**What’s Done in the Dark**

**Modern Day Slavery**

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking generates 32 billion dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of international crime. Human trafficking can happen to anyone no matter the race, age or gender. Men are often trafficked into hard labor jobs, while children are trafficked into labor positions in textile, agriculture and fishing industries. Women and girls are typically trafficked into the commercial sex industry, i.e. prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation.

**Types of Human Trafficking**

**Sex trafficking** is a global booming business. Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. The situations that sex trafficking victims face vary dramatically. Many victims become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by their parents or other family members. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks, or the majority remain in the same trafficking situation for years.

Vulnerable populations, such as poor areas, are frequently targeted by traffickers, including runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or social discrimination. Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking of women and children, and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. Each year, an estimated 900,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders, though additional numbers of women and girls are trafficked within countries. Some sex trafficking is highly visible, such as street prostitution. But many trafficking victims remain unseen, operating out of unmarked brothels in unsuspecting and sometimes suburban neighborhoods. Sex traffickers may also operate out of a variety of public and private locations, such as massage parlors, spas and strip clubs.

**Forced Labor** is any work or service which people are being forced to do against their will, under threat of punishment. Forced labor is most often found in industries with a lot of workers and little regulation; for example, manufacturing, agriculture, construction and domestic work. A lot of times migrant worker are targeted because they often do not speak the language, have few friends, have limited rights and depend on their employers. Women and children make up more than 80% of the forced labor industry. It is a global problem, although some regions have larger numbers of people affected than others.

In the U.S. more foreign victims are found in labor trafficking then sex trafficking. Many of these labor trafficking victims entered the country under work or student based programs. Sometimes foreign recruiters bring forced laborers to the U.S. using violence, intimidation or subtle means such as manipulated debt. There is an important distinction between forced labor and situations where people may be working in poor and hard jobs. However, sometimes the difference is not clear. A person in a forced labor situation is determined by the nature of the relationship between them and their employer. In the world there are over 18.7 million people throughout the world being forced into labor.

**Child Labor** refers to world that does not have a harmful effect on children’s health, including robbing them of a childhood and reaching their potential. This work may be mentally or physically dangerous or harmful to children or it may even interfere with them going to school. Since children are more easily manipulated and require fewer resources to survive; the use of child labor is increasing with poverty and the demand for cheaper labor. Child labor is separated from forced labor more commonly because exploitation does not automatically come from another individual. Hazardous working environments essentially weakens minors a great extent.

[**http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Warning-Signs-of-Sex-Trafficking-Shared-Hope-International.pdf**](http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Warning-Signs-of-Sex-Trafficking-Shared-Hope-International.pdf)

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