

Exposing Slavery: Sex Trafficking Awareness

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Objective:

- ❖ The purpose of this research is to raise awareness amongst University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) students about slavery in the form of sex trafficking within the United States.

Research Questions:

- ❖ What are the common themes in the issue of sex trafficking?
- ❖ Where is the problem occurring?
- ❖ What is being done and can be done to stop this problem?

Data Collection Method:

- ❖ The research of this study is collected from scholarly journals and other current-event literature about the issue of sex trafficking.
- ❖ Information is also gathered from organizations that are currently involved in stopping the spread of this problem .

Method of Analysis:

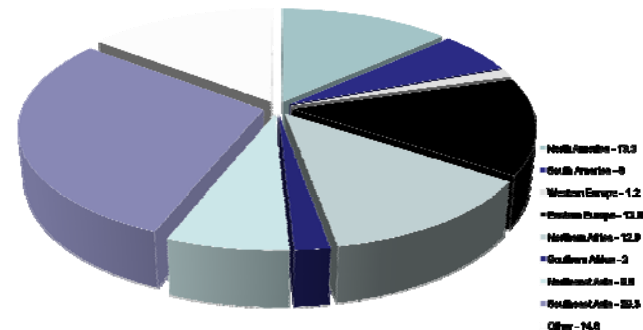
- ❖ Thematic analysis: research is analyzed by reviewing common themes throughout the literature that are found about the status of sex trafficking within the United States.

Findings/Results:

- ❖ "The TVPA defines sex trafficking as a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age" Trafficking Victims Protection Act (definition from the 2008 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report
- ❖ "According to the U.S. State Department annual report of 2005, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, with 14,500 to 17,500 trafficked into the U.S.
- ❖ In the U.S., sex trafficking occurs most often in inconspicuous places such as: salons, clubs, bars, or even homes.
- ❖ Here are several organizations fighting against sex trafficking:
 - ❖ International Justice Mission: lawyers and investigators ensure immediate trafficked victims rescue and care
 - ❖ Not For Sale Campaign: focuses on raising up abolitionists against slavery in the form of sex trafficking
 - ❖ Project Rescue: establishes shelters in India in order to eliminate all forms of child sexual exploitation.
 - ❖ Hagar International: helps trafficked women and children rehabilitate socially and economically



International Trafficked Victims in Minnesota Reported to Civil Society between 4/01/2000 and 02/02/2009 - By region of origin - Total of 214 People (in percentage)



On the Minnesota Human Trafficking Watch webpage, these numbers are given. According to the reports given to the Civil Society, because Minnesota is a border state, "it has become one of the 13 most heavily sex and slavery trafficked states in the nation." The figure above reveals proof that international trafficking is a local occurrence.

Implications:

- ❖ The result of the research was put into an active-learning based program for the UWEC Peer Diversity Educators to facilitate as a means of raising awareness in the UWEC classrooms and dormitories.
- ❖ In the future, more effort needs to be made in raising awareness on the UWEC campus.
- ❖ Through awareness of the problem, action will hopefully be taken at a local level to abolish sex trafficking and to work towards the rehabilitation of the victims of this specific form of human trafficking.

References:

- Trafficking in Persons Report, (2008). U.S. Department of State.
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105376.htm>
- Not For Sale Campaign (2009). <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/about>



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