Human Trafficking In Southeast Asia.

TOPIC & THESIS STATEMENT

Human trafficking is an illegal form of modern day slavery. Human beings are not property and they are unfortunately being used for forced labor as well as prostitution. How as human beings ourselves can we possibly make a difference to stop this despicable business?

INTRODUCTION

The primary focal point of my research project is human trafficking in SE Asia, why it happens and what we can do to help prevent it. Throughout the world men, women and children are being trafficked into a form of modern day slavery. Mainly women and small children are being forced to perform physical labor including prostitution in several countries. Many women forced into this cruel industry are coming from Asian countries such as Japan, China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and the Philippines. The majority of these women and children are sold into slavery to pay off certain other debts, or they leave their homes in hopes of labor. Unknowingly, they are getting involved in a cruel and sadistic world of forced sex. Many organized gangs including the Japanese Yakuza and the Chinese Triad are involved in human trafficking. It occurs in almost every country on this planet; however, it is mostly successful in environments with a tourism industry or a military presence. I have spent some time in Korea as well as Germany and I noticed a huge amount of women from Asian countries who were being forced to sell their bodies to U.S. Army personnel as well as civilians from those countries. Although, it is illegal, most people just turn a blind eye towards it and allow it to continue, primarily because of the amount of money it brings in to the economy. It is a US$ 5 billion to US$ 9 billion dollar annually industry according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Due to the fact that this industry makes so much money off of it, it is hard to do much about it. There are organizations such as the UN, the Polaris Project, and the US Department of State just to name a few. Unfortunately, it continues to rear its ugly head in our civilization. Everyone can do their part to help fight and prevent human trafficking. Human beings were not created to be sold into modern day slavery. I amassed these resources in order to help others do research and possibly make a difference in this ongoing epidemic.

TOPIC ANALYSIS

Keywords
human, woman, women, children, man
trafficking, harboring, slavery, prostitution, forced labor, transportation, illegal
Southeast Asia, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines, China, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand

ProQuest Topics

Human Trafficking AND Slavery
Human Trafficking AND Prostitution
Human Trafficking AND Forced Labor
Prostitution AND Southeast Asia (location)

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Human Trafficking
Prostitution
Forced Labor

WEB SOURCES RETRIEVED FROM SEARCHING THE OPEN INTERNET


I came across this site by searching Google using the phrase Human Trafficking in SE Asia. It was not the first one I came across rather the last website on the first page but it is informative as well as a scholarly essay. Dr. Chantavanich wrote this essay to outline the ongoing problem of human trafficking in mainland SE Asia. It is intended to give the reader an illustration of trends and ongoing problems faced by the people involved in this industry. It is not current as it was written about 5 years ago but it still has accurate information in it that can help my target audience of individuals that are unknowledgeable of the situation in SE Asia as well as other parts of the globe. There is other articles written by some of Dr. Chantavanich’s peers that are very insightful as well on this website. It is a shame that it is not updated but it still offers up information for the novice in the understanding of human trafficking.

PERIODICAL ARTICLES RETRIEVED FROM SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES


I retrieved this article from ProQuest using the keywords prostitution and SE Asia. It is a very well written article from the Harvard International Relations Council in the summer of 2000. This article written wass written to inform the reader about the various reasons that prostitution and human trafficking in SE Asia continues to be a prosperous and profitable industry that exploits women and
children. She states in her article that “Approximately 60 percent of Thailand's tourists visit solely for sexual purposes.” She discusses how the sex trade can be seen in tourist brochures and how Asian prostitutes are viewed as submissive. Kuo, also gives examples of the U.S. Military and their influence with prostitutes during the Vietnam war. “Between 1957 and 1964, when the US established seven bases in the country, the number of prostitutes rose from 20,000 to an astonishing 400,000.” She also describes how in all Southeast Asian countries prostitution is illegal yet it continues to carry on through fronts such as massage parlors. This article is not primarily focused on human trafficking however, one of the main reasons humans are trafficked is prostitution therefore I felt it was an accurate portrayal of the wrongdoings in Southeast Asia. Also, it gives the reader an insight as to why it is such a popular industry.

BOOKS

This book written by David Batstone is a very instructive source for finding out information on the issues with human trafficking and ways that people like ourselves can fight it. I found this book using the King County Library’s Online catalog. The keywords I used were human trafficking, prostitution and forced labor. I did not get a chance to read this book however; the reviews for it are quite numerous. It is a very recent book as it was published in 2007. Batstone gives insight into the epidemic of modern day slavery and forced labor as well as resources to battle the ongoing issue. “An estimated 27 billion people around the globe suffer in situations of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation from which they cannot free themselves.” Batstone gives information not only of the ongoing problems in Southeast Asia but also in Europe, Africa and South America. This book would be a very realistic resource for finding out information about the criminality involved in human trafficking as well as an excellent resource in helping to combat the problem.

EXTRA CREDIT RESOURCE

SELF EVALUATION
In this class I learned a variety of different ways to find useful information about a variety of different subjects. Not only that but how to access several different portals for research such as ProQuest and LC Subject Headings even down to using Google as a more efficient search engine. I knew about some of the ways to search using an online engine just never knew there was so many specific ways to use it. This class was quite informative in that manner. I have already been using some of the search tips in my
geology class. For example, I have a word such as metamorphic; instead of just typing it in as that word I will include quotes or a .edu so that I know I am getting a site that is educational. It has helped me quite a bit and I currently am holding an A in that class. Furthermore, I have finally figured out (I think) how to cite things using the MLA style. I remember a few years back I had a difficult time citing anything in my English 102 class. Using the numerous resources provided to us, I do not feel that same anxiety when citing my sources. Also, I never knew there were so many ways to cite sources. Overall, I am quite happy I took this class. It was not too much work for a 2 credit class nor did I feel like I was shamming. I do wish that I had more in class time to learn even more.