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Should Prostitution be Legal or Remain Illegal? A Discussion on Human Trafficking

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Should Prostitution be Legal or Remain Illegal? A Discussion on Human Trafficking

Presented by: Freedom Project 2019
Lily Brow, Brian Gelbach, Betty Mulugeta & Jess Wright
Trigger Warning & Language Use
Discussion Questions:

What do you know about human trafficking?

What do you know about prostitution in relation to human trafficking?
Human Trafficking - the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud or coercion) for an improper purpose such as forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Sex Trafficking - a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion or in which the person is not of legal age (18).

Prostitution - performing sexual acts for payment through money or drugs.

Pander - soliciting customers for a prostituted person.

Human Trafficking vs Human Smuggling - trafficking is a crime against a person, smuggling is a crime against a country's borders.
Sex Work vs Sex Trafficking

**Sex Trafficking:**

- **Force**
  - Someone forcing an individual at gunpoint
- **Fraud**
  - Making false “promises” to buy luxurious items/materials, etc.
- **Coercion**
  - Typically happens in a relationship—by the means of manipulation, threats and verbal/physical abuse

**Sex Work:**

- Prostitution, working at a strip club, participating in adult films
- Enter into the trade “willingly”
  - No way of knowing someone’s experience
- Can still be sex trafficking
Trafficcking Statistics

- 300,000 children enter Human Trafficking each year
- 1.6 million children run away each year in the U.S. \( \frac{1}{3} \) will be recruited by a pimp within 48 hours
- $21 million is spent every day on the sex industry
- 20.9 million men/women and children are trafficked each year worldwide
- 36% of traffickers are women
- Human trafficking victims will see up to 30-40 customers in a single night
- LGBTQ+ youth are 3-7 times more likely to engage in survival sex to meet basic needs
Who are the Victims?

- Female: 83%
- Male: 16%
- Gender Minority: 1%
- 43% Foreign National
- 57% U.S. Citizen/Permanent Resident

Out of 526 Cases where Victim Gender was reported:
- Adult: 72%
- Minor: 28%

Out of 327 Cases where Victim Nationality was reported:
- Adult: 72%
- Minor: 28%

Out of 399 Cases where Victim age was reported:
- Adult: 72%
- Minor: 28%
Different Types of Pimps...

*Romeo*: controls the vulnerable with what they need

*Gorilla*: uses aggression and physical force

*Gang Control*: use of a sense of belonging and family

*Family*: parents/siblings soliciting children/siblings
Freedom Project 2019
What We Learned from Freedom Project

**Child Pornography**
- The most searched type of porn on the Internet.
- 28,000 Internet users currently searching and viewing porn every second.
- The average age of a child that is exposed to adult material is 11.

**Labor Trafficking**
- Modern Day Slavery
- Performing labor or services through force, fraud or coercion
- Different situations--debt bondage, forced labor and involuntary child labor

**Abuse/Trauma**
- Restoration and Rehabilitation
- Trauma-informed Therapy
Statistics of Prostitution

- About 40% of prostitutes are former child sex workers who were illegally forced into the profession through human trafficking.
- 60% of children reported missing as a result of running away enter prostitution for some period of time to survive.
- 58% of American prostitutes reported violent assault at the hands of clients.
- Women who are trafficked typically have shorter lives due to abuse from both clients and pimps.
Types of Prostitution

Street: picking up clients in public places

Brothel: locations dedicated specifically for providing sex

Escort: often have a catalog of frequent clients

Massage Parlor: state they provide massages but also offer sexual acts

Survival: trading sexual favors for basic necessities (i.e. food, shelter)
Shandra Woworuntu

- Victim of trafficking
- Came to America from Indonesia for a job opportunity
- Forced into prostitution and sexual slavery
- Was able to escape, but was homeless and without help
- Was eventually able to bring her traffickers to justice
- Now is an inspirational speaker and a member of the U.S. Advisory Council for Human Trafficking
### How to Handle Prostitution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminalization</th>
<th>Decriminalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Every aspect (sale, purchase) is punishable by law</td>
<td>● Not regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legalization</td>
<td>Nordic Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Regulated</td>
<td>● Sale of sex is legal; purchase of sex is illegal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion Question:

What do you think should be done about prostitution?
How to get Involved in the Fight against Human Trafficking

Recognizing the Warning Signs of Human Trafficking:

- Poor Physical and Mental Health
- Lack of control
- Works excessive or long hours

Warning Signs for Legitimate Businesses

NOT A GAME

VICTIM WARNING SIGNS

Avoids eye contact, talking and other social interaction
Looks malnourished and/or shows signs of physical abuse

Appears to have few or no personal possessions
Is not in control of his/her own money or identification

Is not allowed or able to speak for him/herself
Is fearful or anxious, especially around law enforcement

Is “just visiting” and can’t say where he/she is staying
Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
Helpful Resources & Hotlines to Tackle Human Trafficking in Greater Philadelphia

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (hotline): 1-888-373-7888

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Institute @ Villanova University: 610-519-7183

https://cseinstitute.org

Dawn’s Place: http://www.ahomefordawn.org 215-849-2396

The SAVE Center: 215.951.1357
Questions?