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November 7, 2022

ENG1101

Word Count: 1403

U2 Reflective Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

When asked about

Human trafficking has been a recurring crime throughout humanity's long recorded history. Although slavery has ended for more than 200 years people have still found ways to exploit their fellow humans to their advantage. What group of people are affected by the terrors of human trafficking today? I became interested in this topic because recently there was a recent marathon that helped fundraise money to protect children from sexual abuse. This event took place in New York and some notable celebrities participated, like Ashton Kutcher. I expect to find information relating to what groups of people are usually targeted by human trafficking, what tactics human traffickers use to trap their victims, and what can be done to be more aware of such crimes. Although this is a very serious topic, I feel like it is important to share to bring awareness to the dangers that are in our new, ever-evolving society.

Source Entries

Chu, Cindy Yik-Yi. "Human Trafficking and Smuggling in China." The Journal of Contemporary China, vol. 20, no. 68, 2011, pp. 39–52., <https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2011.520842>. Summary

Summary

Human trafficking has been a social issue in not only the US but also in other countries like China. A report by the State Department of the United States in 2004 stated that around 800,00-900,00 people are trafficked around the world. A lot of the people that are being trafficked are coerced into their situation and are unwillingly trafficked. The crime of human trafficking connects to numerous other crimes like exploitation of labor, sexual assault, and physical torture. Most of the time kids and women are trafficked, for various reasons such as labor or exploitation. Another dark reason people are trafficked is for organs to sell on the black market. Women and children are forced into marriage and adoption in Yunnan, which also constitutes the crime of human trafficking.

Reflection

According to this article, human trafficking can lead to many different crimes. It is very sickening to read that people are stripped away of their freedom and are reverted to such a state no human should be in. Seeing that human trafficking is as large of a problem as the drug trade,

with human traffickers having similar narcotic routes to smuggle people, is heartbreaking to think about. It is also unfair how the people who are exploited the most are the most vulnerable like children.

Quotation

Toward the beginning of the article, the author states, "Human trafficking and smuggling in China involve complicated routes, highly organized networks, and long-distance travel".

"How Sex Traffickers Target Our Daughters, Then Profit." YouTube, KHOU11, 19 Oct. 2017, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAqTqWAZHMo&ab_channel=KHOU11. Accessed 1 Nov. 2022.

Summary

In the US there is an underground economy that thrives off selling children for sex. Based on a study made by Urban Institute in 2017 almost a billion dollars is made in this business. A sex trafficker targets children online, often coming across as people who want to be friends through social media. The trafficker often lures the adolescent with persuasion, often drugs or alcohol, or even to help them with their dreams of being famous. These traffickers target people who are already in tough situations that are desperate for help. Traffickers keep tricking their targets until they are secluded from their families and friends. After this, they put them up for sale online. A lot of buyers are people you wouldn't expect, with court records showing they are teachers and pastors. This form of business is illegal because it involves the use of children, who cannot consent and are underage. A lot of people would call what is becoming a worldwide problem modern-day slavery.

Reflection

Learning about how human traffickers target children online makes me more understanding of how my parents were with me being online at a young age. They would always tell me to not talk with strangers online. I didn't understand them back then but thinking back on it they were looking out for me, knowing how at that time the newest form of media to be wary of was social media. Learning that the people supporting this type of industry are the same people who are applauded in our society like priests and teachers is scary to see. You never know who somebody really is. The way that the whole video is presented, with dark images and grainy, almost rough pictures really drives home the fact of how dark the topic really is. The use of bold images in the video also enhances the importance of the topic. Overall the tone of the video is very serious, which works well.

Quotation

In the video, the narrator states, "Who are these buyers? Court records show they've been teachers, pastors, cops, and judges. They could be the guy next door."

"What Is Human Trafficking?" U.S. Department of Justice, 28 Sept. 2022,
<https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking>.

Summary

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the coercion of a person to do services that they would normally not consent to. Victims can be coerced physically or even psychologically. Victims of human trafficking don't have a single profile. Victims can be anyone of any race, national origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and citizenship status. Human traffickers often target marginalized and vulnerable individuals. They also target people in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system. Trafficking victims are preyed upon because of their vulnerabilities like social standing and lack of language communication. Victims are made false promises that include but are not limited to, a good job, stable life, and love. There is also no profile for human traffickers, with them being able to be foreign or U.S citizens. A lot of the time human traffickers can be working by themselves or even with an organization. A lot of people assume human traffickers are all men it is false, with the U.S prosecuting cases against female traffickers.

Reflection

Human trafficking is something that does not only affect younger kids but people of any age. Targeting people in the welfare system is also a very dehumanizing tactic to me, putting a number above a person's head and only looking at that number when talking about them. Finding that human trafficking can happen to immigrants dreaming of a better life is hard to comprehend. It seems almost surreal to think that another human being can prey upon another using hope and dreams as leverage. Knowing human traffickers are not only males did not come as a surprise to me because you can't really put a certain identity to a perpetrator as said in the article The article uses professional words to come across as respectful in the way they present their information, to my guess does not offend any victims of such crimes.

Quotation

In the final words of the article, the publisher states, "Traffickers can be pimps, gang members, diplomats, business owners, labor brokers, and farm, factory, and company owners".

Conclusion

Human trafficking has not only become a problem in the US but also in other countries around the world, like China. Human trafficking can affect the youth of our society through social media and the internet, hence why it is important to teach children how to use the Internet safely. Human trafficking can also impact not only children but adults, like migrant workers searching for better opportunities for themselves and their families and adults in financially tough situations. Human trafficking can affect people in difficult situations, often having traffickers target their hope and desires. What surprised me was how much of a secret this problem is in our country, with not many news sources talking about it when I was researching. Another thing that surprised me while researching was finding out that human traffickers target people in the child welfare system. This surprised me because that is a low I didn't expect anybody to go down to. The most important thing I learned while researching was people praised in our society for their social work can be the same ones who are damaging it by supporting this "industry". The people whom I think need to know about this research are the youth-the ones who are still learning about the way how life works. The way our society interacts is always evolving, so we must combat that as much as we can by teaching teens and children while they are young.