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Issue paper

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Human trafficking affects many people, unfortunately, there are people that are not able to escape its grasp. Not only does it affect many people, it also generates large profits, because of this there are not many ways to openly fight it. I have come up with some ways of my own, to fight against human trafficking.

Human trafficking is something that is very relevant to our time. Many people seem to forget that human trafficking is going on all the time and in large numbers. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It involves controlling a person through force, fraud, or coercion to exploit the victim for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or both. This happens all over the world, just in the year 2015, 5,544 cases were reported. Those were the cases reported to the authorities, there are over 21,000 that were called but not reported and that number has only increased. Brenda Zurita says in her article "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that, worldwide, there are between 12 million and 27 million trafficking victims." That is a staggering amount of people that have not only have been taken away from their families but are also being treated not as people but as products.

People and the media tend to ignore it with the mentality that it is not happening near them, while in fact it is global, in fact in America the state with the highest reported cases is California. The illusion that it's something far away and" I am safe" is a form of denial for people. It affects all genders, ages and backgrounds, female adults that are U.S citizens are the highest reported to be taken. The main two forms of trafficking are sex and labor, both gender and ages are applied to both, but of course females are statistically used for sex while males are used for labor. Slavery did not disappear it just took a new name and took to the shadows becoming an underground cooperation.

Human trafficking has become a cooperation with many ties in many fields and is making a huge profit in modern society. Since it has ties to governments around the world and is not constantly in the public eye, there has not been much legislation done. Mary Goudie points out “Legislation is in place to try to curtail modern-day slavery, a multibillion-dollar industry that operates almost entirely by cash and is estimated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to earn profits of $32bn each year." The kind of money that is being made, is something that can't be fought normally. They are able to buy out people that get in the way or even worse, hurt anyone that gets in the way of them making money. There are many other crimes that are more actively pursued but in society we tend to turn a blind eye to trafficking since many people are afraid to touch it as an issue. Nicholas Kristof makes a very good point when he says “If there were a major American website openly selling heroin or anthrax, there would be an outcry. Yet we Americans tolerate a site like Backpage.com that is regularly used to peddle children. We avert our eyes, and the topic tends not to come up in polite society." Human trafficking has become large enough to make it seem like it is almost untouchable and that is the problem, no one in government want to talk about the elephant in the room.

I think if we could imagine a world where we can fight human trafficking, then I have some ideas that will start to decrease and then get rid of. Realistically we can't just try to attack it head on, that will not solve it. We have to work around it and fight them in ways that will disrupt them until it falls apart. The most basic way is to raise the education taught to kids. Kids need to know certain things that can keep them safe. Kids are not dumb, some already know not to go with a stranger offering candy, but the kidnappers have gotten smarter, they now get close to the family and work up a small bond of trust that they manipulate. Erin Weaver says “There’s no shortage of ways to get educated about human trafficking, even on a local level. Both Bucks and Montgomery counties have coalitions against human trafficking that have extensive information available. Both the Bucks Coalition against Trafficking and Montgomery County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition have made raising awareness a key facet of their mission statements." Awareness is a powerful tool that can be the building blocks to stop human trafficking. Many people are taken because of the poverty or lack of access to information and they get taken advantage of. Somaly Mam and her organization, fights against this and states " Based on AFESIP’s model, the Somaly Mam Beauty Salon provides survivors with courses in hair styling, makeup application, and nail care, as well as training in customer service and small business management. This basic education and vocational training can enable survivors to generate enough income to support themselves and avoid the vulnerabilities that allow for exploitation and abuse in the sex trade." This is one way of raising awareness but that alone will not be enough, that is why in an ideal world, I would propose that the government implement a tracking chip for anyone that is traveling, since a large number of people are taken when they travel, this will help to fight against it. The chip can be an voluntary tracking chip like the kind that is put in pets, parents can get it for their children or you can get one for yourself if you are traveling. It would be directly below the surface of our skin, so there will be no pain or discomfort, it will allow people to be found if kidnapped. This will cause a major blow to human trafficking since, if they take someone they risk exposing their base of operations.

The second idea I have come up with, is an international bodyguard system. People that are trained to be protectors and can be hired to safe guard a person when they travel or are staying at a location for a limited time. If they can be an international project they can be giving a special ID that allows them to enter places like a warrant if it means to protect their employer and even possibly a license to carry a weapon. There can be a government help system for low income families to afford it, similar to finincial aid for schooling there can be government aid for hiring the bodyguard. I believe that this and the trafficking chip will help give a heavy blow to human trafficking that they will start to crumble possibly even completely vanishing since there will not be any way for them to take or keep a person.

Hopefully human trafficking will become something that is in the open and people will start to truly fight against. It will not be easy and there will be things that get in the way but letting this modern slavery continue is not something can go on doing. We know of the horrors of slavery from history and we need to prove that when history writes about us it shows we took down the modern slavery.

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