

PHILOLOGIA

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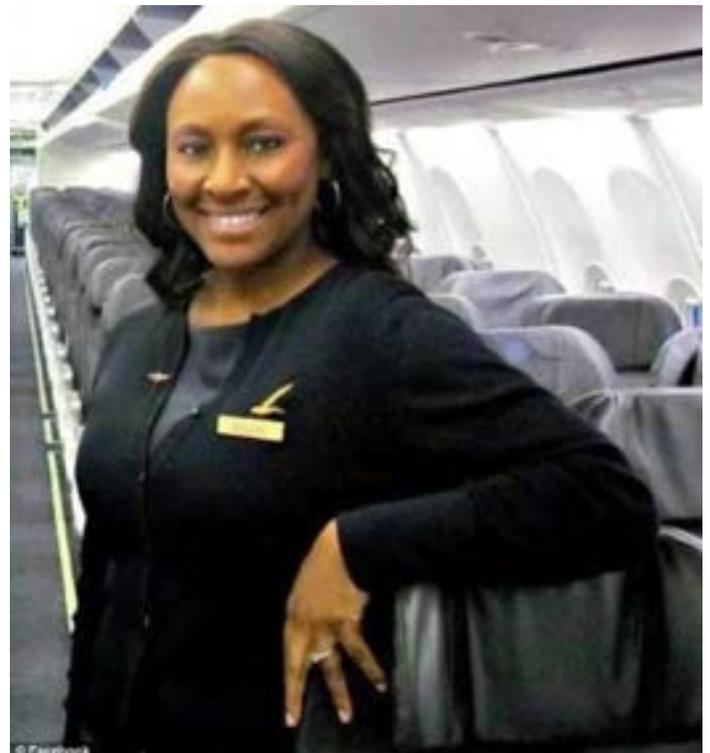
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Title: Human Trafficking of Children on a Global Scale

According to a recent article written by Maryse Godden, Shelia Fredrick, a 49-year-old flight attendant, walked down the aisle of a flight one afternoon and altered the course of someone's life forever. In February 2017, Alaska Airlines was taking Fredrick from Seattle to San Francisco and the procedure seemed like a regular day for her. She noticed a girl on the flight with greasy blond hair who she guessed was around 14 years old sitting next to a well-dressed man. Fredrick claimed to be suspicious of the pair and described the girl as looking like "she had been through pure hell." Fredrick went up to the girl and the child refused to look at or speak a word to her. The man interrupted and seemed to hover over the young child in defense. Fredrick felt something wasn't quite right so she came up with a plan: once she had convinced the girl to use the restroom, she left a note stuck to the mirror, and the child wrote back on it in need of help. Fredrick reported the news to the pilot who told the police. By the time the flight arrived, cops were waiting. It was revealed later that the girl was involved in an instance of human trafficking and Fredrick had saved her life. Fredrick has been on flights for ten years and couldn't fathom the thought of possibly missing these cases before. According to The Washington Post, it is estimated that 50,000 young girls are trafficked in the United States for prostitution each year. In 2016, the US immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 2,000 human traffickers for 400 child victims (Godden 2-3).

Human trafficking has detrimental effects on the development and lifespan of children around the world. Human trafficking in its many forms is a modern day form of slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of service from another human being. This essay will comprehensively explore the scope of human trafficking in children on a global scale by analyzing Europe and the United States. The awareness of this social issue is only recently, becoming prevalent around the globe.

In this paper, I will explore the history of anti-trafficking efforts to ensure explanation in the lack of focus on this issue. I will then examine how the practices of prostitution has become a prolonged issue on a global scale. It will also cover how child pornography, and its nature of child exploitation, has developed in the United States and the Netherlands. Finally, I will explore domestic labor in the United States and Europe with context regarding how it has traditionally been practiced, how it has changed, and how it is changing. After reviewing all of this information, I will finish with the effects and analysis of how this has affected adolescents in different ways.



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Because there are currently gaps in knowledge about the causes and responses to human trafficking, there is neither precise nor quantitative data in regards to how many children are affected.

HISTORY OF ANTI-CHILD TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

In 1948, the United Nations created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, followed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1984 (English). Because of this legislation, international protocols have been placed in several nations to prohibit human trafficking of citizens. The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined in international law the right to life, liberty, and the security of freedom from servitude as well as freedom from cruel and inhumane treatment. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child includes the right to freedom of life without violence and to be healthy.

The UN legal framework against human trafficking have been strengthened by the Palermo Protocol, which led to the pushing of national anti-human trafficking laws in a majority of developed nations. It was taken up in the United States through the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, put into place in 2000, and has been amended five times. Legislation according to the model of the Palermo Protocol details this specific focus at the state level in the United States. This highlighted prosecution, more than prevention and protection; however, a shift is occurring.

Not only do surviving children have an urgent need for mental health care, but also many of the victims are being helped while still living in trafficked environments. The Kiss study concluded that children that have survived and been through these experiences are mentally haunted for a lifetime. This ongoing trauma should serve as a call to action not only for government organizations, but for policymakers to give and create the right responses for these traumatized children that have and are currently dealing with human trafficking (English 2).

COMMERCIAL SEX EXPLOITATION

Child Prostitution in the States

According to David Rosen's research on teen prostitution, the majority of youth involved in prostitution in America are female, however, there is an increase in the number of young males. Most girls who become involved in prostitution are approximately 14 years old with a median age of 15.5 years. There have been some reports of child prostitutes being picked up at ages as young as nine. These child prostitutes come from throughout the United States, from inner cities, suburbs, and even small towns. However, larger cities are more likely to have a higher percentage of boys involved in child prostitution in comparison to the proportions of other locations. This could be due to the greater ease of participants and more public space. A Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation researcher, Jessica Edwards, found that teenagers as well as adults have exchanged sex in over 650,000 agreements, finding that more males were likely to be involved in this practice. With stereotypes and what the world typically pictures when they hear "prostitution," a female would likely come to mind first. The increasing participation of males can help us understand how vaguely child prostitution has been noted (Rosen 4-7).

According to an East Bay Times article by Kamika Dunlap, due to technology, with a high concentration on social media sites, such as Kik, Snapchat, and Facebook, authorities are discovering that child prostitution is more devious and sophisticated than it was just 10 years ago. A "pimp" is defined as a person (stereotypically, a man), who solicits other persons for sexual favors sometimes in return for earnings or assets. In contrast to in-

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person “recruiting,” pimps can now use these social media sites to sell girls as young as 11 years old for sex on the Internet.

When police on the street find child prostitutes, their pimps are most likely to be within a few yards watching. Typically, the younger the girls, the more protected they are by the pimp. The number one rule of prostitution is ultimately to never reveal the location of the pimp. If the pimp has a larger service running, there might even be a senior girl who is a buffer between the pimp and the younger victim (known as a “bottom bitch”), making the location and collection of pimps even more complicated for police. Victims can also suffer from being repeatedly raped or robbed by what is known as a “guerrilla pimp” who seems to be culturally glamorized in music and movies (Dunlap 8).

Film specialist David Biscobing has found that many female prostitutes in the United States start to work on the streets before they even enter their teenage years. Child prostitutes are entering at younger ages because the younger age group collects more revenue from buyers. Sometimes these kids are runaways or come from dysfunctional households. Many people will believe that all of these “throwaway children” are minorities from lower class groups, however, there is a large proportion coming from middle-class and wealthy families as well. Studies have shown that there is no definite trend predicting which girls end up in prostitution during their childhood years. Though there is most certainly a larger proportion from specific demographics and social classes, there is representation from other sectors as well that have been ignored in previous decades of research. These children can be recruited from schools, the Internet, and in public malls. They are often initially treated as family and within weeks become physically abused and enslaved. With the overwhelming violence and coercion, there is no getting out for these children (Biscobing 3-7).

Child Prostitution in the European Union (EU)

Over the past five years, the number of Dutch children working in prostitution in the Netherlands has skyrocketed from 4,000 to 15,000, according to the Amsterdam-based Child Right organization. Radio broadcaster Carin Tiggeloven has previously stated that unlike the United States, most children in prostitution in Amsterdam are male, or young underage asylum seekers. In the past decade there has been a rise in the number of Dutch girls who are runaways or homeless being forced into prostitution. Most of these runaway girls suffer from a mental disability. The other large group of children, noted as “ordinary” school children aged from 13 to 14, come from a stable home environment. The asylum seekers are typically Nigerian children, accounting for nearly 33.3%. This overview shows that out of a total of 15,000 children involved in prostitution, there one-third are Nigerian children, one-third are Dutch impaired, and one-third are middle class school children (Tiggeloven 2).

The 2017 Defense for Children International Report states that the organization End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) stands to end child prostitution, child pornography, and trafficking of children for sexual purposes. EPACT is a non-governmental organization and a global network that works on this issue. ECPAT-NL (the Netherlands location) has existed since 1995 and has worked with organizations in Europe against sexual abuse targeting children since 2003. Currently ECPAT-NL is lobbying for effective law enforcement and prevention against victimizing Dutch children. As of now, ECPAT-NL has helped create and complete the Dutch National Action Plan ‘Sexual Abuse of Children’ to address child sexual abuse in the EU, particularly Dutch children (“Defense” 3-10).

Although the forms of prostitution are changing with technology and other developments, the general

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practice has a long history. Journalist Sarah Collins asserts that prostitution dates back to medieval times in Europe with men upholding aggressive dominance over women. Because it was expected for women to slave for their husbands by cooking and cleaning, prostitution began in medieval times because prostitutes were free to express their sexuality however they pleased with whoever they wanted, without control from a male figure. Furthermore, men use prostitutes as an outlet to express sexual desire and freedom. During these times in Germany, if women didn't demonstrate that they upheld a domestic environment, they could be labeled as a prostitute. One has to remember that during these times women also



were commonly getting married by the age of 15 so these prostitutes were all children according to current age-related norms. This was the start of underage prostitution.

Now, there is a newly established form of child prostitution that invites children from all over the EU to the “child prostitution capital of Europe” in the Czech Republic. A town called Cheb hosts teenage girls, prepubescent boys, and “the special” (i.e. children ages 3-4 years old) to be rented or purchased by others for sexual encounters. The average age for the child prostitute here is around 14 years old or younger. They each sell for thousands of dollars to the surrounding German buyers. Though they are without medical care, doctors in the area don't want to be associated with activities of child prostitution so no help is provided. Police continue to not intervene and the German tourist shoppers of prostitution continue to thrive in the area.

Although many people pay to engage in sex with children, it is simple to obtain free sex from children with 21st century technology. According to researcher Sarah Benson, there are up to 1,000 female children in prostitution in rural Ireland. These areas and services can be found and uncovered through Internet sites. The children are forgotten and their bodies are being traumatized in unthinkable ways (Collins Paras 3-4). In 2011, a report made by Fanny Busuttill acknowledges that both male and female children are coerced into this service.

Why would children be chosen for prostitution instead of adults? A part of the reasoning is that children are less able to defend themselves. In certain cultures, there are even prejudices that justify sexual activities with children. In Asia, some men are aroused due in part to a belief that having sexual relations with a young virgin girl prevents from a future contraction of HIV/AIDS. Along with this “prevention,” men in some cultures believe that sex with a virgin girl increases their virility and gives them “success” in future business endeavors.

However, the main cause for child prostitution is, at its core, poverty. Parents of impoverished backgrounds feel that they need to sell services from their children to local pimps because of their inability to meet family needs. Also poverty can lead to abandonment of children, thus leading them to be more susceptible to getting involved with street prostitution at a young age with nowhere to turn.

Prostitution of children can make other salaries seem minimal. The demand is higher than one might think. In Kenya, engaging in a sexual service with a female under 16 years old can cost more than 20 euros. It can reach up to 60 euros if the child is in demand. The average Kenyan worker only earns 4 euros a day. The immediate economic incentive seems all too clear (Busuttill 8-10).

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CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

As mentioned previously, many children engage with different social media environments. What children aren't noticing are the possible repercussions that go along with use of these apps. With Instagram, for example, comes instant direct messaging of photos that don't disappear. These messages can be stored and filed away and sent again. There are now Snapchat features where the receiver can save the sender's snap without them knowing. Children who may take part in "sexting," or sending sexually explicit visual images, may not know that their images are being digitally stored, or even forwarded to other parties.

Child Pornography in the United States

Recently in The Huffington Post, Dr. Mary Pulido published that the Crimes Against Children Research Center in the United States is a resource that studies trends in child pornography. Due to this research, this organization has stated that child pornography can best be defined as the visual messaging or distribution of explicit conduct that can include masturbation, sexuality, intercourse, or exhibition of genitals. It can essentially be anything sent that was meant to be lascivious. Though many people aren't aware, but having images of this sort from a child 17 and under is a felony in every state. Those who share images back and forth are known as P2P, or "peer to peer." There were a staggering amount of P2P users arrested in 2009 in the United States and 33% of the photos shared were of children aged three or younger.

Child pornography is a quickly growing business on the Internet with annual revenues of every year rounding up to be around \$3 billion. The Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection states that child pornography is either distributed as commercial for profit, or offered free or traded on P2P networks like Kik or Snapchat. It also has reported that the United States has the largest share of commercialized child pornography websites and trade networks in the world, making up about 50% of the total network worldwide. Some of the children that had images passed around have later been targets to sexual violence and exploitation due to the distribution of the images.

In 2012, the United States Sentencing Commission sent a report about the country's child pornography problems to Congress. The report analyzed the aspects of this illegal activity specifically the trafficking of the actual photos, common characteristics of offenders, and how they are handled in regards to legal punishment. Approximately one-third of offenders have practiced in illegal types of sexual behavior before being prosecuted for child pornography usage (Pulido Para 7).



Child Pornography in the Netherlands

In 2011, the former Radio Netherlands Worldwide, or "RNW," reported that almost 200 suspects in the city center had been arrested for large-scale child pornography on an internal level. This investigation was known as 'Operation Rescue' and sparked countries around the world to take action as well.

In 2017, News Team "Expatica the

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Netherlands” published that in 2004, Amsterdam police seized 280 computers, DVDs, and other visual tools during a nationwide raid to rid child exploitation. The addresses and banking details that were found had evidence of obtaining payments for child porn (“Dutch” Paras 7-14).

Now, there is a debate in the Netherlands to legalize virtual child pornography, which has become a magnificent controversy. Writer Nicolas Delaunay shared in an article about two Dutch sexologists, Rik van Lunsen and Erik van Beek, who in 2012 proposed an idea that because pedophiles and child pornography addicts cannot be kept under control, there should be some “reasoning” behind legalizing certain parts of the problem. The two sexologists thought of creating child porn using computer-generated images that weren’t actually specific children but were more like figures of the sort, but this practice was made illegal in 2002 when technology had the ability to make photo-realistic graphics. Van Beek believed that if no child was abused then the pedophiles could be regulated. It is known that actual traditional child porn sharing is punishable by only four years in prison. Van Beek also shares that taking away the fantasies in its entirety can lead to frustration in these addicts, which could potentially lead to a greater likelihood of actual sexual harm to children rather than taking away porn and cracking down on the sexual prosecutors. This entire study sparked a huge debate in Dutch social media and journalism. The government’s parliament agreed that it would be a huge responsibility to tell if the virtual images were real or make believe. A crime journalist by the name of Peter de Vries said that the proposal was possible but problems could most likely arise. The real question comes as: how far should it go? How can we see what is realistic versus too realistic? Some people want photos of naked children, others want to watch children participating in sex, and others want to look at little boys.

One percent of the Dutch population of 16.5 million has pedophilic preferences. However, according to sexologist studies, only a tiny fraction could ever actually abuse children. The sexologists argued that people aren’t responsible for their thoughts or fantasies but are only responsible for actions. This may sound correct but if sexual fantasies trigger actions or lead to increase thinking of acting on illegal activity, this could become even more controversial (Delaunay 5).

The lives of children that are exploited through child pornography have been altered for the long run, not only by substantial effects of molestation but also by the permanent record of their services. This kind of documentation then becomes blackmail for the child into further submission of child porn services. Computer crime researcher Margaret Healy asserted that The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been ratified by a majority of the nations across the world to identify child pornography as a violation against children, requiring that nations who are subject to these services take measure to prevent this type of exploitation of children for material service. However, despite this effort, child pornography in many nations remains a thriving issue.

Some challenges of any study of international child porn includes the lack of data regarding the production of child porn in certain parts of the world (most often in Latin America and Africa), the shifting of global patterns in the consumption of child porn, and lack of any uniform definition of what child pornography really is. There is a fast moving production and distribution of international access that is transforming the child pornography practice. In addition, the advent of child porn of computer altered images has been creating challenges for law enforcement around the world.

International Picture of Child Pornography

The U.S. market is the most lucrative in the world, according to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the U.S. Senate. However, the phenomenon of child pornography exists throughout the world. Though most of the data that exists about child pornography is only focused in North America and northern

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Europe, there are also other regions that play a key role in this activity.

With an examination of international production, there is a sense of the global supply and demand of child pornography. In Asia, Japan is the most important center for the commercial production of child porn. Their teen porn most commonly depicts young Japanese girls in sexual poses in teen magazines, producing millions of erotic comics for an audience of young students that can be bought in vending machines. This type of child pornography reflects an appeal for sex with Japanese girls in school uniforms, which is especially present in the commercial practices of Tokyo. The early 1970s marked the rise of commercial production of child pornography on the Western side of the world with the main European production centers in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Yet many who were featured in European magazines were photographed in the U.S. and then published abroad. The 1980s brought increased governmental regulation from the U.S. and Europe. After this, commercial distribution was no longer a major means of circulating porn. The majority of child pornography now is exchanged internationally between child molesters without any commercial or profit motive. Pornography used by underage participants is an organized crime (Healy Para 8).

FORCED LABOR

Child Bonded Labor

Millions of children around the world are subject to abuse in the work environment. The United States Department of Labor estimates that there are nearly 168 million underaged children at work. Of that total, 51% of those children are in hazardous conditions during their illegal employment. The International Labor Organization averages that there are a total of six million children that have been forced into labor or sexual exploitation. Through deceiving acts, and human trafficking, children have been placed within or outside their own countries without the ability to leave. Currently the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) is working to protect the human rights of children when it comes to employment around the globe. ILAB gives a yearly report on the statistics of forced child labor to try and analyze solutions. They assist the U.S. government's strategic efforts to reduce such labor practices. ILAB is also currently funding projects to help children find school and refugee programs with supportive adults so family dynamics would not have to depend on child labor to make ends meet. ILAB has published over 30 congressionally mandated reports to create a public list of places in the United States where child labor practices have been proven to be prevalent. ILAB urges to work directly with families to give assistance at both community and national levels to make sure families are taken care of.

The International Labor Organization's Forced Labor Convention states that 'forced labor' can be described as work being underdone against a person's choosing. This could be from a threat or a penalty of some sort. Forced labor can be cut into different segments. In some areas, victims are born into slavery; this is not so much the case in the United States. Others are trafficked, which are most of the victims from the United States and the Netherlands ("Child" 7).

Because of researcher Kirti Sinha's work, it is known that India has the largest number of working children in the world with estimates ranging from 60-115 million. Working in the fields for 16 hours a day or more, these children are living unbearable lives, picking rags in city streets or sweating in stone quarries. The picture below shows a young child in India working on a brick-laying site (Sinha). They are earning close to nothing and are abused at a whole new level. There is not enough to eat for all the workers, and their literacy skills are being delayed or forgotten because education is not provided to these underage workers. 15 million of them are virtual slaves who are known as the bonded child laborers of India. Bonded child labor is work to pay



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off a debt. From the Human Rights Watch Analysis in 1996, this debt attaches them to the employer, and the parent usually receives a small loan that the child earns. Bondage is a traditional worker-employer relationship in India. Usually the parents need this money to pay for medical funds, or put food on the table. As these children in India reach maturity, some of them are released in exchange for a younger child. In the past five years, there has been rising public awareness in India to this practice, specifically in the carpet industry. Typically associating child servitude with images of children working while chained to carpet looms, the international public has challenged the use of bonded child labor in the production of carpets. However, how can we only focus on this problem in carpet work? More than 300,000 children work in the carpet industry in India, which is only 2% of the bonded child laborers in India. There are so many other sectors being ignored. Agriculture, for example, accounts for 64% and is completely ignored. This is despite the fact that the practice of child debt servitude has been illegal in India since 1933 when the Children Act was enacted under British rule. There are certain laws governing child labor in factories. The Child Labour Act of 1986 states that a child below the age of 14 should be prohibited from working in hazardous conditions. However, there is no prohibition of the use of child labor or minimum age set for child workers. The labor laws are sorely lacking and there is no risk of punishment to the perpetrator ("India" 9-10).

Child Domestic Labor

As previously described, there are many different forms of child labor. The most discouraging to hear includes debt bondage, prostitution, and slavery. In regards to child domestic labor, there has been a focus on fixing the problem in Amsterdam. In a recent press conference, the Amsterdam representative of Conference Chairman, and the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands called delegates to make the elimination of child labor a priority, arguing that working children should be in school. This is the main argument for this worldwide problem. According to the International Labour Organization's Director-General Michel Hansenne, there has been a denouncement of labor exploitation that has been carried out in a "gross violation of international law and national legislation unjustified by any economic circumstances." 90% of rural working children in Amsterdam are involved in agricultural activities, in which they are commonly exposed to fertilizers and pesticides. Safety experts consider this environment one of the most difficult places to protect children. In industrial manufacturing environments, city children work in slave-like conditions with dangerous chemicals and gases. There are jobs not prone to these children



who are in glass working, mining, carpet weaving, and bricklayers, such as heavy lifting and unsupervised machinery. Children suffer the effects of fatigue faster than adults. Little girls work long hours as unpaid servants. Others participate in street trade for objects in favor of masters. Crime in the area and lack of economic stability has forced these children into all of these activities. Long hours of work not only impair the physical and emotional development of what is supposed to be childhood, but they impair a child's opportunity to be

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learning in school. In the United States, research has shown that the academic performance of children aged 12-17 years is affected greatly if they are already working 15 hours a week. In places like Amsterdam, children work at even younger ages and for longer hours. The ILO estimates that of the millions of children working between ages 5-14 years of age, nearly 48% work full time. The majority of these workers are in small outskirts of Amsterdam and in rural areas. Large concentrations of these workers are rare. The children are scattered in different areas which makes it that much harder to find them (“Amsterdam” 3-16).

While child workers are considered important to the running of national economies of various nations, as a workforce they are the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse worldwide. Human rights advocates have seen and captured instances of exploitation faced by these child workers at the hands of their dirty employers. Rape, daily beatings, and forced labor in inappropriate conditions are being put upon these kids around the globe. According to the International Domestic Workers Federation, employers who underpay these children make \$8 billion (£5.1 billion) a year in simply illegal profits. The children’s vulnerability is rooted in the nature of the work hidden in private facilities. Only 10% of child domestic workers in the world have the same basic work rights as in all other industries of the workforce. One-fourth of all of these workers don’t have any legal rights.

The International Trade Union Confederation predicts that 2.4 million domestic workers under the age of 18 are slaves. The majority of them are migrants from less developed countries including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Philippines, and India. After arriving in new countries, the workers fall under the Kafala system. This means the consent of a “sponsor” family is required if one is to leave employment. If they become runaways, then they can be treated as undocumented workers and can also be detained. In countries that enforce this, like Saudi Arabia, it is effectively illegal for the workers to flee the abusive conditions without the permission of their employers. A 2013 study found that 17% of these workers are sexually abused in Dhaka (Bangladesh’s capital), while another 83% have been regularly physically abused from their employers. Hundreds of thousands of children in Nigeria work as domestic servants. All of this puts these children at risk for sexual violence and every other form of abuse. Globally, an estimated 10.5 million children are employed as domestic workers (Falconer 4).

EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING ON IMPACTED CHILDREN

Child trafficking describes extreme forms of child maltreatment and violations of human rights. Current research is lacking on the impact of these crimes on child development and the well-being of the victims. But in general, trafficking of children presents risks to the physical, psychological, spiritual, and social-emotional development of victims.

Researcher Abigail English shows us that some of the effects can include PTSD, suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety, and self-harm. The Kiss et al study of trafficked female children pointed out the several crucial aspects of the human trafficking experiences in child survivors. In addition, there are significant health consequences from sex trafficking and labor trafficking. While most of those interviewed were noted to have been forced into sex work, there was still a large amount of young women that were trafficked into factory work.

Health care professionals have played key roles in the identification of those who have indeed been trafficked as well as responding to needs, trauma, and after-effects. Once the risk becomes a true-life situation, health care professionals can help make or break the child’s situation. Their first response is to identify the individuals and survivors and then figure out the appropriate health care needs. Some ways they can undergo this process includes direct clinical care and research (English 2).

Psychologist Yvonne Rafferty has studied how traffickers use psychological manipulations and methods

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to maintain control over victims. Children who experience human trafficking are commonly subjected to routine beatings and abuse. The unrelenting emotional and physical trauma present a grave risk to the social-emotional development of the child in the future. Some die, some disappear, and for those that survive, they are permanently damaged for the remainder of their lives. There is a strong link between child maltreatment and maladaptive psychological outcomes. Educational deprivation, emotional or behavioral issues, and health problems are all effects that impact trafficking victims. Different developmental and trauma theories can help understand how trafficking really affects children.

Children that have been through prolonged abuse, neglect, and severe torture in any form are at risk for negative symptoms related to biological integrity, emotional regulation, cognitive functioning, attachment, and self-concept issues. They are robbed of educational opportunities that could have been available to them, therefore threatening their future economic placement in the world. Their memory skills and grade retention are severely and negatively affected. Victims that live through inhumane living situations with poor diets and lack of hygiene result in health problems that live with them for the rest of their lives. If a victim was involved in any type of sexual exploitation, there are expectations of unhealthy and unsafe sexual practices in the future. This could lead to high-risk pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and STDs. HIV/AIDS and other STDs are prevalent among those who were sexually exploited, and in turn, provide difficulties in future sexual activities, relationships, and consensual physical activity.

One of the most important effects would be on the emotional well-being of the children that go through experiences of human trafficking. Children experience physical and emotional issues associated with the initial forced removal from their homes. Case studies have reported adverse effects among these children including depression, lack of self-esteem, guilt, and PTSD. These messages influence how they feel about themselves and their relationships with those around them. Emotional neglect is associated with social and emotional withdrawal. Anxiety, depression, and social isolation all arise from the newly recovered victims. Their whole lives are different now. In regards to behavioral outcomes, the victims can deal with mistrusting adults, and become severely antisocial. They feel as though no one can relate to them and have trouble connecting and making new friendships.

We have to build a protective environment for children that are victims from trafficking. Programs are essential to focus on promoting the well-being of those that have been affected. Psychologists with social policy expertise could work with the government to ensure the development and implementation of effective prevention and after-effect programs to benefit the exploited. Legal procedures are needed in every country to ensure that those who profit from trafficking are brought to justice and the victims can rest knowing that they can one day return to a relatively normal life (Rafferty Paras 8-19).

PROSECUTION AND PROTECTION

In the course of this essay, I have discussed the basics of human trafficking that involve children. I defined human trafficking and parts of its historical timeline. I also went through the various types of human trafficking and how those practices developed and continue to work to this day. In addition, I went through how many people are being affected in various regions around the globe. The effects of child human trafficking are undeniable and terrifying. The real underlying fact is that we have so much to learn and there isn't enough research being done to uncover what is really happening. However, we now stand at the final concept of discovering what current efforts are being made to stop this detrimental problem.

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In general, government intervention varies across the world. Some countries are creating policies that work for specific cultures while others lag behind with no efforts to stop the trafficking at all. The following research has been proved in a 2013 issue of “The Muse,” written by Natalie Jesionka, that analyzes the efforts of countries made to cease child trafficking. In 2003, the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons made a universal trafficking definition and set goals to lead countries to prevent and fight child trafficking. In parallel, the U.S. Department of State’s “Trafficking in Persons Report” gives guidelines for nations to comply with minimum standards for stopping child trafficking.

However, these methods are difficult when addressing the variations of child trafficking across the globe. Because of various cultures, fluctuating economies, and a diverse plethora of religions, all nations have complications in the implementation and enforcement of justice systems worldwide. For example, many of the laws around the world focus on just sex trafficking of children but ignore labor trafficking, despite child labor trafficking being more widespread and more of an issue. In general, while there is an increase of media exposure on trafficking as a whole, the majority of the problem is being ignored and not addressed. To outline this, I will provide an overview of six different countries’ efforts and the challenges that they face to implement human trafficking laws.

The United States

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was enacted in 2000 and became the first federal law that actually addressed sex and labor trafficking of children in the United States. The TVPA was primarily for the protection of and help for the victims and to further prosecute the offenders. It was reauthorized and amended in 2003, 2005, and 2008 to become the Trafficking Victim’s Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and each modification gave more positive changes. In 2008, the TVPRA required the Department of Labor to publish lists of products made by forced child labor, giving citizens a different perspective when purchasing these particular products. In 2011, the TVPRA expired and is currently in need of an update to relook at the changing landscape of human trafficking of children in the United States.

In 2016, a bill to reauthorize the TVPRA was introduced to Congress. In its amended form, it held government contractors accountable for using foreign labor recruiters that would exploit the laborers. This helped law enforcement more effectively prevent and prosecute sex tourism. It also created a grant-making program to prevent child trafficking in humanitarian crises. In the section of “Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking” under the TVPRA, the U.S. government is actively trying to become a leader in ending child trafficking.

Because of the Polaris Project, Massachusetts has been rated one of the best states for effective activism to combat human trafficking. This project made the Human Trafficking Task Force to strengthen the protection of the children in trafficking and makes using the Internet for this practice punishable by law. However other states have much more progress to make, in Wyoming, for example, there are no existing laws in place that punish trafficking of any sorts. Though recently the state House Bill 133 added human trafficking legislation to the law and the bill is currently going to the Wyoming Senate.

India

In India, more than 200,000 children are trafficked in various forms each year and, for the most part,

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are forced to perform domestic service and/or labor in embroidery and brick factories. The country has government-sponsored Anti-Trafficking Units, however they are not widely implemented or enforced. Ideally, they are supposed to investigate human trafficking cases and establish prosecutions. The biggest issue is that it is difficult to see if one law can work for a country as regionally diverse as India. Corruption, and lack of education and training make it hard to make the programs effective. Currently the U.S. State Department is encouraging India to raise awareness about human trafficking, although this may be a lost cause. The United States wants, however, to help India first establish a file-and-prosecute case precedent in local anti-trafficking courts, and then build from there.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation was initially created to work with U.S. anti-trafficking efforts. This law has been downplayed though for conflating the sex work of children with regular labor practices. Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Asia, and sex exploitation of children here is considered rational for the economy especially in rural regions. This alone makes legal enforcement a challenge to both the victims and those that participate by choice.

South Korea

Trafficking of children is widespread in South Korea and there have been several reported cases of people from the Philippines, North Korea, Russia, and Thailand being exploited in South Korea's sex industry. Even more, many of the human trafficking victims in the United States originate from South Korea and find themselves in situations of debt bondage when they arrive in the United States.

On the United States Trafficking in Persons Report, South Korea is a Tier 1 country, meaning it meets the minimum standards for preventing the trafficking of children. However there are still many cases of labor exploitation in difficult and dangerous factories. These workers are vulnerable and fall ill in these extreme conditions. The Punishment of Acts Arranging Sexual Traffic and its Labor Standards Act puts legal sentences on the perpetrators. Despite this, there is no legislation defining child trafficking, so it is almost impossible to determine these individuals as guilty to be prosecuted.

Sweden

In Sweden, the Kvinnofrid law makes it illegal to buy sex from children but not necessarily illegal to actually sell it. This kind of law would, in theory, reduce human trafficking and the demand for prostitution. This law is under a label called a "John Law" and is considered controversial because it tends to force the child sex workers underground to make them invisible from the public. Arguably, this does not reduce the number of cases: it hides them. This is more dangerous for the sex trafficking to even operate. The law was later used by Norway and Iceland despite measuring the impact of the laws being extremely difficult.

Denmark

In 1999, Denmark decriminalized prostitution in order to make it easier to regulate. There are several organizations that support underage sex workers for their rights and labor unions. Every now and then, the government brings up child prostitution bans but the Danish public actually widely opposes this. However, there are trafficking and pimping practices that are still illegal in Denmark. The Danish Criminal Code makes sure that the sex and labor trafficking of children is still treated as a major criminal offense. The country has made a National Action Plan against this offense at the Danish Anti-Trafficking Centre. This place assists trafficked children and helps them get treatment and assistance from authorities. It is not easy to implement

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trafficking laws here though because the effectiveness of the laws is clearly still a controversy between the government and the Danish public. The challenges of legislation are continuing to make efforts but have given up in many ways (Jesionka Paras 2-18).

CONCLUSION

There are many forms of human trafficking, and many ways in which it harms trafficked persons, and in turn, there are many methods that people around the globe can employ to help fight and end child trafficking. We must learn the indicators of this type of service that children are suffering from so we can identify potential victims. Responding to the victim's physical and emotional needs is outside the initial matter of the provider's practice. The client will need long-term treatment and care with a team of healthcare professionals. Every provider should care for physical trauma, STDs, diagnosis of diseases, any suicidal thoughts or mental disabilities developed, and all other immediate needs. One must be informed about the facts that no victim can be forced to report a crime, the victim's family may be at risk if they report the crime, and he or she is also, due to the underage status of the minor, under legal obligation to report anything to child protective services. Training is available in selected locations for businesses, law enforcement offices, educational institutions, and others. We need to be conscientious and informed as consumers. Figure out who picked your tomatoes, who makes your sweaters, and where your silk is coming from. Look up the Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor. Encourage companies to take initiative to investigate child trafficking in supply chains and how products are being sold.

I spoke about history, child exploitation, child pornography, and labor trafficking in European countries as well as the United States. There is so much more to learn on each of these topics as this is only stressing adolescents excluding other vulnerable populations. The message of this paper is to take a stand to conduct more research on each sector of research I have discussed. I will continue to be included in my campus awareness organizations for human trafficking efforts as well as promote companies that aim to trigger the fight.

Volunteer and support anti-child trafficking efforts in your community along with meeting with and writing to government representatives to know that you care about the fight against children trafficking. What can they do to address it globally, not just in your home country?

Businesses can provide jobs, internships, and training to survivors. Students can take action on their campus by establishing a club to raise awareness about this global phenomenon. Health care providers can identify the indicators and assist those victims. Journalists and writers can understand that media plays a huge role on shaping perceptions about this worldwide issue. Attorneys and government officials can offer legal services for those needing assistance, like applying for special visas. Give resources for representatives, and people of or relating to human trafficking victims. We must work toward the end of modern child slavery and sexual exploitation, no matter how treacherous and long the fight may be.

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