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*“A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work”*

**PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN  
COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS  
PRODUCING SUSTAINABLE ACTION**

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**Introduction**

The term “trafficking in persons”, which is in laws around the world, is used to define slave-trading and modern-day slavery in all of its forms. No country is immune from human trafficking. Each year an estimated 600,000-800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders and the trade is growing. This figure does not consider the number of people trafficked within countries. Victims are forced into prostitution or work in quarries, sweatshops, farms or as domestics, as child soldiers and in many forms of involuntary servitude. The United Nations estimates that more than half of all victims trafficked internationally are trafficked for sexual exploitation. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006).

Every country in the world is affected by the plague of human trafficking (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006). The trafficking of women and children is rooted in culture, poverty, and crime. Individuals and communities are changed forever as individuals are subjected to human bondage, die in human captivity, die from HIV/AIDS and other untreated sexually transmitted diseases and some are ostracized from their own communities due to the stigma associated with sexual exploitation involvement. (Farley, 2003; Naim, 2005; Bales, 1999; Malarek, 2003). The twenty-first slave trade feeds a global demand for cheap and vulnerable labor. Profits from trafficking fund the expansion of international crime syndicates, foster government corruption, and undermine civil society. United Nations and other estimates list trafficking as the second highest revenue source for organized crime. Drug trade is first, but at the current growth rate of human trafficking it will shortly surpass drugs and become the highest

source of revenue (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006). Trafficking reduces human beings to a commodity. If organizations free or rescue the victims, but do not fully prosecute the trafficker, he or she is free to use their profits to purchase another victim. Therefore, a coordinated model of prevention, education and treatment across professions and nations is essential for successfully combating human trafficking.

## **Definitions of Human Trafficking**

What is human trafficking? The United Nations provides the world with a common definition of human trafficking in persons:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of 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. Exploitation shall include, at minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practice similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 2000).

Lack of understanding of the UN definition often leads to the consideration of irregular migration as trafficking. Not all illegal immigration or smuggling is trafficking. Some of the confusion between human smuggling and trafficking in human persons occurs due to the difficulty in obtaining accurate information especially from countries of transit. This is further complicated since trafficking often, but not always, involves smuggling. In these cases, the victim may even initially agree to be transported within a country or across borders. Distinguishing between the two activities often requires detailed information on the victim’s final circumstances. Smuggling, generally understood to be the procurement or transport for profit of a person for illegal entry into or through a country, is not trafficking in persons even though it is often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions. Smuggling sometimes involves migrants who have consented to the activity. Trafficking victims have either, never consented, or if they initially consented, their consent has been negated by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers. Trafficking victims often are unaware that they will be forced into prostitution or exploitative labor situations. Smuggling may therefore become trafficking. The key component that distinguishes trafficking from smuggling is the element of fraud, force or coercion. Unlike smuggling, trafficking can occur regardless of whether the victim is moved internally or across a border.

Human smuggling is defined as the entry of people into a country facilitated by a third party. It is generally driven by two goals: 1) smuggling by friends and relatives who may assist illegal entry for personal reasons, or 2) smuggling for profit conducted by organized groups in a deliberate evasion of the country’s immigration laws. Smuggling organizations have in recent past become increasingly more violent or have shown reckless disregard for human life. Exploitation of the smuggled aliens which place them at significant personal risk as well as incidents of extreme violence have been increasing. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2005)

Human trafficking is quite different than the issue of illegal immigration or refugee resettlement or displaced persons throughout the world. Often illegal immigrants are seeking asylum from some form of human rights violation or the consequences of civil war, economic depression, ethnic or religious persecution, drought or general collapse of their society.

<b>THREE DEFINITIONS IN COMPARISON</b>		
<b>Illegal Immigrants</b>	<b>Human Smuggling</b>	<b>Human Trafficking</b>
<b>People who enter a country without proper authority</b>	<b>Practices that involve a person gaining entry in a country without permission. Whether or not a profit is involved</b>	<b>Recruitment, transportation or receipt of persons of any age, through deception, coercion for the purposes of prostitution, sexual exploitation, or forced labor. May or may not involve human smuggling.</b>

### **United States Federal Law**

One effective means of combating trafficking is through the full application of national laws. These laws are a means of holding traffickers and the exploiters of trafficking victims accountable under criminal justice systems. One of the first national laws to be developed was in the United States. In the year 2000, the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) (P.L. 106-386), which was amended in 2003 (P.L. 108-193). It uses a definition of “severe forms of trafficking”: 1) 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 is not yet 18 years of age; 2) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. The TVPA was amended again in 2005 in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. In the United States various individual states have enacted or modified their criminal codes to include the area of trafficking of persons and involuntary servitude. For example, Illinois enacted in 2005 a law which was implemented in January 1, 2006 which defined human trafficking as well as involuntary servitude and made both of these acts a felony. (Illinois Public Act 094-0009 HB1469 Enrolled LRB094 09450 RLC 39698 b) (“Trafficking in Persons and Involuntary Servitude”) More recently victims of human trafficking in Illinois have qualified for the crime victim compensation program enabling them to receive funding for housing, counseling, medical bills and replacement costs. ([www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov).)

Besides the TVPA Act and its amendments the United States State Department issues every June the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report). This report investigates the situation of human trafficking in the world and examines governments’ response to the problem. The

annual report established a three tier system to evaluate countries' compliance with combating human trafficking. Tier 1 includes countries that meet or exceed minimum standards in combating human trafficking. Tier 2 countries are those countries that are making some progress toward combating human trafficking but more effort needs to be offered. Tier 2B is used as a watch list to indicate countries that are regressing in their commitment to combating human trafficking. Tier 3 includes countries making minimal or no efforts to combat human trafficking. The authors of this paper do recognize that the tier ranking system report is in fact a political document and therefore can be biased against countries that have political differences with the United States. However, the TIP Report is at least an attempt to classify countries and their efforts to combat human trafficking from a global perspective. The authors also wish to acknowledge that through the 2006 TIP Report the United States has failed to rank itself in the three tiered system.

The US Government's model as reflected in the TVPA and its amendments as well as the narrative in the TIP Reports highlights the important role of prosecution of the traffickers, the protection of the victims, and prevention through increased public awareness. Additionally, the model when dealing with the protection of victims stresses a victim-centered approach which addresses first the rescuing of the victim, removal of the victim and re-integrating the survivor. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006)

## **Causes**

The causes of human trafficking are complex and often reinforce each other. Trafficking in persons operates in the global market place where victims are the supply and abusive employers or sexual exploiters represent the demand. Internationally the supply of victims is encouraged by many factors including but not limited to: poverty, weak social and economic structure, the perception of a higher standard of living elsewhere, organized crime, lack of employment or underemployment, climatic catastrophes, discrimination against women, violence against women and children, government corruption, armed conflict, political instability, and cultural norms or traditions that permit slavery. From the demand side, several factors are driving the increase in demand for trafficked individuals. One of them is the growth of the sex industry worldwide. Another is the growing demand for cheap exploitable labor. Additionally, sex tourism and child pornography have become worldwide industries. This growth has been fueled by the increased use of the Internet which permits instant and nearly undetectable transactions. In some countries a widening gender gap has created a new source of demand for young women as brides. Victims forced into sexual slavery are often subdued with drugs and suffer extreme violence. Additionally they can suffer physical and emotional damage, exposure to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. If they are internationally trafficked, they are often isolated since they do not speak the language of the area that they are trafficked to. Victims often endure brutal conditions that result in physical, sexual and psychological trauma. Besides the previously mentioned sexually transmitted infections, victims are plagued by anxiety, insomnia, depression, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Dissociative Disorder. They also live in unsanitary and crowded conditions suffer from poor nutrition and are more likely to be exposed to tuberculosis. Human traffickers prey on the vulnerable often young children and women. They attempt to trick, coerce or win the confidence of their victims. They often promise marriage, employment, educational opportunities or basically a better life. Trafficking is therefore a human

rights violation. In addition, it undermines communities, deprives countries of human capital and undermines public health (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006).

## **Latvia**

Latvia is a source and to a degree a transit country for women and some children trafficked primarily for sexual exploitation. Latvians are trafficked to Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States. The Latvian government has made efforts to comply with national standards for the elimination of trafficking. It has developed a National Action Plan. Traffickers have been prosecuted and have received sentences; however there is a call for more training for prosecutors and judges. Sentencing for child trafficking is quite severe. Since 2005, the government has made some efforts to improve victim assistance and protection. Some NGOs specifically in the capital city of Riga focus on assisting trafficking victims as well as staffing an emergency hotline. School outreach has been conducted to youth and public awareness was heightened through a successful billboard and poster campaign. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006)

From September 2004 through 2005 the US Embassy in Riga, Latvia issued a grant to Dominican University and the Higher School of Social Work and Pedagogics “ATTISTIBA”. The purpose of this grant was to provide seed money for the development of curriculum and training of personnel involved with the problem of human trafficking in Latvia. The goal was to facilitate the collaboration and networking of governmental and nongovernmental agencies in an awareness campaign on the trafficking of women and sexual slavery and the multi-level impact of this growing world-wide phenomenon. The grant was funded by the U.S State Department through the U.S Embassy in Riga, Latvia.

### **Prevention Public Awareness Model**

The initial component of the work, Part I, was to develop and conduct a conference on trafficking prevention in Riga Latvia. In December 2004, a Human Trafficking Prevention Conference was developed by Dominican University’s Graduate School of Social Work and Latvian School of Social Work “ATTISTIBA”. The purpose of this conference was to create a common Latvian definition of human trafficking and to assess the sentencing, prosecution and police practices involved in human trafficking. International speakers explored the differences between smuggling and illegal immigration. Additional training police force techniques and the importance of understanding PTSD upon victims. The various professionals involved in this training included the prosecutor’s office, state and municipal police, social work educators, social workers, border guards, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, municipal and state judges, International Office on Migration (IOM), psychologists, and U.S. Embassy officials. The results of the December 2004 training conference were quite positive with the most growth and awareness occurring for the judges who attended.

As a result of the December Conference, a second part of the grant “Training for Trainers” was conducted in April 2005. These workshops would allow participants to gain advanced training and to allow the development of local working Latvian groups to collaborate and begin a process of sustainability through collaboration.

Dominican University's Graduate School of Social Work and "ATTISTIBA" in conjunction with the International Institute of New Jersey (IINJ) developed an anti-trafficking curriculum from January to April 2005. The curriculum included five modules: 1.) Background/demographics and history of the problem of trafficking; 2.) Legal definitions including relevant Latvian laws; 3.) Social issues particularly focusing on the social and emotional needs of the victims; 4.) Prosecution of traffickers focusing on the law enforcement, prosecution, conviction and sentencing of traffickers, and; 5.) Direction and plans for the future in Latvia. Two training sites were selected for the week-long workshop "training the trainers": 1) Riga, as the capital city of Latvia was a logical choice. 2) Daugavpils since it was reported to have one of the highest levels of trafficking in the country. Each site would allow for 35 participants that were committed to sustainability of the project with local working groups.

Part II of the grant in May 2005 included the training in Riga and Daugavpils of Latvian judges, state police, border guards/immigration, national media representatives, social work educators, emergency room physician's, school teachers, Ministry of Welfare officials, state prosecutors, NGO officials, psychologists, and local church or parish workers. The training in Daugavpils included similar participants with a fewer number of judges but more municipal government officials. Additionally, rather than state police, municipal police attended the training.

The week long training events focused on content in the morning which included a definition of human trafficking, national laws, social services, prosecution systems and the use of NGOs specific to Latvia. The tasks for the afternoon included forming multidisciplinary task groups to work on a particular problem area of human trafficking specific to Latvia. Groups were "power matched" so that equal distribution and diversity of disciplines occurred. This assignment of individuals was a key component in getting professionals to speak across disciplines and to begin to develop awareness of different viewpoints on the same issue or problem. Therefore, not all judges or police were in the same group. This process was essential in the initial formation of the working groups to support future sustainability in the area of human trafficking. The afternoon task groups worked in problem solving groups and reported their findings in such areas as developing implementation plans for the Latvian National Law against Trafficking, the development of a press conference to inform the public of the problems of human trafficking; and developing testimony to bring before municipal government officials to assist in the development of social services for the victims of trafficking. Overall, post training evaluations found participants pleased with the training and willing to carry the results back to their workplace. As a result of the training, Ministry of Welfare officials later committed to increasing the funding to prevention efforts as well as supporting the existing NGOs who are currently working with the victims. However, most importantly for the success and sustainability of the project, participants, especially in the Riga training were highly committed to keeping the cross-discipline professional relationships going that had developed in the week long training event through the formation of an Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group.

Part III of the grant in addition was to assist in the development of graduate school course in Human Trafficking Prevention. This final aspect of the grant involved faculty from Dominican University's Graduate School of Social Work and a faculty member from

“ATTISTIBA” who was a sponsored exchange professor by the grant from January until May 2005 at Dominican University. The grant therefore has had multiple impacts over time including an awareness conference, training for trainers, and a collaborative effort in the development of Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum for “ATTISTIBA” and Dominican University through faculty exchange.

### **The Role of Faculty Exchange**

The faculty exchange included a faculty from “ATTISTIBA” spending a semester at Dominican University focusing on the human trafficking and completing an internship with Heartland Alliance in Chicago, Illinois. Heartland Alliance is an agency that provides services to rescued victims of human trafficking. Under the supervision of an LCSW, the Latvian faculty member experienced working in an agency that assisted rescued victims from around the world who escaped from traffickers in the United States. She used her multilingual skills to assist the staff of the agency and facilitated the provision of social services for victims of human trafficking from Eastern Europe. In addition, the Latvian faculty member took two classes in the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University, Seminar in Advanced Practice with Families, and a Field Practicum class. She co-taught a class on diversity with a Dominican faculty member, acquired an expertise in human trafficking prevention and developed a syllabus on Human Trafficking for the Higher School of Social Work and Social Pedagogics, “ATTISTIBA.” She educated the local Latvian community on the problems of human trafficking that were occurring in Latvia.

The newly developed course was successfully piloted in the spring 2006 semester. A benefit of the grant was that scholarship was produced and published by Latvian and Dominican faculty on the topic of Human Trafficking. In addition, Latvian and Dominican faculty made a presentation on human trafficking to the local community in the Chicago area with over 50 people in attendance, thereby increasing public awareness on the problems associated with human trafficking.

As an unintended consequence of the grant and faculty exchange, MSW students at Dominican University became more aware of the global problem of human trafficking. Some students as part of a course assignment for another class developed a group project on human trafficking prevention. As a result of this initial work, MSW students at Dominican University formed an on-campus group known as S.T.O.P. (Stop the Trafficking of People). The group has a public awareness and education focus and has conducted seminars and participated in two annual statewide public awareness campaigns.

### **Ecuador**

Ecuador is a country that is experiencing human trafficking. The roots of this problem are steeped in poverty, sexism, corruption and lack of knowledge. For example, currently, “62 percent of the urban population in Ecuador is living below the poverty line” ([http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/ecu\\_aag.pdf](http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/ecu_aag.pdf)). The devastating economic condition in Ecuador is forcing young children to work to support their families and is forcing parents to migrate abroad to the United States, Spain and Italy.

Women have a status less than that of men in Ecuador. This is evidenced in many ways. For example, violence in Ecuador against women is high; reports suggest that “80 percent of men in the capitol city of Quito beat their wives (<http://www.protectionproject.org/>).

In Ecuador there is little known by the public and professionals about the issue of human trafficking. Ecuadorians are only beginning to learn more about this issue. As they spread awareness, the hope is that the issue will become more manageable.

Ecuador has been confronted with economic and political instability since the early 1990's. As a country and historically, Ecuador has experienced many invasions and periods of conquests most notable by the Spaniards. The history combined with social and economic status differentials has helped to produce rigid class lines as well as the oppression of indigenous populations (Haug, 2003). The prior history of conquests, classism, bias, economic crisis and political instability have all contributed to Ecuador's crisis of poverty. In addition the economic crisis of 1999- 2000 led to approximately 1 million Ecuadorians emigrating in the largest wave of emigration in the history of Ecuador. Nearly 70% of those who left Ecuador were women. (<http://www.protectionproject.org/>, p. 1). The CIA World Factbook (2003) estimates that 41% of the population is living below the poverty line in Ecuador. ([www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ec.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ec.html)). In addition to poverty, the lack of public education about sexual abuse and domestic violence, coupled with poverty, low economic resources and lack of job opportunities contributes to the sexual exploitation of women and girls in Ecuador. “A cultural attitude that promotes sexual violence through the media has been cited as a contributing factor in the problem of trafficking in Ecuador...In other words, the existence of pornography and other sexually oriented materials promote the acting out of sexual violence against women and children through trafficking, prostitution and rapes.” (<http://suvivivorsrightsinternational.org>). In the 2006 State Department TIP Report, Ecuador is described as a country of source, transit and destination. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006). The Protection Project (2006) states that Ecuador is a country of source primarily and estimates that over 5,000 adolescents are exploited in the sex industry and over 600,000 are labor exploited in Ecuador's agriculture industry (<http://www.protectionproject.org/>, p. 2). In summary, Ecuadorians are being trafficked to Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Spain, the United States and Venezuela (<http://www.protectionproject.org/>, p. 1).

### **Prevention, Education, Assessment Coalition Model**

A research project was designed by a team of faculty and students at Dominican University and was developed in conjunction with a project that was lead by the American Bar Association Latin American Law Initiative (ABA/LALIC). The focus of the work was to combat human trafficking in Ecuador. The ABA/LALIC was awarded a two-year anti-trafficking grant by the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. Initially, an assessment was conducted to determine the following information about human trafficking in Ecuador: 1) organizations around the country working on trafficking and trafficking-related issues; 2) major trends/themes in the trafficking and anti-trafficking activities; 3) gaps in service and public policy as well as the existing legislative framework for prosecution; and 4) recommendations for the ABA/LALIC project.

The initial assessment revealed the issues the ABA/LALIC needed to address and the methods they were going to use to address them. The ABA recognized all of the above-mentioned issues (poor economic conditions, violence against women, disparity of income between men and women, corruption, lack of public awareness and a Tier 3 rating) warranted immediate attention. The ABA/LALIC designed a national strategy to tackle human trafficking in Ecuador. In doing this, the ABA/LALIC recognized that they needed to develop an interdisciplinary team that included social workers so that they would have the resources, knowledge and skill base to address this issue from many different angles. This strategy includes prevention, protection and prosecution through the means of assessment, treatment, skill development, knowledge development, education and training.

As a result of the gap in knowledge of social workers and social service organizations in Ecuador, an initial consultative visit was made by the Dean and the Assistant Dean of Dominican University's Graduate School of Social Work. This initial assessment indicated the almost complete absence of a social service infrastructure to support assessment, treatment, education, and prevention. As a result of this initial assessment the ABA requested Dominican University's Graduate School of Social Work's support to focus on the social work/social service needs of the project. The initial assessment led the ABA to develop a multidisciplinary team valuing the input of social work.

When discussing prevention, the ABA/LALIC focused on public awareness and education. The plan targeted local communities, parents, schools, libraries, victims/survivors and service providers. They also suggested that schools develop "stay in school programs" with appropriate teachers to keep children off of the streets and make them less vulnerable to traffickers. Prevention was to be supported through a coalition. The ABA/LALIC found there were people interested in this issue and suggested the impact could be more profound if all of the individual local organizations would form a coalition and undertake this issue together.

When discussing protection, the ABA/LALIC focused on the importance of providing shelter for the victims of trafficking. At the start of the project there were shelters for victims of domestic violence, but there were not any shelters in operation serving victims of trafficking. Also, these shelters or other social service agencies needed to provide trafficking victims with tangible skills so they could find alternative work opportunities in the future.

Lastly, when discussing prosecution, the ABA/LALIC focused on refining Ecuadorian legislation. Prosecution also included working on the issue of corruption and document forgery. Due to the lack of awareness, law enforcement officials needed to be trained. Most importantly, victims needed to be considered survivors rather than criminals.

In order to develop an international coalition and foster cooperation between social work programs in Ecuador and the United States the ABA/LALIC sponsored a week long training event with the Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work and the Ecuadorian Delegation representing Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil (UCG); Victim Protection Unit, Attorney General of Ecuador; and Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL). Initially a common taxonomy of human trafficking was agreed upon. Cultural

understanding of the country, the role of social work, the methods of prosecution and sentencing and the multiple needs of clients and victims/survivors were shared in order to develop a comprehensive approach to working with trafficking victims/survivors in a culturally competent fashion. MSW curriculum was shared including the prior mentioned MSW Human Trafficking Class. Guidance was sought about the newly developing Witness Protection Program. Social service assessment of human trafficking victims was reviewed. This process uncovered a multiple interview process that had the victim/survivor repeating their story through multiple interviews with the lawyers, police, prosecutor, psychologists and social workers. The coalition recognized that this was re-traumatizing the victims and suggested the development of a single comprehensive assessment process. This meeting clarified the need for a comprehensive assessment tool. An important outcome of the week long meeting was the increased commitment of the partners to collaborate further in combating human trafficking in Ecuador. It also opened the door for an education partnership between Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work and Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil. (UCG).

### **Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Four Specific Projects**

As a result, four research projects were designed and developed by a team of faculty and students at Dominican University in conjunction with a project that was led by the American Bar Association Latin American Law Initiative (ABA/LALIC). The ABA/LALIC was awarded a two-year anti-trafficking grant project by the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. The four projects include: 1) *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Prevention through Public Awareness and Education*; 2) *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Education of Practitioners and Professionals*; 3) *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Treatment Needs Assessment of Human Trafficking*; and 4) *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Prevention through the Ecuadorian Library System*.

The project, *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Prevention through Public Awareness and Education* (Migas, 2007) explored whether or not the use of lectures, conferences, and workshops within all levels of education and within the private and public schools are an effective means to communicate the realities of human trafficking as well as the importance of forming student groups to combat human trafficking. The definition for the prevention efforts in this project included developing policy, working with law enforcement officials, working with at-risk populations and working with the demand side of the human trafficking business. The research was conducted at seven schools in Quito in March 2007 by MSW graduate students from Dominican University and employees of the NGO, Fundacion Nuestros Jovenes.

Research was conducted at the following schools or colleges: Colegio Jose Marti (entire high school), Colegio Manuel Sabad (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Colegio Diego Abad (multi levels-high school), Universidad de San Francisco de Quito (a private and prestigious university), Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Ecuador (university students), Colegio Menor de San Francisco (Latin American Studies Class-high school), Universidad Central and Universidad de Las Americas. The sample was quite diverse in age, family dynamics, socioeconomic status, area of residence, public and private schooling and religion. Basically schools and participants were selected based on their willingness to participate in certain classes and their enrollment in the school or university system. A twenty-five point pre and post test likert scale questionnaire was utilized to

measure the knowledge gained from the workshops and conferences as well as the motivation level to start a student organization to deal with the issue of combating human trafficking. The purpose of the research was to determine if lectures, workshops and conferences educated people about human trafficking and if this was an effective tool in preventing human trafficking. All trainings included a power point presentation about the vulnerability factors and community factors, common characteristics of a trafficker and the importance and components involved in starting a student organization against human trafficking.

The following questions that were statistically significant regarding human trafficking from the pre-test to the post-test include:

1. general knowledge about human trafficking
2. knowledge about the maltreatment in the home can put a person at risk
3. knowledge that bad communication can put a person at risk
4. knowledge of the different forms of trafficking
5. knowledge of the consequences of human trafficking
6. knowledge of the impact it can have on a victim
7. knowledge of the physical consequences on a victim

The following questions that were statistically significant regarding the student motivation level to start a student organization to deal with the issue of human trafficking from the pre- test to the post-test include:

1. I understand that beginning a student group can contribute to combating human trafficking
2. I understand how a student group can contribute to combating human trafficking
3. I feel motivated to start a student organization
4. I feel prepared to start a student organization

Although the 5<sup>th</sup> question: “I have knowledge of how to begin a student organization” was not statistically significant, it did indicate that the students did not know how to start a student organization.

Overall education and knowledge help children protect themselves against sexual abuse and thus promote prevention. One of the questions that was not statistically significant was the question: “I have knowledge where I can find help.” Since a large portion of the training included both didactic and interactive activities, this was a surprise to the trainers possibly indicating some other cultural issues or fear on the part of the participants.

One of the significant findings to social workers is the importance of considering education when creating policy to address human trafficking. Policy needs to include and allocate resources for training in workshops, conferences and lectures about human trafficking.

In conclusion, significant findings that suggest that there was knowledge gained by the students about human trafficking. It also indicated that training increased their motivation to start a student organization. Knowledge is important to help children and students to protect themselves which is crucial in the safety of children. Results indicate that training is an effective

method in having children gain knowledge on the subject of human trafficking and have the tools necessary to protect themselves and to organize student organization to support and help others. (Migas, 2007)

The second project, *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Treatment Needs Assessment of Human Trafficking* was to explore: 1) What are the standard questions that would best assess the needs of human trafficking victims/survivors? 2) What are the needs of human trafficking victims/survivors to end the cycle of trafficking? 3) What are the clinical skills necessary to meet those needs? 4) What are the training needs of human service professionals to provide competent services for human trafficking victims/survivors? and 5) What types of questions should be included in a human trafficking screening tool that will produce a valid instrument?

As stated earlier, in May 2006 an international coalition was established to foster cooperation between potential social work programs in Ecuador and the United States and the ABA/LALIC as a means to tackle combating human trafficking in Ecuador. More specifically, the coalition reviewed the newly developing Witness Protection Program and discovered that the social service assessment process utilized a multiple interview technique that had victims/survivors repeating their story through several interviews with lawyers, police, prosecutor, psychologists and social workers. The coalition recognized that this was re-traumatizing the victims and suggested the development of a single comprehensive assessment process. The project focused on developing a single assessment interview process. In country research refocused the project creating an exploratory study of direct service professionals and their clients in a male juvenile detention center in Quito, Ecuador. Virgilio Guerrero is a juvenile detention center for teenage males between the ages of fourteen to seventeen. The focus of the center has the adolescents learning trade skills for future employment. The focus of the study seemed appropriate given the lack of research that has been conducted on human trafficking of boys. (McKinley, 2007).

A questionnaire (McKinley, 2007) was administered to willing participants in the juvenile detention center which included eighteen boys between the ages of thirteen and eighteen and ten direct service professionals, nine with completed university degrees. Collected data indicated that many direct service professional workers did not know the signs of trafficking nor the prevalence of human trafficking globally or in Ecuador. Collected data also implied that although the clients showed signs of human trafficking further intervention would need to be conducted to actually assess whether they were victims. Research with the direct service professionals indicated that they were not aware of the dynamics of human trafficking. Only 40% of the professionals interviewed were even aware that Ecuador had passed an anti trafficking law. 60% of the respondents reported they did not know the physical consequences of human trafficking. Without this knowledge direct service professionals may be unable to clinically assist victims. Only 30% of the respondents reported that they knew who to contact if someone was human trafficked.

The client assessment tool indicated that only 50% of the juveniles lived with both their parents. Two youth indicated they lived alone without supervision. Questions regarding employment produced a variety of responses. Some reported no jobs: one reported work as a thief and another indicated he was working seven days a week. Most indicated they did not have

much pressure at their jobs. Ten reported some physical abuse in their life (more than 50%). All the boys responded “no” to current sexual abuse. Three responded they were being psychologically maltreated. Seven respondents reported worrying about their health. Four respondents have stated they have had their lives threatened. More than half the sample reported having used illegal substances at some point. Specifically, (6) one third of the respondents reported active use of cocaine. Most reported little to no relationship with the police, although one respondent said he wanted to murder the police. In spite of the country wide outreach program, ten respondents stated they did not know what human trafficking was. In terms of disassociative disorders, eleven out of the 18 respondents reported to feel like two different people at times. (McKinley, 2007). Therefore, a comprehensive tool is necessary that needs to aid males who have been trafficked.

Furthermore, the passage of a national law preventing human trafficking in no way reassures direct service providers will be aware of what human trafficking is. Additional training of human service providers must be provided. Clinically, substance abuse prevention plays an integral part of the assessment process in human trafficking prevention. Further research needs to be conducted about male youths in human trafficking especially given the high propensity of disassociative disorder and physical abuse.

The third project, *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Educational of Practitioners and Professionals* was to explore: 1) What skills are needed for professionals in Ecuador to effectively intervene or assist survivors of human trafficking? 2) What strategies are best to be implemented to increase professional assessment skills of human service providers? and 3) Does a comprehensive training module on human trafficking increase professional assessment skills of human service providers?

Research was conducted with professionals from three social service organization in Quito. The first is the CESIM Organization, an intergovernmental group that works in the area of women’s rights and the equality of women, the Red Cross of Ecuador, specifically in their youth program and Fundacion Remar, an organization that works with at-risk youth. Twenty-two professionals were included in the sample of the case study. The level of education varied with 15% having post graduate degrees, 46% having college level education and 33% with high school education. A pre-test/ post-test questionnaire was distributed to the professionals at the time of training. The two hour training included a lecture, interactive format and visuals. Post training evaluation indicated that the level of skills in assessing victims of human trafficking by professionals increased and also suggested that education as a model in working against human trafficking is effective (Luque, 2007)

The fourth project, *Human Trafficking in Ecuador: Prevention through the Ecuadorian Library System* is still in progress. The project focuses on: 1) Can the library system in Ecuador be utilized as a member of the social service network in educating about human trafficking? and 2) What are the needs of a library for developing a prevention program for human trafficking?

The libraries included in the sample are from the various cities in Ecuador. The Library Questionnaire in Ecuador will be administered onsite at the library to users and library staff and will be utilized to assess the possibility of including the library in the Ecuadorian social service

network. The participants are patrons of libraries in Ecuador. Patrons will be asked to complete an anonymous questionnaire about the use of the library as a member of the social service network in educating about human trafficking as well as the needs of a library for developing a prevention program on human trafficking. Patrons will be asked about their willingness to participate in the questionnaire as they utilize the reference and circulation desk to make inquiries or check out materials. If they agree to participate they will be given a copy of the questionnaire with a statement about the purpose of the research. In addition to surveying the patrons, Ecuadorian librarians and staff will be invited to participate in the anonymous questionnaire.

In February 2007 on site visits to five libraries occurred. The instrument was field tested for accuracy and translated and an accurate and updated questionnaire was developed. While in Ecuador the Municipio Del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito Library in Quito was visited and the Library Director indicated 3000 youth visited and utilized the library each day. Clearly, this library functions as a community center. The Library Director indicated that the youth came from impoverished and at risk backgrounds. A discussion on the topic of human trafficking had her reflect that many of the youth utilizing the library would be considered high risk youth for being trafficked since their parents often emigrated out of the country in search of employment. In fact, discussion even brought up the point, that given the high usage of the library, it could actually be a site of recruitment by traffickers. She initiated conversation about administering the questionnaire and elicited our assistance in developing a prevention program to be conducted at the library. Data collection and program develop is continuing at the present.

## **Romania**

Romania is a source and transit country for women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Romanian girls are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation and boys are trafficked from eastern and northern Romania to urban cities for the purposes of forced labor including petty theft. To date, the government of Romania does not fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, efforts are being made to move in that direction. Police and judicial training is necessary as well as the establishment of anti-trafficking NGOs. Romanian police and prosecution activity have resulted in the increase conviction of traffickers. But only modest progress has been made in improving victim assistance and protection. Little use has been made by the victims of state run shelters. Police prosecution and fining of the victims of trafficking still continues. Children have been singled out to be supported in order that they might not become high risk victims of trafficking. Public awareness seminars have been held in public schools including the use of posters, banners and materials. (U.S. State Department, TIP Report, 2006)

The Romanian government has identified the necessity of raising awareness of human trafficking by educational means. Romania is aware that the root causes of human trafficking are poverty and lack of decent labor. (Council of Europe, 2006). At the present, the government is focusing on advancing the process of victim identification as well as the protection of victims. Special emphasis has also been placed on the needs of children as well as the development of a standardized application form to be used by all institutions. (Council of Europe, 2006). With Romania's entrance into the European Union in 2007 additional training will, need to take place

with border guards and police given the ease with which people can travel within EU member nations. Besides governmental action, NGOs have been active in Romania in combating trafficking. One such NGO called Terres de Hommes has indicated that in 2007 they will intensify their child trafficking prevention programs.

<http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/romaniaE>

### **Initiation of the Training Model**

After initial meetings in Chicago with a Romanian government official and a Romanian ILO representative (International Labor Organization) in which the state of human trafficking programs were discussed, an initial visit to Bucharest, Romania was made in May 2006 to evaluate and assess the state of human trafficking efforts in Romania as well as to explain in detail the public awareness seminar and the “Training for Trainers” program in Latvia with the purposes of replicating the model in Romania. The factors that differ in Romania are the high numbers of children who are labor trafficked as well as the high number of at-risk Roma children. To date, The Romanian Government and the International NGOs like the ILO remain committed to partnering with Dominican University’s Graduate School of Social Work in beginning the initiation of the Prevention, Education, Assessment, Treatment Coalition Model. US Embassy interests remain high on implementing the project in Romania.

### **Conclusions**

#### *Lessons Learned*

- The topic of human trafficking is challenging.
- The importance of a culturally competent interpreter for trafficked victims was highlighted. Simply having language translation skills was not enough.
- The ability to provide emotional and spiritual support to victims of trafficking from a cultural position was a key aspect in the successful work with trafficked individuals
- Basic case management and advocacy skills were quite necessary
- Planning a workshop involving international participants in a different country is a time consuming and demanding task. Accomplishing everything through e-mail is simply not possible.
- Constant communication is a critical element to success in conducting international projects.

- The budget costs for food and transportation as well as for simultaneous translation ran much higher than expected.
- International partners need to be flexible enough to realize that some changes are going to be necessary in the implementation of the project.
- Having a university that has an international office and can issue proper immigration forms such as DS 20-19 is extremely helpful.
- International partnerships lead to scholarship regarding human trafficking.
- Student interest in human trafficking has grown as a result of work in Latvia, Ecuador, Romania and the United States. For example, in the spring of 2006 a group of students organized a student organization known as “STOP” (Stop the Trafficking of Persons). They have developed on and off campus trainings and presentations. They participated in the Illinois Governor’s public awareness campaign for the past two years in the communities surrounding Dominican University as well as conducting public awareness training in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- The December 2004 and May 2005 Latvian training events were described in the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report 2006 as evidence of one of the ways the nation of Latvia was improving the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of trafficking (U.S. State Department TIP Report, 2006). Clearly, this project has been successful in community development and nation building through its training, education, consulting and collaboration.
- Trafficking has reached epidemic proportions and no country is immune.
- Scarcity of grant dollars and limited identified victims of trafficking often produces high competition among NGOs.

- Access to victim survivors in order to develop competent social assessments is limited.
- Prevention through public awareness and education of professionals is not enough to combat human trafficking. Interventions by competent social work practitioners need to include not only case management and advocacy skills, but also an understanding of the ecological perspective in assessment and treatment techniques to work with the multidimensional and comprehensive needs of the survivor.
- International human trafficking projects require a significant investment of energy, time and commitment.
- Effective anti-trafficking strategies should target all three aspects of the trade: the supply side, the trafficking, and the demand side.

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