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Security**

Co-Editors:  
Marco Tavanti  
Charles E. Tucker  
Gregory J. Wangerin



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## International Journal of Sustainable Human Security

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***Anti-Human Trafficking for Human Security***

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ORIGINAL PAPER<sup>1</sup>

# Combating Human Trafficking Through Increased Awareness

Zane Jacobs<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** *This paper explores the role of awareness in anti-human trafficking. It argues that due to the lack of awareness, human trafficking has been allowed to flourish in many communities, operating in the shadows. Increasing awareness amongst victims and their surrounding communities will shed light on this atrocity and limit trafficker's ability to function in secrecy. Awareness, in the case of trafficking victims, is the opposite of vulnerability. Awareness provides protection from traffickers by providing potential victims with the information necessary to recognize their options, and make informed decisions.*

## Introduction

Human trafficking has evolved into what many refer to as modern day slavery. The human trafficking industry has been extremely resilient to anti-trafficking efforts due to their ability to function underground, isolating their victims from society and any potential support networks. Understanding the current context and how the definition of human trafficking has evolved is critical prior to addressing potential solutions. Additional complications that surround human trafficking discourse must also be discussed in order to illustrate how these complications affect anti-trafficking efforts.

The body of the paper is comprised of two sections, one explaining the theory behind the proposed solution, and the second to address the various methods and vehicles needed to achieve the goal. The roles of government policy, educational institutions, the media, political and social pressures, and finally community level support and advocacy will be explained to

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illustrate how these components can work together to increase global awareness of human trafficking.

## Context and Definition(s)

The international discussion regarding human trafficking has progressed and become increasingly complex due to the evolution of terminology related to human trafficking, and the lack of a clear distinction between illicit trafficking and other forms of migration that can be applied universally around the globe. "Popular as well as academic concern about human trafficking has increased since the early 1990s, even as the definition of trafficking has changed considerably. In 1994, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) defined human trafficking as 'the facilitation for money of largely voluntary illegal immigration,' a definition that today would better fit the term 'human smuggling.'"<sup>3</sup> "Human trafficking is not human smuggling. Human smuggling is the importation of people into the United States via deliberate evasion of immigration laws. Human trafficking, on the other hand, does not require the movement of people or crossing an international border as a necessary element of the offense."<sup>4</sup> Since the 1990s a number of governments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have attempted to re-define human trafficking in order to isolate human trafficking from migration.

"Definitions of trafficking are highly contested among scholars, National Government Organizations (NGOs), feminists, and governments, thus posing challenges in conducting research studies, reporting statistics and making generalizations."<sup>5</sup> The current definition of human trafficking varies across the globe, and these definitions are often crafted in order to support a wide variety of arguments. The United States Department of Justice's states: "Trafficking in persons, or human trafficking, is a tragically widespread form of modern-day slavery,"<sup>6</sup> which is an extremely broad definition that is easily understood. However, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provided a much more detailed definition which seems to have considerable influence across human trafficking discourse. Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as:

*"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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*

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<sup>3</sup> Rao, Smriti, and Christina Presenti. 2012. "Understanding Human Trafficking Origin: A Cross-Country Empirical Analysis." *Feminist Economics* 18, no. 2: 231-263. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Rothenberg, Laurence. "Combating Modern Slavery: Reauthorization of Anti-Trafficking Programs." Address, Testimony of Deputy Assistant Attorney General from Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, Washington D.C., October 31, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> "Human Trafficking." USDOJ: Archive - Office of Legal Policy. Accessed January 6, 2015. [http://www.justice.gov/archive/olp/human\\_trafficking.htm](http://www.justice.gov/archive/olp/human_trafficking.htm).

*receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”<sup>7</sup>*

This particular definition identifies forceful or deceptive means as key traits of human trafficking, distinguishing these from consensual or voluntary activities which would be attributed to other forms of migration, and will be the functional definition utilized for this paper.

## **The Human Trafficking Problem**

While it may come as a surprise to many, human trafficking is a large and growing issue all over the world. According to the U.S. Department of State’s 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report nearly 45,000 human trafficking victims were identified in 2013.<sup>8</sup> “The statistics show that the trafficking in human beings represents one of the most ‘profitable’ criminal offenses, following the trafficking in weapons and drugs. The phenomenon is recognized as one of the most serious forms of organized criminality, encouraged by multiple factors and bringing about negative effects upon both the individual and society, being closely related to the complex, socio-economic situation of the origin countries but also the existence of a ‘market’ (demands) in the destination country.”<sup>9</sup> The magnitude of the problem is difficult to fathom due to issues regarding the availability and accuracy of data, which will be discussed shortly, but a number of affects that trafficking has on individuals and communities as a whole have been identified throughout human trafficking discourse.

Human trafficking presents a variety of severe consequences, many of which have long lasting or lifetime effects. “Trafficking in human beings represents a threat to freedom, physical and mental integrity and life of those who are victimized by this form of criminality which brings about millions of human tragedies all over the world.”<sup>10</sup> Although some victims are emancipated from their traffickers control they often require assistance transitioning to a life of freedom and responsibility. The physical and mental abuse leaves scars that make this transition more difficult, further decrease an individual’s likelihood to recover. “The health implications for those affected by trafficking, and particularly for sexual exploitation, are severe during any phase of migration. Individuals face enormous barriers in many countries in accessing health services and other forms of support, and many health problems or risks arise directly from

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<sup>7</sup> "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons." United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. November 15, 2000. Accessed January 6, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> "Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, Global Law Enforcement Data." U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226647.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>10</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

marginalization, insecurity, and difficulties obtaining care.”<sup>11</sup> This tragedy extends its effects onto society influencing cultural values and legislation regarding a multitude of issues including immigration, labor, prostitution and women’s rights.

## Human Trafficking Victims

Human trafficking victims originate from, and are trafficked to, a wide variety of locations across the globe. Trafficking victims come from a variety of places, races, sexes, and even salaries, and are used for any underground activity in which traffickers can profit from without excessive exposure. “In short, this is a crime that can occur anywhere, any time, and against any vulnerable person. The victims we have seen include college students coerced into commercial sex in Atlanta, homeless men forced to work as farm laborers in Florida, and individuals with hearing impairments forced to peddle on the New York City subway system.”<sup>12</sup> When most people think of human trafficking victims they automatically picture the stereotypical sexually exploited ethnic female trafficking victim that has dominated human trafficking discourse from the media to international policy, but the true picture is much more diverse.

Most victims become so as a result of poverty, desperation, naiveté, and ultimately, vulnerability. Some of these victims migrate to escape harsh living conditions or oppressive governments. “For asylum seekers forced to leave their homeland, every step of the way is shadowed with uncertainty, as they leave their families behind and embark on a long journey they hope will lead them to a safe and secure future.”<sup>13</sup> But all too often, migrant’s dreams of opportunity are derailed by exploitive predators. These predators seek low skilled migrants whom they can profit from through underground activities, where they can avoid government regulations or the attention of authorities. These low skilled migrants “are more likely to have difficulties in finding a job with decent payment and conditions in the destination country. Consequently, in order to ensure their livelihoods, migrants may take risky employment options that increase the probability of them being trafficked.”<sup>14</sup>

The illustration provided by Anghel Stoica, writing on behalf of the Bucharest Police Academy, depicts these victims as having similar traits which make them more likely to be victimized by traffickers. She states: ...“the human traffickers’ victims most frequently comes from big cities in which there is no such thing as community feeling, in the poor regions of the country. The victim barely communicates with her family and displays poor feeling of belonging to society. As a rule, her educational level does not exceed elementary primary studies, she

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<sup>11</sup> 2011. "Human Trafficking: The Shameful Face of Migration." *Plos Medicine* 8, no. 6: 1-2. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 9, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> Rothenberg, Laurence. "Combating Modern Slavery: Reauthorization of Anti-Trafficking Programs." Address, Testimony of Deputy Assistant Attorney General from Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, Washington D.C., October 31, 2007.

<sup>13</sup> Jesuit Refugee Service. *SidebySide Learning What Accompaniment Is All about*. Rome, Italy: Peter Balleis SJ, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." *Economics of Human Trafficking*. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

thinks about her groups of friends in terms of money and the bond with the Church is frail.”<sup>15</sup> This depiction of trafficking victims reveals traits that human trafficking victims commonly possess, but even she seems to unconsciously “assume” that the human trafficking victim is inherently a female. She further states: “In most cases the girls [victims] have been deceived by false employers who promised them decent jobs ‘abroad’ such as housekeeping, baby-sitting, tourism – related jobs etc.”<sup>16</sup> Although Stoica insists on referring to the victims as “girls,” her statements hold true for male victims as well, and are thus useful in describing the true nature of trafficking victims.

## **Human Traffickers and the Driving Forces of Human Trafficking**

Human traffickers are recognized by current international policy as gross violators of human rights, and as the responsible agents in thousands of human trafficking prosecutions each year.<sup>17</sup> However, human trafficking is usually a result of a coordinated effort of participants including government and border crossing officials, travel facilitators, investors and financial managers, and many more who form human trafficking networks in order to profit from this lucrative industry. “In May 2014, the International Labour Organization released a groundbreaking report estimating that victims of this crime generate a staggering \$150 billion in profits per year for the private global economy: \$99 billion in the sex industry and \$51 billion in other sectors. Despite improvements made by many governments to address human trafficking, these crimes remain low risk/high profit ventures.”<sup>18</sup>

The driving force of financial opportunity is apparent on both sides of human trafficking. For the victims, “the lure of earning enough money to send back to their families often overrides known risks or actual previous experiences of exploitation, dangerous working conditions or excessive hours...”<sup>19</sup> Traffickers, similarly, can come from anywhere as the profit potential can influence people of a wide range of demographics to engage in trafficking. It’s interesting to note that the same driving force can cause individuals to victimize other innocent humans. “In fact, traffickers are known to target their own nationals. Further, some victims are trafficked by their own relatives and acquaintances, who have already migrated to a destination country.”<sup>20</sup> Understanding the economics of human trafficking is essential to understanding how

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<sup>15</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> "Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, Global Law Enforcement Data." U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> "Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, A Closing Note." U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226659.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> Nonkes, Mark. "Human Trafficking: When Awareness Is Not Enough." *Human Trafficking: When Awareness Is Not Enough*. December 16, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.trust.org/item/20141216011244-5oyrt/>.

<sup>20</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." *Economics of Human Trafficking*. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

economic factors influence potential victims, traffickers and their support networks, and the surrounding communities.

See-Young Cho presents an economic model in an article written for the German Institute for Economic Research which helps reveal how the economic relationship between trafficking victims, traffickers, and the surrounding market interact. "The first finding [presented by Cho] suggests two possible mechanisms of channeling network effects on human trafficking: pulling low-skilled migration in source countries by lowering informational costs on migration (supply side) and increasing demand for sex services provided by victims in migrant society in the destination country (demand side). The second finding indicates that the positive network effect is generated on the supply side in source countries, as people in lower income source countries are more susceptible to lower migration costs and therefore more likely to be moved by migrant networks in the destination."<sup>21</sup>

Cho's analysis points to direct correlations between the supply in the host countries and the demand in the destination countries, which traffickers leverage to generate profit. In this model, traffickers can be either driven by a surplus supply in a host country, or a demand in a destination country, either of which presents an opportunity for financial gain. Cho states that the "...network effects on the migration of the low-skilled may also have an undesirable effect of pulling human trafficking into the destination countries by inducing low-skilled migration, to which most victims of human trafficking belong."<sup>22</sup> This opportunity combined with an influx of low-skilled workers creates an extremely dangerous situation, as low-skilled individuals with seemingly little opportunity are presented with the temptation of incredible profit to traffic their peers. These predators then often use the same motivating factors to victimize their prey, promising unimaginable wealth or opportunity in exchange for control over their lives.

Mohammad Abdul Munim Joarder & Paul Miller describe human trafficking through an alternative, but similar, economic model which pays particular attention to what they refer to as the "migration-debt contract," whereas the migrant enters into a contract with the trafficker(s) in order to secure a safe and secure passage to a desired location.<sup>23</sup> The authors then go into detail about how this "contract" is often manipulated by the traffickers to produce maximum profit from each victim throughout the process. While these contracts do not all necessary result in the migrant being exploited, deceptive measures are often employed even before the migrant leaves the host country. "The traffickers are seen as seeking to exploit prospective migrants. They can deceive the migrants not only by altering the parameters of the migration-debt contract, but also by establishing a que order of the prospective migrants. By doing so, they gain reputation on the one hand, and yet on the other hand they are able to charge the

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<sup>21</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." *Economics of Human Trafficking*. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> JOARDER, MOHAMMAD ABDUL MUNIM, and PAUL W. MILLER. 2013. "A Theoretical Perspective on Human Trafficking and Migration-Debt Contracts." *Journal Of Development Studies* 49, no. 10: 1332-1343. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).



migrants an amount beyond the contracted price to expedite the migration process, which involved moving the migrants up in the que order.”<sup>24</sup>

While both economic models provide extremely valuable perspectives on how and why human trafficking is flourishing across the globe, it also reveals the horrifying reality of the situation: “human beings [are being] reduced to the state of merchandise, sold again and again as mere objects and exploited under ways which remind us of slave trade.”<sup>25</sup> The cold reality is that in a business sense, human trafficking is an extremely attractive industry, humans can be sold repeatedly, with extremely high profit margins, very little overhead costs, and relatively low risk when put into context with the profit potential.

### **Additional Complications Tied to Human Trafficking**

A number of agencies, both local and international governments, NGOs, scholars, social workers, and other concerned individuals have taken notice of this growing atrocity. Unfortunately, further analysis reveals additional complications that make addressing the issue extremely problematic. “United Nations Report on trafficking highlights a ‘knowledge crisis,’ whereby aggregate statistics cannot be reliably generated, given that trafficking is both highly profitable and one of the world’s largest criminal industries. Attempts to understand the scale of the problem are further hampered by differences between countries in defining what constitutes trafficking, in their efforts to protect those exploited by it and prosecute the traffickers, and in reporting data.”<sup>26</sup> It’s interesting that although the human trafficking debate contains a wide variety of differing perspectives, nearly everyone engaged in the subject concurs that the lack of data and conflicting terminology present formidable obstacles. In addition to the lack of reliable data the controversy presented by conflicting terminology and cultural perspectives further complicates the international discourse relating to human trafficking, limiting productive discourse to regions which can agree on the basic terminology and parameters of human trafficking.

### **The Lack of Reliable Data**

The lack of reliable data on human trafficking seems to be a global problem which has yet to be corrected. “Many professionals committed to combating human trafficking agree that there is a lack of accurate and productive research on the topic.”<sup>27</sup> In fact, one would be hard pressed to locate a source focused on human trafficking that doesn’t identify the lack of

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<sup>24</sup> JOARDER, MOHAMMAD ABDUL MUNIM, and PAUL W. MILLER. 2013. "A Theoretical Perspective on Human Trafficking and Migration-Debt Contracts." *Journal Of Development Studies* 49, no. 10: 1332-1343. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).

<sup>25</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>26</sup> 2011. "Human Trafficking: The Shameful Face of Migration." *Plos Medicine* 8, no. 6: 1-2. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 9, 2015).

<sup>27</sup> Baker, Debra A., and Elizabeth A. Grover. 2013. "Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: Interagency Awareness, Housing Services, and Spiritual Care." *Social Work & Christianity* 40, no. 3: 308-321. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).

accurate data as a major obstacle in understanding the problem. The lack of even the most basic statistics, such as the number of individuals that fall victim to trafficking each year, compounds the problem by depriving researchers with the bare data necessary to provide empirical analysis, resulting in a deeper void of information.

Human trafficking data is extremely rare due to its secrecy and the lack of clear, universal policy in relation to human trafficking. "Data on human trafficking is hard to collect because human trafficking is a clandestine crime and therefore the magnitude of the crime is difficult, if not impossible, to gauge."<sup>28</sup> The absence of universal laws or policy on human trafficking, and the lack of proper enforcement make it even more difficult to collect data. "International treaties are ignored, or not fully supported, by a large number of states. Scores of countries have no, or only partial, criminal legislation covering people trafficking. Even where legislation does exist, prosecutions are rare, and by the time the UN prepared its latest report on global trafficking, over 40% of the world's countries had not recorded a single conviction."<sup>29</sup>

Only a small portion of trafficking victims are ever identified due to fear of repercussions from their traffickers or the government, and few are aware of anyone that they can contact for help. Traffickers rely on this disconnect and to profit and avoid prosecution, so it is in their best interest to ensure that their victims remain concealed. Successful traffickers are able to operate undetected in order to survive, but the veil they hide their victims behind also directly affects the accessibility of information regarding these victims, their numbers, and their opinions. The differing policy and levels of enforcement across international borders provide pathways for traffickers to operate undetected, making the collection of accurate data problematic.

The "knowledge crisis"<sup>30</sup> is widespread, affecting even the most established nations by obstructing them from gauging the true magnitude of the problem, or the effectiveness of their efforts. The U.S. Department of Justice's (USDOJ) Office of Legal Policy is responsible for the Department's anti-trafficking policies and compiling the Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as well as the Assessment of U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons.<sup>31</sup> However, only two of these reports, from years 2007 and 2008, are listed on the USDOJ website, and the link to the 2008 report is not even accessible (the url link is no longer active), leaving only the 2007 report available for view on their website.<sup>32</sup> This is a common trend as the lack of data is recognized and goals are set to address the issue, but the resources necessary to accomplish these goals are not available. While a growing number of efforts are working to combat

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<sup>28</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." *Economics of Human Trafficking*. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> 2011. "Human Trafficking: The Shameful Face of Migration." *Plos Medicine* 8, no. 6: 1-2. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 9, 2015).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> "Human Trafficking." USDOJ: Archive - Office of Legal Policy. Accessed January 6, 2015. [http://www.justice.gov/archive/olp/human\\_trafficking.htm](http://www.justice.gov/archive/olp/human_trafficking.htm).

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

prevention across the globe their lack of inter-cooperation prevents vital information sharing, resulting in an obscured picture of the current situation and what is being done to correct it.

Data collection efforts would significantly benefit from a universal understanding of the criteria that defines trafficking, and the goals which can be agreed upon and utilized to judge the progress of the overall effort. "The U.S. government alone reported that in 2001 it supported over 110 anti-trafficking programs in around 50 countries. In Europe there are numerous agencies implementing programs to fight trafficking. However, no single agency acts as a focal point for the collection, collation, or harmonization of statistics on trafficking either at national level or at a regional level, presenting policy makers with a significant degree of uncertainty."<sup>33</sup>

### **Trafficking vs. Migration & Consent vs. Coercion: Political, Cultural, and Religious Influence**

The lack of a universal understanding of what human trafficking is, and how it differs from other forms of migration poses a serious problem to those attempting to study or combat trafficking. "The definition of human trafficking is often confused with smuggling, illicit migration in general, and labor exploitation. Such variations in the definition of human trafficking make cross-country comparison of the data particularly problematic."<sup>34</sup> Although "migrant networks mostly consisting of legal migrants can be a pull factor inducing an illegal, exploitive migration form of human trafficking,"<sup>35</sup> the correlation does not necessarily imply that all migration signifies the presence of trafficking. Although literature on trafficking has taken a focus on clearing up the distinction between trafficking and migration in recent years, these distinctions vary depending on the region and other cultural and political tides influencing the discourse and policy.

The conflict related to migration and trafficking is paralleled by the controversial feminist debate concerning consent vs. coercion in relation to prostitution, which significantly influences human trafficking discourse in relation to sex trafficking and the cultural perceptions of trafficking victims. Rao and Presenti claim that the focus on sex work has dominated the study of human trafficking, focusing a disproportionate amount of discourse on the topic on females and inadequately representing male trafficking victims of utilized for forced labor.<sup>36</sup> They support this by referring to the dataset provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2006), which reported 28% of reports were from sources of forced labor, while 87% of the sources were categorized as female sex trafficking victims.<sup>37</sup> Any studies utilizing this source would likely identify patterns associated with victim sex or a higher rate of victims selected for

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<sup>33</sup> Laczko, Frank. "Human Trafficking: The Need for Better Data." Migrationpolicy.org. November 1, 2002. Accessed January 13, 2015. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/human-trafficking-need-better-data>.

<sup>34</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." Economics of Human Trafficking. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Rao, Smriti, and Christina Presenti. 2012. "Understanding Human Trafficking Origin: A Cross-Country Empirical Analysis." *Feminist Economics* 18, no. 2: 231-263. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

sexual exploitation, further skewing data on trafficking demographics. Multiple sources confirm this discrepancy, including an article in *PLOS Medicine* which states: “aggregate statistics are likely strongly biased towards over-detection of women and girls who have been trafficked into sexual exploitation, and under-detection of individuals trafficked for other reasons, such as for bonded labor, domestic servitude, or as child soldiers.”<sup>38</sup>

The social implications of this sexist trend are dangerous as it polarizes the perception of trafficking victims based on their sex. “It appears that popular representations of legal and illegal migration usually involves men, with women appearing when the discussion turns to victims of sex trafficking.”<sup>39</sup> The way in which sex trafficking has dominated human trafficking discourse has derailed the conversation, focusing it on prostitution and migration to achieve ulterior motives, rather than addressing the human rights violations being imposed by the exploitation of victims by traffickers. Moshoula Capous Desyllas, in *A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy*, confirms this effect, stating: “...underlying western fears of migration and the sexuality of women have contributed to the construction of sex trafficking as a social problem that is equated with prostitution. International and U.S. policies with underlying motivations may generate more harm to migrants and others working in the sex industry and targeted under the trafficking framework.”<sup>40</sup> A great deal of similar literature exists on feminist perspectives of human trafficking as it relates to sexual exploitation and sexism in U.S. policy.

Desyllas points to the prevalence of racism in U.S. history, even specifically in relation to migration and sex work, which supports her theory of the ulterior motives at work by demonstrating how the U.S. has a history of manipulating it’s policy to suit racist or sexist political goals:

*“The U.S. immigration policies in the past are known for their racist, discriminatory, and exclusionary stances, out of fear for the ‘other,’ the unwelcome foreigner. Racism, as it relates to sex trafficking, is raised as an issue for analysis by various feminists who critique the dominant sex trafficking framework. In response to the fear of ‘white slavery,’ Congress passed the White Slave Traffic Act in 1910, also known as the Mann Act. This act prohibited unmarried women from crossing state lines for immoral purposes and it criminalized interracial couples. Under the Mann Act, in 1914 more than 70% of the convictions of women were related to the voluntary transportation of women for prostitution or other immoral purposes.”<sup>41</sup>*

<sup>38</sup> 2011. "Human Trafficking: The Shameful Face of Migration." *Plos Medicine* 8, no. 6: 1-2. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 9, 2015).

<sup>39</sup> Rao, Smriti, and Christina Presenti. 2012. "Understanding Human Trafficking Origin: A Cross-Country Empirical Analysis." *Feminist Economics* 18, no. 2: 231-263. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>40</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>41</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

Desyllas further points to the influx of Chinese women in the 1800s and how they were marginalized as “overly sexual, deviant and promiscuous, as were Mexican women at the turn of the century. It was at this time that migration was on the rise so the government felt the need to create a moral fear and panic over ‘the other.’”<sup>42</sup>

## Context Review

The global human trafficking discussion is at a critical point in its development. The recent focus on trafficking, its causes and effects, and how it interrelates with other current issues has opened the door for unprecedented progress. However, complications relating to terminology and data collection, as well as controversy relating to political, cultural, and religious implications of sex work and migration, have obstructed the current discourse regarding human trafficking. The average individual is largely unaware of the magnitude of the human trafficking problem, how it affects their nation or their local community, or how they can prevent themselves and the ones they love from becoming victims.

### Awareness Argument

Combating the human trafficking issue requires a coordinated effort across government and private entities in order to increase awareness of the issue across the globe. In order to better explain how increasing awareness benefits human trafficking victims and non-victims, the proposed solution is separated into two sections: Internal Awareness, where the focus is on the awareness of human trafficking victims including potential victims, and External Awareness, where the focus is on the awareness of everyone else, including the friends and families of victims, their communities, human traffickers, and non-related parties that can still make a difference.

### Internal Awareness (The Victims)

The most obvious, and profound, benefit of increasing internal awareness is that it has the ability of preventing potential victims from becoming victims. Multiple sources support the notion that increasing awareness amongst potential victims can provide them with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions and avoid trafficker’s deceptive measures. Anghel Stoica states: “The making of the young people aware of the risks they may be subject to in the situations in which they do not get sufficiently informed when they want to obtain a working place in the country or abroad prevents the possibility of their becoming victims of the traffickers in human beings.”<sup>43</sup> She then proceeds to list steps that potential migrants can take to ensure they do not enter into agreements with traffickers. Unfortunately, the steps she lists are specific to Romanian citizens and have little use to foreigners. However, the concept of increasing awareness at a local level helps her be more specific than if she was speaking to an

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

international audience, a lesson which can and should be applied to local communities across the globe.

The only arguments against increasing awareness, besides that of the trafficker, come from the perspective that awareness is not a sufficient answer. Mark Nonkes expresses this opinion in his article *Human Trafficking: When Awareness is not Enough*, where he claims that “prevention work relying on raising awareness is not enough. Young people will continue to migrate. It’s time trafficking prevention agencies shift the focus of prevention work to safe migration.”<sup>44</sup> However, his argument does not seem to condemn awareness as a whole, since he promotes increasing migrants awareness of methods in which they can migrate safely and avoid falling victim to traffickers during their transition. He agrees by stating that: “Raising awareness on the risks of migration needs to focus on changing risky behavior to protective behaviors, such as traveling with formal documents and keeping in regular contact with family members.”<sup>45</sup> So, if Nonkes is basing his opinion that “awareness is not enough” on the current state of awareness, then his opinion supports increasing awareness to a state where it has the ability to have a direct effect on combating human trafficking.

The value of increasing awareness becomes apparent upon observing the traits that current victims exhibit, the same traits that traffickers look for as signs of vulnerability when selecting a potential target. “Low-skilled migrants – whom migrant networks arguably disproportionately pull – are susceptible to several problems associated with human trafficking. Firstly, they are more likely to be deceived regarding migration options and working conditions in the destination country.”<sup>46</sup> Informing these low-skilled migrants about human trafficking and the associated risks, including how traffickers and the human trafficking market operate, and tell-tale signs that they are dealing with a deceptive agent, such as the presence of a “que,” would at a minimum provide potential victims with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions.

Another important goal of increasing internal awareness is making victims aware of the resources available to them. While a wide range of government and NGO resources are dedicated to mitigating human trafficking the lack of awareness denies many individuals from accessing these valuable resources. These vital lifelines provide valuable resources which have the ability to save lives and assist victims with regaining their freedom. Organizations such as the Jesuit Refugee Service or The Samaritan Women exist to provide support to victims in need, but many of these resources are under-utilized due to victim’s lack of awareness. The Samaritan Women, for example, offers transitional programs specifically for human trafficking victims which include food, housing, and an extensive program designed to help these victims

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<sup>44</sup> Nonkes, Mark. "Human Trafficking: When Awareness Is Not Enough." *Human Trafficking: When Awareness Is Not Enough*. December 5, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.trust.org/item/20141216011244-5oyrt/>.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Cho, See-Young. "Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration Evidence from Germany." *Economics of Human Trafficking*. September 1, 2012. Accessed January 8, 2015. <http://www.economics-human-trafficking.net/mediapool/99/998280/data/dp1246.pdf>.

complete their transformation.<sup>47</sup> While these organizations may realize that “being a companion means being accessible,”<sup>48</sup> accessibility involves much more than an open door.

Victims are often isolated from society by their traffickers with little connection to outsiders. “A cultural abyss often separates them from healthcare professionals and this, coupled with isolation and a huge fear of the unknown, can paralyze them, preventing them from seeking the treatment they need and from taking the right decisions.”<sup>49</sup> Reaching out and touching these victims in their own communities is essential to connecting with them and providing them with the tools they need to escape a life of what has become recognized as modern-day-slavery. “Accompanying refugees involves preparing them to stand alone, to give them the time, training and skills they need to be good catechists, teachers, administrators or whatever role they take on for the good of their community.”<sup>50</sup> Accompanying these victims also provides an opportunity for anti-traffickers to engage with these victims and learn more about the ways that they can help. “This [accompaniment] makes us able to share their joys and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their needs, to offer them deep and genuine friendship.”<sup>51</sup>

“The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) helps new populations maximize their potential in the United States by linking them to critical resources that assist them in becoming integrated members of American Society”<sup>52</sup> This is another great example of an available resource that could be more effectively utilized if targeted towards human trafficking victims. They (ORR) collaborate with “numerous offices” including federal agencies, mutual assistance associations, state partners, voluntary agencies, and training and technical assistance programs. They also provide the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Program (ATIP) which identifies and assists human trafficking victims in the US to become eligible for public benefits and services that are available to refugees. “The program also raises awareness of human trafficking through the HHS Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign.”<sup>53</sup> Efforts such as this are extremely important in the fight against trafficking, but these efforts must be combined in order to increase effectiveness and increase awareness unilaterally amongst anti-trafficking organizations.

While legislative efforts provide a structure in which the anti-trafficking effort can operate, increasing awareness has more potential since it has the ability to reach underground networks which operate outside of the framework of law or policy. Creating more laws may help punish traffickers for their atrocities, which is an important task on its own, but it does not necessarily prevent trafficking from occurring. Increasing awareness, however, can directly impact trafficking by reducing trafficker’s most valuable resource, unaware victims.

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<sup>47</sup> "Home." The Samaritan Women a National Christian AntiHuman Trafficking and Victim Services Organization. Accessed January 6, 2015. <http://thesamaritanwomen.org/>.

<sup>48</sup> Jesuit Refugee Service. *SidebySide Learning What Accompaniment Is All about*. Rome, Italy: Peter Balleis SJ, 2013.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Jesuit Refugee Service. *SidebySide Learning What Accompaniment Is All about*. Rome, Italy: Peter Balleis SJ, 2013.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> "Home | Office of Refugee Resettlement | Administration for Children and Families." Home | Office of Refugee Resettlement | Administration for Children and Families. Accessed January 11, 2015. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

## External Awareness (Non-Victims)

Increasing awareness amongst victims is not enough. “We each have a responsibility to make this horrific and all-too-common crime a lot less common. And our work with victims is the key that will open the door to real change—not just on behalf of the more than 44,000 survivors who have been identified in the past year, but also for the more than 20 million victims of trafficking who have not.”<sup>54</sup> Currently, we are failing as a society. While human trafficking has gained attention in recent discourse the global population is largely unaware of the magnitude of the issue and or its implications. In addition, society lacks the understanding necessary to provide a community that supports the healthy transition of migrants into the host population.

Increasing awareness of who the victims are provides society with the understanding necessary to recognize potential victims, increasing the probability of reporting and identifying those in need of support. “Despite the myriad of horrific experiences human trafficking victims suffer, community members report trafficking far more than the victims themselves.”<sup>55</sup> This can be done by teaching authorities, social workers, and community members how to identify traffickers or victims of human trafficking. Identifying victims also opens the door for communication, thus allowing non-victims inside information on the needs of trafficking victims.

“Survivors know better than anyone the steps we need to take to identify those enslaved and bring to justice those responsible. When a Cambodian man is lured under false pretenses and subjected to forced labor far from home, he knows better than anyone how we mitigate that risk. When a young Nepalese woman is coerced into a sex industry, she knows better than anyone how to help law enforcement spot future victims of this crime. And when this woman cooperates in the conviction of her trafficker, she knows better than anyone what makes that process less traumatic and our efforts more effective.”<sup>56</sup>

Understanding the causes that result in people falling victim to traffickers is equally important. “There is a strong need for a more systematic empirical picture of the causes and consequences of human trafficking.” Some of these causes, such as a lack of support network or limited awareness of options, can be easily corrected by community members or observers who are willing to assist, or at the very least refer the individual in need to one of the existing resources who are willing and able to help.

Increasing awareness amongst anti-traffickers of the presence of other anti-trafficking efforts also has the potential to drastically increase the effectiveness of each effort through force multiplication. “For a team to accomplish the JRS mission, each member must fully

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<sup>54</sup> “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, Letter from Secretary Kerry.” U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226641.htm>.

<sup>55</sup> Dyle, Scott Davidson. 2013. “Chapter 515: Combating Human Trafficking by Enhancing Awareness Through Public Postings.” *McGeorge Law Review* 44, no. 3: 583-590. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>56</sup> “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, Letter from Secretary Kerry.” U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226641.htm>



understand his/her role but, at the same time, respect the position occupied by others.”<sup>57</sup> While JRS obviously recognizes the value of networking this concept requires the participation of everyone involved in order to produce maximum effectiveness. While a diverse array of international reporting systems exist, there does not seem to be any universal agreement amongst anti-traffickers as to how the effort is organized, or who the responsible authority is for reporting and recording data.

A study conducted by Debra Baker and Elizabeth Grover examined agencies, which they defined as “any organization, nonprofit, taskforce, or club actively engaged in addressing human trafficking,”<sup>58</sup> in order to identify how they interacted with each other. “The findings show that most agencies became aware of each other by word of mouth and by attending community meetings.”<sup>59</sup> They concluded by advocating for greater inter-agency communication, which supports the concept that increased inter-agency communication and cooperation will increase the effectiveness of already existing efforts.

The last concept that non-victims should be aware of are the social and cultural perceptions behind human trafficking discourse. Understanding these underlying motives will help non-victims understand the driving forces behind current conversation and policy concerning human trafficking. The negative connotations that are imbedded in trafficking terminology have a serious effect on trafficking victims. Trafficking victims are often marginalized due to labels placed on them by society, such as “prostitute” or “illegal immigrant,” which impedes their ability to interact with their local communities. When a victim of sex trafficking is labeled as a prostitute, the common perception is that the victims problem is their involvement with the illicit activity of prostitution. “Furthermore, because a victim of trafficking, unlike a migrant, is assumed to have been coerced into moving across borders, the solution to trafficking becomes the removal/arrest of traffickers and the repatriation of trafficked persons.”<sup>60</sup> Increasing non-victims awareness of how public perception is influenced by human trafficking terminology allows non-victims to view human trafficking as the real problem, rather than being distracted by arguments proposed by those seeking to utilize the human trafficking debate to push their beliefs regarding sex work or immigration policy.

## Methods and Vehicles of Increasing Awareness

Increasing awareness requires the strategic employment of a wide variety of methods and vehicles. The next section will focus on these various methods and vehicles, and how they contribute to the overall effort to increase awareness of human trafficking across the globe. While each of these components possess substantial influential power on their own, combating trafficking requires a combined effort in order to reach the isolated populations that it touches.

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<sup>57</sup> Jesuit Refugee Service. *SidebySide Learning What Accompaniment Is All about*. Rome, Italy: Peter Balleis SJ, 2013.

<sup>58</sup> Baker, Debra A., and Elizabeth A. Grover. 2013. "Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: Interagency Awareness, Housing Services, and Spiritual Care." *Social Work & Christianity* 40, no. 3: 308-321. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Rao, Smriti, and Christina Presenti. 2012. "Understanding Human Trafficking Origin: A Cross-Country Empirical Analysis." *Feminist Economics* 18, no. 2: 231-263. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

## Government Policy

Legislation and policy imposed by local, state, national, and international governments provide the legal structure in which anti-human trafficking efforts operate. From an international perspective, a structure must be established in which anti-trafficking efforts can leverage their strengths and weaknesses by working together, benefiting from the sharing of information and the presence of a structured effort against a unified goal. However, international policy should only address issues which are absolutely necessary to providing a structure in which independent efforts can operate effectively with the support and knowledge of each other. More specific policy should be addressed at the lowest level possible, allowing for maximum flexibility to meet the needs "on the ground." Local legislation designed to increase awareness of human trafficking can have a larger impact on local communities since these efforts can be specifically targeted towards regions or populations in which trafficking has been identified.

Recent anti-trafficking efforts have focused on structuring international policy designed to increase communication amongst nations and anti-trafficking organizations, implement international anti-trafficking standards, and standardize reporting to allow for the collection of accurate human trafficking data (see the UN's the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons).<sup>61</sup> "On the international front, prosecutors in the Department of Justice have provided training or engaged in information exchanges with dozens of other countries about our efforts to combat human trafficking, including Mexico, Canada, Tanzania, Indonesia, Austria, Germany, Singapore, El Salvador, Czech Republic, Moldova, Belize, Venezuela, Columbia, Russia, Georgia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Sweden, India, Taiwan, and the Netherlands."<sup>62</sup> These information exchanges are vital to understanding how trafficking operates as it navigates across various borders.

Information sharing also provides crucial information about the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures employed by various nations. "Policy and practice strategies to benefit the well-being and safety of these individuals [human trafficking victims] need to be shared globally to find the best methods in which to view the phenomenon of human trafficking. Collaboration on ideas and strategies for assuring safe working conditions for migrants, sex workers and all marginalized groups working in unrecognized industries are of equal importance, while cross-cultural awareness is imperative."<sup>63</sup> One of the greatest benefits of information sharing is the vast amount of local stories that can be shared. International policy related to human trafficking is limited to recent efforts, and since international policy takes time to develop we have a limited pool of historical policy to judge from. However, sharing information across the globe allows us to benefit from learning from the vast number of local policies that have been applied to regions across the globe, providing new avenues of progress as well as dead ends.

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<sup>61</sup> "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons." United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. November 15, 2000. Accessed January 6, 2015.

<sup>62</sup> Rothenberg, Laurence. "Combating Modern Slavery: Reauthorization of Anti-Trafficking Programs." Address, Testimony of Deputy Assistant Attorney General from Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, Washington D.C., October 31, 2007.

<sup>63</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

Scott Davidson Dyle's article concerning California's proposed SB1193 explains a piece of legislation which was proposed in California in 2013.<sup>64</sup> "Chapter 515 [SB1193] is designed to increase reporting of instances of human trafficking by promoting community awareness through notice posting."<sup>65</sup> SB1193 would have mandated that specific businesses display notices containing anti-human trafficking literature and resources, including the contact information for local anti-trafficking organizations, in their establishments. Dyle pointed out similar legislation which already exists in California in reference to alcohol: "California does require certain businesses and establishments to post specified notices concerning other various issues. For example, businesses that sell alcohol must post a sign that states it is illegal to sell alcohol to persons under the age of twenty-one and that any minor who attempts to purchase alcohol may have his or her driver's license suspended."<sup>66</sup>

The point here is that mandating public displays to increase awareness of dangers is not a new concept. In fact, a few states have already bridged this gap by mandating public postings of anti-trafficking material. "Supporters of Chapter 515 indicate that since Texas mandated that establishments with a liquor license post a human trafficking notice, one out of every five calls from Texas to the NHRTC hotline came from a person who learned about the hotline from a mandated posting."<sup>67</sup> This shows how providing even minimal information, such as a phone number that a victim or observer can call to report a victim, in areas where human trafficking victims frequent can make a significant difference.

Governments have a responsibility to their people to protect them from such gross human rights violations as human trafficking, but unfortunately their efforts are limited by the differing levels of agreement and support across international borders. Even within the United States, "the Federal Government cannot prosecute every prostitution case. Rather, the Department of Justice can only prosecute these types of cases where a Federal interest is implicated – such as the Thirteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, traveling across state lines, or those cases that involve children."<sup>68</sup> While the government's role in combating trafficking is absolutely necessary, the complexity of the issue and the current lack of awareness requires a much more comprehensive approach.

## **Educational Institutions**

Educational institutions have the potential to drastically increase awareness throughout the educational process as well. Children should be introduced to the issue early on, as many victims are recruited at very young ages, then progressively taught more advanced concepts as they grow. Providing children with a foundational understanding of human trafficking opens the

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<sup>64</sup> Dyle, Scott Davidson. 2013. "Chapter 515: Combating Human Trafficking by Enhancing Awareness Through Public Postings." *McGeorge Law Review* 44, no. 3: 583-590. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> Rothenberg, Laurence. "Combating Modern Slavery: Reauthorization of Anti-Trafficking Programs." Address, Testimony of Deputy Assistant Attorney General from Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, Washington D.C., October 31, 2007.

door for an entirely new generation of discourse related to the topic, drastically increasing the number of participants in this growing conversation. This becomes increasingly important as we realize the need for increased studies on human trafficking.

Educational efforts to combat human trafficking can also address a wide range of related topics which interrelate with human trafficking. For example, increased educational efforts on sexuality may have the potential to decrease the demand for sex workers, thus reducing human trafficking. Debra Baker confirms this by linking educational programs to reductions in human trafficking: "Moreover, research is needed to explore the benefits of local inter-agency collaboration to better reveal service gaps, such as lack of programs for commercial sex buyers within the realm of human trafficking. Offering services to these sex offenders could potentially contribute to stopping human trafficking, because the males are the primary customers of the sexual trafficking industry; thus, sexual addiction counseling and strong educational programs could provide substantial reductions in sexual human trafficking."<sup>69</sup>

### **Media Involvement**

The extremely powerful influence that the media has on the international population cannot be ignored, making them a valuable resource in increasing awareness across the globe. The media, for the function of this discussion, includes news reporting and discussion outlets such as newspapers, news shows, talk shows, online blogs and articles, and sources of entertainment such as TV shows or movies. The lines between news and entertainment have deteriorated in recent years making it harder to distinguish the two, but regardless, these sources are widely viewed and carry substantial influence around the world. The media already plays a large role in increasing awareness of human trafficking through a variety of outlets.

One very recent example of the media's involvement in increasing awareness is the movie *Taken*, where the daughter of an ex-CIA operative was kidnapped and forced into prostitution by a ring of human traffickers.<sup>70</sup> Although some anti-traffickers criticize the film for furthering sexist views on trafficking which disproportionately emphasize their focus on sex trafficking, taking away from trafficking as a whole. "Media images and reports that focus on (sex) trafficking need to be questioned and a shift in focus away from sex work will ensure that all types of unsafe working conditions are addressed. A labor rights perspective, which focuses on the human rights of workers, incorporates all of these elements to broaden the approach to trafficking. By including all forms of labor, and by defining sex work as an economic activity that is often used in combination with other types of work, migrants and sex workers will not be stigmatized and marginalized due to the associations of being labeled as a prostitute."<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Baker, Debra A., and Elizabeth A. Grover. 2013. "Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: Interagency Awareness, Housing Services, and Spiritual Care." *Social Work & Christianity* 40, no. 3: 308-321. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).

<sup>70</sup> *Taken*. Performed by Liam Nelson. Europacorp Diffusion [éd., Distrib.], 2008. Film.

<sup>71</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

## Political and Social Pressure

Political and social pressures from dominant nations or parties carry substantial weight in international politics and social discourse. In Anghel Stoica's article she reveals the influence that US political pressure can have on other countries. She uses statements from the U.S. State Department to confirm Romania's role in fighting human trafficking.<sup>72</sup> The 2014 Trafficking in Human Report, provided by the U.S. Department of State, contains sections such as "TIP Report Heroes, Tier Placements, and Country Narratives" which specifically address other nation's participation in the fight against human trafficking. It also lists non-participants, the conventions that each participant agreed to, and minimum standards for all participants.<sup>73</sup> Reports such as the Trafficking in Persons Report apply heavy political pressure on other nations to increase their efforts by assigning them a status, or tier, based on their cooperation. While political and social pressures provide a great deal of power, it must be directed properly in order to have the intended effect.

Many believe that these political and social pressures are currently being abused in order to twist the human trafficking debate to suit abolitionist interests, by demonizing prostitution and immigration. Desyllas' argument claims that: "...countries holding power and privilege have domineering policies and imperialistic frameworks and ideologies that are imposed upon the rest of the world."<sup>74</sup> She further states that "A conceptual shift needs to occur to examine the multitude of experiences of migrants, so that generalizations and sensationalist depictions of women of color and sex workers that reinforce gender, culture and power structures do not drive U.S. and international policy."<sup>75</sup>

## Community Level Support and Advocacy

The anti-trafficking effort requires community level advocacy and participation for it's success. Community level advocacy is highly effective because it's ability to identify local trafficking victims and accompany them through the transition process. Effective advocacy groups work to bridge the gap between victims and government resources as victims are typically weary of government authorities and thus much more likely to reach out to non-governmental advocates or community members who they confide in. Connecting with these victims not only gives us the opportunity to help them, but provides us with the opportunity to learn from them as well. "In order to examine whether the operationalization of current policy will improve the conditions of individuals, these marginalized voices need to be heard. A new framework for understanding trafficking and for addressing issues of migration, labor rights and human rights needs to be provided so that feminists, NGOs, governments and individuals

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<sup>72</sup> Stoica, Anghel. 2011. "AGAIN ABOUT THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS." *Juridical Current* 14, no. 2: 121-131. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 7, 2015).

<sup>73</sup> "Trafficking in Persons Report 2014." U.S. Department of State. January 1, 2014. Accessed January 5, 2015. [http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/?utm\\_source=NEW\\_RESOURCE: Trafficking in Persons R.](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/?utm_source=NEW_RESOURCE:Trafficking%20in%20Persons%20R)

<sup>74</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

directly affected by policy change can engage in productive dialogue towards change.”<sup>76</sup> Another added benefit is that “without the empowerment that comes from these services, the victims are unable to tell their story and provide evidence of criminal activity. This victim cooperation is essential to a successful prosecution. Without victim’s cooperation, human traffickers stand a better chance of going free.”<sup>77</sup>

Community level involvement of anti-trafficking efforts provides local organizations with local forums for anti-trafficking discourse as well. This is highly beneficial as it promotes networking amongst anti-traffickers and shows the community the depth of the anti-trafficking effort. “It is vital for social workers to engage in community and interagency collaboration by participating in meetings to glean knowledge and share resources through the relationship building of resources and referral.”<sup>78</sup> Teaching the existing organization about their peers, what they specialize in, and the resources they have available, gives each organization the information they need to direct victims to the resource best suited to assist the victim.

## Conclusion

The anti-human trafficking effort has been largely obstructed by conflicting opinions regarding the distinction between human trafficking and related issues such as migration and prostitution. While these may seem to be simple distinctions, there is a great deal of controversy surrounding the trafficking vs. migration dichotomy. “Feminist work on global human trafficking has highlighted the conceptual difficulty of differentiating between trafficking and migration.”<sup>79</sup> In addition to the feminist debates centered on sex work, other interests attempt to hijack human trafficking discourse in order to pursue their interests. The result is a serious and dangerous lack of awareness across the globe, where very few possess an understanding of how human trafficking operates or what they can do to protect themselves and their community members.

Due to the lack of awareness, human trafficking has been allowed to flourish in many communities, operating in the shadows. Increasing awareness amongst victims and their surrounding communities will shed light on this atrocity and limit trafficker’s ability to function in secrecy. Awareness, in the case of trafficking victims, is the opposite of vulnerability. Awareness provides protection from traffickers by providing potential victims with the information necessary to recognize their options, and make informed decisions

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<sup>76</sup> Desyllas, Moshoula Capous. 2007. "A Critique of the Global Trafficking Discourse and U.S. Policy." *Journal Of Sociology & Social Welfare* 34, no. 4: 57-79. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

<sup>77</sup> Rothenberg, Laurence. "Combating Modern Slavery: Reauthorization of Anti-Trafficking Programs." Address, Testimony of Deputy Assistant Attorney General from Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, Washington D.C., October 31, 2007.

<sup>78</sup> Baker, Debra A., and Elizabeth A. Grover. 2013. "Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: Interagency Awareness, Housing Services, and Spiritual Care." *Social Work & Christianity* 40, no. 3: 308-321. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 11, 2015).

<sup>79</sup> Rao, Smriti, and Christina Presenti. 2012. "Understanding Human Trafficking Origin: A Cross-Country Empirical Analysis." *Feminist Economics* 18, no. 2: 231-263. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed January 5, 2015).

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