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SEX SLAVERY the way back

by John O'Reilly

Published in 2012

John O'Reilly

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ISBN: 978-0-9574267-0-2.

Trafficking of human beings into sexual slavery violates the most fundamental of human rights; the right to life, to freedom, to security, to dignity, to equality, to employment and to be free from torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment. People are entitled to their human rights regardless of their race, colour, sex, nationality, or social origin. Modern day slavery needs to be eradicated, but before we can eradicate it, we must first understand it, understanding how it occurs, how it affects victim's behaviour and why they appear to so willingly participate in it. We must identify a means to root out this intolerable and horrendous crime.

John O'Reilly, Author 2012

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Abstract

This book is written for frontline responders who may come into contact with suspected victims of human trafficking; people such as police, nurses, doctors, social workers, outreach workers, Non-Governmental Organisations, project workers, or any other member of the public that may encounter victims of human trafficking. It provides an explanation of what human trafficking is, how it occurs, how it affects behaviour and how we can combat it.

It examines a number of areas in relation to how human trafficking for sexual exploitation impacts on victims. It commences with a brief explanation of what human trafficking is. It identifies the difficulties faced by victims and suggests a new approach in interviewing them. It highlights how existing approaches and techniques are inappropriate in dealing with this global problem. Victims generally deny their circumstances and adopt a defensive attitude in order to ward off any intervention or offers of assistance. This new approach is designed to reduce the effects of fear on their mind and helps change their behaviour. It encourages victims to explore their issues and to develop an argument for change in their circumstances. It examines how our brains react to threats and how the psychological effects of trauma, together with a repetitive cycle of abuse keep victims in locked into sexual slavery. The suggested interview approach has proven to be successful in interviewing victims of human trafficking exploited in sexual slavery. It is a must for any person who wishes to understand and help victims who have found themselves sold into sex slavery in the 21st Century.

It highlights a phenomenon where 'victims refuse offers of assistance, requests to be returned to their abusive situation and prostitute themselves for the benefit of the trafficker(s)' . My research into this phenomenon has resulted in the writing of this book. The cause and effects of victim's trauma were isolated, examined and explored in order to provide an understanding of what happens, how it happens, and why it locks these women into sexual servitude. This book provides the reader with an understanding of how our brain reacts to threats, the effects that trauma has on victims behaviour, how it changes behaviour, (a process very similar to brainwashing) and why victims end up prostituting themselves for the benefit of others. It identified the psychological effects of trauma on behaviour. It suggests a new approach in interviewing victims as a means of counteracting the effects and combating this horrendous crime against humanity. It provides a solution to the request of the United State's State Department for a proactive identification system and it provides frontline responders with the information, knowledge, know- how, means of identifying and assisting victims.

Aims & Objectives

The aims of this book are

- To examine a phenomenon where victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited, refuse offers of assistance and request to return to their abusive situation.
- To explain what human trafficking is, how the process occurs, and to highlight the trauma that is inflicted on victims.
- To explain how the brain reacts to threats and how the psychological effects of trauma can change behaviour.

- To explain how victim's change into a state of survival that causes a distorted view of their world and an illogical relationship to develop between them and their trafficker.
- To explain why victims protect their relationship with their trafficker despite being continuously betrayed.
- To explain why victims appear to willingly prostitute themselves for the benefit of others.

The Objective of this book is to provide frontline responders with the information, knowledge and understanding necessary to help victims dissolve their distorted view of their world, to realise their actual situation, to consider the effect that change will have on their circumstances and to take the necessary steps in freeing themselves from the bonds of sexual slavery. In essence to help victims find their way back from sexual servitude.

Background

In February 2002, I was seconded from An Garda Síochána (the Irish Police force) to the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During this mission I was assigned to a Special Trafficking Operations Project (S.T.O.P.) in Sarajevo. This was a pilot project that had been set up by Celhia Chaix De Lavarene, a United Nation's Worker in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the request of the United Nations. During this time I worked as the United Nation's police coordinator in the project along with Celhia. The S.T.O.P. unit comprised of 55 International Police officers and 150 local Police investigators, who were based throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Together we investigated and closed a large number of premises involved in human trafficking throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. We conducted 2,315 interviews with suspected trafficked victims and freed 265 women from sexual slavery. With the assistance of the International Organisation of Migration (I.O.M.) these victims were repatriated to their home countries. It was during this period that a phenomenon came to my notice where victims refused offers of assistance and requested to be returned to their abusive situation, where they continued to prostitute themselves for the benefit of others. This phenomenon caused me to ponder on questions such as " Why didn't victims of human trafficking ask for help? What stopped them from asking for or accepting help? Why did they want to return to their abusive situation?" Following the Bosnian experience my determination to help victims of human trafficking never ceased, I continued my studies and research in this area in an attempt to understand the phenomenon associated with human trafficking. My research has resulted in the writing of this book from a victim's interviewer's point of view. I conducted a year's fieldwork in interviewing victims of human trafficking and five years research into how the brain reacts to threats, the psychological effects trauma has on behaviour and the development of an interviewing technique to combat the effects that trauma has on behaviour.

My reasons for writing this book

Assisting victims of sexual slavery in Bosnia ignited a passion in me to help women trafficked into sexual servitude as they are unable to help themselves. My experience of dealing with victims highlighted the importance of freedom for victims; initially I saw empty dehumanised shells of women who were forced to prostitute themselves in strip clubs in Bosnia and who after being freed went through a metamorphosis that re-humanised them again. I called this metamorphosis 'being re-humanised' , it occurs after the distorted view of their world dissolved, and they realise their real

predicament. This experience gave me the passion to research their traumatic experiences, to gain an understanding of their behaviour; behaviour that is so easily mistaken as 'compliance' . When I realised the reason why victims gave false messages of 'being happy to be there' I was inspired to explain the real meaning to the wider world along with the fear that caused them to enter into a state of survival and bond with their traffickers in order to survive. When this metamorphosis occurs after being freed, they are 're-humanised' . They change back into the person they were before they were trafficked. Their eyes show the greatest change, it's like a light is ignited inside of their heads and that 'light of life' begins to shine out through their eyes; it is an amazing experience, one that will stay with me for the rest of my life and one that I hope many of you will experience many times over. It was this experience that ignited the passion in my heart and soul to help victims worldwide. It gave me the determination to study, research and develop a technique that would help rescue victims from a life of sexual servitude. My late father Jack taught me a lesson when I was young and it was simply that 'when the odds are stacked against you, there is always hope; all one has to do is to survive and with time you can eventually change those odds. These words of wisdom echoes for me exactly what victims of human trafficking are doing; they are surviving in the hope that change will come with time.

The cost of failing to complete my research or write this book was just too great to consider, as failure on my part would mean a lifetime of sexual servitude for these unfortunate women, this motivated me to succeed in my endeavours. The alarming reports of vast numbers of people being trafficked throughout the world today highlights the volume of persons living in this state of survival, waiting for someone to come to help them and change their circumstances so that they can once again be free. I have written this book to assist people who wish to help victims of human trafficking, people such as law enforcement personnel, nurses, doctors, social workers, outreach workers, Non-Governmental Organisations, project workers, solicitors and any other person who is willing, or able to help. It is my wish that this book will increase awareness; provide an in depth understanding of how our brain reacts to threats, of the effects that trauma can have on behaviour and provide the tools necessary to engage victims in meaningful communication and assist them in dissolving the distorted view of their world. I wish to thank you for purchasing this book and taking the time to read it. I will ask you to do whatever you can to assist victims of human trafficking, whether it's by organising discussions, lobbying politicians or presenting them with a copy of this book and later asking them questions to ensure that they familiarised themselves with this human crisis or through professional involvement in the rescuing of victims. This brings to mind the philosopher Edmund Burke who said, "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" , so let us all push for change in what every area that we can.

Chapters

Chapter 1 introduces human trafficking and briefly explains the different types of trafficking. It explains the process involved, the recruitment stage, controlling techniques used by traffickers, and how victims have to prostitute themselves to pay off their trafficking debt. It outlines the process involved in being trafficked and examines the global size of this horrendous crime. It highlights the difficulties of trying to quantify the real size of the problem.

Chapter 2 provides an insight into lives of victims in Bosnia. These accounts provide the reader with an understanding of what victims endured on a daily basis in order to survive. Victims who were sexual slaves for over two years and who were forced to have sex with between thirteen and seventeen men per night. This insight into victims lives makes one wonder what possible reason could exist that would explain why they chose to suffer their abuse, rather than jumping at the opportunity of being saved when offered assistance.

Chapter 3 examines existing research into the psychological effects trauma has on behaviour in adults and children. It highlights how victims are suppressed into a state where they deny their abuse. It examines research on the effects abuse has on children who were trafficked. It explores how trauma associated with being trafficked psychologically affects behaviour.

Chapter 4 examines the psychological effects trauma has on behaviour. It explores how our brain reacts when threatened and compares research on conditions such as the 'Stockholm Syndrome', 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder', 'Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder', 'Trauma Bonding', 'Dissociation', 'Survival State' and 'the development of Distorted View of the World' in order to help understand how trauma can effect behaviour. This chapter also provides answers to questions such as "Why do victims suffer in silence? Why do they want to go back to their traffickers? Why do they refuse help"? It explains victim's illogical behaviour and provides an understanding of how a person's behaviour can change to such an extent that they portray themselves as willing prostitute working for the benefit of others.

Chapter 5 examines emotions associated with abusive trauma. Emotions such as fear, guilt, shame, anxiety, and depression are examined. This chapter demonstrates how these emotions act as the 'nuts and bolts' in securely locking victims into a state of survival, a distorted view of their world and an illogical relationship with their trafficker. Gaining an understanding of the effects that these emotions can have on victims is essential before attempting to establish meaningful communication with them. Understanding these emotions help interviewers explore victim's issues and free them from a life of sexual slavery.

Chapter 6 examines research in the area of perception. It explores how we perceive others and highlights how easily it is to misinterpret a situation when one does not have sufficient knowledge of a person's lifestyle, environment or what is going on in their heads. This chapter highlights the necessity for frontline responders to enquire into a person's entire circumstances before forming any perception in relation to them. It explores the 'Theory of Observed Asymmetries in Behaviour' which explains how people form perceptions as a result of observing their behaviour. It explores the 'Theory of Attribution' which demonstrate how a victim's perception of 'control' can be changed with the use of an internal attribution in place of an external attribution. It highlights how perception depends on the willingness of trying to understand the victim's circumstances. This

emphasises the necessity of understanding how 'perception' works before attempting to engage with victims of human trafficking and highlights how an incorrect perception can have a negative impact on any interaction or communication.

Chapter 7 deals with communication skills and interview techniques necessary for establishing meaningful communication and exploration with victims. It highlights the importance of combining communication skills and interview techniques such as trust, active listening, empathy, sensitivity, rapport, tuning, exploration, and summarising.

Chapter 8 gives advice to interviewers in creating first impressions with victims and allowing sufficient time in a suitable location for the interview to take place. It highlights the importance of conducting separate interviews and discusses issues such as seating arrangements, working with interpreters, the importance of facial expressions, body language and displaying a willingness to help victims. It gives advice on avoiding pitfalls and recommends the use of leaflets and C.D. presentations as a means of providing initial information to victims. It also gives advice on building trust and acceptance between interviewers and victims.

Chapter 9 discusses different interview techniques and provides an understanding of why and when they should be used. It covers techniques such as open ended questions, pausing during interviews, avoiding taking sides, dealing with ambivalence, dealing with defensive attitudes, building confidence, and re-establishing values that they possessed prior to being trafficked.

Chapter 10 explains how the new interview process works, and outlines the aim of the interview. It introduces the interview process in a step by step manner, while highlighting the importance of informing the victims of what is expected from them during the interview. It recommends this new technique of asking questions that encourages a process visualisation in their minds in order to dissolve their distorted view of their world. It outlines a process designed to get victims to compare their past with their present situation before introducing any two-way conversation. It provides advice on an alternative approach in certain cases. It deals with the exploration of their future, while exploring the possibilities and advantages of change. It gives advice on dealing with previous failed attempts and what to do in the event of failing to get through to victims. It also explores interviewing of child victims of human trafficking and the importance of obtaining detailed descriptions of traffickers. It then provides advice on closing the interview and interviewing through interpreters.

Chapter 11 concludes this book by providing advice in relation to working with other stakeholders and agencies. It highlights the importance of networking and establishing 'memos of understanding' between all stakeholders so as to endure smooth communication and operation when working together. It highlights areas for consideration when establishing shelters, creating a plan of action, providing training and professional supervision for interviewers. It also highlights the importance of addressing victim's health following their release.

Chapter 1 Human Trafficking

Introduction The complexity of human trafficking is represented in the myriad of overlapping terms used to describe different types of human trafficking. This chapter introduces human trafficking and outlines briefly the different types of trafficking such as 'forced labour', 'bonded labour', 'involuntary domestic servitude' 'forced child labour', and 'child soldiers'. It highlights the sheer volume of victims snared worldwide by this evil business, and outlines the United Nations Protocol's definition of "Human Trafficking". It clarifies some of the different terms used in reporting incidents of human trafficking, such as 'smuggling', 'migration for work', and 'human trafficking'. It distinguishes between each of these to avoid any confusion that may surround them. It outlines the process involved in human trafficking, briefly explaining recruitment, controlling techniques, the provision of sexual services in payment for their trafficking debt and the abusive situation that victims find themselves in. This chapter summarises the initial experience of victims trafficked into Bosnia whom I interviewed and highlights how they were so helpless. It also addresses the global size of human trafficking and identified the difficulties in quantifying the real size of the problem.

Human Trafficking – Multiple Meanings Human

Trafficking is a crime against humanity that has a devastating effect on victims, their families and communities; it effects the individual right to life, freedom, security, dignity, equality, and employment. It involves both physical and sexual abuse, threats against the lives of victims and their families. In simple terms it reduces people to nothing more than 'commodities' that are bought and sold. Human trafficking involves a variety of physical, financial and emotional processes that are used to control victims mind and bodies so as to ensure that they provide sexual gratification for others while providing profit for their traffickers.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children has provided a global definition of human trafficking. It defines human trafficking as; "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring 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 of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation" (United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 2000).

This quote shows the complexity of human trafficking; which has various forms and are summarised hereunder. Human trafficking includes;

- *Forced Labour* –this occurs when employers exploits vulnerable workers.
- *Bonded Labour* – or debt bondage, occurs when a labourer works to pay off a debt while the employer exploits the debt and its circumstances. Debt bondage in Asia can actually be passed down from generation to generation.
- *Involuntary Domestic Servitude* – is a form of forced labour that occurs when domestic workers are exploited. The United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2011 highlights a trend of domestic servant guest workers being sexually abused by their bosses and third parties. *Forced Child Labour* –involves the sale and trafficking of children who are then trapped by debt and bonded into forced labour.

- *Child Soldiers* - In conflict situations, children are kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers. It is common for them to also be used as sex slaves by rebel forces. Abducted women are raped and forced into sex slavery or are forced to become wives for soldiers. Some are forced to commit atrocities against their families and communities.

The reporting on cases of human trafficking has resulted in the use of many different terms which has led to some confusion in trying to distinguish between their meanings. Such confusion has been recognised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as an obstruction to law enforcement investigations.

'Smuggling' occurs when a smuggler illegally facilitates the entry of a person into a country of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident in return for financial or other material payment directly or indirectly. It is worth noting that the smuggler has no intention of exploiting a person further once they arrive in the destination country.

'Migration for work' involves the movement of a person from one country to another for employment. It may be by legal or illegal means. It can be voluntary or involuntary, such as when people are forced to migrate as a result of conflict, war or famine.

'Human Trafficking' on the other hand involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of an individual, incorporating deception at the recruitment stage with an overall intention on the part of the trafficker to exploit the person being smuggled and severely abuse their human rights. The exploitation is usually through enforced debt-bondage, a debt that was incurred as a result of the costs involved in the transportation and purchasing of the person by the traffickers. The debt will always be inflated and out of reach of the means of the trafficked person. It increases to ensure the continued debt-bondage. Victims of human trafficking are physically, sexually and psychologically abused. They are denied all legal or human rights.

Smuggling involves the crossing of borders, whereas, human trafficking can occur within a state. It should be noted that when consent is gained through any coercive, deceptive or abusive actions on behalf of the trafficker is deemed null and void by United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, (2000). This protocol provides protection for people who migrate voluntarily and end up being trafficked. The protocol excludes any possibility of consent being given in respect of a victim under 18 years of age. This refers to any form of trafficking for the purpose of exploiting a child. In summary it is the coercive nature of the means used to get the person to a location and their subsequent exploitation after having arrived at the destination that distinguishes human trafficking from smuggling or migration for work.

Process Involved in Human Trafficking

The definition of human trafficking may be broken down into three separate parts;

- The 'Criminal Act'; an act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of person(s).
- The 'Means' used to commit those acts must involve a threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.

- 'Exploitation' ; includes the prostitution of others, including sexual exploitation, force labour, service, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

Traffickers use various types of promises when trafficking vulnerable women, men and children; they include false promises, trickery and coercion in order to gain their confidence. Victims initially come in contact with a recruiter, who may be an acquaintance or a friend and in most cases is usually a person who offers assistance in finding work abroad. Many of the recruiters are actually women. The majority of the victims have no knowledge that they are going to work in the sex industry. Zimmerman et al., (2006) reported that almost one in five women trafficked, reported that a relative knew their trafficker. Others were recruited by a friend or an acquaintance, who subsequently betrayed them. Some were sold by a family member; others were abducted, deceived, seduced, romanced or recruited by former victims, while some were offered the promise of marriage to wealthy men.

Recruiters are the first point of contact for the victim in the trafficking process. They generally appear ordinary trustworthy people as a result of their position in society, their close relationship with the victims, being employees of bogus employment agencies, neighbours, acquaintances, friends, boyfriends or even family members. Many of the recruiters are women, who are considered trustworthy. Some are sold by a family member.

Traffickers use various means for trafficking vulnerable women, men and children; these include false promises, trickery and coercion in order to gain their confidence. Recruiters often promise work or study opportunities and some even place false advertisements in the victim's home country offering employment opportunities abroad. They may offer financial support and the provision of travel documents if required. Some victims are abducted, deceived, seduced and romanced. The majority of the victims have no knowledge that they are going to work in the sex industry.

My experience of victims trafficked in Bosnia was that they suffered greatly at the hands of their traffickers. Some were raped while being transported while other were held captive, forced to strip naked for potential buyer's inspection of their bodies, manhandled, and they ended up in night clubs where they didn't know the language or any person there. They were told by the owner or in some cases by another victim that they had to have sex and drinks with customers in the club in order to pay back the money that their trafficker paid for them. Zimmerman et al., (2006), found that women who were trafficked had very different experiences, some were held captive assaulted and horribly violated, while others were more psychologically tormented. This study found that the majority of trafficked victims were subjected to both physical and sexual violence; were threatened along with their children and family, and had their movement restricted.

A victim's willpower may be broken by means of physical assaults, rape, torture, starvation, threats and by being forced into prostitution. They are forced to provide sexual services to many men every day and night. In Bosnia victims that we rescued reported that they had to provide sexual services to between thirteen and seventeen men per night over a two year period. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2008) reported the serious impact that human trafficking has on victims. They reported that the trafficking process consists of physical, sexual and psychological abuse; violence, deprivation, torture, manipulation, forced substance abuse, forced economic exploitation, abusive working and living conditions.

My Bosnian experience indicated that once a victim arrived at their destination they were exploited for sexual services and forced into prostitution. They were informed by the trafficker or other victims of what was expected from them. They were told they owed the trafficker a very large sum of money in repayment for what was spent on their transportation and purchase. In return the trafficker demanded that they pay him back by means of providing sexual services to 'X' number of customers. They were told that they had to comply with the trafficker's demands or they would be beaten, tortured or even worse, sold on to another premise, where the perception was given that they would be treated even more brutally. Victims either submitted to the demands of the traffickers or resisted. Any resistance was short lived as they became submissive as a result of rapes, beatings, starvation or other forms of torture, eventually giving into the trafficker's demands by prostituting themselves.

Ekaterina (2004) highlighted that the combining isolation, unpredictable violence, and the giving of negative messages were very similar to the act of 'brainwashing'. After becoming submissive, the women were given false hope of attaining their freedom once they had paid off their debt. This false hope or promise is a powerful tool used by traffickers in controlling and forcing victims into prostitution in brothels, clubs, massage parlours, apartments, hotels and on the streets.

Once they begin providing sexual services the victim's initial response is to ask clients for help. Their traffickers overcame this problem by ensuring that the first few clients were employees, associates or friends of the trafficker's in case the victims ask for help. Victims usually asked for help and the client would report this back to the trafficker. The victim would then be beaten and punished to ensure she would not ask for help in the future. Victims soon learned to be helpless and any hope of being rescued or saved soon fade away.

In 1965 Martin Seligman and his colleagues discovered a phenomenon of 'learned helplessness'. Their findings resulted in a scientific revolution in psychology where traditional behaviourist theories were displaced with cognitive psychology. Seligman argued that learned helplessness developed when people had no control over their lives and developed a sense of discouragement, hopelessness and despair. This lack of control over a period of time leads victims to believe that they can never be in control.

Victims encountered in Bosnia showed signs of learned helplessness. Their initial calls for help were usually met with beatings, torture, rapes, and punishments. They soon realised that their efforts were futile and they learned to be helpless. Zimmerman et al., (2006) reported that such victims were unable to feel emotions. They highlighted that a psychological defence of numbing occurs to protect the individual experiencing regular highly emotive abuse.

The Global Context - difficulties in quantifying the problem

The international Labour Organisation (ILO) of the United Nations estimates that there are at least 12.3 million people in forced labour, bonded labour or commercial sexual servitude at any given time in the world. They report that 1.39 million of these victims are involved in commercial sexual servitude. UNICEF reports that there are two million children in prostitution globally. However, it is worth noting that calculating the number of victims and the amounts of money generated by sex

trafficking is very difficult due to the lack of information and the secretive nature of this illegal industry.

The United Nations' estimates that approximately 800,000 persons are trafficked worldwide each year, with estimated earnings of \$32 billion. \$10 billion being earned from the sale of people and a further \$22 billion coming from the subsequent illegal activities. The United States Department of State estimates that in 2008 it generates \$7 billion per year, while Interpol estimates it generates \$19 billion annually. In 2005, ILO estimated it to be \$217.8 billion a year or \$23,000 per victim.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (2008) report, highlighted that in the last ten years human trafficking has reached epidemic proportions. They found that human trafficking is taking place in 127 countries and that victims were being exploited in a total of 137 countries. The U.S. Trafficking in Person's Report 2011 reported that 142 countries ratified the Palermo Protocol and 128 countries have enacted laws prohibiting human trafficking. These figures are mind blowing when one tries to get one's heads around the number of people being exploited in such a horrendous manner. Trafficking in Persons Global Patterns, (2006) reported that victims in Western Europe seem mainly to originate from Central Southern and Eastern Europe, while other origin countries include states in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. In Latin America, Asia; and Caribbean countries 'minors' (consisting of boys and girls) comprise the largest percentage of persons reported as victims of exploitation and forced labour, while adult women comprise the second largest reported group there. This pattern differs across Europe, where adult women are the largest trafficked group. It is further suggested that 80% of trafficked persons worldwide are women and children. The ILO estimates that 12.3 million persons per year are trafficked for labour exploitation.

The United Nations workshop on Fighting Human Trafficking held in Vienna in 2008 identified the difficulties of trying to quantify human trafficking, its impact and any responses to it. They highlighted the lack of quantitative information or understanding, regarding the scope and development of human trafficking around the world. They identified how an absence of reliable Global statistical information inhibits a proper understanding of this problem. The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, forum in Vienna in 2008 found that the lack of legislation, differences in legal definitions, under reporting due to classification problems, lack of data collection and a common lack of databases on crime led to the major difficulty of compiling and interpreting statistics on human trafficking. Despite all this, they noted that raised awareness about human trafficking had increased the focus on efforts to combat it.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have also highlighted that poverty, unemployment, violence, peer pressure and changes in the international and domestic sex industries are all factors that create opportunities for traffickers in acquiring victims for human trafficking. Traffickers play on victim's hope of better prospects in other locations and use this to entice victims into captivity. The current world recessions has left people more vulnerable to human trafficking as increased unemployment creates extreme poverty. These factors cause women and men to seek employment away from home thus increasing the risk of being trafficked. The recession forces business underground, to avoid paying taxes and keep manufacturing expenses low while encouraging forced labour of both adults and children.

The United Nations' protocol's definition of human trafficking has been criticised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, (2008), for its lack of clarity in the meaning of terms, definitions and the uncertainty as to what measures actually work or do not. They found that it caused confusion and problems with its implementation on a global basis. The United Nations workshop (2008), on quantifying human trafficking, its impact and the responses to it, found that the legal definition of terms varies greatly between countries' anti-trafficking laws, and there was also a lack of cohesion in the description of criminal offences in some countries. It also noted that some offences associated with human trafficking were covered by existing legislation and that this resulted in inaccuracies in the statistical information being collected. This in turn causes difficulties for researchers trying to quantify human trafficking or its impact. In 2005, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees highlighted the difficulties in establishing an accurate measure that would indicate the level of human trafficking in the European area. The Commission found that there was no reliable or conclusive statistics on trafficking in the European region. Any of the data that is available does not take into account key indicators such as age, gender, number of victims, or country of origin. They reported that this lack of information makes it extremely difficult to raise awareness and effectively deal with the protection of, and assistance for victims. The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, (2008), reported that the main problem in compiling comparable criminal justice data was the lack of any standardisation between countries. They found the different legal traditions and institutional settings in the various countries' criminal justice systems made compiling comparable information very difficult.

The U.S. State Department Trafficking in Person Report (2009) recognises the necessity for proactive identification of victims and highlighted the fact that victims should not be expected to identify themselves. This book provides a solution to the U.S. State Department request for a proactive identification system as it provides frontline responders with the information, knowledge and means of identifying and assisting such victims.

Conclusion

This chapter has provided an understanding of what human trafficking is, the process that victims go through, the United Nations Protocol's definition of human trafficking and the estimated global size of this humanitarian problem. It has highlighted the difficulties in quantifying the actual size of this global problem. Following the introduction into human trafficking, the next chapter provides victim's accounts of being trafficked into Bosnia for sexual exploitation and provide a brief sample of their exploitation and the suffering they endured on a daily basis. While it may be hard to read, it is intended to provide a brief insight into the life of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation and poses the question; what possible reason could exist to explain why victims, who suffer such abuse, will not accept assistance when it is offered. The search for the answer to this question resulted in the research for this book.