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# Human Trafficking: A Communications Approach

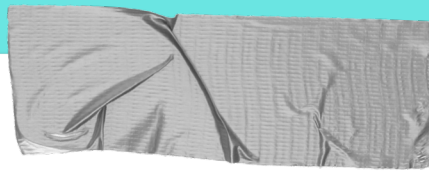
**Presentation by:**  
Michaela Killon

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# What is Human Trafficking?

***“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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 or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”***

***- United Nations Definition***



## Statistics:

→ **45.8 million**

The estimated number of people being trafficked around the world.

→ **More slavery today than ever before**

The most people are enslaved now than ever before in human history

→ **79% of trafficking cases are sexual exploitation**

These cases predominantly affect women and girls

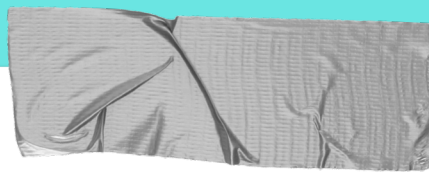
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# How does **communication technology** have an impact on **human trafficking**?



**Hint:**

As technology has gotten smarter, so have traffickers.



→ **Internet provides fast/global connection.**

Traffickers use the internet for both selling and recruiting.

→ **It is cheap to facilitate and an “easy” source of income.**

Abusers can easily earn over \$100 per “show” and internet is becoming much more accessible.

→ **The “Dark Web”/new currencies make cyber trafficking virtually impossible to track**

Multi-layer encryption technology makes it nearly impossible to track consumers.



**Fact:**

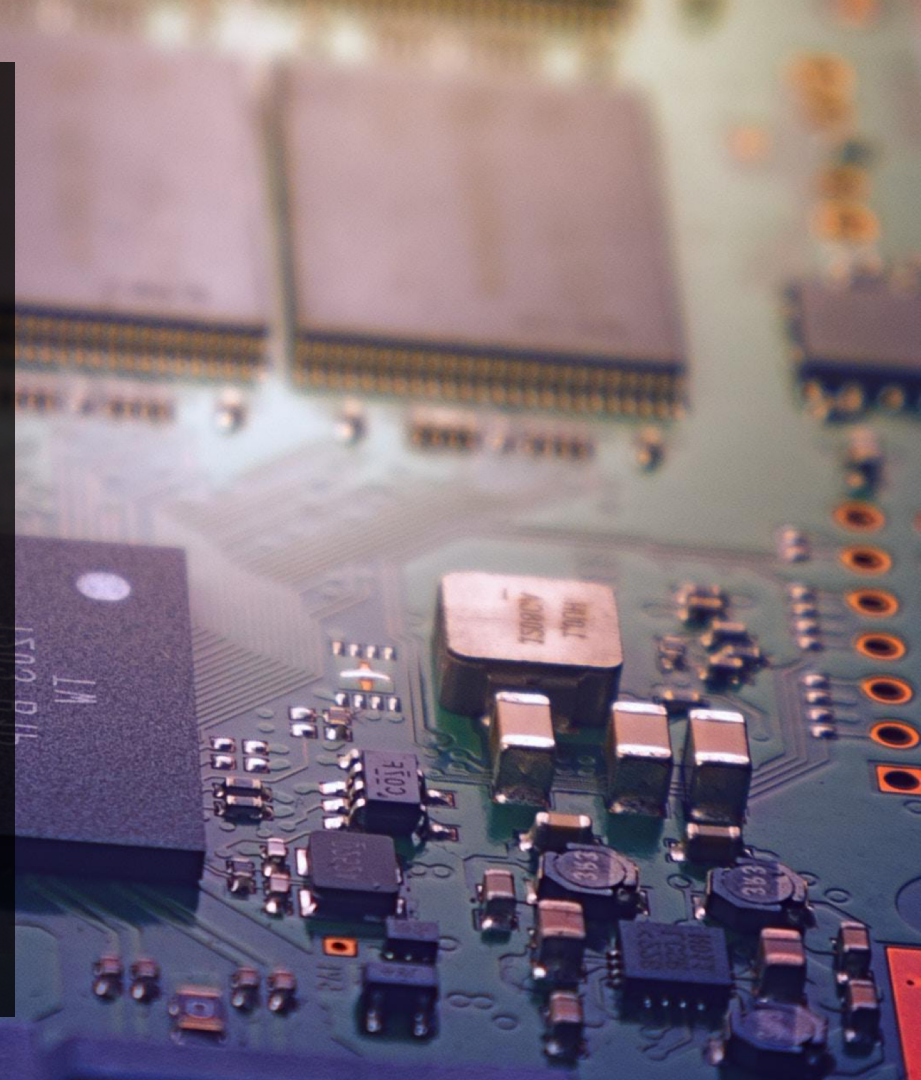
Online exploitation of children often leads to offline abuse and street prostitution.

## Case study: Philippines

- **3 scales:** Individual Operations, Family-run Operations, Large Scale Operations (Dens)
- **40% of the victims have family members involved in the cybersex trafficking** or are at least aware of the child's exploitation
- **Price: \$56/minute**
- **Solicitors are not passive** and usually have an active role in the "show"
- **More than 2,600 cases/month reported from US Customers alone.**

## Technology is not all bad...

- Spotlight (created by Thorn & Digital Reasoning)
- International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (created by INTERPOL)
- Copyright Recognition Program to detect child pornography (created by Google & NCMEC)
- PhotoDNA: analyze many images quickly to detect modified versions of child pornography (created by Microsoft and NCMEC)



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# Human Trafficking: An Economic Approach

**Presented by:**  
Aalliyah Perkins & Monet Lawton

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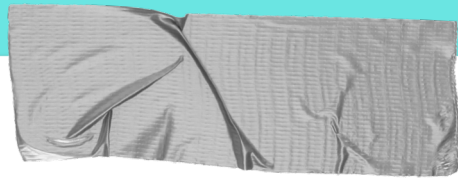
# What factors help hide human trafficking?

**Legitimate  
Businesses**

**Unstable  
Economies**

**Corrupt  
Governments**

# How are victims targeted in human trafficking cases?



- Loss of homes from natural disasters.
- Lack of economic opportunities
- Less income opportunities for women

# What are some reasons why traffickers choose to partake in this industry?

- More profitable in today's time
    - In 1850 the price of a slave was \$1,000 to \$1,800
    - Today, the price of a slave is \$90
  - Low risk
  - Less work
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## Establishments that are associated with Human Trafficking

Karaoke Bars

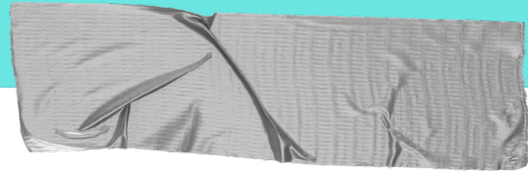
Spa Parlors

Street Areas

Restaurants/  
Bars/ and  
Dance Clubs

Hostess Bars

# How can businesses be more aware and mindful to help combat human trafficking?



- Businesses can help people in these situations by modeling the hotel industry's infrastructure
  - ◆ Having a anti-human trafficking policy
  - ◆ Training the employees on how to detect and respond
  - ◆ Developing a reporting system
  - ◆ Having a response plan
  - ◆ Hiring employees
  - ◆ Knowing where suppliers get their products
  - ◆ Contacting the resource center

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# Human Trafficking: A Public Health Approach

**Presentation by:**

Sarah Bragdon, Jasmine Dee, Grace Lodholz &  
Danielle Saine

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# General Overview

**88%** of trafficking victims  
interface with healthcare  
professionals

- Opioid crisis drastically impacts human trafficking
    - U.S. makes up less than 5% of the world's population and consumes 30% of the world's opioid drugs
    - "Familial sex trafficking"
    - Drug addiction can be leveraged by traffickers to exploit user's children
    - Traffickers use opioids to keep victims in check → acute threat of withdrawal
  - Criminal and immigration approach vs. health approach
  - Violation of human rights
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# The Visible



- External bruises and harm
- Withheld by **physical chains.**

- Forced to work long and unreasonable hours
  - Refused medical care and treatment
  - Denied of basic necessities such as food and water
  - Beaten and abused physically
  - Forced to live in overcrowded and unsanitary living spaces
  - Bound in various forms of physical chains
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# How to Identify Victims in a Healthcare Setting

- Thorough social and reproductive history
- Trauma-informed approach
- Interview: inconsistent stories, unsure of the time and/or location, not allowed to speak for themselves, not in control of identification
  - *Refuses to follow up with a specialist*
- Physical signs: burns, fractures, bruises/contusions, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, STIs, pregnancy, HIV, abortion complications, abnormal discharge, chronic vaginal and cervical infections, PID, malnourishment, repeated exposure to harmful chemicals, untreated chronic conditions

# The Invisible



- Internal Wounds
- Withheld by **mental chains**

- Loss of social contact to outside world
  - Humiliation, threats, and verbal abuse
  - Exposure to violent atrocities performed on others
  - Forced to betray or harm others
  - Establishment of conditions that lead to learned helplessness
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# Control and Manipulation

- Traffickers utilize organized methods of disempowerment and disconnection to distort victims' sense of self, instill fear, and elevate feelings of helplessness
    - *Get to create a new, isolated environment where they make their own rules and pressures to which victims must conform to*
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# Systematic Coercion Stages

## Traffickers identify and target vulnerable populations

- Use of fraud, deception, and threats

## Victims are initiated into the culture of trafficking

- Victims experience isolation in an environment where exploitation is expected and accepted

## Traffickers deepen control over victims

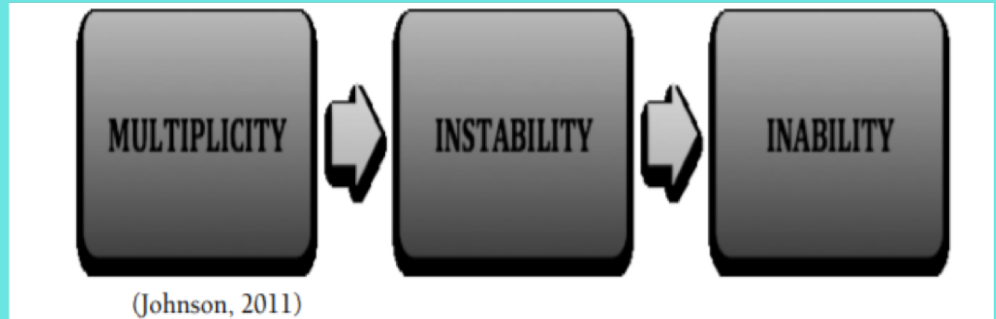
- Traffickers further establish control from an authoritarian position

**End Goal**

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# Mental Health Aftermath

- Trauma
  - Unaddressed trauma can lead to re-victimization
  - Complex trauma
  - Trauma symptoms: attachment, emotional regulation, dissociation, behavioral control, cognition, self-concepts
- Stress and anxiety
  - Fight, flight, or freeze



# Recovery

Physical is #1 priority

- Safe network of people and services
  - Confidentiality
  - Screening for suicide risk, PTSD, depression, and anxiety
  - Therapy
    - Mental health service
    - Safety planning
    - Future planning
  - Continued support
  - Rebuild identity, skills, and self-esteem
  - Reunification with family and society
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# Our Role in Solving the Problem on a Global Scale

## Focus on the root causes

- Feminization of poverty
- Immigration policies
- Societal and cultural norms
- Demand

## Address health needs throughout the stages of trafficking

- Pre-departure/recruitment, travel and transit, destination, criminal proceedings, reintegration

## Engage multiple stakeholders

- Utilize resources and strengths of the community
  - HCP + law enforcement
  - Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
  - TechCamps

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# Our Role in Solving the Problem on a Global Scale

## Build an evidence base

- Underground nature + social stigma + insufficient resources dedicated to monitoring and evaluation = unknown impact of anti-trafficking interventions
  - Sound evidence and scientific assessments are necessary
    - South-Eastern Europe

## Adapt to the contexts that shape trafficking patterns and responses

- Rescue and Restore Regional Program



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