

# MODERN DAY SLAVERY



cover design and illustrations by Reema Chande

## Trapped in Plain Sight

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# EDITORIAL

Many people are familiar with the dark history of colonialism and slavery, but very few know about the dark times in which we currently live. Most people don't stop to think about how many of the goods we have today are produced.

The answer lies in a new form of slavery, one that encompasses a multitude of industries and has destructive implications.

From the food we eat to the mobile devices we devote so much time to, the products of modern slavery are all around us.

This semester, the Global Health in Action team has worked to shed light on the atrocities that occur right under our noses.

You will read about how modern-day slavery functions as a determinant of health. This volume explores the intersection of issues such as poverty, exposure to sexual violence, and poor mental health with modern-day slavery.

We will provide you with ways to become a more aware and conscious society. We hope that by arming you and ourselves with knowledge, we will be able to create a safer world.

- AALIYAH DEEN SESAY, CHIEF EDITOR

# WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

AALIYAH DEEN SESAY

**W**hen you hear the word “slavery” what do you think of? Most people tend to think about the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The trading of African Americans was a catastrophic human rights violation, and it was abolished centuries ago. Slavery has been a part of society for millenia. Even though it escaped the public eye, slavery still thrives in the shadows. It has grown, changed, and evolved with our society, and now, we face a new kind of slavery - modern-day slavery. It’s a global phenomenon that has harmed millions of men, women, and children. Take Ellie for example.

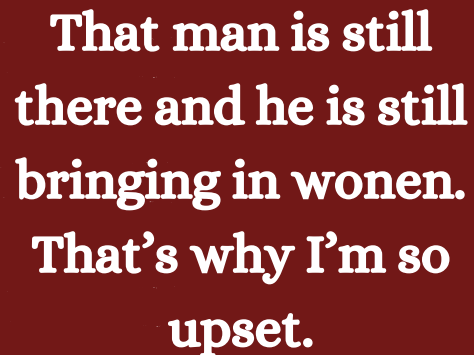
Ellie grew up in slums near Kampala, Uganda; when she was seven, she was sent to live with another family, where she was sexually abused by the head of the household. She suffered eight years of this tortuous lifestyle.

One day, a neighbor offered to help her escape to a new life abroad, to which she agreed. She flew with six other women to the United Kingdom, thinking she would take on a job as a cleaner.

When she arrived, a white man drove her to his home and forced her into prostitution for two years to pay back her debts for the air travel and passport. One night, a sympathetic client gave her 60 pounds and explained how to get to London; there, she met a man who offered shelter in exchange for sex. The problem is things got violent, and she called the police. However, instead of taking the man into custody, Ellie was taken to a hospital, where she was not treated; interrogated about her immigration status, and put in a detention center.

“All they were talking about was deporting me,” she said. She was stuck at the center until a guard helped her gain legal aid for asylum on the grounds of trafficking. She was very angry during her interview, but not for the reason you think.

Her anger stems from something much deeper, and she references the man who trafficked her, saying “That man is still there and he is still bringing in women. That’s why I’m so upset.”



**That man is still  
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bringing in wonen.  
That's why I'm so  
upset.**

Unfortunately, there are millions of people like Ellie who have been victimized by modern-day slavery. Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, domestic servitude, debt bondage, and even child soldiers. In Ellie’s story, her status as an undocumented immigrant compounded her vulnerability and greatly increased the chances of exploitation; this is the story of many migrant workers, especially low or unskilled workers who have limited rights and are powerless against exploitation. But to put it simply, Ellie was trafficked and brought to the UK under false pretenses.

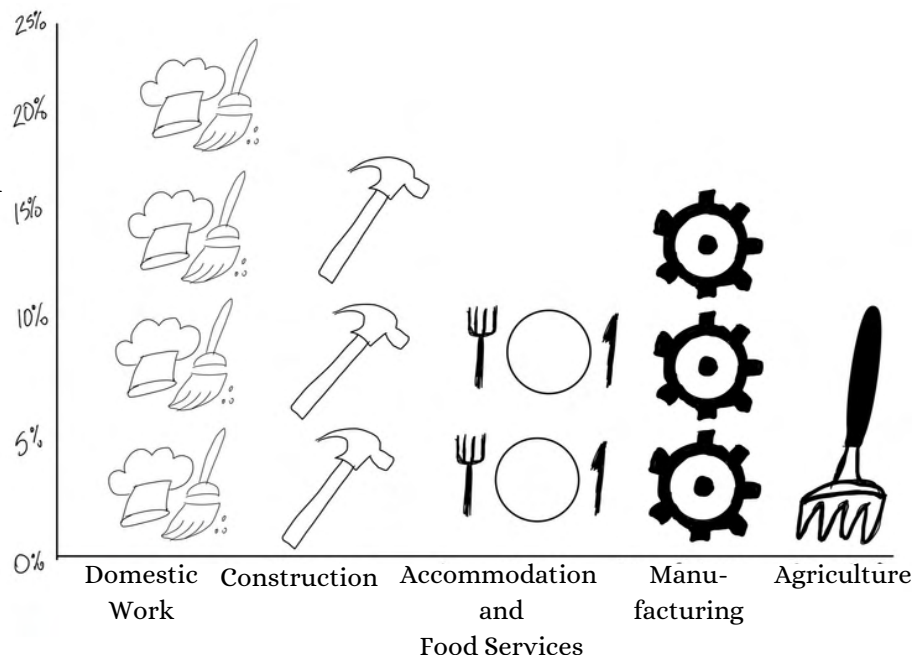


Although the term “traffick” implies movement, the recruitment, receipt, or harboring of people is what defines trafficking, regardless of whether people were geographically moved. In Ellie’s case, she was transported to another place, but any deception in recruiting people counts as human trafficking. Modern-day slavery endangers various groups. It includes people working in sweatshops, those who are held at gunpoint to grow produce, and incarcerated folks who are forced to do labor no one else will do. Forced labor, for example, is defined as work performed by a person “under the menace of any penalty,” and the individual did not perform said work voluntarily. Anybody who is coerced or threatened into their work is engaging in forced labor.

Domestic workers tend to be excluded from the protections of national labor laws, while those who work in construction often suffer from injuries and work in dangerous conditions. When it comes to manufacturing, many South Asians have suffered in small garment and footwear factories, but there’s also a rise in abuse in the electronics industry. Debt bondage is, unfortunately, the most common form of labor exploitation in Africa, Asia, and the Arab States. In most cases, the debt grows at an exponential rate, making it impossible for the worker to pay it back with the level of compensation they receive. In some cases, the debt transfers to the next generation,

The most prevalent methods of coercion include withholding wages, threats of violence, physical violence, and threats against one’s family. Approximately 25% of forced labor victims were taken advantage of outside their home country.

### What percentage of forced labor does each industry make up?



Ultimately, this leads to decades of financial instability and economic precarity. Ellie also experienced debt bondage, as her pimp held her hostage until she’d repaid her flight and passport costs.

The major sectors of forced labor exploitation include domestic work, construction, accommodation and food service, manufacturing, and agriculture, which account for nearly 80% of cases.

Sadly, she was probably barely making enough money to pay him back and he may have even extended her debt because of things like living expenses.

The American prison system also contributes to modern slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment legalizes slavery, as long as the individual is incarcerated; this allows state and private prisons to utilize inmates as a labor force, regardless of whether the prisoners consent to these jobs. The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world with about 743 per 100,000 people, and the U.S. also has more women imprisoned than any other nation. There is a market for policing bodies. Inmates make gear for the military and the police. They perform call center work. Most prisoners work internally to maintain the prison through acts such as landscaping, cleaning, or kitchen work.

Some are forced to do more disturbing tasks, as some prison systems rent out prisoners as sexual slaves to guards and other prisoners. Inmates face all kinds of cruelties and deplorable living conditions, but the profits from this new form of modern slavery seem to outweigh ethical and moral obligations.

Needless to say, the individuals who have been subjected to modern-day slavery have a multitude of health problems as a result. Survivors of modern slavery can exhibit a multitude of symptoms. Physical symptoms can include injuries from assault, control measures, or inadequate personal protective equipment, fatigue, and skin problems. There can be neurological symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, or amnesia. In terms of mental health, symptoms may include self-harm, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Treating people who were victimized by modern slavery requires a multifaceted, yet delicate approach that many care providers fail to utilize.

To date, somewhere around 40 million people have been subjected to modern-day slavery. It is a pervasive issue that affects all of us, and unfortunately, it has much deeper roots than we realize.



# FORCED LABOR

BY: SHAAN PRASAD

**I** was only 16 when I was forced onto that fishing boat. I was told the job would be easy and that I would be paid a good wage. I ended up working 18 hour days, every day. If I got sick or injured, I worked...I was beaten if I didn't work hard enough, or even if I did. To keep on working they would force me to take powerful drugs that destroyed my body. When I finally returned to the port after four years, I was not given any pay...My mother and father assumed I was dead. Since they moved away, I don't know where to find them." This account highlights some of the characteristics in forced labor exploitation. This includes using tricks or fraud to drive an individual into exploitative labor, using threats of violence and fear of debt to keep the individual from leaving, and the withholding compensation for the labor conducted by the individual. They become the modern slave.

Forced labor as defined by the International Labor Organization refers to "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily." On any day during the week, there are 27.6 million people in forced labor. And this number is continuing to increase, as COVID-19 has exacerbated the economic and social vulnerabilities of workers by economic shockwaves, job destruction, and rise in poverty in areas that were already impoverished. These workers are exploited all across the world, with the Asia and Pacific region having the highest number of forced laborers and the Arab States having the highest prevalence.

They are found in places many would not expect, as over half of all forced labor occurs in either upper-middle income or high-income countries.

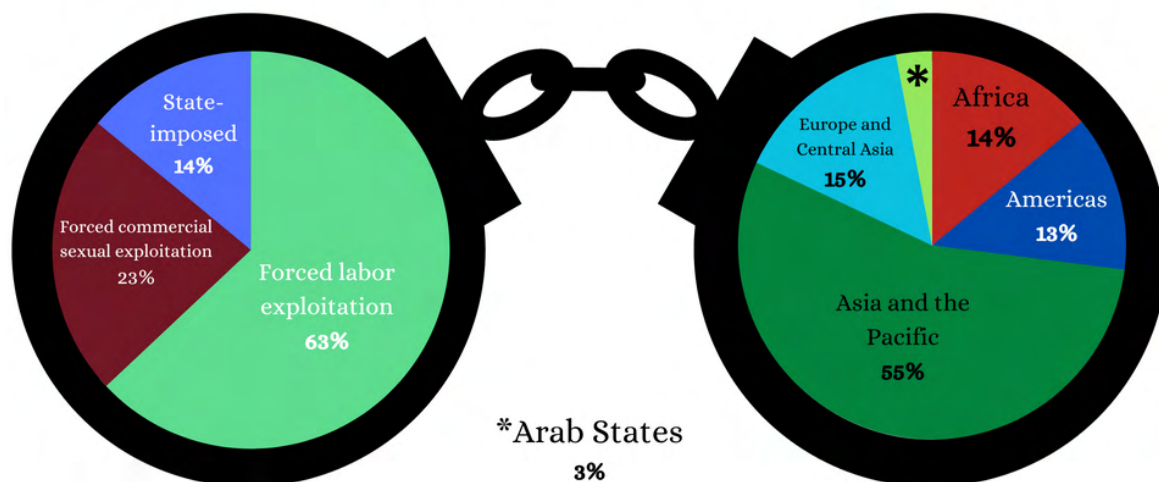
What does forced labor look like? It touches virtually every part of the private-sector economy. The service industry, such as trade, transport, and hospitality comprises one-third of forced laborers. They are also in manufacturing (transformation of raw materials to products), construction, agriculture (farming of agricultural commodities that form the lowest links of agri-food supply chains, harvesting of fruit and vegetables bound for sale in domestic or export markets, and animal herding or field work), and domestic work. Many of these occur through illegal recruitment methods that target individuals in poverty and vulnerable social groups, like children and women. While the number of men in forced labor is nearly twice that of women, they differ in what sectors of work they are found, as more women are found in domestic work and men are found more in construction, mining, and quarrying. It must be said though that not all labor is privately conducted, nor is it entirely composed of adults.

**I was beaten if I  
didn't work hard  
enough or even if I  
did...**

It may come as a surprise that there exists state-imposed forced labor. It can take a variety of forms, like abuse of compulsory prison labor, conscription, and forced abuse of the obligation to perform work beyond normal civic obligations or minor communal services. All of these types of state-imposed labor share in common the fact that they utilize the state institutions to mobilize labor, mobilize labor that does not conform to international agreements on state-imposed labor, and has no path of modification as the labor is imposed by the state itself. Three out of every four of those in state-imposed labor are male, and 8% of state-imposed laborers are children.

As forced labor comes in many forms and occurs in many different places, it may not be surprising that many of the typical products that individuals use are produced from forced labor. Cotton, electronics, footwear, garments, gloves, hair products, textiles, tomato products, bricks, gold, coffee, cocoa, livestock; these are only some of the products that are produced by forced and child labor across 77 countries. With COVID-19 having disrupted supply-chains of various raw-materials and products that many people use, where many individuals and children are coerced into taking informal jobs to support themselves. Slavery still continues even after its abolition 200 years ago, with more slaves today than there were ever in history. To people it may seem far away, but it is closer than we think, contributing to the lifestyles that individuals take for granted.

Types of Forced Labor and Global Distribution of Forced Labor







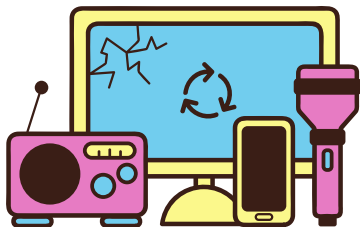
# WHATS IN YOUR SHOPPING CART?

Products from forced labor that make their way into everyday items

Côte d'Ivoire

## Coffee

Thousands of children ages 14-17 and younger in Côte d'Ivoire are forced to work on coffee plantations, where they are threatened from returning home.



China

## Electronics

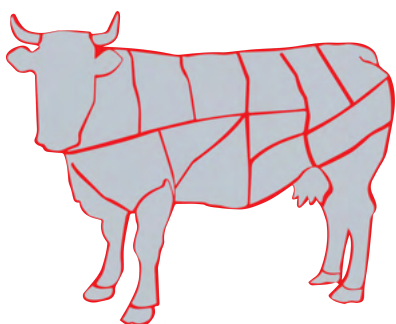
Children ages 13-15 are forced to produce electronics in China. They are forced to work through arrangements between factories and schools to cover tuition debts, but little compensation is given.

India, Thailand,  
Argentina

## Clothes

Hundreds of thousands of children 8-18 are forced to produce garments in India, Thailand, and Argentina. Children are abused verbally and physically, exposed to toxic substances, and paid little if at all.





Sudan

## Beef and Dairy

Children, especially boys, are abducted and forced to herd cattle in South Sudan. Many are kidnapped from rival clans or ethnic groups and are enslaved to herd cattle.

Bangladesh, Ghana,  
Thailand,

## Seafood

Children ages 5-17 in Ghana and Bangladesh, and Thailand are forced to work in the seafood industry. Many are sold into bonded labor by their parents to decrease debt, under threat of arrest or dismissal and often live with their employers.



Sierra Leone,  
Burkina Faso

## Gold and Diamonds

Children 5-17 in Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso are forced to work extracting precious stones. They are forced to work without pay in hazardous conditions underground for long hours.

Bolivia, Burma

## Sugar

Children under the age of 14 work on sugarcane fields in Bolivia and Burma. They often work with their families, are not paid, and inherit the debt of their families if they pass away.





# ORGAN HARVESTING

BY: ZAINAB SHAIK

**W**hat I recall is with my scalpel, I tried to cut into his skin, there was blood to be seen. That indicates that the heart was still beating ... At the same time, he was trying to resist my insertion, but he was too weak." This is the shocking testimony of an oncology surgeon who found himself unexpectedly recruited for a 'special assignment.

Forced organ harvesting has been committed throughout the world for countless years. The global organ trade generates approximately \$1.7 billion. There is a global shortage of organs for transplantation. The process can be long and expensive. Many do not want to wait to have their organs transplanted. As a result, many turn to illegal harvesting. Organ harvesting involves the illegal removal of body parts for commercial gain, sometimes without the victim's consent.

This illegal practice primarily targets marginalized groups, constituting a crime against humanity that occurs on a daily basis. This grim reality highlights the distressing phenomenon of transplant tourism, where individuals in need of organs may resort to illicit means due to the inadequacies and inefficiencies in legal transplantation processes and organ availability. The most commonly harvested organs include hearts, kidneys, livers, and corneas. The victims of organ trafficking can be donors recruited both online and in person, targeting vulnerable populations in need of money. Prying on their vulnerabilities, traffickers employ deceitful tactics, falsely claiming that organs regenerate or that individuals possess extra kidneys. False promises of medical care and payments ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 are made, although these may never materialize. Victims are sometimes coerced into signing consent forms or declaring false relationships with the intended recipients.

In the villages of Central Asia, a grim reality persists. A young 19-year-old boy, struggling to make ends meet, fell victim to a ruthless crime.

**He agreed to a  
blood test, only to  
wake up with one  
less organ...**

His story echoes that of countless others in a world where the desperation caused by income disparities has paved the way for a surge in human trafficking and the illegal trade of organs. "I can't do hard labor. I find it difficult to stand for too long," he said. His kidney was stolen, and his life forever changed. He agreed to a blood test in India, only to wake up with one less organ. A pawn in the hands of criminals who promised quick cash. His story is just one among the countless human and organ trafficking cases.

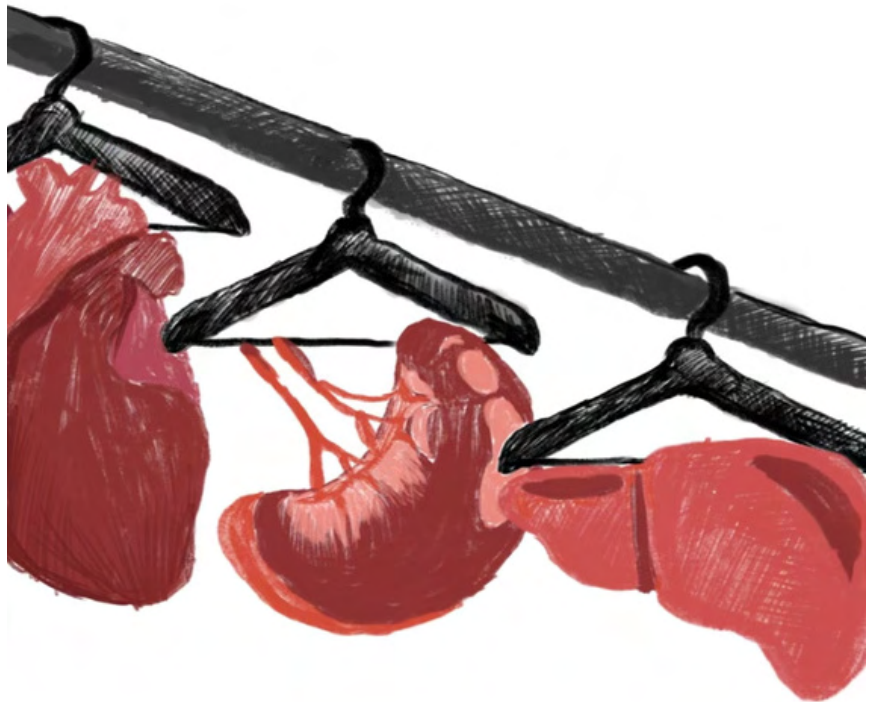
This region, referred to as "Kidney Valley," is notorious for its organ harvesting activities. Desperate individuals fall victim to traffickers, leaving them not only physically damaged but financially ruined. The loss of a kidney weakens their immune system, making it hard for them to engage in farm work, sometimes driving their families further into poverty.

One case, away from this village, exposes the extent of this global epidemic. A senior African politician, recently received a nine-year, eight-month prison sentence in Europe for orchestrating a kidney trafficking plot to save his daughter. He was described as the "driving force" behind the operation, which lured a young man to a city in Europe under false pretenses. The victim, a 21-year-old Asian street trader, was the donor, on the false claim of being the cousin of the politician's daughter.

What makes this case even more baffling is this politician's involvement in combating human trafficking. He was part of the senate that passed laws against this very crime, a reminder that influence and power can often conceal the truth.

The case, which unfolded in July 2021 took until March 2023 to be brought to justice. However, his influence within the region now keeps the victim in fear, making a return to his homeland impossible.

**A return to his  
homeland is  
impossible...**



This case marked the first of its kind under the Modern Slavery Act. This form of human trafficking infiltrates even the most well-known institutions. Organs extracted from victims can end up in hospital transplantation procedures, where they bypass proper screening. The level of corruption within the medical field runs deep, leaving a web of exploitation that often goes unnoticed. The involvement of the private sector further complicates efforts to identify the true extent of organ trafficking.

Organizations like Justice and Care offer support to those impacted by modern-day slavery. Unfortunately, the responses lacked data such as waiting times for organ allocation, or information on the sources of organs. In this context, the lack of available data and information-sharing systems are obstacles to the successful identification and protection of victims of trafficking and effective investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Shedding light on these crimes is needed in ensuring justice prevails. It is crucial to recognize the depth and breadth of this issue, to bring an end to organ harvesting that preys on the vulnerable in society.

# SEX TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG GIRLS

BY: KESLYN BILLINGS

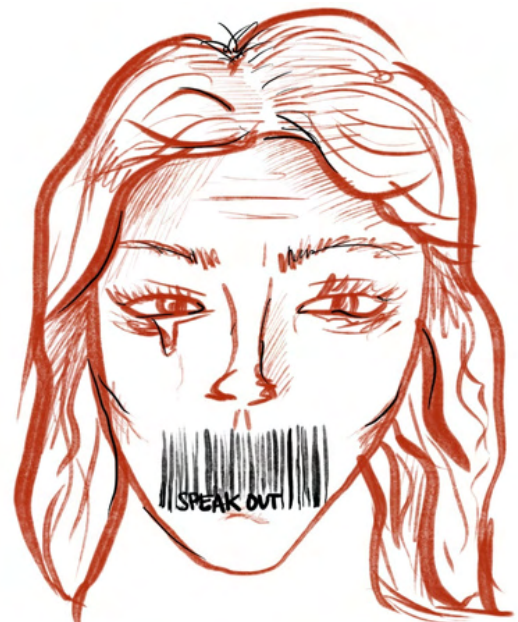
**T**hey met at a club through mutual friends, so Sara thought she was safe with him. He romanced her, quickly and smoothly. “He was literally a dream come true of a boyfriend, for any girl,” she said. She thought he was perfect; for the first month, he was. The day everything changed, her boyfriend persuaded her to audition for a modeling gig to make some extra money. He happened to know the guy who was looking for models. She was going to college in Southwest Florida and had a part-time job at a mall, but he wanted her to do the modeling gig, so she did. Her boyfriend drove her to a hotel and gave her specific instructions for where to go. He said he’d wait for her in the parking lot. That night was the first night Sara was sexually assaulted.

What followed was about six months of drug-hazed sexual servitude. The man she thought was her boyfriend became her trafficker. Sara was trafficked for sex from the Naples area to Miami, Tampa and Orlando in 2012. She was 21 at the time.” Is this story shocking to you? Unfortunately, it probably isn’t because we hear stories such as Sara’s far too often. How did we get to this point where it is the norm to hear about young girls being sex trafficked? Sex trafficking is an industry worth billions of dollars that affects the entire world. Young girls all around the world are being sold off to the highest bidder. You may be saying to yourself, “this could never happen to me”. Unfortunately, it could happen to anyone.

How often do you see a headline such as “Young girl vanished on her way home from school”? Headlines such as this are far too familiar. Many of these young girls are kidnapped or taken against their will, while others are deceived by promises of a better life. Regardless of how they get there, the end result is that these girls are being sold as commodities and being stripped away their basic human rights.

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, sex trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. In recent years, the commercial sexual exploitation of young girls has received increased attention because they are being kidnapped and sex trafficked at alarming rates. How is this possible in 2023? It seems unreal that in today’s world, a young girl can be taken from her family and used as a source of income.

Because sex trafficking is such a lucrative business, it is going to be a difficult problem to tackle. We are going to have to work effortlessly to protect our young girls from becoming victims.



Although almost anyone could fall victim to sex trafficking, there are some risk factors that are associated with many victims. Perpetrators often target people who are poor, vulnerable, or living in unsafe conditions. Traffickers often prey on vulnerability and look for naivety when searching for their victims. According to the Polaris Project “Traffickers tend to prey on people who are economically or socially vulnerable.”

This usually includes young girls who are living in poverty, those who have experienced physical or sexual abuse, and young girls who have an addiction. Unfortunately for these young women, traffickers are usually wolves dressed in sheep clothing. Many of them say and do all of the right things to gain the girl’s trust so that they can lure them in. Regrettably, once they have been lured in, there is usually no way out.

There is another culprit that contributes to increased rates of sex trafficking. Can you guess what it is? If you guessed technology, then you are correct. It is no surprise that the use of technology, such as social media, plays a major role in the recruitment of young girls for sex trafficking. Perpetrators are able to communicate with and befriend young girls, often times pretending to be someone that they are not.

It is important that we remain cautious and vigilant to the signs of sex trafficking so that we can reduce the rates of young girls who fall victim to this industry. Although it won’t happen overnight, sex trafficking must be stopped! Increasing awareness and reducing risk factors are essential to try to stop this from happening to potential victims.



Many young girls provide personal information to these predators under the assumption that they are talking to a friend that they have met online. Many of these young girls do not fit the typical profile, however, they are unknowingly being deceived and baited for information to become the next victim.

There are currently numerous efforts aimed at reducing the rates of sex trafficking.

Law enforcement agencies, technologist, and anti-trafficking stakeholders are working together to try to combat sex trafficking.

While we work together to combat sex trafficking altogether, we can’t forget about the sex trafficking survivors. These survivors often need rehabilitation once they re-enter society. There are numerous groups that assist known sex trafficking victims. Groups such as the Polaris Project, work to locate victims and aid them in their rehabilitation. Many different groups are vocal against sex trafficking and assist with giving known victims a better quality of life. They support them as they reconstruct their lives and assist them with finding the power to keep thriving. Although it is a difficult journey, it is one that is required to give victims a feeling of hope despite their past experiences.

# 5

## WAYS TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING

Keslyn Billings



# 1

### **Report Suspicious Activity!**

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is available 24/7.  
Languages include English & Spanish.  
The number is 888-373-7888.



# 2

### **Learn the signs!**

Empower The Fight has an online training course called Watchful Eye that simplifies how to identify and prevent exploitation.





# 3

## Raise Awareness!

Use your social media platforms to raise awareness about sex trafficking. Repost information and use hashtags!



# 4

## Volunteer!

Ask anti-trafficking organizations in your community how you can support them. Perhaps they need volunteers or you could help with an awareness event.



# 5

## Donate!

Here are some organizations you can donate to:

- Polaris
- Project REACH
- Empower The Fight
- Love 146





# RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN MACON

BY: AALIYAH DEEN SESAY

**M**any people think activism is some huge, overcomplicated, well-thought-out plan of action that immediately leads to success and change. Or that activists have always known what they wanted to do. The reality is many people who engage in activism and humanitarian work are just like you and me - regular people who saw a problem and wanted to fix it. A great example of everyday passion turned activism is Dr. Tammy Crutchfield, the Associate Dean of Mercer School of Business, and a professor at Mercer University. Marketing is Dr. Crutchfield's passion. Her calling was helping young people find their way in life, and she truly loves what she does.

As a mother of two girls, Dr. Crutchfield has always been concerned about the well-being of young people. One day, she watched a documentary in which two young girls had been kidnapped and were forced to engage in sex work at truck stops. Horrified after hearing about these girls' experiences, Dr. Crutchfield embarked on a journey of learning and educating others about domestic minor sex trafficking.

In 2014, Dr. Crutchfield met with Linda Smith, the president and founder of Shared Hope International, an NGO working to prevent sex trafficking and find justice for those who have been victimized by trafficking. The organization had created an anti-trafficking video curriculum called Chosen, which, with their permission, Dr. Crutchfield brought back to Macon. She had Mercer students work on marketing this information to the local community, but her student's feedback gave her pause. The information in the videos was good, but it could become even better. Using Chosen as a template, the students created their own sex trafficking prevention curriculum, and thus Traffick Jam was born.

Traffick Jam is a social brand that highlights the dangers of domestic minor sex trafficking. To Dr. Crutchfield, Traffick Jam's mission is prevention. How can young people understand what trafficking is? How does it fit into their society? How can the youth protect themselves? These questions, and many more, are answered in the mentoring program Mercer students created to help local high schoolers. Traffick Jam focuses on creating trained experts.



First, Mercer students arm themselves with knowledge about sex trafficking, and then they go out into the Macon community to disseminate their knowledge.

The Traffick Jam team created a handbook that highlights important topics that are covered in six sessions. The first session defines sex trafficking, providing students with opportunities to speculate first, discuss with others, and then learn keywords and information surrounding the topic. The next session highlights the dangers of the internet, making sure students are aware of their online presence

alongside steps they can take to be safe on the internet. In the third session, students discuss factors that put people at risk of sex trafficking. They talk about the importance of healthy relationships and good mental health.

Next is a session on sources of strength, in which students find internal and external ways to protect themselves and strengthen their mental health. Session five is about goals and future ambitions, encouraging students to stay driven and focused. The final session provides students with resources and an action plan that they can follow if they suspect someone is being trafficked. Dr. Crutchfield believes there is much more to the fight against trafficking than being aware. “Just awareness does nothing,” she said. This is why Traffick Jam goes above and beyond to mentor high school students and teach youth to drive out sex trafficking.

Currently, Dr. Crutchfield’s focus is expanding Traffick Jam to other college campuses. As of this year, Kennesaw State has its own Traffick Jam team. Mercer students have been traveling to Kennesaw to work with their Health and PE Education Department, training future educators to teach Traffick Jam curricula in high schools.

Dr. Crutchfield has done incredible work in terms of increasing awareness about trafficking, but what she really wants people to understand is how prevalent it is. Trafficking is in every corner of our country; the U.S. is the greatest consumer of domestic minor sex trafficking. It’s an uncomfortable truth that people want to keep hidden, but Dr. Crutchfield raises the argument that we must make this everyone’s business. She’s worked to dispel misconceptions about sex trafficking, such as the idea that boys are trafficked or that most trafficking cases involve kidnapping. In actuality, only about 5% of sex trafficking cases involve kidnapping; the rest involve parents, guardians, or relatives facilitating the trafficking, or these young people are runaways. It is unglamorous, but not every headline will be easy to digest. Getting comfortable with being uncomfortable is the first step towards a society that is more than aware. We need a society that takes action.



2022 TRAFFICK JAM MARKETING TEAM

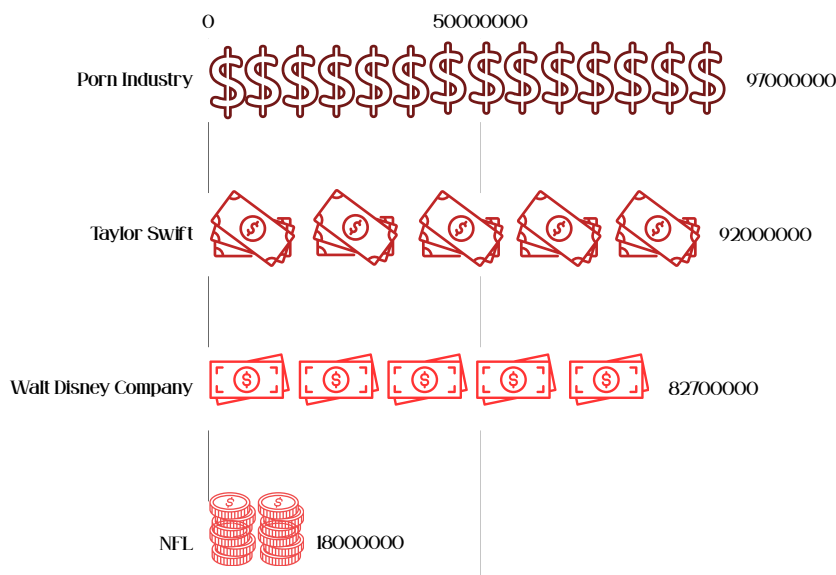
# PORNHUB OR TRAFFICKINGHUB?

BY: TORI JACKSON

**W**hen you think of big industries in the world, what comes to mind? Maybe things like music, fashion, gaming, sports, food, or movies, but which industry is the biggest? Would you believe that none of these listed industries even come close to the biggest industry in the world right now? Well, it is true. The biggest industry in the world right now is the porn industry, and not all this work is consensual sex work. As of right now, the porn industry makes up to \$97 billion dollars a year.

To compare, the 2022 season of the NFL only generated \$18 billion, Taylor Swift made just about \$92 million dollars in 2022, and the Walt Disney Company generated about \$82.7 billion at the end of 2022. These are some of the most openly famous industries, yet most of them can barely compete with the levels of revenue the porn industry makes. With numbers like these, many people are eager to become involved in this industry.

## Money made in one year by industries in the USA



However, do not be mistaken, most of the sexual videos you see online or not from consensual sex workers. Is more common than you think for individuals to force other individuals into non-consensual sexual situations and record them for profit. Remember sex trafficking is defined as, “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.” Therefore, if in any instance an individual on a porn screen was forced, tricked, or persuaded into that sexual act, they were being sexually trafficked for someone else's profit.

The underground porn industry is not the euphoria its fantasies portray it as behind a screen. These are real-life stories of individuals who were sex trafficked into the porn industry. Linda Boreman, aka “Linda Lovelace,” started a career in the porn industry in 1972. She was very successful and had many highly rated pornographic films. Individuals thought she was amazing and living her best life financially as a well-known porn star; however, this was a major misconception because Linda Boreman’s career was never once consensual. In fact, Boreman’s husband coerced her into the industry and made a profit from her. Boreman describes the first time she participated in pornography: “My initiation...was a gang rape by five men... It was the turning point in my life. He [Boreman’s husband] threatened to shoot me with the pistol if I didn’t go through with it.”

Just one stream

Feeds the porn industry



No one should have to experience pain like this, and unfortunately, Boreman's tracking experience is not an uncommon one.

Furthermore, hundreds of women in San Diego California were abducted and forced into pornography. GirlsDoPorn was an extremely popular porn production at the time of the abductions, and this production would accumulate billions of views online. The criminals behind GirlsDoPorn lured the girls to San Diego by offering them opportunities like fitness modeling jobs, but little did the girls know they were on their way to being sex trafficked. Once the girls arrived at the "set," they were met by multiple men who took their phones, made them into signing contracts they were not allowed to read, forced drugs and alcohol upon them, and locked them in a hotel room where the porn was filmed. Some of these women were raped for over six hours, and our long videos were released on GirlsDoPorn.

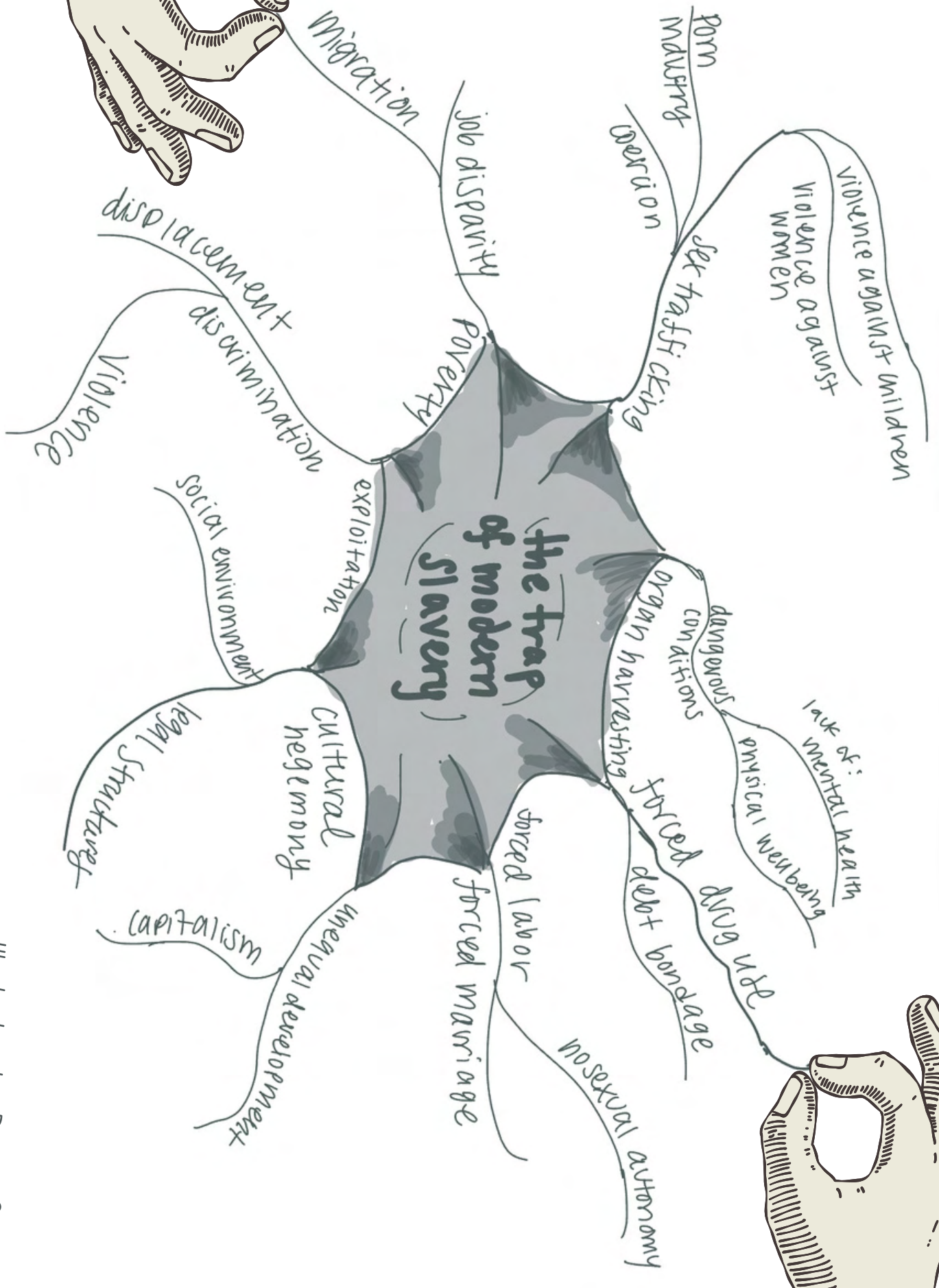
Although there are sex workers who work consensually in porn, sex trafficking is wildly circulating in pornography and blossoming with revenue; additionally, sex trafficking can be extremely hard to find in porn when the porn purposely promotes itself as not consensual or objectifying. Nevertheless, people are too blind to see this modern-day slavery because of the normalization of pornography throughout society. Further, the issue increases because there is an everlasting demand for porn, and there is no end in sight. Therefore, people must take a stand to fight for these individuals trapped in sex trafficking within the porn industry. What would you do if this was your loved one in the porn videos? Would you still pay for porn if you knew it was being forced upon a person? How would you react if your loved one was course into sexual behaviors while being watched by millions?

Further, some of the video titles had the women's legal names in them, so the billions of viewers knew exactly who these women were by name. GirlsDoPorn was eventually shut down for charges of sex trafficking, but that did not stop the hundreds of women who had to suffer before justice was served.

A woman named Jodi was imprisoned by a former boyfriend named Marcus. Marcus would force Jodi to run a membership-only bondage, discipline, sadism, and masochism website where Jodi would work approximately eight to nine hours per day. Jodi would update site content, write diary entries, upload photographs, and click on banner advertisements to increase revenue. Marcus received all of the revenue from the membership website, and he would also punish Jodi if the revenue was not high enough for his liking. Additionally, Marcus would record his punishments to Jodi and post them on the website, and some of the punishments were extremely brutal. For instance, Marcus posted a video of Jodi tied to the table while he pierced safety pins to her genitals. Jodi tried to get out, but Marcus threatened her. Eventually, Jodi was freed, and Marcus was charged with both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.



**There are several interweaving drivers of modern day slavery. A few of them are portrayed here:**









# STUDENT VOICES

Tori Jackson

Students from Mercer University were interviewed and asked a series of three questions about human trafficking. The purpose of these interviews was to identify student's knowledge of human trafficking and its prevalence today. These are some of the student's answers.

1. What is human trafficking?
2. What kinds of human trafficking do you know of?
3. How is human trafficking prevalent today?

"Human trafficking is coercing generally younger people to engage in sexual acts. I don't know any specific kinds of human trafficking. I think human trafficking is prevalent generally in densely populated areas but still happens in rural areas."

"I have heard of sex trafficking, debt trafficking, and organ trafficking."

"It's very prevalent in the world today which is sad but reality, and is a prominent problem in North America."

"Being in the Macon area, I know I-75 is a major roadway that is used to get to big cities like Atlanta. Human trafficking uses these major roadways to transfer victims. With the continuous growth of social media traffickers are able to reach a lot of potential victims who aren't practicing safe internet usage. This growth only increases the threat and impact of trafficking today."

"I'd say human trafficking is modern-day slavery and the exploitation of people for the purpose of sex"

"Human trafficking is the selling and exchange of unwilling humans."

"I would say human trafficking is the forceful exploitation of individuals for profit."

"I am mainly familiar with sex trafficking. I was a part of Traffick Jam at Mercer where I learned more about it."

"Sex trafficking is the most common one I hear of but also forced labor like slavery."

"I am familiar with sexual human trafficking mainly."

"It's a huge issue, I don't think most people realize how many people go missing every year"

"It's everywhere and people can make a lot of money off it so unfortunately I feel like it's growing. it's scary because it's really hard to find someone once they've been trafficked."

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BY: YASMIN SELAMU

## Podcasts

Modern Slavery PEC podcast with Bingham Centre

The Future of Slavery

SlaveFree Today Podcast



## Books

Disposable People by Kevin Bales (1999)

Slavery by Another Name by Douglas A. Blackmon (2009)

The Tears That Taught Me by : Morgan Richard Oliver (2022)



## Movies

Taken

7 Prisoners

Sound of Freedom



## Documentaries

Maids

Born into Brothels

African Woman Sex Slaves



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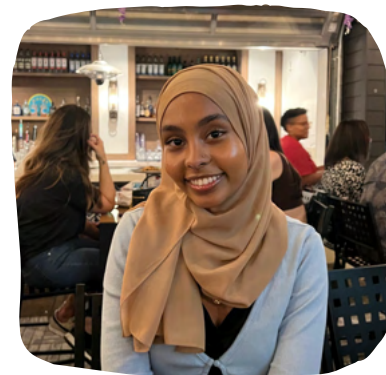
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