

# **The Global Reality of Human Trafficking**

Clare Nolan  
Aug 5 9:30 - 12

Daughters of Charity  
August 5-10  
St Johns University

## The Global Reality of Human Trafficking, Part I

The Global Reality of Human Trafficking

The US presence of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Social Justice Committee (DCJC)  
is an act of Missionary Charity



*We promote social justice as central to all  
Daughter of Charity ministry.*

*We move together with persons  
who are poor and marginalized  
from reflection to advocacy for systemic change.*

**A presentation by Clare Nolan**  
Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
August 5, 2013

### Introduction

Good morning and thank you for having me... I'm quite honored to be opening your session here.

I understand that your days will include not only presentations of information but reflection time and focus toward action, perhaps corporate/communal action and commitment..

Which is great because you don't really need to come together for information – there is so much out there...

But you do need to come together or define your own reality, share how this reality of trafficking settles in your soul and discern what movement the Spirit is calling you to.

I hope that I can support you with all of that....

I have been working on the issue of trafficking – in policy and advocacy - since the mid-1990s. At that time it was difficult to find information about trafficking... I remember a National Geographic article was one of the first public items I could find... later George Bush spoke about Trafficking at the UN and it even started to become trendy....

and while now information has swelled to the point where one can barely keep track of it, and political rhetoric and initiatives abound, as do websites and statistics....

So too, I can sadly report has the phenomena of trafficking continued to increase, despite all the attention and good will.

I hope to present a context that will help you understand this phenomena and make decisions about where and in what way you might take actions that will counteract not only trafficking but the great social maladies of our day with which it is entwined.

I hope to challenge you to not simply become more aware of trafficking but to actually be able to experience how trafficking interacts as a part of your own daily life - because I think it calls for transformation from within and from without - transformation of oneself and one's society to be able to further the coming of what Jesus has referred to as the reign of God – perhaps it is nearer to us than we think... perhaps we have a role in bringing it forth upon our beloved earth. Surely trafficking in human persons is a gross affront to any notion of sacred human dignity.

So this morning I will present an overview of the global reality of, not so much in statistics and facts and figures or laws but more in social interdependencies of what we call globalization. I will give you some time and tasks toward your own reflection and sharing and I will close with some current global trends or initiatives that are going on right now.

So, before I begin... I would like to invite you to have a short chat with your neighbor, just where you are sitting.. .

Ask your companion why she came today?

Ask her what her understanding of trafficking is...

ask her what her hope is incoming to these days...

[give 5-10 minutes...]

I hope you will continue this kind of conversation during your breaks and mealtime and you're sharing will echo in your personal reflection /theological reflection time...

But now I'm going to take my turn to share with you my best understanding of trafficking

*What I want to do is give you a broad overview towards an understanding that trafficking does not stand alone. It stands within our global culture and is part and parcel of this world we are shaping in so many ways day by day.*

*I say this because as you consider moving toward action these days, I posit that trafficking is not something that can be fought, beaten back or simply eradicated like pulling a sliver out of one's finger.....*

*It is not something where, if we do away with one culprit or a couple bad guys, it will go away –*

*The fact is it is becoming embedded in our global culture - we are all the culprits... we are all implicated. It is happening on our watch, in our world.*

*It is something that will end only as we transform our world into a world of justice - using, yes, legal actions, social actions, forming public policies and advocacy - and we all have responsibility to take part - both actively as well as in our more passive habits of consumerism, and social live-and-let- live liberalism..*

*In addition,*

*Trafficking is something that will end only as we engage in creative transformation – of an activist kind and of a contemplative kind ... a kind of revolution....*

*Hmmmmmm Well, you may say I'm a dreamer..... But I'm not the only one....*

*As you listen to the themes presented (and I know you will have a lot of great input in these days ahead) and participate these days, ask yourself: where do you live?*

*Ask yourself where does trafficking live in the neighborhood of your life –.....*

*that is, where you will likely discover the creative transformative action that may ask you to leap into the unknown or take a lonely stand or do something you are unsure of.....*

*I urge you to not so much take notes on information,*

*take notes on inner yearnings, take notes on inner aches, inner hungers as we go forward... so that you can tend to these kind of impulses and strivings within yourself...*

*International Human Trafficking is a crisis that shames us all. In many ways the world is waking up to the reality of a modern form of slavery in our midst. Let us wake up and see it in its entirety, even as it grows around us like a cancerous disease.*

## So, the Social Context of Trafficking



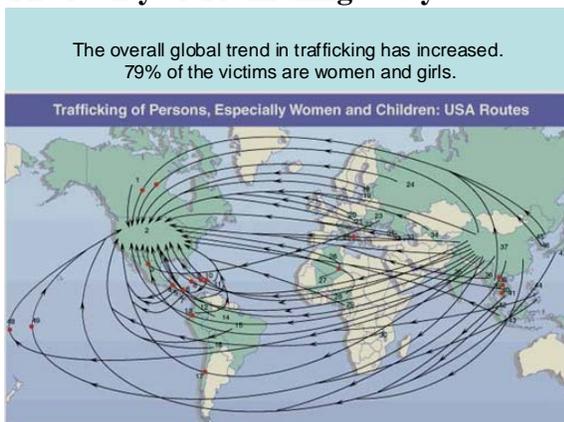
While US TIP office calls Trafficking, 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost, a crime - I prefer to emphasize the social nature of trafficking. Most of us aren't criminal lawyers nor do we deal closely within criminal justice systems. We tend to be educators, social workers, JP people, outreach persons... We all live in the social reality that we call globalization; we are all familiar with social realities such as status of women within family and within society; we are familiar with economic disparities around us. In other words we are all familiar with social injustice. This is the reality I

will emphasize.

As this crime of trafficking keeps growing so our social reality is more and more embedded in what we refer to as globalization - *the trajectory since 1990 s ....*

I will start with just a few facts and figures to create the framework in our mind.

## The reality of Trafficking today



The just published USA TIP report tells us that social scientists estimate that as many as 27 million men, women, and children are trafficking victims at any given time. (540 baseball stadiums) Now, with that, only around 40,000 victims have been identified in the last year (less than one baseball stadium).

Here are some social realities about the crime of trafficking:

Most take from the 2012 Global Report on Trafficking by UN or US TIP report 2013 –

(and this will be the most statistics you are likely to get from me...)

Women and girls account for about 75 % of persons who have been trafficked.

Ask yourself what this means.

Children are at least 27 % of those who have been trafficked.

Traffickers tend to be (though not exclusively are) adult males.

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation accounts for 58 per cent of all trafficking cases detected globally, while trafficking for forced labor accounts for 36 per cent. Ask yourself what this means.

*And I focus heavily the aspect of trafficking for sexual exploitation due to the mission of my own congregation.. but all I say applies to trafficking for labor .. and those trafficked for labor are surely sexually exploited as well.*

Trends on trafficking for sexual exploitation or for labor exploitation vary according to regional global realities. East Europe/ Central Asia see more trafficking for sexual exploitation; Trafficking for labor is the starting place for trafficking in Africa and South & East Asia...

Almost 20% of 132 countries covered in the most recent global trafficking report do not record a single conviction in the 3 year period between 2007 – 2010...

Ask yourself what this means.

Well, that is enough from me statistics... on to what is trafficking..

Stop for questions along the road...

## **VaW**

Violence against women is one of the most widespread violations of human rights.



In one way it is simple: T. is simply the most recent and most egregious form of a cultural phenomenon that has existed for centuries.... That is: VaW - Gender violence. – Chinese foot binding of girls and women, widow burning in India, honor killing in Pakistan, Female genital cutting across Africa, girl infanticide in China, spousal violence in all societies, purchase of a woman for marriage, and date rape/date assault among contemporary teens. The UN calls it an “intolerable scourge.” Surveys on violence against women conducted in at least 71 countries show that a significant proportion of women

suffer physical, sexual or psychological violence. - one in three women will suffer some form of violence in her lifetime. (UNIFEM website, 2009)

A few years ago the New York Times columnist Bob Herbert described the situation of women in US society, a society with more protections than many. He said: “We have become so accustomed to living in a society saturated with misogyny that the barbaric treatment of women and girls has come to be more or less expected.” (*not only accepted.. expected*) He goes on to describe many forms of violence specifically directed to women in this society: “A girl or

woman somewhere in the U.S. is sexually assaulted every couple of minutes or so. The number of seriously battered wives and girlfriends is far beyond the ability of any agency to count. There were so many sexual attacks against women in the armed forces that the Defense Department had to revise its entire approach to the problem.” And he concludes, “we should take particular notice of the staggering amounts of violence brought down on the nation’s women and girls each and every day for no other reason than who they are. They are attacked because they are female.” This is the position of women in society and this social reality feeds the phenomena of trafficking.

You are undoubtedly aware that at the 2013 graduation ceremonies of National US Naval academy, Pres Obama referred the reality of high incidences of rape and gender violence in the military. It was likewise referenced at the West Point graduation. In fact 26,000 sexual assaults were reported last year in the US military. These persons were attacked because they are female. This, within core American institutions.

You surely have watched last year the heroism of 11 year old Malalal, attacked in Pakistan because she is a girl – gender compounded by a desire for education.

You can read it in novels such as A thousand Splendid Suns; you can see it on TV in weekly shows L&O SVU. Persons are attacked because they are female

The 1993 United Nations Declaration on the elimination of violence against women provides a very broad and inclusive framework for studying violence against women. According to this definition,

"Violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.. (General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, Article 1)

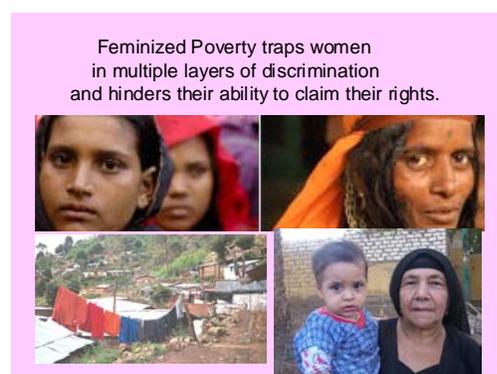
When such violence is pandemic, Trafficking in person is not much of a stretch. “Women and girls account for about 75 % of persons who have been trafficked.”

What does this mean to you? What does this mean to you as a woman? Or as a man?

But trafficking is not only VaW –

Trafficking is also poverty, specifically the feminization of poverty

## **Feminized Poverty**



And so... a word specifically about women and poverty.

As stated in the UN women website:

Women lag far behind men in access to land, credit and decent jobs... multiple barriers prevent women from seizing economic opportunities.

As stated in the report *Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice* (2011)  
*In many countries of the world there are laws that discriminate against women, in relation to property, the family, employment and citizenship. Too often, justice institutions, including the police and the courts, deny women justice. The rule of law still rules women out in every region...*

We live in a reality that, in our global economy, wherever there are populations of persons living in extreme poverty, at least 70% of those populations tend to be women [and children] (the actual percentage varying by geographic region). This describes a phenomenon referred to internationally as THE FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY. When situations of poverty increase – and they have increased greatly across the globe in recent decades despite the great wealth generated around us – it is women who are increasingly in the poverty population. ["Poverty is violence", Ethiopia GS, re girls] and as extreme wealth and extreme poverty grow, so does the trafficking of women.

The former UN Fund for Women in Development has reported: *Feminized Poverty traps women in multiple layers of discrimination and hinders their ability to claim their rights. Not only do women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty, but... globalization has widened the gap, with women losing more than their share of jobs, benefits and labor rights... and on and on. From tax systems to trade regimes, however, economic policies and institutions still mostly fail to take gender disparities into account. With too few seats at the tables where economic decisions are made, women themselves have little chance of rectifying the deepening of existing inequalities.*

Now topics of “globalization,” “tax systems,” and trade regimes get to be very technical – not as trendy as talk about trafficking. But feminized poverty is not at all technical for those who live it.... it is as tedious as dirty drinking water and as deadening as the inability to read, as monotonous as being a live-in maid w/ no day off nor any social outlet. (*she doesn't need...*) Feminized poverty is intensely clear in daily lives characterized by lack of health care, lack of food for themselves and their children, and, sadly, watching children wane unto death. And sometimes this poverty is as startling as accepting money for their bodies so their children can eat. And sometimes it is desperate enough to allow their children to go off with strangers who promise unlikely jobs in the hotel or entertainment industry in a far off city.

I remember a female gynecologist who knew the desperate de-humanization of women in EU after the fall of the Berlin wall and rise of capitalistic economy – she said in a UN forum: We need prostitution it is the only option for women mired in such poverty... But - Why prostitution? Why not ensuring women's economic empowerment, access to and control over economic resources such as financial services, land ownership. Micro lending, employment and social protection ? Why are women the world over denied these? Economic empowerment is such a stretch of reality for so many that they settle for prostitution as an economic solution. And then ask, why are women trafficked?

I will speak more on the economic system in a few minutes...

## Demand for Prostituted Sex

Trafficking is the demand for prostituted sex.



But since I have mentioned the social acceptance and tolerance of the prostitution of women, I will say clearly and unambiguously. Trafficking is about men who demand to purchase sex as a consumer commodity.

Does prostitution live anywhere in your neighborhood? How are young men initiated into sex? Who attends stag parties, etc ... Who laughs and chuckles at jokes about prostitutes? Who listens to the rap lyrics that glorify pimps? Anybody you know? Anybody you have talked to

about it?

I saw youth present a drama at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children several year ago and I still remember what they presented... a scenario about trafficking. It was really a scenario about prostitution....

You can guess the stage set-up - there was the woman, mired in poverty & shame selling her body... There was the flashy-car pimp showing off his wares... There was the sleazy criminal connected with a syndicate pulling strings from behind.....

And then – enter the stage.... A well dressed business man... looking very much like all the men in the audience... being of the same social class as all the persons in the audience..... looking just like me and you.... He was the purchaser - he was the demand for prostituted sex that fuels trafficking for sexual exploitation. He is the least attended to person in scenario... because he is just like me and you? Just like our brothers, fathers, neighbors, butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers? Because we don't want to see him? Because we don't talk about these things in polite company? Because we tolerate it as a cliché "the oldest profession;" or we glamorize it like a movie "Pretty Woman" and we ignore that it happens in our own circles of life. Where do we live?

Does the objectification of female bodies as a commodity or as an advertising strategy exist in your circles? Are you familiar with Calvin Kline or Victoria's Secret or the latest sex appeal in toothpaste or soft drink fad? Is this our neighborhood? Do we have any responsibility?

As long as such DEMAND exists (especially in a capitalistic economy) all the international crime conventions, all the good national and state laws, all the public horror will not make a dent in trafficking.

In a 2012 study by DePaul U, Interviewers concluded,  
*"When we look at the sex trade industry from the viewpoint of pimps and madams, we see a landscape of unfettered demand and an industry, although illegal, supported by a large cast of characters, including some law enforcement officers, hotel and convention personnel, bartenders, and cab drivers."*

Research published in 2005 found that the numbers of men who pay for sex had doubled in a decade.

In a study released in 2009 *Men Who Buy Sex A new study by Melissa Farley, Julie Bindel, and Jacqueline Golding* we read

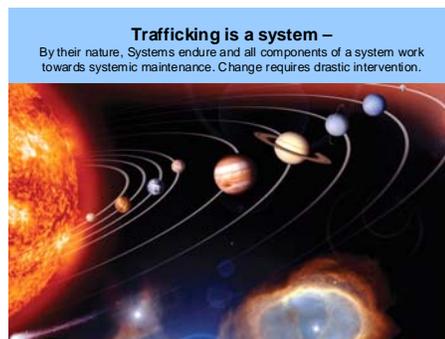
- that many believed men would "need" to rape if they could not pay for sex on demand.
- In the UK, almost half said that they first paid for sex when they were below the age of 21. "Dad took me and my older brother," said David. "He paid. Maybe he wanted to make sure we weren't gay. We went to a brothel. Dad didn't do it, and I don't think he told my mum."
- Although some of the men said they thought the women they bought enjoyed the sex, many others admitted that they thought the women would be feeling "disgusted", "miserable", "dirty" and "scared". One said he thought the woman might feel "relief that I'm not going to kill her".

Well.... circle around to our comments on violence against women and tie that in with demand for prostituted sex.... You see trafficking is not just trafficking.... It is part and parcel of our society.

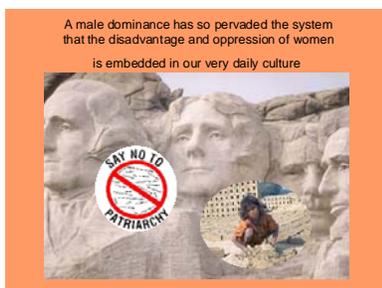
## Patriarchy



Along with links to particular topics (and we could add migration, consumer society, racism, and others, if we had all day... ) I also want to focus briefly on a couple of systemic issues that I believe underpin this phenomena of trafficking.



It is important to note the systemic links because systems tend to be enduring structures and we talk about transformation, they make the job really difficult and complicated. We have to be ready to dismantle whole systems, not simply “eradicate trafficking.”



First, following having touched on DEMAND, I want to say that demand is not just demand...

The thousands and millions of men who demand a pool of women to be available for prostituted sex are part of a system in which we all live. That system is called Patriarchy, or male dominance...

We have a historic and global culture that rests on patriarchy... A male dominance has so pervaded the system that the disadvantage and oppression of women is embedded in our very daily culture - we all, in Western society and in Oriental cultures, tend to be complicit in and we all tend to benefit in certain ways from this system; but it is a dysfunctional system that we support. So dysfunctional that most men who abuse or violate women face no social or legal consequences! We have constant reports of vans of women, constrained into sexual slavery, taken across borders in Asia and within hours, the women who entered the foreign country have been incarcerated and the men have been let to return to their country of origin, re-organizing another group of women to bring across the border to be sold and exploited.

It comes very close to home in our own church in recent decades in the far-too-slow recognition of sexual exploitation/abuse of children by clergy – Clergy is one of *the* most privileged of male groups in a patriarchy – We have seen it across the US, and also throughout church structures in Africa..... I heard an Asian Christian comment just weeks ago, as I was in her country..., referring to the unmasking of clergy abuse, “when it hits here, its’ going to be really bad...” implying it exist everywhere and the more hidden, the deeper the roots..

*these are not simple incidents of individual gross abuse or pathology, they are the results of a system gone awry...* As Maureen Dowd, NY Times columnist wrote on March 28, 2001, “.. the completely paternalistic and autocratic culture of Il Papa [Church] led to an insular, exclusionary system that failed to police itself, and that became a corrosive shelter for secrets and shame” I posit that in some ways, our whole society rests on a system that becomes a corrosive shelter for male acts of violence against women.

Where does the patriarchal system live next door to you?

When do you enter the home of patriarchy and bolster it?

Are you silently complicit? Do you resist? What kind of neighbor to patriarchy are you?

Do you do actions to support the dismantling and re-balancing of this power system?

## Economic system

*No Spiritual Person can be a silent supporter of our economic system, which excludes the Poor*



And, it is impossible for me to touch on patriarchy without also bringing forth our current economic system, that system which generates the aforementioned feminization of poverty...

In fact the reality of feminized poverty is simply one aspect of a large system that we call the economic system... In the main we live in a global neo-liberal capitalistic enterprise from which we in the Western wealthy economies benefit, the 2008 economic crisis notwithstanding...

Not only do we reap benefits, but in the US and Westernized economies we stand at the generating center of this current economic system. This system spawns extreme consumerism, extreme amassment of wealth, and extreme individuality in relation to economy - extreme exclusion of those who do not amass wealth. We must

recognize the conflicts in the place where we stand and evaluate our own position. (*refer to unknowing/powerless mother re family*)

As the manual for justice promoters for international religious congregations it says: (adapted) ***“No Spiritual Person can be a silent supporter of a system which excludes the poor and still claim to care for the poor... We need to realize today that to favor the poor and to eradicate poverty means necessarily also standing against an economic system that continues to create more and more victims.”*** Manual JP Promoters, USIG, Rome

Well, for me, as I suspect for all persons of good will and social sensibility, this call to stand against / to resist somehow /our current economic systems calls for some very active and creative thinking that may span personal behaviors that range from the shopping mall to the voting booth.

But if we sit idly by, do nothing to mitigate the system as it is, we are complicit. And we are in fact, supporting the systems that shape what we have come to know as the scourge of modern day slavery... Trafficking in human persons. What neighborhood do we live in economically speaking?

On a political note about the economy I would like to mention how duplicitous action can be. How it requires critique and analysis.

I was working as NGO rep for my congregation when George Bush came to the UN (twice) and spoke eloquently against trafficking... His speech was good; we were pleased. But then I recall very clearly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion, the day after speaking so eloquently at the UN, he left for a trip to Argentina to sign and conclude some free trade agreements. Those economic pacts, which held no worker protections, no union access, no fair wage clauses... Surely did more to increase trafficking than his high-talk speech in the halls of the UN did to deter trafficking. And it is our responsibility as educated citizens to critique and analyze such things... to connect the systemic dots... to put such things in the public sphere... to place free trade next to trafficking and see who lives in which neighborhood.....

For myself... I've never heard such a thing preached from any pulpit I sat in front of. Will we preach it and make the connections and ask for citizen responsibility?

For Christian responsibility? Where do we live? What are the demands of our discipleship?

Well, here is a note about the economy of trafficking: (*these are from a few years ago*)

In Asia a girl, as young as 6, can be bought for US\$300 – equivalent to a year's income for her family. A virgin (as young as 6) can be marketed in Asian cities for US\$ 3,000 to 5,000. Traffickers receive up to US\$20,000 for an Asian girls sold in the States. I do not know the price that a purchaser pays per encounter with an Asian girl when the girl is in the US.

So -

Economy - But not only the economic system, but the system - political and social- of male dominance - patriarchy.

How does one invite the reign of Justice the reign of God, into that place?

How is good news proclaimed for those in conditions of poverty... for those vulnerable to being trafficked?

When will our Good News be for those alienated and marginalized by dominant powers, be they be patriarchal, economic or political, social - powers that tolerate the dehumanization of "one of the least"... ..

Where do we live in all of this in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium, in a world of globalization, a world that challenges our beliefs and our traditions, a world that challenges the very words of Jesus and the life of a resurrected Spirit...

So, I hope you see the point I am making....

You can fill in many blanks left within this presentation... areas we have not spoken of ... migration, family desperation, you can, I hope, make connections to your own life so that trafficking is not something "out there" to eradicate .. but something very close to the life and lives I am seeking to transform.

One final point I would like to make,



one that I have learned, is that every person who is victimized through trafficking began that nightmarish journey with a vision of hope...  
a little money to feed my child...  
something earned in the big city to bring back to my aging parents who cant manage the farm...  
a new life in a new country where there will be opportunity...  
just for a little while I am willing to suffer this for a longer range benefit...

Can we live in such a neighborhood of hope?

Can we live in solidarity with the person who has been trafficked?

Can we believe in something better?

Can we take risks to lose everything for a chance at full life?

I find that I enter into the reality of the trafficked person from a very simply memory – a story – from my own life...

Being lost ...

I'll tell you a story....

The point is the at the circumstances of the person who has been trafficked is not different than any human story of someone who has been lost in anyway whatsoever...

Surely you have been lost in your life.....

Surely you relied on someone to find you...

If we begin in any way at all today – let us begin this way:

To know that I am that trafficked person. I am no different.  
my heart and soul and his or her heart and soul are the same..

This is where an effective response begins.....

And I hope you search it out and - personally and communally - so that as these days progress  
you have an open heart from which answers and action and life of the Spirit will emerge.. .

Questions then...

Break or vice-versa

Instructions and timing for discussion

Reflect on this morning's input by

If time.. tell story of train..... how I missed the opportune to go into her neighborhood...

I realize how difficult it is to leave our soft comfortable neighborhood and really enter the world  
of hope this other women might have.....

Reflect quietly together about this mornings input...

-Some may want to briefly share their story of being lost....

Connect with their presence/ their desire at this conference.

-Some may want to explore their own relationship with any of the themes raised ...

Trafficking in relation to Violence vs. Women, Feminization of Poverty, Demand  
for prostituted sex, Systems of Patriarchy and Economy...

Use the time as best for your group we will come back together and have open discussion for the  
mutual enrichment of all.

## The Global Reality of Human Trafficking, Part II

### Some Signs of today...

There are some things happening in the area of trafficking...

I would like to give a very general and impressionistic overview... – I'm sure in the days ahead some of these aspects will be mentioned again and you will have opportunity to go into some in greater details...

But now, just for a common background as you begin your work.....

The first and most significant event for global trafficking is The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Most of us just call it THE PROTOCOL or, the Palermo Protocol, referring to the city where it was signed..



It is a protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and entered into force in 2003. It has an agreed definition on trafficking in persons and is the first global legally binding instrument. The globally recognized definition facilitates convergence in national approaches toward support of international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases. An additional objective of the Protocol is to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights.

5 years after coming into force, there were 155 countries or territories reporting to the UN and 63% of those had passed laws against trafficking in persons. This trend continues... demonstrating the importance of the Protocol as a foundational authority and standard for global implementation. Still, while laws have been passed, it also continues true that - Prosecution - convictions - is increasing, but not at all proportionately to the growing awareness (and probably, size) of the problem.

Along with legal tools and prosecution, I want to highlight one area of the Protocol that has also proved of great importance -

That is: the definition of trafficking, which NGOs such as the CATW worked long and hard on... I'll try to explain this non-legally –

The definition that comes out of the Protocol ensures that the crime of trafficking is dependent upon the violation committed by the perpetrator. The crime is not dependent upon the state of mind of the victim... e.g. voluntarily... That may not sound obvious and not so important but it will surely come up as you become more engaged in the area of trafficking. So just keep it in the back of your mind. It is an important factor in policy formation and there is great international debate that continues on the issue.

The fact is, based on this definition, analysis by many countries is resulting in laws changing.



Many anti-trafficking persons believe that prostitution is just a fine occupation for women... whereas many of us in the area of anti-trafficking work to have the prostitution of women defined as a form of violence against women... so it is very important in international policy and advocacy fields. Because progress in this is slow but there are more and more countries following Sweden's model of criminalizing purchasers of prostitution.

The Nordic model of legislation, begun in Sweden more than 10 years ago decriminalizes women who are prostituted and places the criminal onus and penalties on the purchaser of sex. The law, as the Protocol, also calls for supportive social services to women around job skills and employment opportunities. Other countries are now studying the Nordic models and their effect on gender relations as a step to change their own laws.

In a country like Syria, where a Syrian Sister of the Good Shepherd has worked with the government for the past several years, (prior to the current chaos) a law was enacted about 3-4 ago - it will be the first law of its kind in the Middle East. Already, trafficked women have been repatriated to country of origin and have ceased to be jailed and criminalized – they are beginning to be recognized as victims, eligible for a variety of services... As an aside, I will say that I am proud to note that that sister, Marie Claude Naddaf was in Wash DC in 2010 and received the Int Woman of Courage award from and Hilary Clinton. Michelle Obama, with 9 other women from across the globe.



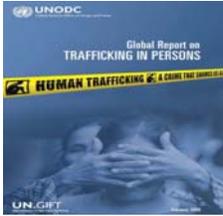
In the trends we now see, one area of greater acceptance, at least in theory, is the insertion of the DEMAND issue in the dialogue on trafficking. At first, everything was victim centered... but now, be it for exploitative labor or exploitative sex, it is generally recognized, within our economic system that to counter trafficking requires attention to the demand side of that.

UNANIMA has had a campaign..... I was involved in the beginning some years ago ... not sure how it is going..



And studies, domestic and international, have been and are being done by groups such as the Prostitution Research Project and De Paul U (2010)

Still, there is greater emphasis on trafficking as a crime, which it surely is, and less emphasis on T as a social issues – the social component tends to recede... men and politicians don't like to talk about the social aspects of it.. no wonder when the Ecuadorian and Albanian trafficked women I spoke to on the streets of Brussels some years ago said very plainly – “business booms when the EU Parliament is in session!”



Information gathering on all aspects of trafficking is now extensive. There is a great deal of tracking and information gathering, desegregated by regions, country etc - trafficking does have the Global attention. The US TIP report is a credible leader in this area.

I think Germaine has a list of websites for you ..... they can be overwhelming... you first have to know what you want to do with the information ... then go exploring – lest the information overwhelm you and you end up doing nothing.



A very good trend happening is that now there is a maturing regard for who the victim is - focus is centered on the person victimized by trafficking as a person first, not simply a victim. Holistic treatment, rights based services, and an approach centered on empowerment is very prevalent.



Likewise, those who work on policy and advocacy levels are working very hard to ensure the inclusion of the voice of those who have been trafficked in any debates or public fora... no longer a mere labeled victim or survivor.. but a person with a life history and life possibilities who can contribute to our knowledge and direction.



In terms of service delivery, I want to briefly mention Trauma healing.... There is a growing body of knowledge and training in trauma healing in the social services field... much of it has been provoked by both the 9-11 type trauma as well as the PTS syndrome of returning soldiers from the kind of warfare they are now engaged in. I think it is very apt that those who have suffered trafficking are viewed as having suffered similar trauma and should be able to access the special expertise of this field...

An under-attended to aspect of trafficking services, at least in USA, surely in our NY area is housing. Good & safe shelter is difficult to come by. Religious groups have begun to respond to this – one house in Philly, one in NYC.... Religious groups have responded to the need for safe housing through LifeWay Net in NYC & through Dawns House in Philadelphia

Other than I do not know of... Public funding does not generally respond to housing needs.



A survey done by Hofstra U in 2011 indicates that a larger number of survivors would benefit most from long-term housing (87.2%) but also benefit even from transitional housing (74.5%) or emergency housing (64.9%). A 2008 Report by the New York State Interagency Task

Force on Human Trafficking emphasize that because “human trafficking victims can be vulnerable to re-victimization; they require safe housing that protects their person,

confidentiality, and privacy” (O’Donnell and Hansell 2008:19; also see FCDV 2004; Coonan 2007). Unfortunately, housing of any type is often unavailable.

In the general area of legislation , many states in USA are increasing anti-trafficking legislation to include provisions like the NY State Safe Harbor act with directs underage person in prostitution to be regarded and thus legally treated as victims, not criminals which has been the historic norm; this rightly places victims of prostitution within the realm of trafficking. I leave it to you to seek out the up to date information on your own state or country



The Corporate world is coming into focus as well. The Us TIP report says Businesses are increasingly aware of the role they can play in prevention efforts by decreasing the demand for products made by modern slaves. This is usually seen through “fair trade” schemes or labor codes of conduct, which seek to voluntarily regulate the social and environmental impacts of the production of certain goods. They reflect consumers’ growing awareness of the risk of labor exploitation and their willingness to factor ethical questions into their purchasing habits, despite paying a price premium for doing so. Religious who are involved with corporate shareholders power have had an influence in this area.. and many religious groups are involved in income generation projects in the Global south ..  
BUT...



Several instances highlighted by the media over the last year brought to light some corporate buyers who in the past advertised their fair trade credentials loudly but were found to have not made a strong effort to know their supply chains and monitor them regularly to ensure they were free of forced labor. Whether they are products from Africa and Latin America or clothes made with cotton in West Africa or Central Asia, companies must be responsible for the full length of their extended supply chains.

So, A lot is going on.. it can be difficult to keep up with it all, which is why coming together for sustained attention over these days should be most helpful...

But really in terms of what is happening, what are the trends....  
The real questions in not what are *they* doing.. but

What will you do?



Will you stand against patriarchy by simple but tedious actions such as insisting on complete gender neutral language in public worship in your church?

Will you discuss demand and male sexuality and use of prostitution with the men in your lives? Talk to them about pornography?

Will you resist the ever expanding monolithic capitalistic system in favor of a system that will spread economic benefits more evenly to all? Even if it means your personal income drops a bit?  
How will you do it?

Will you get involved politically?

Will you make sure magazines offensive to women human rights are not sold in the corner stores of your township or county?

Will you join or initiate a campaign to get escort ads out of your mainstream newspapers?

Will you join a network

Will you volunteer with Lifeway Network or .. or... or.....

Buzz together about some ideas of what you are prompted to do..

Gauge the time.. see what needs – hear from them,..

[if time.. etc....

So, I would be most happy to hear from you.....

More images..... ???