

Preventing Human Trafficking in Virginia

Louise Shelley, Professor School of Public Policy,
George Mason University and Director, TraCCC,
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption
Center policy-traccc.gmu.edu

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What forms of trafficking are there?

- Sex trafficking, especially youth (both domestic and international)
- Trafficking on the internet
- Labor trafficking—migrant workers and domestic servants
- Mail order brides
- Trafficking for adoptions

What do we know about sex trafficking here?

- FBI has identified the Washington, DC area including No. Virginia as one of the 14 major child sex trafficking centers in the United States, many of those who are trafficked are US born juveniles, much marketing goes through Craig's List, newspapers etc.
- Case in No. Virginia in 2005 of 19 Indonesians successfully prosecuted for attempting to bring women 16 to 23 years of age

Labor Trafficking

- Trafficking of domestic servants for exploitation by diplomats and members of multilateral organizations, in 2007 three former servants of a Kuwaiti diplomat fled and started a suit against him
- Trafficking of migrant workers for construction, lawn maintenance and agricultural work in the state, film being made of this now

Who is doing this trafficking?

- Variety of actors—Had Chinese triads in Springfield, Va. In the late 1990s, Indonesians, Vietnamese at karaoke bars near the Eden Center, American born pimps trafficking American born girls, role of MS-13 and other gangs with the prostitution and trafficking of Hispanic women for the migrant communities

Where is the trafficking located?

- In ethnic communities in No. Virginia
- In suburbs
- In rural areas with agricultural workers
- Some of sex trafficking has been moved to No. Virginia as Montgomery police have taken a very aggressive stance against it

Increasing Awareness

- Community has very limited knowledge of domestic trafficking especially of minors and of adult population, not able to protect children, not aware of the extent of this problem in the community
- Need much more of a citizen information on this problem by community groups and law enforcement

Protection for Victims

- Need much more help for victims of juvenile trafficking of which there are both domestic and foreign victims
- Need help for adult trafficking victims of sexual trafficking, domestic servitude
- Migrant worker exploitation—unaware of their rights and afraid of law enforcement

Organized Crime and Trafficking

- Not enough being done to address the criminal organizations which engage in the trafficking, limited capacity on the state level and there is not much priority for this on the federal level
- Little attention being paid to the assets of the traffickers, not following the money trails of the trafficking groups

NGOS and Educational Sector

- Need to promote more cooperation between victims and law enforcement to develop cases and successfully prosecute them
- Need greater education in schools and in universities on the problems in our community
- Need to work with ethnic communities and assistance groups to them to find cases and assist victims

Business Community

- Need to work with internet providers to guard against proliferation of child pornography
- Apartment complex owners concerning apartments used for brothels, also hotels
- Newspapers, on-line advertising and yellow pages to prevent dissemination on sex services with trafficked people
- Address construction and landscaping businesses, poultry plants and others exploiting migrant workers

Need much more effort and training for law enforcement

- There is limited training of law enforcement on the different forms of trafficking in Va.
- NMEC has some on line training materials for family and others but need much greater awareness
- Need law enforcement with language skills to deal with international trafficking rings
- Need specialized programs for juveniles

Implementing a Strategy

- Need to develop a strategy that involves many diverse sectors of the community including law enforcement, the business community, schools, community organizations, ethnic groups, religious organizations
- Follow the implementation of this program with measurable targets of dissemination of information and available on-line information