HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
What is Human Trafficking?

- Illegal transportation of people for forced labour, sex exploitation, forced marriages...
- Distinct difference between ‘people smuggling’ and ‘human trafficking’
- Over one million people trafficked annually
- Major profits for both individual traffickers and organised criminal groups (Triads, Mafia, Yakuza) who mislead/deceive victims: fake advertisements, mail-order catalogues etc.
- Traffickers use blackmail, abuse, and threats to force victims to comply with their wishes in the destination country
- Very often, cases go unreported
- Usually caused by poverty/lack of economic opportunities, especially for women and children, and a demand for certain services in the destination country
**The who and the what**

**Who is targeted by traffickers?**
- mainly women and children

**Why are these people targeted by traffickers?**
- Generally poorer and own less property
- Less well educated and more prone to the tricks of traffickers

**What happens to these people?**
- Victims have their passports removed and destroyed
- Themselves or families threatened
- Bonded by debt
- Arranged marriages
- Slave labour
Where does trafficking take place?

Trafficking is a global issue.
Which human rights are being broken?

3. You have the right to live, and to live in freedom and safety.

1. Nobody has the right to treat you as his her slave and you should not make anyone your slave.

13. 16.

3. 7. 8.

23. You have the right to work, to be free to choose your work, to get a salary which allows you to support your family. If a man and a woman do the same work, they should get the same pay. All people who work have the right to join together to defend their interests.

16. Nobody should force a person to marry.

24. 12. You have the right to ask to be protected if someone tries to harm your good name, enter your house, open your letters, or bother you or your family without a good reason.

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TRAFFICKING in Hong Kong

- HK is a destination for trafficking victims from China, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia
  - Also a transit country: Asia → Australia
- HK is comparatively wealthy – Mainland Chinese women lured by potentially lucrative jobs in HK; send money home to their families. Organised crime units bring women here.
- Victims usually forced to work in bars or as domestic labourers...
**Types of forced labour in HK**

**Working in bars**
- Thai and Filipina women are forced to work as bar hostesses
- Imprisoned in apartments during daytime
- Forced to work at night
- In countries of origin: told they will work as ‘entertainers’; they end up working as prostitutes

**Working as domestic labourers**
- Corrupt employment agencies: charge victims illegally high prices for placement, hold passports, and target women who don’t speak English
- Agencies recruit abroad; once the women arrive, they find the terms of employment do not fulfill HK’s domestic labour laws
- Sometimes, employers work with recruitment agencies: agree to pay less than the minimum wage for ‘imported workers’ (currently around $3680/month), charge fees, observe long working hours, take passports
How is HK dealing with trafficking?

- Tier 1 of the 2003 United States State Department Trafficking in Persons Report:

  “the Government of Hong Kong fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Hong Kong authorities implement anti-trafficking measures in the context of combating migrant smuggling. The government carries out effective border and immigration controls, information campaigns designed to educate shipping industry officials about smuggling patterns, and has a tight web of criminal ordinances designed to punish traffickers.”

- Combat illegal prostitution by nonresidents via immigration controls and arrests: 6296 arrests made Jan-Aug 2005; prostitution-related traffickers can be jailed for 14 years.
Trafficking in Cambodia

Trafficking is such a big problem in Cambodia due to its extreme poverty and increased trading between its neighbours.

Two to three thousand are being trafficked through Cambodia for the sex industry alone.

Vietnam → CAMBODIA → Hong Kong
          → Malaysia
          → Thailand
How do the traffickers acquire their victims?
- lure of legitimate employment
- links with the family
- poor parents selling their children to pay debts
- individuals as well as large organised criminal networks
- corrupt employment agencies

What happens to these people?
- the sex trade – many of these are children, mainly Vietnamese girls
- incapacitated – forced to beg for gangs, many of these are Cambodian boys and girls in Bangkok
- Sweatshop workers
- Adoption by foreigners

Why don’t these people help themselves?
- they are ashamed
- fear the threats of their bosses
- feel bound by debt
- fear of eviction since they are illegal immigrants
- they do not speak the language of their destination country
What is Cambodia doing to help?

- The Cambodia government recognises the problem of human trafficking but resources to deal with the issue are limited.
- They have implemented stricter law enforcement and put pressure on officials to stay out of trafficking circles.
- They are discussing the problem with its neighbours.

What is happening now?

- Law on the Suppression of the Kidnapping, Trafficking, and Exploitation of Human Beings
- Victims receive financial compensation
- Still nothing to protect victims from illegal immigration laws
Camel Racing

What is happening?

- Children from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sudan, an estimated 40,000, are being trafficked to the United Arab Emirates to work as camel jockeys in the popular Bedouin sport.
- These children are starved to keep them small and light for racing; many are injured and dozens are killed each year when the camels stampede; because they are illegal immigrants, their owners never take them to hospital leaving many children permanently handicapped.
- Many are sexually abused. They are lonely and overworked.
- The UN have threatened to ban the sport but it is too popular with the local Arabs.
- Children as young as two are abducted or sold by their families to traffickers.
Camel Racing

What is being done to help?

- In an agreement between UNICEF and the UAE it is illegal for race clubs to use jockeys younger than 15 or weighing less than 45 kilos.
- New centers have been set up to rehabilitate jockeys. They provide education and healthcare for the children. Many children have to be taught how to use cupboards and sleep on beds. US$ 2.7 million has been pledged to integrating jockeys back into society by UNICEF and UAE.
- Authorities are trying to reunite the jockey’s with their families. This is difficult since many don’t remember their families or where they lived. DNA testing is used in some cases.
- The Middle Eastern Gulf state of Qatar is developing robot jockeys to replace the heavily criticised use of children...
What has the UN done?

- 1998: Argentina proposed a convention against ‘trafficking in minors’
- Member States agreed to expand this to all victims, especially concerned by the growing involvement of organised criminal groups
- Member States decided to draw on the Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime
- Adopted in November 2000
- Three purposes of the Protocol:

  “To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; To protect and assist victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and to promote cooperation among States in order to meet these objectives.”
Member States:
- have an ‘obligation to criminalise trafficking’
- will see to the ‘creation of penalties that take into account the grave nature of these offences’
- will ‘investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers’

In terms of law enforcement:
- Member States will exchange info; train their police and courts in prevention, investigation, and human rights; take border measures

In terms of victim protection:
- Member States will ensure privacy, safety, information on proceedings and safe repatriation

In countries of origin:
- The UN will incorporate social and economic campaigns and education