

THE LIBERATOR

The Free Project Newsletter

Fighting Human Trafficking with Scholarship

By Ajay Dave

Globalization is the mass diffusion of ideas and culture. Unfortunately, this volatility also encompasses crime. Human traffickers utilize new technologies and growing markets as springboards for slaving. To combat these expanding trafficking mechanisms, justice efforts expand in turn. The modern fight against human trafficking involves a multidisciplinary application of law, criminology, politics, and economics.

Global law lacks unity. Lawyers must dissect the intersections of global law to identify points of law encroachment and justice. As slaves travel from nation to nation, smuggled or coerced,

they encounter unique bodies of law specific to the borders they pass through. Justice officials must balance the sovereignty of national laws with the universal search for justice. International law has expanded to define procedures for the apprehension and prosecution of human traffickers. These regulations fall within the jurisdiction of international unions such as United Nations and affiliate programs, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).



This is the beginning of an article from The Free Project website. To read the article, visit <http://www.thefreeproject.org/2017/02/13/fighting-human-trafficking-with-scholarship/>

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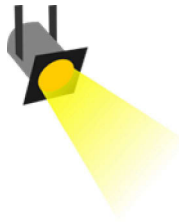
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What Can You Do?

Take the “How Much Do You Know About Human Trafficking Quiz?” to enhance your knowledge about the cause you’re fighting for.

To take the quiz, visit <http://www.endslaverynow.org/act/action-library/take-the-how-much-do-you-know-about-human-trafficking-quiz>

Issue Spotlight



Domestic Servitude

Domestic servitude is the seemingly normal practice of live-in help that is used as cover for the exploitation and control of someone, usually from another country. It is a form of forced labor, but it also warrants its own category of slavery because of the unique contexts and challenges it presents.

Victims of domestic servitude may appear to be nannies or other domestic help, but the moment their employment arrangement transitions into a situation whereby they cannot leave on their own free will, it becomes a case of enslavement. The circumstances of live-in help can create unique vulnerabilities for victims. Domestic workplaces are connected to off-duty living quarters and often not shared with other workers. Such an environment can isolate domestic workers and is conducive to exploitation because authorities cannot inspect homes as easily as they can formal workplaces. Domestic servitude can also be a form of bonded labor. This form of slavery happens when migrant workers reach a destination country, and they incur a debt for their travel and/or a recruitment fee. Though working, if their employer or recruiter adds on additional costs that can never be repaid, like housing

or food, then the arrangement has transitioned into a form of slavery. This problem is compounded when employers or recruiters neglect legal documentation or confiscate it because migrant domestic workers are often fearful of reporting the abuse for fear of legal consequences.

Forced Marriage

Domestic servitude can also be linked to forced marriage. Forced marriage is a marriage without the consent of one or both parties, and the U.S. government considers forced marriage to be a violation of human rights. In the case of minors, it's also a case of child enslavement. Forced marriage is a mix of several forms of slavery, including forced labor, sexual enslavement and domestic servitude.

This is the beginning of an article on the End Slavery Now website. To read the full article, visit <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/domestic-servitude>

Their story

Beatrice Fernando

In 2005, Fernando gave her testimony to the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations:

“I am at the airport in Columbo, Sri Lanka, saying good-bye to my three-year-old son. With his eyes filled with tears, he asks, ‘Can’t I come with you, Mom? When you make a lot of money will you buy me a car to play with?’ I take him in my arms, my heart breaking, and tell him, ‘If I have the money, I will buy you the world.’ My desperation to give him a better life has driven me to leave him with my parents, to go to Lebanon and be a maid. At the job agent’s office in Beirut, my passport is taken away. The agency staff makes me stand in line with a group of women in the same predicament as me. Lebanese men and women pace in front of us, examining our bodies as if we were vacuum cleaners. I am sold to a wealthy woman, who takes me home to her mansion up on the fourth floor of a condo building. My chores

seem unending. I wash the windows, walls and bathrooms. I shampoo carpets, polish floors and clean furniture. After 20 hours I am still not done. There’s no food on my plate for dinner, so I scavenge through the trash. I try to call the job agency, but the woman who now owns me has locked the telephone. I try to flee the apartment, but she has locked the door.

I can feel the burning on my cheeks as she slaps me. It is night and her kids have gone to sleep. Grasping me by the hair, she bangs my head into the wall and throws me to the floor. She kicks me and hits me with a broom. If I scream or fight back, she will kill me. So I bite my lips to bare the pain and then I pass out. This is my daily routine, the life of a slave.



Beatrice Fernando

But now I am standing on the balcony of her condo, four floors up. I am holding onto the railing, staring down at the ground far below. I feel my heart rising.

I miss my family, and I know my son is waiting for me. There is no other way to get home. I grasp the railing, close my eyes and ask God for his forgiveness if I die now. This is no suicide attempt. I am desperate for freedom, not death. With the tiny hope that I might survive, I let go of the railing. I dive backwards into the night air. And I scream.”

This is the beginning of an article posted by [endslaverynow.org](http://www.endslaverynow.org). All content was found on the End Slavery Now website. To continue reading Beatrice’s story, go to <http://www.endslaverynow.org/blog/articles/beatrice-fernando>

The Free Project is a part of Historians Against Slavery, a group of scholars who bring historical context and scholarship to the modern-day antislavery movement.

*Contributors:
Ajay Dave*

For more information on The Free Project & Historians Against Slavery, please visit our websites:

<http://www.thefreeproject.org>

<http://www.historiansagainstslavery.org>