

# Great Decisions 2020

## Class #4: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking



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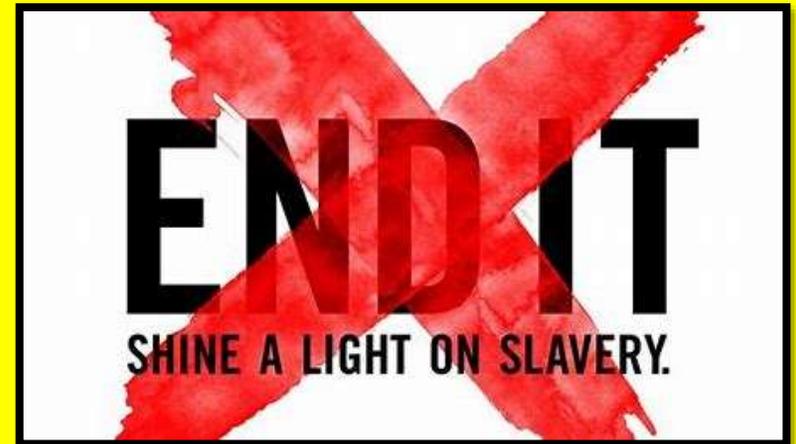
[coffeynotes.com](http://coffeynotes.com)

### Topics

1. Extent of problem
2. The victims and perpetrators
3. How it works
4. Myths and Realities
5. Local perspectives



**Mary Delancey:** Marion County Human Trafficking Task Force and a Coordinator for International Justice Mission Orlando Volunteer Team



- **End It Movement?** - sponsoring "Shine a Light on Slavery Day" on February 13
- Raise awareness that slavery still exists

# Join Us

## February 13th

# & Shine a Light on Slavery

Now that you know, what will you do to END IT? Save the date. Join with FREEDOM FIGHTERS around the world on 2.13.20 as we SHINE A LIGHT ON SLAVERY! On that day, draw a RED X on your hand, take a selfie and post it using #ENDITMOVEMENT. Help us tell the world by telling your world.

# Remarks by President Trump at the White House Summit on Human Trafficking: The 20th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

LAW & JUSTICE | Issued on: January 31, 2020

# Slavery by the Numbers

Learn the facts and help us END IT!

[LEARN MORE](#)

## 40 Million

### People Trapped

There are 40.3 million people held against their will in slavery today. We believe that even 1 is too many.



## 150 Billion

### Dollars Per Year

Slavery is outlawed in every country around the globe, but the problem still persists in 87% of those nations.



## 71%

### Women and Girls

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor around the world.



## 1 in 4

### Children

A quarter of all victims of modern slavery are children. We must protect the most vulnerable.



# Local Volunteers Active & Helpful

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## Two students working to bring awareness of sex trafficking with "Priceless: Redefine Worth" event Jan. 24

Nancy Kennedy Jan 17, 2020 Updated 14 hrs ago 0 1 min to read



Citrus County Upholstery



# Statistics dubious, but trafficking is massive and convictions minimal

## 2016 Statistics of Trafficking Worldwide - Not Encouraging

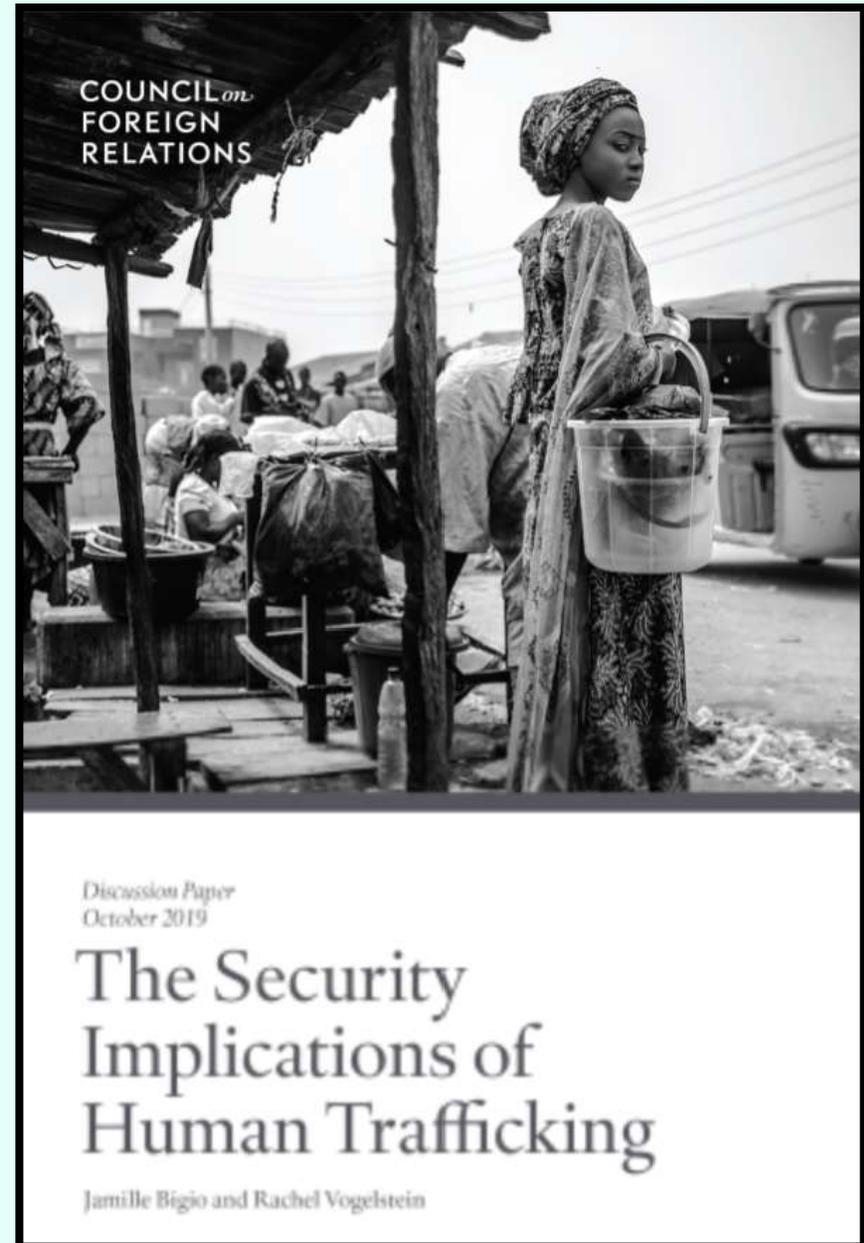
	Total	%
Total Victims	45,800,000	100%
Victims identified	68,453	0.15%
Victims detected	24,500	0.05%
Prosecutions	14,939	0.03%
Convictions	9,072	0.02%

Source: "Modern slavery and human trafficking, by Ronald Weitzer, Great Decisions 2020

# U.S. Security and global human trafficking

**Human trafficking** can fuel conflict, drive displacement, and undercut international institutions ability to promote stability

U.S. should work to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks and terrorist groups that exploit human trafficking



# National & Local news – headline sex trafficking

NEW YORK

## Lawsuit Claims Epstein Trafficked Girls in Caribbean Until 2018

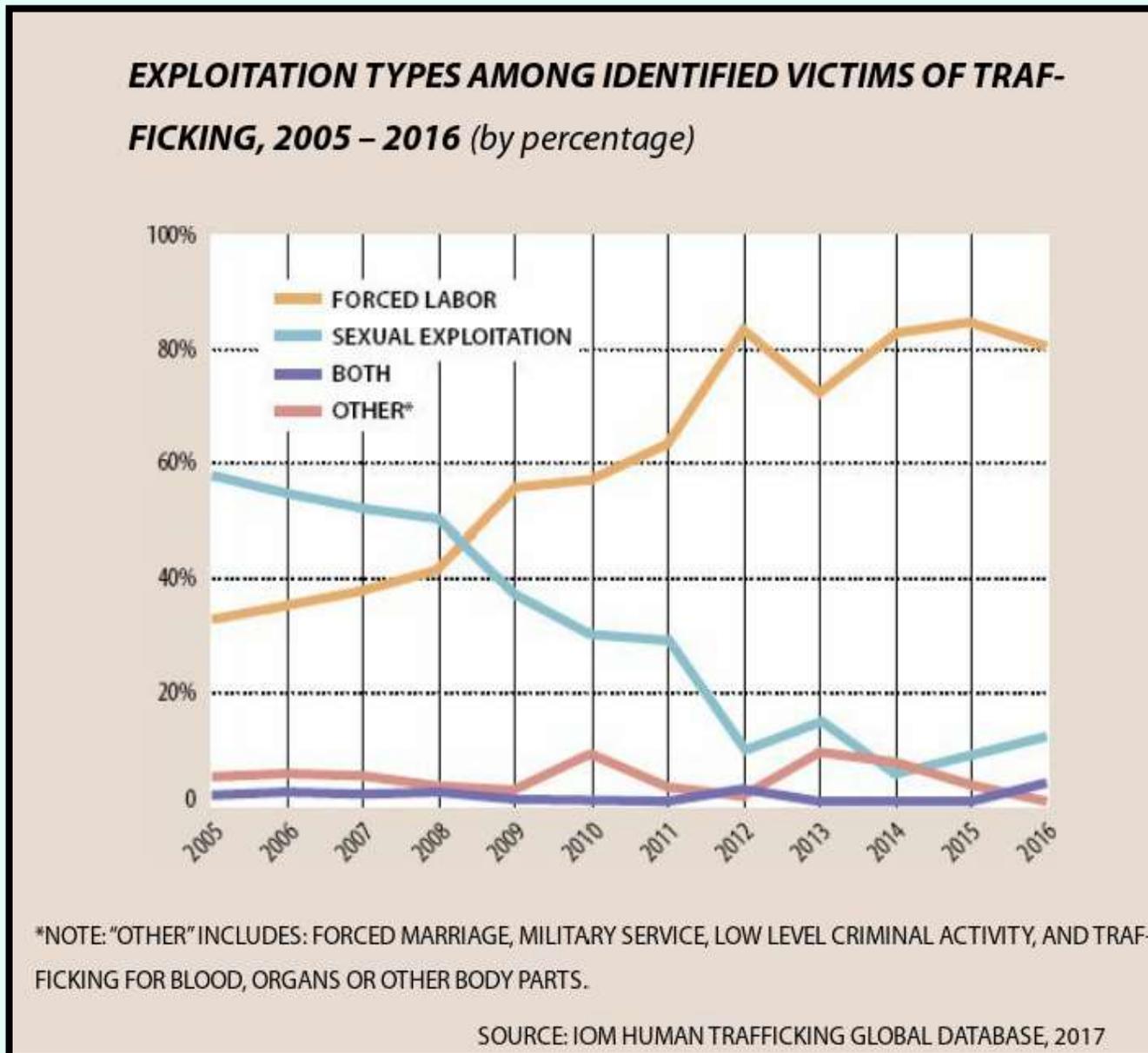
The attorney general of the Virgin Islands says Mr. Epstein and his associates used a database to track victims as young as 11 years old.

By Ali Watkins



PRINT EDITION Epstein Abused Girls on Island Until 2018, Suit  
Says | January 16, 2020, Page A18

# Forced labor now 80%, sexual 15%



# Human Trafficking – The Victims and Perpetrator

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## ■ **Who is vulnerable?**

- Most vulnerable are recent migrants or relocated, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth

## ■ **Who are the traffickers?**

- Some use their privilege, wealth, and power to control
- Includes individuals, business owners, gangs or network, parents or family members, etc.



# How do traffickers control victims?

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- Most common include physical and emotional abuse and threats, isolation from friends and family, and economic abuse
- Make promises aimed at addressing the needs in order to impose control and get them trapped
- Victims fear leaving because of psychological trauma, shame, emotional attachment
- Or physical threats to themselves or their family



# Human Trafficking Myths

- **Myth:** Usually a violent crime involving kidnapping or physically force into the situation
  - **Reality:** Most traffickers use psychological - tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor
- **Myth:** All human trafficking involves sex
  - **Reality:** Human trafficking is use of force, fraud or coercion to get another to provide labor or commercial sex
  - More labor trafficking than sex trafficking, but wider awareness of sex trafficking
- **Myth:** Traffickers target victims they don't know.
  - **Reality:** Many trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents

# Human Trafficking Myths

- **Myth:** Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in U.S.
  - **Reality:** Trafficking also involves foreign national survivors who are legally living and/or working in U.S.
- **Myth:** Only females are victims of sex trafficking
  - **Reality:** Half of sex trafficking victims are male - LGBTQ are particularly vulnerable
- **Myth:** Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries.
  - **Reality:** Occurs also in legitimate ones - restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories...

# Human Trafficking Myths

- **Myth:** Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting across state or national borders
  - **Reality:** Trafficking does not require any movement - can be recruited and trafficked in their own hometowns, even their own homes
- **Myth:** If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better”
  - **Reality:** Initial consent prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment

# Human Trafficking Myths

- **Myth:** People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will
  - **Reality:** Sometimes, but more often, stay because lack necessities get out, are afraid for their safety, or so effectively manipulated that they do not identify situation
- **Myth:** Labor trafficking is only or primarily a problem in developing countries
  - **Reality:** Labor trafficking occurs in U.S. but is reported at lower rates than sex trafficking

# Human Trafficking Myths

- **Myth:** All commercial sex is human trafficking
  - **Reality:** All commercial sex involving a minor is legally considered human trafficking, but involving an adult is human trafficking only if doing so against their will due to force, fraud or coercion
- **Myth:** People in active trafficking situations always want help getting out
  - **Reality:** Fear, isolation, guilt, shame, misplaced loyalty and expert manipulation may keep a person from seeking help or identifying as a victim

# Local law enforcement perspective

## – The difficulties of stopping

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- Difficult to identify - maybe field worker, hotel maid ...
- Speaks foreign language, lacks understanding of U.S., deep fear of law enforcement
- Victim rarely self-identify or incriminate trafficker
- Victim may be dependent upon the trafficker for drugs, money, living accommodations ...
- May take multiple contacts of 10 to 15 times to gain confidence in victim and convince there are better alternatives
- When press charges, trafficker may receive a light penalty and soon returns to trafficking



# Perspective of local nonprofits (Created Gainesville)

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- Requires extensive outreach efforts to identify victims
- Requires holistic strategy of:
  - **Prevention**-reducing the supply by educating
  - **Intervention**-reaching the exploited by going to places where women are most vulnerable such as strip clubs, on the street at night, in jail, courtroom
  - **Restoration**- restoring lives by providing holistic treatment of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing
  - **Awareness**- Work at local level to change culture and stopping the demand



# Holistic treatment is costly

## Monthly restorative cost for one woman

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- \$300-mental health treatment
- \$300 medical care
- \$600 housing assistance
- \$200 educational scholarship
- \$75 sobriety care
- \$65 personal care items
- \$35 bus pass
- \$30 personal development items
- **\$1,605 Total X 12 mos.= \$19,260/yr.**

Costs much more when include costs to governmental agencies, police, individual, families ...

Source: Created Gainesville, brochure and presentation 1/24/2020



# Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – Summary & Conclusions

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- Global problem- but also in U.S., especially Florida which has the third most cases
- Victims difficult to identify - refuse to self-identify because trapped, intimidated, or ashamed
- Normally not kidnapped off the street but enticed by someone they know
- Not just young women, but young men, foreign laborers working in agriculture, housecleaning, etc.
- Especially difficult to resolve when drugs are involved
- Prosecution of trafficker difficult because victim won't press charges and first offenders lightly treated



# Modern slavery and human trafficking

## – a major global problem

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- Human trafficking and modern slavery have become major public issues over the past two decades
- Almost every nation has laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects
- U.S. allocated on domestic and international antitrafficking programs for 2019 – 2021 total \$430 mil.
- Definitional problems:
  - Whether a person's consent is relevant
  - Whether slavery is distinct from or overlaps with human trafficking
  - Meaning of "exploitation"
  - Whether bonded labor and coerced marriage qualify as slavery



# Terms “trafficking” and “slavery” used interchangeably

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- Human smuggling ( where a facilitator helps)
- Trafficking ( where some deception or coercion is involved)
- To qualify as trafficking some kind of abuse is central for adults
- But abuse not a requirement for minors involved in sex trade
- Adults who willingly engage in commercial sex are not trafficking
- Recruitment, receipt, or harboring of persons, any one of which qualifies as trafficking provided that other conditions (coercion , deception , exploitation) are met



# Terms “trafficking” and “slavery” often used interchangeably

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- Slavery is now considered a regime of maximum economic exploitation, social isolation, and total coercive control over the workers
- However, U.S. State Department had begun equating trafficking with slavery, forced labor, and bonded labor – resulting in a huge spike in the alleged number of trafficking victims (27 million in 2012)
- Human trafficking as acts of coercion or deception occurring at the recruitment or transit stage
- Slavery seen as forced labor and comprehensive control of a person inside and outside of the work setting



# Large share of labor migrants are trafficked victims

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- Study of Bangladeshi labor migrants who worked abroad found that 81% qualified as trafficking victims:
  - 67% of victims discovered during transit that their travel documents were fraudulent
  - 80% had their passport confiscated by their employer
  - 75% were forced to work excessive hours and/or were poorly paid
  - 96% of females experienced sexual harassment and/or sexual assault by a broker or employer



# Trafficker exploitation of African women taken to Europe

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- Some of women fly to Europe, but most travel overland through Libya and then cross the Mediterranean into Italy
- After arriving in Europe, quickly discover must sell sex in order to pay off their enormous debt, up to 10 times the initial agreement
- It typically costs a trafficker about \$ 2,000 to buy a fake passport and transport someone to Europe
- They make colossal profits off these investments - \$40,000 to \$80,000 per victim
- One woman, for example, was shocked
  - Her debt was € 50,000 and forced to work 12 hours a day
  - Had to earn a minimum of € 100 a day; handler took all



# Trafficking of minors illegal per se but is huge

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- Any involvement of minors in commercial sex is criminalized in U.S. and international law
- Deemed victims irrespective of whether they seek out or consent to work in this sector
- International Labor Organization (ILO) considers laborers under 15 years victims by definition
- ILO estimates 152 million minors worldwide are involved in forbidden forms of child labor



# Causes are both “pull” and “push” factors

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- These push and pull factors are mirrored elsewhere in Third World, where minors suffer under slave-like conditions but do not perceive themselves as victims
- Their decision to migrate for work stems from economic desperation and either filial obligation or outright pressure from family members
- Combatting such “ consensual victimization ” faces tremendous obstacles



# Sex trafficking despite much less than labor trafficking receives the publicity

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- Sex trafficking is typically the only focus in news
- Some activists now prefer the term slavery over labor trafficking
- The word “slavery” is much more stigmatized and thus more likely to generate publicity and activism.
- Globally, exploited non-sexual labor far exceeds the market for sexual services
- Commercial sex market pales in comparison to the size of all other labor arenas, such as agriculture
- 80% in forced or exploitative work worldwide were non-sexual



# Victims often recruited by people they know – which makes it difficult to prosecute

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- Traffickers are mostly small - scale operators
- Many victims are recruited by acquaintances, friends, or family
- Because of their strong social ties, it is particularly difficult for authorities to build cases against a victim's relatives or close friends
- Prosecutions and convictions of traffickers have steadily increased worldwide, doubling between 2007 and 2018



# Stiff U.S. penalties for Trafficking and Slavery

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- U.S. penalty for conviction of trafficking is a fine and/or imprisonment for 10 years to life
- Punishment for a slavery-like condition (i.e., holding a person in debt peonage or involuntary servitude) ranges from a fine to incarceration for 20 years
- **Tragic Irony:** The more restrictive the barriers to cross-border migration, the greater the odds that the migrant will be victimized by middlemen



# Special U.S. visa available to immigrants certified as trafficking victims

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- A policy that overlaps the domestic and foreign realms is special visa available in U.S. to immigrants who are certified as trafficking victims : a T-visa allows immigrant to remain
- Major corporations are beginning to take measures to decrease the risk of forced labor occurring at each stage in their supply chain
- Public shaming is another way to compel corporate compliance



# Modern slavery and human trafficking

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- Millions of human trafficking victims are hidden in plain sight
- Traffickers coerce their victims into forced labor and prostitution
- Tens of millions of human trafficking are victimized worldwide
- Human trafficking is third largest criminal industry worldwide- after drugs and weapons
- Leaders around world are beginning to get organized against this criminal activity - it is a global threat
- Number of detection of victims is rising
  - 40 million per year enslaved
  - 5 million involved in sexual servitude
- Recent high-profile U.S. case is Jeffrey Epstein



# Victims are from impoverished families and ensnarled by “friends”

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- Victims often from dysfunctional homes and poverty
- Often difficult to identify
- Most meet their victimizer close at home when young
- Traffickers use familiarity - it's someone they may know and a lured into it
- It's more of a grooming process



# Victims are young and often form a romantic relationship

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- Average age of 12 to 14 when enter sex trade in U.S.
- Average trafficker age 28 ½ when arrested
- Trafficking often starts when young - especially those in poverty and under-appreciated
- Many are sexually assaulted by traffickers
- They often form a romantic relationship



# Labor trafficking victims tend to be foreign nationals who have financial difficulties

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- Most foreign nationals have financial difficulties
- Seeking to provide for families
- Recruited to legitimate jobs through well-known channels
- Then are forced into labor which generates money for them-it generates billions of dollars
- There's also lure of traveling-especially to U.S.
- But visas are tied to employer, so once ensnarled, they begin to see their life as the new normal



# Victims once ensnarled feel there's no way out

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- Violence and intimidation and corruption used to maintain control
- They are brainwashed and fear reporting to authorities
- Many comply with their trafficked situation fearing repercussions



# Victims fear consequences of telling authorities

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- They don't know what to do about it
- Fear consequences of telling authorities or others as much as they fear their oppressors
- Often victims fear law enforcement for being prosecuted - where sometimes are treated brutally
- Especially in prostitution, they fear going to law enforcement and be labeled as criminal which will make them hard to get legitimate jobs



# Victims lack self respect and are suffering from neglect

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- Victims also lack self-respect and suffering from neglect – lack of food, clothing, shelter, medical care, friends, etc.
- Labor traffickers lack status-especially in foreign home
- Few victims provided basic health care
- Once cycle of trafficking begins it's hard to break free-don't know who to turn to



# Many are victimized for long periods, but there are organizations that can help

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- Many are victimized over long term of 5 to 10 years
- Intimidated and warned to keep quiet and not speak to others
- **Safe Horizon** - an organization that assists trafficking victims comes has helped some of the victims
- Sometimes medical people identify them and report to authorities
- But some do escape and are able to become productive citizens and reconnect with their families



# Life after victimization is hard to reintegrate into society

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- They lack financial means to survive
- Often have psychological issues and have been stigmatized
- This makes it very difficult to escape and recover
- Sometimes may take 30 years to heal and fully recover
- Often it is difficult to reconnect with their families



# What to do?

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- Victims need to have courage to speak up and have hope
- Key is to alleviate desperate poverty that forces many into trafficking
- Fundamentally, most are impoverished and, so reducing poverty would help and assure them opportunities



# Problem not adequately recognized and massive underreporting

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- For example, in 2018 U.S. State Department estimates only 11,096 prosecuted vs. 25 million in forced labor and prostitution
- Victims are often persecuted and condemned but too often the perpetrator gets off with light punishment
- Traffickers and their customers need to be held accountable and criminally prosecuted



# Victims need to be identified and treated and perpetrators prosecuted

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- Human trafficking gangs sometimes quite powerful and politically connected and very difficult to break up
- Law enforcement needs to get better at identifying problem and victims – estimated only 450 worldwide prosecuted
- A priority is to provide more services for victims - this often takes time for them to rehabilitate
- Ordinary people need to become more vigilant in making their voices heard about this problem

