

Human Trafficking

By: Ceren

Introduction

Imagine a teenager living in control of a pimp. Every night, she would be forced into the world of prostitution. She was persuaded into running away with one of her best guy friends that she had met in a chatroom online a year ago. They both agreed on running away since she came from a broken home and he needed to find a job. They made a date to leave together and they would go with him in his car. Once they were gone, he started abusing her. He would force her to engage in commercial sex and would threaten her that if she ran away he would hurt her further.

Or, imagine a man living normally but not making enough money. When he and some other men get an offer to work in another country making triple the amount of money they receive now, they accept thinking that it's a great offer and they'll have a much happier life. However, when they get to the other country to work, they receive nothing close to triple the amount they received before. They get paid minimal money for long hours of hard work.

Human trafficking is a huge problem in not only developing countries but all over the world. 161 countries to be accurate. For instance, one country that has a lot of human trafficking issues is Cambodia. There is an estimated 2.5 million people in both forced labor and sexual exploitation in Cambodia. There is even human trafficking in the US. Last year, human trafficking was reported in all 50 states of the United States of America.

Human trafficking is basically the trade of people, whether it be for labor or for commercial sex. With 20.9 children, men, and women all over the world being trafficked, this is a huge issue that not enough people know about. Most of the time victims get tricked into being trafficked with lies and/or promises for a better life. They believe the traffickers, and are lured into the world of sex and labor trafficking. The most vulnerable of people, normally being those with bad or abusive histories, get reeled in to this modern day form of slavery. Women and children are most commonly sexually trafficked, with 100,000 children in the sex trade.

This problem is horrible and is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. For example, in the past 6 years, more than 14,000 cases of human trafficking have been reported to the NHTRC {National Human Trafficking Resource Center} hotline. The NHTRC hotline receives roughly 100 calls on average each day. If more people decide to step in and get involved, we can all try to stop human trafficking become a bigger issue than it is now.

Explain the Issue

Human trafficking is basically the trade of people. Human trafficking is usually split up into two different types, labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Human trafficking occurs all over the world and has affected 161 countries so far. For example, many places in Asia are affected by human trafficking. Certain countries in Asia, such as Malaysia, Cambodia, etc. have very big exploitation problems. Human trafficking doesn't only occur in developing countries. Human trafficking takes place in the U.S. as well. Last year, human trafficking was reported in all 50 states in the U.S. This problem can happen to anybody.

Many people are affected by human trafficking, both locally and globally. For example, about 20.9 million men, women, and children are trafficked today for commercial sex or forced labor in 161 countries. Locally, in the U.S. many people are trafficked. Minors in the US, as young as 12 years old are forced into street prostitution and commercial sex. Many of the people who are trafficked, are often vulnerable, and may have a bad or abusive history. They are lured in with violence, threats, lies, promises, and many other forms of manipulation. When people are trafficked they are usually treated unfairly. For example, traffickers may hurt or abuse their victims to keep them from escaping or behaving a certain way. Also, globally, human trafficking occurs a lot in southeast Asia, which is, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, etc. From 2007-2010, in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific, 47% of people were trafficked into forced labour, 44% of people were trafficked into commercial sex, and the other 9% of people were trafficked in different ways. Both types of human trafficking, labor and sex trafficking, occur in southeast Asia, just like in the U.S. Although human trafficking is more common in certain areas or countries, human trafficking affects people throughout the world. This does not only occur in the US or Southeast Asia, but this is a worldwide problem that affects many places both locally and globally.

People say many different things about this issue that are both negative and positive. Many people have similar opinions but there are a few different opinions about this issue. People exploit this issue by participating in human trafficking or supporting it in other ways. There are many different points of view on this issue. For example, most people are very sympathetic and want to do something about this issue. Once people hear about this issue, they become concerned. For example, in class, people understand that the issue that I am researching is dramatic and they feel bad for the people having to go through this issue. Many people want to get involved when hearing and learning about human trafficking. There are many examples of exploitation and human trafficking. Human trafficking has two main ways of exploiting people. They are labor and sex trafficking as I had said earlier. In both ways of trafficking, there comes abuse, lies, and manipulation. Those are all kinds of exploitation. Many people have certain views on human trafficking, but its good that most of the views are negative and people don't want to allow it.

Current Events

Human trafficking is a worldwide issue that affects men, women, and children. Everyday, many people are forced into the sex and labor trade. This is a story about a girl who ran away from home to join the sex trade. Recently, a girl named Emily, a Latino girl, who was 15 years old, ran away from her home. Her parents acted how any parents would, they were worried and very scared. Her parents searched for her but also had the police help out since this was a major issue and they cared about their daughter and just wanted her to come back. Emily's parents later find out that she had been taken into the trade. They also find out that Emily is making about 15-16 hundred and all the money she makes goes to a pimp.

This issue is huge and we need to make a change. People are living the same life as Emily.

That means people are affected by this issue every single day. Sometimes people are beat and abused if they don't followed the rules of their pimp or whoever was in charge of them. If they don't get beat or abused they will get threatened. This is crazy because 20.9 million children, men, and women have to go through this everyday. Most people that go through this have a bad past or something that would make them vulnerable to this issue. This shows that we have to be careful and we should help by donating to organizations that help human trafficking.

People are always reacting with sympathy and always want to take action when they hear about something like this. Yet, people may have feelings of disgust when Emily ran away by herself with no influence of thought from other people. Most of the time when people react to human trafficking stories they always want to help and feel sad. I think people may think like this because if somebody runs away from their home and enters the trade under their own influence people may think that it wasn't a smart idea and that the person is stupid. Also, people may think that way since Emily is a certain race, which she is Latino, so they might judge her depending on their opinions. There isn't specific things that people said about this issue but it is probably a real controversial topic. This current event probably earned lots of different opinions from our society.

Methods of Change

There are currently many organizations that are supporting and helping this topic today, both locally and globally. Two organizations that I will talk about are Restore NYC and the Polaris Project. Restore NYC is a local organization that is fighting against human trafficking. They do this by having safehouses for human trafficking victims. They have safehouses because usually victims become even more vulnerable when they are homeless. So, Restore NYC has safehouses that victims can go to when they are either homeless or helpless. Restore NYC also hosts events. These events are trying to educate others in NYC about sex trafficking. They have one big event every year. Also, this year, Restore NYC will be having their own team as part of the NYC Triathlon on August 3rd. Basically, Restore NYC's goal is to raise support and take in victims of human trafficking and restore survivors. The Polaris Project is a global organization that is fighting to end human trafficking. The Polaris Project has lots of different options to help end human trafficking. For example, you can raise awareness by following the steps on the website under 'Raise Awareness.' Or you can donate on their website. In order, to get educate people about this issue, they have lots and lots of information on their website. Their website has information about sex and labor trafficking, frequently asked questions, etc. The Polaris Project also has a human trafficking hotline that any victim can call and get help. These are just great organizations that are helping toward ending human trafficking.

This issue is a very complicated issue and sometimes adults don't feel comfortable with kids talking or learning about it. I think that both kids and adults should be able to help this issue since it is very bad and can change lives in negative ways. I think kids can help by donating to a good human trafficking organization or even just simply learning more about the issue. I think a lot of people should know about this issue because it is horrible and very serious. So, once kids know about this issue. They can come up with creative ideas to help the issue. First, you can donate money to a human trafficking organization. Some good and trustable organizations are

Restore NYC or the Polaris Project. You can also inform more people about this issue. The more people know about this issue, the easier it will be to make a change.

Call for Action

Are you interested in helping out and taking action to stop human trafficking? I listed certain organizations and projects that you can participate in and help out. If you don't feel like one of these organizations fits your style, you can try creating your own project or campaign.

Organizations/Projects	Specific Efforts of Project	Contact info
The Polaris Project	Their goal is to end human trafficking. Ways to help are fundraising, raising awareness, etc.	Contact Info Page : http://www.polarisproject.org/about-us/contact-us Their P.O. Box P.O. Box 65323 Washington, DC 20035 Phone # : 202-745-1001
Restore NYC	Their goal is to help victims of human trafficking and to gain more survivors and reduce the victims of human trafficking. They help by accepting donations, volunteers, etc. They also have safehouses for the victims of human trafficking to be cared for.	Contact Info Page : http://restorenyc.org/contact-us/ Visit their Website! http://restorenyc.org Their P.O Box in NYC : P.O. Box 1003, Bowling Green Station New York, NY 10274
Love 146	Their mission like any other organization for this cause, is to reduce human trafficking, typically for women and children. Love146 have many ways to take action. For example, you could do things like host an event, donate money monthly, or join with others.	Contact Info Page: http://love146.org/contact-love146/ Their P.O. Boxes in the US : P.O. Box 8266 New Haven, CT 06530 USA P.O. Box 66253 Houston,TX 77266 USA General Inquiries :

		texasinfo@love146.org
Safe Horizon	Their goal is to reduce all types of human trafficking. They do this by accepting donations. Also you could sponsor someone or honor someone.	<p>Contact Info Page : http://www.safehorizon.org/index/about-us-1/contact-us-1.html</p> <p>If you wish to donate over phone, their phone number is: 212.577.8293</p> <p>If you wish to donate via mail, their address is : : Attn: Donor Services, 2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007</p>
Not for Sale	Their mission is to stop human trafficking and slavery. Their goal is "to create a world where no one is for sale" They gather donations, with the donations they try to create better futures for victims of human trafficking or slavery.	<p>Contact Info Page : http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/contact-us/</p> <p>If you have questions about hosting an event : tour@notforsalecampaign.org</p> <p>If you have questions about a previous donation : giving@notforsalecampaign.org</p>

I am going to want to either donate money or raise awareness on human trafficking by fundraising or looking into some of the events that the organizations hold on certain dates. I was also thinking to do both.

Conclusion

This report shows that we need to pay close attention and help out with human trafficking. This report shows a general understanding on people's reactions on this issue, and also ways to reduce and try to put an end to human trafficking. I hope you learned some ways to reduce and help end human trafficking, and I hope you take some of my ideas and suggestions and consider taking action. The more people know, the bigger changes we can make to help this issue.

Bibliography

<http://www.polarisproject.org>
<http://love146.org>
<http://restorenyc.org>
<http://www.safehorizon.org>

<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org>

(I found most of my research off of Polaris Project, but got contact info off of the other pages.)