

Human Trafficking; today's cost of the centuries old crime

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ABSTRACT

Trafficking in human beings, or slave trade, is not a new crime. The slave trade in the United States is well documented and was a factor in leading our nation into a Civil War. Slavery was also popular in Great Britain and many other industrialized nations. Warlords in many African countries raided villages to capture humans to sell into the trade slave. The shocking truth is that in that era, slavery was an acceptable means for businesses to make a profit. Society in general did not look at the slave trade as being the evil it was.

So what about slavery today? One of the most important truths with slavery today is the lack of the general public in realizing that it is still in existence on a large scale and is still being used to make profit for legitimate industries. Not only are slaves being used to profit lawful industries, but the slave trade is also being used to help profit illegal industries such as the sex slave industry. It is not uncommon for women, and young children of both sexes, to be kidnapped to be brought into the sex for pleasure business. Often women are duped into illegal immigration schemes and upon reaching their destination, discover they are in deep debt to those that helped smuggle them into the country of their dreams where they had hoped to start a new life and live the American dream.

This paper will research how the illegal sex slave trade thrives in a country where prostitution is illegal in almost every state and will look into the hidden costs of human trafficking from a moral position, the cost in dollars, and from a world view that has allowed human trafficking to thrive today.

Keywords: human trafficking, white slave, undocumented workers, abusive labor, trafficking violations, victimization, migrant farm workers, slave trade, sex trade