

Child Sexual Exploitation Through the Act of
Child Trafficking

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Table of Contents

Preface	pg. 03 – 04
Summary of Research Method	pg. 05 – 06
Definition and Significance	pg. 07 – 09
Background	pg. 10 – 15
Expert	pg. 16 – 21
Role of Control	pg. 22 – 25
Logic of Evil	pg. 26 – 28
Political Influences	pg. 29 – 32
Religious Influences	pg. 33 – 39
Media Influences	pg. 40 – 44
Case Studies	
Brazil	pg. 45 – 50
Russia	pg. 51 – 59
India	pg. 60 – 66
Role of International Organizations	pg. 67 – 73
Canadian Connections	pg. 74 – 83
Solutions	pg. 84 – 89
Appendix	pg. 90 – 101
Bibliography	pg. 102 – 104

Preface

Recipe for Child Trafficking: Take one desperate child, ripe for exploiting. Remove their opportunities. Soak them in poverty for a lifetime. Throw in a fistful of organized crime. Mix them up. Throw them out. And there you have it: one child, pummeled, panicked. One child freshly trafficked.¹

Welcome to modern day slavery. Child. Sexual. Exploitation. The secret and ever evolving world of selling children like commodities. The issue is often left in the dark; it is uncomfortable to discuss and its presence in the 21st century is horrifying. In the time it has taken to read the report this far, as many as three children have been trafficked – for sex.² This criminal act steals the innocence of its victims and thrusts these children into a world of pain, suffering and pure fear. Children do not have the capability to fend for themselves and this vulnerability is the meat the predators prey upon.

The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that has been ratified by 98% of the countries of the world; therefore, the vast majority of global citizens recognize the human rights of a child. Article 35 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that no one is allowed to kidnap or sell a child. However, the trafficking of children is the fastest-growing crime in the world. Child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is in direct violation of these rights, and strips the fundamental principles of childhood growth and development.

The act of child sexual exploitation is a non-discriminatory atrocity. The criminals and victims embody every economic, ethnic and social class. Daughters, brothers, cousins, and friends are all at risk of falling into the hands of husbands, aunts, colleagues, and neighbours. The child next door could be taken at any moment. Childhood health, security, and happiness are bartered on the streets night after night. Freedom is not an option. The overwhelming physical,

¹ Chalke, Steve, and Cherie Blair. *Stop the Traffik: people shouldn't be bought & sold*. Oxford, England: Lion, 2009. Print.

² Chalke, Steve, and Cherie Blair. *Stop the Traffik: people shouldn't be bought & sold*. Oxford, England: Lion, 2009. Print.

emotional, and mental destruction of these children will leave them with less than seven years to live from the point of trafficking, if they are not rescued. Even if a captured child is able to escape the life of enslavement, their futures are desolate. Forced into a life of exploitation, children are unable to attain adequate health care or an education. Exploitation is all they know. Health complications, including HIV and AIDS are isolating and fatal diseases that arise due to constant sexual abuse. These sexually transmitted infections are currently incurable, and will be carried by the child victims for the duration of their lives.³ Finding and maintaining employment in adulthood is extremely difficult without a formal education. Even if freedom from the trafficker is achieved, child victims involved in sexual exploitation often become involved in prostitution as adults, due to the inability to attain a means of income. Thus, the cycle of abuse is continued. Education and health care are of the basic human rights of a child, and trafficking strips these rights away.

The sexual exploitation of children is not a crime isolated by the lines on a map, its presence seeps into every region of the world. Children are often stolen from their home and smuggled across borders in the pursuit of the highest bidder. In a new and foreign place, the vulnerability of the child is only escalated, as they may not know the language, cannot call for help, and have nowhere to run. The sexual exploitation of children is an illegal, global issue that must come to an end. The chain of trafficking must be broken ... it should not hurt to be a child.

³ Avert. "Is There a Cure for HIV and AIDS?" *AVERTing HIV and Aids*. N.p., 10 Mar. 2017. Web. 12 May 2017.

Summary of Research Methods

The issue presented in the following comprehensive report is a culmination of large sums of information, which was acquired and integrated to provide a detailed summary on the topic of child sexual exploitation through child trafficking. Background information was gathered using a computer. The internet played a substantial role in the collection of information. Informative news articles, scholarly reports, websites, films, documentaries, online novels, and information from international organizations were discovered and utilized through the internet. The use of technological research was quintessential to the development of this report, through allowing new and current information to be quickly and easily attained from a diversity of sources all over the world. Electronic communication, via email, was also a pivotal aid in the arrangement of an interview with an expert on the subject matter.

To ensure a well-founded report, many other research methods were implemented such as non-fiction novels attained through public library services. The non-fiction novels that aided in the creation of the report include: *Stop the Traffik* written by Steve Chalke and Cherie Blair, *Human Trafficking: Protect Me I Am a Child* edited by Christina Fisanick, *Girls Like Us* written by Rachel Lloyd, *Human Trafficking* written by Kathryn Cullen-Dupont, *Slavery INC. The Untold Story of International Sex Trafficking* written by Lydia Cacho, and *One Child at a Time: The Global Fight to Rescue Children from Online Predators* written by Julian Sher. The information gathered from these novels provided an in depth perspective on the global issue of child sexual exploitation, which aided in developing an understanding of the true complexity of this issue. The novels further incorporated non-fictional recounts of the abuse victims endured. These personal stories provided the ability to associate child victims to the statistics, and outlined the true intricacy of the global issue.

The majority of information presented in the report was collected from secondary sources. The exception is the primary information gathered through communications with an expert on the topic, who generously took the time to participate in an interview process. The main research method was to begin reviewing background information on a broad scale and then subsequently narrow the global issue down to the foundation of the problem. To ensure an organized and informative report was presented, the information collected for the creation of the

paper was retrieved from reputable sources. Footnotes have been utilized throughout the report to ensure all secondary sources receive proper accreditation.

The intention of the report is to provide insight, investigate, and understand the global issue of child sexual exploitation through the act of child trafficking, in order for sound conclusions and solutions to be derived. The sexual exploitation of children is an international crime that must be brought to the forefront of attention for governments, law enforcement officials, and the public.

Definition and Significance

There is an estimated 21-30 million people enslaved in the world today. Article 4 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be held in slavery.⁴ However, there are more people enslaved in the world today than there have been throughout the course of history. The modern term for the enslavement of humans, is known as human trafficking. The act of human trafficking is defined by the United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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.⁵

Human trafficking is estimated to illicit \$150.2 billion (US dollars) in illegal profits per year. Human trafficking has developed into the third largest criminal industry on an international scale – only after the trafficking of weapons and drugs. The industry of trafficking human beings is growing at unprecedented rates and may soon become the largest illegal enterprise in the world. The growth of this industry is attributed to the criminal belief that considers human trafficking a low risk, high profit crime. Unlike the trafficking of drugs and weapons, human traffickers are able to sell their “merchandise” over and over again, and new “commodities” are only needed periodically. Humans are also exceptionally easier to transport throughout nations and across borders lines. Human beings have become mere objects in the eyes of human traffickers.

Globally, two-thirds of the profits generated by the illegal trafficking of humans is derived through the forced sexual exploitation of the victims (refer to Figure A1), and approximately 80% of all human trafficking involves sexual exploitation (refer to Figure A2). Of all the individuals trafficked for the propose of sexual exploitation, 50% are children. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines a child as a person under the age of 18 years.

⁴ United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*. United Nations, 2016. Web. 05 Mar. 2017.

⁵ Fisanick, Christina, ed. *Greenhavens Press*. United States: Christine Nasso, 2010. Print. Current Controversies.

Whilst some countries recognize the age parameters of a child to be lower, under international law, official adulthood begins at the age of 18 years. Child sexual exploitation is the movement of children within a country, or across national borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of sexually exploiting the child for personal benefits, usually in the form of direct payments. Since a child is not fully developed, nor capable of making the best decisions for personal well-being, it is important to note that the movement of children, for the purpose of exploitation, is illegal whether or not the child gives consent. The trafficking of children for exploitation is characterized by the International Labour Organization as the worst form of child labour.⁶

Today, 8.5 – 12 million children from all regions of the world are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The vast majority of children who are trafficked and sexually taken advantage of are female (refer to Figure A3). However, the risk of young males falling into the hands of traffickers is still an imminent threat. The immediate and devastating consequences to the well-being of these child victims fall under the category of physical health. Once entrapped by the exploiter, children are physically and sexually abused. As a result, these abused children sustain severe injuries including broken bones, contusions, head and neck trauma, skin rashes, and the contraction of sexually transmitted infections. Other less immediate issues include: infections, respiratory complications, and immune system deficiencies, due to inadequate food, sleep, hygiene, and heating of containment area. Various physical conditions, such as gastrointestinal (stomach) and dermatological (skin) problems, are attributed to severe mental and psychological abuse, causing exceedingly high levels of anxiety and chronic stress.⁷

The trauma endured by child exploitation victims is extreme, but their suffering does not end even if the child is rescued from the trafficker. The traffickers not only steal a child's innocence, but also their future. The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London has provided clinical evidence on the mental state of children post

⁶ International Labour Organization (ILO). "Note on the definition of 'child trafficking'." *Towards the Elimination of the worst forms of Child Labour (TECL)*. N.p., 1 Mar. 2007. Web. 5 Mar. 2017.

⁷ Watts, Charlotte, Brad Adams, and Erin Nelson, eds. *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents*. Comp. Cathy Zimmerman and Katherine Yun. *Findings from a European Study*. London Metropolitan University, Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit, 2003. Web. 5 Mar. 2017.

trafficking. The institute has done extensive analysis on the mental health of children after enduring traumatic life events, and has expressed that children involved in sexual exploitation are highly susceptible to developing post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and/or schizophrenia. The mental health analysis of the institute further indicates large behavioral changes in a child's disposition towards life, noting that the personality of many children is altered, usually indefinitely. The trafficking of a child is comparable to that of murder, the child that once was is forever lost.

Children are the future. Children must be raised in a caring and supportive environment to ensure positive growth and development. Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children have the right to be free from sexual abuse and unlawful sexual practices.⁸ This fundamental right is not being upheld in the world today. Throughout the world, children are being sexually exploited for the almighty dollar. These children have been stolen, and are bought and sold like commodities. These problems will not solve themselves, and the solution begins with awareness. Sexual exploitation is a sensitive conversation topic and is often disregarded, as many people wrongly assume that child trafficking "does not happen here". This statement could not be any further from the truth, the sexual exploitation of children is a major problem facing humanity, and reaches every corner of the Earth.

⁸ United Nations. "Convention on the Rights of the Child." *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. N.p., 2017. Web. 05 Mar. 2017.

Background

Child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse constitute the manipulation of power to control a child as a sexual object. However, these are two distinct acts of sexual violence against children and require different elements of understanding and intervention methods. Child sexual abuse is the contact or interaction between a child and an older individual (adult or more knowledgeable child), with the intent of using the child as an object for the gratification of the abuser's needs. The abuser is often an individual the child knows or trusts. On the other hand, child sexual exploitation occurs when the child is not only an object, but a commodity. The child is used for sexual purposes in exchange for money, goods, or any other type of payment. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse, but the main difference is that a child involved in sexual exploitation is commercialized and more than one party benefits at the expense of the child.⁹

Child sexual exploitation is an international crime that has grown to become one of the most prominent illegal industries of the world. The practice of trafficking children for sexual exploitation knows no boundaries or borders, and reaches all areas of the world. The sexual exploitation of children is a largely hidden crime, and many victims are reluctant to report the crime due to a multitude of reasons including: fear, shame, and guilt.¹⁰ The sexual exploitation of children has been a prevalent aspect in human history since the development of civilization itself. However, it is important to note that the morals each civilization held greatly varied with the societal conventions of other periods throughout history. In this sense, children of past civilizations were being sexually exploited by today's social standards. However, during past eras, these acts were viewed as moral and often included as a part of the cultural practices of the civilization.

Prostitution is known as the oldest form of profession. The earliest recorded incarnation of a prostitute is based on rituals that date to the time of ancient Mesopotamia, in the city of

⁹ Naebklang, Manida. *Questions & Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Comp. Lucksavee Chantaratchada. 4th ed. N.p.: Saladaeng Printing Co.Ltd., 2008. *ECPAT International*. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 2008. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

¹⁰ The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. "Child Sexual Abuse." *Health Canada*. N.p., Feb. 1997. Web. 10 Mar. 2017.

Uruk. In 3000 BC, the ancient city of Uruk, which is today known as Iraq, was the largest urban center and region for trade. Uruk is believed to be one of the first cities in the world.¹¹ Scholars have discovered clay tablets depicting a young female Mesopotamian storm demon, who is believed to hold the power of the wind, and the wrath of illness and disease. The woman is known as the “Night Demon” or more commonly, Lilith, a high priestess of the Inanna-Temple. Lilith was depicted as seductive, and the people of Uruk believed that one of their gods, Inanna, had sent the “Night Demon” into the streets to manipulate and lead men astray with sexual temptation.¹²

The act of prostitution continued throughout the centuries to the time of ancient Greece, 800 BC, and was predominantly practiced by females – although many brothels housed young males. During this time, the societal role of various citizens was that of the temple prostitute, which was an important part of the ancient Greek temple life. A temple prostitute was a male or female who performed sexual service to the worshipers of the god or goddess of the temple. It is during this period that scholars have been able to estimate the age of the individuals involved in the practice. It is believed that children aged 14 or younger were sacrificed, by their parents, to the Greek gods and goddesses by serving as the temple prostitutes. In order to ceremoniously dedicate the bodies and lives of these children to the temple, they were to be brought to the temple as virgins.¹³ Ancient Greece is only one example of the child sexual exploitation that existed throughout the civilizations of history. Many girls and boys from diverse cultures throughout the history of the world were to sacrifice their bodies to a temple, brothel, military base, or supreme being.

Child sexual exploitation has been present throughout all periods of history, and these violent criminal acts are still present in the 21st century. The exploitation of children for sexual labour has been deemed, by the 1996 World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation

¹¹ Mark , Joshua J. "Uruk." *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. N.p., 28 Apr. 2011. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

¹² Amsterdam Red Light District . "History of Prostitution." *Amsterdam Red Light District Tours*. N.p., 20 Feb. 2017. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

¹³ Glazebrook, Allison, and Madeleine M. Henry. *Greek Prostitutes in the Ancient Mediterranean*. Ed. Susan Lape. Vol. 66. N.p.: Classical Association of Canada, 2012. Print.

of Children, a form of torture and slavery.¹⁴ Over 160 years prior, on July 26th 1833, the Abolition of Slavery passed the third reading in the House of Commons. This marked the abolishment of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.¹⁵ The horrors endured by slaves were to cease to exist, and the world was to progress into a civilized age of equality. The shameful act of abusing fellow human beings as slaves was to never again be repeated. However, slavery is in existence today, and it has evolved into an exceedingly brutal crime, larger than ever before. Child sexual exploitation is modern day slavery.

Time does not only lead to change in societal views towards an issue, but time also leads to technological advances. In the 1990s, one of the most innovative technological advancements took the world by storm. The publically accessible world wide web was unleashed. The pioneers of the internet, Tim Berners-Lee, Lawrence Roberts, Robert Kahn, and Vinton Cerf, fundamentally shaped the world and gave birth to new forms of creativity and imagination.¹⁶ However, the yin and yang of the Chinese philosophy teaches that all things exist as inseparable and opposite pairs (refer to Figure A4). For example, female-male, light-dark, and young-old. The symbols further demonstrate that within everything evil, there is good to be found, and within everything good, there is evil lurking.¹⁷ The case was no different for the invention of the internet. The internet brought freedom, but it was also the tool traffickers used to sell the children they had entrapped. The creation of the internet revolutionized the world of child sexual exploitation, and has contributed to the unprecedented growth of the industry. The business of the traffickers moved from the streets to the web, where the availability of customers skyrocketed, as the hope of the trafficked children slipped off the face of the Earth.

The evolution of the internet has allowed trafficking networks to operate with fluidity, and quickly adapt to changing circumstances. The internet provided traffickers two main benefits: a hidden identity, and the ability to communicate to any other computer system in the

¹⁴ International Labour Organization. "C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)." *Convention C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)*. N.p., 17 June 1999. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

¹⁵ Chalke, Steve, and Cherie Blair. *Stop the traffik: people shouldn't be bought & sold*. Oxford, England: Lion, 2009. Print.

¹⁶ World Wide Web Foundation. "History of the Web." *The Web*. N.p., 2017. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷ Cartwright, Mark. "Yin and Yang." *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. N.p., 26 Nov. 2012. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

world. Traffickers have utilized the internet for the most recent development in the phenomenon of child sexual exploitation: virtually luring. Virtual luring occurs when a trafficker uses internet chatrooms and/or social networking websites with the intention of communicating, meeting, and eventually entrapping children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.¹⁸ The internet has given birth to an exploitation breeding ground.

The internet has not only become a platform for seeking out and entrapping child victims, but also a means of advertising victims to potential customers. The child sexual exploitation industry rose to unprecedented levels because traffickers could schedule appointments and arrange meeting points with customers via the internet. The traffickers attained business luxuries that could never have been achieved on the streets. The internet had allowed a customer to order up a child as quickly and as easily as ordering a pizza, simply by finding an online advertisement. These advertisements include sexual descriptions and images of the trafficker's "commodities". These images are violating and degrading to the children depicted in them, and are out there for any potential customer to see and take advantage of. Contrary to what many believe, these advertisements for child victims are not encrypted in the vastness of the dark web. These endorsements are found in plain sight, on classified advertising websites such as Backpage and Craigslist. Backpage, has been considered "the Walmart of sex trafficking and prostitution."¹⁹ Advertising websites such as Backpage and Craigslist allow users to post a wide range of endorsements, from furniture to automobiles, on an international scale. The websites aid in the selling and purchasing of goods between individuals. Backpage and Craigslist would be entirely innocent websites if it were not for one major exception. Both websites contain a section entitled "adult services". It is under this section that men, woman, and children are being advertised and sold, by human traffickers, for sexual exploitive purposes.

Positive change arose 2010. Craigslist was bombarded by high quantities of criticism by state attorney generals and advocacy groups, who publicly addressed the negative aspects of the

¹⁸ Naebklang, Manida. *Questions & Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Comp. Lucksavee Chantaratchada. 4th ed. N.p.: Saladaeng Printing Co.Ltd., 2008. *ECPAT International*. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 2008. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹ Clark, Gaye. "9 Things You Need to Know about Backpage.com and Sex Trafficking." *TGC - The Gospel Coalition*. N.p., 4 Apr. 2016. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

website. Craigslist faced accusations for not taking responsibility over the content on their website, and for allowing the commercial sex trafficking industry to flourish on the site. It is to be noted that the vast majority of listings on the website are free of charge to post. However, sex advertisements, under the adult services section, cost \$10 (US dollar) each. According to the Advanced Interactive Media (AIM) Group – a consulting firm that closely monitors the company – Craigslist was on course to make \$44 million (US dollar) in revenue for the year. The statistics provided by the AIM group confirmed the high levels of sexual trafficking occurring via the website; and due to extreme pressure from attorney generals in the United States, Craigslist grudgingly shut down the adult services section on September 3rd 2010.²⁰

However, within all good there is evil. When Craigslist closed its doors on the adult services section, there was a mass influx of clients who moved from Craigslist to the competing advertisement website, Backpage. The influx was easily tracked in economic standings. Backpage charged \$5 (US dollar) per add posted in the “escort” section. The escort and adult services sections are identical in purpose. In 2010, the year Craigslist shut down the adult services section, Backpage earned over \$20 million (US dollar) in additional revenue from the escort adds alone.²¹ If these statistics are broken down, 4 million sex advertisements were posted in a three-and-a-half-month period.

Child sexual exploitation has been practiced for as long as slavery itself. The greatest ancient cultures of history have partaken in the act that modern societies now deem criminal. For example, young boys in Rome and Greece were often forced to work in brothels, and many prepubescent girls in Egypt were prostituted in the streets. The sexual exploitation of children through child trafficking is a global issue that has continued to flourish throughout history. Slavery was deemed abolished in the mid-1800s, with the signing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.²² However, the enslavement and exploitation of people has never ceased and is prevalent within world today. The world has entered the era of modern-day slavery, which is

²⁰ Miller, Claire Cain. "Craigslist Says It Has Shut Its Section for Sex Ads." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 15 Sept. 2010. Web. 3 Mar. 2017.

²¹ CNN. "Selling the Girl Next Door." *Child Sex Trafficking on the Internet*. YouTube, 19 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Feb. 2017.

²² The National Archives. "Essential Information." *British Transatlantic Slave Trade Records*. The National Archives, 23 July 2015. Web. 12 May 2017.

more commonly known as human trafficking. Human trafficking claims victims of all ages, genders, ethnicity, religion, and race, however, the individuals at the greatest risk of falling victim to the horrendous crime are children. The abuse of children has advanced on an international scale, affecting all parts of the globe. The sexual exploitation of children is a serious international crime that claims the lives of 8.5 – 12 million children worldwide.²³

²³ Watts, Charlotte , Brad Adams, and Erin Nelson, eds. *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents*. Comp. Cathy Zimmerman and Katherine Yun. *Findings from a European Study*. London Metropolitan University, Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit , 2003. Web. 5 Mar. 2017.

Expert

The crime of child sexual exploitation is not only a global issue, but a globally interconnected issue. Despite the global presence of the issue, many individuals are naïve to the existence of the problem or do not understand the seriousness of the issue. Child sexual exploitation is a hidden crime. For example, there are no mass demonstrations, such as suicide bombings, involved in the crime. Instead children are stolen, and often never seen by those they love ever again. Put simply, the global issue is out of sight and out of mind. It is when individuals do not understand that they do not want to think about an issue, because they ultimately do not know how to make a positive change. To promote understanding and the need for change numerous international organizations, including Freedom United and Free the Slaves, have made efforts to bring an end to modern day slavery: child sexual exploitation. However, it is not only major organizations who are making a positive difference in the lives of those who have been victimized, many individuals across the world are very well versed in the subject and have dedicated their life to improving the lives of these children. One such passionate individual is Paul Thompson. Paul Thompson has devoted his life to bringing protection and justice to the world. Mr. Thompson is the current Detective Sergeant of the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit of the Investigations and Support Bureau with the Ontario Provincial Police.

Mr. Thompson is highly accomplished in his field and has been an active member of various police services across Canada for 33 years, with the primary objective of making a positive difference in the lives of youth. The desire to protect the citizens of his community lead Mr. Thompson to his policing career, which began in 1984 as a Constable for the Toronto Police Service. During his six years of service with the Toronto Police, Mr. Thompson became specialized in investigating cases involving child victims. In 1990, Mr. Thompson transferred to the Orillia Police Service in order share his acquired knowledge with another branch of police services, and advise the correct management of criminal cases involving children. In 1996, the Orillia Police Force was involved in municipal amalgamation, in which the Ontario Provincial Police took over responsibility for the policing of Orillia to promote cost effectiveness and efficiency. Thus, in 1996, Mr. Thompson became a member of the Ontario Provincial Police and continued to specialized in investigations of law-violating acts involving children. As his career progressed, Mr. Thompson became deeply concerned with the increasing amount of child sexual

exploitation cases crossing his desk. To ensure that all children were provided the best opportunity of achieving freedom, Mr. Thompson increased his knowledge on the investigative techniques required in child sexual exploitation cases, and became a leading officer in this field.

In 1997, Mr. Thompson's devotion to the elimination of child sexual exploitation was recognized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and he was asked to aid in the creation of a two-week training program to educate police forces across Canada on the correct identification and systematic response to victims of child sexual exploitation. Police force representatives from all over the world, including Ireland, South Africa, and Sweden, also attended the program. Therefore, the training sessions not only bettered the Canadian police forces, but also provided valuable information to an international audience on the correct response to child sexual exploitation complaints and inquiries. Mr. Thompson highlighted the fact that "the world must work as a unified system to combat the sexual exploitation of children, because it is a mobilized industry with predators moving prey throughout nations and across borders, as the criminals do not respect national boundaries and will move anywhere to attain business and evade conviction."²⁴ He further illustrated how child sexual exploitation is comparable to climate change. If only one country were to eliminate carbon emissions the efforts of other countries would be futile because the thickening of the atmosphere and pollution of the air disregard national boundaries and will spread even to the country that has eradicated the generating factors behind the issue. The problem of climate change would remain. Stronger enforcement of the rights of a child in one country will not eliminate the issue of child sexual exploitation within said county because offenders can transport victims into or lure victims out of any country. Child sexual exploitation is an issue that can only be solved with international cooperation.

The devotion Mr. Thompson put into spreading awareness, educating officers, and partaking in reactive and active investigations on child sexual exploitation earned him his current position as a Detective Sergeant for the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit with the Ontario Provincial Police, which he has held for 17 years. Over his years of service, Mr. Thompson has described the evolution of the crime of sexually abusing children as moving from the streets to

²⁴ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

the web. The vast majority of cases and reports he receives involve the use of the internet to lure children into the industry or sell the children who have already been entrapped. Mr. Thompson has made it his personal goal to “find the individuals hidden behind the screens of computers and rescue the children who have fallen victim to these horrific crimes.”²⁵

The Ontario Provincial Police Child Sexual Exploitation Unit is composed of 12 expert and dedicated investigators whose role is to investigate occurrences of child luring by means of the internet to prevent the exploitation and victimization of children in the Province of Ontario. Child luring is the act of communicating with minors via internet platforms to instigate meetings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Luring includes sending minors sexually explicit photographs or messages through the internet – also known as ‘sexting’. The team of investigators also examine individuals who import, export, sell, distribute, access or possess child pornography. The team is also inclusive of forensic analysts, Crown Attorneys and victim service personal whose goal is to deliver a coordinated response to the dramatic increase in child sex offences due to the move of the crime off the streets and onto the internet. The members of this unit are experts in child sexual exploitation and provide the technical support required to bring offenders to justice, but first and foremost save the lives of the child victims. They further train other police officers at the Ontario Police College and the Canadian Police College, to ensure that first responding officers to a child sexual exploitation report are equipped with the skills required to ensure the proper handling of the case and that the victim receives the necessary mental and physical support, such as physiological or medical treatments. The main goal of the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit is to rescue innocent children from the hands of predators.

As with any team, there must be a leader to ensure that everyone is organized and operates with high efficiency. Mr. Thompson is the Detective Sergeant for the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit and one of two team leaders for this division. He is responsible for attaining, reviewing, and analyzing sexual abuse reports in Ontario, and then disturbing the information to his team of investigators to begin the process of rescuing child victims. In the Barrie and Orillia

²⁵ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

regions alone, there are approximately ten reports of child sexual abuse per week. Mr. Thompson also applies for the judicial operations (search warrants), which legally allow his team of investigators to enter a premises and confiscate electronic devices that can transmit information over the internet. Due to his many years of experience and position as a team leader, Mr. Thompson also provides advice to his investigators so that a systematic way of approaching new cases is achieved. Time is precious in child exploitation cases, and the faster a police force is able to locate a child victim, the faster the child can once again become free. These are known as reactive protocols, in which the crime has already been committed and the duty of the police force is to react to the instance and work towards aiding the victim and identify the perpetrator.

The other side to Mr. Thompson's main duties with the Ontario Provincial Police is active protocols. Active protocols involve the police force seeking out victims of child sexual exploitation, as opposed to reacting to a filed report. The aim of active protocols is to locate and rescue the victims before the crimes can be committed. Undercover work is a large portion of active investigations. The undercover work employed by the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit involves the creation of false profiles on online classified advertisement companies, such as Backpage and Craigslist, which are known to be used by traffickers to sell children like commodities. The investigators are capable of setting up internet profiles to pose as traffickers who sexually exploit children, in order to intercept individuals who are purchasing the services. Another form of an active operation is to pose as potential buyers of the services, to enable the police to discover the location of the trafficker and their hostages. The later operation is a more common because the main goal of the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit is to rescue children, and discovering their whereabouts is the best way of doing so. Both operations described above are known as sting operations, with the main goal of catching the offender attempting to commit the crime before damage can be done to the victim. Mr. Thompson assigns and monitors the undercover work of investigators to ensure the police force does not entrap the alleged perpetrators. Entrapping would occur if the police officers posing as a trafficker or customer entices the individual on the other end of the conversation to commit a crime they would not have usually done. In other words, the police cannot be the instigating force to cause someone to commit a crime, but instead gather important information that would lead to saving the victim.

This is a crucial part of any sting operation, and was an included training element in the program Mr. Thompson developed with the RCMP in 1997.

The immense effort Mr. Thompson applies to his work is not limited to the borders of Ontario, much less Canada. The sexual exploitation of children is an international crime with no respect to borders. Thus, it is necessary for Mr. Thompson to be in constant collaboration with police forces located all over the world to detect, rescue, and rehabilitate children from the horrors of the trafficking industry. An example, described by Mr. Thompson, was the case of a man who tried to evade Canadian laws by travelling outside of Canadian borders to commit a crime. The male Canadian citizen travelled to Brazil for the purpose of sexually exploiting children. This is an act of sex tourism. Sex tourism is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the act of travel planned specifically for the purpose of sex, generally to a country with less stringent laws.²⁶ The offender lived in Ontario and fell under the jurisdiction of Mr. Thompson. In order to locate the accused and victims, Mr. Thompson and his police unit lawfully worked in parallel with the Federal Police of Brazil. The entire incident not only involved police forces from different continents, but also translators, witnesses, prosecutors specializing in international law, and psychologists to bring an end to this crime. The collaboration put forth by the police forces of different nations illustrate the need for the people of the world to work together towards putting an end to the monstrosity that is child sex trafficking. One voice can make a difference, but a unified voice can bring about change.

Mr. Thompson is a dynamic activist for the rights and protection of children on an international scale. He believes that one of the best solutions to combat the sexual exploitation of children is educating the public. This education should not be exclusive to parents and children, instead the entire public – from taxi cab drivers, to business manners, and hotel workers – should be informed. By educating the people of a community, individuals become aware or alerted to actions that are out of the ordinary. Noticing and voicing these actions to authorities can mean the difference between life and death for many of these child victims. The Ontario Provincial

²⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Sex Tourism." *Travelers' Health*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 21 Apr. 2013. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

Police Department is in the midst of developing a campaign to educate the public on how to prevent child sexual exploitation. At the helm of the wheel is Mr. Thompson, who has attended and spoke at many international police conferences pertaining to the issue of child sexual exploitation. Through these conferences, Mr. Thompson has gained insightful information on how to successfully implement the program in Canada. The program is projected to be run by the Ontario Provincial Police and provide lectures and presentations for a wide range of audiences including: public schools, office buildings, recreation centers, and international law enforcement conventions. The main point behind these presentations will be to advise the public on how to “prevent children from being sucked into the sex industry in the first place,”²⁷ as many crimes occur when the public turns a blind eye. With the number of child sexual exploitation reports on the rise it is impossible for police forces, regardless of geographical location, to reach every victim simultaneously, there are simply not enough resources. However, by informing individuals on how to respond to possible criminal activity, whether it is child trafficking or various other crimes, the community becomes a far safer place to live.

Mr. Paul Thompson is an admirable man who has devoted his life to bettering that of others. He deserves much gratitude, as he has played a key role in helping countless numbers of children escape the hands of exploitation on an international scale. In order to make a positive difference in the world a sound understanding of the issue is essential, as Mr. Thompson explained, “education is the key to change.”²⁸

²⁷ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

²⁸ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

Role of Control

“People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos, is because things are being loved and people are being used.”²⁹ The victims of child sexual exploitation cease becoming children the second they are entrapped. These children become commodities to be bought and sold for the almighty dollar. Victims of human trafficking lose their innocence, sense of identity, sense of worth, and reason for living. They lose authority over their life, as the trafficker gains it. Child sexual exploitation is all about controlling the victims.

The chain of trafficking is one not easily broken. The traffickers befriend, deceive, manipulate, and exploit the fragile children they steal. The act of child trafficking begins in one of three ways: the trafficker physically steals their victim off the street or from a market and entraps the child instantly, parents sell their child(ren) to traffickers to quickly earn money (mostly likely to support substance abuse habits), or the trafficker begins the luring process and eventually coerces the victim into the sex industry. The latter is all about mind games, luring the victim into the security of false trust and mutilating that trust at precisely the right moment. The criminals of child sexual exploitation are not to be underestimated, they are often intelligent and merely bide their time until the perfect moment arises to lock the handcuffs dangling from the victim’s wrists.

Any child on the planet could fall victim to sexual exploitation, child sexual exploitation spans all demographics. However, certain children are more vulnerable than others. The traffickers involved with child sexual exploitation play this vulnerability to their advantage and know exactly the type of children to hunt down. The targeting phase begins. As like predators in the wild who prey on the young and the weak, human traffickers seek out the those who are vulnerable, naïve, and easily manipulated. The most vulnerable children in a society are those who grow up in an abusive, impoverished, or broken household, those who are runaways or homeless, and those who are socially discriminated and desire an outlet.³⁰ The predators will

²⁹ Green, John. *Looking for Alaska/ John Green*. London: HarperCollins Childrens, 2005. Print.

³⁰ Polaris. "The Victims & Traffickers." *Polaris - National Human Trafficking Hotline*. N.p., 29 Feb. 2016. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

seek out the children with vulnerabilities by perusing the streets, lurking in the malls or markets, or waiting outside foster care homes. The lengths an exploiter will pursue in order to find the perfect victim is extraordinary, especially in westernized countries. Entrapments can occur right under the noses of the law enforcement and judicial system:

Child sex traffickers have the audacity to loiter outside of a youth court and wait for young people sentenced to a heavy fine. The trafficker knows the youth needs to attain money, and will seldom turn to parents for support. That is when they swoop in like a hawk and befriend the broken child, the trafficker plays the role of a knight in shining armour and deals out the cards of promises. Once communication is made, the trap is set, and the trafficker now has a dependent and vulnerable target.³¹

There is one major and recent improvement to the trafficker's recruitment operations: the internet. The internet allows for easily accessible and rapid targeting. Instead of physically finding potential child victims on the streets, a trafficker can hide behind the glowing screen of a computer, situated anywhere in the world, and scroll through the endless amount of social media accounts to handpick the next victims.

The children who are most susceptible to falling victim are missing something in their life, whether it is compassion, a home, economic stability, or a shoulder to lean on. For example, many children in Delhi, India, are forced to sleep in the streets or on railway platforms because they are living in poverty.³² These children not only have to worry about their next meal, but also refraining from falling prey to exploitation through the empty promises of a new life and home (refer to Figure A5). Once the trafficker has found the target, the trust phase begins. Once the trafficker has established communication with the victim, they begin to pry the child for information through casual conversation in person or online chatting. Through instant messaging and chatrooms, the corrupt individual can hide their identity and build trust virtually.³³

³¹ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

³² Chalke, Steve, and Cherie Blair. *Stop the Traffik: people shouldn't be bought & sold*. Oxford, England: Lion, 2009. Print.

³³ National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. "Child Sexual Exploitation." *NSPCC*. N.p., 2017. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

Once the victim holds trust towards the trafficker, the trafficker implements the phase of filling a need. These victimized children are in search of a life line and the trafficker is happy to oblige. The trafficker begins building the victim's dependence. There are a multitude of ways the criminal can accomplish this: showing compassion and emotional support, providing money or food, buying gifts, demonstrating romantic feelings, etc. To secure the victim's dependence upon them, the trafficker will gradually introduce alcohol and drugs to the situation to seal the deal and crush the victim's independence.³⁴

Next is the isolation phase. The trafficker will allocate alone time with the child and begin to become the dominant person in the victim's life. To become the prominent figure in the child's life, the trafficker will strategically isolate the child from any family or friends through the use of belittling comments, or encouraging the victim to spend more and more time outside of the house. At this point in the luring process, the child often trusts and depends on the trafficker above anyone else. It is at this point that the trafficker has gained complete control. The final stage of preparation is when the abuse begins. The trafficker claims that the child owes money for the alcohol, drugs, food, or any gifts the trafficker provided during their relationship. The trafficker exclaims how the child must perform services to repay what is owed, and that the service to be provided is sex. From this point on the trafficker will sell the child's body like a product to anyone willing to pay, or sell the child entirely to another child sexual exploiter. The sexual exploitation of children is multifaceted, and one of the fastest growing international organized crimes in the world.³⁵ The child has become a slave and their life lies in the hands of the trafficker. There is no explicit appearance of an individual involved in the sexually exploitation of children. They may come into a youth's life as a friend, neighbour, or boy/girlfriend and begin the chain of manipulation based on trust.

Once a trafficker has successfully gained control over the child victim, they do everything in their power to remain in this authoritative position. Traffickers will manipulate their victims to the point where the victims lose their sense of identity and become a commodity.

³⁴ Ark of Hope for Children. "Issues of Child Trafficking." *Ark of Hope for Children*. N.p., 2015. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

³⁵ Long, Mariah. "Basic Stages of Grooming for Sexual Exploitation." *End Slavery Now*. N.p., 22 Sept. 2014. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.

Child sexual exploitation has grown in popularity among traffickers because children are much easier to control and program in contrast with adults. The next link in the trafficking chain is grooming. The trafficker must ensure the victim will not leave, and to do so implements a specific strategy depending on the characteristics of the victim. One form of grooming involves a trauma bond; the trafficker induces a feeling of such dependence on the child that the child believes they will die if they do not have the trafficker for support. A second technique in manipulation is drug based addiction, in which the child becomes dependent on the addition to drugs and the only supplier available is the trafficker, thus the child is dependent on the trafficker. The third type of grooming is the fear based performance. The trafficker drills horrific ultimatums into the child's head if they were to step out of line, as well as constant beatings as a reminder of what the trafficker is capable of. The trafficker may threaten to torture or kill family members, and/or torture or kill the victim if an escape was attempted.³⁶

A survivor from the world of child sexual exploitation exclaimed how, "I thought it was all my fault. It is a ghost crime, and the chains are not on our hands, they're in our brains. It's an invisible chain".³⁷ A child sexual exploitation victim has no control once entrapped by the trafficker. Through deceit, manipulation, and abuse, a trafficker obtains, programs, and keeps power over the victim. The victim is trapped and if not rescued will most likely die in less than seven years from the point of trafficking. The pounding of the heart against an individual's chest, the tears swelling beneath their eyes, and the acknowledgement of utter defeat ... there is no worse feeling than a loss of control.

³⁶ TEDxTalks. *YouTube*. TEDxMidAtlantic, 20 Oct. 2015. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

³⁷ News, CBC. "Human Trafficking Crackdown on Sex Trade Produces Charges Against 47 People." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 22 Oct. 2015. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

Logic of Evil

Evil is a very difficult term to define. Evil can be held responsible for events as small as a white lie, to events as monstrous as those committed during World War II. It is nearly impossible to fathom an explanation behind such an encompassing and powerful word. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy has condensed the term into two separate categories for a better and more concise understanding: natural evil and moral evil. Natural evil describes events such as hurricanes and headaches, and are affairs that do not result from negligence of moral agents. A moral agent is a being capable of acting in regards to right and wrong. On the other hand, moral evil describes such events as child sexual exploitation or murder, and are affairs that result from intentions of disregarding moral agents.³⁸

There have been numerous debates throughout history over the existence of good and evil. Many have claimed that good and evil do not exist and instead are merely a perception that is used to frame reality. Others claim that good and evil exist in all beings, but not in an absolute form, no one is innately good or evil. Instead, good and evil are seen as fluid, every person is composed of a combination of good and bad qualities, and it is how these qualities are distributed that dictate the actions of an individual.³⁹ Regardless of how good and evil are described, it is always important to understand the other side of the coin, as good and evil may be perceived differently to different people. As an example, one person's trash is another person's treasure. Depending on an individual's point of view and the societal conventions they have grown accustomed to, evil takes on many different faces.

Child sexual exploitation, to most, is perceived as an evil act, however, there is interesting logic behind the behaviors of the perpetrators. First and foremost, the industry of child sexual exploitation is organized, technologically advanced, and larger than ever before, with a constant continual growth. It is estimated that the annual profits generated by one sexually exploited child exceeds \$100,000 (US dollars). Many traffickers have no regard for human

³⁸ Calder, Todd. "The Concept of Evil." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford University, 26 Nov. 2013. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

³⁹ Taylor, Steve. "The Real Meaning of 'Good' and 'Evil'" *Psychology Today*. N.p., 26 Aug. 2013. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.

moralties and rights, and see the sexual exploitation of children as purely a major business opportunity. Money is a very powerful asset and can easily cause great corruption within a society.⁴⁰

There have been large scale studies examining how victims are sucked into the life of exploitation, however, there has been less research done on the background of the traffickers. The DePaul College of Law took it upon themselves to delve deeper into the minds of the traffickers, and the results show surprising correlations. The report highlights that over three quarters of traffickers involved with child sexual exploitation were sexually abused as children. Over two thirds of the traffickers reported to have been sold for sex themselves as children, with 15 years being the average age of entry into forced sexual work. The majority of perpetrators also reported growing up in a home with parents who had drug and/or alcohol addictions, which lead to physical abuse, and domestic violence. Many traffickers ran away from home as children and this vulnerability is what swept them into the international sex industry.⁴¹ The life of many traffickers began with abuse.

Children are like sponges, and model the actions of the people they develop and grow up with. The young mind of a child is easy to imprint on, and negative examples in the home life can be detrimental to the development of a child and can easily lead to poor behaviour. The actions a child witnesses at home are often the actions they express outside of the home. Children also develop a sense of right and wrong from their life at home, and it is up to the care giver to execute cautiousness in their daily behaviours to ensure the values passed onto the child are the ones aligning with social conventions.⁴² If a child grows up in a home where they are exposed to regular or intermitted sexual exploitation, the child may assume these acts are 'normal' and an appropriate practice to participate in. Once a child is ingrained with the idea that sexual exploitation is considered acceptable, it is extremely difficult to undo these thought processes. To a child growing up in a home of sexual abuse, exploitation is all they know. The

⁴⁰ Human Rights First. "Human Trafficking by the Numbers." *Fact Sheet: Human Rights First*. N.p., 7 Jan. 2016. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

⁴¹ DePaul College of Law. "New Study: Most Pimps Were Trafficked, Abused as Children – International Network of Hearts." *International Network of Hearts*. N.p., 2016. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

⁴² Erickson, Rose. "Parents' Effect on Child Behavior." *LIVESTRONG.COM*. Leaf Group, 16 Jan. 2014. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

knowledge one gains while developing is the guide that leads an individual's life. This is often the message that has been ingrained in traffickers involved with child sexual exploitation. The traffickers will diminish their blame and justify their actions by reasoning that the practice of sexual exploitation is a concept they grew up with and thus is acceptable to act upon.⁴³ The cycle of abuse and exploitation continues.

The exploitation in the child sex industry is cyclical and can proliferate into a multi-generational problem within a family. This is comparable to the cycle of poverty. The cycle of poverty occurs when children are born into a poor family. The child will not have access to adequate food, clean water, health care, or schooling, which leads to malnutrition, poor sanitation, and a lack of education. With poor nutrition and hygiene, the child is at an increased risk of disease and possibly death. The inability to work due to illness and the few work opportunities available combine, and finally lead to a low-income family which begins the cycle over again.⁴⁴ Both child sexual exploitation victims and those born into poverty need help to break the chain that they are a link in. As like breaking the chain of poverty can be achieved through educating and providing food for the children, the chain of child sexual exploitation can be broken by providing mental and physical support to victims. Finding a more positive route for victims is one way to prevent the next generation of predators.

⁴³ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

⁴⁴ Plan International Canada. "The Cycle of Poverty: What is it and how do we break it?" *The cycle of poverty* - Plan International Canada. N.p., 2017. Web. 06 Mar. 2017.

Political Influences

The term politics often derives images of the government, policies, and politicians. The Cambridge Dictionary defines politics as “the activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed”.⁴⁵ However, politics encompasses much more than the ideologies of parliament. The word politics originates from the Greek term ‘polis’, which means the state or community acts as a whole.⁴⁶ The concept of polis was the fundamental ideology for an ideal state, as described through the teachings of Plato and Aristotle. In essence, the word politics originates from the concept of creating an ideal society.⁴⁷ Presently, the principles of politics cover a large spectrum of concepts including, conflict resolution, exercise of power, social activity, and the involvement of the state. The multitude of concepts the term politics refers to is very extensive, thus a concrete definition is hard to formulate.

Politics is a very diverse field and is a basic principle in all societies. Politics is found within everything and connects with all issues, from municipal to international, including child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation by no means has a place in an ideal society. The exploitation of any human being is in direct violation of fundamental human rights, and the federal policies of numerous countries. Law enforcement is an essential aspect in any society, and is implemented by the government, in the majority of countries, to ensure human rights are upheld. The level of enforcement of the laws against the sexual exploitation of children is often the deciding factor between life and death for many child sexual trafficking victims. The media, cultural values, and governmental policies are crucial determinants in the future outcome and prevention of child sexual exploitation victims.

The implementation of a law does not ensure an end to the outlined criminal acts. In the regions of the world where child sexual exploitation is at the highest and worst levels, the act of undertaking any form of child trafficking is illegal under federal legislation. An example is the country of Libya, located in the northern regions of the African continent (refer to Figure A6). In

⁴⁵ Cambridge English Dictionary. "Politics Meaning." *Cambridge Dictionary*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

⁴⁶ Erenow. "Government and Politics." *Common Section*. N.p., 2017. Web. 4 Mar. 2017.

⁴⁷ OpenLearn. "What is politics?" *Society, Politics & Law*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

2010, Libya was ranked 53rd out of 163 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index. Due to a life expectancy of 74.5 years and a 88.4% adult literacy rate, Libya was classified, by the United Nations Development Programme, as a high human development country among the North African region.⁴⁸ In November 2010, the Libyan Criminal Code underwent draft amendments to Articles 336-339, which criminalized the sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁹ Despite these positive changes, the rates of child sexual exploitation in Libya are unprecedented, and Libya ranks as a tier three country for the trafficking in persons report of 2015. This means that the Government of Libya does not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The amended Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, is the most important anti-trafficking law passed in history. There are two important distinctions made by the TVPA. Firstly, any person under the age of 18 years who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion were present. Secondly, trafficking occurs with or without the physical movement of a victim from one locale to another. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act seeks to combat human trafficking, including child sexual exploitation, through the promotion of the "Three Ps Policy": prosecution, protection, and prevention. Prosecution involves countries complying with TVPA to establish appropriate laws that criminalize trafficking and ensure the proper punishment of any abusers who exploited human beings for profit. Protection involves the identification of victims, and providing the victims with shelter, medical care, and rehabilitation, if necessary. Finally, prevention involves promoting awareness of the inhumane practices of human trafficking and shifting public views towards dismantling the human trafficking industry. The goal of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is combat modern-day slavery and, ultimately, break the chains of human trafficking.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme in Libya. "About Libya." *UNDP in Libya*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2017.

⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State. "Libya - Office the Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons." *Diplomacy in Action*. U.S. Department of State, 2014. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

⁵⁰ Trafficking Victims Protection Act. "Trafficking Victims Protection Act." *Fight Slavery Now!* N.p., 04 Mar. 2017. Web. 09 Mar. 2017.

“A person’s a person, no matter how small.”⁵¹ Children are people and deserve to be treated as competent individuals with the ability to exercise their own human rights. Children are still developing and are at a higher risk of exposure, abuse, and exploitation due to high levels of vulnerability. Children also have limited social and political power and need a specialized way for their voice to be heard. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC) was the first ratified document of its kind to officially recognize children as human beings.⁵² The UNCRC was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20th, 1989, and outlines the economic, social, and cultural rights of a child through 54 separate articles. On September 2nd, 1990, a total of 20 countries ratified the UNCRC and the treaty became international. The treaty is a legally binding international instrument used to uphold and protect the rights of children.⁵³ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child states the following:

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;*
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;*
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.*

Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

Article 36

*States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.*⁵⁴ (refer to Figure A7)

⁵¹ Geisel, Theodor Seuss. *Horton Hears a Who!* London: HarperCollins Children's, 2008. Print.

⁵² Save the Children. "Why Children's Rights?" *About children's rights / Why children's rights?* N.p., n.d. Web. 2 Mar. 2017.

⁵³ Humanium Together for Children's Rights. "Definition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child." *Humanium*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Mar. 2017.

⁵⁴ United Nations. "Convention on the Rights of the Child." *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

Children who are sexual exploited are the victims of an international crime that directly violates their human rights. Sadly, many of these children are stolen at such a young age that they have no understanding of the rights they hold as individuals. Even for those children who understand the inhumanity of their treatment, they can never voice these rights for fear of physical abuse or death. The violation of the human rights of a child demonstrates that the trafficker does not regard the child as human. Instead, the child is viewed, through the trafficker's eyes, as an object of physical value ready for exploitation.

Religious Influences

Religion is of the most vast, diverse, and complex phenomenon known to the human mind. The extensive network of ideologies, beliefs, and principles religion encompasses makes defining religion a nearly impossible task. One working version for the definition of religion states that religion is the personal response made when an individual or social group connects to the highest known power in the universe that controls significant events in their life.⁵⁵

Throughout the history of human life, religion has been and continues to be one of the most influential forces in the lives of individuals. The prominence of religion in the lives of people and the importance of its practice have been represented in monuments and artifacts dating back to 11,600 years ago, during the pre-pottery Neolithic period. The Göbekli Tepe, Pyramids of Giza, Temple of Jerusalem, Islamic mosques, and Catholic churches are only a handful of the great architectural feats driven by the fuel of religion.⁵⁶ History has walked in the footsteps of religion, as religious beliefs have formed the very conventions of society throughout history. How an individual acts, thinks, and interacts with society and beyond the physical world is based in the roots of religion, which have only grown since the dawn of the human mind.⁵⁷ The beginnings of communal gatherings have been accredited to the practice of religion, which lead to the very creation of civilization itself.

Inevitably, religion connects to every issue imaginable, including the sexual exploitation of children. The sexual exploitation of children goes against the beliefs of the highly practiced religions of the world, and the act would be severely punished. One of the main objectives of many religious practices is to protect and uphold the rights of children. Many religions provide structure in the life of a child and play a significant role in developing a positive future for the youth. However, various spiritual individuals throughout history have blemished the good name of many religious institutions through the practice of child sexual exploitation. An individual should not paint the picture for an entire group of people, however, society always judges an

⁵⁵ Rodrigues, Hillary, and John S. Harding. *Introduction to the study of religion*. London: Routledge, 2010. Print.

⁵⁶ Myhre, Paul O., Dr. *Introduction to Religious Studies*. N.p.: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, n.d. Print.

⁵⁷ Dhavala, Yathish. "The Big Story: Origins of Religion." *YouTube*. N.p., 09 Sept. 2013. Web. 01 Mar. 2017.

individual by the company they keep. The sexual exploitation of children has been directly affected by the role religious figures have played within the criminal act.

Reports over the past centuries have illustrated that child sexual exploitation is present in religion. The international news headlines beam with new revelations between religion and child abuse on a weekly basis. The issue is not a strictly modern problem and has arisen on several occasions throughout history, however, it is an issue that must be understood so that resolutions can be formulated. The issue is extremely clouded, because as many claims of abuse against children are reported, an equal amount of denials and cover-ups are derived.

The presence of child sexual exploitation within religious institutions is not limited to one form of religion. The religion most highly associated with sexual exploitation, especially in the eyes of westernized nations, is the Catholic religion.⁵⁸ For countless years, the news channels and radio broadcasting stations have run rampant with reports of priests abusing children. For example, from 2001 to 2010, the central governing body of the Catholic Church uncovered approximately 3,000 priests, dating back 50 years, with allegations of child sexual abuse, with some abuses occurring against children as young as three.⁵⁹ However, the issues are not isolated to the Catholic religion. The Church of England recently revealed the commencement of investigations into the personal files of thousands of clergymen and women to follow up on reports of child sexual abuse, in 2015.⁶⁰ These men and women are a part of or serve under the Protestant religion. Britain's madrassas (Islamic religious schools) have faced over 400 allegations of child sexual abuse between 2008 and 2011, with victims as young as six reporting the abuse.⁶¹ The sexual exploitation of children is also present in the Orthodox Jewish community. In 2013, Channel 4 Dispatches investigated evidence, which was suppressed, involving the participation of religious officials in child sexual exploitation, in Britain. The

⁵⁸ Nolan, James. "What Is It About Religion That Fosters Abuse?" *Vice*. N.p., 6 Aug. 2015. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

⁵⁹ Davies, Caroline. "Methodist Church in Britain apologises for historical abuse." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 28 May 2015. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

⁶⁰ Barrett, David. "More child abuse cases will emerge in Church, warns Archbishop of Canterbury." *The Telegraph*. Telegraph Media Group, 13 July 2014. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

⁶¹ Abrams, Fran. "Child abuse claims at UK madrassas 'tip of iceberg'" *BBC News*. BBC, 18 Oct. 2011. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

investigations brought forth 19 alleged cases of the sexual exploitation of children within the Orthodox Jewish community of the United Kingdom. Out of all 19 charges, not a single incident was reported to the police.⁶² In the United States, 2011, the leader of the Fundamentalist Mormon Church was sentenced to life in prison for the sexual assault of girls as young as 12 and the taking of these girls to be his brides.⁶³ These are only a few examples of how the exploitation of children within religious institutions is non-discriminatory and a universal issue.

On the surface, all religions appear very independent and different from all other religious belief systems. However, when the study of religions causes an individual to go beyond the external layer and strip down to each fundamental ideology, all religions are considered to be composed of a similar core. All religions fall under the same ultimate reality, in which human beings are led by religions which all serve to connect humanity to this spiritual reality.⁶⁴ It appears that religions all have the same core principles and that negative aspects associated with each religion are similar, including the act of child sexual exploitation.

There have been many accusations towards leaders and members of religious groups of being a much higher risk to sexually abuse children. These accusations have most likely formed due to the bombardment of news stories of child molestation within religious institutions. However, there is no evidence to support that a member of a religious community is no likelier to commit a sexual exploitation act against a child as a non-religious individual, or a member of a different religious community.⁶⁵ However, a major aspect that makes the sexual exploitation of a child by a member of a religious community especially dangerous, is that the children are taught to put endless trust in their religious leaders, as they hold moral authority, and this trust can be easily abused.

⁶² Osborne, Hannah. "Child Abuse Hidden in London's Strict Orthodox Jewish Community, Claims C4's Dispatches [VIDEO]." *International Business Times UK*. N.p., 30 Jan. 2013. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

⁶³ Pilkington, Ed. "Fundamentalist sect leader jailed for life for sex with child brides." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 09 Aug. 2011. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.

⁶⁴ Corduan, Winfried. "Are All Religions the Same at Their Core?" *Christian Research Institute*. Effective Evangelism Column, 2005. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

⁶⁵ Wingert, Pat. "Priests Commit No More Abuse Than Other Males." *Newsweek*. N.p., 19 Apr. 2010. Web. 03 Mar. 2017.

The sexual exploitation of children is a globalized issue. Religious members or servers are no exception. The act of child sexual exploitation is one that crosses all religions. However, anyone of any gender, race, culture, ethnicity, and religion can be the criminal or victim because the crime knows no boundaries.

History has proven that various religious figures are guilty in regards to the sexual exploitation of children. There have been countless reports of child abuse behind the closed doors of religious institutions. However, members of religious communities are not to be the scapegoat of this barbarous crime. Many religious organizations are avid promoters of child safety and protection, and vigorously advocate for an end to the exploitation of children. Individuals partake in religious practices for a multitude of reasons, such as finding a purpose in life or the promotion of togetherness.⁶⁶ Despite the justification for upholding a form of faith, religion is a dominating part of the world of today, with approximately 86% of the population of the world practicing a form of religion.⁶⁷ Religion often outlines the guidelines for socially acceptable behaviour within a community and plays a significant role in the daily life of the followers of the faith. Religion can be a beneficial aspect in the life of a child. As an example, religious practices often teach children the value of discipline, structure, and mental health.⁶⁸ Religion is an integral part of our world, and the support of religious organizations to combat child sexual exploitation is a remarkable asset in the fight to end modern-day slavery.

Faith-based organizations and religious leaders are in a unique position, in which they hold great moral authority. Due to the considerable amount of influence held by religious figures and organizations, UNICEF has encouraged these moral power holders to join the fight against child sexual exploitation, especially online abuse.⁶⁹ UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, is an international organization that works in 190 countries and territories around the world to protect the rights of children, and improve the lives of children

⁶⁶ Pepper, Andrew. "Reasons People Embrace Religion." *Listverse*. N.p., 20 June 2014. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁶⁷ Philippe, Marie. "Children and Religion." *Humanium Together for Childrens Rights*. Ed. Ania Beznia and Louis Arighi. Trans. Eliot Cole. Humanium, 2 Sept. 2012. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁶⁸ Stern, Mark Joseph. "Is Religion Good for Children?" *Slate Magazine*. N.p., 29 July 2014. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁶⁹ Jacob, Sylvia. "Religious Organizations Asked to Join the Fight Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation." *EvoNews*. N.p., 12 May 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

and their families.⁷⁰ UNICEF argues how religious institutions are a pivotal resource in stopping the staggering expansion of online child sexual abuse materials. In order to aid religious organizations in the beginning processes of combating online child sexual exploitation, UNICEF has worked in partnership with ECPAT International and Religions for Peace to publish recommendations on how to approach the global issue. The publications are a set of guidelines entitled “Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation”, and are expected to be released on May 11th 2017. The guidelines will offer religious institutions the tools required to mobilize, influence thinking, generate debates, and set standards on the global issue of child sexual exploitation, on an international scale. The coalition between UNICEF, ECPAT International, and Religions for Peace created these new guidelines with the aim of helping religious communities worldwide harness their strength to prevent, respond, and end online child sexual exploitation.⁷¹ ECPAT International is an expanding network of 95 local civil society organizations with one main mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children.⁷² Religions for Peace is a non-governmental organization that was founded in 1970. The organization has grown to become the largest international cooperation of leaders from the religions of the world, with a dedication to promoting peace.⁷³ Both ECPAT International and Religions for Peace conduct cutting-edge research to establish an understanding of the global issue of child sexual exploitation, so that the organizations can effectively educate the public on the problem. Education is the key to understanding, and understanding is key to change.

Change often requires influential individuals or organizations to be at the helm of an idea or concept. ECPAT International has continually expressed that religious organizations could have an immense impact in combating child sexual exploitation, – due to the widespread influence religion has on communities all over the world – if religious leaders and communities understand and are willing to act on the issue. Dorothy Rozga is the Executive Director of ECPAT International, and while addressing the launch of the guide at the 5th Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children she explained how:

⁷⁰ UNICEF. "About UNICEF." *United Nations*. N.p., 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁷¹ Jacob, Sylvia. "Religious Organizations Asked to Join the Fight Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation." *EvoNews*. N.p., 12 May 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁷² ECPAT. "Welcome to ECPAT." *ECPAT International*. The Idea Bureau, 2016. Web. 14 May 2017.

⁷³ Religions for Peace. "Welcome to Religions for Peace." *Religions for Peace - Who We Are*. N.p., 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

If the world is to eliminate online sexual exploitation of children, the world's most influential bodies must play their part. And few – if any – have more influence than religious communities. They are the largest and most inter-connected social organizations in existence. With most of the world's population, around five billion people, belonging to religious communities, their potential to spearhead the fight against this appalling crime is immense.⁷⁴

The Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation guidelines will help the religious institutions of the world focus their influence on eradicating the sexual exploitation of children, specifically the exploitation of children via the internet. The guidelines also provide the different perspectives of various religions on child protection and step-by-step action plans to aid religious leaders and communities in seeking justice and protecting children.

UNICEF has further emphasized a specific form of protection against child sexual exploitation, which religious organizations could play a major role in supporting. Due to the moral authority and trust placed in religious organizations, leaders, and communities, religious institutions could easily and efficiently create 'safe spaces'. Safe spaces are child-friendly environments which can offer safety, help, and support for children and adolescents who are victims of violence and exploitation. Religious organizations can become the lifeline of children who have fallen victim to sexual exploitation, by providing not only a place of refuge, but also a means of reaching out and attaining help.

Dr. William Vendley is the Secretary General of Religions for Peace, and was a main contributor to the creation of the Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation guidelines. Dr. Vendley has explained how the internet has provided an expanding network for child sex traffickers to operate within, and how faith groups are encouraged to use their moral capacities to ensure the safety of children:

Children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation online everywhere. We urge faith groups to use this guide to catalyze their deepest moral and spiritual capacities to ensure that the crime of sexual abuse of children is prevented. The world's diverse religious communities

⁷⁴ Jacob, Sylvia. "Religious Organizations Asked to Join the Fight Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation." *EvoNews*. N.p., 12 May 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

must become allies in addressing this scandal everywhere – in local communities, on the national level and across regions.⁷⁵

Religious institutions have the power to aid in the global fight against child trafficking. All religions are encouraged to contribute to this battle, the greater the support base, the more children can be protected and/or rescued. However, the religions of the world must stand united so that the global issue can be properly addressed and appropriate action can be taken. The mass complexity and scale of the online sexual exploitation of children is extremely difficult to quantify, and the precise number of child victims of online child sexual exploitation is unknown. However, research by the Association of the Internet Hotlines has been able to track the quantity of sexually explicit webpages containing child victims. From 2012 to 2014, the webpages containing materials of child sexual abuse increased by 147%, with children ten-years-old and younger portrayed in 80% of the materials. Sadly, these statistics only include the victims being exploited online, countless more are being abused offline. The efforts put forth by religious institutions, such as spreading awareness and developing safe spaces, can aid in reversing the progression of child sexual exploitation and make the world a better place for children to live.

The attitudes of religious members of a community are analogous to the attitudes of secular members of society in regards to the global issue of child sexual exploitation. Individuals associated with either group can be the perpetrators or part of the solution. An individual's association to a religious institution does not result in a greater risk of the person becoming an offender or a victim of the horrendous crime, nor is an individual unaffiliated with a religion in a situation of greater jeopardy. Child sexual trafficking is a non-discriminate crime, and in order to combat the appalling atrocity, religious and non-religious members of communities must work in unison. Regardless of where an individual places their faith, the exploitation of children is a global issue that burdens all of humanity, and a unified front is required to bring an end to the inhuman crime.

⁷⁵ Jacob, Sylvia. "Religious Organizations Asked to Join the Fight Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation." *EvoNews*. N.p., 12 May 2017. Web. 14 May 2017.

Media Influences

Media has a significant impact on the lives of people of the modern world. The Oxford Living Dictionaries defines media as “the main means of mass communication, such as broadcasting, publishing, and the Internet, regarded collectively”.⁷⁶ The term media is often directly associated with advertisements and the use of communication to influence consumers to purchase certain goods and services. However, media is essentially channels through which communication is established in the form of news, entertainment, education, data, or promotional messages. The means through which information is distributed includes all broadcasting and narrowcasting methods such as newspapers, magazines, television, billboards, direct mail, telephone, fax, and internet.⁷⁷ The term media is derived from the Latin word ‘medius’, which refers to the state of being in the middle or central. Thus, the word ‘media’ originates from the perception of this mass form of communication being a central aspect in the lives of individuals. Communication is essential to the human ability to accomplish large scale tasks and participate in the daily routines of life. However, those who use the media to relay information do not always follow moral guidelines, and instead display information in a way that is manipulative of the viewing audience, to attain personal, economic, or political advantages.

Societies of the 21st century are fragile systems that are easily swayed and influenced by the media. From the movies individuals see to the music they hear, the media is a key aspect of the social environment people live in. Media is a primary source from which society is exposed to local and international issues, and is a main way of obtaining knowledge. Due to the involvement of the media in the lives of people, it heavily contributes to the formation of socially acceptable behaviors.⁷⁸ One of the main social behaviors that has been immensely impacted by the messages portrayed in the media are sexual attitudes. Sexual content in the media affects all age groups, however, the most notable age group effected are adolescents. This age group is at the greatest risk of becoming influenced by sexual content expressed through the media because

⁷⁶ Oxford Living Dictionaries. "English - Media." *Oxford University Press*. N.p., 2017. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁷⁷ BusinessDictionary. "Definition - Media." *Business Dictionary*. Web Finance Inc., 2017. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁷⁸ National Research Council (US) and Institute of Medicine (US) Board on Children, Youth, and And Families. "Media Influences." *Adolescent Decision Making: Implications for Prevention Programs: Summary of a Workshop*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, 01 Jan. 1999. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

adolescents have not fully developed the cognitive skill to think and analyze messages in a critical manner to make the best decision possible based on future outcomes. Between 1997 and 2001, the amount of sexual content found throughout the media doubled, and television programs referenced sex as often as eight to ten times per hour. With over seven hours of exposure to a variety of media every day, sexual images and messages can become consciously or unconsciously ingrained in the minds of adolescents.⁷⁹ Developing unacceptable sexual attitudes as a youth often determines the ideologies of the individual in adulthood. The way in which the mindset of an adolescent develops is reflected in their actions as an adult.⁸⁰

Representatives from the US National Institutes of Health have conducted a multitude of surveys to form a comprehensive understanding of how the media is impacting the sexual outlook of adolescents. To begin, 80% of youths reported that they acquired more knowledge on sexual activities through entertainment media than from parents and school personal. On average, adolescents are exposed to over 143 incidents of sexual behavior on prime-time television each week, and over 80% of all movies shown on network or cable television include sexual content. These portals are also three to four times more likely to showcase sexual activities between unmarried partners. Music videos are also very sexually provocative. Analysis by the US National Institutes of Health indicate that approximately 60% of music videos portray sexual feelings and impulses through the display of provocative clothing paired with sexually suggestive body language. An important note is that the majority of sexual messages showcased throughout the media are represented in a positive light.⁸¹ This evokes conclusions within the viewing population that sex is a nonconsequential act to be pursued, and is a casual source of pleasure. However, this information is misleading because these messages often promote an idealistic and unrealistic sexual relationship without highlighting any potential risks such as sexually transmitted diseases.

⁷⁹ The Council on Communications and Media. "Sexuality, Contraception, and the Media." *American Academy of Pediatrics News and Journals Gateway*. American Academy of Pediatrics, 01 Sept. 2010. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁸⁰ Gillett, Rachel, and Drake Baer. "25 Scientific Ways Your Childhood Influences Your Success as an Adult." *The Independent*. Independent Digital News and Media, 10 Feb. 2016. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁸¹ Gruber, Enid, and Joel W. Grube. "Adolescent Sexuality and the Media: a Review of Current Knowledge and Implications." *Western Journal of Medicine*. Copyright 2000 BMJ publishing Group, Mar. 2000. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

Despite the most pressing issues including the practice of unprotected sex, teenage pregnancies, and the contraction of sexually transmitted infections derived from adolescents participating in sexual relationships, there is another major problem involved with the bombardment of sexual practices throughout the media. Movies directed at teens often contain distorted views of “normal” adolescent sexuality. The media has degraded and devalued sex to the point where it is no longer a private and special experience shared between two people who are in love. Sex has become a commercial industry used to sell everything from cars to carpets. A study of college students revealed that exposure to sexual messages through the media has correlated with degrading beliefs of sex. When interviewed, many college students expressed how they believed that men are sex driven, and that men and women are sex adversaries. The media has led to an unhealthy view of sex, and has stemmed alarming ideologies that sex should be pursued and obtained at all costs.⁸²

The unhealthy obsession with sex instilled in these youths becomes very treacherous when they reach adulthood. Due to an often shrinking of social circles after high school or post-secondary education, many adults cannot as easily find partners to partake in sexual activities with. This leads some adults to turn to the act of purchasing sex, and they become the demand factor in the human sexual trafficking industry.⁸³ Contrary to many beliefs, the ability to purchase sexual pleasure is not restricted to the darkest corners of the internet. Individuals interested in purchasing sex often turn to websites such as Backpage, the largest classified ad company in the world with over 900 public sites on a global scale.⁸⁴ This is where child sexual exploitation comes into play. Backpage will immediately remove any sexually provoking ads that are discovered to contain individuals under eighteen years of age. Under the terms of use and code of conduct of Backpage, it is prohibited to enact in the following actions:

⁸² The Council on Communications and Media. "Sexuality, Contraception, and the Media." *American Academy of Pediatrics News and Journals Gateway*. American Academy of Pediatrics, 01 Sept. 2010. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁸³ American Sexual Health Association. "Sexual Difficulties." *American Sexual Health Association*. N.p., 2017. Web. 28 Mar. 2017.

⁸⁴ Clark, Gaye. "9 Things You Need to Know About Backpage.com and Sex Trafficking." *TGC - The Gospel Coalition*. N.p., 4 Apr. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

- 4. (a)** Posting adult content or explicit adult material unless: (i) such material is specifically permitted in designated adult categories and permitted under applicable federal, state, and local law; and (ii) you are at least 18 years of age or older and not considered to be a minor in your state of residence;
- (b)** Posting, anywhere on the Site, obscene or lewd and lascivious graphics or photographs which depict genitalia or actual or simulated sexual acts, as determined in the sole discretion of backpage.com;
- (c)** Posting any solicitation directly or in “coded” fashion for any illegal service exchanging sexual favors for money or other valuable consideration;
- (d)** Posting any material on the Site that exploits minors in any way;
- (e)** Posting any material on the Site that in any way constitutes or assists in human trafficking.⁸⁵

Despite these regulations, one million sex advertisements are posted on Backpage every day. Many of the individuals advertised on Backpage are children who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Over 70% of all suspected child sexual trafficking cases are linked to Backpage.⁸⁶ This is a blatant disregard for the proper use of the online classified advertising site, however, Backpage does not regularly intervene with such atrocious activities and thus acts as mediator and breeding ground for child sexual exploitation. As Albert Einstein once said, “the world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.”⁸⁷

To evade the regulations laid out in the privacy policy of Backpage, child sex traffickers have disguised children, through use of makeup and inappropriate clothing, to present these children as being at least eighteen years of age or older. Children are masked by makeup so that traffickers are able to illegally sell them like products, under the radar (refer to Figure A8). Therefore, many adults who purchase sex from such websites are not only taking part in criminal acts, but also supporting the sexual exploitation of children.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ Backpage. "Terms of Use and Code of Conduct." *Backpage.com*. N.p., 20 Mar. 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

⁸⁶ Clark, Gaye. "9 Things You Need to Know About Backpage.com and Sex Trafficking." *TGC - The Gospel Coalition*. N.p., 4 Apr. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

⁸⁷ Underground Network Association. "Famous Quotes of Albert Einstein." *Underground Network Quotes*. N.p., 22 May 2016. Web. 13 May 2017.

⁸⁸ Adelson, Wendi. "Stop Selling Children on Backpage - Children Don't Belong on the Backpage." *Innocents at Risk - Protecting Women and Children from Human Trafficking*. N.p., 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

The media has created an unrealistic, unhealthy, and devalued obsession with sexual practices amongst society. The pursuit of this inherent desire has led many adults to the domain of purchasing sex. The media has indirectly created a demand for easily accessible sex. This is a major problem that drives the multi-billion-dollar industry of child sexual exploitation. If there was no demand for the ability to purchase sex, the industry would not exist because traffickers would not generate any revenue. However, it is the ingrained drive to obtain sex that the media has instilled within society that aids in fueling the industry of child sexual exploitation.

Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Brazil

Brasil, a terra do café e do futebol.⁸⁹ Brazil is a global exporter of coffee and world renowned for its excellence in the sporting world, especially football. The land area of Brazil is 8.5 million squared kilometers, making Brazil the largest country in South America. The nation is located in eastern South America, and has a 7.4-thousand-kilometer border with the Atlantic Ocean (refer to Figure A9). Brazil is home to the sixth largest population in the world, with 205.8 million inhabitants, and a growth rate of 0.75%. The majority, 85.7%, of the population live in urbanized areas and are located along the Atlantic coast. The gross domestic product per capita is on the decline, and is currently \$15, 200 (US dollar). Brazil has an unemployment rate of 15%, despite a literacy rate of 92.6%.⁹⁰ Despite having the largest economy in South and Central America, Brazil is not a developed country. Due to the low gross domestic product per capita, low living standards, and high infant mortality rate (18 deaths per 1,000 live births), Brazil is considered a developing country.⁹¹ As of last year, Brazil ranked 79th in the United Nations Human Development Report and has been steadily increasing in rank since 1990.⁹²

Information on the socioeconomic status of a country creates an enhanced understanding of the global issues prevalent in the country. Despite an annual increase in the human development index of Brazil and previous governmental intervention, the poverty rates in Brazil are very high, with 26% of the population living below the poverty line of Brazil.⁹³ A poverty line, also known as a poverty level, is defined by the World Bank as the level of income required for a household or individual to secure the necessities of life. Poor standards of living are classified, by governmental standards, as persons living below the poverty live.⁹⁴ The

⁸⁹ Cambridge Dictionary. "Cambridge English–Portuguese Dictionary: Translate from English to Portuguese." *Cambridge Dictionary - Translations*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹⁰ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: BRAZIL." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹¹ Investopedia. "Top 25 Developed and Developing Countries." *Investopedia - Economics*. N.p., 31 Mar. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹² United Nations. "Human Development Reports." *Human Development Reports*. United Nations Development Programme, 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹³ The Rio Times, Contributing. "Brazil Struggles with Economic Inequality." *The Rio Times - Economics*. Brazil News, 19 Nov. 2016. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹⁴ World Bank. *How to Define a Poverty Line. Poverty Lines*. N.p., 8 Aug. 2005. Web. 3 Apr. 2017.

Government Statistics Bureau of Brazil has revealed that 16.2 million people, over 8.5% of the population, live on less than \$1.30 (US dollar) per person each day. Of the 16.2 million people, 4.8 million inhabitants do not generate an income.⁹⁵ Naercio Menezes, a professor of economics at the University of Sao Paulo, has explained that, “Brazil is one of the most unequal countries on the planet. The reduction [of poverty] that has been taking place in the last couple of decades is very minor. If you are born into a poor family, it is very difficult for you to eventually become rich”.⁹⁶ The economy of Brazil is starkly divided between the impoverished and the wealthy. As a result, it is extremely difficult for individuals of lower socioeconomic backgrounds to break the chain of poverty. The main factors driving poverty in Brazil include: the unequal distribution of social security between the wealthy and the poor, and the inaccessibility of a higher education for those of lower economic income.⁹⁷ With poverty comes vulnerability, and with vulnerability comes exploitation.

Individuals cast in poverty are extremely vulnerable to the elements, disease, and sex traffickers. Sex traffickers exploit others for personal gain through forcing victims to participate in commercial sex. In order to lure their victims, sex traffickers exploit their vulnerabilities. These criminals prey on people who are hoping for a better life, lack employment opportunity, live in an unstable home environment, or have a history of sexual or physical abuse. Traffickers hunt down the most vulnerable demographic of society, and in Brazil the individuals who unfortunately fit this category are people living in poverty, especially children. With a promise of a new life, a loving romance, or new opportunities, sex traffickers lure the impoverished children of Brazil into the horror that is child sex trafficking.⁹⁸ In many regions of the world the main criminal in the act of child sexual exploitation is the trafficker, however, the extreme poverty of Brazil has led another party to enter the circle of negligence and guilt. Reports from CBN News have articulated how desperately poor parents will encourage their children, as young as seven-

⁹⁵ World Bank. "Poverty & Equity." *Poverty & Equity Data - Brazil*. World Bank Group, 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹⁶ The Rio Times, Contributing. "Brazil Struggles with Economic Inequality." *The Rio Times - Economics*. Brazil News, 19 Nov. 2016. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹⁷ The Borgen Project. "Poverty in Brazil - A Democracy in the Making." *Poverty*. N.p., 7 Dec. 2015. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

⁹⁸ National Human Trafficking Hotline. "The Traffickers." *Trafficking Hotline*. Polaris Project, 26 Sept. 2014. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

years-old, to sell their bodies. The children are given no choice and are forced into prostitution by their parents, who take on the role of a child sex trafficker. Situations such as these exist due to the desperation of attaining goods and/or money to meet basic needs. The forced prostitution of children by parents is a form of survival sex. As defined by the US National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, survival sex is the prostitution one engages in due to their extreme need to meet life necessities. Homeless or socially disadvantaged individuals are the main participants in survival sex, and barter sex for food, a place to sleep, or other basic needs.⁹⁹ The poverty in Brazil has led to the forced prostitution of children, so that their basic human needs can be met.

Brazil has the second highest rate of child sexual exploitation through child trafficking in world, with the highest rate in South America, however, this nefarious problem remains primarily in the dark. The precedence and relevance of the issue is undeniable and highly supported through various forms of evidence. In 2011, MATRIZ (Matriz Intersetorial de Enfrentamento à Exploração Sexual de Crianças e Adolescentes) analyzed the data collected between 2005 and 2010 from the Dial 100 services, in regards to the sexual exploitation of children in Brazil. Dial 100 is a hotline in Brazil which manages phone calls throughout the nation involving child abuse.¹⁰⁰ From 2005 to 2010, Dial 100 received 27,644 complaints, from 2,930 municipalities within Brazil, regarding the sexual exploitation of children. Sexual violence towards children is the second most reported crime in Brazil, especially with children age eight to fourteen. Experts predict that Brazil will soon over take Thailand as the number one country in the world for the sexual exploitation of children.¹⁰¹ These statistics are only inclusive of the reported incidents of child sexual exploitation, thus these numbers only scratch the surface of the depths of this problem. The National Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Prostitution stated that child sexual exploitation is a phenomenon highly prevalent throughout the country, with over 500,000 children forced into prostitution in Brazil. Minors are sexually exploited domestically,

⁹⁹ Chettiar, Jill, Kate Shannon, Evan Wood, Ruth Zhang, and Thomas Kerr. "Survival Sex Work Involvement Among Street-Involved Youth." *Journal of Public Health (Oxford, England)*. Oxford University Press and US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, Sept. 2010. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰⁰ Brazil Factoid. "Emergency Contacts." *Emergency Addresses and Telephone numbers In Brazil*. N.p., 30 Apr. 2011. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰¹ Hazeu, Marcel, and Frans Kranen. *Sexual Exploitation of Children in Brazil: Putting a Spot on the Problem*. ECPAT, Free a Girl, and Terre des Hommes, 9 May 2014. Web. 3 Apr. 2017.

but the majority are trafficked throughout or beyond the country borders. One of the main areas of concern, highlighted by the Federal Highway Police, are the Brazilian highways. The BR-101, also called Translitorânea, is the longest highway in the country running the length of Brazil, a distance of over 4,800 kilometers along the eastern coast.¹⁰² In 2012, the Federal Highway Police discovered 1,776 central locations, along the BR-101, where children were routinely being sold to highway travelers for sexual exploitation. The Brazilian police have predicted an increase in the number of these appalling “pit-stops” to occur over the next few years.¹⁰³

On December 5th 2012, under the leadership of Mônica Schröder, the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger released a strategy, entitled Brazil Without Extreme Poverty Plan, to overcome rural poverty within Brazil. The plan included the establishment of social services and social aid, as well as an increase in educational opportunities through subsidized tuition fees. The plan provided outstanding progress within the country, removing 28 million citizens from extreme poverty. The strategy has also cut the unemployment rate in half, bettering the nation.¹⁰⁴ The internal efforts to improve the Brazilian economy were recognized worldwide, and contributed to Brazil becoming one of the world’s strongest emerging economies and contributor to global growth.

The hosting of a major sporting event is a true honour, and to symbolize the socioeconomic rising of the country, Brazil was awarded with hosting the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brazil became the first country in South America to ever host the Olympics.¹⁰⁵ The poverty situation within the nation was moving in a positive direction and Brazil was to be in the spotlight for major competitive sporting events. The situation in Brazil appeared to be joyous on the surface. However, the arrival of sports enthusiasts and supports to the country opened doors to new danger for the children of Brazil.

¹⁰² Road Traffic. "BR-101 (Translitorânea) Highway, Rio de Janeiro." *Road Traffic Technology*. Kable Intelligence Limited, 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰³ Polícia Rodoviária Federal. *Mapeamento dos Pontos Vulneráveis à Exploração Sexual de Crianças e Adolescentes nas Rodovias Federais Brasileiras*. Mapeamento, and Disque Direitos Humanos, 2014. Web. 3 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰⁴ Schröder, Mônica. *Strategies to Overcome Rural Poverty in Brazil. Brazil Without Extreme Poverty Plan*. Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, 5 Dec. 2012. Web. 3 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰⁵ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: BRAZIL." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

Despite the economic and social boost provided by visitors, many of these foreigners also introduced the dark side to these games: sex tourism.

The issue of child sexual exploitation through child trafficking is no longer a domestic problem. The children forced into prostitution do not only have to face sexual offenders within Brazil, but instead these children are being exploited by foreigners in the practice of sex tourism. In the 1995 Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism, The World Tourism Organization, a specialized agency under the United Nations, defines sex tourism as, “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination”.¹⁰⁶ A mass influx of tourists will be drawn to Brazil to watch the sporting competitions, however, many of the tourists are eager not just for sports, but for children. Edivaldo Tauares, a member of the Municipal Council of the Defense of the Rights of Children, described how “what we [Brazilian citizens] see before and after sporting events, like the World Cup, is trauma in communities”.¹⁰⁷ The trauma faced by Brazilian society, especially the children, during major sporting events is the exponential increase in sexual exploitation. Prior to the FIFA World Cup of 2014, warning bells sounded for the various organizations combatting the sexual exploitation of children in Brazil, such as Childhood Brasil. Childhood Brasil was established in 1999 and fights for a Brazilian childhood free from sexual exploitation and abuse, through promoting prevention and building networks of protection for girls and boys.¹⁰⁸

The World Cup utilizes over twelve host cities within Brazil, and attracts an influx of temporary and migrant workers who travel to Brazil to aid in the construction of the stadiums. The United Nations Children’s Fund stated how the World Cup does not only bring revenue, business, and employment opportunities, but also the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, notably those under sixteen years of age. From June 12th to July 13th, the cities of Brazil hosting the international matches are bombarded with tourists, and the demand for sexual

¹⁰⁶ World Tourism Organization. "1995 Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism." *United Nations - Archives*. United Nations, 22 Oct. 1995. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰⁷ Sells, Heather. "Sex Tourists: Brazil Fights 'Out of Control' Child Exploitation." *CBN News*. N.p., 18 July 2016. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

¹⁰⁸ Childhood Brasil. "Childhood Protection." *World Childhood Foundation*. Civil Society Organization of Public Interest (OSCIP), and an Entity for the Promotion of Human Rights, 2016. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

pleasure from vulnerable youth wreaks havoc on the rights of these Brazilian children.¹⁰⁹ A 2013 study by the Brunel University of London, commissioned by Childhood Brasil, determined that the violations of the rights of Brazilian children are exacerbated due to an increased state of vulnerability by social factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, and a culture of machismo. During the month of the event, even the children who have the opportunity to attend school are on summer break and do not attend any classes. Thus, many children are wandering the streets, due to free time, during the entire length of the major sporting competition. The increased number of people flanking the city streets, paired with the social risk elements already prevalent in the country, contribute to a recipe for disaster. Regardless of which team is victorious in the World Cup, in the end it is always the children of Brazil who lose. Despite the evident issues raised for domestic children by the FIFA World Cup, the sexual exploitation of children is not the footage the new agencies cover or broadcasting services televise during the month of the football matches. The correlation between child sexual exploitation and a major sporting event has been silenced and neglected by public policies. Throughout the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the Brunel University of London conducted research on the number of cases of child sexual exploitation reported during the period of the month. In the entirety of the World Cup, 10,664 incidents of child sexual exploitation were reported. Unfortunately, this is only a representation of the cases that were reported, thousands more are believed to have occurred. Alessandro Pinto, a coordinator in the Brazilian Save the Dream campaign, summarizes what truly matters in the duration of these international competitions: “no child should suffer because a football stadium is built, nor should they be victims of exploitation through sex tourism.”¹¹⁰

Child sexual exploitation is not restricted only to times of major sporting events.

Prostitution may be legal in Brazil, but the sexual exploitation of innocent children is far from so.

¹⁰⁹ Ortiz, Fabiola. "Red Card for Exploitation of Children at Brazil's World Cup." *International Press Service - News Agency*. Childhood Brasil, 24 July 2014. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁰ Ortiz, Fabiola. "Red Card for Exploitation of Children at Brazil's World Cup." *International Press Service - News Agency*. Childhood Brasil, 24 July 2014. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

Case Study 2 – Russia

Россия - земля двух континентов.¹¹¹ Russia is the largest country in the world with a land area of over 17 million square kilometers, and Russia is the only country to be located in two continents, both the continent of Europe and Asia (refer to Figure A10).¹¹² The population of Russia exceeds 143.3 million, with 74% of the total population living in urban regions. Russia is one of the few countries in the world with a negative population growth rate, with each woman having an average of 1.6 children.¹¹³ Russia is one of the leading producers of oil and natural gas, and the GDP per capita is approximately \$26,100 (US dollars). The literacy rate in Russia is 99.7% and the life expectancy is 70.8 years. Russia ranks 49th in the United Nations Human Development Report and has been steadily increasing in rank since 2000.¹¹⁴

In order to understand the issues that infect the second world country today, it is essential to understand the events that ensued in the past, as the past influences the outcome of the future. To understand the nation Russia is today, it is essential to have background knowledge on the Soviet Union, the world's first communist state. The official name of the Soviet Union was the Union of the Socialist Republics (USSR), and was one of the dominant political entities of the twentieth century. The event that led to the creation of the USSR was the Russian Revolution of 1917. The Russian Revolution was a series of uprisings caused by social unrest, which led to the establishment of a permanent communist government within Russia, under Vladimir Lenin. This radicalism resulted in the Russian Civil War, from 1917 to 1922, in which the "Bolshevik Reds" (followers of Vladimir Lenin) fought the "conservative whites". The communist tide in Russia could not be stopped and the Bolshevik ideologist won the war in 1922. Upon achieving victory, the Bolshevik supporters absorbed regions other than Russia, such as the Ukraine and Georgia. The Soviet Union was formed on December 29th 1922, under the Declaration of the Creation of the USSR, to unify the Soviet Republics and create a constitutionally socialist state. Vladimir

¹¹¹ Reverso Context. "Translation in Russian." *Translation into Russian from English*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹² U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: RUSSIA." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹³ World Population Review. "Russia Population 2017." *Russia Population (2017) - World Population Review*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁴ United Nations. "Human Development Reports- Russian Federation." *United Nations Human Development Reports*. N.p., 2016. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

Lenin was the Head of State until his death in 1924, and his successor was the dictator Joseph Stalin. The USSR became the center of world affairs, and one of the two world super powers of the time – the other super power being the United States. From the beginning, Russia was the most powerful and largest republic within the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union was established on the principles of communism and a socialist economy.¹¹⁵ During World War II, the Soviet Union was an ally power and aided in the defeat of Nazi Germany.¹¹⁶ However, immediately following the World War, the Soviet Union and the United States entered a period of extreme tension known as the Cold War, from 1947 to 1991.¹¹⁷ In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed due to large defense expenditures, isolation from western technology and markets, and an inefficient centralized command economy. The union dissolved into fifteen separate independent countries. The fall of the USSR brought with it the removal of communism in Russia, but the dramatic change to a capitalism based economy inflicted major economic downfalls within the country. The collapse of the Russian economy from 1991 to 1996 was revered as a worse situation than the Great Depression in the United States.¹¹⁸ The Russian economy has never made a full recovery and the falling prices in oil have further denied the success of the oil-dependent economy. Today, over 17% of the country's population, 24.5 million citizens, live in poverty, and "Russia is on a long road to economic recovery".¹¹⁹

The ongoing poverty endured by the citizens of Russia is the driving factor behind child sexual exploitation through human trafficking within the country, and is one of the worst post-Soviet Russia tragedies. By the end of 2017, the World Bank is estimating a 1.5% drop in the country's already struggling GDP, with an increase in poverty sure to parallel.¹²⁰ Poverty is a state of being extremely poor, with an income that fails to meet the federally established

¹¹⁵ New World Encyclopedia. "Soviet Union." *Soviet Union - New World Encyclopedia*. N.p., 14 Oct. 2016. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁶ History.com. "USSR Established." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁷ Herd, Alex. "Cold War." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. N.p., 4 Mar. 2015. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁸ Poland, Marshall. "Russian Economy in the Aftermath of the Collapse of the Soviet Union." *Russian Economy in the Aftermath of the Collapse of the Soviet Union*. N.p., 24 Apr. 2003. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹¹⁹ Ostroukh, Andrey. "Poverty in Russia to Rise Sharply: World Bank." *MarketWatch*. N.p., 06 Apr. 2016. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹²⁰ Ostroukh, Andrey. "Poverty in Russia to Rise Sharply: World Bank." *MarketWatch*. N.p., 06 Apr. 2016. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

financial threshold, which differs across countries.¹²¹ An impoverished family or individual is in an extremely vulnerable position. Due to economic state, many of these families are forced to live in the streets, or become mentally stressed to the point where the family unit is dysfunctional. In Russia, the children who live in the streets or come from dysfunctional families are the victims targeted by child sex traffickers. Traffickers will abuse a child's state of vulnerability and provide assurance of a better life. False promises and a way for the child to break the chain of poverty that is their reality, is a perfect coercion tool utilized by the traffickers. Traffickers will also offer the children living in the streets fake job opportunities, such as being a house cleaner, to coerce the children into blindly following the trafficker. The predators are clever and experienced in tricking their victims, and will exceed all boundaries in the pursuit of their next victim. The Europe Law Enforcement Group has reported cases of disadvantaged children in Russia being promised, by traffickers, opportunities to be exposed to upper class foreigners, which could lead to marriage and a life one could only dream of living. However, once these children are in the hands of the trafficker, the dream ends and the vicious circle of entrapment begins. The children will be sexual abused and sold to strangers for the benefit of the trafficker. As the children grow older, the exploitation does not end, and the children are often transported to brothels. To control their victims, the predators will manipulate the children into believing that their well-being is dependent on the trafficker, and disobedient will result in a life back on the streets.¹²² When a child is living on the street, attaining each meal from dumpster to dumpster, any offer of escape is warmly welcomed, even if the promises are too good to be true.

Despite the massive land area of Russia, the victims of child sexual exploitation, who are trafficked domestically, end up in one of two central locations: Moscow or St. Petersburg (refer to Figure A11). Traffickers will often steal children from small towns throughout the eastern interior of Russia and transport the children to the big cities in the west of the country. The majority of the pedophiles who pay for the sex are located in these mainstream cities, and the trafficker can generate the greatest amount of profit through the exploitation of children in the

¹²¹ United Nations. "Poverty - Learning to Live Together." *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹²² Chelala, Cesar. "Stopping Sexual Abuse of Children in Russia." *Counter Punch*. N.p., 24 July 2015. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

most populous regions of Russia. Reports from the Moscow Police Force approximate that between 80,000 to 130,000 sex trade victims are harbored in Moscow, and that 80% of these victims are minors.¹²³

The sexual trafficking of children does not remain within the borders of the country. Russian children are internationally, illegally, and inhumanely trafficked across national lines to countries in Western Europe, namely Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Denmark, France, and Sweden. To evade law enforcements and lower the risk of possible capture, the traffickers will transport children through former countries of the USSR, such as Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, as a bypass route to Western Europe. The border control between Russia and the former countries of the USSR are poorly maintained with limited resources, and thus the ideal regions to smuggle children out of the country. There is a notable difference between the children trafficked domestically and those who are trafficked internationally. The majority of domestically entrapped, transported, and exploited children are captured from impoverished regions of the country, with a promise of escaping poverty. Whereas the children stolen for international exploitation often come from a combination of both lower and middle class homes. Many middle class youths of Russia are exposed to magazines, clothing, and images of people living in Western Europe and wish to attain the “European Life” for themselves. The young people in Russia are exposed to a life of plentiful money, glamorous homes, and beautiful clothes, which they innately know cannot be achieve in Russia. The criminals recognize this overwhelming desire within the young population to emigrate from Russia and live abroad, and this is the dream the traffickers prey on. The traffickers will promise these youths the opportunity to travel to Western Europe and attain the job of their dreams, whether that be a fashion designer or magazine editor, anything will be promised by the trafficker to persuade the children to leave the country. However, the journey for these children all end the same way – a life of sexual exploitation, the death of all dreams.

¹²³ The Russian Alliance against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People." *ECPAT - Europe Law Enforcement Group*. The Body Shop - Stop the Trafficking Campaign, 2016. Web. 1 Apr. 2017.

Tatiana Antonvna was a sixteen-year-old girl, from Svobodny, Russia, who fell into the trap set by an international child sex trafficker. Antonvna wanted to explore Western Europe in search of a better life. She had dreamed of moving to Western Europe to become a stylist, so that she could earn a fair income and fall in love with her new home. Antonvna saw the potential in travelling abroad for work and often discussed her aspirations with her close friends and boyfriend, whom she had been dating for one year. In order to make Antonvna happy, her boyfriend offered the idea of travelling to Western Europe to explore and discover the country she truly wished to work, and that they could start a new future together. Antonvna was ecstatic and discussed the proposal with her parents immediately. Originally, her parents were against the idea, but in the end allowed their daughter to go. Antonvna's boyfriend had met with her parents a handful of times, and her parents were quite fond of him, and believed that Antonvna would be safe under his care. Before departing, Antonvna's mother gave her a small brochure that outlined the dangers of trafficking and who to call in the event of an emergency. However, Antonvna became angry and threw the brochure away, because she misunderstood the intent behind her mother providing the pamphlet. The brochure was to help in the case of an emergency, not as a message of distrust.

Antonvna travelled by train to Amsterdam, Netherlands with confidence in her loving boyfriend to protect her. Antonvna was enjoying the trip, but she noticed her boyfriend was acting in an unusual manner, he was very quiet. As soon as the train arrived in Amsterdam, there was a man, Antonvna believed to be her boyfriend's friend, waiting for them. Antonvna's boyfriend and the "friend" moved out of sight to have a private conversation, leaving Antonvna in the dark. After a few moments, only the friend returned and explained how her boyfriend was arranging to rent a car and would meet the friend and Antonvna back at the flat they were all staying at later. The explanation seemed reasonable to Antonvna so she followed the friend back to the flat. However, once the door to the flat closed behind her, so did her dreams of living the "European Life". The minute Antonvna was in the flat, the friend explained how her boyfriend had sold her and that she was now to work as a prostitute ... no questions asked. Antonvna began to scream as reality set in. Her boyfriend of one year had just sold her to a pimp. Antonvna was devastated that the person she loved could ever do such a thing, the person she had trusted more than her mother, and how the romance must have been a hoax from the very start. In order to

control Antonvna, the pimp threatened to kill Antonvna's mother, father and sister if she even though about trying to escape. She was confused, frustrated, and frightened, and did not know what her next action should be or who she could communicate with to help her. Antonvna had succumbed to the same fate as thousands upon thousands of other young Russian girls, who were merely pursuing their dreams of a better life. She was forced to be a sex slave for six months until she managed to escape, Antonvna is considered one of the lucky ones.¹²⁴

Child sexual exploitation is not a solely domestic crime that remains within Russia. Russia has become an origin, transit and destination country in the global industry of child sexual exploitation (refer to Figure A12). Origin, refers to the area children are sent from. Transit, refers to the temporary location of a child victim on route to the final receiving point. Destination, refers to where the child finally ends up and is exploited. The tools used by criminals in the trafficking of children across the borders included more than merely an empty promise and trickery. A Russian Federation Guard reported to the International Organization for Migration in Russia that traffickers use counterfeit passports to traffic under aged children abroad. The majority of victims being trafficked in and out of Russia are girls. Russian traffickers transport Russian born victims to Western Europe, Japan, China, and even the United States, whereas victims whose destination is Russia often originate from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.¹²⁵ The demand for sex drives the child sexual trafficking industry, and enable children to be marketed on a global scale.

The Russian National Consultation on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children describes how Russia registers significant incidences of forced child prostitution and the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation. However, the introduction of the internet has allowed another horror to manifest in Russia, and across the world for that matter. The traffickers began to photograph and digitally record the sexual exploitation of the children and then sell the content through the dark web of the internet. These are criminal acts of child pornography.

¹²⁴ MTV Exit, and Angelina Jolie. "Inhuman Traffic." *YouTube*. N.p., 19 Apr. 2012. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

¹²⁵ The Russian Alliance against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People." *ECPAT - Europe Law Enforcement Group*. The Body Shop - Stop the Trafficking Campaign, 2016. Web. 1 Apr. 2017.

Russia is currently the number one developer and exporter of child pornography on the planet.¹²⁶ Child pornography, as defined by the United Nations, as any representation, by any means (film, video, photograph, etc.), of a child in real or simulated sexually explicit activities, or the representation of the sexual parts of a child for sexual purposes.¹²⁷ Presently, Russia does not have any criminal penalties for the possessing of child pornography, and the laws pertaining to child sexual exploitation are inadequate. Russian government authorities have exclaimed that the majority of sexual crimes committed against children are never reported or investigated.¹²⁸ Non-governmental organizations have had to take it upon themselves to clean the Russian internet of child pornography. Mark Tvercynin, director of the non-for profit organization Saferunet.ru, explained how in five months alone his organization shut down as many as 7,000 of these horrific sites.¹²⁹

On January 18th 2002 the United Nations entered into force the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The following is an excerpt from the international convention:

Article 1

States Parties shall prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as provided for by the present Protocol.

Article 3

1. Each State Party shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following acts and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law, whether such offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis:

(a) In the context of sale of children as defined in article 2:

(i) Offering, delivering or accepting, by whatever means, a child for the purpose of:

a. Sexual exploitation of the child;

b. Transfer of organs of the child for profit;

¹²⁶ Chelala, Cesar. "Stopping Sexual Abuse of Children in Russia." *Counter Punch*. N.p., 24 July 2015. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹²⁷ United Nations. "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child." *United Nations - Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*. N.p., 2017. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

¹²⁸ Russian Legal Information Agency. "Russia's Top Investigator Suggests Making Possession of Child Porn a Crime." *RAPSI*. N.p., 2 Apr. 2014. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

¹²⁹ Newton, Paula. "Russia: Where Keeping Child Porn is Legal." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 02 June 2011. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

- c. Engagement of the child in forced labour;
 - (ii) Improperly inducing consent, as an intermediary, for the adoption of a child in violation of applicable international legal instruments on adoption;
 - (b) Offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution, as defined in article 2;
 - (c) Producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing for the above purposes child pornography as defined in article 2.
2. Subject to the provisions of the national law of a State Party, the same shall apply to an attempt to commit any of the said acts and to complicity or participation in any of the said acts.
 3. Each State Party shall make such offences punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature.
 4. Subject to the provisions of its national law, each State Party shall take measures, where appropriate, to establish the liability of legal persons for offences established in paragraph 1 of the present article. Subject to the legal principles of the State Party, such liability of legal persons may be criminal, civil or administrative.
 5. States Parties shall take all appropriate legal and administrative measures to ensure that all persons involved in the adoption of a child act in conformity with applicable international legal instruments.¹³⁰

Russia is not a signatory country on this international convention, specifically targeted at ending the deeply concerning and widespread global issue of child sexual exploitation through trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography. The fact that Russia has not ratified this convention correlates to the fact that the nation ranks as a tier three country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) of 2000. The TVPA is one of the most important anti-trafficking laws passed in history, and a rank of tier three indicates that Russia does not comply with the minimum standards outlined by the TVPA, and are not making sufficient efforts to do so. The prosecution of child sexual trafficking offenders is very low in comparison to the wide spread problem of the sexual abuse of children in Russia. The Russian Government has not developed or employed a formal system of identifying and rescuing trafficked victims, nor implemented rehabilitation services for the victims who manage to escape.¹³¹ The fight to help end child sexual exploitation through child trafficking in Russia currently lies in the hands of non-

¹³⁰ United Nations. "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child." *United Nations - Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*. N.p., 2017. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

¹³¹ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: RUSSIA." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

governmental organizations. Child sexual trafficking is an inhumane crime that destroys the lives of innocent children on an international scale each and every day. Children are the future of a country, and it is essential to safeguard the future.

Case Study 3 – India

भारत, मसालों की भूमि.¹³² India, is known as the land of spices, located in the continent of Asia. Nationally, the official language is Hindi and is the language used by the central government in India. English is the provisional official sub-language, but individual state legislatures may adopt any regional language as the official language of the state, such as Sanskrit or Tamil.¹³³ India is located in southern Asia and has a land area of over 3.2 million square kilometers. The neighboring countries include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Nepal, and Pakistan, and India rests between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal (refer to Figure A13). India has the second largest population in the world, with over 1.2 billion inhabitants. Only 32.7% of citizens live in urban regions, the major urban areas being New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore. India has a positive population growth rate of 1.19%, with a birth rate of 19.3 births per 1,000 people. The average child spends 12 years in school and the resulting literacy rate in India is 71.2%. The major exports of India are petroleum products, precious stones, vehicles, machinery, iron, and steel, which account for over \$270 billion (US dollar) generated in revenue per year. The GDP per capita is \$6,700 (US dollar), paired with an unemployment rate of 10.7%.¹³⁴ In 2016, India ranked 131st in the United Nations Human Development Report, exhibiting a maintained increase in ranking since 1990.¹³⁵

Along with spices, India is known as the land of spirituality and philosophy. India was the birthplace of religions in practice today. In order to gain an enhanced understanding of India, it is imperative to understand the religious beliefs practiced throughout the nation. In India, religion plays a key role in the lives of the majority of the population, through influencing decisions made in daily and personal life. For a large portion of the population, the day-to-day life in India consists of engaging in ritual activities motivated by religious beliefs. Belief systems in India, as like all other regions of the world, are evolving. Religion has become the glue that

¹³² Collins Hindi Dictionary . "Translations, Definitions and Pronunciations." *English to Hindi - Translations, Definitions and Pronunciations*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³³ New World Encyclopedia. "Languages of India." *Languages of India - New World Encyclopedia*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³⁴ Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: INDIA." *U.S. Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³⁵ United Nations. "Human Development Reports." *Human Development Index*. United Nations Development Programme, 2017. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

merged the history of India with contemporary life. India is home to a diverse spectrum of religions, including: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, and Christianity. The major belief systems specified only skim the surface of the complex and interwoven diversity of the Indian religious life. These religions have coexisted within the single nation of India for many centuries. The variety of beliefs in India have served to demonstrate a considerable level of tolerance within the country.¹³⁶ Although the religions of India are relatively accepting of one another, there is a single religion more profoundly followed. The most highly practiced religion in India is Hinduism. Over 946.8 million people in India are Hindu, accounting for approximately 80% of the population.¹³⁷ Hinduism, the most ancient religion practiced in the country, is believed to have developed in India approximately 5000 years ago. India is the birthplace of two other religions in practice today, Buddhism and Jainism, both of which were developed around 500 BC. Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism are believed to be the pillars that shaped the philosophy of India, and created the land of the present. However, in modern India, Buddhism and Jainism have faded from the citizens' belief systems, with only approximately 0.7% and 0.5% of Indians following each religion, respectfully.¹³⁸

Hinduism is believed to be the oldest existing religion. Hinduism is the third most practiced religion around the world, with more than 750 million followers. Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism, near the Indus river of North India – the word Hindu is derived from the word Indus. “Aum” is the sound one hears in the deepest state of meditation, and is also the symbol of the religion (refer to Figure A14).¹³⁹ Hindus believe in pilgrimage, the journey one must take in search of spiritual or moral significance. These expeditions often take place at the sites in which the gods are believed to have appeared in the world, such as rivers, temples, and mountains.¹⁴⁰ The Hindu religion describes how the universe undergoes endless cycles of creation, preservation, and dissolution, and that religion is more of a practice than a belief. Hindus believe in a universal soul, or God, called Brahman. Brahman takes on a multitude of forms and is worshiped by Hindus on their own rights, because the practice of Hinduism

¹³⁶ U.S. Library of Congress. "Religions of India." *Religion Views*. N.p., 2015. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³⁷ Maps of India. "Religions In India." *Indian Religions*. N.p., 2016. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³⁸ Aharon, Daniel. "Religions in India." *Information on India*. N.p., 2005. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹³⁹ Barrow, Mandy. "Information on Hinduism." *World Religions - Hinduism*. N.p., 2003. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴⁰ Coleman, Simon Michael. "Pilgrimage." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 21 July 2009. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

encompasses a variety of different religious variations. One of the main beliefs of the Hindu religion illustrates how divine beings exist in unseen worlds, and that temple worships, rituals, sacraments, and personal devotionals create a communion with these devas and Gods.¹⁴¹

The practice of the Hindu religion has provided people a path to follow in life, a reason to live, and, in all, hope. However, the religion also developed traditions and ceremonies, created with the intention to honour these superior beings, that put the well-being of others at expense. One example was the formation of the devadasis. A devadasi is a girl who has been forced into a life of prostitution in the service of the Hindu goddess of fertility, Yellamma. The original developments of the devadasis, under the Hindu religion, were created for three main reasons: as a substitute for human sacrifice, as a way to ensure the fertility of the land and increase the human and animal population, and to define a social barrier between the lower and upper castes of India. In the beginning, devadasis were well respected women of society doing their part to give praise to the Gods.¹⁴² In the world of today, the devadasis religious rituals are highly practiced in southern India. Despite the religious intent behind the implementation of a young girl into the life of a devadasi, in modern times it is speculated that the practice is merely an economic means of income for the parents of the sold girl. When a girl reaches the age of puberty, her virginity will be auctioned off to the highest bidder by her parents. Once the young girl's virginity is taken, her parents will marry their daughter to a deity or temple. The girl is to spend the rest of her life dedicated to the temple and to Goddess Yellamma. In order to serve Yellamma, the girls are forced by their parents and the views of society to become prostitutes for the upper-caste community members. Each and every night these girls are exploited to the individual who will pay the most money. This is occurring in India today, in the modern world. In the terms of modern ideals, these young girls are sold, raped, trafficked, and then sexually exploited for the rest of their lives.

Throughout the course of history, the devadasis transformed from an essential spiritual aspect of society, to a prostitute with little connection to the temple or Goddess Yellamma.

¹⁴¹ Kauai's Hindu Monastery. "Nine Beliefs of Hinduism." *Basics of Hinduism*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴² Chattoraj, Samantha. "The Devadasi System - Genesis & Growth." *The Devadasi System*. N.p., 2002. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

Unfortunately, in the time of the 20th century onwards, many young girls were forced into prostitution by their parents under the name of being a devadasi. However, at this point in time, the word devadasis had morphed into a term to conceal the fact that the actions being taken were actually child sexual exploitation. Devadasis became the logic of evil, a reason to amends with one's self that the prostitution of a young girl was not immorally wrong. Despite the illegalization of the practice of young girls becoming devadasis, in 1988 by the Government of India, the sexual exploitation of children is continued today. As like the children who are sexually exploited in Brazil and Russia, the devadasis are in highest abundance in areas of India stricken with poverty.

One in five Indian citizens is poor and living below the poverty line. This equates to approximately 270 million people.¹⁴³ The need to generate any extra income to meet basic human needs becomes so excruciatingly intense that parents will resort to the prostitution of their children, especially their daughters. Many individuals in the western world could not even fathom, sexually exploiting their child in order to generate income, even among the lowest of individuals in regards to socioeconomic status. However, being impoverished in a western country and being impoverished in a county such as India are two completely different situations. In a western country, there are various socioeconomic support systems to help individuals meet their human needs and eventually lead them to a positive path in life, such as the welfare system. In a westernized country, it is extremely unlikely that a person will die because the necessities of life were not met. In India today, over 3 million people are impoverished and homeless, and their needs as human beings are not being met. Support systems and state response in India are inadequate and those would cannot meet basic human needs will most likely end up in the streets, and if worse came to worse, would die due to exposure, starvation, or dehydration.¹⁴⁴ The decisions made in life simply break down into the psychological theory of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Essential, people are motivated to attain certain needs and some needs take precedence over others. The most basic need is for physical survival, and other needs can only be pursued once the tier of basic physical needs is met. Thus,

¹⁴³ The World Bank. "India's Poverty Profile." *Infographic - World Bank*. N.p., 27 May 2016. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴⁴ West, Nizamuddin. "Homelessness in India." *Homelessness*. Housing and Land Rights Network, 2012. Web. 5 Apr. 2017.

starving individuals will be so desperate that sexually exploiting their child is perceived as necessary for the survival of both the child and themselves. Survival is a powerful human instinct, and is the reason parents justify selling their children to sex traffickers.¹⁴⁵

India is home to the second largest population in the world, and the nation contains nearly half the world's slaves. A total of 15 million people are enslaved in India today, many are children, and these modern-day slaves are forced to work as domestic servants, miners, cotton pickers, and worst of all, prostitutes. In India, over 40% of the prostitutes seen on the streets are children. Many of these children have not been stolen or even lured off the street due to a promise of a better life, as many would expect. Instead, these children have been sold by their parents and are now commodities in the sex trade. Some girls are sold at an age as young as six.¹⁴⁶ Buying a girl from a desperate family, is often an easier and more efficient way for a child sex trafficker to obtain their victim, and the trafficker can effortlessly turn a profit the same day the girl is purchased. Extreme poverty and a lack of education or employment make children in India especially vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. These children may have never been taught their human rights, or see the life their parents sold them into as the only means of survival and are forever trapped.¹⁴⁷ Child sexual exploitation is a black market industry in India, and very few are aware of the issue.¹⁴⁸

Mumbai is a major city in India. However, the horror of children being sold as sexual objects is prevalent in Mumbai today, despite being an urbanized city. For example, Padma was a 16-year-old girl who had been trafficked from the state of Uttar Pradesh and transferred to Mumbai, where she was forced to work as prostitute. Padma was sold by her indebted parents at the age of six. Before her parents sold her, Padma's father had resorted to begging. When this failed, he took out a loan that he could not repay. Loan sharks came after Padma's father and

¹⁴⁵ McLeod, Saul. "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs." *Simply Psychology*. N.p., 16 Sept. 2016. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴⁶ Thompson, Hazel. "Beaten, Raped and Locked in Cage by Pedophiles at the Age of 9 - India's Modern Day Slaves." *Mirror*. Global News, 26 Mar. 2014. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴⁷ Sur/Contributor, Priyali, Lauren Wolfe/Director, and Bruno Bierrenbach Feder/Guest Blogger. "Silent Slaves: Stories of Human Trafficking in India." *Women Under Siege Project*. Women's Media Center, 30 Dec. 2013. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

¹⁴⁸ Thompson, Hazel. "Beaten, Raped and Locked in Cage by Pedophiles at the Age of 9 - India's Modern Day Slaves." *Mirror*. Global News, 26 Mar. 2014. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

beat both of her parents. The loan sharks threatened to kill the entire family unless one condition was met. If Padma's parents sold her, being the youngest, to a female trafficker in the loan shark gang, the rest of the family would be spared. The deal was made and Padma became an object. The female trafficker constantly beat Padma, for no apparent reason, and relocated her to the major city of Mumbai. In the first year of slavery, Padma worked as a domestic labourer in the home of the female trafficker. At the age of seven, Padma was sold to a street gang where, "one of the men told me [Padma], I had to be ready to be a woman". The gang members drowned Padma in make-up, and then one day one of the gang members told her to take her clothes off. Padma was brutally attacked and molested. She had no concept of what was going on, and was petrified while it continued. Once the gang member had finished sexually assaulting Padma, the initial trafficking woman who had sold Padma locked the door from the outside and left Padma there exposed, naked, and sobbing.

The assault went on for two brutal years, all the while death threats were screamed at Padma. She was threatened so many times that she had just decided to accept her fate, because she had no more strength to fight. At age nine, Padma became a forced child prostitute. From 4pm until 4am Padma suffered. She was raped by a continual stream of men. Every. Single. Night. If Padma ever uttered one complaint, she would be beaten, tied up, or starved for days. In one incident, Padma was stripped, tied to the ceiling fan, and viciously slapped as the fan spun around, and around.

Padma and other girls like her would be displayed in waiting rooms so that "customers" could pick out the "product" they wanted. Padma would make thousands of rupees (official money of India) per night, but not a single rupee went into her pocket. Padma never slept, between being raped at night, and having to babysit the younger girls during the day. As many as ten girls would be jammed in the tiny, hot room during the day. Words could not describe how horrendous Padma's life had become. Padma was not living, she was merely surviving.

After six agonizing years of inhumane suffering, Padma was rescued when the police raided the brothel. On this occasion, and like many other, all the pimps and traffickers who abused and controlled the girls escaped. Padma is currently living in a non-governmental

organization safe house in the outskirts of Mumbai, with an unsure future ahead of herself. She was never given the opportunity to gain an education, another reminder of the life she was deprived of.¹⁴⁹ The sexual exploitation of children through child trafficking is an inhumane crime faced by millions of children around the world every day. This corruption not only destroys the lives of its victims, but affects the entire community. Imagine how much these victims could have contributed to their town, city, state, nation, or even world during the time period of their entrapment. Joy. Peace. Happiness. Hope. All stolen for: Lust. Greed. Money. Power. The world needs to know what is going on both within and beyond their nation's borders.

Awareness is the key to making a difference in the world. Awareness leads to action, and action leads to change. Through Padma's story, awareness of the global issue is spread and individuals are able to attain a better understanding of the scale and severity of the problem. Recounts of these traumatic experiences also allow an inside perspective to be developed of the agony victims face both physically and mentally. Stories attach faces to the facts. Often, a set of statistics on the number of child sexual exploitation victims in a certain region in the world does not move an individual to make a change, because the numbers can act as a mask for the pain. However, when an individual hears, sees, or reads a personal recount of the human suffering another human being underwent, awareness is achieved, action is evoked, and change will come.

Role of International Organizations

¹⁴⁹ Thompson, Hazel. "Beaten, Raped and Locked in Cage by Pedophiles at the Age of 9 - India's Modern Day Slaves." *Mirror*. Global News, 26 Mar. 2014. Web. 05 Apr. 2017.

One voice can make a positive difference in the world, however, it is when voices are united that major change can be achieved. International organizations are the unifying tool for the voices to be heard and the message consolidated. An international organization is a large-scale, systematic arrangement of people with a unified purpose, with contributions from or to more than one country.¹⁵⁰ The international organizations that serve a humanitarian or environmental operation are founded on non-for-profit principles. The two main types of international non-for-profit organizations are intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).¹⁵¹ An intergovernmental organization is composed of sovereign nations called member states, which are established and organized under a treaty or charter. The goals of the organization are outlined by the treaty and include common interests of all member states, such as to preserve peace through conflict resolution, provide economic development and humanitarian aid programs, and promote international cooperation in environmental protection, human rights, and social development.¹⁵² The most well-known and highly regarded intergovernmental organization in the world is the United Nations. On the other hand, a non-governmental organization is a voluntary citizens' group which operates on a local, national, or international level. The individuals involved are task driven with a common interest. Non-governmental organizations focus resources on specific issues, such as human right violations, environmental issues, or health development, and aid in monitoring and implementing international agreements. These organizations will often bring concerns to governments to advocate for change.¹⁵³ One of the most well-known non-governmental organization is the Me to We Foundation, co-founded by Marc and Craig Keielburger on the principles of empowering individuals to look beyond themselves and assess the needs of the people of the world.

It is the incredible work of international organizations that play a critical role in helping the casualties of child sexual exploitation and in preventing more children from falling victim into this vicious crime. The law enforcement systems across the world cannot confront this

¹⁵⁰ Mingst, Karen. "International Organization." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 30 June 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁵¹ Judge, Anthony, Paul Taylor, and A. Groom. "Types of International Organization: Detailed Overview." *Laetus in Praesens*. Yearbook of International Organizations, 1978. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁵² U.S. Diplomacy Center. "Intergovernmental Organization." *U.S. Department of State*. N.p., 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

¹⁵³ Rouse, Margaret. "Definition of NGOs." *NGO Special Interest Areas*. N.p., 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

complex issue alone, instead it is the citizens of the world who must stand up and make a difference in the lives of these children. International organizations provide a pathway for individuals to help put an end to child sexual exploitation.

“A world where all children have the opportunity to fulfill their potential in life,” is the vision of Childreach International, a non-governmental organization focused on restoring the rights of children around the world through integrative solutions. Childreach International empowers children and creates positive changes in their communities to develop an improve access to education, protection, and healthcare, especially in the developing world (refer to Figure A15).¹⁵⁴ The organization was first introduced in 2004 as a volunteer-led organization founded by individuals passionate about international development, and was originally called the Global Development Link. In 2009, the organization transformed and changed its name to Childreach International, to reflect the main vision of the volunteers to make a positive difference in the life of children. The organization encompasses many branching programs to promote the well-being of children around the world, such as “Children for Change” which was developed in 2013 to inform children of their innate rights as human beings. In 2014, Childreach International launched a program entitled “Taught Not Trafficked”. The program was created to combat human trafficking using education, specifically focusing on eliminating the trafficking of children. Childreach International states that the best prevention of child trafficking, especially child sex trafficking, is keeping children involved in school. If children stay in school until at least the age of sixteen, the risk of potential exploitation is significantly reduced. The goal is for children to be taught, not trafficked.¹⁵⁵

The primary focus of the “Taught Not Trafficked” program is to keep children in school, especially in developing countries and in countries where natural disasters have recently occurred leaving children in very vulnerable positions. Childreach International has also aided in the development of educational programs to integrate into school curriculums throughout the developing world, that teach the importance of assessing dangerous situations involving

¹⁵⁴ Childreach International. "We are Childreach." *Childreach International*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

¹⁵⁵ Childreach International. "Our Work - Tackling the Root Causes of Child Trafficking." *Taught, Not Trafficked*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

strangers. In order to provide resources for these education programs, the organization has played an influential role in lobbying governments to increase resources allocated to rural schools, to aid in expressing messages against child sexual trafficking within the classroom. Childreach International has also introduced new and innovative means of communicating information to the youth of the world, such as explaining the rights they hold as individuals. The organization has begun to use integrative activities such as sports to emphasize human rights to all participants and combat human trafficking in youth.¹⁵⁶

An example of the diligent work the Childreach International program has put forth to stop child sexual exploitation was emphasized in the year 2015. On April 25th 2015, Nepal was struck with a massive earthquake. With a magnitude of 7.8, it was the worse earthquake to strike the country in over 80 years. The earthquake left tens of thousands of people homeless and vulnerable. This created an indescribable horror, not only were 9,000 lives taken by the earthquake, but the perfect environment for child sexual traffickers to flourish was established. During the time immediately following the earthquake, thousands of children were lured out of the country on the false pretenses of a better life in India. The most highly effected region in the district was Sindhupalchowk, and Childreach International was one of the first organizations to respond to the affected district, with the main priority of getting children back into school and off the streets, away from the grasp of child sexual exploiters. The “One Class at a Time” project was launched in May of 2015, under the Childreach Nepal program, with a goal of building 100 new schools for the children of Nepal, to work in parallel with the “Taught Not Trafficked” project.¹⁵⁷ On July 30th 2015, to celebrate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Childreach International team sponsored a “Sports Initiative” program in Thangpalkot, Thangpalhap, Banskharka, and Sindhupalchowk, Nepal, to keep spirits positive during the construction process of the schools (refer to Figure A16). The event brought teachers and students together, from all four communities, for a football event to celebrate the rights of children. The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the child sexual exploitation

¹⁵⁶ Childreach International. "Our Work - Tackling the Root Causes of Child Trafficking." *Taught, Not Trafficked*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017

¹⁵⁷ Childreach International. "One Year from the Nepal Earthquake." *Taught Not Trafficked*. YouTube, 28 Apr. 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

through child trafficking present in Nepal, and allowed the participants to learn about the principle of safe migration.¹⁵⁸

“The right to pursue happiness for so many is stripped away, it is raped, it is abused, it is taken by force, fraud, or coercion, it is sold for the momentary happiness of another, it is decimated by the sexual exploitation of children”.¹⁵⁹ These were the words of Ashton Kutcher, the co-founder of the technology driven, international, non-governmental organization known as Thorn. On February 15th 2017, Mr. Kutcher presented his case before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill, in Washington, DC, to testify the progress Thorn has achieved in combating the modern-day slavery of child sexual trafficking.¹⁶⁰ The recent testimony serves to prove that child sexual exploitation is a global issue prevalent in the world today, and that there are organizations within the world that are fighting to bring an end to the inhumane crime.

Thorn is a non-governmental organization, known as the “Digital Defenders of Children”, that has partnered with technological industries, governments, and other non-governmental organizations across the world to leverage technology to combat child sex traffickers, accelerate victim identification, and most importantly, protect vulnerable children.¹⁶¹ The charity organization was originally entitled the DNA Foundation, and was founded in San Francisco, California, in 2009. The co-founders are Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore, who developed Thorn with the vision of creating innovative technology to fight the global sexual exploitation of children. Today, Thorn has become a predominant factor in locating and assisting in the rescue of child sexual exploitation victims from the world of forced prostitution. The organization has taken a unique approach to the issue. The internet has played a pivotal role in advancing technology over the past few decades, which has led to the creation of many beautiful

¹⁵⁸ Childreach International. "Using Sport to Combat Human Trafficking." *Childreach International News*. N.p., 9 Aug. 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

¹⁵⁹ Kutcher, Ashton. "Ashton Kutcher's Powerful Speech Against Human Trafficking." *YouTube*. Thorn, 16 Feb. 2017. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶⁰ Klein, Besty. "Kutcher Testifies on His Anti-Sex Trafficking Efforts ." *Childreach International*. CNN, 15 Feb. 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶¹ Thorn. "Fighting Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. Digital Reasoning, 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

things. However, the team members of Thorn have recognized that the internet has also introduced a new dimension to the crimes committed against children. The internet has allowed traffickers to lure children anonymously through online social media sites, advertise victims on a global scale with the click of a button, and encrypt networks to evade detection from the law enforcement and conceal their identity. Thus, the people of Thorn have decided to use the traffickers' greatest asset, technology, against them.¹⁶² From the time of creation, the Thorn team has been tirelessly trying to convince the world that technology is the answer to ending child sexual exploitation:

There is often a misconception about technology, that in some way it is the generator of some evil, that it is creating job displacement, and that it enables violence and malice acts. But as an entrepreneur and as a venture capitalist in the technology field, I see technology as simply a tool, a tool without will. Will is the user of that technology and I think it is an important distinction. An airplane is a tool, it is a piece of technology, and under the right hands it is used for mass global transit, and under the wrong it can be flown into buildings. Technology can be used to enable slavery, but it can also be used to disable slavery ... and that is what we are doing.¹⁶³

The internet is home to the largest commercial industry for buying and selling children in the world. Escort pages and online classified sites have evolved into virtual marketplaces where innocent children are bought and sold. Sixty-three percent of all child sex trafficking victims were advertised online during one point in the entire trafficking situation. In the United States alone, 100,000 escort advertisements are posted each day, with minors being represented in a major portion of these endorsements. Technology, namely the internet, has been used as a tool to coerce and force children into situations where they are being held against their will and sexually exploited. However, it is within technology that a solution resides.¹⁶⁴

The technology task force of Thorn is comprised of over twenty technology companies that lend their time, knowledge, and resources in the process of developing the technology to

¹⁶² Thorn. "Child Sexual Exploitation and Technology." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶³ Kutcher, Ashton. "Ashton Kutcher's Powerful Speech Against Human Trafficking." *YouTube*. Thorn, 16 Feb. 2017. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶⁴ Thorn. "Child Sexual Exploitation and Technology." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

digitally combat child sexual exploitation. Despite the competition of these companies on the consumer frontier, they have come together under Thorn to help the child victims who cannot help themselves. From Google to Microsoft to Adobe, colossal effort has been put forth to develop technology to accelerate victim identification and intercept predatory behaviors online. Thorn has developed a web-based tool that is currently in a trial phase within the United States to identify both victims and traffickers. If the trials prove successful, the system will be introduced on an international stage to aid in the global fight against child sexual trafficking. The technology was developed from the model of an internet browser system, and the web tool is known as Spotlight. The internet has made it much easier to buy and sell children online for sexual purposes, and the challenge currently faced by law officials is the immense amount of content posted on the internet every day. Somewhere in the collection of data is the information pertaining to the location of the children who are being bought and sold online for sex, and it is impossible for members of law enforcement to sift through all this data in a timely fashion. When it comes to child sexual exploitation, time can mean the difference between a survivor, an endlessly trapped victim, and a name on a headstone.

Considering the issue of time, the Thorn team decided to take a unique approach to technology, with the main goal of reducing time spent searching for a victim and improving the efficiency of the search. Spotlight takes massive amounts of data and condenses it into an asset for law officials. Through Spotlight, the number of children identified, rescued, and connected with rehabilitation resources can be dramatically increased. Thus far, the program is proving very successful, as explained by a special agent in Hawaii, “This tool [Spotlight] will allow us to conduct faster, more precise investigations that will remove criminals from the street and, most importantly, recover victims”.¹⁶⁵ The Spotlight program is currently being used by over 4,000 law enforcement officers in all states across America, to find child sexual exploitation victims with enhanced speed and efficiency. In the last twelve months, Spotlight has successfully identified and rescued 6,325 victims, 1,980 of which were children, as well as identified and led to the arrest of 2,186 traffickers. The technology has increased time efficiency by 60% per investigation of a sexual exploitation of a child. The critical time saved has allowed for an

¹⁶⁵ Thorn. "Spotlight: Human Trafficking Intelligence and Leads." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

astonishing increase in child rescues, with up to five children to be rescued, per day. In the words of special agent Wisconsin of the Human Trafficking Task Force, “it [Spotlight] is the greatest tool we have in the fight against human trafficking”.¹⁶⁶

It is through the valiant efforts put forth by international organizations, such as Childreach International and Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children, that individual ideas can be combined and voiced in unison to promote real change within the world. The crime of child sexual exploitation through child trafficking cannot be suppressed and vanquished by law enforcement officers alone, instead the public must be involved in the pursuit of giving all children an equal chance, an equal chance at attaining their potential. International organizations are built on the shoulders of individuals who demand to see positive changes in the world.

Canadian Connections

¹⁶⁶ Thorn. "Spotlight: Human Trafficking Intelligence and Leads." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children. Digital Reasoning*, 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.

Oh Canada ... the land of the northern region of North America, sharing the longest international border in the world with the United States (refer to Figure A17). Canada is the second largest country in the world, with a land area slightly under 10 million square kilometers and a population of approximately 35 million inhabitants. Canada has a life expectancy of 82 years, a literacy rate of 99% throughout the population, and a gross domestic product per capita of approximately \$50,000 (US dollars).¹⁶⁷ Due to a multitude of statistics gathered by the United Nations in 2016, Canada has been ranked 10th in the world on the United Nations Human Development Index.¹⁶⁸ Canada is a developed country that was built on the principles of democracy and justice, and formed under the orderly negotiations and culminating terms of the Confederation of Canada on July 1st 1867.¹⁶⁹

However, wealthy and developed countries are not impenetrable to criminal acts that threaten the safety and well-being of children within the nation. Child sexual exploitation exists within Canada. The issue often slips beneath the awareness of the public, however, it is a major concern of the law enforcement officials within the society. Law enforcement personnel are trying to generate a greater societal awareness of the hidden issue through educational lectures and seminars in schools and public facilities. For example, the Ontario Provincial Police are in the process of developing a specialized program in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to inform the public of the severity and presence of child sexual exploitation within the communities of the nation.¹⁷⁰ It is essential for the individuals of the nation to learn to recognize and appropriately report the crime of child sexual exploitation, as public awareness is the front line of defense in the prevention and end to the sexual abuse of these children victims.

In Canada, distracted driving laws, under the *Highway Traffic Act*, have been enacted to illegalize the use of handheld cell phones while driving:

78.1 (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held wireless communication device or other prescribed device that is capable of

¹⁶⁷ Government of Canada. "Government of Canada - Guide to Latest Information." *Statistics Canada*. N.p., 29 June 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations Development Programme. "Human Development Reports." *United Nations Development Programme in Canada*. United Nations, 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁶⁹ Waite, P.B. "Confederation." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. N.p., 28 Mar. 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷⁰ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

receiving or transmitting telephone communications, electronic data, mail or text messages. 2009, c. 4, s. 2; 2015, c. 27, Sched. 7, s. 18.¹⁷¹

The requirement of a law to ban the use of handheld devices while driving arose because people were distracted by these devices behind the wheel of motorized vehicles and caused great quantities of death and destruction. It was the overwhelming devastation caused by distracted driving that led to the formation of this law.¹⁷² Throughout history, the call for change or the realization of major issues detrimental to the well-being of a society often only occur in reaction to traumatic events:

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was sitting in a beautician's chair as news blared from a radio. A passenger plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Shortly after the first plane hit, patrons in the salon began theorizing about the cause. Plane malfunction? Pilot error? Not one suggested terrorist attack.

Because terrorism didn't happen in North America.

Within minutes, we watched in horror as a second plane plunged into the Twin Towers. In less than two hours, a wake-up call had come to the continent. Mass-scale terrorism had reached our shores. And we'd soon learn it had been alive and well long before 9/11, working its evil plans right under our noses.¹⁷³

In the modern world of today, another reality is hidden throughout society in North America: child sexual exploitation through child trafficking. Child sexual exploitation has become increasingly more difficult to recognize as it is not an issue hidden in plain sight. Due to technological advancements leading to the invention of the internet, the sexual exploitation of children has moved from the streets and clubs to cyber platforms. Predators are concealed by the glow of a computer screen and children are bought and sold like commodities with the click of a button. This major catastrophe is happening in Canada today, and a call for action and change must be made before the lives of more innocent children are stolen.

From 1840 to 1860 Canada was highly regarded as the promised land. Between 30,000 and 40,000 African-Americans escaped enslavement from the United States by following the

¹⁷¹ Government of Ontario. "Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8." *Ontario.ca*. N.p., 13 Apr. 2015. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷² Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷³ Clark, Gaye. "9 Things You Need to Know About Backpage.com and Sex Trafficking." *TGC - The Gospel Coalition*. N.p., 4 Apr. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

North Star on the Underground Railroad to find freedom in Canada (or as it was known during the time, British North America).¹⁷⁴ The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses that assisted enslaved African-Americans on their journey to freedom, and was the largest anti-slavery movement in North America. The success of the railroad was heavily dependent on the abolitionists who favoured legal movements to put an end to the practice of slavery.¹⁷⁵ However, Canada is not presently the land of the free. Today slavery exists in Canada, Canadian children are trafficked and enslaved. The inherent human dignity of these children is violated for the sexual gratification of adults.¹⁷⁶ Between 2009 and 2014, over 25% of all human trafficking victims for the purpose of sexual exploitation were individuals under eighteen years of age (refer to Figure A18), with 90% of these victims being female. In regards to the perpetrators, over 40% of the accused were people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four (refer to Figure A19). Nicole Barrett, a human trafficking expert from Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia, states that the most common age for children to be forced into the sex trade is the extremely young age of twelve to thirteen.¹⁷⁷

Child sexual exploitation is a very prevalent reality in the country of Canada, despite the tendency to associate the horrific act with foreign nations. In October 2016, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) investigation concluded in the arrest of a dozen people who had trafficked sixteen victims, all of whom were minors, and forced the children to perform sexual acts with strangers in exchange for money.¹⁷⁸ The charges were under Section 153 and 279.011 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*:

Sexual exploitation

153 (1) Every person commits an offence who is in a position of trust or authority towards a young person, who is a person with whom the young person is in a relationship

¹⁷⁴ Henry, Natasha L. "Underground Railroad." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. N.p., 4 Mar. 2015. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷⁵ Historica Canada. "Underground Railroad." *Black History Canada*. Toronto-Dominion Bank, 2015. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷⁶ Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights. "The Need for National Action." *The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Canada*. N.p., Nov. 2011. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷⁷ Global News - Canada. "25% of Canada's Human Trafficking Victims are Minors: Statistics Canada." *Global News*. N.p., 20 July 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁷⁸ Grant, Tavia. "Police Find 16 Human-Trafficking Victims in Cross-Canada Investigation." *The Globe and Mail*. Globe Talks, 18 Oct. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

of dependency or who is in a relationship with a young person that is exploitative of the young person, and who

(a) for a sexual purpose, touches, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an object, any part of the body of the young person; or

(b) for a sexual purpose, invites, counsels or incites a young person to touch, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an object, the body of any person, including the body of the person who so invites, counsels or incites and the body of the young person.

Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years

279.011 (1) Every person who recruits, transports, transfers, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person under the age of eighteen years, or exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person under the age of eighteen years, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation is guilty of an indictable offence and liable

(a) to imprisonment for life and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of six years if they kidnap, commit an aggravated assault or aggravated sexual assault against, or cause death to, the victim during the commission of the offence; or

(b) to imprisonment for a term of not more than fourteen years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of five years, in any other case.

Marginal Note: Consent

(2) No consent to the activity that forms the subject-matter of a charge under subsection (1) is valid.¹⁷⁹

These charges led the RCMP to enact the fifth Operation Northern Spotlight in Canadian police history. The protocol is a coordinated outreach effort with the focus of finding, reaching, and helping people in the sex industry. The conducted investigation required the combined efforts of 53 separate police services in nine provinces across Canada, to aid in the global effort to end child sexual exploitation through child trafficking. The investigations are ongoing, and thus far 32 individuals across Canada are facing a combined total of 78 offences involving the luring, trafficking, and exploitation of children. The overwhelming majority of victims involved were under 18 years of age, with some children as young as thirteen.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁹ Canada. *Tremear's Criminal Code of Canada*. By David Watt and Michelle Fuerst. 25th ed. Toronto : Carswell, A Division of Thomson Reuters Canada Limited, 2014. Print.

¹⁸⁰ Grant, Tavia. "Police Find 16 Human-Trafficking Victims in Cross-Canada Investigation." *The Globe and Mail*. Globe Talks, 18 Oct. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

One arrest made by the sex crimes and human trafficking enforcement team of the Toronto Police Service, was a man, age 20, living in Toronto. The man had abducted two Canadian seventeen-year-old victims and transported them to a Scarborough motel, where he forced them into prostitution and used the online classified advertising website Backpage to attain customers. The man had lured the two children straight out of school through the false promise of guaranteeing the girls an opportunity to become models and earn high incomes. However, the outcome could not have been further from the truth. The two victims were brutally beaten, starved, and abused. The trafficker had ferociously knocked their teeth out, sliced their Achilles tendons with a knife, and held the girls hostage in a dumpster. The trafficker would threaten the girls with even more brutality and violence if they did not meet their “daily quota of income” – to which the predator kept every cent. Detective Sergeant Tramontozzi, from the Toronto Police Service, estimated that the amount of money the trafficker expected from each girl on a daily basis would accumulate to a total of over \$250,000 (CAN dollar) per year per girl.¹⁸¹

Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, all Canadian citizens regardless of age, gender, race, or religion are entitled the right to be free from violence, exploitation, and abuse, specifically freedom from censorship and obscenity under section two, fundamental freedoms.¹⁸² Child sexual exploitation is in direct violation of these rights, victims are permanently physically and mentally harmed through severe exploitation and abuse. The sexual exploitation of children is illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada, with the minimum punishment being imprisonment for a term of five years for offences involving the trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years old, paired with a minimum imprisonment of one year for the sexual exploitation of a child.¹⁸³ However, the illegality of the sexual exploitation of children has not hindered traffickers from committing the criminal act within the borders of the nation. The Province of Ontario enacted a new law on April 23rd 2001 to aid in the prevention of

¹⁸¹ Grant, Tavia. "Police Find 16 Human-Trafficking Victims in Cross-Canada Investigation." *The Globe and Mail*. Globe Talks, 18 Oct. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.

¹⁸² Canada. Library of Parliament. Research Branch. *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Fundamental Freedoms*. By Kristen Douglas and Mollie Dunsmuir. N.p.: Law and Government Division, 1998. Print.

¹⁸³ Government of Canada. "Consolidated Federal Laws of Canada, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Minimum Sentence for Offences Involving Trafficking of Persons Under the Age of Eighteen Years)." *Legislative Services Branch*. N.p., 23 Mar. 2017. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

child sexual exploitation through the police maintaining current information on the whereabouts of past sexual offenders. The regulations were outlined under Christopher's Law, also known as the Sex Offender Registry – Bill 128. Under Christopher's Law, it became legally mandatory for all convicted, dangerous, and high risk sexual offenders to register with police in the jurisdiction of residence.¹⁸⁴

Christopher's Law is named in honour of Christopher Stephenson, an eleven-year-old boy who had been growing up in the City of Orillia (refer to Figure A20). The young boy was abducted, on Father's Day in 1988, by a known sex offender by the name of Joseph Fredericks. Christopher Stephenson was tortured and sexually assaulted for over a day and a half before, ultimately, being brutally murdered under the hands of Fredericks. The police were at the point of abduction within three minutes, but it was too late, and in 1988 there was no information of the location of known sex offenders. If a sex offender registry had have been in place during the time of Christopher's abduction, the young boy may have been saved. The tireless efforts of Christopher's parents led to the legislation of the Sex Offender Registry, created with a commitment to public safety.¹⁸⁵

Ontario was the first province in Canada to enact a sex offender registry, but the need to protect society from the profound and long-lasting consequences imposed by sex offenders became a domino effect throughout the nation. In a recent development on December 1st 2016, the National Sex Offender Registry was created, as a result of the *Sex Offender Information Registration Act (SOIRA)*. As like the original Sex Offender Registry of Ontario and *SOIRA*, the National Sex Offender Registry was created on the principles of aiding the police services in preventing and investigating crimes of a sexual nature by requiring the registration information of sex offenders. The National Sex Offender Registry is a database maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the most important aspect of the registry is the factor of time. It is important to note that the public does not have access to the National Sex Offender Registry. The registry provides police with critical and timely information to improve the ability to locate the

¹⁸⁴ Government of Ontario. "Ontario Sex Offender Registry." *Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services*. N.p., 8 Feb. 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁸⁵ Carter, Lauren. "Christopher's Law: 10 Years Later." *Barrie Examiner*. N.p., 27 Apr. 2011. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

victim, because many sexual exploitation cases involve repeat offenders. Time is of the essence in child sexual exploitation investigations because the longer the criminal is in control of the child, the more likely the child will never be seen again.¹⁸⁶

However, despite the positive acts and legislations passed throughout Canada to prevent, protect, and rescue children from child sexual exploitation, there is currently a main issue putting great strain on law enforcement to prosecute sexual exploitation charges under judicial law. The right to a criminal trial within a reasonable time as outlined by the Supreme Court of Canada has created a challenge for many police forces to prosecute lengthy and complex child sexual exploitation cases within the allotted timeframe.¹⁸⁷ Detective Sergeant Thompson of the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit under the Ontario Provincial Police has remarked on the difficulty to convict an accused for the sexual exploitation of children under such stringent time restraints:

From the time the charge is laid to the very end of the trial, a criminal case cannot exceed 18 months in provincial courts, otherwise if the case exceeds the timeframe it is automatically presumed unreasonable and the charges against the accused will be stayed under the new *R v Jordan* case law.¹⁸⁸

Charges are considered stayed when the Crown Attorney decides to discontinue the prosecution of charges. Thus, a stayed case indicates the accused no longer needs to return to court and charges are withdrawn.¹⁸⁹

The Supreme Court of Canada released *R v Jordan* on July 8th 2016, a decision that fundamentally changed the framework of determining if an accused has been tried within a reasonable amount of time under section 11 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A violation of these time requirements is considered a violation of the rights of the accused to a fair trial, and evoke community frustration within the judicial system. *R v Jordan* provided a re-

¹⁸⁶ Government of Canada, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "National Sex Offender Registry." *Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. N.p., 12 Dec. 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁸⁷ Cook, Michelle. "Overthrowing Precedent: R v Jordan's Impact on the Crown and the Right to a Trial Within a Reasonable Time." *TheCourt.ca*. N.p., 23 Sept. 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁸⁸ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

¹⁸⁹ Law Facts. "Difference Between Having Charges Withdrawn or Stayed." *Law Facts*. Legal Aid Ontario, 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

interpretation of the test for unreasonable delay in court proceedings.¹⁹⁰ The timeline of a fair trial was originally outlined by the case law of *R v Morin* in 1992. However, this framework was deemed unpredictable, confusing, and complex, ultimately, contributing to unjust delays within the court system. Therefore, a new outline was deemed imperative and a new presumptive ceiling was derived through *R v Jordan*. A criminal case presented in provincial court may not exceed 18 months in length from the time of the arrest to the end of the trial. A criminal case in superior court may not exceed 30 months immediately following the preliminary inquiry.¹⁹¹ The *R v Jordan* guidelines have provoked positive changes by providing clear deadlines for the prosecution of cases, however, downfalls have also followed the ruling. Particularly complex cases, such as child sexual exploitation investigations, inflict a time crunch on the presentation of the evidence and the prosecutors are often forced to start from a defensive position in court. Furthermore, the already stressed court system will most likely be overwhelmed by the acceleration of these cases and unable to accommodate the tighten time constraints. Since the *R v Jordan* was released, the number of judges, court staff, and general resources to operate the courts had not changed, thus the time constraints can be difficult to meet. Therefore, defendants facing complex charges will be one of the greatest benefactors of the newly established regulations.¹⁹²

Between the importance of helping victims and the adversity currently present in the judicial system, law enforcement and legislation has shifted the way in which child sexual exploitation is approached. Instead of mainly focusing on catching and prosecuting the traffickers, the main goal is to help prevent children from becoming potential victims through education. To achieve this, the Ministry of Public Safety under the Canadian Federal Government has placed a greater importance on the *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking*, of 2012. Annex B of the action plan highlights the selective anti-human trafficking

¹⁹⁰ Simonneaux, Dorian. "Legal Rights Sections 7-14." *Section 11 (b) – The Right to be Tried within a Reasonable Time*. N.p., 18 Oct. 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹¹ Brady, Peter, Michael Rosenberg, and Trevor Courtis. "R. v. Jordan – The Supreme Court of Canada Dramatically Alters the Framework Applicable to the Right to a Criminal Trial Within a Reasonable Time | length of criminal cases, Supreme Court of Canada, tried within a reasonable time." *Canadian Appeals Monitor*. N.p., 19 July 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹² Cook, Michelle. "Overthrowing Precedent: R v Jordan's Impact on the Crown and the Right to a Trial Within a Reasonable Time." *TheCourt.ca*. N.p., 23 Sept. 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

efforts that have been put in place to date. One prevention technique was the partnering of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association. The partnership launched a national awareness campaign to bring attention to the availability of the national tip-line service, in which individuals can place anonymous reports on any suspected crimes they witness or are aware of. One issue of importance was the ability for the public to report any suspected cases of human trafficking and/or exploitation. Another prevention implemented under the national action plan is the awareness campaign entitled “I’m Not for Sale”. The campaign was created by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with the intention of informing the public and potential victims of the reality of the sexual exploitation of children in Canada. The campaign visits schools and working environments, and includes training videos, police approved handbooks, victim assistance guidelines, and information on how to report suspected cases of human trafficking.¹⁹³

The victims of child sexual exploitation do not fall into a specific category, these children are stolen from all economic, ethnical, racial, and social backgrounds. However, in Canada an overwhelming percentage of child sex trafficking victims are females who have recently immigrated or females of indigenous descent. Many predators see these individuals as the most vulnerable demographic and set their targets on these girls. For example, slightly over a decade ago, Timea Nagy emigrated from Hungary to Ontario, Canada, at the age of seventeen. She emigrated on the promise of attaining a job in custodial services or babysitting. She did not speak English, and when she arrived at the airport the individuals who had promised her a job brought her directly to a motel in Toronto. Nagy had become forced into prostitution, working for up to twenty hours a day. She was malnourished and denied food, losing thirty-five pounds in two weeks. Nagy was thankfully able to escape after three months of torture, but could not bear to tell her story until ten years after the incident. Unfortunately, not all children are able to escape this crime and live to tell about it the way Nagy did.¹⁹⁴

¹⁹³ Ministry of Public Safety. "Human Trafficking." *Human Trafficking*. Government of Canada, 03 Dec. 2015. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹⁴ News, CBC. "Human Trafficking Crackdown on Sex Trade Produces Charges Against 47 People." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 22 Oct. 2015. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

In order to prevent more children from falling into the hands of sexual traffickers, the Ontario Government revealed a plan in June 2016 to spend up to \$72 million (CAN dollars) over a four-year term in a new anti-trafficking strategy, with one of the main priorities being the specific support for the immigrant and indigenous populations. The money will be distributed to create appropriate services for indigenous survivors of trafficking, establish provincial anti-trafficking coordination centers, and develop a specialized prosecution team for human-trafficking crimes. The finances will also go towards providing trauma counselling and job skills training for victims, so that they can begin to stitch their lives back together and pursue opportunities to better their future.¹⁹⁵ Furthermore, in response to the specific vulnerability of Aboriginal and immigrant girls to human traffickers, Status of Women Canada collaborated with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to deliver specialized training on human trafficking for law enforcement officials, the judicial system, and the border and immigration services.¹⁹⁶

Today, “Canada remains a source, transit, and destination for child sex trafficking”.¹⁹⁷ However, through newly established laws, programs, and funding dedicated to the protection of children throughout the nation from the horror of child sexual exploitation, Canada is taking a stand against the global issue. This continued effort from not only law enforcement, but society as a whole, may once again make Canada the land of the free.

Solutions

Child sexual exploitation through child trafficking is an inhumane crime. This crime is an international violation of human rights. Due to the complexity and vastness of the issue, it is difficult to achieve a culminating resolution. Deriving a solution is an action or process of

¹⁹⁵ Grant, Tavia. "Ontario Unveils \$72-Million Plan to Fight Human Trafficking." *The Globe and Mail - National News*. The Globe and Mail, 30 June 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Public Safety. "Human Trafficking." *Human Trafficking*. Government of Canada, 03 Dec. 2015. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

¹⁹⁷ Grant, Tavia. "Ontario Unveils \$72-Million Plan to Fight Human Trafficking." *The Globe and Mail - National News*. The Globe and Mail, 30 June 2016. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.

solving a problem.¹⁹⁸ When it comes to problem solving there are two main outcomes, short-term and long-term solutions. Short-term solutions can be met quickly and involve a relatively small-scale timeframe to accomplish set out goals.¹⁹⁹ Despite the apparent efficiency of this type of problem solving, the downside of short-term solutions is that the issue is not truly resolved, but instead repressed. This type of problem solving is incapable of solving global issues in a sustainable manner. On the other hand, long-term solutions are steadily accomplished over a relatively extensive amount of time.²⁰⁰ Long-term solutions are often not highly revered, due to the drawn-out process and comprehensive work ethic required to reach the end goal. However, the implementation of long-term solutions is the sustainable way to combat broad based world issues such as child sexual exploitation.

Even though short-term solutions are unsustainable in the long run, this type of problem solving can aid in suppressing the issue enough to meet long term results. In order for laws to be abided by there must be a system of law enforcement. To uphold human rights within a society, law enforcement officials are necessary to ensure the safe practice of the law, and charge those who do not oblige. An increase in the number of law officials within a region and the development of new pro-active strategies will aid in the short-term solution to combat child sexual exploitation, and allow for long-term solutions to be set into motion. It is critical to bring the issue of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking in general to the forefront of police investigations.

However, in the developing world it is difficult to implement a secure police force, much less a police force with a specialized task, due to the lack of a stable judicial system within these countries. The procedures of law within a country must work as one whole unit. A world governance survey, conducted by the United Nations University, rated the capability of various countries in the judicial field. The report was based on five key principles of government: access to justice refers to fairness, due process to transparency, judicial autonomy to accountability, international human rights decency, and non-formal mechanisms to the efficiency of the system.

¹⁹⁸ Merriam-Webster. "Solution." *Merriam-Webster*. Merriam-Webster, 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

¹⁹⁹ Merriam-Webster. "Short-term." *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

²⁰⁰ Merriam-Webster. "Long-term." *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

There was a stark correlation between the efficiency of the judicial system within a country and the level of child sexual trafficking. The lowest ranking countries in the report, those with the poorest judicial system, are the countries with the worst levels of child sexual exploitation, including the Philippines, Pakistan, and Togo.²⁰¹ Without a means of efficiently prosecuting charges, the implementation or improvement of an already existing police force would prove futile. Developing stronger judicial systems, especially in developing countries, is a stepping stone in the path to ending child sexual exploitation.

In the westernized world, there is a lack of televised news broadcasts and publicly accessible reports on child sexual exploitation, and the issue often flies under the radar. Thus, the public is not informed on the issue and it is not a main concern of the voting demographics of the nation. As such, the government does not believe the public will approve in the relocation of police resources from other crimes, such as burglary or homicide investigations, to the examination of child sexual trafficking cases.²⁰² Despite limited available resources and minute public support, many police forces in the western world have implemented specialized operations to combat the sexual exploitation of children and bring the predators to justice. For example, in the United States of America, government entities have been implemented to combat human trafficking. On February 13th 2002, the President of the United States at the time, President George W. Bush, signed an executive order to enact the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. The establishment of this task force was mandated under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, to ensure the cooperation and coordination among various United States government agencies in anti-trafficking in persons initiatives.²⁰³ The task force was developed on the premise of fighting the terrible crime through the prosecution of traffickers, the protection of victims, and the prevention of future trafficking. Despite the good intentions, the program has diminished since

²⁰¹ Court, Julis, Goran Hyden, and Ken Mease. *World Governance Survey Discussion. The Judiciary and Governance in 16 Developing Countries*. United Nations University, May 2003. Web. 1 Apr. 2017.

²⁰² Ship, Peter. "How to Make Human Trafficking a Priority for Law Enforcement Agencies." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 11 July 2013. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

²⁰³ Boucher, Richard. "President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons." *U.S. Department of State - Archives*. U.S. Department of State, 14 Feb. 2002. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

establishment, due to a lack of funding.²⁰⁴ For true progress to be achieved, the law enforcement and government must gain greater public support. This is where education and public awareness comes into play, the long-term solution to child sexual exploitation. Public awareness will not only allow greater support behind police forces, but is also one of the best methods of preventing trafficking in the future. The crime of child sexual exploitation is like an illness, the police force acts to treat the symptoms ensued on society, while educating the public is the vaccine that prevents the disease from occurring in the first place.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”²⁰⁵ Information is a very powerful tool. Information enables the ability to make informed decisions to evoke positive change. The public must be informed of the existence and severity of child sexual trafficking. This crime is indiscriminant, anyone can be a victim or a predator regardless of financial, social, racial, or ethnical background, and it is a crime occurring all around the world. From developing to developed countries, no nation is free from the horror that is child sexual exploitation. People, especially in the western world, are ignorant to the fact that these crimes exist not only in other countries, but within the westernized world itself. If this global problem is allowed to silently develop in the background of society, it will be impossible for change to flourish. The need for educating the public is at the forefront of many non-for-profit international organizations, such as the Me to We Foundation and Global Campaign for Education, because the leaders of these projects have realized the power and long-term benefits behind knowledge. With proper education, the public can act as the eyes and ears of the law enforcement.²⁰⁶ Child sexual exploitation is a vast and complex issue, thus law enforcement officials cannot investigate all potential cases at the same time, no country in the world has the resources capable of this scale of oversight. However, if members of the public were knowledgeable in recognizing the signs of child sexual trafficking and the proper response to enact on, this crime could be prevented. For example, many traffickers transport their victims to hotels to sexually sell the child to clients. If the hotel manager was educated on how to recognize

²⁰⁴ The United States Department of Justice. "U.S. Government Entities Combating Human Trafficking." *Department of Justice*. N.p., 29 Sept. 2016. Web. 1 Apr. 2017.

²⁰⁵ Abuel-Ealeh, Shaharazad. "GCE Statement on the Death of Nelson Mandela." *Global Campaign for Education*. Fund the Future, 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

²⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State. "15 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking." *U.S. Department of State - Diplomacy in Action*. Government of the United States, 2016. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

the signs of a child being sexual exploited, the manager could act as a pivotal point in the rescue of the victim. Human trafficking awareness training is the basis of the program currently being developed, in Ontario, by the collaboration of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The aim of the campaign program is to inform the public of how to identify, respond, and report any potential incidents of child sexual exploitation. Police oriented presentations will be run in schools, public facilities, and working environments across the province. If proven successful, the campaign will be endorsed throughout Canada and possibly brought to international attention.²⁰⁷ The prevention of global scale problems, such as child sexual exploitation, start with education. If an individual does not understand, they cannot make a stand for change, and often mentally block the issue out entirely. It is when society turns a blind eye to an issue that consent is bestowed upon the perpetrator.

Education on the topic of child sexual exploitation should not only pertain to the public, but also directly to the victims of the crime. The youth of the world must be informed of the possible dangers that lie within and how to ensure the best protection for themselves. The presented information should include basics on how to be cautious around strangers met in person or virtually through the internet, as well as who to contact if the child feels they are in danger. A new program developed by the collaboration of two anti-trafficking organizations, Thorn: Digital Defenders and the Polaris Project Children, has revolutionized the ability for victims of human trafficking to reach out for help. As an example, in North America, 62% of human trafficking victims had access to a cell phone during the period they were trafficked.²⁰⁸ The phone was mainly accessible to the victims so that they could schedule appointments with “clients” to obtain the profits the trafficker demanded each day. Many people speculate as to why these victims would not call for help if they had access to a cellular phone, but the truth is, these victims have been manipulated and tortured to the point where they whole heartedly believe that they will die if their captor discovered or overheard any calls for help. Therefore, Thorn and the Polaris Project derived a discreet way for sufferers to reach out for help, known as Befree Text Shortcode. The Befree Project was launched, in 2013, by The National Human Trafficking

²⁰⁷ Thompson, Paul. "An Expert's Explanation on Child Sexual Exploitation." Personal interview. 5 Mar. 2017.

²⁰⁸ Thorn. "Child Trafficking Statistics." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. N.p., 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

Resource Center through the Polaris Project. The aim of the project was to provide victims of human trafficking with a discreet way of reaching out for help, without drawing the attention of their captor. “BEFREE” (233733) is a text shortcode that can be accessed twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. The victim merely sends a text message asking for help to this contact number, and the Polaris Project will immediately react and provide aid to the sufferer unbeknownst to the trafficker. From the time of establishment in 2013 to June 2016 the program has seen incredible success in aiding the victims of human trafficking. Over 4,400 text messages have been documented and contained tips about trafficked victims or direct cries for help from the victim themselves. The creation of Befree has led to a 22% increase in successful rescues conducted by the Polaris Project.²⁰⁹ The Befree Project has created a safe zone for victims, both children and adults, to reach out to, and an outlet to empower members of the society to act upon if suspicious behavior is recognized. Protecting human rights one text at a time.

Human rights are meant to be the safeguard of humanity, and thus it is also necessary to inform children of their right as human beings. As exclaimed by Ashton Kutcher, the co-founder of Thorn, many child victims of sex trafficking are very young at the time of abduction, or they are manipulated and conditioned to a point where they do not even understand that the abuse they are enduring is illegal, malicious, and inhumane:

As part of my anti-trafficking work, I've met victims in Russia, I've met victims in India, I've met victims that have been trafficked from Mexico, victims from New York and New Jersey and all across our country. I've been on FBI raids where I've seen things that no person should ever see. I've seen video content of a child that's the same age as mine [two years old] being raped by an American man that was a sex tourist in Cambodia. And this child was so conditioned by her environment that she thought she was engaging in play.²¹⁰

These inhuman acts must be ended. The traffickers involved in child sexual exploitation eradicate the life of their child victims, to a point where they are revered as objects, not humans. One way to combat the trafficking in children is to promote education within society and for the

²⁰⁹ Thorn. "BeFree Text Shortcode." *Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children*. Polaris Project, 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

²¹⁰ Klein, Betsy. "Kutcher Testifies on His Anti-Sex Trafficking Efforts." *CNN - Politics*. Cable News Network, 15 Feb. 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.

potential victims themselves. Children must not be coddled to the point where they are oblivious to the dangers that lurk within in the world, but they also must not be scared to a point where they never leave their home. Education is the answer. Information provides a balance between understanding that danger exists, but not allowing life to be ruled by that fear.

The sexual exploitation of children through child trafficking is an international crime. Children are being trafficked domestically and across country borders. Sex offenders have been drawn to other countries with less stringent law enforcement capacities to take part in the practice of sex tourism. Children have been bought and sold with the simple click of a button. Sex offenders can buy a child's body as fast as they can order pizza, due to the advancement in communication capabilities of the internet. The global issue of child sexual trafficking must be conquered on a world-wide scale. It is essential to strengthen international collaboration efforts in the fight against child sexual abuse. The path to an international solution to end this horrific crime is like a tower of cards. When all the individual pieces work in unison, an incredible structure and network of support can be created. However, if one card were to be removed, a region of support would be absent and the structural integrity of the tower would be compromised. Since children are trafficked across international borders, the world must work together to rescue and, more importantly, prevent the sexual exploitation of children from ever occurring. The global population, as a united front, must make the entire world a safer place for all children to live.

Cruelty against children is a crime against humanity.

Appendix

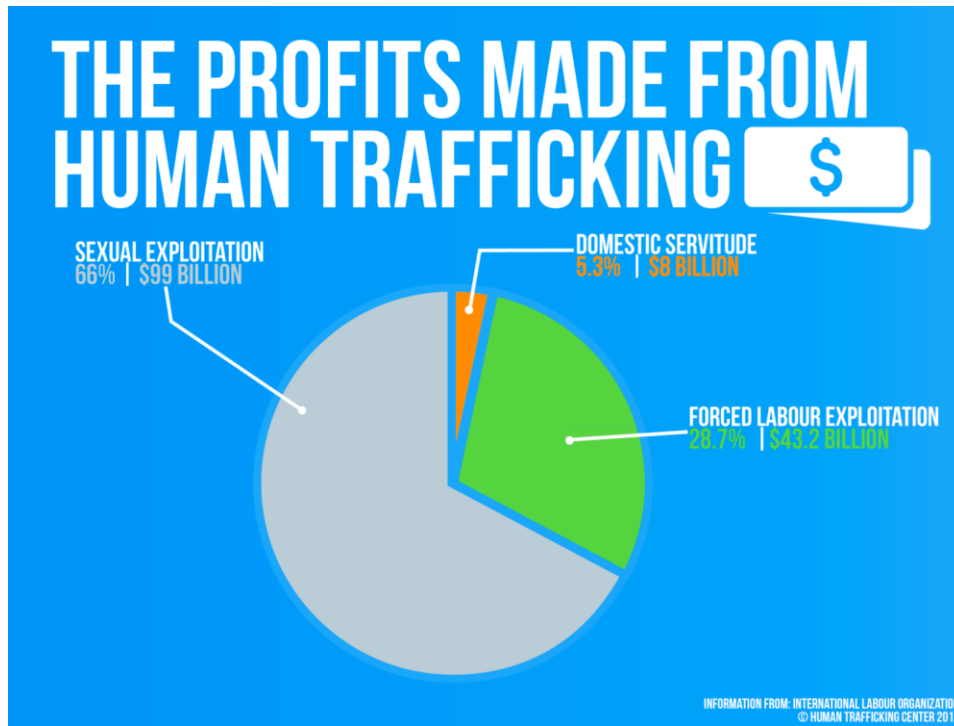


Figure A1: Highlighting the categories human trafficking profits are broken down into. (Human Trafficking Center. "What is Human Trafficking?" *About the Problem*. N.p., 2016. Web.)

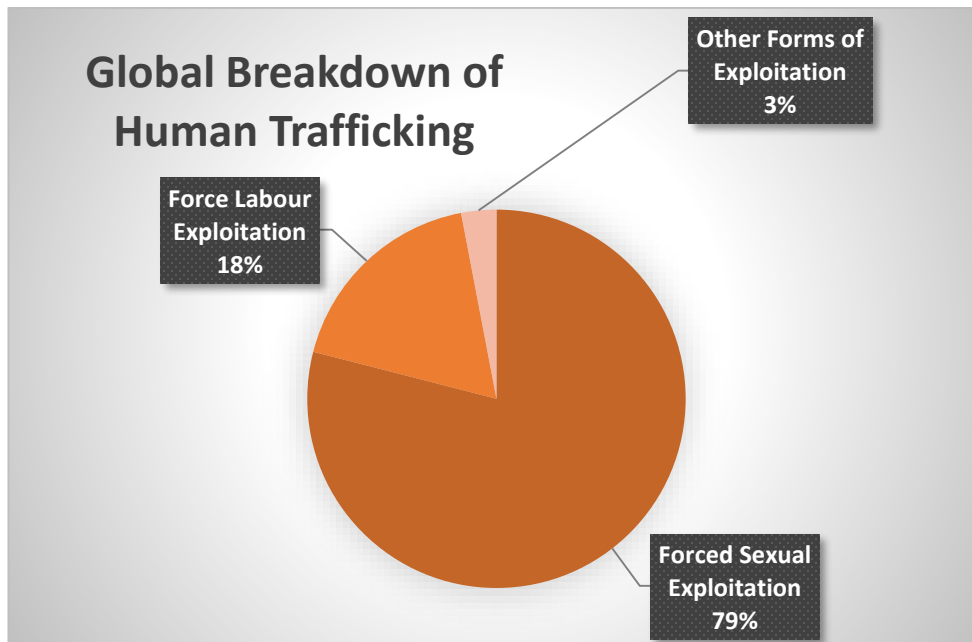


Figure A2: Highlighting the categories human trafficking is broken down into. (Created by: Meghan Kaplan. Information from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "The Globalization of Crime a Transnational.")

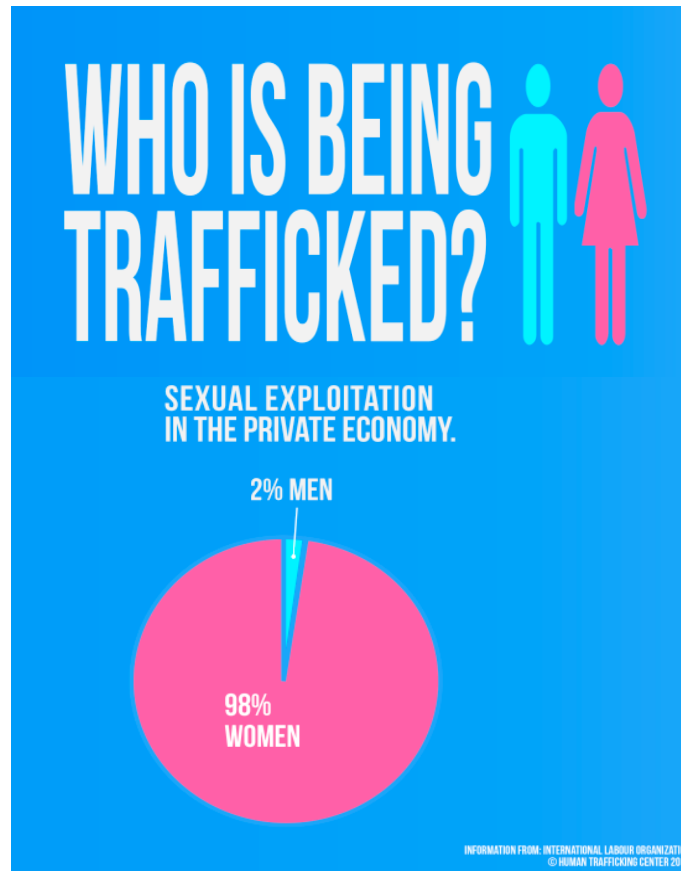


Figure A3: A representation of the gender division between trafficked male and female victims for sexual exploitation. (Human Trafficking Center. "What is Human Trafficking?" *About the Problem*. N.p., 2016. Web.)



Figure A4: The Chinese symbol to represent the principle of Yin and Yang. (Cartwright, Mark. "Yin and Yang." *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. N.p., 26 Nov. 2012. Web. 07 Mar. 2017.)

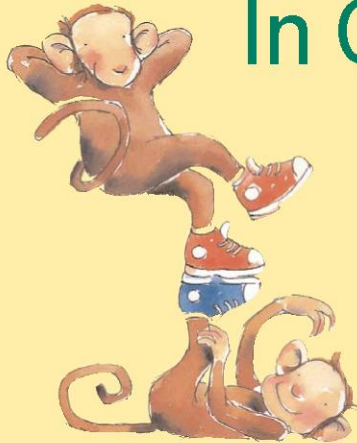


Figure A5: Homeless, Indian street children sleeping outside, on the pavement in Delhi, India. (Youth Ki Awaaz. "Living On Waste, These Children Don't Have Toilets Of Their Own" *Youth Ki Awaaz*. N.p., 07 Feb. 2017. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A6: The location of Libya in relation to the world. (Eye of Libya. "About Libya." *Beyond Your Expectations: Tours to Libya, Visa to Libya, Hotels in Libya, Events in Libya, Cars in Libya, Flights to Libya, Libya Travel, Libya Tours and more*. N.p., 9 Mar. 2017. Web. 9 Mar. 2017.)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child In Child Friendly Language



"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

Article 1
Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2
All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3
All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 4
The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Article 5
Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

Article 6
You have the right to be alive.

Article 7
You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

Article 8
You have the right to an identity—an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

Article 9
You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

Article 10
If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

Article 11
You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Article 12
You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 13
You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way, unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14
You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 15
You have the right to choose your own friends and join or sit in groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 16
You have the right to privacy.

Article 17
You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, news paper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18
You have the right to be cared for by your parent(s) if possible.

Article 19
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 20
You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

Article 21
You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Article 22
You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23
You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 24
You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 25
If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26
You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27
You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

Article 28
You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29
Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30
You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion—or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31
You have the right to play and rest.

Article 32
You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

Article 33
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 34
You have the right to be free from sexual abuse. Article 38 No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 35
You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37
No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 38
You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

Article 39
You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Article 40
You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

Article 41
If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42
You have the right to know your rights. Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

Articles 43 to 54
These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected with their rights.



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien



Figure A7: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, In a Child Friendly Language. (United Nations. "Convention on the Rights of the Child." *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. N.p., 2017. Web. 04 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A8: A representation of how children are disguised to reflect individuals of adult age, so that they can be illegally sold on the internet through classified advertisement companies such as Backpage. (Adelson, Wendi. "Stop Selling Children on Backpage - Children Don't Belong on the Backpage." *Innocents at Risk - Protecting Women and Children from Human Trafficking*. N.p., 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A9: Location of Brazil in relation to neighbouring countries. (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: BRAZIL." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.)



Figure A10: Location of Russia in relation to neighbouring countries. (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: RUSSIA." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.)



Figure 11: Location of Moscow and St. Petersburg within Russia. (Moscow Russia Tourist Information and Travel Guide. "Map of Russia." *Map of Russia (Russian Federation)*. N.p., 2015. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.)



Figure A12: Illustration of the interworking aspects of the child sexual exploitation industry in Russia. (The Russian Alliance against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People." *ECPAT - Europe Law Enforcement Group*. The Body Shop - Stop the Trafficking Campaign, 2016. Web. 1 Apr. 2017.)



Figure A13: Location of India in relation to neighbouring countries. (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: INDIA." *Central Intelligence Agency*. N.p., 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 01 Apr. 2017.)



Figure A14: "Aum", the symbol of the Hindu religion. (Barrow, Mandy. "Information on Hinduism." *World Religions - Hinduism*. N.p., 2003. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.)

WE ARE CHILDREACH

We love Solving problems,
but we know we don't have all the answers.

That's why we **listen to children** and communities to help them
find practical solutions to their problems.
We give them the tools to change their lives.
We are **their megaphone**.

We give children the **confidence** to raise their voices
and demand their rights. By doing so, we prove that
young people can be active **agents of change**.

Together, we are the **spark** that starts the fire.
The seed that starts the farm.
The dreamers and the banner wavers
...and we'll keep on challenging ourselves to **change the world**.

Every child has the right to **live, learn and play**.
To be **safe, healthy and free**.
So **stand up and shout with certainty**.
Children are relying on it.



Figure A15: The mission statement of Childreach International. (Childreach International. "We are Childreach." *Childreach International*. N.p., 2017. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A16: The successful football event in Nepal, on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, to spread awareness of the prevalence of child sexual exploitation through child trafficking within the country. (Childreach International. "Using Sport to Combat Human Trafficking." *Childreach International News*. N.p., 9 Aug. 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A17: A map of the country of Canada with respect to geographical location in North America. (Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: CANADA." *Central Intelligence Agency - World Factbook*. Government of the United States, 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.)

Human Trafficking Victims, By Age Group, 2009 to 2014

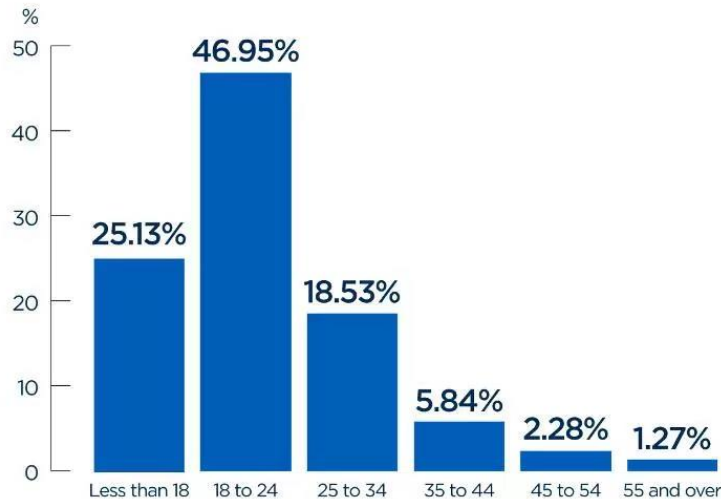


Figure A18: An age breakdown of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Canada. (Global News - Canada. "25% of Canada's Human Trafficking Victims are Minors: Statistics Canada." *Global News*. N.p., 20 July 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.)

Persons Accused of Human Trafficking, By Age Group, 2009 to 2014

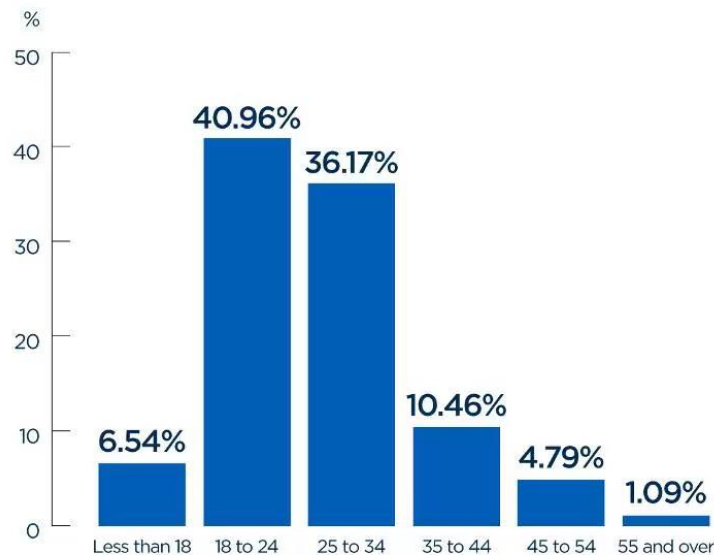


Figure A19: An age breakdown of the perpetrators of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Canada. (Global News - Canada. "25% of Canada's Human Trafficking Victims are Minors: Statistics Canada." *Global News*. N.p., 20 July 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2017.)



Figure A20: Christopher Stephenson. (Digital Journal. "10-Year Anniversary of Christopher's Law in Ontario." *Digital Journal: A Global Digital Media Network*. N.p., 27 Apr. 2011. Web. 30 Mar. 2017.)

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