HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Homily to the People 2015

• Pope Francis “The worth of children does not come from their beauty, their achievements, or how closely their opinions match that of their parents. Instead, a child’s worth is inherent; unfortunately for many children abuse hinders their ability to see their worth or to feel love. Raise awareness about the dignity of children and the need to protect them.
United Nations recognizes

- International Day of Innocent Child Victims of Aggression-June 4th annually
- World Day Against Child Labor-June 12th annually
- The Universal Declaration of Human rights proclaimed on 10 December 1945
  - Ref:www.un.org general assembly resolution217A

Learning Objectives

- Define Human trafficking
- Identify Human Trafficking
- Know how to report Human Trafficking
- Develop community plans to educate and protect our children
UNITED NATIONS DEFINITION

• “The recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by improper means for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation.”

• Ref: http://usiaht.org

Attorney General Bill Schuette considers human trafficking a form of modern slavery today that includes domestic servitude, sex trafficking, forced, bonded, or child labor, or forced marriage. The average age of a victim is 11-14 with 78% girls and 22% boys.
Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA)

• “severe forms of trafficking in persons as: sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.”

WORLDWIDE EFFORTS

• The United Nations office on Drugs and Crime promotes many international organizations to fight human trafficking and establish safe houses around the world. The agency also publishes information to train law enforcement agencies and raise awareness around the world.
• When we travel internationally many times there is evidence of this raised awareness in public places such as airports.
NGO’s

• There are also non governmental agencies working diligently to protect victims and minimize and prevent human trafficking.
• Unfortunately, the best efforts are sometimes thwarted by the perpetrators as was the case in Guatemala City this March when 100 victims were “rescued and placed in a safe house” only to be tracked down and the home set on fire by the perpetrators—killing 37 children and sent another 38 to the hospital with burns. Three days of mourning was declared by the Mayor to calm the agitation in the city.
  • Ref: personal conversation with NGO volunteer involved in rescue mission.

FEDERAL LAW

• Definition:
• The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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.
STATE LAWS

• Many states have changed their wording to ensure adequate legal protections and services for victims to ensure that victims are not convicted as criminals and are given all the support that is needed to remain safe.

• Gov. Snyder has passed bills this spring that ensure the protection of victims from being accused of crimes and increased mandatory prison times of over 15 years of the perpetrators.

How did this happen?

• Highly profitable enterprise including illegal organ sales and transplants that is estimated to bring profits of over $20 billion annually

• What is your price tag? Tuition fees in exchange for a specific specialty? $10,000 to date the audiences choice?.....if nobody paid for sex, sex trafficking would not exist.

• Ref: arkofhopeforchildren.org
• Did you know the average lifespan of child of HT is only 7 years?

So you think its not in your community

• Major hubs in Michigan are Flint and Detroit due to the suppressed economies and the ready access to the interstate hwy and easy entrance of canadian victims. Detroit then trafficks to Florida, NY, California, and Texas (these are the 4 states with the highest trafficking numbers)
• Internationally the top four countries are Mexico, China, Russia and S. Africa.

• Ref: Michigan Human Trafficking Commission 2015 Report to the legislature.

What are the S&S of HT

• Conditions associated with physical and mental abuse, prolonged confinement, neglect and malnourishment that includes:
  • a. injuries such as burns, cuts, bruises, scars, fractures
  • b. STD’s, drug and ETOH addiction and abuse
  • c. prolonged infections such as pneumonia, and abscesses
  • d. signs of trauma to the mouth and neck.
How do we alert for potential perpetrators?

- a. false ID
- b. victim is withdrawn and perpetrator answers all questions
- c. avoids eye contact, tension, loss of sense of time or where they live
- d. cannot explain how injury occurred or is vague

Be aware of the Stockholm Syndrome (traumatic bonding) which is a form of coercive control in which perpetrator instills fear and gratitude for being allowed to live.

- In recent studies approximately 25-50% of victims enter into the healthcare system and are never identified.
- Never forget Patty Hearst and Otto Warmbier
Patty Hearst

• A 19yo college student and granddaughter of media mogul Wm. Randolph Hearst was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974. She was beaten and lost consciousness during the abduction and suffered being bound in a closet and blindfolded and repeatedly raped by captures then engaging in criminal acts with the army until the FBI rescued her 19 months later.

Otto Warmbier

• 24 yo college exchange student imprisoned and tortured by the N. Korean regimen, with footage showing him kneeling down to the emperor kissing his ring with the statement—The president of the USA will kneel down and kiss my ring as well. He was released to come back to the USA on June 17th, 2017 and died on June 19th due to traumatic hypoxia to the brain from a cardiac arrest while in prison.
HOW DO WE APPROACH THE PROBLEM?

• Never approach the victim or attempt to help-this effort may unknowingly end this victim’s life.
• Contact authorities in your area immediately with information call 888 373 7888
• Do not be silent—it’s a deadly mistake
• Educate your peers on HT through online educational videos and conversations
• Get Involved in Your community

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

• Local governments should be transparent in discussions regarding safety of vulnerable populations-if you live in an area with high immigration rates-who is watching their safety?
• Educate children on the dangers of being persuaded to leave home by strangers
• Religious communities should work to empower and provide safe houses
State Agendas

• Each state should look at current laws and language that protects the young and minorities.
• Laws should be passed regarding labor laws and updates on current Senate bills.
• Protection of Human Rights

  • Ref: [www.mich.gov/humantrafficking/](http://www.mich.gov/humantrafficking/)

2014 PA 343 (SB597)

• Senate Bill 597 requires the promulgation of new training requirements regarding human trafficking that applies to most medical professionals.
• This requirement began with the licensing and new licensures in Michigan for physicians for the Dec 2016 cycle. If your license is to be renewed in 2017 or 2018, documentation of education in human trafficking will be requested.
• Other paraprofessionals have this same required training, but it is unclear if this will be one time training or required each time the license renewal comes due.

• This initial educational video was approximately 20 minutes, but now the online video is a one hour training session that has a fee and a printable certificate for your records.

REFERENCES


REFERENCES CONT’D

• To report human trafficking call:888.3737.888