

# Human Trafficking: Definitions, Recognition, Response

Panel Discussion at Alverno College: School of Arts & Science

Sebastian Ssempijja, Ph. D

Andrea Adams, LPC ITA, Clinical Assistant

Sebastian Family Psychology Practice

1720 W. Florist Avenue, Suite 125

Glendale, WI 53209

Phone number: 414.27.0801

Email address: [Ssempijja@sebastianfpp.com](mailto:Ssempijja@sebastianfpp.com)

# Acknowledgement and Appreciation

- ❖ We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to Alverno College for inviting us to participate in this inaugural forum.
- ❖ Our clinical, professional, and person relevance to this event:
  - It is our clinics commitment for over the last 20 years, to reach out to diverse cultures, ages, and clinical issues which may be complicated by various forms of neglect, abuse, trauma, relocation, disempowerment and depersonalization.
  - Additionally, to cultivate and flourish in our work with refugees, immigrants, and the great diversity of cultures both within, and outside of the mainstream community.

# About the clinic at Sebastian Family Psychology Practice

Mission: “To improve the well-being for people of all backgrounds, including immigrants and refugees, through behavioral health care that is sensitive to the needs, unique experiences and backgrounds of our clients.”

- \* Vision: “The clinic aims at positively affecting the lives of our clients by making them feel welcomed, accepted, and nurtured toward their transformation, healing and empowerment.”
- \* Staff: Multidisciplinary, multiethnic and a linguistically diverse team.

## Services include:

- ❖ Psychotherapy
- ❖ Home visitation
- ❖ Case Aide
- ❖ Parenting support
- ❖ AODA Services
- ❖ Psychological Evaluations
- ❖ Psychiatric/Medication Evaluations
- ❖ Interpretation

# Human Trafficking a revitalization of slavery?

- \* The ancient Greeks practices slavery and considered it was morally acceptable.  
‘It is thus clear that, just as some are by nature free, so others are by nature slaves, and for these latter the condition of slavery is both beneficial and just.’  
E. Barker (tr), *The Politics of Aristotle Translated with an Introduction, Notes and Appendix by Earnest Barker* (Clarendon, 1946) 14.
- \* It is the most common form of modern-day slavery. ([www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov))
- \* In the last decades, a new slavery-like practice has flourished, including bonded labor/debt bondage practice, forced prostitution and sex slavery, and trafficking in persons.
- \* Human Trafficking is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third –largest criminal enterprise in the world. (<http://www.routledgesociology.com/books/Human-Sex-Trafficking-isbn9780415576789> (accessed July 19, 2010).
- \* It is a market-based economy that exists on principles of supply and demand. It flourishes due to conditions which allows for high profits at low risk.
- \* Victims are trafficked for various purposes, such as commercial sex, agricultural work, or housekeeping. They can be rich or poor, men, women, or children, U.S. citizen, or foreign national.
- \* “Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates. “

Polaris Project 2012. [www.PolarisProject.org](http://www.PolarisProject.org))

# Human Trafficking defined

- \* The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Personnas as the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a per having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. A conservative estimate puts the number of victims at any one time at 2.5 million.

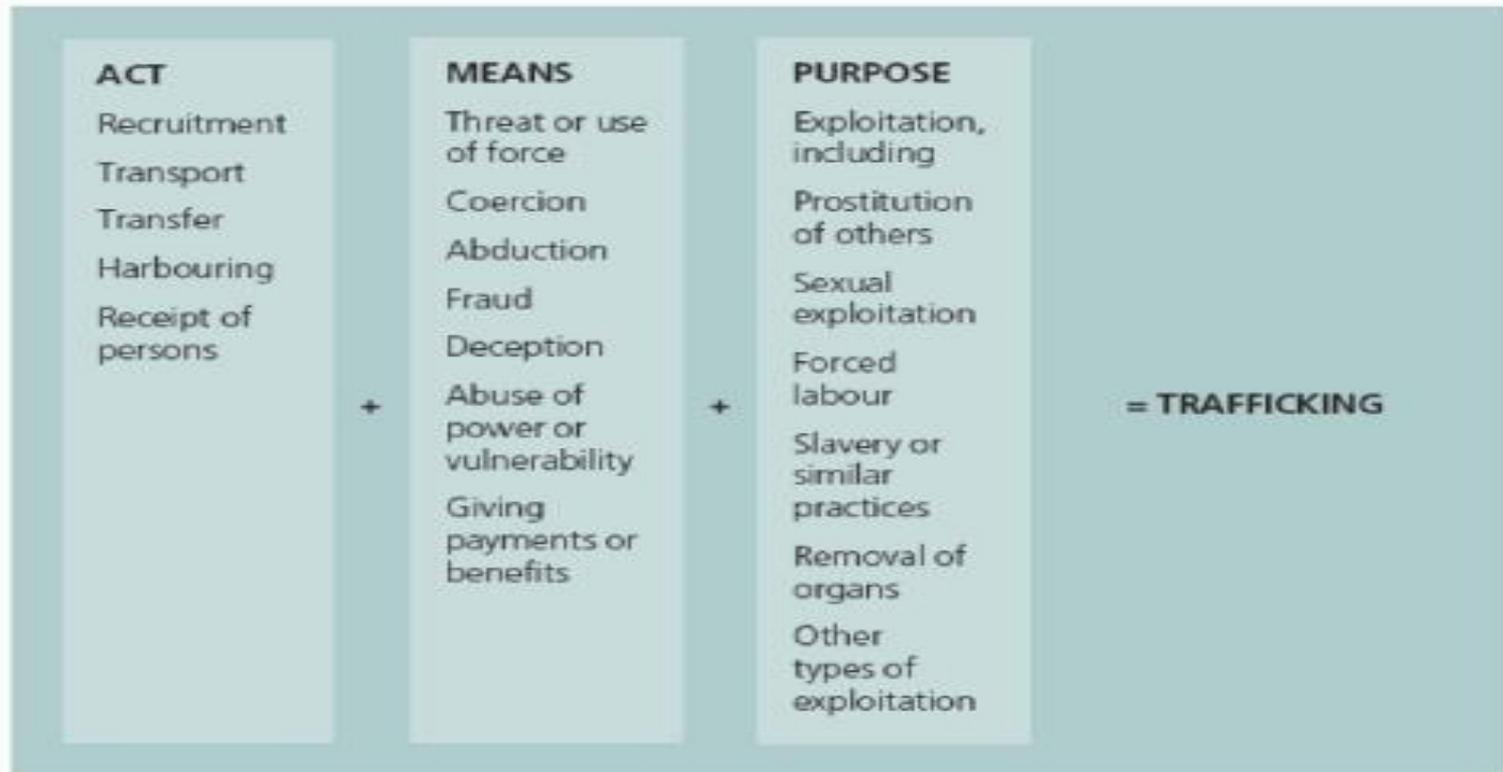
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children  
(adopted 15 November 2000, entered into force 29 September 2003)

# Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

- \* The main US law on trafficking, reauthorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008.
- \* The legal definition of severe sex trafficking is sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Polaris Project 2014 ([www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org))

# Three Elements of Human Trafficking





# Statistics

- \* According to the UNODC's 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, sexual exploitation was by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (58%), followed by forced labour (39%).
- \* This may be due to statistical bias since the exploitation of women tends to be visible in city centres or along highways. Other forms are under-reported by comparison: domestic servitude and forced marriage, organ removal, and the exploitation of children in begging



# South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific

- \* The majority of the victims found in the countries of South and East Asia and the Pacific in the reporting period were female (women and girls).
- \* The proportion of individuals convicted of trafficking in persons in this region who were women is higher than the proportion of women convicted of other crimes. It is also higher than the proportion of female convictions reported in other regions.
- \* 47% of the victims from the countries of South and East Asia and the Pacific reporting for this study were trafficked for forced labour, while 44% were trafficked for sexual exploitation. Exploitation in domestic servitude was frequently reported.

\* Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IV.1)

# Africa and the Middle East

- \* 67% of the victims of trafficking detected in the region during the reporting period were children.
- \* 49% of the victims detected in Africa and the Middle East were trafficked for forced labour and 36% for sexual exploitation.
- \* Victims of other forms of exploitation, including child soldiers and trafficking for rituals, made up 14% of the case. Cases of trafficking for organ removal were reported in the Middle East.
- \* 2007 – 2010 the Middle East was mainly an area of destination for victims trafficked from East Asia and South Asia. East Africans, Eastern Europeans and Central Asians were also detected in the Middle East.

# Europe and Central Asia

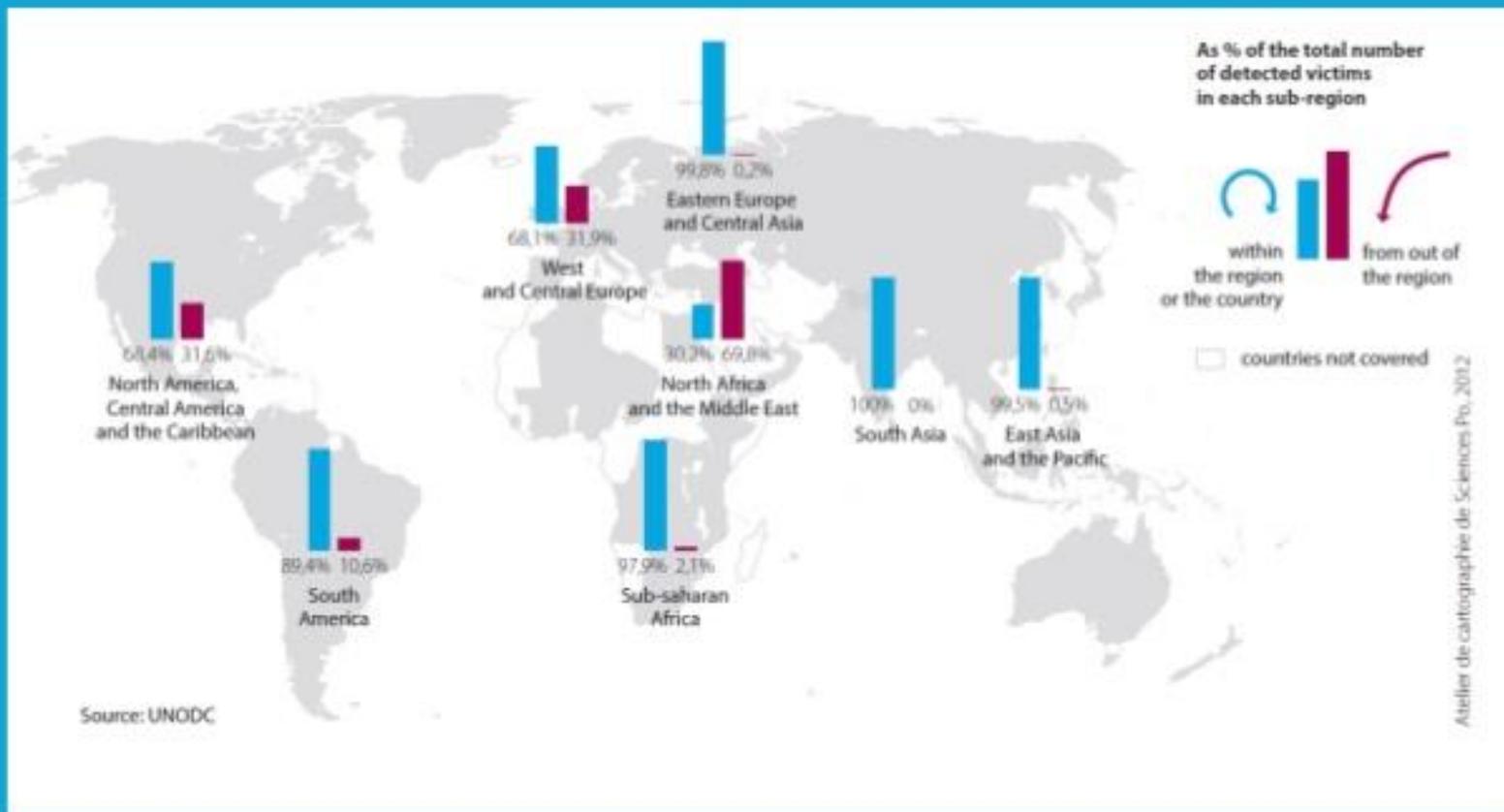
- \* 62% the victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, and 31% for forced labour.
- \* Adult men were the second most frequently detected group of victims. In addition, Western and Central Europe registered a share of men among the total number of victims above the world average, at about 20%.
- \* The female participation in trafficking in persons-related crimes — above 50% with peaks above 70% in the Southern Caucasus. Most victims are women trafficked for sexual exploitation. A law enforcement focus largely limited to lower-ranking segments of the trafficking network — where women are more likely to be found — could be another explanatory factor, though more research would be needed to explain why.



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Shares of detected victims who were trafficked within or from outside the region, 2007-2010



# The role of women in human trafficking

- \* A disproportionate number of women are involved not only as victims 50-60% globally, but as traffickers as well.
- \* Women and girls together account for 75% of the victims.
- \* Women traffickers are often involved in the trafficking of girls and used for low-ranking activities that have a higher risk of detection.
- \* In Europe, women make up a larger share of those convicted for human trafficking offences than for most other forms of crime.
- \* Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation makes up 58 percent of all trafficking cases detected globally, while trafficking for forced labour accounts for 36 per cent. The share of detected cases of trafficking for forced labour has doubled over the past four years.

# Who are the traffickers?

- \* Two thirds of persons prosecuted for and convicted of trafficking from 2007-2010 were men.
- \* Trafficking networks widely use women as recruiters of victims of sexual exploitation, as they may be more easily trusted by other females, who are more vulnerable to this type of trafficking.
- \* This suggests that women traffickers are normally placed in low-ranking positions of the trafficking networks in order to carry out duties more exposed to the risk of being caught and prosecuted.
- \* Offenders often try to win the trust of the victims and use their local connections to threaten retaliation against family members if victims resist. Local people are better able to acquire and control their victims.

UNODC/UN.GIFT

UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IV.1).

# Traffickers in the U.S.



- \* Make up every social, ethnic, and racial group.
- \* Some have local or nationwide gang/criminal organization affiliations.
- \* Do not fit any one profile.
- \* Can be family members, intimate partners, acquaintances, and strangers. Anyone who is willing to exploit another for profit.
- \* Often share the same national, ethnic, or cultural background as their victims, which allows them to better understand and exploit their victims.
- \* Are driven by high profits and low risk

Polaris Project 2014 ([www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org))



# Human Sex Trafficking in the U.S.



- ❖ Occurs locally in cities and towns, big and small, right in citizen' backyards.
- ❖ There is an influx of international victims and interstate sex trafficking of minors.
- ❖ American youths are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation. Most live on the streets and become victims of prostitution in order to support themselves or to obtain the things they feel they need or want, for example, drugs. They often come from abusive households or have been abandoned.
- ❖ Victims are sold to traffickers, locked up in rooms or brothels for weeks or months, drugged, terrorized, and raped repeatedly. These abuses make it easier for the traffickers to control their victims.

# Who are the stakeholders?

- \* Human trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry based on the principles of supply and demand.
- \* It is fueled by a demand for cheap labor or services, or for commercial sex acts.
- \* It thrives because of low risk. When communities are unaware of the issue, when government and community institutions are not trained to respond, when there are ineffective or dormant laws to address the crime, when safety nets for victims do not exist & when law enforcement does not investigate and prosecute the crime, human traffickers perceive little risk or deterrence to affect their criminal operations.

Polaris Project 2014 ([www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org))

# Who are the buyers?

Victims make an alarmingly high number of consumer goods and food products that are imported to the U.S. and produced domestically.

Somewhere in the supply chain of the products we buy, elements of exploitative child labor or forced labor may be present.

- \* Agriculture & Farms
- \* Domestic Work
- \* Hostess & Strip Clubs
- \* Restaurants & Food Service
- \* Factories
- \* Peddling & Begging Rings
- \* Hospitality Industry
- \* Any industry with a demand for cheap labor and a lack of rigorous monitoring.

# Who are the Stakeholders



Human trafficking operations often intersect or exist alongside legitimate businesses.

This support structure includes criminal and noncriminal businesses and practices that facilitate human trafficking. They may help hide human trafficking crimes from authorities and increase the difficulty of a potential victim to reach out for help.

- ❖ Hotels and Motels
- ❖ Landlords
- ❖ Labor brokers
- ❖ Taxi and other driving services
- ❖ Airlines, bus, and rail companies,
- ❖ Advertisers, online websites like Craigslist.com

# The Impact on Society

Trafficking in persons has significant impact on the human security of communities from which victims are recruited.

- ❖ Creates an environment of violence, crime and fear.
- ❖ Trafficking in persons separates families.
- ❖ Erodes social bonds and support networks.
- ❖ Undermines the economic prospects of communities.
- ❖ Furthermore, facilitated by large- scale international organized criminal networks that are linked to illicit trade in arms and narcotics, trafficking in persons can also compromise state security and impede human development by weakening the rule of law, undermining health systems and threaten public safety.

# Our Response

Recognize and thank local entities and local service agencies.

- ❖ Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee
- ❖ National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline: 1-888-373-7888
- ❖ United Migrant Opportunities Services (UMOS) [www.umos.org](http://www.umos.org)
- ❖ BASICS (Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Serving) 414-372-7200
- ❖ Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- ❖ Catholic Charities [www.ccmke.org](http://www.ccmke.org)



**Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it's happening right here in the United States.**

## National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

# 1-888-373-7888

email: [NHTRC@PolarisProject.org](mailto:NHTRC@PolarisProject.org)

Text **HELP** or **INFO** to **BeFree (233733)**

TOLL-FREE | 24 Hours/day, 7 Days/week

*Confidential | Interpreters available*

### WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Victims are forced to provide labor or commercial sex, and can be:

- U.S. citizens or foreign nationals
- Men, women, or children

### WHERE DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Human trafficking can happen in many situations, including in:

- Commercial sex industry (street prostitution, strip clubs, fake massage businesses, escort services, brothels, internet)
- Factories (industrial, garment, meat-packing)
- Farms, landscaping, or construction
- Peddling rings, begging rings, or magazine crews
- Private homes (housekeepers, nannies, or servile marriages)
- Restaurants, bars, and other service industries (nail or hair salons)

Call to get help, report a tip of suspected trafficking, or request information and training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org](http://www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org)

# The Role of Families, Individuals, and School

Learn and recognize the red flags of potential trafficking indicators.

- \* Common Work and Living Conditions
- \* Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior
- Poor Physical Health
- Lack of Control

Learn the common barriers to victim identification.

- ❖ Traumatic bonding to the trafficker
- ❖ Frequent accompaniment/guarded
- ❖ Use and threat of violence
- ❖ Fear
- ❖ Shame
- ❖ Distrust of law enforcement or service providers
- ❖ Traumatic bonding to the trafficker



# Therapeutic Interventions

- \* Trauma informed care services and therapy
- \* Art Therapy
- \* Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- \* Exposure Therapy

# References

- \* <http://www.routledgesociology.com/books/Human-Sex-Trafficking-isbn9780415576789> (accessed July 19, 2010)
- \* Polaris Project 2014 [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)
- \* UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IV.1).
- \* Walker-Rodriguez, A., & Hill, R. (2011, March). *FBI — Human Sex Trafficking*. Retrieved April 23, 2014, from [http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march\\_2011/human\\_sex\\_trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march_2011/human_sex_trafficking)