

Trafficking: Understanding the Problem Creating Tailored Strategies

Core Principles

Victoria A. Budson
*Executive Director of the
Women and Public Policy Program
Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University*



Women and Public Policy Program

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



JOHN F. KENNEDY
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

What is Trafficking in Persons?

- Multiple forms:
 - Forced labor
 - Sexual exploitation
- Involuntary servitude
- Gendered issue

Clear Definitions are Important

Definition:

- (a) "the recruitment, harboring, 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;"
- or (b) "sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age."

(defined by the "The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000").

Trafficking and Power

- Shows symptoms of global inequities, societal inequities
- Power disparities between abuser and trafficking victims
- Recognize rather than replicate inequalities in strategies to combat trafficking

Demand:

The Other Side of the Trafficking Equation

- Misperceptions of trafficked persons
- Demand not defined by class, age or race
- Range of motivations
- Habitual users

Effective Strategies address Supply *and* Demand

Education

- Law enforcement
- Elected and appointed leaders
- Community awareness
 - At risk populations
 - Purchasers of sex acts

Specific Strategies for Demand: *John School*

- Formally known as Education Programs for Purchasers of Sex Acts
- Addresses demand patterns
- Highlights harm associated with prostitution
- Re-shapes perceptions of the “victimless crime”

Specific Strategies For Demand: *Car Confiscation Program*

- El Cajon, California
 - Confiscating cars of those arrested for solicitation of prostitutes
 - Assuming ownership of those vehicles
- Los Angeles, California
 - Seizing vehicles and selling them back to their owner for a fee
 - Media coverage of those arrested – raising awareness and stigmatizing “johns”
- West Palm Beach, Florida
 - Impounding vehicles of those arrested for solicitation of prostitutes
 - PIPE plea agreement

Interlocking Strategies

At the local, state, national and regional levels:

- Effective information gathering and sharing
- Share information among law enforcement, research institutions, NGOs, and community leaders
- Use available and cultivate resources of language and cultural knowledge

Specific Strategies for Supply: *Constellation of Support Services*

- Housing
- Job training
- Counseling
- Education
- Services to reach destination

Follow Global Trends

- Better understanding of supply
- Contextualizes problems, helpful as predictors

Effective Enforcement

- Legislation is only effective when coupled with enforcement mechanisms
- Stakeholdership
- Collaboration
- Resources

Most importantly:

- You know your resources
- You know your communities