

Human Trafficking in the U.S.A

Introduction

Approximately seven years ago, I met a young woman who had just arrived in the United States of America for the first time. She was brought legally here by her fiancé from Korea. Soon after, they were married. After working a full time job at a department store for six years and attending many interviews with the U.S. Customs, this woman became a United States Citizen. She was originally from Kirgizstan, Russia. A recruiter from an international exotic dance club organization found her and persuaded this beautiful, intelligent, 22 year old woman that she could escape the inopportune life that was repressing her. She was convinced that she had no future at her present location and would make a substantial amount of money if she would agree to this offer. She willingly accepted the offer and left her supportive mother behind. After she arrived in Korea, she was ordered to work at a strip club and to perform sexual acts for paying customers. She was never notified that she would have to perform such acts of indecency. However, the so-called company that she worked for would not let her go home and made her pay off a very large sum of money by dancing and so forth. After a year of pure agony, she met her American fiancé who rescued her from this terrible form of slavery. But, this is just one example of human trafficking. There are far more cases such as this one that are much worse. These exact situations are occurring rapidly in the U.S. today. Human trafficking is practiced in many different ways. Some ways seem like a normal courier transition, a ticket to a better life, or just a way to reunite family members from afar. Regardless of the fact, it is happening in the U.S. and is considered future slavery. Human trafficking in the U.S. has been going on since the birth of our nation. It is illegal, inhumane, and results in

the deaths of many good people. It is a huge problem that needs to be addressed by our politicians and law enforcement agencies.

Thesis Statement

It is illegal to trade human beings like property and hence human trafficking is considered to be an illegal practice. Human beings are not goods or other belongings yet they are being used for inhuman activities like prostitution of forced labor. The big question is how can human beings bring to an end this contemptible business.

Causes of Trafficking

Human trafficking trade is an illegal activity because it undermines the human dignity and does not respect the sanctity of humanity. However it seems that people cannot stop this vice because of a lot of reasons (Dinan 2000). People get into the vice because of several pull and push factors and some of them include the following; unemployment, regional inequality, existence of organized crime activities, financial disparities, corruption, social favoritism, political unsteadiness, high profitability, deprivation and marginalization of the poor, reluctant laws of international sex tourism trade, and demand of sex from pedophiles. Human trafficking is advanced by the increased technology and permeable boundaries where communication and transnational extent is increasingly lucrative (Mark 2006). Unlike other commodities like firearms and illicit drugs, humans can be traded many times.

Human trafficking business is an unlawful activity that is still on the increase despite the efforts by the government of nations involved to curb this vice. Human trafficking involves the ethical aspects where the human rights are violated and the well being of the victims is compromised. The victims are susceptible to the physical harassment by the

traffickers to make sure victims conform to their demands (Dinan 2000). Many victims are held captive or assaulted so as to suppress resistance or otherwise they could be kept poor by low wage rates since they are not protected by the labor laws. There are cases of victims who work for about 15 hours in United States, Serbia, former Soviet Union and even China, the victims also complained of low salaries, compulsory nightshift jobs, poor working conditions and breach of the working agreements, US department of Justice (2002). The trade is exploitative and infringes human rights and is highly unethical because the victims are forced into doing very odd jobs like prostitution, forced labor, servitude and slavery.

Victims of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking dealings are very much illegal in many nations of the world if not all and this is because in a crime on humanity. The victims of human trafficking victims are basically women and children because they are vulnerable to coercion, false promises and are mostly likely to be defenseless when force is used (Fichtelberg 2007). Children exploitation that results from this modern slavery includes illegal adoption, forced marriage, prostitution, or recruitment as child soldiers. It is evidence that the victims are the defenseless minority groups in poor regions (Austein 2007). Women are predominantly the most susceptible group to the sex trafficking scandals, the felons take advantage of the fact that there is lack of employment opportunities, schools, hope for better occupation and then use force to push the women into prostitution, brokers and agents organize traveling arrangements, and occupations placements and on arrival, the women are taken to their employers where they learn of deceit in the job they were going

to do and the terms of employment are infringed as they end up in forceful and offensive situation from where escape attempt is thorny and equally hazardous.

Prostitution

Human trafficking scam is a very unlawful activity; the effects of human trafficking could be very devastating to this individual especially young women being coerced into prostitution. There very organized cartels carrying out these activities. Many nations have been unable to tackle the problem of human trafficking and in fact they have encouraged the sex tourism and prostitution activities in the United States and Europe. In sexual exploitation, a woman is traded between and within countries for sex and force is usually used (Dinan 2000). There are laws that have been put in place to try and stop the vice and the United States (Department of state) is on the front line to alleviate this problem; the World Bank also threatens to hold non humanitarian and non trade related aid.

Prostitution is deeply rooted in some states that it is very difficult to eliminate it. Some state laws address the activities of trafficking for sexual mistreatment and don't cover the use of force, meaning that it covers any person engaging in sex work with clear consent of her trafficking, US department of Justice (2002).

Human trafficking scheme is an illegal undertaking though it is still being practiced even with the knowledge of the society. Controversy and confusion of the sex scams come to play as the prostitution itself is the first form of human right violation for both the young and the old women (Pasuk 1997). Sexual trafficking uses force to coerce an emigrant into as sexual act as a condition of agreeing to or arranging migration. Children or women who are victims of trafficking are usually tricked to traveling because they are promised good jobs or money. The main reason women may accept the offers are because of the

benefits the trafficker promises. Prior to the trafficking process, the traffickers promise legal job and opportunity for better life especially careers like catering, hotel, bar and clubs. Apart from being tricked into the scam, there are some women who actually know that they would be working as prostitutes but they have the exact view of the conditions of the job in the country of destination (Fichtelberg 2007). The women then join the strip dancing clubs, street prostitution and live sex activities. The prevention of the vice is very tricky because, information from the deportees and detainees reveal that many of the women (approximately 80%) who went to US were aware of the fact that they were going to work as prostitutes.

Human trafficking business is illegal and this is because it affects the human beings mental health. There are several problems associated with the sex tourism especially to the victims' psychology (Fichtelberg 2007). There is suffering from social alienation in the country of destination, stigmatization may ensue, fanaticism and social segregation. In some instances, the victims of prostitution may face criminal charges with disregard to the fact that they were pushed into the character.

What needs to be done to Prevent Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is illegal activity that is affecting the entire world. This means there should be collective effort to weed out this trade. Some countries are suffering instability and this allows the cartels dealing in illegal trade like human trafficking to thrive (Mark 2006). Efforts to stop trafficking are very ineffective and reluctant authorities do not enforce the solutions because of corruption, lack of information and poor tracking machinery. Several organizations both governmental, non governmental and other private entities have stepped in to try and cut down the trafficking activities.

The most effective is the Interpol (international criminal police organization) which deals with crime with intent (terrorism, money laundry, drug trafficking) others include protection project, US Law, Council of Europe, and Canadian department of justice among other anti slavery campaigns (Pasuk 1997).

The acts of human trafficking are very unlawful. In the US, this has should be made a collective responsibility of everyone. This therefore means that a multi-agency should be used and be given the first priority. Several non governmental organizations should come together to work out ways to solve this problems. Basically no one body can stop human trafficking despite how big it could be. Many people fall victims of the human trafficking unlawful activities estimated at 600,000 to 800,000 individuals are coerced to get across the border every year and over 15,000 individuals find themselves in the United States. Currently many US agencies are fighting the vice by training the public to identify victims, to improve the services to casualties (Austein 2007).

Conclusion

I think it is very unethical to subject fellow human beings to conditions such as child sex and sex tourism, women trafficking because it shows discrimination leading to slavery, servitude and prostitution. Human rights are infringed and this requires a collective responsibility to stop the scandals. Human trafficking is the modern form of slavery. The US department of state estimates that about half a million to 820,000 people (men, women and children) are traded over the world every year. Close to seventy percent of the total victims are women and about 50 percent of them are below 18 years

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