

# Human Trafficking: A Physician's Perspective

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## Human trafficking

- Children as young as 5 years old are kidnapped or sold to brothels.
- Poverty of victims and their families is one reason for trafficking
- Demand for sex also plays a role in trafficking



## Human trafficking

- Many organizations, including World Hope, are working to combat human trafficking
- Goal is to move the girls into healthy Cambodian society by providing physical and mental healing and providing training in work skills.



## Human trafficking Conviction in South Dakota

- In Nov. 2007, John and Angelita Farrell of Oacoma were found guilty of peonage, document servitude, and visa fraud
- Brought workers from the Phillipines, and then confiscated their passports



## Human Trafficking in ND

- In 2014, 12 men were convicted of trying to by sex with underage girls
- 7 people were convicted of human trafficking



## Human trafficking Definition

- United Nations: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of 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 to achieve control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

## Human trafficking

- Forms of Trafficking / Slavery
  - Forced Labor
  - Child Labor
  - Child Soldiering
  - Child and adult prostitution
  - Domestic servants
  - Forced Brides / concubines

## Myths of Human Trafficking

- Only involves foreign born nationals
- Must involve transfer across state / national boundaries
- There must be physical restraint
- Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking
- Human trafficking only occurs in illegal industries.

## Human trafficking

- According to U.S. Dept. of State, from 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each yr.
- Currently world-wide it is estimated that there are from 12 to 24 million people who are enslaved
- FBI estimates that 15,000 to 18,000 individuals are trafficked into the U.S. each yr

## Human trafficking

- Of victims trafficked across international borders, 80% are female and 70% of female victims are trafficked for commercial sex.
- Up to 50% of trafficking victims are children
- Many of the children who are trafficked in the United States are sexually exploited.

*Be faithful, be vigilant, be untiring in your efforts to break every yoke, and let the oppressed go free*

*Come what may – cost what it may – inscribe on the banner which you unfurl to the breeze, as your religious and political motto –*

**NO COMPROMISE WITH SLAVERY**

*William Lloyd Garrison*

### Human trafficking Conviction in South Dakota

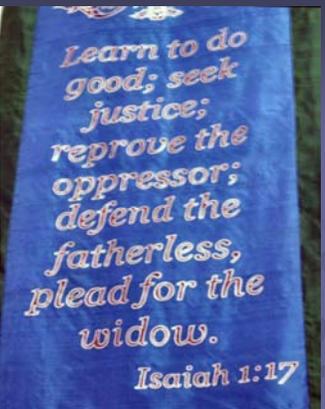
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### Human Trafficking Tea, SD 2009

- Brandon Thompson pled guilty of sex trafficking of children.
- Teenage girls taken to various locations to have sex with men for money.



### Human Trafficking Identifying Victims

- Work / living conditions that raise suspicion
  - Not being free to leave when one wishes
  - Being under 18 and providing commercial sex acts
  - Working excessively long / unusual hours
  - Owing a large debt and not being able to pay it off
  - Being unpaid, paid very little or paid only through tips

### Human Trafficking Identifying Victims

- Mental Health behaviors
  - Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive or nervous
  - Avoiding eye contact
  - Unusual fear about bringing up law enforcement
- Physical health signs
  - Lacking health care
  - Appearing malnourished
  - Showing signs of abuse, restraint, confinement or torture

### Human Trafficking Identifying Victims

- Other signs
  - Lack of control of possessions, money or ID documents
  - Not being to speak for themselves, not being allowed alone
  - Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
  - Loss of sense of time

### Human Trafficking Potential Victims

- Before questioning potential trafficking victim:
  - Isolate individual from person accompanying her without raising suspicions
  - Enlist a trusted translator / interpreter who also understands victim's cultural needs
- Importance of indirectly and sensitively probing to determine if person is trafficking victim

### Human Trafficking Potential Victims

- Many victims will not self identify
- Provide a safe / comfortable area to treat medical needs
- Work to build TRUST
- Assure victim that you are there to HELP and not punish or deport

### Human Trafficking Potential Victims

- Expect lies and canned stories
- Don't dispute facts or comment on the victim's motivation
- Be aware of cultural sensitivities and differences.
  - Look for independent translation

### Rapid Trafficking Assessment

- Questions to ask
  - Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
  - Have you ever been forced to do work or engage in an activity you did not want to do?
  - Have you ever been forced to have sex to pay a debt or in return for food, shelter or clothing

### Rapid Trafficking Assessment

- Questions to ask
  - Has anyone threatened you or your family if you "told" or attempted to leave your situation?
  - Have you been physically harmed in any way?
  - Has your identification documents been taken from you?
  - Has anyone lied to you about the type of work you would be doing?

### Human trafficking Suspected Minor Victim

- If patient is under 18 and has answered yes to ANY screening questions:
  - Follow child abuse protocol and mandatory reporting statutes
  - Contact Security office regarding security needs

## Human trafficking Suspected Victim

- If patient is over 18 and answered yes to ANY of the screening questions;
  - Call the National Trafficking Resource Center Hotline **1-888-3737-888** to request assistance and advice on next steps.
  - Be vigilant of immediate environment.

## Human trafficking Suspected Victim

- Hotline can assist in assessing level of danger
  - Is the trafficker present (in waiting room, outside, etc.?)
  - What will happen if the patient does not return to the trafficker?
  - Does the patient believe she is in danger?

## Human trafficking Suspected Victim

- If no Perceived Danger, the Hotline can assist in appropriate next steps / referrals
- If perceived danger, the Hotline can assist in contacting appropriate local law enforcement
- Keep Security office informed of the developing situations.

## Human trafficking Suspected Victim

- If the patient does not want to contact anyone
  - Provide information so the patient knows how to get help
  - Provide local emergency number – 911
  - Provide National Trafficking Hotline – **1-888-3737-888**
  - Inform them that hospitals will provide assistance 24/7

