

POLITICAL
 HT is a violation of the 1948 UNDHR Article 4: which states no one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Few nations have specific laws relating to HT. After increased human trafficking was seen in Cambodia a new law on 'Suppression of kidnapping, trafficking and exploitation of humans' was established in 1996. This law has reduced rates of HT however Cambodia still has very high rates of HT (1). 'The Victims of Trafficking and violence protection Act' created by the U.S. dept of state aims to combat trafficking both worldwide and domestically. The first global legally binding agreement was agreed to in Dec 2003... Despite legislation against HT it is still growing, part of the weakness of legislation is when transit countries fail to demonstrate effective efforts to support it....

There is a clear interaction between HT and political instability and poverty in parts of Asia (1). Poverty is directly linked to rates of women and children becoming victims of HT. Political instability tends to lead to poverty...

ECONOMIC
 The UN estimates the profit from HT for sexual exploitation to be at around \$US4-9billion/year. HT is the world's second largest growing criminal enterprise behind drug and gun trafficking. Most of the money goes to the sex traffickers. HT in S.E. Asia reflects the poverty levels resulting in children being sold... destitute rural villages...unemployment and poverty (1)

Human Trafficking is the illegal trade of humans into slavery for sexual exploitation or forced labour. According to the US State Department, an "estimated 600,000 to 820,000 men, women, and children [are] trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80% are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors."

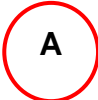
Human Trafficking [HT]

Is the illegal trade of human beings, for the purpose of slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour.
How does it occur? ...
Where does it occur?
 S.E. Asia including Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar; South Asia incl. Nepal, Bangladesh..., are major source regions (1).
What is the significance of the location?
 These locations show a general trend about where HT occurs. Source countries tend to be poorer, politically unstable, lacking education, employment or enforcement of human rights laws etc.

SOCIAL
 Focus was on the individual aspects as well as the cultural environments. Cultural environments include evidence for Middle East and areas where women tend to be considered second class citizens.

- ACTIONS:** Political, economic, social, religious and humanitarian perspectives:
 Fighting HT can involve
- local organisations who aim to raise awareness of this issue through simple community actions
 - International organisations who support countries with the writing of laws, training of law enforcers etc or with human aid on the ground like UN, World Vision etc.
 - Smaller groups like the International Justice Mission who are financially supported by the Bill Gates Foundation.
 - Religious groups who are directly involved in helping victims of HT like Tiny Hands International... etc
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- Who's involved in the HT business? The primary motivator is economic gain.
- There are huge gangs with international networks involved in all aspects of HT like Chinese Snakeheads, Japanese Yakuza, MS-13 ...
 - Parents who sell their children...



Gangs

The motivations for gang involvement in this criminal activity are varied, but clearly they value economic returns more than human rights. The leaders of these gangs perceive human trafficking as a low risk and highly profitable business (2). They have a lot invested in this activity through development of networks providing the gang with the ability to acquire victims and transport them to the final market... The returns are high from human trafficking and this enables them to become involved in other economic ventures...

Mara Salvatrucha also known as MS-13 has as their motto "We'll do any crime, any time" clearly showing their total disregard for the law and lack of social conscience or respect for human rights. It is because they feel there is marginal risk, they don't care about the victims and the activity is very profitable that trafficking is becoming a significant part of their criminal activities (3)... This is one of the world's most notorious gangs, with membership numbering in the millions worldwide but it is based in El Salvador. Members of this group are primarily interested in their own welfare and through their actions of kidnapping and selling children and woman, show that they value economic gain over the wellbeing and safety of others... They deal in any forms of smuggling and ... Social networking sites are providing this and other gangs with easy access to potential victims and law enforcement agencies have indicated an increase in related human trafficking in more affluent area than was common in the past.

...The Albanian gang are well positioned as Albania as a gateway for migrants from Eastern Europe travelling to the West... Most of the Albanian gangs' victims are young women and girls, many who have been orphaned or are members of large, rural families. This group is relatively easily abducted or seduced into the sex trade by promises of legitimate work overseas... The organized capture, transport and selling of these women clearly shows that they are seen as an economic commodity and the traffickers do not consider their human rights over their economic value (4). Instead, they are taken by dinghy to southern Italy and then transported by taxi, train, or truck to the north, where they are forced to work as prostitutes.

Solution to this issue:

I think the best course of action is to improve the education of young women and girls especially in the poorer areas (5). This has many benefits for women and the community. I propose a broad education which will include a general education and skills for the workforce. Learning about trafficking is crucial because without this they are still at risk; "from my experience, women who become victims of human trafficking usually do not understand what human trafficking is all about" said Memey a trafficking victim... It would be important for women to learn about their human rights, know how to avoid trafficking and know about available support groups. This education will help them be more aware of risky situations and if caught, how to help themselves (6)... Basic health education is also important especially in relation to HIV... Employment skills are also needed so women have job options and the chance to move from their villages in to safe employment in town...

A lot of human traffickers are women, even if this is simply through selling their own children... Education will help women and communities break the poverty cycle ...support each other ... end human trafficking...

Education is vitally important to solving this issue because it directly provides options for the victims and reduces their levels of risk... In the long-term it will create environments that are safe and productive. This solution deals with the problem of women at risk and the larger problem of poverty in many of these communities... (7) While stronger action against human traffickers is needed this will not protect women and girls in the source areas... Many of the source areas do not have the funds to act against traffickers even by further policing their borders. Money would be better used if directly invested in local communities through education (8)...