

Slavery In The Contemporary World

ABSTRACT

The omnipresence of contemporary slavery in the United States has been largely ignored since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the nineteenth century. The multiple facets of contemporary slavery include sex trafficking and labor trafficking which constitute an estimated population of 25-35 million slaves worldwide. The United States policy focuses on human trafficking abroad even though the issue is so prevalent within the country's own borders. This research seeks to better understand contemporary slavery in the United States by placing it in a global context. By virtue of contrast, a more accurate sense of contemporary slavery may lead to a potential for change.

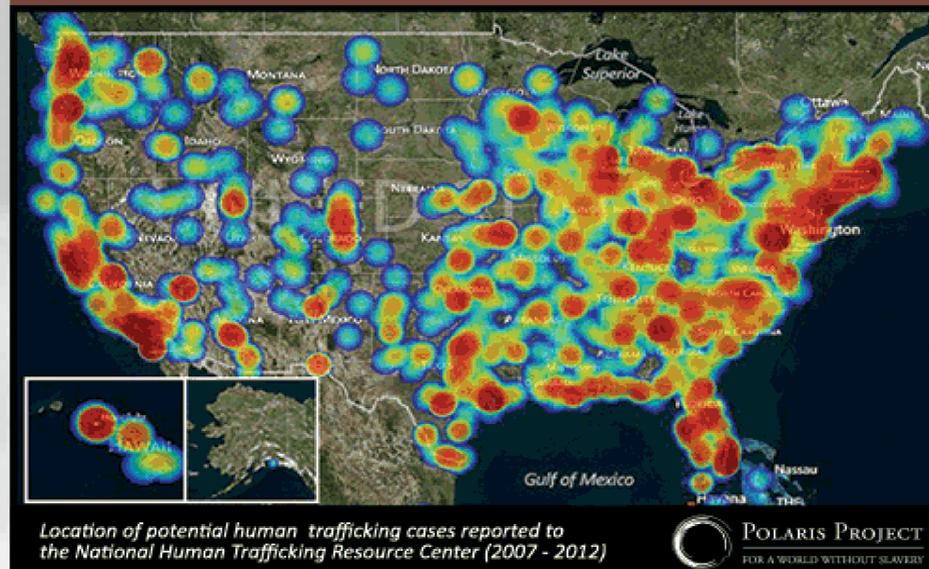
BACKGROUND

Slavery has been an illicit act in the United Kingdom and America for 200 years, made apparent with the illegality of the transatlantic slave trade. Although this original form of slavery has been taboo for centuries in two of the most hegemonic countries of the world, there has been a hidden form of slavery developing analogous to its original method. There are multiple definitions of "human trafficking" in the legal provisions both nationally and internationally on the subject. The definition incorporated in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, signed into law in 2000, designates "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery." This definition, used federally by the United States, is a much vaguer contingent of the international definition used by the United Nations in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which is a protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Under this internationally recognized definition, "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" is used to define the "trafficking in persons." This definition is more inclusive in its specificity of modern slavery. It includes the exploitation of another person for monetary benefit, whereas the version adopted by the United States only includes a more general version of contemporary slavery by referring to it in name only. This discrepancy in definitions may be a contributing factor to the alarming amount of slavery in the United States. On the black market, human trafficking is the second largest illegal exchange after the sale and movement of drugs and by 2020, human trafficking is expected to surpass the frequency of drug and arms trafficking. The two main facets of human trafficking are used for the purposes of sex and labor. Entrapment within the ring of human trafficking can be catalyzed by debt bondage, contract slavery, domestic servitude and kidnapping. An underrepresentation of the amount of contemporary slavery is extremely prevalent in the numerical statistics due to its hidden nature in the contemporary world.

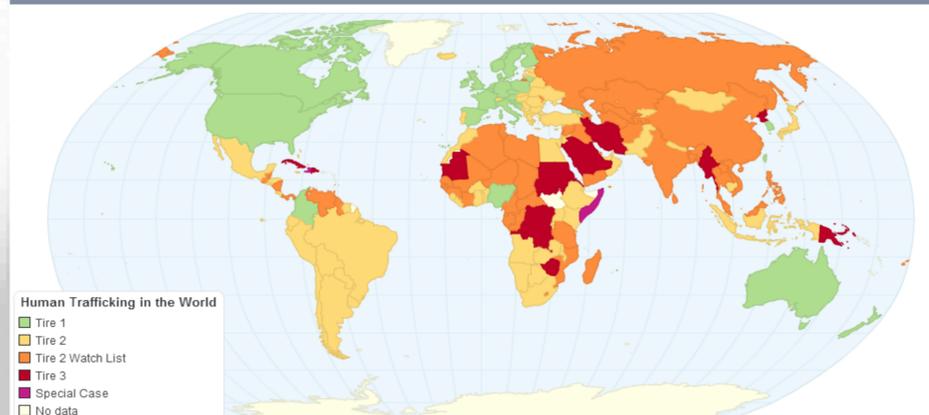
OBJECTIVES

Our Objective is to inform the public of injustices taking place locally when compared to a more globalized view. With the spread of knowledge there is a chance to help prevent the growth of slavery.

SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES



SLAVERY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



TIER PLACEMENT:

- TIER 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the TVPA minimum standards.
- TIER 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
- TIER 2 WATCH LIST: Same as TIER 2, but: the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; also there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or, the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.
- TIER 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

FACTS/STATISTICS

- An estimated 15,000 to 50,000 of internationally trafficked slaves are transported to the United States every year. However as of 2014 only 24,062 cases of human trafficking were reported annually to the National Human Trafficking hotline. It is suggested that due to the illegality of human trafficking, reported data is skewed.
- An estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, however counterintuitive to popular opinion, a majority of victims are trafficked within their respective countries.
- 80% of trafficked victims are female and 50% are minors
- 117 of the 196 countries in the world have signed the United Nations in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Leaving approximately 40% of world nations without signatures.
- 166 countries have either ratified or accessed the protocol meaning 30 nations, or 15% of world states are not held legally responsible for their actions concerning human trafficking.
- There are approximately 29 million slaves worldwide, roughly the combined population of Australia and New Zealand.
- Each year \$120 million is allocated to abolish slavery; however, the estimated annual profit is \$150 billion. The substantial profits are perpetuating slavery, and the consumer market is buying into it.

TIPS FOR PREVENTION

The economic benefits of slavery are so large that they make the abolition of the practice exponentially more complicated. There are few economic barriers when a trafficker seeks to enter the market of human trafficking, as in any demand curve, the relationship found here between price and quantity of slaves is negative. As the price to traffic increases, traffickers find less incentive in trafficking victims because they make less of a profit. Therefore, one solution to decreasing the rate of internationally trafficked persons would be to create higher economic barriers.

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