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## Forced Labor in the United States: A Contemporary Problem in Need of a Contemporary Solution

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## Forced Labor in the United States: A Contemporary Problem in Need of a Contemporary Solution

### Abstract

Legal slavery ended in the United States in 1865, yet the practice of forcing individuals to work against their will, oftentimes in inhumane conditions, continues today. Currently there are around 50,000 people working in forced labor situations in the United States (Bales 47). Although this number is smaller than it was during the 18th century, finding and freeing these individuals is difficult because they are hidden away and exploited. The United States is now at a critical juncture in its struggle to end forced labor. In 2000, the U.S. Government enacted legislation that holds perpetrators of forced labor accountable, and which assists the victims of this crime. Since this date, prosecutions of perpetrators, as well as social and legal services for victims, have increased. However, in order to fully eradicate the problem of forced labor in the United States, the government needs to evaluate the reasons for forced labor within the country, and identify the most useful policies to control this problem.

### Keywords

Human rights, Slavery, Contemporary slavery, Human trafficking, United States

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## **Forced Labor in the United States: A Contemporary Problem in Need of a Contemporary Solution**

**By Chrissey Buckley**

Legal slavery ended in the United States in 1865, yet the practice of forcing individuals to work against their will, oftentimes in inhumane conditions, continues today. Currently there are around 50,000 people working in forced labor situations in the United States (Bales 47). Although this number is smaller than it was during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, finding and freeing these individuals is difficult because they are hidden away and exploited. The United States is now at a critical juncture in its struggle to end forced labor. In 2000, the U.S. Government enacted legislation that holds perpetrators of forced labor accountable, and which assists the victims of this crime. Since this date, prosecutions of perpetrators, as well as social and legal services for victims, have increased. However, in order to fully eradicate the problem of forced labor in the United States, the government needs to evaluate the reasons for forced labor within the country, and identify the most useful policies to control this problem.

Victims of forced labor are trafficked into the United States from a variety of foreign countries, although the majority originates in India, China, Mexico and Vietnam. U.S. citizens have also been targeted for forced labor operations; however, most victims are young runaways and children of foreigners. Victims of forced labor are brought to the United States because there is a market for their services, coupled with poor legislation and inefficient laws that allow the problem to persist. Forced labor operations tend to thrive in industries that offer low wages, where U.S. law requires little or no regulation or monitoring of working conditions, and where a high demand for cheap labor exists. The sectors in which forced labor is most prevalent are sex services, domestic servitude, agriculture, sweatshop, and factory work. Forced labor in these industries is perpetuated by the large potential for profit, and by the small risk of being prosecuted for the crime.

The sector where forced labor is most likely to occur in the United States is sex services. This profitable industry is driven by a demand for cheap sex services and for child sex. Victims are oftentimes trafficked into sexual slavery by migrant smuggling enterprises and organized crime networks. They are brought into the United States under false pretenses of gainful employment, yet once they arrive at their destination, victims are forced to work as strippers and prostitutes for little or no compensation. The lack of safe and legal means of migration to the United States perpetuates this problem, causing people to rely on these networks as a mode for entering the country.

The second highest incidence of forced labor in the United States occurs in domestic services. Here it is driven by the demand for cheap and exploitable household help, a lack of legal protections for domestic workers, and an absence of monitoring agencies. Exploitation of domestic workers is made easy because a number of U.S. laws prevent domestic workers from having a voice. For instance, domestic workers are not considered employees under the National Relations Labor Act (NRLA), which restricts their ability to organize in order to demand higher wages and better treatment. U.S. immigration policy also plays an important role in indirectly supporting forced labor practices because the law stipulates that domestic workers brought to the United States by their employers are required to remain with their original employer or face deportation. This requirement tends to discourage workers from reporting abuses, and places a lot of power in the hands of their employers.

The agricultural sector also experiences a high occurrence of forced labor in the United States. This is due to the absence of labor standards and regulations in the industry, and to the increasing number of undocumented immigrant farm workers that have no legal protection. Currently, farm workers are excluded from the NIRA, which denies them the ability to organize and to form unions. In addition, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) does not guarantee overtime pay to farm workers. FLSA and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) do grant minimum wage and workplace safety protections to farm workers, but these regulations are severely under-enforced. Finally, many farm workers enter the United States illegally, and do not seek help when forced to work without pay and in poor conditions. Since they do not speak English, many are unaware of their rights and fear deportation. All of these factors cause many agricultural workers to live in a situation of poverty and powerlessness that is easy to exploit.

Sweatshop manufacturing, factories in which employers violate labor laws, is another economic sector that utilizes forced labor in the United States. Low-cost imports that create competitive pressures on U.S.-based manufacturers to cut costs perpetuate this problem. Forced labor exists in this industry because U.S. labor laws do not offer adequate protection. For instance, corporations and manufacturers are not held legally responsible when an outside firm that is sub-contracted to produce their product uses forced labor. This allows many manufacturers to profit from forced labor without being held accountable for violating the law. Finally, many manufacturers operate within the informal economy, and evade monitoring or the enforcement of labor laws.

At any given time, tens of thousands of people work as forced laborers across the United States. Of these victims, the Department of Justice estimates that fewer than 1,000 are liberated each year. There are many reasons why so few victims are able to escape their situation. For instance, most victims of forced labor originate from foreign countries and are uneducated, do not speak the language, have no social or family network, fear deportation, and do not trust or have knowledge of the outside world. In addition, many perpetrators use repeated threats and verbal abuse, involuntary confinement, torture, and sexual assault to force their victims into submission. All of these conditions can cause forced labor victims to lose their sense of control, and to become increasingly dependent on those who hold them captive, which oftentimes delays or prevents them from escaping their situation.

In October of 2000, the U.S. Government enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which is instrumental in combating the problem of forced labor. TVPA strengthens domestic criminal laws against human trafficking and forced labor. It provides social services and legal benefits to survivors of these crimes. In addition, TVPA grants funding to support protection programs for survivors in the United States as well as those living abroad. One of the important aspects of this act is that it differentiates between victims of trafficking and forced labor from unauthorized migrants. This distinction grants victims authorization to remain in the United States, even if they entered the country illegally. The law also created the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the State Department, which oversees all efforts to end human trafficking in the United States and abroad.

Despite these considerable advancements, the TVPA has some notable shortcomings. TVPA stipulates that immigration and social services offered to victims are contingent on the willingness of victims to prosecute their perpetrators. This is problematic because many survivors are terrified that their former captors will seek revenge on them or their families if they collaborate with authorities.

In addition, protective and social services are administered through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are not equipped with the personnel or funding necessary to provide the help these individuals need. Finally, the Act makes human trafficking and forced labor a federal crime, enforceable by federal authorities. This causes a severe break down of communication between local and federal law enforcement.

In order to eradicate forced labor, the United States needs to expand and improve its strategy. First, U.S. immigration laws that indirectly contribute to the problem of forced labor must be refined. For example, increasing opportunities for regularized migration and changing visa requirements for foreign workers so that they can change employers would help decrease the vulnerability of workers, and would therefore help to prevent them from falling victim to forced labor. The U.S. government should also increase legal protections of all workers, regardless of their legal standing, and improve the monitoring of working conditions in agriculture, domestic labor, and manufacturing sectors. In addition, the U.S. government needs to promote accountability by making corporations liable for the workers that produce their products. Communication and cooperation between federal and state agencies should be improved. Training on the relevance of forced labor needs to be extended to more agencies and professionals in order to increase their role in identifying, liberating, and supporting victims. Finally, more financial support and training must be offered to NGOs and to social service agencies that work with victims of forced labor.

## **Annotated Bibliography**

### *Introduction to Forced Labor in the United States*

Bales, Kevin. 2004. New Slavery: A Reference Handbook. Second ed. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Annotation: The author of this book offers a detailed overview of contemporary slavery in different countries worldwide. The chapter on slavery in America describes the problem of forced labor in the United States and identifies the steps the country will need to take in order to combat the problem. The first part of the chapter addresses how factors in the economy, the legal system, and immigration policy indirectly support the problem of forced labor in the United States. The chapter then describes different profiles of victims of slavery in the United States, the conditions to which they were exposed while enslaved, and the difficulty they experience in trying to escape their situation. The chapter concludes by stating why increased law enforcement, public awareness, and support for victims and survivors of slavery are necessary for combating this problem.

Gilmore, Janet. 2004. "Modern Slavery Thriving in the U.S." *UC Berkeley News*.  
[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/09/23\\_16691.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/09/23_16691.shtml)

Annotation: This press release by the University of California at Berkeley summarizes major findings of the 2004 report "Hidden Slaves: Forced Labor in the United States." This report was written by the University of California, Berkeley's Human Rights Center and the Washington

D.C.-based, anti-slavery group Free the Slaves. The press release briefly recounts the demographics of victims of forced labor in the United States, the sectors of the economy where forced labor is most prevalent, and the reasons why forced labor has been allowed to persist in the United States. The press release also summarizes five incidents of forced labor in the United States that are described in more detail in the 2004 report.

Human Rights Education Associates. "Slavery and Forced Labor."

<http://www.hrea.org/learn/guides/slavery.html#rights>.

Annotation: This web site offers a guide on forced labor and modern slavery. It gives a brief definition of slavery and a brief description of the 1926 Slavery Convention. The website also describes the different forms of forced labor and slavery that are prevalent in the world today. It also highlights the efforts of large international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the African Union, and the Organization of American States, to combat the problems of forced labor and slavery in the world. The website additionally provides a list of sources for teachers of forced labor and slavery.

Ralph, Regan E.. 2000. "International Trafficking of Women and Children: Human Rights Watch."

<http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/wrd/trafficking.htm>

Annotation: This report summarizes research conducted by Human Rights Watch on the problem of human trafficking around the world. The author uses this research to highlight consistent patterns that emerge in human trafficking cases, regardless of the victim's situation. In all cases, the author points out, coercive tactics of traffickers, including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force, and/or debt bondage, are used to recruit and enslave victims. The article then describes how the U.S. Government's efforts to combat trafficking have been inadequate, and how the United States needs to use its influence to promote human rights and women's rights around the world.

Tuller, David. 2005. "Freedom Denied; Forced Labor in California." *The Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley*. [http://www.law.berkeley.edu/clinics/ihrcl/pdf/Freedom\\_Denied.pdf](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/clinics/ihrcl/pdf/Freedom_Denied.pdf)

Annotation: This report lays out the problem of forced labor in California. It highlights the strengths of the U.S. Federal Government's efforts to eradicate the problem, and also demonstrates how these efforts are undermined by deficient state laws. The article calls on state lawmakers to adopt effective legislation that will increase prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking and forced labor, to provide adequate protections and services to victims and their families, and to establish a statewide coordinating agency that will generate policies and programs aimed at eradicating this problem.

*Demographic of Victims of Forced Labor in the United States*

Gonzales, David. 2007. "When American Dream Leads to Servitude." *New York Times* April 27, p. B1.

Annotation: This article examines the reasons why many victims of forced labor are foreign-born. Enticed by their captors with promises of better lives and opportunities in the United States, hundreds of thousands of victims of forced labor are trafficked into the United States to perform domestic duties, to work in factories and agricultural fields, or to work as prostitutes. The author of this article points out that although human trafficking has been a federal crime since 2000, states have been slow in adopting similar laws. This has prevented many perpetrators from being prosecuted. In order to illustrate that this problem is not a priority for state officials, the author describes the efforts of New York State Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz in his three-year effort to pass a law enabling local law enforcement and prosecutors to go after perpetrators of forced labor.

King, Gilbert. 2004. *Woman, Child for Sale: The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century*. New York: Chamberlain Brothers.

Annotation: The author of this book describes the process of human trafficking into forced labor. The author uses several case studies of victims of trafficking and forced labor from around the world to illustrate how the industry operates. The book describes how and from where the victims are recruited, in addition to discussing what happens to them once they reach the country in which they are sold. In particular, the book presents a chapter on domestic/internal trafficking within the United States, pointing out that many victims of forced labor are U.S. citizens. The book concludes by highlighting the steps that the U.S. Government has taken to protect victims of forced labor, and by providing suggestions on regarding further action that needs to be taken.

*Sex Slaves and Prostitution*

U.S Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report." 2006. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of State. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf>.

Annotation: The 6<sup>th</sup> annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" released by the U.S. Department of State gives an updated, global look at the nature and scope of modern-day slavery, in addition to highlighting the broad range of actions being taken by governments around the world to confront and eliminate this problem. The focus of this year's report is on incidents of slave labor and sexual slavery that occur around the world. The report discusses the public health implications of sexual slavery, as well as the U.S. Government's efforts to reduce the demand for sexual services, both within the United States and abroad. The report also addresses the exploitation of migrant workers. Finally, the report discusses the problem of child-sex tourism and the United States' response to the problem.

*Domestic Service*

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. 2002. Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Annotation: This book focuses partially on forced labor in the United States. The author begins with several case studies of foreign women forced to work as maids and caregivers for families in the United States. The author then proceeds to explain how failing economies in developing nations have led to the increased occurrence of forced labor in the United States. Next, the author describes how traffickers manipulate and deceive migrants into agreeing to come to the United States to work. Part of the chapter also depicts the patterns of abuse and exploitation that these workers experience, in addition to the tactics their employers use to prevent them from seeking help. The chapter concludes with possible solutions to combating this problem, such as increased public awareness, stricter legal penalties for perpetrators, and the creation of more social services for victims.

*Agricultural*

Human Rights Watch. 2005. "Human Rights of Florida's Farm Workers are under Serious Threat." <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/02/usdom10284.htm>.

Annotation: This letter, submitted by five human rights organizations to the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, concerns the question of corporate and government responsibility for the poor human rights conditions of agricultural workers in Florida. The letter addresses human rights violations that are common in this sector, such as forced labor and slavery, poor working conditions, poor health care, and low wages. The letter suggests ways that the U.S. Government can effectively protect agricultural workers in Florida, and how it can prevent further human rights violations from occurring. The letter also points out how the private sector, and the corporate sector in particular, can use their influence to improve the human rights situation in this sector.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2005. "Immigrant Workers in the United States Meat and Poultry Industry." <http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/usa/un-sub1005>.

Annotation: This document, submitted by Human Rights Watch (HRW) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Committee on Migrant Workers, asks the commission to support advocates that are seeking full protection of the rights of immigrant workers in the meat and poultry industry in the United States. The article gives an accurate account of the plight of immigrant workers in this industry. The authors claim that the failure of the U.S. Government to accord rights, recognition, and respect to immigrant workers, despite their significant contributions to the economy, is the main cause of their exploitation. The document includes a review of the 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision that undermined international human rights



and labor rights standards, which grants all workers—whatever their immigration status—the same basic rights.

“Like Machines in the Fields: Workers without Rights in American Agriculture.” 2004.  
[http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/research\\_reports](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/research_reports).

Annotation: This report documents the continuing erosion of farm workers’ economic, social, and political rights in the United States. The author demonstrates how the effects of globalization have caused many agricultural companies in the United States to subject their workers to inhumane working conditions, and to pay them low wages in order to be competitive. The authors also show how these conditions are perpetuated by U.S. labor laws, which deny farm workers the protections necessary to organize and join unions, earn overtime pay, protections for child labor, and in the case of farm workers employed on small farms, even minimum wage compensation. The report also explains how poor labor laws have left little protection for the abuse of farm workers, forcing many to work against their will with little or no compensation.

Peterson, Carl. 2004. “Trading People: Slavery and Migration in the 21st Century.” In Transnational America; Contours of Modern US Culture, edited by R. Ducan and C. Juncker. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press.

Annotation: This chapter attempts to account for the resurgence of slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The author claims that both the legacy of colonialism and the increasing integration of the global economy have caused slavery to increase world-wide. In the article, the author examines the exploitation of Mexican migrant workers in the agricultural industry of the United States. This example illustrates how free trade has led to an increase in the trading of people.

Thompson, Jr., Charles D. and Melinda F. Wiggins, eds. 2002. The Human Cost of Food: Farmworkers’ Lives, Labor and Advocacy. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Annotation: This book contains a collection of essays about migrant farm workers in the United States and concentrates particularly on case studies of migrant farm communities in the southeast. It outlines the challenges these communities face in accessing health care, housing, education, and legal and protective services. In particular, Chapter Five, “Farmworker Exceptionalism under the Law,” examines deficiencies of the U.S. legal system with regard to the protection of farm workers. The chapter demonstrates how this deficiency has contributed to the perpetuation of a situation of poverty and powerlessness amongst farm workers, and addresses how this situation often leads to the exploitation of such workers.

*Sweatshop/Factory*

Compa, Lance, and Jamie Fellner. 2005. "Meatpacking's Human Toll." *Washington Post*, August 3, 2005, 19A. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/02/AR2005080201936.html>

Annotation: This article raises concerns about the working conditions in U.S. meat and poultry plants. The article shows how the U.S. meat and poultry workers are at risk of serious physical injury, even though the means used to avoid such injury are known and feasible. The majority of workers who face these hazards are increasingly immigrants— mostly from Mexico and Central America. The article points out how meatpacking companies are able to violate the worker's rights by exploiting workers' vulnerabilities: limited English skills, uncertainty of their rights, and concern about their immigration status if they are undocumented workers. In addition, the article explains how the U.S. Government does little to protect meatpacking workers, and to prevent the tactics of fear, intimidation, and interference that companies use to prevent workers from seeking justice.

Human Rights Watch 2004. "Blood, Sweat, and Fear; Workers' Rights in U.S. Meat and Poultry Plants." <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/usa0105/usa0105.pdf>.

Annotation: This report examines the lack of workers' rights and the dangerous and difficult conditions that workers face in American beef, pork, and poultry slaughtering and processing plants. The author claims that poor labor laws provide little or no protection for these workers. As a result, many workers, especially those who are immigrants, are exploited. Language difficulties oftentimes prevent immigrant workers from being aware of their rights under the law, and of specific hazards in their work. Immigrant workers who are undocumented, as many are, also risk deportation if they seek to organize and to improve conditions. The report concludes with recommendations for changes in the poultry industry to health/safety and workers' compensation regulations, and for greater protection of workers' rights to organize.

Rosen, Ellen Israel. 2002. Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: The author of this book analyzes the effect of globalization on the U.S. apparel industry. The book takes a historical approach to outline the positive and negative repercussions that globalization has produced. In particular, the chapter entitled "Apparel Retailing in the United States, from Mom-and-Pop Shop to Transnational Corporations" is effective in describing how the globalization of this industry has driven down the price of clothes to a record low, causing an increasing number of companies in the United States to outsource their production to inexpensive overseas labor. In addition, this chapter describes how the consumer demand for low cost apparel has also increased the use of forced labor within the United States.

Varia, Nisha. 2007. "International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery." Human Rights Watch. <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/10/18/usint17127.htm>.

Annotation: This written statement, released by Human Rights Watch (HRW), offers a brief summary of the causes of exploitation of migrant workers around the world. The statement was written to address the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, with regard to a then-upcoming review of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA). The report summarizes the key findings and recommendations of a five-year study on migrant workers, trafficking, and forced labor. The document singles out inadequate or faulty governmental policies as key factors that place certain groups of migrants and workers at great risk of abuse.

### *Victims and Perpetrators*

Cole, Thomas P. 2007. "Modern Slavery, A Hidden Crime in the U.S." *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 294(5): 2.

Annotation: The author of this brief article seeks to inform the medical community about forced labor issues in the United States. The article highlights the different ways in which individuals are trafficked into slavery, and addresses the reasons why these victims tend to stay with their captors. The article also identifies ways in which the medical community can identify and reach out to victims of forced labor in order to inform them of their rights and to encourage them to leave their situation.

France, David. 2000. "Slavery's New Face:." *Newsweek*, December 18, p.1.

Annotation: This article offers a brief introduction to the growing problem of forced labor in the United States. The article highlights a case study of a Cameroonian women forced to work as a domestic servant in a Washington D.C. household. The author uses this study to demonstrate how victims of forced labor are trafficked from their countries of origin to the United States, and discusses the tactics their perpetrators use to prevent them from seeking help. The article also includes a brief overview of a bill passed during the Clinton Administration that gives temporary asylum to the victims of forced labor, and which makes life in prison a possible penalty for the enslaver.

Henderson, Ky. 1997. "The New Slavery." *Human Rights: Journal of the Section of Individual Rights & Responsibilities*. 24 (4) (Fall).

Annotation: This article briefly describes four cases of large-scale forced labor incidents that involved migrant workers in the agricultural and garment industries of the United States during the Clinton Administration. The author then uses these cases to illustrate how forced labor is

perpetuated in the United States. The claim is made that the large profit made by perpetrators of forced labors, combined with insufficient laws to hold these individuals accountable, are responsible for perpetuating the problem of forced labor in the United States. The article specifically blames current U.S. labor laws that do not hold businesses accountable for laborers hired through middlemen.

Quirk, Joel. 2007. "Trafficked into Slavery." *Journal of Human Rights*. 6 (2):26.

Annotation: This author evaluates the concept of historical slavery, and addresses the effects of these concepts on contemporary understandings of human trafficking and forced labor. The author shows how these concepts, first dominated by the pre-19<sup>th</sup> Century slave trade and then by the post-WWI image of the sexual slave trade, have dissuaded governments and citizens from recognizing the realities of human trafficking and forced labor in the modern world. The author also suggests that although the problem of forced labor and human trafficking is beginning to be recognized within the United States, many efforts of these anti-trafficking/forced labor advocates are being overshadowed as victims' stories are being merged with the politics that surround immigration and migrant workers in the United States.

#### *The U.S. Government's Role*

Bales, Kevin, and Steven Lize. 2005. "Trafficking in Persons in the United States." <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/211980.pdf>.

Annotation: This detailed report uses raw data collected from seventy-three interviews of victims trafficked into slavery in the United States in order to identify how action by law enforcement, civil society, business, and the public would be most effective in leading to a more successful prevention of trafficking. Such action would also enable the discovery, liberation, improved care and rehabilitation of victims, and increase prosecution that will shut down trafficking operations. The report concludes by addressing how these actions can be implemented by the United States Government in order to make the country a harder target for criminal traffickers.

Brinkley, Joel. 2000. "Vast Trade in Forced Labor Portrayed in C.I.A. Report." *New York Times*, April 2, p. 22.

Annotation: This article evaluates the findings of the 2000 C.I.A report - "Internal Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery." According to the article, the report is based on over 150 interviews with law enforcement officials, victims, and experts of forced labor in the United States. The article paints a brief picture of the pervasive problem of forced labor in the United States, and describes the difficulty government agencies face in combating the problem. According to the article, the report indicates a consistent increase in the incidents of forced labor in the United States reported by law enforcement. However, these cases prove increasingly difficult to prosecute and to investigate, which indicates that the country does not have sufficient laws aimed at combating this problem.

“Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery: Hearing before the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary.” 2004. Washington D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.  
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/17nov20051300/www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/pdf/108hrg/96285.pdf>.

Annotation: This lengthy report examines the efforts of the U.S. Government to combat human trafficking and slavery across the United States. The report details testimonies from representatives of five non-governmental organizations, as well as from a series of individuals with experience and expertise in human slavery and forced labor. The report also investigates the U.S. Justice Department’s efforts to protect victims of human trafficking and slavery, to punish the perpetrators, and to prevent others from suffering the same fate. The testimonies include accounts of forced labor and human trafficking that occur along the U.S.-Mexico boarder, in addition to providing several accounts of children trafficked into sexual slavery. The report also addresses the importance of raising public awareness as an effective tool to combat the problem.

Melby, Todd. 2004. “U.S. Targets Sexual Slavery World Wide and Within Its Borders.” *Contemporary Sexuality* 38 (5):1-5.

Annotation: This article offers a brief introduction to recent efforts made by the United States to combat domestic and international incidents of forced labor and sexual slavery. The author of this article examines the Trafficking Victims Protection Act enacted by the United States Government in 2000. The author claims that this law, which legally requires abusers to pay restitution, allows victims to apply for a U.S. visa, and pressures foreign governments to crack down on sexual slavery and forced labor within their own countries, has been an important step in combating the problem worldwide. The author also offers a brief description of how victims of forced labor can report this information to authorities.

“Modern Day Slavery: Spotlight on the 2006 ‘Trafficking in Persons Report,’ Forced Labor, and Sex Trafficking at the World Cup: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations of the Committee on International Relations.” 2006. Washington: U.S. G.P.O.  
<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/archives/109/28104.PDF>.

Annotation: This detailed report describes the findings in the U.S. State Department’s sixth annual “Trafficking in Persons Report.” The report focuses on progress made by the United States Government in combating human trafficking and forced labor. It also addresses significant challenges that remain ahead. Much of the report recounts issues of sex trafficking in connection with the 2006 World Cup Soccer Championship; however, the document does touch on human trafficking and forced labor in the United States. Pages 5-6 report on the problem of trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States, and on the domestic trafficking of U.S.

citizens. Pages 38-40 address forced labor issues in the United States and the tactics used by perpetrators to keep their victims enslaved.

“Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons: How are we Doing? Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations.” 2002. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.  
<http://bulk.resource.org/gpo.gov/hearings/107s/80844.pdf>.

Annotation: This report assesses the efforts of the U.S. Federal Government to combat forced labor and human trafficking one year after the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The document consists of a series of testimonies from experts that explain how various agencies in the U.S. Government have failed to assume the responsibilities imposed upon them by this act. It also examines how poorly designed programs and the lack of interagency coordination prevent victims of trafficking in the United States from getting the assistance they need. In addition, the testimonies suggest that many victims are still not recognized as trafficking victims due to a lack of effective training for local law enforcement.

“The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking: An Overview: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness of the Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives. 2003. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.  
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/11may20041230/www.access.gpo.gov/congress/ho-use/pdf/108hr9/93282.pdf>.

Annotation: This lengthy report documents the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 hearing on human trafficking and slavery that was held before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness. The report records several testimonies of government officials and outside experts on various forms of human trafficking and slavery around the world. The purpose of the hearing was ultimately to examine the practices of human trafficking and slavery around the world, and to illuminate the ways in which the United States is attempting to combat these illicit practices on both domestic and international levels. Although much of the report focuses primarily on the global problem of slavery and human trafficking, it also touches on trafficking and slavery issues that are prevalent in the United States. In each testimony, experts suggest ways that the U.S. Government can strengthen their own efforts as well as the efforts of other governments to combat this problem.



“Trafficking in Persons: the Federal Government’s Approach to Eradicate this Worldwide Problem: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness of the Committee on Government Reform.” 2004. Washington D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108\\_house\\_hearings&docid=f:97774.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_house_hearings&docid=f:97774.pdf).

Annotation: This detailed report examines the practice of human trafficking and slavery around the world, and addresses the ways in which the United States is attempting to combat these illicit practices both domestically and on an international scale. The report illustrates how the large profit potential of human trafficking and forced labor perpetuate the problem. It also outlines recent efforts of the U.S. Federal Government to strengthen its policies to combat trafficking and slavery, and examines the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that build programs to address this illicit industry. The report examines how the efforts of these NGOs have enhanced the quality of life for victims of these crimes. The report also details a series of testimonies from experts who debate the public policy implications of trafficking in the United States.

U.S. Department of State. 2005. “The Facts About Human Trafficking for Forced Labor.” Washington D.C.: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/51174.pdf>.

Annotation: This report, released by the U.S. State Department, offers a brief summary of the international problem of human trafficking and forced labor. The report begins with a general definition of human trafficking and summarizes the most common reasons for human trafficking in the world. The article then goes on to describe the most common forms of forced labor around the world, and addresses some of the consequences that the victims suffer while enslaved. The article ends with a bulleted list of procedures the United States is taking to combat the problem of human trafficking, both domestically and abroad.

U.S. Department of State. 2005. “Trafficking in Persons Report.” Washington D.C.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf>.

Annotation: This report, released by the U.S. Department of State in 2005, describes both the global problem of human trafficking and slavery, and the efforts of governments, international organizations, NGOs, and the media to eliminate the problem. Page twenty of the report discusses effective strategies that governments can use to combat trafficking and human slavery. Page 239 gives a detailed description of what the U.S. Government is doing to combat this problem both within the country and within the international community. This description includes a summary of the Protect Act of 2003, which was designed to protect children from slavery and to severely punish those who victimize young people. It also allows law enforcement officers to prosecute American citizens and residents who travel abroad to sexually and commercially abuse minors

U.S. Department of State. 2007. "Trafficking in Persons Report." Washington D.C.  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>.

Annotation: This report, released annually by the U.S. State Department, presents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of forced labor. It also addresses the broad range of actions being taken by governments around the world to confront and to eliminate the problem. This Report covers the period from April 2006 through March 2007. Page forty highlights the problem of forced labor in the United States, and outlines what the government is doing to combat the problem. The report discusses the accomplishments of the U.S. Government in terms of what they have done to increase the prosecution of perpetrators, to prevent forced labor incidents from occurring, and to protect victims of this crime.

*Conclusion: Suggestions for Strengthening Efforts to Combat the Problem*

van den Anker, Christien L., and Jeroen Doomernik, eds. 2006. Trafficking and Women's Rights. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Annotation: Chapter seven of this book compares the strengths and weaknesses of anti-trafficking legislation in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States. The author examines these countries because they are all considered destinations for victims of human trafficking and are rarely the country of origin. The focus of the article is on the importance of viewing human trafficking as a human rights issue, rather than discussing it as a security or immigration issue. The article demonstrates how these approaches do not view these individuals as victims of a crime, but instead view them an illegal alien or as a law enforcement strategy.

Patten, Wendy. 2004. "U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery." Human Rights Watch. [http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/15/usdom9075\\_txt.htm](http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/15/usdom9075_txt.htm).

Annotation: This testimony by Human Rights Watch to the Senate Judiciary Committee addresses ways in which the U.S. Government can more effectively prosecute traffickers and protect victims of forced labor in the United States. The author claims that the United States should ratify the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which requires governments to criminalize human trafficking and to provide assistance and protection to victims. The article also suggests that the U.S. Government provide witness and victim protection services for victims and their families, and that the government expand efforts to train federal law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim-witness personnel. Finally, the author claims that the United States is in a unique position to influence foreign governments to take similar action in order to combat this problem.



Richardson, Amy O'Neill. 1999. "Internal Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery in Organized Crime." Center for the Study of Intelligence. <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/books-and-monographs/trafficking.pdf>

Annotation: The author of this report identifies reasons for the existence of and ways to reduce the incidences of forced labor and human trafficking within the United States. The report explains how weak economies and few job opportunities in foreign countries, low risk of prosecution and enormous profit potential for traffickers, and improved international transportation infrastructures contribute to the rise of human trafficking and forced labor in the United States. The author concludes by explaining how targeted prevention methods and microcredit strategies in the source countries, strengthening penalties and laws against traffickers in the United States, and enhancing assistance and protections for the victims can reduce the problems of forced labor and trafficking.

Shigekane, Rachel. 2007. "Rehabilitation and Community Integration of Trafficking Survivors in the United States." *Human Rights Quarterly* 29(1):112-136.

Annotation: The article describes the rehabilitation process of forced labor victims and addresses the multiple challenges they face in integrating back into society. The article also examines the effectiveness of the variety of services and advocacy programs that were formed after the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and suggests ways in which these programs can more effectively help victims integrate into new communities. It furthermore outlines different types of rehabilitation services and programs that victims may need in order to live independently and self-sufficiently. Lastly, the article examines the complex reactions of immigrant communities to incidents of trafficking and forced labor.