Myth on Human Trafficking

For this assignment I will be going over Myth #2: “Human trafficking does not occur in the United States. It only happens in other countries.” I will be giving various reasons and sources to help prove this myth incorrect, and hopefully shine some light on what we can all do to help prevent as much human trafficking as possible.

The number one cause for the misconception for the reason behind people believing the myth that human trafficking only happens in other places is because of ignorance. Intentional or not people tend to avoid topics such as human trafficking, they don’t like to have to think of these kind of horrors and like to indulge in the fantasy that it only happens in other places that are not here. They couldn’t be more wrong, according to a Fox News article by Andrew Keiper and Perry Chiaramonte, *Human trafficking in America among the worst in the world: report.* America is the number one leading in the human trafficking industry. “The United States is the No. 1 consumer of sex worldwide. So, we are driving the demand as a society” a quote in the article from Geoff Rogers, co-founder of the United States Institute Against Human Trafficking.

In this same article Brook Bello, founder of More Too Life, said, “Trafficking in America, if you are trafficked in the United States, 85 percent of victims that are trafficked here are from here.” While I cannot confirm these exact numbers, this does show quite plainly that no matter how big we have an issue with human trafficking Americans in this country.

In another article “Human Trafficking in the US is a much bigger problem than we think” written by Molly Callahan, it states, “State and regional law enforcement records likely reflect less than 10 percent of trafficking victims in the area” This shouldn’t come as that large of a surprise. We can only record the cases that we know of and are informed of, and it is sad to say that most victims of human trafficking are not that likely to come out and report it if given the chance. Amy Farrell, a Northeastern University Professor who studies human trafficking states, “People who have been victims of human trafficking aren’t necessarily interested in furthering a police investigation into their captor when they need housing, and medical treatment, and a job,”

We can all do our part to try and prevent or catch human trafficking around us and in our areas. The best thing we can all do is stay informed, don’t be afraid to learn about it and to always be on the lookout for it. The Utah Attorney General, Sean D. Reyes has listed several indicators that could be red flags to look out for. The more people that are on the look out for human trafficking, the more human traffickers will be caught and people saved.

Sources:

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