

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on
Human Trafficking 2014

Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking
at the University of Nebraska

10-2014

Awareness Good, Prevention Better

Nola Theiss

Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc., nola@humantraffickingawareness.org

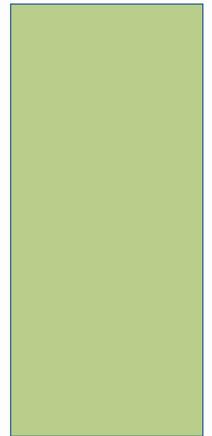
Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtrafcon6>

Theiss, Nola, "Awareness Good, Prevention Better" (2014). *Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking 2014*. 2.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtrafcon6/2>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking at the University of Nebraska at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking 2014 by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AWARENESS GOOD, PREVENTION BETTER

**PRESENTED BY NOLA THEISS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PARTNERSHIPS**



FOUR P'S OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Protection
 - TVPA: Benefits for Foreign Victims and Domestic Victims
 - Safe houses
- Prosecution
 - TVPA and State Laws
- Partnerships
 - Global Efforts
 - Federally Funded Task Forces
 - State Task Forces
 - Local Efforts
- Prevention
 - Few private programs
 - Prevention and Awareness are related, but not the same thing.

THE VALUE OF AWARENESS

- “With 27 million people enslaved in the world, basic human trafficking awareness is insufficient to make a dent in such an enormous human rights issue. At its best, awareness sparks action.”
- Kavitha Sreeharshan and Kelly Henreich,
“It's Human Trafficking Prevention Month, But Is Awareness Enough?” Huffington Post, 1/16/13

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH: JANUARY 2012: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

- “By coordinating our response across Federal agencies, we are working to protect victims of human trafficking with effective services and support, prosecute traffickers through consistent enforcement, and **prevent human rights abuses by furthering public awareness and addressing the root causes of modern slavery.**” – Barack Obama

National Human Trafficking and Slavery Prevention Month: January 2013: Presidential Proclamation

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION**

This month, we rededicate ourselves to stopping one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time. Around the world, millions of men, women, and children are bought, sold, beaten, and abused, locked in compelled service and hidden in darkness. They toil in factories and fields; in brothels and sweatshops; at sea, abroad, and at home. They are the victims of human trafficking -- a crime that amounts to modern-day slavery.

As Americans, we have long rejected such cruelty. We have recognized it as a debasement of our common humanity and an affront to the principles we cherish. And for more than a century, we have made it a national mission to bring slavery and human trafficking to an end.

My Administration has been deeply committed to carrying this legacy forward -- beginning with trafficking that happens on our own shores. We have strengthened protections so all workers know their rights, expanded efforts to identify and serve domestic victims, devoted new resources to dismantling trafficking networks, and put more traffickers behind bars than ever before. In the months ahead, we will continue to take action by empowering investigators and law enforcement with the training they need, and by engaging businesses, advocates, and students in developing cutting-edge tools people can use to stay safe. We will invest in helping trafficking victims rebuild their lives. And as one of the world's largest purchasers of goods and services, the Federal Government will keep leading by example, further strengthening protections to help ensure that American tax dollars never support forced labor.

Our commitment to stopping human trafficking does not end at our borders. As a leader in the global movement to combat this scourge, the United States has renewed sanctions on governments that harbor the worst offenders. We have partnered with groups around the world to help men, women, and children escape their abusers. And recognizing that no country can meet this challenge alone, we have aided others in addressing modern slavery's root causes, and encouraged nations across the globe to pass comprehensive anti-trafficking laws, enforce them rigorously, and care for survivors.

We know the road ahead is long, and change will not come easily. But as we renew our pledge to erase modern forms of slavery from the face of this earth, let us also draw strength from the movements of the past. We recall the words of the Emancipation Proclamation -- that every life saved is "an act of justice," worthy of "the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of an Almighty God." We reflect on the Amendment that wrote abolition into law, the decades of struggle to make its promise real, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has drawn nations together in the pursuit of equality and justice. These achievements once seemed impossible -- but on this day, let us remember that they were not, and let us press on toward the future we know is possible.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH, 2014

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A PROCLAMATION

- This month, we rededicate ourselves to stopping one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time. Around the world, millions of men, women, and children are bought, sold, beaten, and abused, locked in compelled service and hidden in darkness. They toil in factories and fields; in brothels and sweatshops; at sea, abroad, and at home. They are the victims of human trafficking -- a crime that amounts to modern-day slavery.
- As Americans, we have long rejected such cruelty. We have recognized it as a debasement of our common humanity and an affront to the principles we cherish. And for more than a century, we have made it a national mission to bring slavery and human trafficking to an end.
- My Administration has been deeply committed to carrying this legacy forward -- beginning with trafficking that happens on our own shores. We have strengthened protections so all workers know their rights, expanded efforts to identify and serve domestic victims, devoted new resources to dismantling trafficking networks, and put more traffickers behind bars than ever before. In the months ahead, we will continue to take action by empowering investigators and law enforcement with the training they need, and **by engaging businesses, advocates, and students in developing cutting-edge tools people can use to stay safe.** We will invest in helping trafficking victims rebuild their lives. And as one of the world's largest purchasers of goods and services, the Federal Government will keep leading by example, further strengthening protections to help ensure that American tax dollars never support forced labor.
- Our commitment to stopping human trafficking does not end at our borders. As a leader in the global movement to combat this scourge, the United States has renewed sanctions on governments that harbor the worst offenders. We have partnered with groups around the world to help men, women, and children escape their abusers. And recognizing that no country can meet this challenge alone, we have aided others in addressing modern slavery's root causes, and encouraged nations across the globe to pass comprehensive anti-trafficking laws, enforce them rigorously, and care for survivors.
- We know the road ahead is long, and change will not come easily. But as we renew our pledge to erase modern forms of slavery from the face of this earth, let us also draw strength from the movements of the past. We recall the words of the Emancipation Proclamation -- that every life saved is "an act of justice," worthy of "the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of an Almighty God." We reflect on the Amendment that wrote abolition into law, the decades of struggle to make its promise real, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has drawn nations together in the pursuit of equality and justice. These achievements once seemed impossible -- but on this day, let us remember that they were not, and let us press on toward the future we know is possible.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 2013 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, culminating in the annual celebration of National Freedom Day on February 1. I call upon businesses, organizations, faith-based groups, families, and all Americans to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.
- IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.
- BARACK OBAMA

FIRST STEP TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- “The first step to preventing human trafficking and prosecuting the traffickers is therefore to recognize the complexity of the crime which cannot be tackled in a vacuum...We cannot allow ourselves to marginalize the issue of trafficking, viewing it as something that can be ended with a few extra taskforces or dedicated units. **We need everyone to be aware of how it affects them, and what they can do to stop it.**”
- Ruth Deamley and Sete Chalke, “UN Chronicle”

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

- Awareness: having knowledge, being informed, being alert, knowledgeable.
- Prevention: Something that prevents: effectual hindrance

SOME TYPES OF PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMS

- Prevention of Demand
- Passage of Laws
- Work in Origin Countries
- Building Political Will
- Reducing Risk Factors
- Reaching groups that might be at risk before it happens

Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships

GLOBAL PREVENTION EFFORTS

- U.N. Efforts
- Palermo Agreement
- International Agencies Working Together

GLOBALLY: HOW MANY SLAVES WORK FOR ME?

- <http://slaveryfootprint.org/my-footprint>

Products often tainted by slave labor:

Coffee, Vegetables, Meat, Fish, Shoes, Clothing, Cotton, Rubber, Gold, Electronics, Tires, Building materials, Chocolate

WORKING LOCALLY

What Can I Do?

- Build Awareness?
- Prevent Trafficking from Happening?

Who Can Do It?

- Law Enforcement
- Human Service Providers
- Community

WHAT GROUP IS MOST TARGETED IN THE UNITED STATES?

- The bad news:
 - Young people between the ages of 10-18, especially 11-15. (Dept of Justice, Shared Hope)
 - Especially girls, but more boys than we think. (John Jay College recently estimated that 50% of all victims are male)
 - Especially kids at high risk, but by definition all kids in this age group are at risk.
 - Especially kids in foster care or without strong support systems.
 - 36% of all internet bandwidth is filled with pornography. (M. Dines)
- The good news:
 - These kids are in our neighborhoods, many have already been identified as high risk.
 - Many organizations are already serving them.
 - We can find them!!

PREVENTION/PROTECTION

- Prevention Program Providers need to know what victims actually go through in order to present accurate information to kids who might become targets and to understand how therapists actually learn from victims.

They need to know what is going on locally and in the present tense because:

1. Some of kids they work with were/are victims;
2. Only victims and those who work with them really understand the vulnerabilities that victims experience;
3. They need to know what not to do or say;
4. They need to have someone readily available to work with possible victims.

PROTECTION/PROTECTION

Victim Providers can help with what materials are used in Prevention Programs because:

1. They know what is happening locally to victims;
2. They know how victims of different cultures, ages, etc. are being recruited and being treated;
3. They want to reduce the number of future victims.

ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED

If children are subjected to traumatic events, they are more likely to be susceptible to trafficking.

OUR TARGET GROUPS

IF 70% of trafficking victims are female and 30% of the traffickers are female:



IF 30% of the trafficking victims are male and 70% of the traffickers are male, then...



We have to work with both males and females/supply and demand, if we are going to make a real impact on the problem and if we are going to protect all the children we reach.

OUR ARTREACH COMMUNITY WHEEL



WHAT DO POTENTIAL VICTIMS NEED TO KNOW TO POSSIBLY PREVENT TRAFFICKING?

- That trafficking exists in their own community.
- The techniques used to lure them.
- The lies they are likely to fall for.
- The ways to avoid situations.
- Examples of how other kids have been lured.
- The power they have to change the current state of trafficking.

WHY IS PREVENTION SO IMPORTANT?

WHY IS IT SO HARD?

VICTIMS' 18-MONTH MUG SHOT PROGRESSION

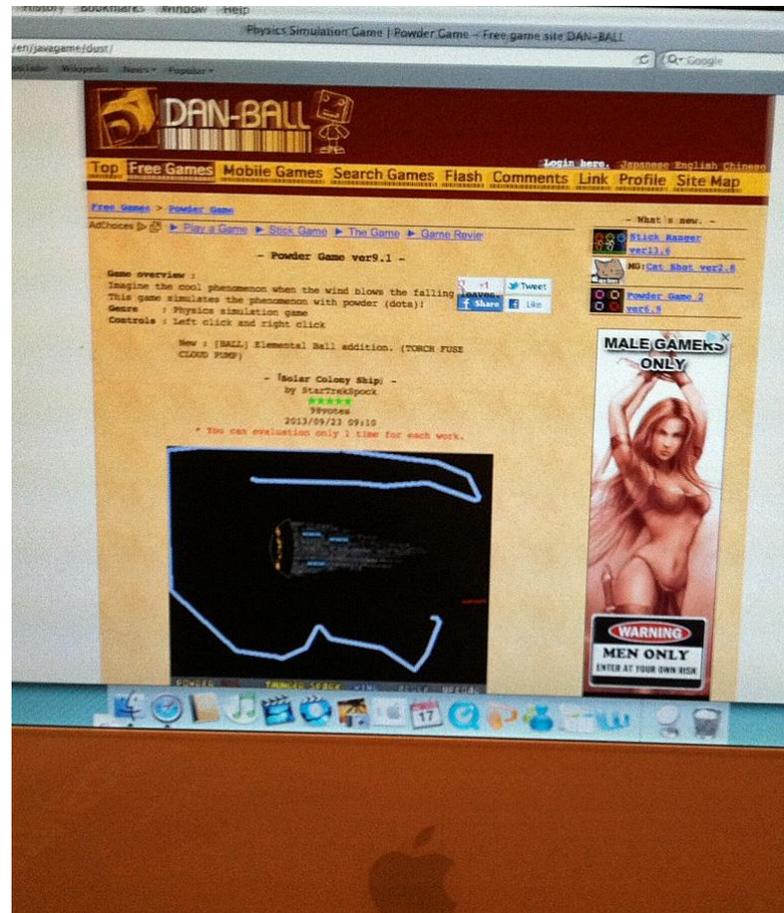


WHAT DO TRAFFICKERS LOOK LIKE?



If all traffickers looked like the stereotype PIMP, it would be easy to teach others whom to avoid, but these are all accused/convicted traffickers.

WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST



GOALS OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- Build overall awareness of the crime
- Build understanding of why one might be targeted
- Teach the common techniques used by traffickers
- Teach identification of trafficker types: stranger danger (abduction) to love traps (seduction)
- Build understanding of how we might be part of the problem in our buying habits or our attitudes.

Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships

EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

- Present information in an appropriate way for audience.
- Partner with other organizations.
- Don't sensationalize or sanitize.
- Don't talk down to audience whether 10 years old or 60.
- Give information and make an opportunity to process the information.
- Give participants ways to recognize their own vulnerabilities and strengths.
- Be a guide to self-discovery and empowerment.
- Recognize the value of participants as peer educators.
- Be available for follow up.

Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships

MATCHING THE ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF A PROGRAM TO AN AUDIENCE

- Premise: Boys and Girls have a hard time focusing on trafficking when they are in the same class. We experimented with different formats of independent programs, mixed programs, programs where boys and girls were brought together for part or all of the program this summer with 167 kids in 6 programs. In the post evaluations, 72% of the males said they'd prefer mixed groups and 66.7% of the females said they'd like to work in mixed groups.
- Different age groups/genders need to know the same material, but in an appropriate way, perhaps with different emphasis.
- Be ready to adapt to the circumstances.
- Let the participants be the guides in what and how you approach them.
- Parents and grandparents need to know what the kids know and vice versa.

ACHIEVING LASTING IMPACT ON THE PARTICIPANTS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

- Our goal is to educate kids and empower them to teach their peers what they've learned.
- We want to get kids to stop and think when they approach a situation similar to those they have heard about and to realize their own possible complicity.
- We also want to share what they create so that others can learn from it.
- We want to teach other community leaders how to conduct and adapt prevention programs in their own communities.

MEASURING OUTCOME WHEN OUTCOME IS PREVENTION

- There's no way to say how many participants didn't get trafficked because of a prevention program.
- However,
 - How many kids asked questions while working on projects on a one-to-one basis.
 - How many kids wanted to participate in follow up programs.
 - We use pre- and post- surveys and experiment with programs to track differences.
 - We also use follow up surveys 6 months after the programs to test retention of information and continuing interest and possible experiences of situations that caused them concern.
 - We have had at least 4 kids who self-reported to counsellors after the program in the last 2 years.

DATA

- All statistics in human trafficking are always estimates if for no other reason, it is a hidden crime. One rarely knows who is counting, what they are counting and how they are counting and how they have interpreted what they've counted.
- “27 million slaves in the world???” Who says?
- Data is often unscientific or inflated.
- Data may reflect only cases that have been seen or handled and that have been reported and interpreted as cases.
- Cases can exist without data and it is hard to extrapolate from data.
- Data sells.
- Study by Lisa Fedina at University of Maryland

CONCLUSION

In the long-term, prevention is likely to be a much more effective way to avert the exploitation of vulnerable women, men, boys, and girls than seeking to identify and extract victims from their clandestine circumstances once their trafficking experience is underway.

“Preventing Human Trafficking: An Evaluation of Current Efforts”, 2007.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

