

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially in Women and Children, defines trafficking in persons as : “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of 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 payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, in the least, exploitation for prostitution of others or any form of sexual exploitation of others, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or servitude or the removal of organs.” (www.un.org).

- It is estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children trafficked across international borders each year
- Approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors.
- The majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation.
- The sex trade has become a development strategy and source of income with profits in some countries amounting to 14 percent of the gross domestic product.

The U.S. Department of State estimates that nearly **20,000 women and children** are trafficked annually to the United States (TIP Report June 2005).

- Human trafficking generates US\$9.5 billion internationally each year
- The CIA estimates US crime syndicates made as much as US\$8 million between 1998 and 2000 “pimping” trafficked women
- The United States is the second highest destination in the world for trafficked women
- The INS believes over 250 brothels in 26 different cities use trafficking victims
- Women are trafficked into the US from countries in Asia, Central and South America, Russia, and Eastern Europe; more women come from Russia than any other country
- International sex trafficking has been documented in over **20 states**:
Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Oregon,
Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South
Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington
- Trafficked women are sold for approximately US\$2,500
- Trafficked women service as many as 20 clients per day at the price of \$200-220 per client
- In the Southeast there are many sex business including massage parlors and brothels in both urban and suburban areas as well as makeshift brothels in gambling halls, houses, and trailers in insolated and rural farm worker camps suspected of exploiting trafficked women
- As of 2001, the State Bureau of Investigation has investigated brothels and prostitution rings suspected of trafficking in Raleigh, Durham, and Asheville, North Carolina.