

End Modern Day *Slavery*

Health and Human Services Committee

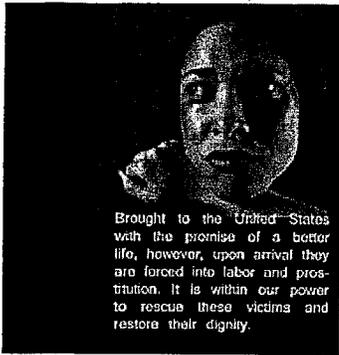
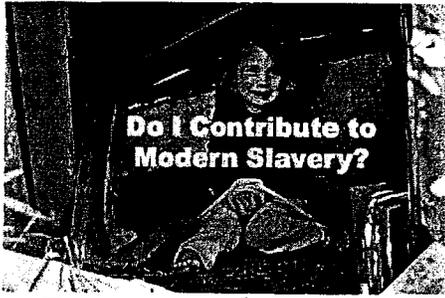
May 23, 2014

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. The lack of knowledge surrounding human trafficking is a damaging social problem that requires education and intervention for law enforcement, medical health providers, mental health providers, schools, and the legislature. Human trafficking is a socially constructed form of violence of one individual controlling that of another human through force, fraud, and/or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This is occurring at an alarming pace in New Mexico and we request that this issue be a priority for discussion on the Interim Health and Human Services Committee.

Women and children are the focus of individuals who are trafficked for sexual exploitation; however, boys and young men are targeted as well. According to the Springer Science and Business Media 5.3 million Women and Children are trafficked each year throughout the U.S. for purposes of sex trafficking (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin states that "The average age that girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14 years...boys and transgender youth enter into prostitution between the ages of 11 and 13 on average (Walker-Rodriguez & Hill, 2011)".

Looking at modern day slavery in New Mexico women and children are currently trafficked in, from, to and through New Mexico at alarming rates. Women and children in New Mexico experience various types of slavery. One young girl a foreign refugee raised in New Mexico was returned to her native country and sold into marriage. Another young girl, a foreign exchange student, was brought to New Mexico where her host family arranged to sell her into marriage on her 18th birthday. Another young girl, native to New Mexico, with a bright future, a star student received a scholarship to begin college and her life changed the day that she met a man that manipulated and coerced her into sex slavery. A young woman, an Albuquerque native was trafficked by foreign nationals. Girls at a local Albuquerque middle school are currently being recruited into sex slavery. There are countless stories of tragedy occurring in our community and we must take a stand together.

We believe that we have a social responsibility to educate our law enforcement officers, medical health providers, mental health providers, schools and the legislature to provide the tools necessary to identify a victim of human trafficking and help them receive the services necessary to become healthy productive members of society. We can work toward the development of restorative victim services to create systems designed to assess restorative interventions at every level and change policies that incur unintended consequences perpetuating slavery. Many of the solutions for human trafficking will come from the community, local organizations, and programs; however, some of the solutions will require legislative interventions. We are currently working on drafting legislation that will improve solutions for victims and increase penalties for offenders. On behalf of professionals and concerned citizens working on this important issues, we request human trafficking be included on the agenda to be discussed by the Interim Health and Human Services Committee now. Slavery was abolished 150 years ago and yet there are more people in slavery today than at any other time in our history. Please be a part of creating solutions to permanently change human trafficking victim outcomes.



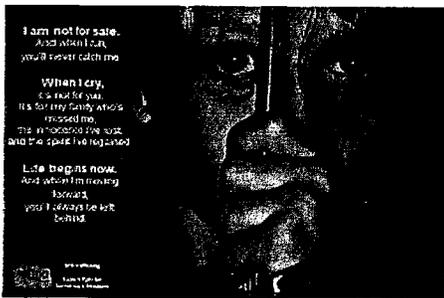
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

6,000 TOTAL AVERAGE TIMES A VICTIM WILL BE RAPED

7 YEARS LIFE EXPECTANCY

1/100 ODDS OF RESCUE

RESIST PORN



Human Trafficking is Modern-Day

Works Cited

Hepburn, S., & Simon, R. J. (2010). Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in the United States. *Springer Science and Business Media*, 1-26.

Walker-Rodriguez, A., & Hill, R. (2011). *Human Sex Trafficking*. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.