
Analysis Of Sex Trafficking

Human trafficking is a broader term that includes using an individual to benefit from them for labor or commercial sex. Human trafficking today can be recognized as modern-day slavery, according to Kirsi Stjerna's article *Sexual Freedoms*. The majority of people forced into sex trafficking are women and children. Most of which are young girls, estimating at about two million girls ranging from the ages of five years old to fifteen years old (Stjerna, p. 175), around the world that is trafficked for sex. Along with it being a form of slavery in today's world, it is "one of the fastest-growing organized crimes." (Carroll, 513) This crime can easily go unnoticed to us. The people who are victims of this crime are people you are lured in by false advertisements and promises of a better life. Sex Trafficking can happen virtually everywhere and anywhere. The youth and children can be easily influenced online especially if they are making friends online or if their guardians aren't paying attention. Traffickers know how to play with their weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

By definition, a risk factor is an object or thing that can aid in the susceptibility of getting a disease or infection. In terms of sex trafficking, it's a trait or influence of the person to making them a target at becoming a victim of sex trafficking. There's no specific guideline to determine if a child is being trafficked but certain ones can make a child more susceptible to becoming a victim to this crime. According to the American Bar Association, in their article titled "Risk Factors for Child Trafficking," they suggest that if a child has "a history with sexual abuse, witnessing or experiencing physical abuse, a pattern of runaways/throwaways, or children with histories in foster care or juvenile detention," qualify for being a high risk of being lured into this life. "Victims of human trafficking have diverse socio-economic backgrounds, varied levels of education, and maybe documented or undocumented," (The victims). Especially children and youths, seeing as this group of individuals are looking for a sense of belonging and love. Traffickers use this vulnerability against them with the promise of love. This group is targeted more because they will make the pimp, trafficker, or perpetrator more money due to their age. There are a bunch of factors that can play or tie a person into being a victim. All it takes is for the perpetrator to find these individuals and persuade them at the right time whether it be to convince them with a better life, shelter, money or love; especially if they come from a background with none of these, and at an age where they are easily influenced.

Many sex trafficking victims are looked upon as criminals rather than victims. People look at the fact that the act they're committing as a crime when in actuality, they're trapped. In an article written by Kimberly Kotrla, she writes, "Because youths who have been involved in illegal activities, including those in commercial sex industries, have traditionally been viewed as offenders or delinquents, there are still some who fail to see these individuals as victims." They are overlooked if they have a past with criminal history. According to the Human Trafficking Search Organization, their website states that "If law enforcement does not properly screen suspected criminals, a victim could be prosecuted and convicted." With this action, many times the victim will stay in this industry even longer because many don't know how to leave this life or are told they can't leave. The impact of this industry can affect a youth's emotional and physical development, along with the development of their psychological well being.