

Lebanese American University

**Human Trafficking and Economic Globalization**  
***Sex Trafficking in Women - The Contemporary Slavery***

**By**  
**Rasha Jammal**

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

Degree of Masters of International Affairs

School of Arts and Sciences

***February 2011***

School of Arts and Sciences - Beirut Campus

**Thesis Approval Form**

Student Name: Rasha Jammal

I.D. #: 200200879

Thesis Title: Human Trafficking and Economic Globalization/ *Sex Trafficking in Women - The Contemporary Slavery*

Program: Master of Arts in International Affairs

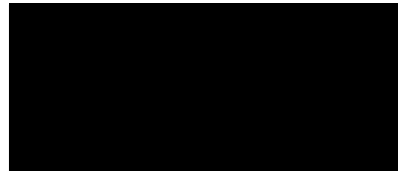
Department: Social Science

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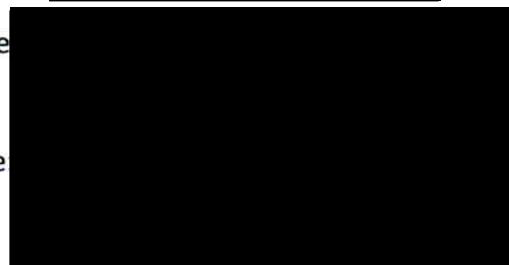
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Walid Moubarak

Signature:



Member : Dr. Sami Baroudi

Signature



Member : Dr. Imad Salamey

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## **Acknowledgements**

This research would not have been possible without the support of many persons.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor and advisor, Dr. Walid Moubarak who provided me with assistance and guidance throughout the period of thesis drafting. I am also deeply grateful to my family and friends who provided me with unconditional support throughout this phase.

Finally, a special thanks to Ghada and Firas, my mother and companion, who always believed in me.

Human Trafficking and Economic Globalization  
*Sex Trafficking in Women - The Contemporary Slavery*

Rasha Jammal

**Abstract**

This thesis examines the relationship between trafficking in persons and globalization. It first highlights and tracks the development of the trafficking in persons definition overtime and the difference between trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, then moves on to describing the trafficking cycle of recruitment, transportation, and exploitation followed by the various reasons behind trafficking in persons. The thesis argues that a strong correlation exists amid globalization and the increase in trafficking in persons, and supports this argument by demonstrating the effect of the Soviet downfall, the introduction of economic liberalization, and the examination of the economic chain of market supply and demand; furthermore, case studies of two former Soviet republics, Moldova and Russia and their legal framework shall be examined. Finally, the thesis shall offer potential solutions towards combating trafficking in persons, highlighting the responsibilities of governments, civil society organizations, and other actors in this struggle to defend humanity.

Key words: Globalization, economic globalization, human trafficking, sex trafficking.

## Table of Contents

<b><i>I. Chapter One: Intro to Globalization and Trafficking</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
1. What is Globalization? .....	1
2. Globalization effects on Trafficking .....	2
3. Feminist Theories and Sexual Exploitation .....	3
4. Overview on following Chapters .....	4
<b><i>II. Chapter Two: What is Trafficking in Persons?</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
1. Development of the Trafficking in Persons definition overtime .....	5
2. Trafficking in Persons vs. Migrant Smuggling: .....	8
3. Recruitment- The Prey Trap .....	11
4. Transportation- How does it take place?.....	13
5. Exploitation- The Forms of Trafficking.....	14
6. Scope of the Problem in Numbers.....	18
7. Reasons behind Trafficking in Persons .....	20
<b><i>III. Chapter Three: Sex Trafficking and Globalization</i></b> .....	<b>26</b>
1. Globalization .....	26
2. Soviet Downfall: Economic Globalization and Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) .....	27
3. Supply and Demand for Sex Trafficking.....	31
4. Technology and Trafficking .....	35
<b><i>IV. Chapter Four: Case Studies of two former Soviet republics and their Legal Framework - Moldova and Russia</i></b> .....	<b>39</b>
1. Republic of Moldova: .....	39
2. The Russian Federation: .....	49
<b><i>V. Chapter Five: The International Legal Framework and Potential Solutions to Sex Trafficking</i></b> .....	<b>58</b>
1. Difficulties in halting the Increase of Sex Trafficking .....	59
2. Potential Solutions towards combating Sex Trafficking .....	62
<b><i>Conclusion</i></b> .....	<b>67</b>
<b><i>References</i></b> .....	<b>70</b>
<b><i>List of Figures</i></b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b><i>List of Tables</i></b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b><i>Appendix A</i></b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b><i>Appendix B</i></b> .....	<b>83</b>
<b><i>Appendix C</i></b> .....	<b>84</b>

## I. Chapter One: Intro to Globalization and Trafficking

### 1. What is Globalization?

For years now, globalization has had both its advocates and critics arguing about the pros and cons of this global network; Anthony Giddens has described globalization as “the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa”<sup>1</sup>. It is therefore a fact that globalization has affected the world today in various manners: industrial, financial, political, social, cultural and even ecological. However, how does this global power increase the flow of human trafficking, especially sex trafficking? The intent of this paper is to highlight, demonstrate, as well as confirm this correlation.

Since the flow of globalization was accompanied by factors such as economic liberalization, transfer to democratic regimes, spread of technology, uneven distribution of wealth and porous borders, it aided in increasing and facilitating sex trafficking in countries that comprise socioeconomic instability, gender inequality, military conflicts, and rule of law absence; this paper puts forward Moldova and Russia as case studies, as they are from the bundle of countries that have suffered from being source and destination countries for sex trafficking, and have also endured the transfer from communist to democratic regimes.

It is significant to address the linkage between globalization and human trafficking because, the scale in which the illicit trafficking industry is growing and functioning is directly related to the growth of globalization and interconnectedness of countries. Since one of the outstanding problems, which is largely an outcome of globalization, is economic inequality,

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<sup>1</sup> Giddens, A. (1990) *The Consequences of Modernity*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.



this paper shall stress on economic globalization more than other socio-cultural aspects of globalization.

People must manage to benefit from globalization by combining coordinated international efforts to combat or at least halt this phenomenon. Most people might not be aware how technological advances such as the internet can foster the movement of criminal networks responsible for trafficking crimes, or how the internet can be used as a tool to attract victims, or how the EU country borders have become more porous and less controlled due to the new EU country non visa requirement law. All these factors shall be further emphasized during this paper, and hence the association between human trafficking and economic globalization specifically will be clearly visualized.

## **2. Globalization effects on Trafficking**

“21st century human slavery is unthinkable, yet the truth is that it exists on every continent, crosses borders, and affects women, men and children. It is an affront to the rights of the individuals, and a stain on the humanity of us all.”<sup>2</sup> Regardless of all the efforts deployed to combat trafficking in persons, this crime continues to prevail taking up various forms such as forced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, debt bondage and others that shall be highlighted throughout this paper.

In addition to factors such as poverty, gender disenfranchisement, military conflict, and absence of a strong central government, globalization and its related end products such as technology, economic liberalization, privatization and permeable borders have aided in increasing and facilitating the growth of trafficking in persons, especially sex trafficking. Furthermore, the high supply of sexually trafficked victims has been due to the high demand

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<sup>2</sup> United States Agency for International Development (USAID), *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, October 2008, p.5.

for cheap sex throughout the world; conversely, the ability to provide cheap sex services from trafficked victims which don't cost much, from a merchant's view of weighing labor costs, has also increased the demand for these services.

### **3. Feminist Theories and Sexual Exploitation**

It is important to note that trafficking in persons, specifically sex trafficking can take place with women, men, girls, and boys, however the majority of sex trafficking cases affect women and children by first hand, while sex trafficking cases of men take place on a minimal scale. "Women and children are the key target group, because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the "invisible" formal sector"<sup>3</sup>. The following chapters will elaborate on the effect of social factors such as gender disenfranchisement and ethnic minorities on the increase of sex trafficking.

What do feminist theories say about sexual exploitation of women? The author of "The Prostitution of Sexuality", Kathleen Barry argues that there has been a shift from what she had previously considered to be the sexuality of prostitution, into what she now refers to as the prostitution of sexuality. This is arguably because the focus has shifted, leading to the fact that prostitution is normalised and that women are perceived more and more as commodities that can be purchased. Barry claims that "sexual exploitation objectifies women by reducing them to sex."<sup>4</sup>

Barry also states that the theory of posing women as products to be used for sexual purposes, originates from society, thus a "public condition"<sup>5</sup> and furthermore, it is a consequence of patriarchy. Hence, women are subjugated because society is dominated by male power and the society differentiates between men and women. Women have been

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<sup>3</sup> Check [http://lsr.nellco.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=nyu\\_plltwp](http://lsr.nellco.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=nyu_plltwp)

<sup>4</sup> Barry, Kathleen: *The Prostitution of Sexuality*, USA 1995: New York University Press, pg. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Barry, Kathleen: *The Prostitution of Sexuality*, USA 1995: New York University Press, pg. 22.

sexualized by society, thus they become a product, an object. The sexualisation of women is socially and culturally constructed, since men cannot be reduced to their bodies and cannot be objectified in the same way as women. Furthermore, Barry speaks of sexual exploitation in all aspects, as rape, pornography, and also trafficking. She believes it is important not to divide the concepts, in order to give a proper image of the extent of the problem of sexual exploitation. When studying trafficking and prostitution it becomes clear that within this trade, women are considered without value, they are expendable.

#### **4. Overview on following Chapters**

After providing an introduction to globalization, trafficking, and feminist theories on sexual exploitation, the second and third chapters will shed light on the complex nature of sex trafficking and its relationship with globalization through delving into market supply and demand forces, the collapse of the Soviet regime and the way it paved way for criminal organizations to flourish and function on a transnational level, and the effect of technology on this phenomenon. Furthermore, the fourth chapter shall provide case studies of Moldova and Russia- which are considered sex trafficking sources and supply countries for many countries; this chapter reflects on the histories of these two countries and the economic crisis they endured after the fall of the Soviet Union and the introduction of globalization and economic integration. This paper concentrates on supply countries rather than demand countries, because it aims at revealing the status of trafficking victims, the laws and regulations of the victim's country, as well as the reason behind the country's vulnerability in creating a hub for traffickers. The fifth chapter analyzes the reasons behind the difficulty in combating trafficking in persons and offers potential steps towards fighting this crime, narrowing down the duties of governments, civil society organizations, the judiciary, and society as a whole.

## II. Chapter Two: What is Trafficking in Persons?

In view of the fact that there still remains a worldwide misunderstanding of what Trafficking in Persons (TIP) really means, the first chapter will provide an introduction to the “universal characterization of trafficking in persons, the distinction between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, the process of trafficking in persons”<sup>6</sup>, its various forms and ways, and the reasons behind the proliferation of this phenomenon.

### 1. Development of the Trafficking in Persons definition overtime

Trafficking in human beings is not a recent phenomenon. “What is new is the transnational character of the phenomenon and the scale on which it is taking place.”<sup>7</sup> The most disturbing aspect of this phenomenon is the fact that human beings are treated like commodities that can be purchased and sold. Even after signing the Slavery Convention in Geneva in 1926, and with social, educational, and economic progress in most parts of the world over the years, as well as increased universal support, understanding, and promotion of rule of law and human rights values, unfortunate to say, slavery is still being practiced till this very day but with a more contemporary terminology that fits our globalized era: Trafficking in Persons.

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan once said: “Slavery was, in a very real sense, the first international human rights issue to come to the fore. It led to the adoption of the first human rights laws and to the creation of the first human rights non-governmental

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<sup>6</sup> Segrave. M, “*Order at the Border: The repatriation of victims of Trafficking*”, Women’s Studies International Forum, 2009/07/08.

<sup>7</sup> Ilse van Liempt, “*Trafficking in Human Beings: Conceptual Dilemmas*” in Christien L. van den Anker and Jeroen Doomernik, ed., *Trafficking and Women Rights* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), p.28.

organization. And yet despite the efforts of the international community to combat this abhorrent practice, it is still widely prevalent in all its insidious forms, old and new.”<sup>8</sup>

Article 1 of the Slavery Convention defined slavery as *“the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised. The slave trade includes all acts involved in the capture, acquisition or disposal of a person with intent to reduce him to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him; all acts of disposal by sale or exchange of a slave acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged, and, in general, every act of trade or transport in slaves.”*<sup>9</sup>

After the Slavery Convention, a number of resolutions and conventions came forward from the international community describing and denouncing trafficking before the UN Protocol came into action.

“In 1949, the international community first denounced trafficking in the Trafficking Convention”<sup>10</sup> (Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Person of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others) which was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

“The Convention calls on states parties to punish traffickers and to protect all persons against such abuse. It also calls on states parties "so far as possible" to "make suitable provisions for [trafficking victims] temporary care and maintenance", to repatriate trafficked persons "only after agreement . . . with the State of destination", and where such persons cannot pay the cost of repatriation, to bear the cost "as far as the nearest frontier.”<sup>11</sup>

However, the definition was not very clear, which pushed the European Parliament to adopt two resolutions, one in 1989 and another in 1996. These resolutions condemned

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<sup>8</sup> Check <http://www.unmeditation.org/december.cfm>

<sup>9</sup> Check <http://insidejustice.com/law/index.php/intl/2007/03/06/dreddscott150thanniversary>

<sup>10</sup> Check <http://www.iom.ti/publications/trafficking2001.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia Region, UNIFEM Gender Fact Sheet No 2, *Trafficking in Women and Children*, <http://unifem-eseasia.org/resources/factsheets/Gendis2.htm>

prostitution and trafficking, called for international collaboration to combat women trafficking, and stressed that “trafficked persons entering the European Union, whether legally or illegally, could now be considered to have been trafficked.”<sup>12</sup>

The international community was still not satisfied with the narrow definition of trafficking and public concern and outrage started growing considerably, leading the European Commission to address a number of objectives in relation to this issue in 1998. They included: “re-enforcing European and international cooperation with governments and NGOs, assuring that the question of women trafficking for sex remains high on the political agenda of the EU; most importantly was the addition of trade in domestic workers or women who are forced into marriage to the trafficking definition, hence not only limiting trafficking to prostitution purposes.”<sup>13</sup> A year later, in 1999, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also adopted their definition of trafficking referring to any profit-making of traffickers through coercion and/or deceit with no referral to any certain labour field.

In year 2000, and after seventy four years of signing the Slavery Convention, the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention was adopted and supplemented by three related Protocols on: Trafficking in Firearms<sup>14</sup>, Smuggling of Migrants<sup>15</sup> and Trafficking in Persons- Especially Women and Children<sup>16</sup>. Article 3 (a) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also

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<sup>12</sup> Ilse van Liempt, p.29.

<sup>13</sup> European Commission, *For Further Actions in the Fight Against Trafficking in Women*, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/crime/trafficking/wai/doc\\_crime\\_human\\_trafficking\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/crime/trafficking/wai/doc_crime_human_trafficking_en.htm) (December 9, 1998)

<sup>14</sup> Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, U.N. Doc. A/Res./55/255 (2001).

<sup>15</sup> Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>16</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

known as the Palermo protocol came into effect in 2003, and finally held consensus as to what trafficking must be defined.

Trafficking was identified as *“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring 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 on vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments and benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”*<sup>17</sup>

The Trafficking in Persons Protocol requires that the trafficking crime be defined through a combination of three basic elements which are: i) **acts** such as transport, “transfer, harbouring, receipt of a person by; ii) **means** of deception, coercion, abuse of a position of vulnerability and others for the; iii) **purpose of exploitation**, including sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, removal of organs.”<sup>18</sup> The combination of these three elements makes a crime a trafficking crime. Hence, if the acts and means were present, but the exploitation phase was missing, the act is likely to constitute a separate criminal offence but not a trafficking one.

## **2. Trafficking in Persons vs. Migrant Smuggling:**

How do the two modern criminal movements differ from each other? In the past, many people tended to use the terms trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants synonymously. The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air later defined *“smuggling of migrants”* as “the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or

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<sup>17</sup> Check <http://www.justiceanddemocracy.org/Trffic%20Bk.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC), *Combating Trafficking in Persons- A Handbook for Parliamentarians*, No 16, 2009, p.13.

indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident”<sup>19</sup>.

Trafficking in persons differs from smuggling of migrants in the fact that in the latter, there might be no fraud in the accord between the smuggler and the migrant; smugglers facilitate the illegal migration of the migrants however, do not engage in slavery like treatments. The operation occurs as follows: The migrant requests the smuggler’s services for certain fees and upon arrival to destination the person is usually set free. On the contrary however, trafficking victims are deceived; the coercive nature of the operation is not evident or recognizable until arrival to destination or in the course of the trip. They are physically and sometimes mentally tortured along the way and upon arrival they become materially exploited and are bound to certain work employers and terms of employment that they were clearly not acquainted with.

According to the [Toolkit to Combat Trafficking developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#), it can be quite difficult to differentiate between a trafficking case and a smuggling one but the following key differences may facilitate in identification: a) the notion of consent- smuggled migrants usually consent on their movement while trafficking victims do not consent but are conned; b) the issue of transnationality- smuggling always has to involve illegal border crossing and entry into another country whereas trafficking doesn’t necessary entail crossing a border; and c) exploitation- as mentioned above, the relationship between the migrant and smuggler ends after the border crossing.

Furthermore, emphasis is really placed on victims’ consent in trafficking cases; “Article 3 (b) of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol states that if a victim’s consent to the intended exploitation is obtained through any improper means (threat, force, deception, coercion,

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<sup>19</sup> Check the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.



giving or receiving of payments or benefits, abuse of power, or position of vulnerability) then the consent is negated and cannot be used to absolve a person from criminal responsibility. Regardless of whether their consent was obtained without use of any prohibited means, children have special legal status”<sup>20</sup>.

The following table provides a clearer distinction between trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

**Table 1: Trafficking vs. Migrant Smuggling**

	<b>Trafficking in Persons (Adults)</b>	<b>Trafficking in Persons (Children)</b>	<b>Migrant Smuggling</b>
<b>Victim’s age</b>	Over 18	Below 18	Irrelevant
<b>Mental element</b>	Intention	Intention	Intention
<b>Material element</b>	Act Means Exploitative purpose	Act Exploitative purpose	Act: Procurement of an illegal entry Purpose: For financial or other material benefit
<b>Consent of the smuggled or trafficked person</b>	Irrelevant once the means are established	Irrelevant; means do not need to be established	The smuggled person consents to the smuggling
<b>Transnationality</b>	Not required	Not required	Required
<b>Involvement of an organized criminal group</b>	Not required	Not required	Not required

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. 2008, p.5. [http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT\\_Toolkit08\\_English.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT_Toolkit08_English.pdf)

The above table distinguishes between trafficking in adults and children and smuggling of migrants. It indicates that the victim’s age is required in trafficking in persons in order to

<sup>20</sup> Check <http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296tool1-3.pdf>

identify whether the victim is a child or adult, however in migrant smuggling, the victim's age is irrelevant. Furthermore, the mental element of intention is required in all three movements, however the material element differs. Trafficking in adults requires the act, means, and exploitative purpose, trafficking in children requires the act and the exploitative purpose, however migrant smuggling entails the act and purpose. The consent of the victim is irrelevant in both cases of trafficking, whereas in migrant smuggling cases, the smuggled person consents to the smuggling. The issue of transnationality is not required in both cases of trafficking; however it is required in migrant smuggling. Last but not least, the involvement of an organized criminal group is not required in the three cases.

In other words, "Trafficking in Persons can also be seen as a process, usually consisting of three stages: recruitment, transport and exploitation."<sup>21</sup> I shall thoroughly describe each stage and its implications before moving on to the reasons that allow the crimes of trafficking in persons to exist and persist.

### **3. Recruitment- The Prey Trap**

Many people can easily fall as victims of trafficking in persons due to many factors that will be specified and delved into through the course of this paper. However, what are the mechanisms and techniques used for trafficking persons? Deceit is certainly one of the most employed strategies to fool victims. "It entails the false offer of a job, travel, or other income-generating opportunity for the purpose of acquiring a slave"<sup>22</sup>. Lack of economic opportunity, misrepresentation in society, genocides, dislocation due to wars or natural disasters are all factors that lead victims to accept fake jobs offered by traffickers in richer

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<sup>21</sup> Background Paper for the Side Event "*The Role of Corruption in Trafficking in Persons*" at the Third Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption 9-13 November, 2009, Doha, p.5.

<sup>22</sup> Siddharth, Kara, p.7

countries, since these offers pose as good chances for their desperate status. Fake advertisements for vacant positions such as waitresses, maids, or dancers also grab the attention of many women and children who later find themselves trafficked into brothels and other forced labour situations. Deceit in areas such as “South Asia and East Asia also happens through false promises of marriage to wealthy men, which eventually leads to thousands of women being trafficked each year”<sup>23</sup>.

Similar conditions of extreme poverty and desperation sometimes lead families to sell their children to traffickers, often for minimal amounts of money, just to guarantee income at the end of each month. Generally, perpetrators of trafficking may be complete strangers involved in transnational criminal organizations, or middle-men or pimps and at other times may involve family members. Family members may sell their children to traffickers due to poverty and by thinking maybe their children can get better opportunities through false promises given to them. However, some of the parents may also be directly involved in the trafficking procedure when they sell their children to third parties who force them to beg or work in prostitution; hence, parents play a great role in the trafficking acquisition phase. “As reported by some NGOs, more than 80 percent of trafficked persons were sold by someone whom they knew personally and who profited from their vulnerability, naiveté, and trust”<sup>24</sup>.

Abduction is also another strategy to capture victims, though not very common like other strategies since resistance is more likely to be practiced by the victim. Furthermore, many victims of forced prostitution are acquired through promises of love. Following is an example:

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> La Strada, *Trafficking in Human Beings in Central Europe*, (Prague: La Strada, 2005), p.8-9.

*“China. Xiao Ping, 20, had spent most of her life in her small village in Sichuan Province. She was thrilled when her new boyfriend offered to take her on a weekend trip to his hometown. But her boyfriend and his friends took her instead to a desert village in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and sold her to a farmer to be his wife. The farmer imprisoned Xiao Ping, beat her, and raped her for 32 months. In that time Xiao Ping grew depressed and homesick, and she became pregnant and had a son. Xiao Ping’s family borrowed a substantial sum to pay for her rescue, but the farmer’s family forced her to leave behind her 6-month-old baby. To cancel the debts, Xiao Ping married the man who provided the loan. But her husband regarded her as “stained goods,” and the marriage did not last”<sup>25</sup>.*

In the case of sex trafficking, former slaves also have a hand in seducing other people into the business through promises of a prosperous life; these former slaves receive commissions for this, and are also offered a great deal of money for pulling off such nonfactual actions. Last but not least, voodoo and other magic rituals are used by some African tribes to recruit victims, since they believe that these rituals “bind the individual’s spirit to an obligation to repay exorbitant debts after transportation to the destination country. Failure to meet these debts results in deep spiritual afflictions...”<sup>26</sup> In addition to the African rituals, the “*devadasi* in India is also a prominent example of ritualized sexual slavery that girls endure, sometimes for a lifetime.”<sup>27</sup>

#### **4. Transportation- How does it take place?**

The trafficking in persons’ chain of movement usually starts in the origin country, then the transit country and at last the country of destination. It is worthwhile to highlight that a trafficking movement does not need to always cross country borders but at some instances takes place through internal country trafficking. Hence, the country itself can be the origin, transit, and destination, i.e. from a village to a city. It is almost a fact that the trafficking movement is from poorer areas to richer ones. For instance, “victims from Africa are taken to Western Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, and the United States and victims of rural

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<sup>25</sup> Check <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/123145.htm>

<sup>26</sup> Siddharth Kara, p.10

<sup>27</sup> Andrea Parrot and Nina Cummings. 2008. *Sexual Enslavement of Girls and Women Worldwide*, (Praeger Publishers), p.10.

South Asian areas end up in urban centres such as Mumbai or New Delhi”<sup>28</sup>. Several means of transportation are used during the trafficking process such as car, train, plane, bus, and others; at times victims have to walk on foot or swim through to cross borders and reach their destiny. Throughout the journey, slaves are not fed, are often raped, beaten up, and humiliated so they become more submissive upon sale. Traffickers usually use fake passports and identity documents or assume family kinship with the victims to bypass country or area borders. They also bribe border control guards in order to enter the acquired destination; this corrupt behaviour of bribery is a key contributor to the growth and spread of trafficking as it facilitates the trafficker’s job and these corrupt border guards “can obstruct the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication in trafficking in persons...”<sup>29</sup>

## **5. Exploitation- The Forms of Trafficking**

For what purposes are people trafficked? People may be trafficked for several purposes such as “domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, as well as begging and petty crimes”<sup>30</sup>. The key types of trafficking in persons can be broken down into the following: forced labour, bonded labour, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, child soldiers, trafficking for removal of organs, as well as sex trafficking.

This section will briefly touch on each item before delving into and exploring sex trafficking of women, the key highlight of this paper. Forced labour takes place when employers take advantage of helpless workers, some of which may be immigrants who are subject to involuntary servitude. “These workers are made more vulnerable to forced labour practices

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<sup>28</sup> Siddharth, Kara, p.10.

<sup>29</sup> Background Paper for the Side Event “*The Role of Corruption in Trafficking in Persons*” at the Third Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption 9-13 November, 2009, Doha, p.5.

<sup>30</sup> See United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC), *Human Trafficking Indicators*, [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/HT\\_indicators\\_E\\_LOWRES.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/HT_indicators_E_LOWRES.pdf)

because of high rates of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, political conflict, and cultural acceptance of the practice”<sup>31</sup>. As per the 2009 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons “sexual exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (79%), followed by forced labour (18%)”<sup>32</sup>. Examples of such people may be those who work in factories or households, especially if immigrants.

Bonded labour is when traffickers illicitly use debt bondage as part of the employment agreement that initially took place between them and the victim. These victims would be fooled for receiving better job opportunities with better pay in a city or country and therefore abide by the rules of the trafficker. Upon arrival to destination, the victim would be surprised by the nature of the job, would be deprived from his rights, and will be required to continuously pay the debt he owes the trafficker for being trafficked to the destination. “Until they repay this amount, they are kept under constant surveillance, and repayment calculations are in the hands of their employers who typically add living expenses, fines, and other charges to the initial debt.”<sup>33</sup> Certainly, the victim could not revolt, because his ability to escape is obstructed by his illegal status in the country, linguistic and cultural isolation, and financial shortages.

The third item, involuntary domestic servitude, takes place when domestic servants undergo inhumane treatment such as the use of verbal/physical abuse, bad living conditions, extra-long working hours, and receive minimal or no money in return for their services. Most of these domestic workers have their identity documents confiscated, an extra factor that keeps them in their misery and distances the thoughts of escaping in

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<sup>31</sup> Check [http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi\\_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf](http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC) and UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UN.GIFT), *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, February 2009, p.6.

<sup>33</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, “Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.72.

addition to fear from their employers. Additionally, due to language, social and physical barriers they are hesitant to seek help from local authorities or family members back home. Moving on to the fourth item, we realize that trafficking has not only captured and harmed the lives of many adults, but has grown to affect the lives of our children. “Any child, who is subject to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, peonage, or slavery through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, is a victim of human trafficking regardless of the location of that exploitation”<sup>34</sup> As the term speaks for itself, forced child labour, is one of the ugliest realities that violates the simplest of children’s basic rights to survival and their protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly in 1989 mentioned that “States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”<sup>35</sup> (*The term child implies any individual under the age of 18*). There are countless examples of forced child labour in most countries; children who work in mining in Peru, harvesting sugarcane in El Salvador, packing mud bricks in Liberia, farming cocoa in the Ivory Coast, and other children who are forced to beg in public places or steal. Moreover, and as we move to children who are unlawfully forced to join rebel groups in areas of conflict- child soldiers, we realize the atrocities practised against children and as pitiful to mention, by other children. This unjust practice is spread in most regions of the world, but is most highlighted in Africa and Asia. “The military recruitment of children (under-18) and their use in hostilities is a much larger phenomenon that still takes place in

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<sup>34</sup> Check [http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi\\_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf](http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Check <http://www.hrw.org/reports/pdfs/c/crd/bulgaria969.pdf>

one form or another in at least 86 countries and territories worldwide”<sup>36</sup>. As the 2008 Child Soldiers Global Report indicates, “Most recent governments which used child soldiers in armed conflicts between April 2004 and October 2007 were Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Southern Sudan, Uganda and Yemen”<sup>37</sup>.

Though carrying similar exploitative purposes, the following trafficking purpose is quite different in its nature and actors; victims of trafficking for the removal of organs and body parts are found and selected from poor areas and other vulnerable populations, whereas the offenders or traffickers are often part of transnational organised crime groups. “Organized crime groups lure people abroad under false promises and convince or force them to sell their organs. Recipients of the organs must pay a much higher price than donors receive, part of which benefits brokers, surgeons and hospital directors, who have been reported to be involved in the organized criminal network”<sup>38</sup>. This brings us to our final form of trafficking and the heart of this paper: sex trafficking of women. “When a person is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution, or maintained in prostitution through coercion, that person is a victim of trafficking”<sup>39</sup>.

Common venues of sexual exploitation are brothels, clubs, apartments, hotels, massage rooms, and streets. It is important to distinguish between sex-trafficked victims and prostitutes; even if they were both coming from developing countries for the purpose of economic empowerment, a prostitute functions voluntarily, however the trafficked victim is conned, if not into the job then with the living conditions of exploitation and abuse; prostitution on the other hand is legal in many countries and takes place under specific

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<sup>36</sup> Check <http://law.du.edu/documents/djilp/37No3/Sacrificial-Lambs-Globalization-Child-Labor-Twenty-First-Century-r-Ranee-Khooshie-Lal-Panjabi.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Check <http://childsoldiersglobalreport.org/overview-and-benchmarks>

<sup>38</sup> Check [http://www.lastradainternational.org/Isidocs/449%20humantrafficking\\_removal\\_organs.pdf](http://www.lastradainternational.org/Isidocs/449%20humantrafficking_removal_organs.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> Check [http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi\\_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf](http://bishkek.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/U0S0XDc6I9cLi_6WAI4NQ/TIP2009Eng.pdf)



terms, regulations, and laws. A prostitute in the Netherlands for instance has specific working hours, health regulations, and a paid leave.

The reason behind focusing on sex trafficking is due to the sensitivity of the subject and sympathy with sex trafficked victims, mostly children and women, of which many have passed away unnoticed, while others have endured the process but still live the aftermaths. Consequences of this abuse may be physical illnesses such as HIV or others, and psychological complexes that include mental traumas. An extra drive is understanding the reasons behind this trend's high levels of supply and demand since it is a fact that "the acquisition, movement, and exploitation of sex slaves form an industry that makes billions of dollars in profits each year, at a profit margin greater than almost any industry in the world, illicit or otherwise"<sup>40</sup>.

## **6. Scope of the Problem in Numbers**

"It is difficult to know how many women have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. The trade is secretive, the women are silenced, the traffickers are dangerous, and not many agencies are counting"<sup>41</sup>. In some cases, there are discrepancies in numbers since some statistics do not differentiate between illegal forced trafficking and migration that takes place with the consent of the individuals. For instance, "in 2001, the U.S FBI estimated that 700,000 women and children were trafficked worldwide, but in that same year, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), estimated this number to be higher, at 1.75 million."<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.17.

<sup>41</sup> Check [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha\\_nij.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha_nij.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Andrea Parrot and Nina Cummings. 2008. *Sexual Enslavement of Girls and Women Worldwide*, (Praeger Publishers), p.7.

According to UNODC’s 2010 report on “Globalization of Crime- A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment”, the following was identified:

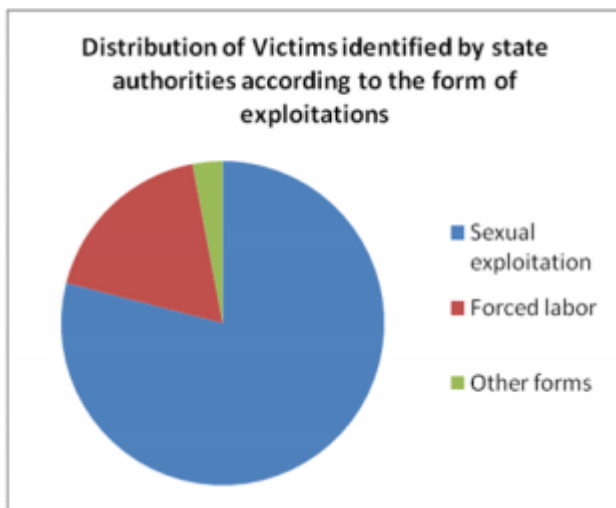
**Figure 1: Profile of trafficking victims**



<b>Women</b>	<b>66 %</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>9 %</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>12 %</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>13 %</b>

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2010 report on “Globalization of Crime- A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment”, p.40

**Figure 2: Form of trafficking exploitation**



<b>Sexual exploitation</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Forced labour</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Other forms</b>	<b>3%</b>

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2010 report on “Globalization of Crime- A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment”, p.40

Figure 1 indicates that largest numbers of trafficked victims are women who constitute 66% of total victims, followed by girls who constitute 13%, followed by men and boys with 12% and 9%. Furthermore, Figure 2 demonstrates that highest form of trafficking exploitation

would be sexual exploitation with a percentage of 79 followed by forced labor with 18 % and 3% for the remaining forms of trafficking.

## **7. Reasons behind Trafficking in Persons**

After going through the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation processes and methods, we need to understand what conditions trigger trafficking in persons and what makes this phenomenon still thrive as time passes. To start with, trafficking in persons in general and sex trafficking in particular are not a result of one singular factor, however an outcome of several factors that have merged together. Hence, this paper focuses on globalization as one of the factors that fostered the growth of trafficking in persons and not the exclusive factor that generated the phenomenon.

What factors make people vulnerable to coercion and deception? Economic and social statuses are strong indicators, especially when merged with other factors. For instance, when economic and social factors such as globalization, poverty and discrimination exist with other factors like corruption and law enforcement deficiencies in a certain state, these citizens will be more likely vulnerable to trafficking. “The interaction between structural variables (such as economic deprivation and market downturns, social inequality, attitudes to gender, etc) and proximate factors (such as lax national and international regimes, poor law enforcement, corruption, organized crime, etc.) is key to understanding why some individuals are vulnerable to trafficking through use of deception and coercion”<sup>43</sup>.

### **Economic Factors: Poverty and Deprivation**

Poverty and the lack of prospects are key driving forces that make individuals vulnerable to trafficking. In “West African countries, classified as sending states- Benin, Mali, Nigeria etc,

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<sup>43</sup> Gerald Chan. “*Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural and Political Dimensions (Book Review)*”, Journal of Human Security, 2009.

33 to 73 percent of the general population live on less than 1 US dollars a day<sup>44</sup>. With such low income, individuals will certainly consider any possibility of migrating, even illegally, to better countries which might provide better opportunities; they will be more likely to send their children away to work to reduce costs, and with no or little education, they will be more gullible to fall in the traps of trafficking perpetrators.

### **Social and Ideological Factors: Gender Discrimination and Ethnic Minorities**

When delving into specific areas such as gender, you would be surprised to find out that “the data gathered on the gender of offenders in 46 countries suggest that women play a key role as perpetrators of human trafficking.”<sup>45</sup> It is rather ironic that in addition to having a great role in the perpetration of human trafficking, women are also most frequent victims of trafficking as well as children.

A UN report revealed that 600 million of the 850 million illiterate adults in the world are women and that a lack of education is a key factor in promoting poverty, higher HIV infection rates, and vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking. “As the correlation between socioeconomic disenfranchisement and vulnerability to sex trafficking is undeniably high, every one of these extremely poor women- and the children in their care- is vulnerable to slavery”<sup>46</sup>. With no money, no education, and no opportunity, women are more vulnerable to accept any job within the country or abroad to maintain a living; a person highly in need is a person who will do anything to live, thus in some cases and areas, a trafficking prospect. Even trafficking industries are gendered; most women and girls are usually trafficked to sex industries while boys are trafficked for field labour. Both are certainly exploitative and under harsh conditions, however the nature of the work and the experiences are highly

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<sup>44</sup> Sally Cameron and Edward Newman, “Trafficking in Humans: Structural Factors”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.22.

<sup>45</sup> Check <http://www.onuonline.it/TIP%20report%exsum%20and%20methdology.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Siddharth, Kara, p.31.

different. Additionally, in some traditional areas of the world, for example, South Asian communities, families still prefer their sons over their daughters and choose to educate their sons while send their daughters off over the first chance of marriage or employment. Many girls tend to marry complete strangers who sometimes turn out to be involved in trafficking businesses. For instance, “in Nepal fake marriage was the second most prevalent means of trafficking girls”<sup>47</sup>.

Likewise, ethnic minorities who are discriminated in their societies may look for opportunities elsewhere and look into the possibility of migration; hence they may be more vulnerable to being trafficked. “In Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, indigenous people are often among the most at risk of trafficking and labour exploitation.”<sup>48</sup> Similar to the gender dimension, even in the trafficking industries certain ethnicities are more favourable than others, while others are seen to be less desired hence, deserving more exploitation and less human rights.

### **Geopolitical and Rule of Law Factors**

As widely acknowledged, the growth of globalization has affected the old notion of state centrality and control; hence, with the rapid and extensive movement of goods and thoughts across borders, borders have become more permeable and thus no matter how high the control mechanisms of a state were, total control no longer exists in our modern world today; this brings us to the effect of geo-political factors.

Geo-political factors have a great effect on the trafficking industry; how is that? Throughout the paper, it has been mentioned that some areas of military conflicts, wars, and civil strife are more likely to be exposed to trafficking than peaceful stable areas. This however does

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<sup>47</sup> Sally Cameron and Edward Newman, “Trafficking in Humans: Structural Factors”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.41.

<sup>48</sup> Sally Cameron and Edward Newman, “Trafficking in Humans: Structural Factors”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.43.

not indicate that all areas of conflict are vulnerable to trafficking; why is that? It is customary that when countries are in conflict, law enforcement becomes poor, state organizations collapse, and corruption rises, hence, criminal activities increase, paving way for transnational border crimes such as trafficking to take place. However, if countries maintain rule of law throughout times of crisis, the extent of trafficking in persons is less likely if other factors that initiate the process were also not available.

Furthermore, many developing countries are undergoing conflicts, or are in a state of post-conflict. "The displacements caused by such conflicts create vulnerabilities among the population, and women are mainly at risk for trafficking. The presence of warring parties, peacekeepers, and aid or refugee assistance workers unfortunately become additional concerns within an already complex environment"<sup>49</sup>. In certain cases, those peacekeepers sent to the rescue of these refugees and displaced persons have shamelessly contributed to the trafficking process.

The brutal war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a good example of state collapse and corruption increase and their correlation with trafficking in persons. In 2002, "the UN mission estimated that between 750 and 1000 trafficked women and girls remained trapped in brothels across the country. NGOs estimated the figure as 2000 or more"<sup>50</sup>. Furthermore, "in Bosnia, involvement of local police ranged from visiting brothels as 'gratis' clients to facilitating the trafficking of women in the country."<sup>51</sup> Prostitution is only one form of trafficking during wars; children are also used as soldiers to undertake horrific tasks at war as mentioned in the previous part on forms of trafficking. Additionally, migration is a solution for many people during wars, civil strife, and genocides as at many instances border

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<sup>49</sup> United States Agency for International Development (USAID), *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, October 2008, p.23.

<sup>50</sup> Check [http://www.house.gov/international\\_relations/vand0424.htm](http://www.house.gov/international_relations/vand0424.htm)

<sup>51</sup> Check [http://www.house.gov/international\\_relations/vand0424.htm](http://www.house.gov/international_relations/vand0424.htm)

control is disrupted. The people's desire for security, safety, and earning a living in a foreign country as an immigrant is much more attractive than living in a violent area with scarce primary resources and the risk of death constantly present.

Other than war, corrupt acts can take place on different scales; in early 2009, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a survey among relevant practitioners on the issue of corruption and trafficking in persons, and when asked to identify those most vulnerable to corruption in relation to human trafficking, "65% of the respondents identified border control/immigration/customs, 50% indicated law enforcement and police, and 25% considered civil society organizations most vulnerable."<sup>52</sup> Furthermore, the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report developed by the US Department of State mentioned that "corruption is probably the most important factor in explaining human trafficking"<sup>53</sup> and that "countries that make the least effort to fight human trafficking also tend to be those with high levels of official corruption"<sup>54</sup>.

Corrupt government officials, border control guards, and law enforcement personnel who work with criminal networks and accept bribes are direct perpetrators of sex trafficking, because the more they become corrupt, the more they provide criminal networks with power. Sex trafficking is not cash-generating to women nor to the communities these women belong to, but rather to the criminals operating these networks. The cash generated from such criminal activities is laundered through offshore bank accounts most of the time. "In Russia, the Global Survival Network found evidence of government collaboration in the Interior Ministry, the Federal Security Service, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>52</sup> Background Paper for the Side Event "*The Role of Corruption in Trafficking in Persons*", p.9.

<sup>53</sup> Sheldon X. Zhang. "*Corruption as a Causal Factor in Human Trafficking*", *Studies in Organized Crime*, 2008.

<sup>54</sup> Sheldon Zhang. "*Beyond the Natasha's story-a review and critique of current research on sex trafficking*", *Global Crime*, 08/2009.

<sup>55</sup> Check [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha\\_nij.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha_nij.pdf)

After mentioning several factors behind the promotion of trafficking in persons in certain areas, it is significant to highlight that trafficking in persons crimes are very complex, hence each factor requires deep analysis. However, the intent of this paper is to briefly mention the major factors behind the ascent of this crime, while deeply stressing on sex trafficking of women and the relation of this notion with globalization; the following section offers a more profound understanding on this relationship.



### III. Chapter Three: Sex Trafficking and Globalization

Given that the benefits of globalization have constantly been acknowledged and credited, namely when discussing the expansion of international trade, foreign investment, and acceleration of the transfer of knowledge among countries, concentration will be on the corresponding ills of this phenomenon which has also brought along rural poverty, a wider chasm between rich and poor, permeable borders and social instability, all of which are structural factors that have catalyzed the ascent of sex trafficking of women.

Faced with the multidimensional effects of globalization on the economic, political, and social facets of daily lives, what are the causes and consequences that these might entail on trafficking in humans? Does the openness and fluidity by which ideas and principles travel across nations due to global processes hinder or help in overcoming the issue of trafficking.

#### 1. Globalization

For starters, globalization must be defined; globalization can be defined in many ways since it comprises a variety of international components and processes, on one hand the spread of markets and on another the spread of culture and values across nations' borders. The general description of globalization would be "the growing sense that the world is interconnected: that events in one part of the world affect outcomes in another, and that economic activities and social networks operate without regard for national borders"<sup>56</sup>. Throughout this process, economic and political decision-making went through transformations; once, nation states were in control of what ideas, values, policies, and finances went in and out of their borders; however after globalization these decisions were influenced and made by actors or forces beyond local control or borders.

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<sup>56</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, "Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking", ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.59.

After globalization a number of characteristics were introduced to the world's economy: "capitalist economic forces, trade liberalization, currency deregulation, privatization of national industries, and loosening of capital market controls"<sup>57</sup>. Local economies developed into a huge interconnected network, where economic downfalls in a certain country can affect the economy in another. Local economies have also become more dependent on foreign markets/investments and to a greater extent on foreign assistance or debt especially when speaking of developing countries. Furthermore, "currency exchange rates are set by global market forces rather than by government decree; foreign investors shape the direction of industrial development, and real estate prices are subject to the judgements of foreign speculators"<sup>58</sup>.

## **2. Soviet Downfall: Economic Globalization and Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)**

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, "transnational organized crime involves the planning and execution of illicit business ventures by groups or networks of individuals working in more than one country"<sup>59</sup>. Transnational organized crime is a direct influence of globalization. Therefore, when the Soviet communist system collapsed, their existing organizations failed to fill the void which paved way for criminal organizations to flourish and function on a transnational level. "The disintegration of Moscow's iron rule left a power vacuum in its former republics; organized crime quickly moved in to seize ripe opportunities"<sup>60</sup>.

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<sup>57</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, "Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking", ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.60.

<sup>58</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, "Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking", ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.60.

<sup>59</sup> Check [http://www.kosmix.com/topic/Transnational\\_organized\\_crime](http://www.kosmix.com/topic/Transnational_organized_crime)

<sup>60</sup> David Batstone. 2007. *Not for Sale-The Return of the Global Slave Trade and How we can Fight It*, (HarperCollins Publishers), p163.

The newly introduced global economic trend of privatization only allowed former “illegal markets to operate legally and expand, retaining their business processes which were based on corruption”<sup>61</sup> and bribery which in turn secured protection and coverage. “The collapse of the Soviet Union opened borders for travel, migration, and privatized trade, all of which facilitated the operations of criminal networks”<sup>62</sup> and “opened up a pool of millions of women from which traffickers can recruit; former Soviet republics such as Belarus, Latvia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine have become major suppliers of women to sex industries all over the world”<sup>63</sup>.

The previous chapter stated that economic factors such as poverty and deprivation are key factors that trigger people to consider migration. As some of these individuals are financially incapable of moving from their current country or area to other more prosperous countries/areas in a legal manner, they tend to migrate illegally and become more prone to accept fake offers of migration that lead to the trap of becoming trafficked. Since the former Soviet Union republics were stated as an example of globalization and economic liberalization victims at a certain point in time, it is only fair to briefly shed light on the economic diversion that took place in these republics.

Two of the main international institutions that facilitated economic globalization and liberalization were the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). “Created in 1944 to promote global economic stability, these institutions along with the more recently established World Trade Organization (WTO), are powerful proponents of

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<sup>61</sup> Check [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha\\_nij.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha_nij.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> Check <http://www.angelcoalition.org/pdf/Natashatrade.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> Check [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha\\_nij.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha_nij.pdf)

free market ideology”<sup>64</sup>. These institutions have introduced market reform to most of the developing countries in the early 1990s, however the way they introduced or pushed this reform at some instances led to increased levels of economic inequality and instability. “High levels of deregulation and privatization have been encouraged before the development of the necessary legal structures to prevent corruption or social safety nets to serve those who are inevitably displaced.”<sup>65</sup> For instance, the IMF formula of market economy measures on former Soviet republics was as follows:

**Table 2: International Monetary Fund Economic Measures**

No	Action	Purpose	Net Result
1	<b>Cutting government expenditures on health care, education, and other social services</b>	To promote efficiency	To worsen the destitution of those who depended on such government programs
2	<b>Advocating that the prices of products, services, and commodities should be dictated by market forces rather than a central authority as the case was under socialism</b>	To promote efficiency and competition	Massive inflation that eroded the value of local currencies
3	<b>Rapid market liberalization</b>	To promote free flow of capital and economic growth	Wild flows of hot money that devastated local markets.
4	<b>Rapid privatization</b>	To promote efficiency and competition	Transfer of wealth and assets to Western economic interests and a handful of corrupt politicians and business men.
5	<b>Massive interest rate increases</b>	Attract foreign money seeking strong returns to support local currencies and lower inflation	Pervasive default on loans and economic recession

Source: Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.26.

<sup>64</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, “Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.61.

<sup>65</sup> Kinsey Alden Dinan, “Globalization and National Sovereignty: From Migration to Trafficking”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.61.

Hence, it is evident from Figure 2 that there is no singular or standardized formula for democracy or free markets; the values, norms, and in this case, markets must be taken into account before addressing formulas for advancement. As the IMF's intent was to promote free capital flow, efficiency, competition and transparency, they ended up eroding the value of local currencies and increasing loans, leading to the economic recession of the former Soviet republics. The sovereign countries that emerged did not acquire organized and competent agencies that would detect or even halt the growth of criminal networks.

The new capitalist formula transferred wealth from poorer countries to richer countries, bringing along extreme poverty, inflation, unemployment, and migration; for instance in the former Soviet republics, "if a carton of milk cost \$3 at the beginning of the year, it cost \$90 at the end of the year."<sup>66</sup> Additionally, with inflation, people's personal savings were worth nothing at the end of the year. For this purpose, citizens started to look for migration opportunities to seek better conditions and more stable economies, especially women and children, who suffered most during this socioeconomic crisis. As mentioned earlier, this made them more vulnerable to accept fake offers from traffickers, who preyed on these victims.

Furthermore, "total gross domestic product fell by 44% from 1990 to 1998 in the former Soviet Union, while it increased in the same period by 11% in the UK and 18% in the US."<sup>67</sup>

Moldova and Ukraine suffered from enormous population decrease with the Ukrainian population shrinking by "1.6 million with over 500,000 individuals being trafficked

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<sup>66</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.27.

<sup>67</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.26.

internationally in 1998 and the Moldovan population shrinking by 16.5 percent in 1990, with more than one-half of these individuals trafficked internationally.”<sup>68</sup>

### **3. Supply and Demand for Sex Trafficking**

“Spawned by poverty, a lack of education and opportunity, ethnic discrimination, and unequal gender relations, the trafficking of persons is fuelled by the command for cheap sex and labor. The problem is exacerbated by porous borders, a lack of legislation, ineffective enforcement, and corruption.”<sup>69</sup> In order to understand trafficking in persons, we must examine the supply and demand market, its opportunities and profitability, as well as its risk considerations. Like any market, criminal individuals and groups or traffickers go through the above calculations but what they conclude is that the demand for cheap sex is high, the profitability of the sex trafficking industry is high, and opportunities to capture preys are plenty due to extended poverty, and risks of getting punished or caught are very low. Like any other product, humans are degradingly considered and treated as commodities with price tags, however with no expiration date as they are long-lasting and can be easily sold again and again, generating enormous amounts of profit.

The law of supply and demand generally “concludes that in a competitive market, the unit price for a particular good will vary until it settles at a point where the quantity demanded by consumers will equal the quantity supplied by producers, resulting in an economic equilibrium of price and quantity”<sup>70</sup>. Furthermore, no industry can exist without the laws of supply and demand. Hence the fact, if there wasn’t high demand for sex, there wouldn’t be such a huge supply of prostitutes or sexually trafficked victims. In this case, traffickers

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<sup>68</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.27.

<sup>69</sup> United States Agency for International Development (USAID), *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, October 2008, p.5.

<sup>70</sup> Check [http://www.kosmix.com/topic/Domestic\\_demand](http://www.kosmix.com/topic/Domestic_demand).

exploit the existing demand and the women's need to find jobs; within this process “development of a market (neoliberal) economy plays a major role both by enhancing disparity and inequality between countries and by creating demand for women as sex objects”<sup>71</sup>.

As mentioned before, uneven distribution of wealth is one of the key generating factors of trafficking. The channels of migration and trafficking from poorer areas to more developed areas allows the cycle of exploitation to appear; hence, the poorer countries act as supply countries and most (not all) developed countries serve as the demand countries. “Supply countries are generally states in transition or states with low levels of economic development, high levels of unemployment and limited opportunities, whereas most demand countries have advanced industrialized economies, high standards of living and substantial level of disposable income.”<sup>72</sup>

### **Supply Side of Sex Trafficking**

Throughout history there has been an abundant supply of sex slaves due to many factors that include poverty, absence of rule of law, social and economic stability, gender discrimination and others. Those factors prepared the grounds to increase the supply of contemporary sex slaves in the globalized era as they were directly affected and worsened by the extensive phenomenon of economic globalization.

Economic globalization was neither prosperous nor fair to developing nations, because all the assets and commodities that were once in the hands of these nations were transferred to richer developed nations, promoting social instability and widening the gap between richer and poorer nations, hence making poor nations poorer and rich nations richer.

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<sup>71</sup> Check <http://www.iiav.nl/eazines/web/Globalizacija.com/2005/November2.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> Phil Williams, “Trafficking in Women: The Role of Transnational Organized Crime”, ed., *Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural, and Political Dimensions* by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman (United Nations University Press, 2008), p.131-132.

“Globalization helped make present day slaves easy to procure, easy to transport, and easy to exploit in an increasing number of industries; maintaining slaves requires minimal effort, especially sex slaves”<sup>73</sup>. Although sex trafficking exists throughout numerous countries across the world, three key regions were the hotspot during the 1990s: East Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and South Asia. These regions acquired many of the above-mentioned factors such as poverty and gender bias that facilitated the promotion of sex trafficking in women and children. This existent background “coupled with pervasive male demand to purchase sex, provided the perfect environment for the proliferation of sex trafficking.”<sup>74</sup>

### **Demand Side of Sex Trafficking**

While the supply of potential slaves erupted during the 1990s synchronized with the disorder brought upon by economic globalization, according to Siddharth Kara, “the demand side of the sex-slave industry can be isolated to three market forces: male sexual demand, profit, and the elasticity of demand.”<sup>75</sup> As universally known, we cannot have large numbers of supply, unless we had a high demand, which brings us to the correlation of males with the sex industry. Males demand for sex and most of the times cheap sex, has promoted the commercial sex industry and will continue to do so; the more affordable the sex was, the more capable are males to afford it.

This has in turn affected the trafficking industry, as many sex establishments have sex slaves or sex trafficked victims, based on the fact that sex trafficking works on an economic principle of maximizing profit by minimizing or eliminating the cost of labor. Sex slaves are considered cheap labor that generate millions into the sex industry, however getting

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<sup>73</sup> Check <http://uk.oneworld.net/article/view/164955/1/101>

<sup>74</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.25.

<sup>75</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.25.



minimal sums of their work, if any. “The use of slaves also increased consumer demand because brothel owners could expand the potential market for their product- sex with a human female or child- by lowering the retail price of that product.”<sup>76</sup>

Furthermore, we must take a look at the category of clients that request these cheap sex services in some red-light districts; most of these consumers are low-wage to middle-wage consumers who cannot afford paying for the services of a prostitute in a bar. Therefore, if these low wage consumers can afford paying 6 dollars for a sexual act, they may not be able to afford it if the price went up to 7 or 8 dollars. Hence the fact that, the price and the availability of sex slaves encourages the market to desire these services and indirectly increases the need for these slaves/trafficked victims.

In his book, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, Siddharth Kara argues that there are certain products that are elastic and others which are inelastic. For instance, gasoline is highly inelastic since demand remains high even if prices went high, as it is an essential product nowadays. However, if movie tickets went high, the demand might not remain high, proving that this product is highly elastic. Kara used this formula to assess whether cheap sex services are elastic or not; for this reason he analyzed the demand and price curve of various brothels and massage parlours in red light districts.

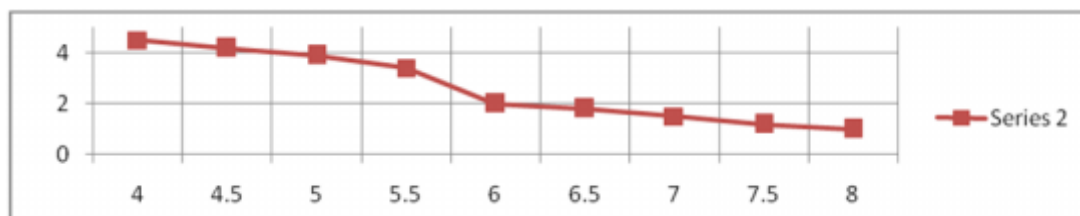
One of these brothels would be one in the Kamathipura red light district in India; according to the figure below he concluded that “when the price doubled from \$4 to \$8, aggregate demand dropped by almost 80 percent.”<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.34.

<sup>77</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.37.

**Figure 3: Demand Curve for Sex Acts: Kamathipura Brothel**



**Horizontal line: Price per sex act in US dollars / Vertical line: monthly sex acts**

Source: Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.36.

As a result, “this analysis strengthens the assertion that demand for sex services has augmented as a result of the increased use of slaves.”<sup>78</sup> How can we measure the profitability of this trafficking industry? Well, first of all the acquisition of slaves does not require any expenses as most victims are only lured with promises of economic prosperity; the second step, which is the movement of those victims are generally low, although bribery in some cases might be significant. The third and final step is upon arrival to destination, and that is where the profits start pouring in; victims can be constantly sold without receiving any profit, but on the contrary undergoing at many instances degrading treatment, physical violence, hunger, sickness and psychological torture. This brings us to a conclusion that sex traffickers will most likely to continue thriving in their illicit business of trafficking sex slaves since the profitability is very high and is most likely to stay as such, unless there were proper legal frameworks developed to penalize these acts and corrode their profits.

#### **4. Technology and Trafficking**

With globalization over the past years, technology has benefited us in many aspects of our lives whether in business, healthcare, education, communication or within the society as a

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<sup>78</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.37.

whole. However the positive impact brought, was coupled with negative influences that have affected the society, such as uncensored pornography, sex tourism, cybercrime as well as the increase in transnational organized criminal behaviours that come in the form of corruption, fraud, coercion, and money laundering.

“The introduction, growth, and utilisation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been accompanied by an increase in illegal exploitation and abuse of technology for criminal activities.”<sup>79</sup> Hence, ICTs are using methods and tools to facilitate organized crime throughout the world, with one of those crimes being trafficking in persons, whether for sexual purposes or other purposes such as forced labour, organ trade, or etc. “Multiple kinds of technology means can be used for the purpose of sexual exploitation - either by individuals for their own private use or by persons or groups using the Internet as a commercial tool, to promote and sell images or services.”<sup>80</sup>

Since the internet revolution has transcended throughout global boundaries, it has become very hard to monitor data over the internet. It is vital to note that “trafficking in human beings by the use of ICTs always involves at least one human being who plans, prepares, and initiates the criminal act.”<sup>81</sup> These human beings may be working on their own or within organized criminal networks. In the previous chapter, the prey trap was discussed; i.e. the way the perpetrators can trick their victims which comprised various methods. One method, relevant to mention in the case of ICTs would be online advertisements such as fraudulent jobs; as mentioned before these jobs call for modelling or restaurant waitresses in cities that offer tempting salaries, whereas these offers mostly turn out to be in domestic or sexual servitude. Other examples of crimes committed through technology are collectors and

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<sup>79</sup> Check <http://www.droit-tic.com/pdf/chawki-wahab3.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> Check <http://www.droit-tic.com/pdf/chawki-wahab3.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> Check <http://www.crime-research.org/articles/Mohamed2>.

buyers of child pornography, pedophiles and female sexual buyers for the purpose of mistreatment. In this context, in some cases, technology- a trend of globalization- is directly used to commit crimes of trafficking.

Furthermore, the sophistication of ICTs and banking laws have made it possible to exchange assets internationally and in turn increased the level and intricacy of global transactions. People who make money from such illicit businesses are capable of laundering the dirty money and investing it in other businesses; these financial operations also enhanced transnational crime opportunities and decreased the probability of exposure and detection. “This technological aspect of globalization allows money gained through trafficking in women to be transferred and laundered”<sup>82</sup>.

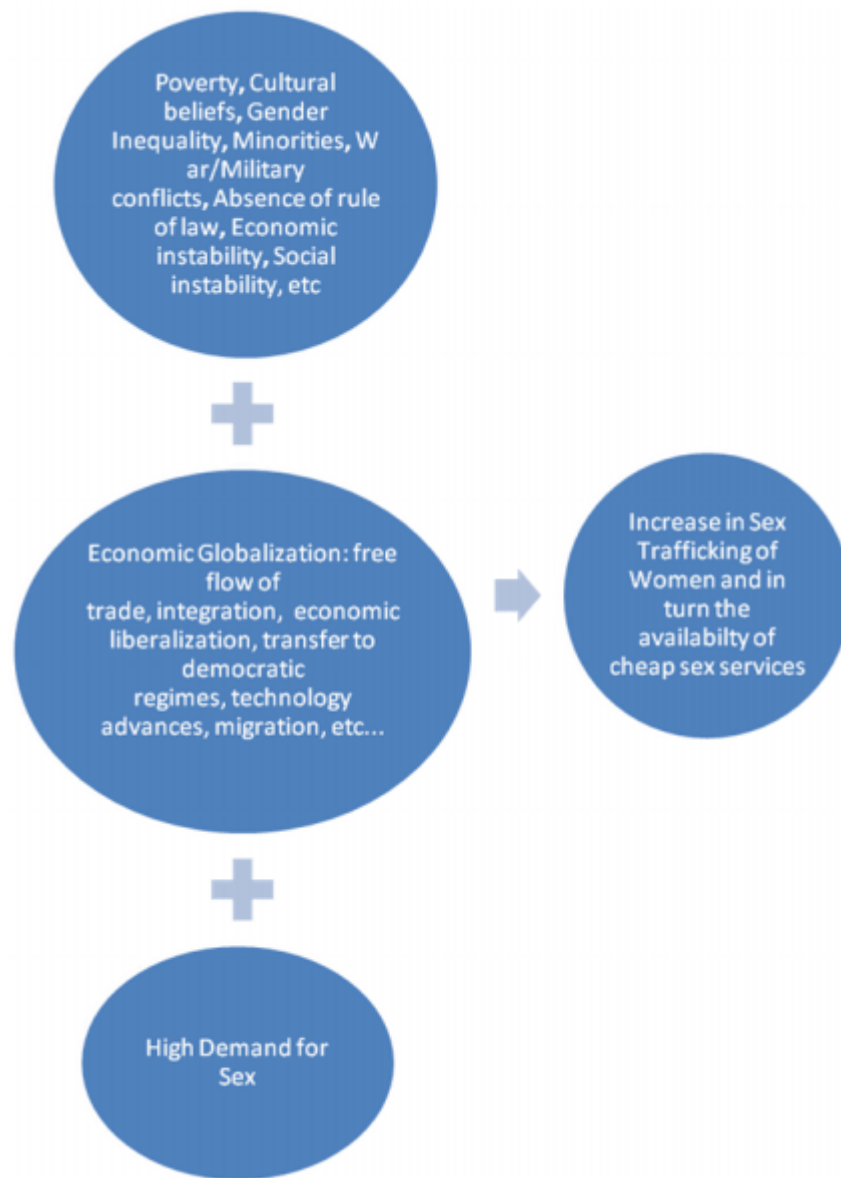
As a conclusion to this chapter, it is evident that as long as the issue of demand for cheap sex and labour is not dealt with, and as long as there is failure to bring not only traffickers, but the consumers/clients of these services as human rights violators to justice, trafficking in persons and sex trafficking in particular will continue to thrive.

The below figure summarizes the chain of circumstances/events that creates the vulnerable context in which sex trafficking is mostly likely to develop:

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<sup>82</sup> Donna M. Hughes, “The Natasha Trade: Transnational Sex Trafficking”, National Institute of Justice Journal (January 2001), p.13.

**Figure 4: Grounds for Trafficking**



#### **IV. Chapter Four: Case Studies of two former Soviet republics and their Legal Framework - Moldova and Russia**

This chapter sheds light on the trafficking processes that took place and are continuing to take place in two former Soviet republics: Moldova and Russia. Most of the information mentioned below shall be derived from studies and reports conducted by the United States Department of State (USDoS), United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as these organizations are among the most operational organizations in the field of trafficking and have managed to publish yearly reports that monitor the pace of trafficking relying on statistical comparative data.

##### **1. Republic of Moldova:**

In order to understand the trafficking ascent in Moldova, like any other country we must go back to the roots and the context that spurred this movement, and in this case this section shall go back to the Moldovan historic and geographic roots and the country's rather bitter development that led to poverty and corruption over the years. With the country capital as Chisinau, Moldova is located in south-eastern Europe, with Romanian borders on its west and Ukrainian borders on the remaining sides. "Moldova has an area of 33,843 square kilometres,"<sup>83</sup> with a population that comprises ethnic Moldovans as a majority, in addition to Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauz, and others as minorities. Towards east of Moldova lays Transnistria, which is populated by Slavs who are economically and culturally oriented towards Ukraine, and have been in revolt with the Moldovan majority in the early 1990s; as we will learn later, Transnistria plays a great role in being a sex trafficking destination for Moldovan women.

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<sup>83</sup> Check the following link: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Moldova.html>

Moldova is considered to be one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe and according to the International Office for Migration (IOM), the hub and main European source of trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation mainly in the Middle East, Balkans, and other European countries. Moldova has undergone a turbulent history beginning with Romanian, Bulgarian and Mongolian occupation to Turks and Hungarians followed by the Ottomans and finally the Soviets. Hence, the country endured occupation, instability as well as social and economic turmoil over the years preventing it to achieve economic prosperity throughout the turbulences it passed through.

Hence, to start with, the backbone of the country was shaken; Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union in the year of 1991, where “it barely had a year to get itself on its feet when the entire Soviet bloc spiralled into socio-economic chaos precipitated by the IMF- US.”<sup>84</sup> As a result of this turn over, the country was left with fragile transition years just after independence which led to poverty, low-wage jobs, and hence migration to other countries and regions, with a few fleeing legally and a majority of economically incapable people fleeing illegally.

As a result of poverty and the dense migration movement, organized criminal networks and individuals exploited the opportunity to traffick victims by offering false job offers or study loans across Europe or the Middle East. Trafficking victims from Moldova to neighbouring European countries is not a difficult task, since most countries are members of the European Union, hence no visa is required and with the presence of corrupt border control guards and police men, the mission would not be very hard. Part of the globalization wave, the European Unions’ border mobility and permeability across European countries has increased smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, drugs and weapons. As for the

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<sup>84</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.114.

Middle East, it is considered as a “top destination for trafficking Moldovan victims due to an absence of anti-trafficking laws and the ease of re-trafficking to West Europe.”<sup>85</sup> It is a fact that most Middle Eastern countries’ legislation do not have penalties related to trafficking, but only have laws related to migration and prostitution. Therefore, most trafficking cases *if prosecuted* are treated as cases of illegal residency in the country or illegal practices of prostitution.

From the mid-1990s until around 2002, most Moldovans were trafficked directly to the Balkan region, Russia or Italy due to the porous borders; “in the Balkans, the large peace-keeping force deployed after the Dayton peace accords created abundant demand for sex services, and hundreds of brothels popped up to meet that demand.”<sup>86</sup> As mentioned in the earlier chapters, sometimes foreign peace-keeping troops play an indirect role in increasing the demand for sexually trafficked victims, as the demand for cheap prostitution increases. As per the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, “Moldova is a source and, to a lesser extent, a transit and destination country for women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution and for men, women, and children in conditions of forced labor”<sup>87</sup>. Therefore, Moldova is not merely a source for trafficked victims but moreover a destination, and disappointingly, a destination for its own women; one of these destinations would be the previously mentioned area of Transnistria. This area called Transnistria or Transdniestr “shares a highly porous 420 kilometre border with Ukraine, and has become a free-for-all distribution hub for trafficking in weapons, drugs, and humans.”<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.114.

<sup>86</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.110.

<sup>87</sup> Check [http://www.mldh-lao.org/act\\_062010.htm](http://www.mldh-lao.org/act_062010.htm)

<sup>88</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.117.



It is vital to mention again that Transnistria has its own army and currency and considers itself to be autonomous from Moldova, and more oriented towards Ukraine, hence, both populations share tensions towards each other. In its 2010 Trafficking in Persons report, the USDOS confirms the fact that the Transnistrian region in Moldova is “outside the central government’s control and remains a source for victims of both forced labor and forced prostitution.”<sup>89</sup> From Transnistria, we move south of Moldova’s capital to Gaugazia which encompasses the poorest people in Moldova, “disenfranchised from mainstream society and are among the most heavily trafficked people in Moldova.”<sup>90</sup> Most of the Gaugazian victims are trafficked to Turkey for construction, forced begging, and prostitution.

As apparent and as continuously mentioned, poverty is one of the main factors that make trafficking predators feed on victims; however, there are various factors that played a role in catalyzing sex trafficking in Moldova. The absence of rule of law, the porosity of borders due to globalization, corruption of officials and law enforcement agencies, as well as culture plays a role in increasing this phenomenon. For a country as poor as Moldova where wages are minimal, corruption is certainly around; traffickers offer bribes to judges, prosecutors, and policemen in order to get away with charges. Since pimping convictions in Moldova’s criminal law only require the payment of a minimal fine, in trafficking cases, judges and prosecutors are sometimes bribed to substitute charges. “Moldova is broke, and spends over 70 percent of its budget on external debt re-payment, hence wages of state officers, judges, police, etc are rarely above subsistence level;”<sup>91</sup> hence the fact that these officers are more tempted to accept bribes offered by these criminal groups. On another hand, it is

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<sup>89</sup> United States Department of State (USDOS), *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, June 2010, p.236.

<sup>90</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.123.

<sup>91</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.126.

also remarkable that according to the anti-trafficking agency in Moldova, La Strada, seven out of ten trafficking victims that the agency has assisted, mentioned domestic violence as the key factor to accept tempting travel offers. Figures 5 and 6 below show the percentages of forms of exploitation and the areas which Moldovan victims were sheltered from during the years 2005 and 2006:

**Figure 5: Victims of Trafficking sheltered by IOM in Moldova**



Source: United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC) and United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, February 2009, pg 223

**Figure 6: Areas from which Moldovan victims were returned**



Source: United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes (UNODC) and United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, February 2009, pg 223.

Figure 5 shows that 82% of trafficking victims sheltered by the International Office for Migration in Moldova during years 2005 and 2006 are victims of sexual exploitation

followed by 11% of victims for labor purposes; furthermore, begging constituted 4% and other combined forms of exploitation constituted 3% of the victims. Figure 6 highlights the areas from which Moldovan victims were returned from; 288 victims were returned from South Europe, 95 from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 56 from the Middle East, 45 from Southeast Europe, and 10 from other European countries.

For the past ten years, the United States Department of State has been publishing the Trafficking in Persons Report which identifies the true meaning of trafficking in persons, its different forms, level of practice and progress; most importantly, the report monitors the level of trafficking processes in countries and evaluates governments' responses, law enforcement levels and actions according to the Palermo Protocol and the "United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). TVPA defines severe forms of trafficking as:

- a) 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; or,
- b) the recruitment, harbouring, 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"<sup>92</sup>.

The Palermo Protocol stresses on the implementation of the "3P" paradigm when states are combating trafficking; the 3Ps are **prevention** of crime, **prosecution** of criminals, and the **protection** of victims. These three acts go hand in hand in the fight against trafficking because, it is not enough for governments to prevent and prosecute criminals if they were not able to establish victim protection programs for rehabilitation and safety. Hence, governments, civil society organizations, the judicial sector, and every ordinary person is

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<sup>92</sup> Check <http://www.fina-nafi.org/triumvirat09/pdf/Human-Trafficking.pdf>

entitled to offer a hand in the fight against trafficking because it is a human rights breach and is shameful to still be increasing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Hence, the Trafficking in Persons Report based on the TVPA and the Palermo Protocol ranks countries and evaluates the trafficking level and anti-trafficking efforts on a yearly basis and provides a conclusion on whether the country has improved or regressed in this regard. The report places countries in one of three tiers mandated by the TVPA. The rankings and descriptions provided in the 2010 TIP Report reflect the following:

- *“enactment of laws prohibiting severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined by the TVPA, and provision of criminal punishments for trafficking offenses;*
- *implementation of human trafficking laws through vigorous prosecution of the prevalent forms of trafficking in the country;*
- *victim protection efforts that include access to services and shelter without unnecessary detention and with legal alternatives to removal to countries in which the victim would face retribution or hardship;*
- *proactive victim identification measures with systematic procedures to guide law enforcement and other governmental or government-supported front-line responders in the process of victim identification;*
- *criminal penalties prescribed for human trafficking offenses with a maximum of at least four years’ deprivation of liberty, or a more severe penalty;*
- *the extent to which a government ensures the safe, humane, and to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation and reintegration of victims;*
- *government funding and partnerships with NGOs to provide victims with access to primary health care, counseling, and shelter, allowing them to recount their trafficking experiences to trained social counselors and law enforcement at a pace with minimal pressure;*
- *governmental measures to prevent human trafficking, including efforts to curb practices identified as contributing factors to human trafficking, including employers’ confiscation of foreign workers’ passports or allowing labor recruiters to charge excessive fees to prospective migrants – factors shown to contribute to forced labor;*
- *the extent to which a government ensures victims are provided with legal and other assistance and that, consistent with domestic law, proceedings are not prejudicial against victims’ rights, dignity, or psychological well being.”<sup>93</sup>*

Accordingly, Tier 1 includes countries who fully meet the terms of the TVPA’s lowest standards. Tier 2 includes governments that do not fully meet the terms of the TVPA’s minimum standards but are working hard to do so; tier 2 watch list is the same as tier 2 but

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<sup>93</sup> Check <http://useu.usmission.gov/Article.asp?ID=73D500DE-B180-462D-9908-B37D9F90CE63>

has three additional points: the number of victims are increasing, no considerable evidence that there is work on the 3Ps, and the purpose “that a country is making efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments made by the country”<sup>94</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final tier includes governments who do not fully meet with the terms of the TVPA’s standards. Throughout the years 2001 to 2006, Moldova was ranked as Tier 2 and in 2007 it regressed to be placed in the Tier 2 Watch list; however 2008 was the worst year where it was ranked as Tier 3, to go back to Tier 2 Watch list in the years of 2009 and 2010.

An overview of Moldova’s institutional framework and criminal justice system shall be given before delving into the government’s activities and progress during the past two years according to the USDOS Trafficking in Persons Report. Moldova’s criminal code includes two Articles that prohibit all forms of trafficking and they are Article 165 and Article 206. Article 165 is about Trafficking in Human Beings whereas Article 206 is entitled Trafficking in Children. As this paper focuses more on women trafficking, I shall cite below Article 165 as written in the Moldovan criminal code:

*“(1) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, concealment or receipt of a person, with or without his/her consent, for the purpose of commercial or non-commercial sexual exploitation, for forced labor or services, for begging, for slavery or similar conditions, for use in armed conflicts or criminal activities, for the removal of human organs or tissues committed by:*

*a) the threat of physical or mental violence not dangerous to the person’s life and health, including kidnapping, the seizure of documents, and servitude for the purpose of paying a debt, the amount of which was not set within a reasonable limit, as well as through the threat of disclosure of confidential information of the family of the victim or of other persons, both individuals and legal entities;*

*b) deception;*

*c) the abuse of vulnerability or abuse of power, giving or receiving payments or benefits to get the consent of a person controlling another person; shall be punished by imprisonment for 5 to 12 years with the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or to practice certain activities for 2 to 5 years, whereas a legal entity shall be punished by a fine in the*

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<sup>94</sup> Check <http://useu.usmission.gov/Article.asp?ID=73D500DE-B180-462D-9908-B37D9F90CE63>

*amount of 3000 to 5000 conventional units with the deprivation of the right to practice certain activities or the liquidation of the legal entity.*

*(2) The same actions committed:*

*a) by a person who previously committed an act set forth in par. (1);*

*b) against two or more persons;*

*c) against a pregnant woman;*

*d) by two or more persons;*

*e) by an official or a high-ranking official;*

*f) with violence dangerous to the person's life, physical or mental health;*

*g) with torture, inhumane or degrading treatment aimed at ensuring the person's subordination, or with the use of rape, physical dependence, or a weapon; shall be punished by imprisonment for 7 to 15 years with the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or to practice certain activities for 2 to 5 years, whereas a legal entity shall be punished by a fine in the amount of 5000 to 7000 conventional units with the deprivation of the right to practice certain activities or the liquidation of the legal entity.*

*(3) The actions set forth in par. (1) or (2):*

*a) committed by an organized criminal group or by a criminal organization;*

*b) that cause severe bodily injury or a mental disorder, or the death or his/her suicide; shall be punished by imprisonment for 10 to 20 years with the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or to practice certain activities for 3 to 5 years, whereas a legal entity shall be punished by a fine in the amount of 7000 to 9000 conventional units with the deprivation of the right to practice certain activities or the liquidation of the legal entity.*

*(4) The victim of trafficking in human beings shall be exempted from criminal liability for any crimes committed by him/her in relation to this procedural status.<sup>95</sup>*

In order to concur with the European Union's standards, the Moldovan government had to amend its criminal code related to trafficking during year 2009; penalties for trafficking were initially from seven years to life imprisonment but after the amendments were done, they became from five years to twenty years of imprisonment. Hence, during 2009 the government of Moldova exerted some efforts in order to stop trafficking in their country by complying with the minimum standards requested, however its presence in the Tier 2 watch list still indicates that there is a gap in this development.

This leads to assessing the progress of the "3 Ps"- prosecution, protection, and prevention during the last two years in Moldova. With regards to the first action, the below comparison table demonstrates the prosecution process during years 2008 and 2009:

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<sup>95</sup> Check [http://cach.justice.md/files/file/Curtea\\_de\\_Apel\\_Cahul/Criminal%20Code%20RM\\_1.pdf](http://cach.justice.md/files/file/Curtea_de_Apel_Cahul/Criminal%20Code%20RM_1.pdf)

**Table 3: Governmental actions taken in Moldova 2008-2009**

Action	Year 2008	Year 2009
Number of trafficking investigations initiated	246	206
Number of individuals prosecuted	127	70
Number of traffickers convicted by court	58	65

Source: Data derived from the United States Department of State (USDOS), *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 10th Edition, June 2010, p.237.

The above table indicates there were more trafficking cases initiated and number of individuals prosecuted in year 2008 than 2009; however seven additional traffickers were convicted in year 2009. Although the numbers show some efforts from the Moldovan government's side, a major problem arises, and that is a problem that is usually found in most countries and that would be the failure to punish people in power. In Moldova, the report indicates that "the government did not report efforts to inspect, put on trial, find guilty, or criminally penalize any low level state officials complicit in trafficking, including low-level police officers or border guards."<sup>96</sup> The report also adds that during 2009, a criminal investigation took place regarding a high profile case that dates back to 2006 and involves high level government officials who covered up for a prominent international sex trafficker; however until now, none of these officials have been prosecuted, criminalized, or even punished. Hence, in the act of prosecution, the Moldovan government did not succeed to prosecute and hold accountable abundant low level or even high level law enforcement officials. If these officials were prosecuted and held accountable for their corrupt behaviour

<sup>96</sup> United States Department of State (USDOS), *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, June 2010, p.237.

and criminal acts, this would serve as a deterrent for other similar capable officials and probably decrease trafficking acts within law enforcement agencies at a minimal level.

From the assessment of the prosecution level, this section moves to the evaluation of the protection level. Moldova improved its victim protection programme from year 2008 till year 2009; the government worked closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and provided “\$50, 700 to secure primary shelter for trafficked victims; the centre provided temporary shelter, legal and medical assistance, psychological counselling, and vocational training to 130 victims during the reporting period.”<sup>97</sup> Victims of trafficking were also assisting the government and law enforcement agencies throughout criminal proceedings. As for the prevention level, the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report demonstrates government and nongovernmental organization efforts with regards to some prevention efforts conducted. “The majority of public outreach and trafficking awareness efforts were conducted by NGOs in close coordination with the government at the local and regional level.”<sup>98</sup> The Moldovan government has thirty four regional multidisciplinary commissions which comprise NGO representatives, police, medical staff, prosecutors and others which meet in order to plan and implement these public outreach activities in schools and universities. During year 2008, these commissions were meeting irregularly, however expressed full commitment during 2009.

## **2. The Russian Federation:**

From the Bolshevik revolution to World War Two, in 1991 the disintegration of the Soviet Union led to the formation of fifteen independent nations; between them lays the Russian

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<sup>97</sup> United States Department of State (USDOS), *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, June 2010, p.237.

<sup>98</sup> United States Department of State (USDOS), *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, June 2010, p.237.



Federation. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic was among the hugest republics and acquired the strongest organizational component of the Soviet Union. After the demise of the Soviet Union- once a super power, the Russian Federation went through a series of unpleasant downfalls; in 1992, massive corruption was taking place, followed by war with Chechnya in 1994, along with the stock market crash and economy downfall in 1998, and another Chechen war in 1999- Russia was gradually collapsing. The aim of this section is neither to list major historical events that took place in the Russian Federation nor to assess the reasons behind these events, but to shed light on the consequence of these events and their association with the increase of trafficking in persons.

“Life under the communist regime was no bed of roses, but at least jobs however menial could be found; while a small elite amassed wealth at an astounding rate in the 1990s, the masses faced skyrocketing unemployment and disappearing social services.”<sup>99</sup> As mentioned throughout this paper, there are several factors behind the augmentation in sex trafficking business, however the collapse of the Soviet Union and the takeover of globalized markets marked the drastic increase in sex trafficking across the world. “The expansion of shadow economies and transnational criminal groups in those newly independent states expressed the negative symptoms of globalization, resulting from social, economic, as well as political and multinational linkages that were beyond the state’s control”<sup>100</sup>. “Now, former Soviet republics, such as Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia and Russia, have become major sending countries for women trafficked into sex industries all over the world. In the sex industry markets today, the most popular and valuable women are from Ukraine and Russia.”<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> David Batstone. 2007. *Not for Sale-The Return of the Global Slave Trade and How we can Fight It*, (HarperCollins Publishers), p163.

<sup>100</sup> Check <http://www.allbusiness.com/government/3493206-1.html>

<sup>101</sup> Check <http://www.angelcoalition.org/pdf/Natashatrade.pdf>

However, Russia is not only a source for trafficking victims, however as per the United States Department Trafficking report, it is also a transit and destination country for males, females and children for compulsory labor as well as prostitution for the latter two. With the below statistics extracted from the USDoS 2010 Trafficking in Persons report, the following table shows the major players in Russia as a destination country for sex trafficking as well as victims from Russia as a source used for this phenomenon.

**Table 4: Trafficking and Russia**

Russia as a Source	Purpose of Exploitation	Russia as a Destination	Purpose of Exploitation
Armenia	Forced labor	Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Moldova, North Korea	Forced labor
South Korea, Japan, China, Turkey, Greece, South Africa, Germany, Poland, Italy, Israel, Spain, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East	Forced prostitution/sex trafficking	Ghana, Nigeria, Central Asia, Ukraine, Moldova	Forced prostitution/sex trafficking

Source: Data derived from the United States Department of State (USDOS), Trafficking in Persons Report, 10th Edition, June 2010, p.279.

The above table indicates that the most two common trafficking purposes in Russia would be for forced labor and forced prostitution or sex trafficking. Furthermore, internal trafficking is also prevalent in Russia with women trafficked from countryside areas to cities for sexual exploitation, and men trafficked internally for coerced labor in the construction and agricultural industries. “Since Russia is richer than its neighbour countries, it serves as a more attractive destination point for migrants from surrounding countries; traffickers then exploit this desire to migrate.”<sup>102</sup>

<sup>102</sup> Check <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Russia.pdf>

Besides the Slavs who mainly consist of Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians, “some groups in Russia also experience high rates of poverty and limited access to effective employment and education.”<sup>103</sup> Traffickers make use of these people’s poverty, their desire to make easy money, lack of knowledge, as well as insufficient government support. “Another causal factor to human trafficking is the relative freedom and openness with which businesses based on child exploitation operate in Russian society.”<sup>104</sup>

As a result of poverty rates, high levels of unemployment, state weakness, ethnic divergences and economic downfall resulting from the disintegration of the Soviet Union, another key factor in spurring human trafficking evolved: migration. As mentioned before, when an economic crisis hits, it affects minorities or the least powerful or most vulnerable/exploited in the society, hence in this case women. Many of Russia’s migrants during this period were women who were in search of jobs as dancers or waitresses, and actually believed most fake offers that were presented to them, leading them from their desperation not to check for the validity of the offers. In addition to the economic incentives, the migrants were also experiencing border relaxation, contrary to what they acquired during the Soviet era. “Soon after independence, Russia took a number of steps to join the international community and adhere to international migration norms. Under the 1993 Russian Constitution, the internal passport system was abolished and freedom of movement was granted, including the right to move permanently abroad”<sup>105</sup>. Furthermore, migration was not only taking place outside the sphere of post Soviet countries, but also within the Common Wealth of Independent States. The below figure shows the level of migration that was taking place between the years 1989 and 2002:

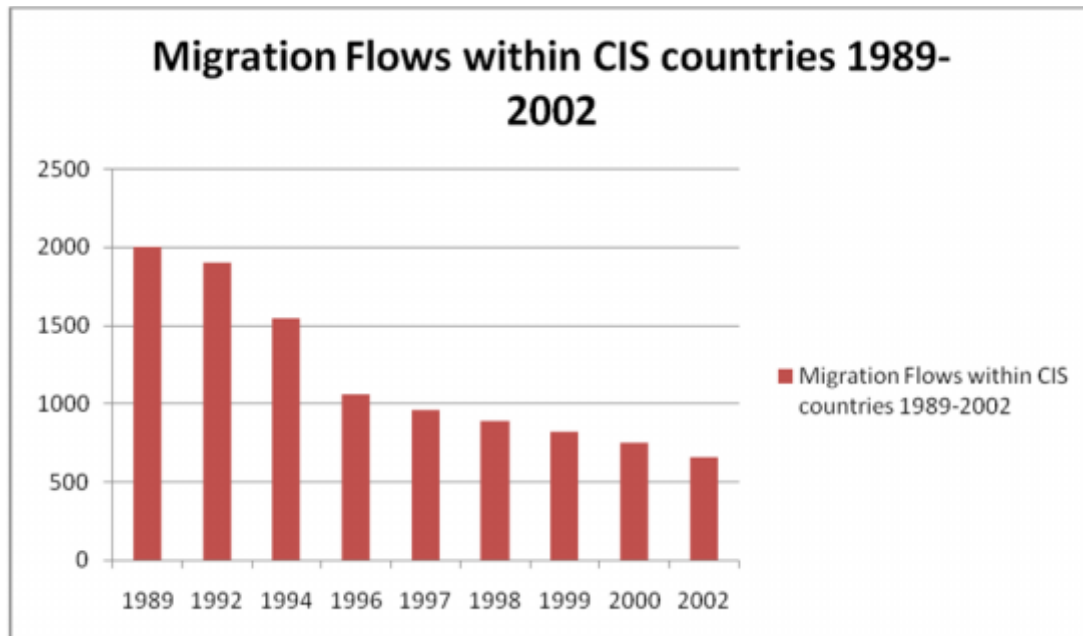
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<sup>103</sup> Check <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Russia.pdf>

<sup>104</sup> Check <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Russia.pdf>

<sup>105</sup> Check <http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=62>

**Figure 7: Migration Flows within CIS countries 1989-2002**



Source: Figure derived from the Global Commission on International Migration, *Migration in the countries of the Former Soviet Union*, 2005. Pg.5.

Figure 7 examines the migration flows within Common Wealth of Independent States from 1989 till 2002; this figure shows that the migration flows decreased from 1989 till 2002, but also reveals the high migration flow from 1989 to the beginning of the 1990s due to relaxation of border control. The specific offense of trafficking in persons was introduced into the Russian criminal law by Articles 127-1 and 127-2, during year 2003 to create Law No 162. The first Article is about human trafficking in general and the second Article revolves around labor exploitation.

**Article 127-1: Human Beings' Trafficking**

*“1. Human beings' trafficking, that is, a human being's purchase and sale or his recruiting, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receiving for the purpose of his exploitation - shall be punishable by deprivation liberty for a term of up to five years.*

2. *The same deed committed:*

- a) *in respect of two or more persons;*
- b) *in respect of a known minor;*
- c) *by a person through his official position;*
- d) *moving the victim across the State Border of the Russian Federation or illegally keeping him abroad;*
- e) *using forged documents, as well as seizing, concealing or destroying the documents certifying the identity of the victim;*
- f) *with application of force or with the threat of applying it;*
- g) *for the purpose of cutting out the victim's organs and tissues - shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term from three to 10 years.*

3. *The deeds provided for by Parts One and Two of this Article:*

- a) *which have entailed the victim's death by negligence, the infliction of major damage to the victim's health or other grave consequences;*
- b) *committed in a way posing danger to the life or health of many people;*
- c) *committed by an organized group - shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term from eight to 15 years.*

*Note. 1. The person who has committed for the first time the deed provided for by Part One or Item "a" of Part Two of this Article, has voluntarily released the victim and has contributed to solving the crime shall be released from criminal liability, if there are no other formal components of a crime in his acts.*

*2. The exploitation of a person shall mean in this Article the use of the engagement in prostitution by other persons and other forms of sexual exploitation, slave labour (services), subjection.*

**Article 127-2: Use of Slave Labour**

*1. Using the labour of a person in respect of which authority is exercised which is akin to ownership, where the person cannot refuse to carry out works (services) for reasons independent of him - shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to five years.*

2. *The same deed committed:*

- a) *in respect of two or more persons;*
- b) *in respect of a known minor;*
- c) *by a person through his official position;*
- d) *with the use of blackmail, violence or with the threat of using it;*
- e) *with the seizure, concealment or destruction of the documents certifying the identity of the victim - shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term from three to 10 years.*

3. *The deeds provided for by Parts One and Two of this Article which have entailed the victim's death by negligence, infliction of major damage to the victim's health or other grave consequences, or which have been committed by an organized group - shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of from eight to 15 years.*<sup>106</sup>

In addition to Articles 127-1 and 127-2, the state also prosecutes cases of trafficking in persons using Articles 240, 241, and 242; these Articles are about “forcing to engage in prostitution”, “organization of prostitution”, and “illegal pornographic material”. Through

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<sup>106</sup> Check [http://childtrafficking.org/pdf/user/Unicef\\_RussiaTraffickingMar06.pdf](http://childtrafficking.org/pdf/user/Unicef_RussiaTraffickingMar06.pdf)

three departments and an Investigations Committee, the Ministry of Interior is the key body that works on combating trafficking in persons. Although the Russian Federation has introduced laws specialized in trafficking in persons, Russia is still ranked on the Tier 2 Watch list of the USDoS Trafficking in Persons Report for the seventh year, as it continues to make efforts to meet the terms of the minimum standards for the abolition of trafficking. The 2010 report had various comments on the performance of the Russian government, from which are the government’s inability to come up with a “comprehensive strategy that addresses trafficking and provides victim protection, its inability to create a national body accountable for coordinating government efforts to fight trafficking, and last but not least, the government’s failure to allocate funds to prevent the closure of the IOM victims shelter and rehabilitation centre in Moscow”<sup>107</sup>.

With regards to assessing the progress of the “3 Ps”- prosecution, protection, and prevention in Russia, the below comparison table demonstrates the prosecution process during years 2008 and 2009:

**Table 5: Governmental actions taken in Russia 2008-2009**

Action	Year 2008	Year 2009
Number of trafficking investigations conducted	111	102
Number of individuals prosecuted	81	99
Number of traffickers convicted by court	38	76

Source: Data derived from the United States Department of State (USDOS), Trafficking in Persons Report, 10th Edition, June 2010, p.280.

<sup>107</sup> Check <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country...ANNUALREPORT.RUS..4c1883cbc.0.html>

The above table indicates that during year 2008, more trafficking investigations took place, however during year 2009, more traffickers were prosecuted and convicted by court. “During the report period, the Moscow district military court prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced one military officer to 10 years’ imprisonment for organizing an international sex trafficking syndicate which was allegedly responsible for trafficking 130 women and girls from Eastern Europe between 1999 and 2007.”<sup>108</sup>

On another hand, as for the protection criteria, as demonstrated previously the Russian federal government did not deploy much effort in securing victims and providing them with adequate protection, as no funding was allocated for the rehabilitation centre in Moscow. Even previously, foreign donors, nongovernmental organizations, and local governments were providing most of the assistance. As for the last trafficking measure, prevention, “the federal government did not demonstrate significant efforts to raise awareness and prevent trafficking over the reporting period.”<sup>109</sup>

Although it is unfair to compare a population of nearly 4 million (Moldova) - according to the World Bank Development Indicators, to a country of approximately 142 million (Russia), a comparison must be drawn to summarize the measures that the Russian and Moldovan governments had made with regards to trafficking in the last year. The Moldovan government managed to create regional multidisciplinary commissions that plan and implement public outreach activities in schools and universities, whereas the Russian federal government was unable to create a national body or a comprehensive strategy that would combat trafficking. Additionally, Moldova improved its victim protection programme while working closely with the IOM and assisting victims, whereas the Russian federal

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<sup>108</sup> Check <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country...ANNUALREPORT.RUS..4c1883cbc.0.html>

<sup>109</sup> Check <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country...ANNUALREPORT.RUS..4c1883cbc.0.html>

government failed to provide necessary funds that would prevent the closure of their rehabilitation centre. On another hand, the Russian federal government was capable of prosecuting and convicting a military officer for his involvement in trafficking crimes, whereas the Moldovan government did not report efforts to inspect, put on trial, convict, or criminally penalize any officer complicit in trafficking.

In conclusion of this chapter, it is apparent that in both the cases of Russia and Moldova, the breakdown of the Soviet Union and the introduction of the globalization ideology of open borders, free market, liberalization of trade, and technology have not assisted in the development of these countries but on the contrary, increased poverty levels, migration levels, decreased unemployment and education levels, and led to the increase of transnational organized criminal networks, in turn promoting trafficking in persons.



## V. Chapter Five: The International Legal Framework and Potential Solutions to Sex Trafficking

Trafficking in persons has brought to light many global and regional treaty instruments, as well as other international and regional non-treaty instruments. One of the main protocols addressed and adopted would be the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; “this protocol was adopted by the UN General Assembly and has been ratified by 118 nations.”<sup>110</sup>

The key purpose of this protocol would be to “prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially cases of women and children, to protect and assist victims of this crime with respect to human rights, and enhance cooperation among states in order to achieve these objectives”<sup>111</sup>. In view of the fact that the above protocol has managed to clearly indicate the meaning of trafficking, its criminalization measures, status of victims, as well as prevention and cooperation measures; “since trafficking in persons occurs within different cultures and circumstances, a simple list of best practices is not appropriate.”<sup>112</sup>

Hence, general best practices can be developed, but a deeper emphasis on the country’s culture, economy, geography, and demography must also be taken into consideration. For this purpose, there are important actions that must be implemented and supported in order to combat trafficking in persons. It is worth noting that trafficking in persons, is by first rate a human rights violation and crime, hence even with abundant existent laws and recommendations, if the determination to halt this crime was not present, it would be a

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<sup>110</sup> United States Agency for International Development (USAID), *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, October 2008, p.5.

<sup>111</sup> Check <http://www.justiceanddemocracy.org/Trffic%20Bk.pdf>

<sup>112</sup> United States Agency for International Development (USAID), *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, October 2008, p.4.

very difficult task to handle, in addition to the profitability of the market and minimal risk of being punished for this crime.

### **1. Difficulties in halting the Increase of Sex Trafficking**

Over the years, it has been difficult to decrease the sex trafficking market due to many reasons; first of all, in the definition of trafficking, there is more focus on the movement purposes rather than exploitation purposes; for instance we hear more penalties for illegal migration and less penalties for exploitation acts performed behind migration; another reason would be the non-existence of sex trafficking laws in certain countries, hence victims who are caught are sometimes punished for illegally migrating from one place to another or performing illegal prostitution. In other cases, where laws are present, some of these laws are not very effective as they require minimal penalties on sex traffickers and the charges could at many instances be exempted through payment of fines.

This brings us to another hurdle in halting sex trafficking crimes, and that would be corruption on many levels such as the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and border control guards. How can justice take place when the people required to maintain justice are behind covering crimes and atrocious acts? When such corrupt acts take place, they allow trafficking establishments to operate, authorize the sexual abuse of women and children, halt investigational procedures, and decrease trafficking penalties, hence increasing trafficking acts and the profit of the establishment and decreasing the chances of bringing justice to victims. "When criminals are not prosecuted, there is no penalty for committing a crime, and even as most countries have begun to tout increases in trafficking prosecutions,

those numbers are immaterial when weighed against the total number of trafficking crimes committed each year.”<sup>113</sup>

Furthermore, many organizations that are dedicated to combating this phenomenon are not funded properly; these organizations, mostly non-governmental have played and continue to play a vital role in addressing trafficking crimes and raising awareness and consciousness in many societies. Through arranging activities, organizing discussions, appearing in the media, and disseminating information through the internet, these organizations raise public awareness and develop a more profound understanding on the risks and effects of sex trafficking. Even more importantly, after directly dealing with victims, these organizations develop the expertise in handling trafficking cases and providing accurate information and numbers to governmental bodies for their intervention.

Furthermore, “researches have been conducted by many NGOs on the issue of human trafficking and these materials have provided states, legislators and advocates with information and data on the subject.”<sup>114</sup> Hence, in order for these organizations to function properly and effectively, they need all the financial support they can get from the government and from the people. The role of these organizations must not be undervalued, as at many instances they have given straight and essential services, which the state did not provide, in addition to accurate data that makes up the key force towards combating sex trafficking; furthermore, although these organizations cooperate with governments on many occasions, they stand independently and state their views, which may sometimes conflict with that of the state. “Being autonomous, NGOs state their own opinions and views

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<sup>113</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.40.

<sup>114</sup> Check

<http://vitalvoices.org/files/docs/The%20Role%20of%20NGOs%20In%20Combating%20Trafficking%20in%20Persons.pdf>

that reflect their experiences in dealing with the issue. But although NGOs and governments may have differences in policies, strategies or ideologies, they have a common goal, and that is to end trafficking.”<sup>115</sup> Hence, there is a need to support these organizations, as their primary objective would be to serve victims and their case, regardless of state policies at some occasions. Partnership between government and NGOs should also be enhanced in order to strengthen law enforcement, and proper execution of laws and policies. “Only by collaborating at various levels – policy, legislation, direct service provision or a holistic reintegration can there be comprehensive solutions to this nefarious human rights violation.”<sup>116</sup>

Additionally, inadequate protection of trafficked victims whose testimony is more than necessary to convict sex traffickers is an additional reason for the inability of impeding the trafficking rate increase. Victims of sex trafficking require full protection and their protection is an ultimate priority; according to UNODC’s Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2008, the health and security of victims takes precedence over other investigation objectives<sup>117</sup>. Victims of sex trafficking undergo constant fear from their traffickers, even after they are released, as a result of the enormous bodily and mental harm they passed through. For this reason, proper victim protection programmes must be established, capable of providing full medical support and safety, in order for victims to feel secure and hence be ready to file testimonies that convict their traffickers; unless these victims feel secure, they will not make the step.

The lack of international cooperation between countries in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking crimes is also a major impediment in finding a resolution to these

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<sup>115</sup> Check <http://www.caramasia.org/enews/2007/June/DAWNtrafficking/Trafficking%20and%20DAWN.pdf>.

<sup>116</sup> <http://vitalvoices.org/files/docs/The%20Role%20of%20NGOs%20In%20Combating%20Trafficking%20in%20Persons.pdf>

<sup>117</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, “*Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*”, 2008, pg.222.

crimes. Since trafficking crimes are very complex due to the fact that there may be more than one country involved in the trafficking case, international cooperation methods such as informal police cooperation, extradition, mutual legal assistance, bilateral and multilateral treaties are necessary between countries. In reality, there is very minimal cooperation between countries when trafficking cases come to light, sometimes due to the absence of bilateral/multilateral extradition treaties among countries defining trafficking crime measures.

Being in a very advanced stage of sex trafficking development, countries must reach a point where they have binding obligations for cooperation; as per the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the international cooperation measures include state parties to cooperate on “purposes of confiscation, jurisdiction, extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons, mutual legal assistance, joint investigations, special investigative techniques, transfer of criminal proceedings, establishment of criminal record, law enforcement cooperation, and collection, exchange, and analysis of information on the nature of organized crime.”<sup>118</sup> If state parties abide by the terms of the UNTOC, more trafficking cases would be probably solved and the globalized formula of this crime would no longer be as mysterious and unhandled.

## **2. Potential Solutions towards combating Sex Trafficking**

After mentioning a number of reasons that make the fight against trafficking in persons difficult, what kind of measures should be taken in order to halt this growth in light of the constantly developing world cycle? The world is not in regress, on the contrary, with each day that passes, new technological developments are being introduced, and borders are becoming more transparent, and many transnational crimes are becoming harder to

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<sup>118</sup> [http://sites.mgkworld.net/thesis07/files/ecosoc\\_a.pdf](http://sites.mgkworld.net/thesis07/files/ecosoc_a.pdf)

prevent. Therefore, work is required from everyone: individuals, societies, governments, nongovernmental organizations, etc.

Since one key contributing element to the growth of sex trafficking would be the profitability of the industry and the minimal risks of punishment, the primary step that must be taken is to break the immense profitability of this industry by making the risk of sex trafficking far more costly. Looking at the chain of sex trafficking, we can realize four actors: the victim, the trafficker, the victim's owner, and the victim consumer; following are the categories and the potential solutions for each category.

The victim: what makes a person a victim of sex trafficking? One main reason would be poverty. It is an impossible mission to eradicate poverty throughout the world; however what can be offered is long term anti poverty initiatives and strengthening prevention, not only through awareness campaigns but also through improving factors that make people susceptible to trafficking such as underdevelopment and lack of prospects. Governments must work hard on drawing long term goals that would provide people under the poverty belt with minimum standards of living, in order for them not to look for other desperate measures for survival, leading to them be potential trafficking victims.

The trafficker: traffickers usually secure the transfer of victims from one area to another and usually work as part of transnational organized criminal groups and at times on individual missions. These traffickers get victims in and out of state borders through fake passports or bribery of border guards; most of time as mentioned before, the movement of slaves is inexpensive as they are not given food or an appropriate place to sleep in, but are shipped like cattle either in vehicles on land or through sea. The probability to monitor the movement of traffickers is very difficult, as they have their connections and bribery is not a crime you can monitor or stop overnight.

Hence, this takes us to the profit-making component of this chain, and that would be the victim/slave owner. A slave owner usually has the following costs: buying the slave, operating his establishment (running costs), and only at some times offering bribes in order to continue with his establishment. Hence, the payments that the slave owner has to give are minimal compared to the profit he generates from running his business. "Every business, whether legal or illegal, attempts to quantify the legal costs associated with doing business."<sup>119</sup> Therefore, even slave owners are aware of the fact that they might be caught one day, however they stick to bribes most of the times, and know that only a miniature proportion of slave owners will be prosecuted and convicted, and even if they were, the fines are usually minimal to the profits they generate.

Consequently, raising the real cost of operating these illicit sex slave businesses is one step towards eradicating the profitability of this industry. If the probability of being prosecuted and convicted were high, coupled with high financial penalties, the risk of operating such establishments would be high, meaning that the use of sex slaves will probably decrease. Huge trafficking cases should not include financial fines that can be easily paid, but must include imprisonment in order to raise fear and deterrence in the society; unless deterrence was portrayed, these illicit crimes will continue to prevail. In this area, it is important to highlight the acts of corruption; by increasing the salaries of police officers, prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement agencies, this would make them less vulnerable to bribery. These cadres are very important in structuring the society and maintaining order, hence they must be fulfilled in order to perform their jobs effectively and maintain their integrity. The consumer: this part of the trafficking chain is the person who purchases the cheap sex from the brothel owner, i.e. in a way or other increases the market profit of this illicit

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<sup>119</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.205.

industry. The consumer may not be alert that he is receiving his services from a sex slave nevertheless, it is a fact that sex is obtained from prostitutes, whereas very cheap sex is obtained from sex slaves. The only factor that will decrease the demand for this cheap sex and in turn stop the promotion of this business would be to increase the prices of sex services, or maybe make effective some criminalization measures that would make people think twice before approaching these industries.

In this context as well, there must be more awareness performed on the society level and here comes the importance of nongovernmental organizations dedicated to combat trafficking. Societies must also work closely in order to allocate funds that support anti-trafficking measures. Nongovernmental organizations must also deepen world understanding on the nature of human trafficking through data collection and analysis, research initiatives and the creation of an evidence based database that maintains all records. Furthermore, these organizations must work closely with governments in order to support and protect trafficked victims, such as providing them with shelter, as well as medical, mental and material aid.

As on the governmental/decision making level, there are many steps that should be taken; first of all, specific trafficking penalties must be included in the laws of all countries and should not be substituted in prosecution by laws of illegal migration or prostitution. Furthermore, these laws must include considerable penalties that would deter traffickers and those operating illicit trafficking businesses. Second, governments must improve law enforcement by strengthening information exchange between law enforcement agencies on international trafficking and other agencies, as well as strengthen partnership and build networks with the private sector, civil society organizations as well as inter-governmental organizations. "In most countries, conviction rates are insufficient due to a lack of law-



enforcement resources for gathering evidence, poor multi-lateral cooperation between origin and destination countries, judicial corruption, and poor, unrealistic, and unfunded witness-protection programmes.”<sup>120</sup>

Governments are also accountable for implementing international commitments and ensuring that international agreements are adopted nationally and practiced in order to become part of the national laws. Last but not least, governments must be open to cooperation with other governments in order to develop international means of cooperation such as treaties and agreements that allow for extradition and mutual legal assistance, joint investigations, special investigative techniques, transfer of criminal proceedings, as well as other cooperative techniques and means.

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<sup>120</sup> Siddharth, Kara. 2009. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.212.

## **Conclusion**

Towards the end of this paper, it is concluded that sex trafficking is not an issue that can be surmounted overnight, and is not a result of a single factor. Sex trafficking is in fact increasing due to globalization processes that have been mentioned throughout the paper, ranging from the Soviet downfall, poverty, the advancement of technology, the absence of state centrality, and the extension of worldly porous borders.

The findings in chapter one and two are relevant as they portrayed the definition of globalization and trafficking in persons, and the development of this movement; this chapter stressed on the various traps that are set for trafficking victims as well as the factors that can make a human being a trafficking victim, ranging from poverty, gender inequality, minimal job opportunities, to cultural beliefs and war zones amongst others. These aspects, it argues have set the grounds for generating and encouraging trafficking, however globalization has undoubtedly ignited the movement and labelled it as transnational and hard to control and combat.

The findings in chapter three defined the supply and demand equation of the trafficking industry to be maximizing profit by minimizing or eliminating the cost of labor; it argued that the high demand for cheap sex contributes to the supply of cheap labor hence leading to the formulation of a commercial sex industry based on trafficked victims as the commodity; this chapter also stressed on the massive profitability of the sex trafficking industry and the very low risk of punishment as well.

Chapter four has provided the cases of Moldova and Russia as countries that serve as source and destination countries for sex trafficking; it also introduced them as countries who suffered from the IMF formula of democratization and erosion of their economies. This chapter emphasized the global ranking of these countries regarding their fight of human

trafficking, and also went into history and geographic roots of both countries in order to assess the reasons behind their involvement in the trafficking industry. Being countries that endured socio-economic chaos throughout their transition phases, this led to poverty, low-wage jobs, and hence migration. This chapter argued that the countries' unsteady grounds, coupled with absence of strong governments and uncensored borders, led people to become more vulnerable to fall for trafficking schemes.

The fifth chapter addressed the international legal framework, the difficulties in halting the increase of sex trafficking, and the potential solutions towards sex trafficking; this section argued that a country's culture, economy, geography, and demography must be taken into consideration when finding trafficking solutions. Furthermore, the profitability of the industry must be shattered and the price of punishment and deterrence must be raised. This chapter finally emphasized the importance of collaboration on all levels of the society as well as between countries through extradition, mutual legal assistance, joint investigations and other techniques.

Throughout the five chapters, there has been an attempt to show the correlation between trafficking in persons and globalization, and how globalization has aided in fostering the former movement. How can this be treated? Well, in order to deal with the immense trafficking movement we must work on its prevention, then when it takes place, on its prosecution, followed by the protection of those trafficked victims; last but not least, we must work on building partnerships. Partnerships on a local scale within governments, the judiciary, civil society and nongovernmental organizations and on a regional and international scale through implementing international commitments, and building networks that involve inter-governmental organizations and the private sector.

People must be aware and make others aware that human beings cannot be purchased; they are not items with price tags. Even more, people are free and must not be held against their will to perform exhaustive tasks in humiliation with no material return. As the American Writer and Nobel Prize Winner Pearl S. Buck once said, “None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free”<sup>121</sup>. For the sake of humanity and in order to at least halt the inclination of trafficking in persons, each individual must have a sense of ownership towards this case that affects us all; the society as a whole is accountable of spreading the awareness necessary to inform the world of this crime and mobilize people to stop it.

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<sup>121</sup> <http://www.inspirational-quotes-change-lives.com/hopequotes.html>

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## List of Figures

<u>Figure 1: Profile of trafficking victims</u> .....	19
<u>Figure 2: Form of trafficking exploitation</u> .....	19
<u>Figure 3: Demand Curve for Sex Acts: Kamathipura Brothel</u> .....	35
<u>Figure 4: Grounds for Trafficking</u> .....	38
<u>Figure 5: Victims of Trafficking sheltered by IOM in Moldova</u> .....	43
<u>Figure 6: Areas from which Moldovan victims were returned</u> .....	43
<u>Figure 7: Migration Flows within CIS countries 1989-2002</u> .....	53

## List of Tables

<u>Table 1: Trafficking vs. Migrant Smuggling</u> .....	10
<u>Table 2: International Monetary Fund Economic Measures</u> .....	29
<u>Table 3: Governmental actions taken in Moldova 2008-2009</u> .....	48
<u>Table 4: Trafficking and Russia</u> .....	51
<u>Table 5: Governmental actions taken in Russia 2008-2009</u> .....	55

## Appendix A

### International Conventions and Protocols Related to Human Trafficking

1. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime 2000.
2. Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
3. The Annotated Guide to the Complete UN Trafficking Protocol (International Human Rights Law Group) 2002.
4. Guide to the new UN Trafficking Protocol, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime ( Coalition Against Trafficking in Women) 2001.
5. United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime 2000.
6. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000—Signatories & Ratifications .
7. Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
8. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000 (English).
9. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000—Signatories & Ratifications.
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15. ILO Protection of Migrant Workers Recommendation No. 100 1955.
16. ILO Migrant Workers Recommendation No. 151 1975.
17. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948.
18. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights 1966.
19. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966.
20. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966.
21. Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others 1949.
22. Slavery Convention 1926.
23. Protocol amending the Slavery Convention 1953.
24. Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989.
25. Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989—Signatories & Ratification.
26. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 2000.
27. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979.
28. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979—Signatories & Ratifications.
29. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1999.
30. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1999—Signatories & Ratifications.
31. Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and, Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery 1956.
32. ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention No. 181 1997.
33. ILO Private Employment Agencies Recommendation No. 188 1997.
34. ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No. 182 1999.
35. ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No. 182 1999.

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37. ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation No. 190 1999.
38. ILO Convention on Forced or Compulsory Labour No. 29 1930.
39. ILO Migration for Employment Convention Recommendation No. 61 1939.
40. ILO Migration for Employment Convention (co-operation between States) Recommendation No. 62 1939.
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44. ILO Convention concerning Abolition of Forced Labour No. 105 1957.
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46. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984.
47. ILO Equal Remuneration Convention No. 100 1951.
48. ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138 1973.
49. International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic 1910.
50. International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children 1921.
51. International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age 1933.
52. ILO Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised) No. 166 1987.
53. ILO Repatriation of Seafarers Recommendation No. 174 1987.
54. ILO Protection of Wages Convention No. 95 1949.
55. ILO Protection of Wages Recommendation No. 85 1949.
56. ILO Minimum Wage Fixing Convention No. 131 1970.
57. ILO Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation No. 135 1970.
58. ILO Employment Service Convention No. 88 1948.
59. ILO Employment Service Recommendation No. 83 1948.



60. ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention No. 111 1958.
61. ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Recommendation No. 111 1958.
62. ILO Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Underground in Mines No. 123 1965.
63. ILO Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Underground in Mines No. 123 1965.

## Appendix B

### Declarations & Agreements Related to Human Trafficking

1. UN Resolution A/RES/59/166 Trafficking in Women and Girls 2005.
2. UN Resolution A/RES/55/67 Traffic in Women and Girls 2000.
3. Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/x74) 1992.
4. Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour (Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/x79) 1993.
5. Beijing Plus 10 Declarations: Solidarity for Gender Equality, Development and Peace 2005.
6. Brussels Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2002.
7. Osnabrück Declaration 2004.
8. Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action Declaration 1996.
9. Yokohama Global Commitment 2001.
10. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995.
11. Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993.
12. Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1975.
13. Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power 1985.
  
14. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1967.
15. International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic 1904.
16. UN Millennium Declaration 2000.
17. European Parliament resolution on trafficking of women and children in Cambodia 2005.

## Appendix C

### Guidelines & Guiding Principles Related to Human Trafficking

1. Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council 2002 (English).
2. Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council 2002 (Chinese).
3. Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women; Foundation Against Trafficking in Women; International Human Rights Law Group) 1999.