

VIH PROGRAM

Preconference Assignment: Human Trafficking

Imagine being illegally smuggled into a foreign country and forced to sell your body.... this is the experience of millions of people who endure unimaginable brutality every day. The statistics of modern slavery are staggering, and the stories of its victims are shocking. And yet many people don't know that human trafficking exists.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar business and is known as modern day slavery. It is the second largest organized crime and the fast growing worldwide. The victims come from various ethnic groups, ages, gender, and social-economic status. It is a global issue that needs global attention. To prepare yourself for the VIH Fall Leadership Conference, research background information on human trafficking in the country studied abroad. Your research should focus specially on what the government and NGOs are doing in the country in terms of prevention and reintegration. You will be asked to give a 5–10-minute presentation at a roundtable and share your findings with a group. The goal of the research is to be able to understand and grasp the universal trends of human trafficking by learning from each other's presentation.

1. What is the government's stance on human trafficking? What kind of services does the government/non-profit organizations provide for victims
2. What kinds of people are being trafficked (gender, age, ethnic group)?
3. Is the country an exporter or importer of victims? What countries do they come from? What countries to they go to?
4. What industries are they being trafficked into (domestic labor, manual labor, prostitution)?
5. What are the root causes of human trafficking with the country in which you studied abroad and globally?

General Information About Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking involves recruiting, harboring, and transporting human beings by the use of coercion, force, and/or fraud in order to subject them to involuntary acts of sexual exploitation or slave labor, including prostitution, domestic servitude, being and beyond (Source: UN)
 - Majority of victims are women and children
 - Human trafficking is based on a demand and supply; it is a profitable business because humans can be sold again and again
 - Annual profits are billions of dollars
 - In America, the average age that girls enter prostitution is between 12-14
 - Pennsylvania is one of the top 10 states with the highest number of reported trafficking cases
- Please bring these notes with you to the retreat so you can share your insights with the group.

VIH Program | Pre-Retreat Assignments



Resources

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_human.pdf | Background
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/violence-against-women/end-human-trafficking/backgroundinformation/page.do?id=1108423> | Background
http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/labour/Forced_labour/HUMAN_TRAFFICKING_-_THE_FACTS_-_final.pdf | Background
<http://www.humantrafficking.org/> | Information on countries
<http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/> | Information on countries
<http://ex-oriente-lux.org> | Information on how to take action
www.polarisproject.org | Information on how to take action
www.freetheslaves.net | Information on how to take action
www.globalrights.org | Information on how to take action

