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Zonta International District 24 ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION KIT

Published as a community service project by Zonta Clubs in Areas 1, 2 and 3 of District 24, using sources of information including the United Nations, US State Department, Australian Government, Australian Federal Police, Australian Institute of Criminology and the University of Technology Sydney Anti-Slavery Project.

Information about human trafficking, in particular about the trafficking of women and children for sexual servitude, and what community service organizations can do in their own local areas to help prevent, prosecute and protect against human trafficking.

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Related publication:

Anti Human Trafficking Action List for Zonta Clubs

Essentials:

Be aware:

Human trafficking affects virtually every country in the world. While the problem in Australia is perhaps less than in other countries, public awareness is key to preventing any local escalation of human trafficking problems.

Be informed:

Human trafficking is a complex topic and the terminology quite confusing due to its legalistic nature. The best start to be had is by understanding the basic concepts behind this type of crime, and then considering what anti human trafficking action your group might take.

Don't be put off:

Individual cases can be quite shocking.

Some are relatively straightforward, such as a girl stolen from her home and taken to another country to be imprisoned and forced into sexual servitude.

Others are rather more complex, eg. an adult but gullible woman taken in by lies that would not have deceived others, and put to work in a legal brothel but in unlawful, slavery-like conditions.

Don't be daunted by specific cases. The role of law enforcement is to gather the detailed evidence and determine what crimes may have



been committed, within a legal framework that takes due note of the nature of human trafficking.

So, as in any area of the law, not all cases will be proven but this by no means suggests that such crimes are not taking place.

Our focus is on the positive actions that the community can take to aid victims, improve the legal system and support law enforcement agencies.

ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 24

Zonta International

... through service and advocacy, aims to advance the legal, health, economic, professional, educational and political status of women and girls worldwide.

... is a non-partisan and secular organisation of over 32,000 business and professional women.

... was founded in 1919 and now has over 1200 Zonta Clubs in 67 countries.

For more information about Zonta International, go to: www.zonta.org

What is human trafficking?



The exact definition of trafficking in persons, or human trafficking as it is more commonly known, is difficult because it intersects with genuinely complex issues of slavery or servitude, debt bondage, forced labour and people smuggling (see article on page 3).

But put bluntly in ordinary language, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, coerced or defrauded into exploitative work/labor or sexual exploitation.

People are snared by traffickers by many means. In some cases, physical force is used. In other cases, false promises are made regarding job opportunities or marriages in foreign countries to entrap victims. In sexual slavery or servitude, forced addiction to drugs is not uncommon.

Potential victims are at even greater risk when they originate from countries experiencing instability,

whether from political, economic or military causes or even from natural disasters.

But why should community service organizations in Australia be concerned? After all, it doesn't happen here, right?

Wrong. All authorities on the topic, from the United Nations to the Australian Federal Police, have evidence that trafficking in persons is a crime that takes place in almost every country of the world, whether as a source of, or a destination for, trafficked persons.

Whether we use the common language description, or the more formal definition adopted by the UN and other leading agencies around the world (see box below), human trafficking concerns us all because it deprives people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

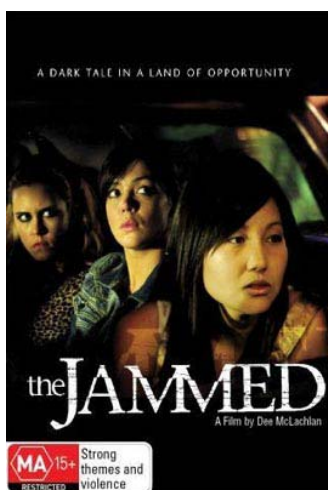
Without over-dramatizing the issue, it is clear that human trafficking has

a devastating impact on individual victims, perhaps most especially where sexual slavery is concerned.

As well as the deprivation of their freedom, often for prolonged periods, victims often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death. Beyond that, human trafficking also fuels the growth of organized crime and has global health implications.

A key aspect of prevention of trafficking is **public awareness**. This information kit is intended to advance public awareness of this issue, and to this end is being shared by Zonta Clubs in District 24 with a variety of community service groups, etc.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines the "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 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 labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."



How big is the problem?

Generating roughly \$7 billion to \$10 billion annually (as assessed by several expert agencies), human trafficking is the fastest growing global criminal industry, with high profits, low risks, minimal capital investment, and a "commodity" that can be used over and over again - unlike illicit consumable products such as drugs that are gone after one use.

The US Department of State estimates that about 600,000 to 800,000 people - mostly women and children - are trafficked annually across national borders (see their Trafficking in Persons Report, 2005). The highly-respected humanitarian organization, the International Rescue Committee, estimates that up to 4 million persons worldwide are trafficked every year, when those trafficked within national borders are included in the estimate.

Awareness is a key issue in uncovering the facts on the full extent of this industry, which was aided in 2007/2008 by the release of an Australian movie, *The Jammed*. The story takes a close and detailed look at the lives of several girls, and traces the path by which family poverty and debt lead to exploitation and violence. The film is very Australian in style, but has seriously aided public awareness of the complex reality of human trafficking.

Human trafficking or people smuggling: What's the difference?



According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), people smuggling and people trafficking are both illegal practices and similar in some respects, but there are **several important differences**.

Firstly, those who are smuggled have in some way **consented to be smuggled**, although it is worth noting that many women consent only under significant influence, even coercion,

from male family members.

Trafficking victims, according to the UNODC, "have either never consented or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers."

According to the UNODC another major difference "is that **smuggling ends with the arrival of the**

migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing **exploitation of the victims** in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers."

Exploitation through sexual servitude or slavery is a common form of trafficking, but clearly not the only one. Forced labour in a factory or food business, or on a farm or other rural property are other common forms.

Other definitions ...

... either without their consent or only as a result of consent that has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers ...

There are activities closely associated with human trafficking that often confuse the picture and make it difficult for action to be taken, whether to assist the victims or to prosecute the perpetrators.

With this in mind, there are 3 key **definitions** that are worth knowing and keeping in mind when thinking about human trafficking and what can be done by community service groups in Australia.

Slavery - where the rights of ownership are exercised over another person.

The 'traditional' style of slavery is now the least common form but it still exists (in, for example, Burma, Mauritania and Brazil).

In sexual slavery, the basic human rights and freedoms are removed by the "owner", while the woman is forced to

service clients as directed by the "owner".

Debt bondage or bonded labour) - Put simply, this is a means of **paying off loans with direct labour instead of currency or goods**. But it is actually a form of "unfree labour", compared to "free labour" where people work willingly for agreed and productive returns. In debt bondage, the person is indentured and working often creates more "debt" not less - such as being forced to accept food rations from the "employer" at such inflated rates that "wages" will not cover the costs.

Debt-bondage is the most common slavery-like practice affecting millions of the world's most disadvantaged populations, in places as different as India and the USA.

In human trafficking for sexual slavery, the costs incurred by the "owner" - such as transport, housing and food, even false visas and forged or false passports - are typically part of the "debt" that the woman is forced to work off by servicing clients for sex. While the notion that this "debt" is something that she "owes" her "owner" is incomprehensible to most, it is a core aspect of the coercion used to enslave such women.

Forced Labour - all work which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered themselves freely and voluntarily.

Many people are trafficked into forced labour and also placed in a debt bondage, which itself is spurious. Sadly, this is also a multi-faceted global problem involving many labour sectors.



Australian research to June 2008

Commissioned by the Office for Women, an Australian Institute of Criminology report was released in July 2008 by the Federal Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek and is entitled: *Australian criminal justice responses to trafficking of women for sexual purposes: Understanding current practices and the experience of agencies involved in that response.*

The report makes some important points that securing prosecutions remains difficult, as the trafficked person(s) may be the crucial witness but very unwilling to testify. The great difficulty of proving 'slavery' without 'locks and chains' being in evidence is also noted.

Importantly, the report also points out that trafficked persons need protection in court when giving evidence, and that

if sex crimes are alleged, protections that are broadly comparable with those for witnesses in sexual assault matters may be required. For example: protecting their privacy and their identity; avoiding further trauma from having to confront directly the person accused of abusing them; avoiding undue repetition of testimony or harsh/unfair cross-examination about their private or sexual life.

According to Australian Federal Government press releases, the Australian Federal Police's Transnational Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Teams have now undertaken more than 150 investigations and assessments of trafficking allegations since January 2004.

What is Zonta International doing?

In trafficking women and children for sexual servitude, perpetrators often use a heinous combination of aspects of slavery, debt bondage and forced labour, compounded by sexual assault.

Worldwide Action

Action by Zonta International to combat trafficking of women for sexual slavery occurs under programs which pursue the Zonta International Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women (ZISVAW).

ZISVAW grants made to United Nations and other non-government agencies take an innovative approach to preventing violence against women.

They may include public education, advocacy, awareness raising and the involvement of men or men's organizations.

ZISVAW grants were initiated in 1999, after the relevant resolution was passed by the world wide Zonta Convention in 1998.

That resolution by Zonta International on human trafficking resolution cites and supports the United Nations position on this matter. Details are available from:

www.zonta.org

Zonta International has also advocated against human trafficking since as early as 2000 (earlier in individual clubs).

Central to this effort are two grants totaling \$150,000 which were made from the ZISVAW fund to support the

STAR Network of World Learning in:

- Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia-Montenegro.
- Development of modules for Zonta International global trafficking advocacy package.

Local Action

As a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization, Zonta supports programs and services provided by expert organizations so long as delivery is on a non-sectarian, non-partisan basis to those in need.

So action by Zonta Clubs can be undertaken in the Club's area to support relevant initiatives, on a basis similar to the work of Zonta Clubs in relation to domestic violence, for example.



In terms of combating trafficking of people, local Zonta action may include providing support for initiatives such as the Salvation Army's refuge for trafficked women in Sydney (Samaritan Accommodation), the University of Technology Sydney's Anti Slavery project and the court room volunteer program operated by the Sisters of St Joseph.

