



Harvard Model Congress

Boston 2020

HUMAN AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

By Ryan Bayer

INTRODUCTION



The border of the United States is an entryway point at which the US government works to stop trafficking.

ImmigrationImpact.com

Human trafficking

– A form of modern day slavery involving the illegal transport of individuals by force or deception for the purposes of labor, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially

In a small village in Ghana, a poor family was struggling to pay for the education of its eldest daughter, Natalia. However, the situation took a turn when Natalia was offered a paid education from a family in America if she moved to the United States and lived with them as part of an exchange program. Briefly after arriving to live with her host family, the father of the family began to physically and sexually abuse Natalia. Natalia was excluded from the outside world, without access to education, technology to communicate with others, or the opportunity to leave the boundaries of the home. Natalia was forced to spend the next six years cleaning the house, cooking, washing clothes, and watching the children for 18 hours per day.

One day, Natalia saw an opportunity to escape and took it. With her family distracted, Natalia sprinted out the front door and found safety with a neighbor. She explained her situation to the neighbor, who agreed to keep her safe and called the police. The authorities arrived on the scene. Natalia was taken into special care, where she was treated at the local hospital with emergency services and provided with clothing, shelter, and emotional support by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. However, she was only able to receive these services after finding her own escape from such imprisonment. She will also never be able to gain back the six years when she worked every day as a slave. Natalia's case is one of many in present day America.

EXPLANATION OF THE ISSUE

Sex trafficking –

The servitude, recruitment, and transport of people into the international sex industry

Drug trafficking –

A global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs prohibited by law



For individuals who have been objectified through human trafficking, it can take years of treatment to recover from a traumatic experience.

Northern Express

Historical Development

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery involving the illegal transport of individuals by force or deception for the purposes of labor, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially. Human trafficking usually starts in countries in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and sub-Saharan Africa. Recruiters in these countries find migrants, or recently moved individuals, through various means such as the media, employment agencies, local contracts, and the Internet. Some are kidnapped or coerced, but most victims are bribed with false opportunities.

Most migrants view the services provided by these recruiters as an opportunity to move from impoverished conditions to a more stable environment. These recruiters typically provide a falsified record and passport to allow victims to come to foreign countries. For these reasons, they tell migrants to avoid notice from officials or any form of American security that will challenge their ability to enter the country. Once delivered to the responsible party, transporters are compensated, and victims are subjected to abuse. Most victims avoid contacting officials because they do not want to inform anyone that they are in the United States illegally.

Human trafficking usually stems from two important conditions. The first is that origin countries often have disadvantageous conditions that motivate citizens to immigrate elsewhere. Conditions such as poverty, a lack of government support, or war tend to increase the amount of immigration out of the country to more stable countries in North America or Europe. In addition to human trafficking, another form of trafficking that occurs is **drug trafficking**. Drug trafficking takes place on a global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs that are prohibited by law. Commonly smuggled drugs include cocaine and heroin, which continue to worsen the drug and opioid crises that put Americans at risk of addiction and overdose. The smuggling of cocaine has steadily increased since the early 2000s and totaled roughly 712 tons in 2007.

Scope of the Problem

Sex Trafficking

Human trafficking comes in multiple forms, and this makes the issue exceptionally difficult to address. The most prevalent form of human trafficking is **sex trafficking**, which is the servitude, recruitment, and transport of people into the international sex industry. Sex slavery constitutes roughly 58% of all human trafficking activities. This field of trafficking can range from forced

Debt peonage –
When individuals are forced to complete uncompensated labor in order to pay their debt with a captor

prostitution to involvement in pornography. This exploitation of individuals can vary greatly across ethnicities, age, and gender. Smugglers often engage in sexual assault themselves as rapists or the perpetrators of child pornography. And with the rising prevalence of HIV and AIDS, individuals in this form of enslavement are constantly exposed to dangerous diseases. As sex is an intimate act behind closed doors, it can be difficult for the government to monitor and regulate the safety of individuals in this form of human trafficking.

Coercive Labor

Another common form of human trafficking is the forced labor of captured individuals. Once captured, migrants are entered into specific industries and expected to complete back-breaking labor without payment. These individuals can be forced into the agriculture, mining, or construction industries under inhumane living conditions. In the United States, the most common forms of coerced labor are sweatshops, hotel work, or service in a restaurant. The most common ways for individuals to end up in this business is through **debt peonage** or contract slavery. Debt peonage occurs when individuals are forced into labor in order to pay their debt with a captor. This often occurs when individuals are forced into slavery through deceptive contracts that justify their inhumane treatment. Major US brands, including Nike and Apple, have been publicly accused of turning a blind eye to coercive labor in their factories, . Due to the nature of this slavery it is sometimes difficult to identify in public. This can make it hard to enforce public policy meant to combat this issue.

Opioids – *Addictive and often lethal substances such as heroin that act on opioid receptors in the brain to produce morphine-like effects*

Drug Trafficking

More than 130 people die from **opioid** overdose every day in the US. These people are the victims of a powerful and manipulative business that not only ruins lives, but also destroys entire communities. The control and elimination of drug trafficking is necessary to protect citizens from the misuse of drugs. In 2008, global heroin seizures reached a record level of 73.7 metric tons. This amount comes primarily from two countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, which accounted for more than half of all heroin seizures. In North America, cocaine is typically transported from Colombia or Mexico.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act – *An act passed by Congress in 2000 that makes human trafficking a federal crime and grants victims benefits and services*

In addition to the drugs themselves, this trafficking is also associated with money laundering, corruption, violence, and illicit products. Drug trafficking is also sometimes organized online through the anonymous Dark Web, which allows for more well-planned methods of trafficking.

Congressional Action

Most of the current laws on trafficking aim to make methods of trafficking illegal and compensate victims. In 2000, Congress passed the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)**, which made human trafficking a federal crime and granted victims access to benefits and services such as healthcare and temporary immigration visas. As human trafficking is a difficult issue to solve, multiple federal agencies were given jurisdiction to enforce the law, apprehend abusers, and support victims. These agencies include the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to this law, policies have been in development that focus on the technological advances which help organizations perpetrate trafficking. The Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 became a law in April 2018. This law establishes enhanced penalties such as a prison term of up to 25 years for those who promote or facilitate the prostitution of five or more persons or act with such reckless disregard that one's conduct contributes to sex trafficking. More recently, **The Fight Illicit Networks and Detect Trafficking Act (FIND)** was passed in the House in January 2019 and has been introduced in the Senate. This bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the use of virtual currencies and online market places in both drug and sex trafficking. The bill has been cosponsored by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Rep. Cynthia Axne (D-IA). It was received in the Senate and has since been referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Other Policy Action

The enforcement for possession, use, and trafficking of drugs is typically handled by the United States government; however, there are a number of external parties supporting the fight against human trafficking. Polaris is nonprofit that works to prevent and combat modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Polaris runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline, which received 8,759 reported cases in the past year alone. The Hotline collects data on each report and has built one of the largest data sets on human trafficking in the world. The data set is publicly used for the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, a project launched under the partnership of Polaris and the UN International Organization for Migration. In addition, Polaris advocates for laws at the national, state, and local level designed to combat human trafficking in all its forms. Despite its work, Polaris has been criticized for possibly confusing consensual sex work for human trafficking.

The Fight Illicit Networks and Detect Trafficking Act – A bill currently in Congress that directs the Government Accountability Office to report on the use of virtual currencies and online market places in drug and sex trafficking

European Union (EU) – The political and economic union of 28 member states located in Europe

As human trafficking is an international issue, it is important to not only focus on the laws and nonprofits within the United States, but also on how different countries choose to solve the range of problems associated with trafficking. Since 2011, the **European Union (EU)** has made a number of efforts to establish robust provisions on victim’s protection, assistance, and support. Human trafficking is defined as a crime through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and is strictly prohibited. The EU required in its EU Anti-Trafficking Directive that each member state vote to nominate an anti-trafficking coordinator (ATC). The EU’s ATC, currently Dr. Myria Vassa, is responsible for improving coordination and coherence among EU institutions, agencies, and international actors, as well as developing new policies to address human trafficking throughout Europe.

The Drug Policy Alliance is a special interest group dedicated to ending the war on drugs. The group focuses on using new approaches “grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights.” The group advocates for policies that protect Americans while also balancing the needs of medicine. As heroin and cocaine are not used for medicinal purposes, the Drug Policy Alliance typically supports the confiscation and removal of trafficking methods for these drugs.



Thirty percent of all human trafficking victims are children.

USC Peck School of Social Work

IDEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINTS

Conservative View

When it comes to solving the issue of human and drug trafficking, both conservatives and liberals typically agree that it is an urgent problem that must be solved. However, the two differ greatly on their approaches to solving it. In terms of fiscal spending, conservatives believe that it is better to spend money on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Defense (DOD) to combat human trafficking before it becomes a problem. The DHS works to monitor the trafficking of all goods and persons in the United States, while DOD has the authority to use the Navy and Army to seize and check the transportation of goods across international waters on their way to the United States. Military and Homeland Security forces should thus play a major role in helping solve human and drug trafficking by controlling what enters the United States.

Liberal View

Liberals are equally motivated to stop human and drug trafficking. However, they believe in going about it through other means than through defense. Liberal Americans typically support increased spending for the Department of Health and Human Services in order to better support victims during their time of need.

In addition, it is theorized that if living conditions were improved in the origin countries of some of the areas that migrants come from, then migrants may not be coerced into human trafficking in the first place. As for drug trafficking, liberals believe that if economic conditions were improved for more Americans and more treatment options were freely available to the public, then these citizens would not turn to drugs to solve their problems or fatally overdose.

AREAS OF DEBATE

According to the Council of Europe, human trafficking generates at least €32 billion in annual revenue for traffickers.



Cocaine and heroin are the two most smuggled drugs when it comes to drug trafficking
The Recovery Village

Most Americans find the suffering that occurs due to slavery and drug addiction to be an issue worth solving. However, there is major disagreement regarding the best way to solve these problems. There have been a number of proposed solutions to resolve human and drug trafficking. The important thing to remember is that each method has advantages and disadvantages, as well as ripple effects that must be considered by policy makers.

Increase National Defense Spending

One of the most common proposals for tackling human and drug trafficking is to increase defense spending, tighten borders, and increase military missions in foreign countries to help identify and remove trafficking before it enters the US. The US military is frequently used to help bring order to other countries and international territories. Acting as a security enforcer, the US military can protect individuals, gather intelligence, and apprehend those responsible for crimes in foreign countries. The military can gain warrants to check on suspicious areas and protect individuals abroad. Border patrol for DHS can check all migrants coming into the United States, monitor any suspicious behavior, and arrest suspicious individuals. The DOD and DHS already have jurisdiction to do this; however, additional funding would increase their ability to successfully complete such missions. Critics counter that this is too broad of a method to solve trafficking, given that the two departments have much broader roles in national security. Critics instead believe that we should allocate our resources more specifically to trafficking rather than expect security forces to solve the issue.

Political Perspectives on this Solution

Conservatives and liberals would disagree on how much security force should be used to address trafficking. Liberals typically believe that it is more important to support victims and to solve the issue in other areas rather than just make immigration more difficult for all migrants. Conservatives, however, believe in supporting security forces as much as possible. By ensuring the success of the DHS and

DOD, conservatives believe we would create a better world for Americans and, with enough support, a better world for foreigners as well. International groups also do not necessarily support this policy, as it can seem as if the only influence America can have in solving the issue is by acting as a more invasive force in foreign territories.

Increase Funding to Foreign Countries

Another possible solution to stop both types of trafficking is to provide financial assistance to other countries that are the sources of these drugs and/or migrants. Most of the human trafficking that occurs happens because migrants are promised a better life in a foreign country, yet they are brought to these countries under horrible conditions and false pretenses. By providing financial assistance to these countries the United States can reduce the incentive for migration, whether it be for human trafficking or not.

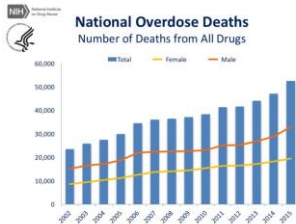
Poverty has also been correlated with drug use. Providing more economic opportunities for people in these countries may encourage them to enter other industries. However, there is some wide debate regarding this as a possible policy. Some believe that the United States has plenty of resources to provide other countries to increase their quality of life. It has even been suggested that the US should use the money that would normally go towards national security to better provide for other countries.. Critics, however, believe this is too daunting of a task and that the US should not be responsible for paying for other countries.

Political Perspectives on this Solution

Conservatives are typically against the use of funds to support other countries when our own country is so deep in debt (at over \$18 trillion). Conservatives are also large supporters of the military and believe that we should not compromise our military budget to solve this issue. Liberals, however, are more supportive towards the idea of using federal funds to aid foreign countries. For most liberals, this is a means to not only stop trafficking from occurring ,but also of ensuring that foreigners have access to similar resources as those provided in the US. Though this would provide greater healthcare and quality of life for these individuals, it would also put a strain on the US budget. Multiple interest groups, including Polaris and foreign countries, are supportive of this solution as it helps solve human trafficking for the world, and not just the US.

Create a Task Force

There are a number of government organizations in charge of managing human trafficking. However, it can be difficult to have so many organizations in charge of the issue. The status quo has one organization provide health benefits to victims, another enforce



The number of overdose deaths for Americans has continued to increase over time.
National Institute on Drug Abuse

justice, and others detect and eliminate the threat of trafficking. The European Union developed an anti-trafficking coordinator through a specific directive in order to better combat the issue throughout the region. The United States could follow this model and create its own task force or division specifically to combat human and drug trafficking. Arguments in support of this are that no current organization can properly handle the multi-faceted issue of trafficking, and that no organization gives the issue the attention it requires.

Political Perspectives on this Solution

Conservatives typically avoid increases in spending and are in favor of smaller government. Thus, the exact implementation of this policy would heavily influence conservative support – if it ended up decreasing the number of people tasked with addressing human trafficking and shrunk the size of government, then most would be in favor of it. If it ended up simply creating yet another agency and failed to actually phase out other departments, then conservatives would likely be against this plan. Liberals might be more amenable to such a plan; however, there would need to be guarantees that this new agency’s operational focus included sufficient provisions for healthcare and victim support, and was not just dominated by concerns for border security and defense.

Provide Greater Benefits for Victims

Some believe that there is no way the United States can solve drug or human trafficking, and that a better solution is to focus on how to help victims heal. Despite the fact that the government provides health care to treat the physical and emotional wounds for victims, some argue that this is still not enough. Many victims are forced to commit other crimes during their exploitation, also known as **red strikes**. Some believe that the government should pardon individuals forced to commit these crimes, especially if they were nonviolent. In addition, victims who have escaped their captors can be left in vulnerable situations, such as deportation to their country of origin, which opens the possibility of revictimization. Critics counter that this policy does little to solve the root cause of human and drug trafficking, and thus devoting limited resources to victim rehabilitation instead of stopping trafficking itself simply perpetuates the cycle of victimization.

Political Perspectives on this Solution

Liberals typically believe that law enforcement is too harsh when it comes to those convicted of crimes. For this reason, they would likely support such a policy. However, conservatives typically support upholding law and order, regardless of who is convicted. Providing more support for victims would also mean increasing

Red strikes –
*Crimes committed by
human trafficking
victims while they are
exploited and held
against their own will*

government spending, which conservatives typically do not support. However, multiple international organizations and support groups such as Polaris support this policy as it helps provide for former victims.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

Human and drug trafficking are difficult issues to solve fiscally. Though everyone wants to solve the issue, there is much disagreement as to how much should be spent, where it should be spent, and who should fund it. Should it come from the DOD and DHS to keep individuals, both foreign and domestic, safe from captors and stop trafficking from entering the US? Should it be the job of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide better healthcare? Should it be the job of the Department of Justice to pardon crimes committed under trafficking? Or should it be the job of a completely new task force entirely dedicated to solving the issue? Each of these poses their own budget concerns. It can be expensive to fund security efforts or provide healthcare. However, it can also be quite expensive to create an entirely new agency.

CONCLUSION

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that violates human rights by forcing individuals to partake in unspeakable acts of labor, sex, and violence. Drug trafficking continues to poison American communities by leading thousands into addiction and overdose. These issues are condemned almost universally. However, it can be difficult to decide on a solution to the problem when deciding how to allocate limited resources. Conservatives typically support increased spending on the DOD and DHS to solve such issues. However, liberals typically focus on helping victims and eradicating human trafficking at its source no matter the monetary cost. While evaluating solutions, it is important to understand the severity of this issue and the complexity behind every solution.

GUIDE TO FURTHER RESEARCH

When researching the topic of human and drug trafficking, delegates should keep in mind that most sources are written by organizations focused on solving the issue. There can be a lot of written material that appeals to the emotions of readers. However, it is important to focus on articles dedicated to developing specific solutions to the problem. In evaluating these sources, delegates

should look for facts, solid evidence, or reason regarding why one solution works better than another. It is also helpful to look to how other countries handle human trafficking. While the crisis in some countries may not be at the level of the United States, they may still have solutions that are worth considering.

GLOSSARY

Debt peonage – When individuals are forced to complete uncompensated labor in order to pay their debt with a captor

Drug trafficking – A global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs prohibited by law

The Fight Illicit Networks and Detect Trafficking Act – A bill currently in Congress that directs the Government Accountability Office to report on the use of virtual currencies and online marketplaces in drug and sex trafficking

Opioids – Addictive and often lethal substances such as heroin that act on opioid receptors in the brain to produce morphine-like effects

Red strikes – Crimes committed by human trafficking victims while they are exploited and held against their own will

Sex trafficking – The servitude, recruitment, and transport of people into the international sex industry

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“15 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, www.state.gov/15-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/.

Anonymous. “Trafficking in Human Beings.” *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*, 6 Dec. 2016, ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings_en.

“How Lawyers Can Help Human Trafficking Victims.” *The Colleges of Law*, 20 Aug. 2018,
www.collegesoflaw.edu/blog/2018/08/20/lawyers-help-human-trafficking/.

Juan. “H.R.502 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): FIND Trafficking Act.” *Congress.gov*, 29 Jan. 2019,
www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/502?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22fight%2Bonline%2Bsex%2Btrafficking%2Bact%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1.

“Survivor Story: Promised an Education, Forced to Work Instead.” *Polaris*, 26 Oct. 2017,
polarisproject.org/blog/2015/06/17/survivor-story-promised-education-forced-work-instead.

“The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment.” *What Drugs Are Opioids?*,
www.naabt.org/faq_answers.cfm?ID=4.

“Types of Human Trafficking.” *INTERPOL*,
www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Human-trafficking/Types-of-human-trafficking.

Wabwoba, Rebecca. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Drug Trafficking*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html.

“What Policies Could Help Stop Human Trafficking?” *Apolitical*,
apolitical.co/question/what-policies-could-help-stop-human-trafficking/.

Wooditch, Alese C., and Leonard A. Steverson. “Human Trafficking.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 12 Apr. 2019,
www.britannica.com/topic/human-trafficking.