Sex Trafficking & the Internet

Donna M. Hughes, Dr., University of Rhode Island
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Donna M. Hughes, PhD
Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair
University of Rhode Island

Westminster College

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Human Trafficking

• Two forms of human trafficking
  – Sex Trafficking
  – Forced Labor
  – Slightly different legal definitions

  – “Modern day slavery”

  – This talk will focus on sex trafficking
Tattoos on Victims of Sex Trafficking
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Daddy's Lil Bitch
United States Approach to Sex Trafficking

- Now, recognize that some women and girls are enslaved in the sex industry
- Lost the most important right --- freedom
- Transformed the perception of women and girls in prostitution
  - They can be victims, even enslaved
  - They need services and support
  - They need compassion & justice
Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

• Reference to the 13\textsuperscript{th} Amendment to the US Constitution (December 6, 1865)

  – \textbf{Section 1}. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

  – \textbf{Section 2}. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
• The purpose: “to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims”

• First U.S. law to define “trafficking”
Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000

- Sex trafficking: “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (Not criminalized)

- Severe forms of trafficking in persons (Criminalized)

  (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

  (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
TVPA: Force, fraud or coercion

- Causing or threatening to cause serious harm to any person
- Physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain another person
- Abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process
- Knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating or possessing any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document of another person
- Blackmail
- Causing or threatening to cause financial harm to any person
Penalties for Sex Trafficking

- Sex trafficking is a federal felony. (Most states also have anti-trafficking laws.)
- Sex trafficking is punishable by up to 20 years in prison or life in prison if there are aggravating circumstances.
Marks of Ownership: Fresh Tattoo

- Picture of a 16 year old girl getting her pimp’s name tattooed on her arm less than 3 weeks after she met him through the Internet (California, 2008)
Demand for Prostitution & Sex Trafficking

1) Men who purchase sex acts

2) Exploiters who make up sex industry and supporting services – Profiteers, Legal and illegal operators

3) States (countries) that profit, particularly the destination countries/cities

4) Culture that glamorizes & normalizes the sex trade
Demand Factors: Men Who Purchase Sex Acts

- Usually faceless and nameless
- The ultimate consumers of trafficked women and children
- Men make a choice to buy sex
- Sexually assault, batter, humiliate, & degrade women
Demand Factors: The State or Government

- By tolerating, decriminalizing or legalizing prostitution, the state helps create a demand for victims
  - The Netherlands, States in Australia, Counties in Nevada
  - Tolerant cities: Las Vegas, Atlanta
Use of the Internet for Sex Trafficking

• The Internet and all other electronic communications are new ways of communicating
  – Criminal communication among traffickers
  – Recruit victims
    • Job offers – Transnational trafficking
    • Social media – Domestic trafficking
  – Advertize and sell “services” of victims
    • Prostitution
    • Pornography
Trafficking for the Production of Pornography

• Many cases of sex trafficking of minor victims that involve illegal photography of victims
  – Serious crime; good laws concerning child pornography

• Cases of sex trafficking of an adult that involves production of pornography
  – To date, only one federal conviction of trafficking for the production of commercial pornography
BDSM: Practice, Subculture, Slavery

• Sexual practices involving bondage, discipline/domination, submission/sadism, & masochism

• A subculture with people playing roles, including masters & slaves

• Human trafficking, real cases of enslavement & torture
Glen Marcus Case

- Precedent setting federal case
- A sadist convicted of sex trafficking & forced labor
- A victim complained to the FBI
  - Tortured, sexually assaulted, mutilated, photographed and forced to work for Marcus
- Victim met Marcus in an online chat room
- Once the victim met Marcus, he enslaved her
- Carved the word “slave” on her stomach the first time they met
Glen Marcus Case

- Later branded her with a “G” on her buttock
- He renamed her “It”
- All her actions required his permission, including wearing clothes, speaking, & eating
- Punishment: Whipping & imprisoning her in a dog cage
- Victim told Marcus that she no longer consented and wanted to leave. At first, he refused to allow her to leave. Later, he allowed her to leave.
Glen Marcus Case

- Made pornographic photos of the victim
- Posted them on the Internet on “Slavespace”
- Sold them to viewers. All money kept by Marcus
- Threatened to send photos to family if she didn’t comply = coercion
- Commercial production of pornography = commercial sex act
- Forced commercial sex act = sex trafficking
Glen Marcus Case

• Forced labor case
• Marcus forced her to work updating his web site “Slavespace”
• Forced work = human trafficking

• Initial consent is irrelevant if later work or commercial sex act is non-consensual
• Returning to or contacting a trafficker after the victim is free is irrelevant if coerced commercial sex or work occurred previously
Production of Pornography

- Victims coming forward to describe their experiences in the production of pornography
- Many of their experiences meet the definition of force, fraud & coercion
- Internet now main site for the distribution of pornography
- Treatment of women (and gay men) in pornography is increasingly brutal
Human Trafficking & the Internet

• Possible to view the enslavement & exploitation of trafficking victims on the Internet

• More investigations of sex trafficking in the production of pornography

• Monitoring & vigilance Internet spaces by police (Internet crime specialists), citizens & families
Contact Details

Donna M. Hughes
Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair
University of Rhode Island
http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes
dhughes@uri.edu