

# *Sex Trafficking: Supply and Demand*

---



---

**Donna M. Hughes, PhD**  
**Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair**  
**Women's Studies Program**  
**University of Rhode Island**

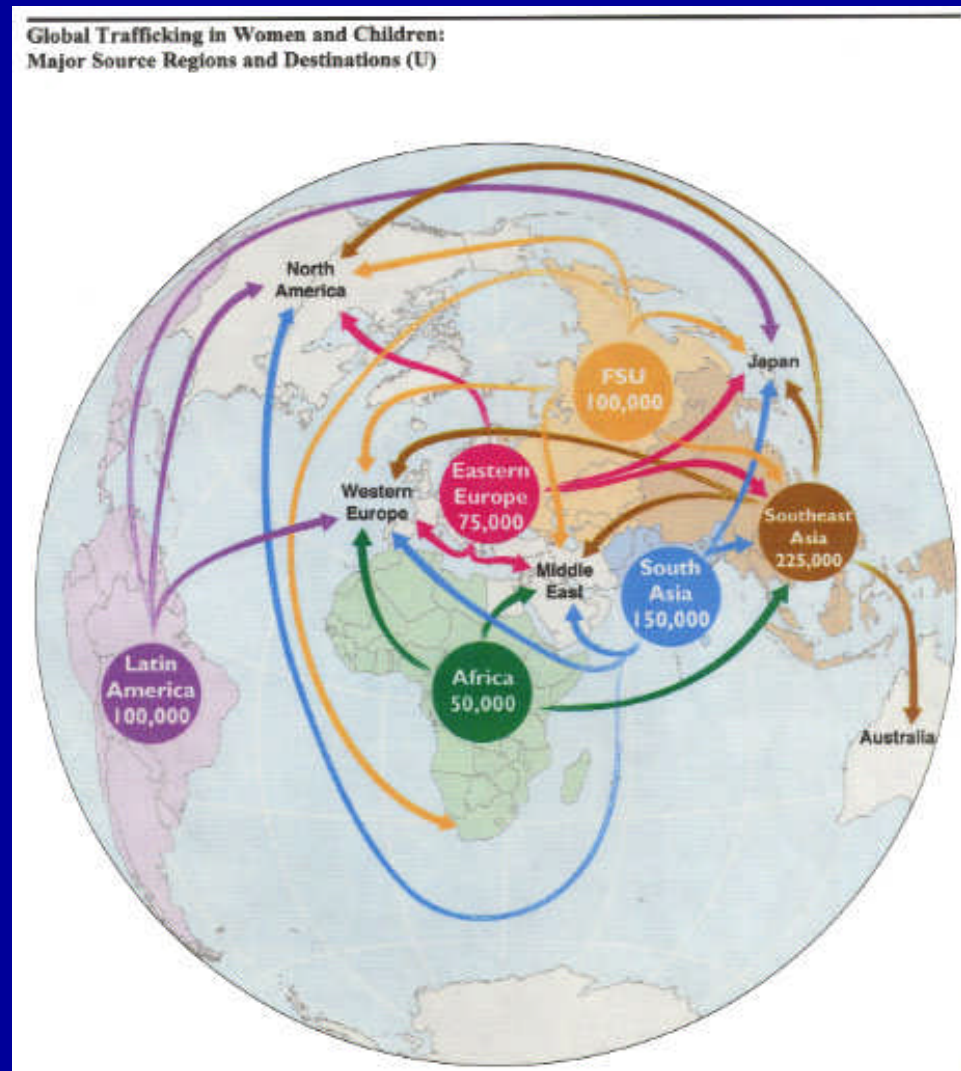
Sexual Trafficking:  
Breaking the Crisis of Silence

Carolina Women's Center

April 8, 2006

# The Trade in Women and Children

- Based on supply and demand from sending and receiving countries, regions, or cities



# Supply of Victims

---

- Sending/Source countries, regions, or cities
  - Kidnapping and raids during armed conflict
  - Traffickers target cities, regions based on the ease of recruiting/capturing victims



## Lords Resistance Army – Uganda

Pader, giugno 2005 - Centro di riabilitazione per l'accoglienza di vittime del conflitto - Disegni di bambini - (c) Contrasto

# Supply of Victims

---

- Easy recruitment of women and girls
  - Poverty
  - Unemployment
  - War
  - Lack of opportunity or a promising future
  - Love and security
  - Eager for Western lifestyle

# Domestic Victims in the U.S.

---

- 25% grew up without a mother in the house
- 59% grew up without a father in the house
- 40% someone died in their home while they were growing up
- 22% the person who raised them leave for more than one year
- 33% someone in the household incarcerated

# Domestic Victims in the U.S.

---

- 27% someone in the home had a major illness or disability
- 62% someone in the home was frequently hit, slapped, pushed
- 40% someone in the home was kicked, beaten, raped, threatened and/or attacked with a weapon

# Domestic Victims in the U.S.

---

- 83% drug or alcohol abuse in home
- 86% used drugs or alcohol themselves
- 56% ran away from home at least once, mean age 13
- 28% were told to leave home by parent or guardian, mean age 15



# Domestic Victims in the U.S.

---

- 33% someone in home in prostitution regularly
- 71% people in the neighborhood or friends in prostitution regularly
- 71% someone suggested to them they should become a prostitute



# Domestic Victims in the U.S.

---

- 65 - 80% victims of child sexual abuse, rape, or incest
- 50 - 75% victims of physical abuse as a child

*Memories of a Child  
Prostitute*, Judith Schaechter,  
1994



# Recruiting the Supply of Victims from Abroad

---

- Offers for jobs abroad
  - “Friend,” family member, “boyfriend” or acquaintance
- Operate through employment and tour agencies
- Previous trafficked woman return to recruit new victims
- “Marriage” agencies
- Most crucial factor: Activity of traffickers
  - Traffickers take advantage of poverty and desire for a better future

# Recruiting the Supply of Domestic Victims

---

- Pimps prey on emotionally vulnerable girls
- “Groom” girls with attention, gifts, and “affection”
- Give them drugs, alcohol
- Create an emotional bonding/loyalty
- Become violent when girls resist

# The Demand Side of Sex Trafficking

---

- Receiving/destination countries, regions, cities
  - Legal or tolerated sex industries and prostitution
- Sex trafficking process begins with the demand for victims
- Few women will enter prostitution if they have other choices
- Pimps cannot recruit enough local women



# Political Criminal Nexus

---

- Extends from the highest levels of government to lowliest criminals
- Government officials, law enforcement personnel, legal and illegal businesses, individual criminals, organized crime groups, foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations

# The Global Sex Trade

---

- Turnover of victims is high
- Steady supply of victims needed



# Demand for Victims

---

- Victims have a limited useful life
  - Poor physical health; disease, infection, or injury; emotional collapse; addiction



Melissa at 18



Melissa at 21

St. Petersburg Florida Police Department



# Demand for Victims

---

- Victims are murdered



Tiffany Mason, San Francisco, murdered by “john” at age 15 (August 2001)



# The Global Sex Trade

---

- Victims are deported



Nigerian deportees from Italy

# Demand for Victims

---

- Victims are lost due to illness, loss of appearance, and death from AIDS
- Mortality rate is 40 times that of persons of similar age and race



Ador, 23, Akha Hill tribe in Thailand

Myrna Balk



"Send Them Home to Die"

Many of the women are returned home after getting infected with HIV.

# Demand Factors

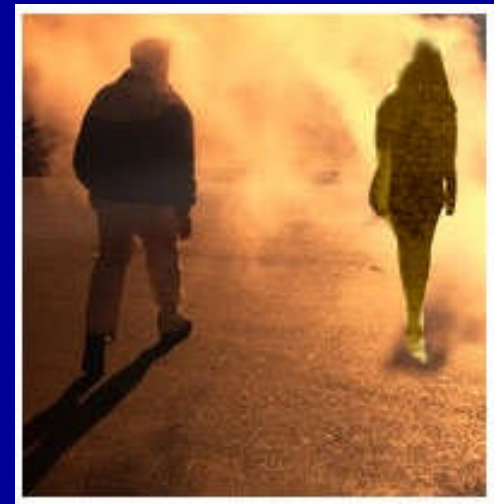
---

- 1) Men who purchase sex acts
- 2) Exploiters who make up sex industry and supporting services – Profiteers
- 3) States (countries) that profit, particularly the destination countries
- 4) Culture that glamorizes, eroticizes & romanticizes the sex trade

# Men Who Purchase Sex Acts

---

- Usually faceless and nameless
- The ultimate consumers of trafficked women and children
- Many myths about men who buy sex acts
- They are seeking sex without relationship responsibilities
- They do not respect women
- Seeking power and control over those they purchase for a short time



# The Exploiters

---

- Traffickers, pimps, brothel owners, mafia members, corrupt officials, support services – hotels, taxi drivers
- They make money from the sale of sex acts, providing rooms, transportation, & services
  - Can be a significant part of the tourist industry of a country

# The Business of Trafficking

---

- Goal is to make money
- Low risk, high profit enterprise
- Criminal penalties are relatively low compared to the amount of profit made and the harm done to victims



# Profit from the Global Sex Trade

---

- \$75,000 to \$250,000 per victim/year (INTERPOL)





# Profit from the Sex Trade – Southeast Asia

---

- Thailand: Estimated income from prostitution from 1993 to 1995 was \$22.5 billion - \$27 billion/year
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, & Philippines: 2 – 14% of the Gross Domestic Product





# Profit from the Global Sex Trade - Japan

---

- Japan: ¥10,000bn (US\$83 billion/year)
- Estimated 150,000 foreign women in the sex industry
- Many trafficked from the Philippines, Korea, Russia, and Latin America



Hostess Clubs

# Profit from the Sex Trade - Germany

---

- Germany: Annual turnover of €14 billion (US\$18 billion)
- Estimated 400,000 women serve 1.2 million men a day
- Majority is trafficked from Eastern Europe



Berlin Window Brothels

# Profit from Domestic Sex Trafficking

---

- 2002, Oakland, California:
  - 218 minors prostituted by 155 pimps
  - Girls were 11-15 years old
  - Quota of \$500 a day
  - 218 girls multiplied by 330 days a year at \$500/day  
= \$35,970,000/year
- - “Oakland fights to turn tide of rising child prostitution,” *Oakland Tribune*, July 31, 2004

# The State

---

- By tolerating or legalizing prostitution, the state helps create a demand for victims
  - Thailand and the Netherlands – sex tourist industries
- Some governments tax sex businesses to make money from it, i.e. Germany
- Strategies are created to protect sex industry
  - Canadian exotic dancer visa



# The Culture

- Culture, mass media play a role in normalizing prostitution

Brad Altman & Barry Paddor Present  
**The 5th Annual  
PIMP AND HO  
HALLOWEEN party  
IN CHICAGO**



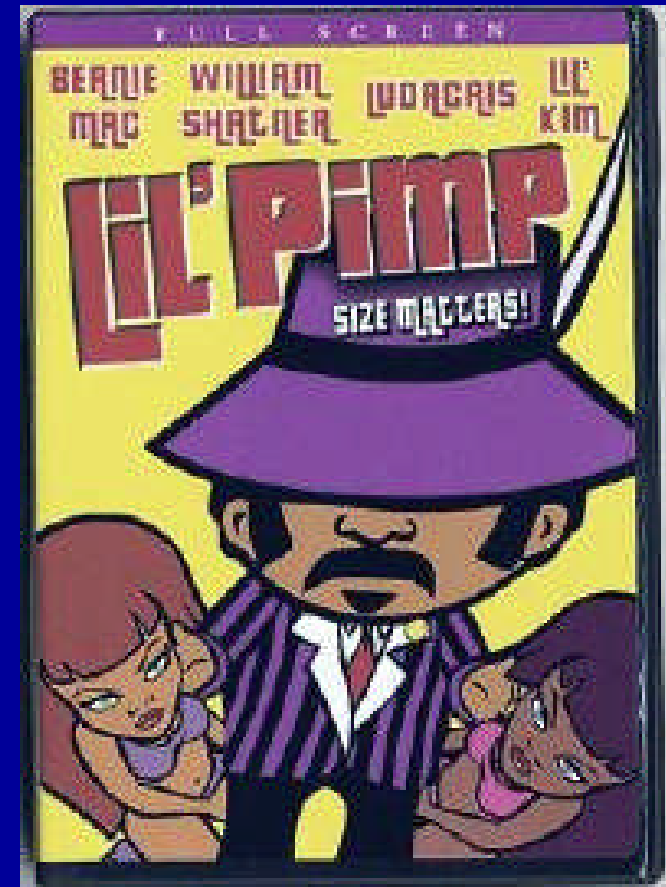
**This is a 9 Hour Event!! \***  
Time: 9pm-6am  
Tickets are just \$25 in advance!  
Purchase your tickets Now!!!  
[www.pimpandhochicago.com](http://www.pimpandhochicago.com)  
or at the door: \$35 a piece.

\* clocks go back an hour this night, which means more time to celebrate. \*

# The Culture

---

- Pimp culture in music & video
- Pimp celebrities

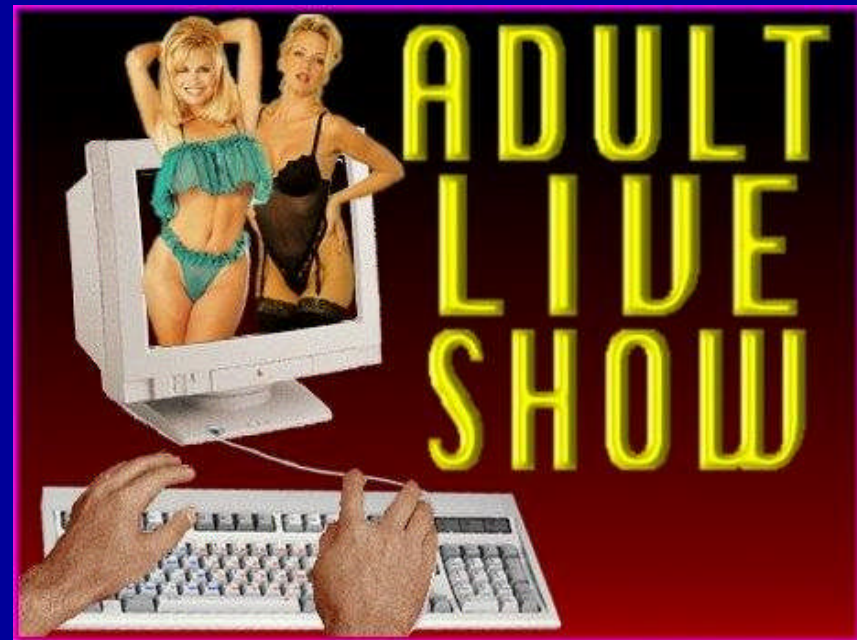




# The Culture

---

- Internet increased availability and amount of pornography, marketing of prostitution, & online live sex shows



# World Cup Games 2006 - Germany

- Prostitution and brothels – legal since 2001
  - Law makers expected tax revenue from sex industry
- Germany has a severe problem of sex trafficking
  - Most victims trafficked from Eastern and Central Europe
- World Cup Games in 12 cities
  - Expect 3 million men to buy sex at least once
  - Expect 40,000 women to be brought to Germany



# World Cup Games 2006 - Germany

- City officials are building “sex huts” easily accessible for male fans
  - Designed to protect men’s anonymity
- Distribution of 100,000 condoms around the Olympic stadium
- Cities will issue special licenses for prostitution on the street (Berlin)
- Alarms and emergency exits installed in brothels and huts
- Pragmatic approach

# Contact Details

---

**Donna M. Hughes**

**Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair**

**316 Eleanor Roosevelt Hall**

**University of Rhode Island**

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes>

**[dhughes@uri.edu](mailto:dhughes@uri.edu)**