Human Trafficking in the US and Connecticut

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LOOK
BENEATH
THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the patients you see daily.

Ask the right questions and see for yourself. You are what you are because you may be the only one to speak with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe houses, health, education, food, income, assistance, legal and interpretative services available for victims, but first they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, call 1.888.3737.888

For more information about human trafficking visit www.ncl.gov/trafficking.
Objectives

- Is there a problem?
- Recognize trafficking
- Recognize victims
- Certification and Benefits
Human Trafficking

- Illegal trade in human beings
- After drug dealing, tied with the illegal arms industry as the 2nd largest criminal enterprise in the world
- Highly profitable, relatively low risk
Scope of the Problem

- Approximately 800,000 trafficked across international borders annually
- Believed that 14,000-17,000 trafficked into the US
- 75 - 80% are women and children
Causes

- Poverty
- Lack of economic opportunities
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Civil unrest
- Corruption
- Political instability
Global Markets

- Young boys have been trafficked for prostitution in such diverse places as Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, and Mexico.
- Workers from Indonesia came to US (Long Island) as domestic workers; were subjected to beatings, threats and locked in home.
- Thai men were trafficked to the US for labor exploitation and debt bondage.
- Romanian girl promised a job as a housekeeper in UK was forced into prostitution.
- Indian children trafficked within India have been forced to work in brick kilns.

Trafficking

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA), enacted October, 2000

“Severe form of trafficking in persons” is defined as

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud and coercion (not required if victim under 18), or

- Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
Common Factors

- In both labor and sex context, traffickers exploit and enslave human beings
- Use physical and psychological methods of power and control
- Isolation/intimidation; instill fear and dependence
- Movement is not necessary

“People become completely disposable tools for making money.”
Kevin Bales in Disposable People
Focus of TVPA

- Prevention
  Public awareness and education
- Protection
  Victims, not criminals
  Certification, benefits, T Visa
- Prosecution
  New federal crime
  New law enforcement initiatives
Section 53a-192a makes trafficking in persons a felony in Connecticut.

A person is guilty of trafficking when:

- they use coercion to compel or induce another to engage in prostitution or work
What Puts Connecticut at Risk

- Proximity to major metropolitan areas - New York City and Boston
- 2 interstate highways between those cities
- An international airport
- 3 marine ports on Long Island Sound
- Industries exist in CT that can give rise to trafficking
Trafficking-Primary Elements

- **Force** - beatings, rape, torture
- **Fraud** – false promises, blackmail
- **Coercion** – threats of harm to victim or family; abuse of legal process, debt bondage

- Crime against the person, violation of human rights
Smuggling vs. Trafficking

**Smuggling**
- An offense against the integrity of the U.S. borders
- Requires illegal crossing of the U.S. border
- Smugglers typically make their money once the alien has reached the U.S. border; their “business relationship” with the immigrant then terminates
- Can become trafficking if a person is forced to provide labor or services

** Trafficking**
- An offense against a person
- Involves compelled/forced labor or service
- Traffickers may use smuggling debt as a means to control victims
- Traffickers maintain ongoing control over victims, even after the border is crossed
Domestic Trafficking

- Nothing in the TVPA requires that person cross a border or be of foreign birth
- Domestic sex trafficking involves actions that meet statutory definitions
- Law enforcement prosecuting domestic pimps of minor US citizen girls
Where Are Victims?

- Brothels/strip clubs/massage parlors
- Restaurants/hotels
- Neighborhoods, as Housekeepers/nannies
- Farms, as Migrant agricultural workers
- Factories
- Landscaping/Construction worksites
Identification

- More difficult than you would think
- Reluctance to open up
- Not everyone in economic or sexually exploitive situation is trafficked
Barriers for Victims

- Afraid of law enforcement, of anyone in authority; fear of unknown
- Reluctance to stray from rehearsed stories that were given
- Cultural/religious backgrounds that create barriers
- Fear for families or fear that families will learn of what they are doing
- Empathy/emotional dependence on traffickers
- Feelings of embarrassment/complicity in actions; do not see themselves as victims
- Language barriers/Communication through interpreter
Child Victims

- Will rarely, if ever, self-identify
- Often kidnapped or smuggled into US
- Often prevented from going to school
- Reluctant to trust or open up
- May be eligible for federally funded specialized services
- Working with DCF to iron out protocols
Traffickers Exert Control

Physical Abuse

- Beatings
- Forced drug/alcohol use
- Forced abortions
- Hard labor
- Burns
Traffickers Exert Control

Sexual Abuse

- Rape
- Gang Rape
- Absence of Protection
- Photographing or video of activities
Traffickers Exert Control

Psychological Abuse

- Threats of arrest and deportation
- Imposition of debt
- Threats of violence to self and family
- Embarrassment and shame
- Actions controlled and watched
- Seizing ID and travel documents
Traffickers Exert Control

Social Isolation

- Prohibiting or restricting contact with friends and family
- No access to media, phone, mail
- Unfamiliar surrounding/constant movement
- Language barriers
Physical Health

- Sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties
- Unwanted pregnancy or infertility
- Infections or mutilations due to unsanitary/dangerous/unskilled medical procedures
- Chronic back, hearing, eye, cardiovascular or respiratory problems due to excessive and unsafe working conditions
- Dental issues
Mental Health

- Trauma from daily mental and/or physical abuse
- Depression, stress-related disorders, disorientation, phobias, panic attacks
- Feelings of helplessness, shame, humiliation, shock or denial
- Substance abuse or addictions
Communicating with Victims

- Separate victim from person accompanying him/her without raising suspicions
- Use trusted interpreter who is not affiliated with trafficker
- Interview in safe, confidential and trusting environment
- Direct questions may not be effective because person does not see herself as “victim”
Factors to Look For

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of inability to leave job
- Bruises or signs of battering
- Fear or depression or shame
- Evidence of isolation
- Non-English speaking
- Recent arrival to US
- Lack of identifying documents
Lines of Inquiry

- Promises made about job prior to arrival
- Work requirements and working conditions
- Money owed to employer/anyone else
- Living arrangements- where, who pays rent
- Deprivation of food, water, sleep, medical care
- Freedom of movement- locks on windows/doors
- Contact with family or friends
- Threats/physical violence
- Immigration status- how /when did they arrive in US
- Location of ID/travel documents
What You Can Do

- Be aware the problem exists
- Educate yourself and others
- Know your community resources
- Develop protocols within the department
- If you think trafficking is occurring, call your local Law Enforcement Agency, the State Anti-Trafficking Taskforce, the National Hotline, or our office
Resources

- National Anti-Trafficking Hotline
  888-373-7888

- CT State Police Human Trafficking Taskforce
  203-238-6550

- International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.
  Project Rescue & Assist New Americans
  203-336-0141 projrescue@iiconn.org

- Campaign to Rescue and Restore
  Free Materials for distribution
  www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
Certification

- Non-citizen trafficking victims can get access to benefits from which they would otherwise be barred; treated as refugees.
- Comes through ORR of Health & Human Services.
- Through FY 2007, ORR had certified 1,379 victims from 77 countries.
- Certifications in FY 2007- 270 adult victims, 33 minors; 30% male; from 50 countries; 63% labor trafficking (US State Dept TIPS Report 2008).
Benefits

- Work authorization documents - provides ability to work legally
- Access to public benefits that would be available to a refugee
Certification = Refugee Benefits

- Social security card
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Food Stamps
- Job Corps/OneStop Career Programs
- TANF
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Public Housing
- Health Screening
- Match Grant

For more info, visit the ORR website at:
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/index.htm
State specific programs
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr/partners/coordina1.htm
T-Visa

- New visa created under TVPA; shift in immigration policy. Previously treated as illegal aliens who were deported
- Allows foreign victims to obtain legal status in US – valid for 4 years
- After 3 years, can apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident
- Can petition to have spouse and children accompany
Eligibility for T-Visa

- Need to be victim of severe form of trafficking
- Who is physically present
- Complied with request for assistance if over 18
- Extreme hardship if removed

Annual limit of 5000 T-Visas

Through FY 2007, just over 1000 T-Visas issued to survivors and approximately 900 T-visas issued to members of families since the enactment of TVPA- In 2007, 279 T Visas and 261 T Visas for immediate family members were issued by USCIS
Thank you

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A Closing Thought

“The World is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of people who won't do anything about it…”

*Albert Einstein*