Human Trafficking
Impacting Social Work
Human Trafficking, Defined

- The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation.

- It is NOT smuggling. Smuggling is a crime against a border and requires movement across that border. Human Trafficking is a crime against the person and does not require movement.

- Human Trafficking is an exploitation crime not a movement crime.
Three Elements .... Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 2000

The Act
What is done
Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons

The Means
How it is done
Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim

The Purpose
Why it is done
For the purpose of exploitation which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs
Forms of Human Trafficking

• Forced Labor
  (sweatshops, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, restaurants, hotels)
• Commercial Sex
  (brothels, internet, massage parlors, street, bars, night clubs, private houses, escort agencies)
  ✓ DMST/CSEC
• Domestic Servitude
  (private homes)

Source: http://www.polarisproject.org/
Governments do not fully meet the TVPRA’s minimum standards and are **not making significant efforts** to do so.
National Scope

This heat map reflects the number of calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2016. This map only reflects cases where the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location.

Source: http://www.polarisproject.org/
Polaris – National Human Trafficking Hotline DATA

**Forms of HT 2017**

- Sex Trafficking: 6,244
- Labor Trafficking: 1,274
- Not Specified: 851
- Sex & Labor: 390

**Individual Victims of HT 2017**

- Sex Trafficking: 7,255
- Labor Trafficking: 1,979
- Not Specified: 838
- Sex & Labor: 542
Our Backyard

“We tend to think of human trafficking as a foreign issue, not something that could happen here in our own backyards. But it is a fast growing problem in the United States, in every area, with no real defined demographic.”

~ Lori Foster, Author

Miami, Orlando, Tampa, and Jacksonville appear to have a higher number of calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline than other areas of the state.

Source: http://www.polarisproject.org/
Florida Spotlight
2018 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victims Identified</td>
<td>1771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffickers Identified</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking Businesses</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Locations of Trafficking

Analysis powered by Palantir
Human Trafficking Triangle

- Victim
- Trafficker
- Buyer

Government
Banking
Health
Employment
Community
• Recruiting – In this stage vulnerabilities of the potential victim are being assessed. Financial, emotional and relational needs and wants are identified by the recruiter and exploitation of the vulnerabilities begin. Promises, gifts, and offers to fill the needs and wants gaps are made as the potential victim is lured in.

• Grooming – In this stage conditioning of the potential victim is being applied. Grooming is typically a gradual application of physical acts and mental conditioning to reset the “normal” mindset and behaviors. Pornography, sexual activity, and verbalized expectations may be used to groom the victim for their new life. In fewer instances the victim may be abruptly conditioned by being “broke into the life” rather than lured in.

• Trafficking – In this stage the victim is being trafficked. The adult victim is being forced, coerced, or by fraud being used for the benefit of the trafficker. Control of the person, documents, will, and freedom are utilized. Force, fraud, or coercion are not necessary to prove sex trafficking of a minor. The very fact they are engaged in a sexual act for a commercial gain constitutes trafficking.

• Immersion – In this stage the victim often accepts the trafficked life as normal. Trauma bonding is in full effect and psychological bondage is strongly entrenched. The victim rarely self-reports, often does not recognize victimization, and can appear to be a willing participant in the trafficking culture. The victim, under the control of the trafficker, may commit “masking” crimes and recruit on behalf of the trafficker.
Common Trafficking Indicators

• Under 18 and providing commercial sex
• Few or no personal possessions or financial records;
• Not in control of own identification documents (passport, birth certificates); No ID or travel documents
• Lack of freedom of movement (not able to leave living or working conditions)
• Denied contact with family & access to services
• Lack of knowledge of a given community, frequent movement; Does not know where they are
• Threatened with harm, deportation or arrest if escape is attempted
• Harmed or denied food, water, sleep or medical care
• Unexplained physical indicators or abnormalities to include bruises, tattoos, and/or pregnancy
• Individual owes a large debt and cannot pay it off; Unpaid or paid very little
• Salary is garnished to pay off smuggling fees leading to debt

Source: http://www.polarisproject.org/
Additional Indicators for Social Workers (Not exhaustive)

- History of childhood neglect, abuse, and/or trauma
- Difficult relationships with caregivers
- Family history of substance abuse and criminal activity
- Involvement in abusive or violent dating relationships
- Being homeless and/or a runaway
- Living in a shelter or group home
- Knowing peers or family members who are involved in the sex trade
- Branding/tattoos
- Risky sexual behaviors
- Isolation from support network
- Mental health issues (diminished capacity)
“Exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violence in one (or more) of the following ways: directly experiencing the traumatic event(s); witnessing, in person, the traumatic event(s) as it occurred to others; learning that the traumatic event(s) occurred to a close family member or close friend (in a case of actual or threatened death of a family member or friend, the event(s) must have been violent or accidental); or experiencing repeated or extreme exposure to aversive details of the traumatic event(s) details of the traumatic event(s)” (p. 271)

(American Psychiatric Association, 2013)

• Experiencing an extreme stressor that surpasses one’s ability to cope

(John, et all, 2018)
Trauma

• **Trauma By Human Design**

• Essentially this form of trauma is:
  • More severe
  • More devastating
  • Multi-faceted
The Social Context of Trauma

"By failing to acknowledge, witness, and intervene, those surrounding the victim allow human-induced traumatic acts and another source of traumatization to continue unabated, allowing the traumatization to those already injured" (Courtois, 1999, second injury, Symonds 1980)

Definition: “forced silence” (Lister, 1982)

The Social Context of Trauma

The denial of trauma, the guilt and shame are exhausting. Often times, survivors of trauma are treated for the symptoms of trauma. (anxiety, depression, acting out)

Steps of Trauma Recovery

1. Acknowledge the trauma

Inability to talk about or recognize the trauma
Push and Pull Factors

- Push Factor: Dynamic that may compel an individual towards violence
  - Survivors environment
- Pull Factor: Environment created by perpetrator of the violence

- The more push factors that one experiences, the stronger the effect of the pull factor (Kerr, 2014)

(Keer, 2014)
## Push and Pull Factors

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<th>Push Factors</th>
<th>Pull Factors</th>
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<td>Prior Victimiation/Poly Victimization</td>
<td>Identification Vulnerabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socio-Economic Status</td>
<td>Promise of Financial Gain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Ethnic, Cultural, Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use/Abuse</td>
<td>Access to Substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abusive/Neglectful Home Environment</td>
<td>Pseudo-Familial Bond (Cecchet, 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force, Fraud, Coercion</td>
<td>Trauma Coercive Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Education</td>
<td>Opportunities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Trauma Coercive Bonding

• Two present but different conditions.
  • a severe power imbalance that results in isolation, vulnerability, and helplessness;
  • intermittent and unpredictable abuses alternate between positive and violent interactions that undermine trust.

  (Reid, 2016)

• “Invisible strong emotional tie that develops between two individuals, where one person frequently harasses, beats, threatens, abuse, or intimidates the other person.”

  (Hopper, 2017)
Human Trafficking link to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

• (91%) reported a history of victimization prior to the trafficking experience, including directly experiencing physical, sexual, or verbal/psychological abuse, as well as witnessing violence.” (Hopper, 2017)

• Commercial sexual exploited survivors were more traumatized and were put at greater risk by several factors that preceded their trafficking behavior

• 77% of the sexually exploited [trafficked] adolescents had a history of sexual abuse.” (Shaw, et al 2017)
Questions???

- Contact
  - Alan Wilkett
    - awilkett@my.com