

## CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### **Background:**

#### Definition of Slavery (US Dept. of State)

- A. sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age
- B. the 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

#### Current Estimates

- Estimates say at least 27 million people in the world currently live in conditions of forced bondage
- Probably greater than the total number of slaves sold during the trans-Atlantic slave trade
- Second only to drug-trafficking in terms of global criminal expenses

#### Major Forms of Slavery

- Bonded/force labor
- Sex trafficking
- Involuntary domestic servitude
- Child labor/forced child soldiers
- Human trafficking

#### Prevalence

- Targeted groups tending to be victimized:
- Orphans, displaced persons
- Women, often coming from poorer areas
- Reasons for lack of victim cooperation with law enforcement
- Higher demand, supply for trafficking
- Many raw materials and commodities (coffee, chocolate, sugar, clothing, bricks, diamonds, etc.) come from slave labor

### **Major Organizations:**

#### The Action Group to End Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery

- US based legislative coalition of anti-slavery organizations dedicated to developing a specific and time-bound policy agenda for abolishing slavery and human trafficking
- 10 member organizations:
  - ASSET Campaign
  - Carlson Companies
  - Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
  - Free the Slaves
  - International Justice Mission
  - Not For Sale Campaign
  - Polaris Project
  - Ricky Martin Foundation
  - Solidarity Center
  - Vital Voices

#### Polaris Project - <http://www.polarisproject.org>

- Based in Washington, D.C., Branches in Japan
- Provides services dedicated to various aspects of human trafficking
  - Direct services (victim outreach, protection)
  - Systemic and social change (policy advocacy, coalition building)

- Movement-building (training, leadership development, grassroots mobilization)
- Up to date tracking of pending federal and state legislation
- Emphasis on specific strategies for action, both on broad and individual levels
  - Action center
  - U.S. Policy Program
  - Grassroots movements
- Seeks to progress on TVPA Act and the Federal Mann Act

Free the Slaves - <http://www.freetheslaves.net>

- Sister organization to British Anti-Slavery International, the oldest human rights group in the world
- Based in Washington, D.C.
- Comprehensive approach to combating slavery
  - Freeing slaves internationally on the front lines by working with grassroots organizations in affected countries
  - Pushing businesses to clean slavery out of products, encouraging consumers to buy fair-trade
  - Policy work with governments to produce effective anti-slavery laws
- Specific plans to end slavery laid out for governments, businesses, individuals, readily available on their website

Not For Sale Campaign - <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org>

- Based in Montara, California
- Regional chapters in more than 20 states, including MA
- Individual state websites
- Uses “open source” activism to identify trafficking rings within the US
- Provides specific ideas for individuals, businesses, etc. to combat trafficking
- Free trade items for sale on website

**Recent Federal Legislation:**

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)- 2000

- Reauthorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008
- Established requirements for State Dept. Trafficking In Persons Report (does not include United States)

Federal Mann Act- 1910

- Makes it a felony to transport any person in interstate commerce for prostitution
- Commonly used to prosecute sex traffickers

H.R. 72 (pending)

- A bill to protect trafficking victims who are de jure or de facto stateless

**Recent State Legislation:**

Massachusetts- Proposed Senate Bill 97

- Died at the end of 2008
- Sought to fully establish anti-trafficking laws within MA
- Federal gov't not enough to prosecute all trafficking cases
- State law enforcement agencies largely unaware of the nature of trafficking

New York- Anti-Human Trafficking Law (2007)

- Comprehensive law, addresses the three “P’s” of anti-trafficking policy
- Prosecution- creates severe penalties for trafficking
- Protection-provides social services for victims, requires law enforcement to help foreign nationals obtain visas and become eligible for refugee assistance
- Prevention- establishes an interagency task force to track data on the extent of trafficking within the state