.	
15	Start or sign a human trafficking petition.	

16	Businesses: Provide internships, job skills training, and/or jobs to trafficking survivors. Consumers: Purchase items made by trafficking survivors such as from Jewel Girls or Made by Survivors.
17	Students: Take action on your campus. Join or establish a university or secondary school club to raise awareness about human trafficking and initiate action throughout your local community. Consider doing one of your research papers on a topic concerning human trafficking. Professors: Request that human trafficking be an issue included in university curriculum. Increase scholarship about human trafficking by publishing an article, teaching a class, or hosting a symposium.
18	Law Enforcement Officials: Join or start a local human trafficking task force.
19	Mental Health or Medical Providers: Extend low-cost or free services to human trafficking victims assisted by nearby anti-trafficking organizations. Train your staff on how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims.
20	Attorneys: Look for signs of human trafficking among your clients. Offer pro-bono services to trafficking victims or anti-trafficking organizations. Learn about and offer to human trafficking victims the legal benefits for which they are eligible. Assist anti-trafficking NGOs with capacity building and legal work.

Helping (both instructors and practitioners)

- In addition to strong clinical skills, it will be critical for there to be an awareness of the availability of resources as well being aware of the need to for resources to meet the needs of individuals who have been victims of human trafficking (specially Sex trafficking survivor).
- Research shows that victims stand to sustain numerous physical injuries and suffer long-term psychological consequences (Flowers, 2001; Gajic-Veljanoski & Stewart, 2007; Hodge, 2008; Miller, Decker, Silverman, & Raj, 2007; Raymond & Hughes, 2001; WHO, 2000).
- One study found that almost all sex trafficking survivors experienced physical violence (Raymond & Hughes, 2001).
- Research has also shown that the trafficking perpetrators subject their victims to poor nutrition, dangerous working conditions, and increased exposure to infectious disease (Spear, 2004).

Helping

- Trafficked women report high rates of health problems and infections, including sexually transmitted infections ([STIs] e.g., syphilis, trichomoniasis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, pubic lice) as well as urinary tract and yeast infections (Raymond & Hughes, 2001).
- Preliminary research has found that sex trafficking may be a major contributor to the worldwide spread of HIV/AIDS among heterosexual populations (Gajic-Veljanoski & Stewart, 2007),
- and the WHO (2000) has recognized sex trafficking as a form of violence against women that increased the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

How to help not just victims, but

- Ahn et al. makes the important point that while human trafficking discussion has focused primarily on women and children who are trafficked for sexual exploitation, social workers who confront the issue, will require an understanding of the problem that acknowledges individuals who are forced to work in other areas besides prostitution.
- For instructors working with students or social workers in practice and policy work it is necessary to develop what Ahn, et al. describe as clinical, programmatic, and policy interventions to contend with human trafficking.
- This should result in both instructors and practitioners adopting a framework that recognizes all forms of forced labor.
- “This frame- work, grounded in postmodern and feminist theory, moves beyond the metanarrative that promotes the rhetoric of the victim subject and a moral crusade to rescue victims and views human trafficking as a form of global labor exploitation that also contributes to poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, poor standards of health, and political unrest” (p.285).

Helping and doing prevention

- The effort has to recognize the structures and systems (political, social and economic) that facilitate the circumstances that make it ripe for human trafficking to thrive in the region.
- For example the poverty that persist in Guyana or Jamaica creates a desperation that forces people to pursue opportunities even when the offers sounds too good to be true.
- While developing critical clinical skills to work with the individual victims and their trauma is a laudable goal, it is also important that such skills be employed to encourage political solutions aimed at poverty reduction be a paramount goal of the conscientious social worker.

Prevention cont.

- “The challenge of development: abject poverty surrounded by corruption.”— Sanjay Pradhan
- “Kids should not have to leave their community to live, learn and earn in a better one.” — Stephen Ritz
- Structural inequalities will promote the exploitation of labor and at its core that is what drives human trafficking in the region.

Heroes mentioned in the 2013 TIP report



- Simona Broomes from Guyana described as a courageous leader in assisting human trafficking victims and raising awareness about human trafficking in home country.
- After 25 years as a miner, she established the Guyana Women Miners Organization (GWMO) in 2012,
- This is a volunteer membership and advocacy organization, to empower women miners and address the economic discrimination and physical intimidation that women miners face
- You can check out her youtube interview <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PSgJrZirLA>

It is not hopeless

- “We get so little news about the developing world that we often forget that there are literally millions of people out there struggling to change things to be fairer, freer, more democratic, less corrupt.” — Alex Steffen.
- <http://bloggersagainstsocialinjustice.blogspot.com/2013/04/top-7-ted-talks-on-human-trafficking.html> (this is a link to 7 TED talk about fighting Human Trafficking)

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