

Human and Sex Trafficking

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Sex Trafficking is slavery for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Trafficking = forced work

A victim of sex trafficking = is someone who is forced to work in the sex industry against his or her will

Types of sex trafficking:

The various types of sex trafficking are

- **child sex tourism (CST)**

for the purpose of engaging in the prostitution of children.

Under 18 years old

- **domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST)**

- **commercial sexual exploitation of children**

such as children and child pornography

Raymond, J. G., & Hughes, D. M. (2001). Sex trafficking of women in the United States International and domestic trends. Retrieved from the University of Rhode Island

Hughes and Raymond interviewed 128 sex trafficking victims in order to extract information to understand the scope of international as well as domestic sex trafficking of women in the USA. The study explores multiple scenarios of sex trafficking including the characteristics of the traffickers and the methods that are used to initiate the victims into human trafficking. The article also discusses all the negative psychological, sexual health impacts of prostitutions and sex trafficking. Also the authors have discussed in detail the recommendations that should be enforced in the community to stop human trafficking.

How trafficking works:

In order to obtain control over their victims traffickers will use force, drugs, emotional tactics as well as financial means.

- A common process is for the trafficker to first gain the trust of the victim. They seek to make the victim dependent on them.
- Traffickers are using social media at an increasing rate to find victims, research potential victims, control their victims and advertise their victims
- Another tactic is for traffickers to kidnap their victims, and then drug them or secure them so they cannot escape
- In familial trafficking, the victim is controlled by family members who allow them to be sexually exploited in exchange for something, such as drugs or money.
- In survival sex, the victim is not necessarily controlled by another person but feels they have to perform sexual acts in order to obtain basic commodities to survive.

The Impact of Sex and Prostitution

A significant number of people who have been trafficked suffer multiple health effects from violence and sexual exploitation.

- **Physical Injuries and illnesses:** Broken bones, bruises, malnutrition, Head injuries
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections:** HIV/aids
- **Pregnancy and Children:** Unwanted pregnancy, Unsafe abortion
- **Mental and Emotional Difficulties:** Self image/esteem issues, Trauma (leads to PTSD), Sleeping problems, Depression

Table 11**Women's Reports of Mental and Emotional Difficulties As a Result of Sexual Exploitation (Intl N=15, US N=25)**

	<u>International Women</u>					<u>U.S. Women</u>				
	NR	No	%	Yes	%	NR	No	%	Yes	%
Depressed/sad	2	2	15	11	85	3	3	14	19	86
Unable to feel	2	8	62	5	38	3	16	73	6	27
Hopeless	2	6	46	7	54	3	13	59	9	41
Difficulty sleeping	2	9	69	4	31	3	15	68	7	32
Self blame / guilt	2	7	54	6	46	3	14	64	8	36
Loss of appetite	2	9	69	4	31	3	15	68	7	32
Anger / rage	2	9	69	4	31	3	8	36	14	64
Suicidal thoughts	2	9	69	4	31	3	8	36	14	64
Hurt or kill self	1	13	39	1	7	6	7	37	12	63
Other	1	8	57	6 ^a	43	3	7	32	15 ^b	68

^a Anxious or guilty about children (2), "No concentration," "Scared all the time," "I was diminished," "I don't care about myself."

^b Paranoia (2), eating disorder (4), low self-esteem (4), shame (2), panic disorder (2), survivor's guilt (2), "felt like killing someone (2), post traumatic stress disorder, "I didn't care if I died," "feel dirty," flashbacks, hearing voices, difficulty forming relationships, nervous about men, sexual dysfunction, disassociation

Table 10**Injuries Sustained by Women As a Result of Sexual Exploitation
(Intl N=15, US N=25)**

		<u>N.A.</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Broken bones ^a	Intl	1	13	93	1	7
	U.S.	5	13	65	7	35
Bruises ^b	Intl	1	7	50	7	50
	U.S.	5	4	20	16	80
Head injuries ^c	Intl	1	13	93	1	7
	U.S.	6	10	53	9	47
Mouth and teeth injuries ^d	Intl	1	9	64	5	36
	U.S.	6	9	47	10	53
Vaginal bleeding ^e	Intl	2	8	62	5	38
	U.S.	5	7	35	13	65
Other ^f	Intl	10	5	100	-	-
	U.S.	10	7	47	8	53

^a Bones fractured included: vertebrae, ribs, jaw, toes, fingers, and nose

^b Included black eyes

^c Included nose bleeds, being choked, injuries that resulted in loss of consciousness, migraines, and TMJ, and injuries requiring stitches

^d Injuries resulted in loss of teeth, chipped teeth, throat pain, split lips, and scars

^e Bleeding from sexual assaults, injuries similar to domestic violence

^f Injuries included stab wounds and sprains

3 Ethical Questions:

Are the actions done to the trafficking victims justifiable? Are they ethical?

Is it ethical to purchase the trafficked people?

Is it ethical for human and sex trafficking to be practiced?