

Human Rights & Human Welfare

Volume 9 | Issue 1


Article 29

2009

Globalization and Human Trafficking

Devin Brewer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/hrhw>

 Part of the [Human Rights Law Commons](#), [International Humanitarian Law Commons](#), and the [International Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brewer, Devin (2009) "Globalization and Human Trafficking," *Human Rights & Human Welfare*: Vol. 9: Iss. 1, Article 29.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/hrhw/vol9/iss1/29>



All Rights Reserved.

This Topical Research Digest is brought to you for free and open access by the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Human Rights & Human Welfare by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu, dig-commons@du.edu.

Globalization and Human Trafficking

Abstract

"International cruise line seeks attractive and adventuresome hostess to greet passengers. See the world, meet new people and earn a stable income!" –sounds innocuous enough until a destitute and unwitting applicant with seemingly nothing to lose is recruited from her home country and arrives at her destination only to be forced into prostitution. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 2.4 billion people in the world at any given time involved in forced labor and subjected to exploitation as a result of trafficking (ILO 2008).

Keywords

Human rights, Human trafficking, Contemporary slavery, Forced labor

Copyright Statement / License for Reuse



All Rights Reserved.

Publication Statement

Copyright is held by the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. User is responsible for all copyright compliance.

Globalization and Human Trafficking

By Devin Brewer

“International cruise line seeks attractive and adventuresome hostess to greet passengers. See the world, meet new people and earn a stable income!” –sounds innocuous enough until a destitute and unwitting applicant with seemingly nothing to lose is recruited from her home country and arrives at her destination only to be forced into prostitution. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 2.4 billion people in the world at any given time involved in forced labor and subjected to exploitation as a result of trafficking (ILO 2008).

As per the definition derived by the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, “trafficking in persons means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons either by threat or use of abduction, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or by the giving or receiving of unlawful payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having the control over another person for the purpose of exploitation” (Martin & Miller 2000).

As the world “shrinks” and evolves toward a sort of global community, the transfer of people both voluntary and coerced is becoming more prevalent. The condensing of the world can be attributed to the process of globalization. It is in large part due to globalization that human trafficking has become such a lucrative and thus, fast-growing criminal activity

Globalization is the development of an increasingly integrated global economy marked especially by free trade, free flow of capital, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labor markets that transcend nation-state boundaries (Webster.com). In part, globalization disseminates practices, values, technology, and other human products throughout the globe (Bales 2005). It must be acknowledged that forms of slavery and human trafficking are not just outcomes of globalization; they are part of the globalization process itself that involves a functional integration of dispersed economic activities. To illustrate this phenomenon, author Kevin Bales offers the example of the woman recruited in Thailand, and subsequently trafficked to other states as a sex-slave who generates money that is in turn recycled back into the Thailand brothel economy.

It is with the nexus of globalization and human trafficking that this essay is concerned and will endeavor to elucidate throughout.

Economic Globalization as a Facilitator of Human Trafficking

The process of globalization is especially pronounced and entrenched in the world economy. An increasingly integrated world economy enables human trafficking to thrive. Just like the slavery of old, modern day trafficking of humans is a lucrative business that has only become more rewarding for traffickers with the advent of globalization. In fact, the trans-Atlantic slave trade of centuries ago epitomized economic globalization. Just as it was back then, human trafficking, as abhorrent as it is, remains a matter of supply and demand. To corroborate this stark and unfortunate economic reality, the ILO estimates that annual global profits generated from trafficking amount to around U.S. \$32 billion (ILO 2008).

Polakoff submits that economic globalization has led to a form of “global apartheid” and a corresponding emergence of a new “fourth world” populated by millions of homeless, incarcerated, impoverished, and otherwise socially excluded people (Polakoff 2007). It is from this pool of “fourth world” denizens where victims of human trafficking are increasingly drawn. From this perspective, economic globalization is the prime culprit of the facilitation of an exorbitant number of vulnerable trafficking victims worldwide. More precisely, according to the U.S. Department of State’s 2008 report, about 600,000 to 800,000 people—mostly women and children—are trafficked across national borders. In this age of globalization, one can only expect these numbers to escalate as the inequalities and the economic disparities between the developing and developed worlds continue at the present pace.

Globalization fosters interdependence between states for commerce and facilitates the transfer of commodities. Comparative advantage in goods and cheap labor in developing states has played a significant role in objectifying and exploiting humans for economic ends. In developing states where agrarian lifestyles once predominated, citizens are left without an education or the appropriate skills to compete in an evolving work-force. To a large extent, the lesser developed countries of the world have become the factories and workshops for the developed countries. A high demand for cheap labor by multinational corporations in developed countries has resulted in the trafficking and exploitation of desperate workers who, in turn, are subjected to a lifetime of slave-like conditions.

Victims and Perpetrators: The Usual Suspects

As socio-economically disadvantaged people improvise to salvage a livelihood in a transforming world, opportunistic predators seize upon the vulnerability of the desperate. Women and children are the most vulnerable and thus, principle victims of traffickers who coerce their services predominantly in the sex industries. Otherwise, forced labor and slavery in any capacity is a common fate for trafficked humans; victims may just as easily include men in addition to women and children.

Chief among traffickers are organized criminal syndicates that capitalize on a lucrative sex-trafficking industry that has met with an insatiable demand. In particular, crime syndicates are notorious for their aplomb in identifying vulnerable females who entertain visions of a better life and may thus be more susceptible to deceptive job opportunities in a foreign country. Once they arrive in the “destination” country, it is often too late for these vulnerable women to escape the web of deceit as they are relegated to a life of slavery.

The ultimate icon of globalization, the internet, has also proven to facilitate the trafficking of individuals. Traffickers can now, from the comfort of their own lairs, lure women into trafficking under the guise of mundane job advertisements in foreign countries.

Globalization *Against* Human Trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution

As a result of the underground nature of their trade, traffickers often manage to stay one step ahead of law enforcement. Heretofore, globalization has largely facilitated human trafficking while accordingly serving to impede counter-trafficking efforts. State-centered approaches to combat trafficking are proving obsolete and futile since human trafficking knows no state boundaries. As such, many proponents of a globalized law-enforcement network, such as Christien van den Anker,

advocate a concerted cosmopolitan attack against trafficking that encourages law enforcement collaboration across state boundaries.

International Institutions such as Interpol, the U.N., and a host of NGOs are teaming up to combat human trafficking. Following the adoption of the Palermo Protocol initiated by the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, many states have enacted new anti-trafficking laws or sought to bring their laws in line with international standards to propagate awareness of the problem, to prevent trafficking, and to protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

Furthermore, numerous activists against human trafficking have proposed a multi-tiered approach to combat globalized human trafficking that assume a more pro-active stance compared to what has historically been a reactive struggle against trafficking. Many of these approaches advocate programs and methods that dissuade the trafficking of humans in the first place. Author Vanessa Baird advocates education programs designed to discourage men from soliciting sex. Baird also promotes the new global trend started by Sweden in 1998 of approaching the problem from the “demand” side by pursuing and prosecuting the traffickers and those seeking these illicit services as opposed to the sex-workers themselves.

Kevin Bales also presents the novel suggestion of calling on researchers to follow the flow of raw materials from slave to marketplace to identify corporations linked to slavery and instances of forced labor facilitated by trafficking.

The Battle Wages On

In the enticing interest of potential colossal profits, criminal elements continue to elude law enforcement measures through an array of complex and evasive tactics. Traditionally well-organized criminal syndicates, such as the Chinese Triads or the Russian Mafia, have made trafficking in humans a cornerstone of their lucrative yet largely illicit activities. Because they are so well-networked across borders, elaborate money-laundering schemes have sprung up where proceeds from trafficking are remitted to “underground” banks in countries where the rule of law is weak thus, exacerbating law enforcement abilities to connect the monies to the crimes (Lan, 2004).

Although it is often speculated that the market in humans as trafficked commodities supersedes states’ capabilities to control trafficking, it remains the obligation of international NGOs and nation-state law enforcement agencies to collaborate to adopt a multi-tiered approach to counter the scourge of human trafficking.

Only with the continued advent and implementation of novel approaches geared toward the elimination of human trafficking can the global community and law enforcement institutions stymie the spread of the global pandemic of human trafficking that afflicts humanity.

Annotations

Baird, Vanessa. 2007. “Trafficked.” *New Internationalist* (404):4-7.

Annotation: The article reports on the trafficking of women sold into sexual slavery, and describes the deceitful tactics used to trick women into becoming sex slaves. The author

deems the sex trade a worldwide epidemic that has metastasized since the mid 1990s. The author conveys the negative repercussions of economic globalization and its unwitting promotion of sex trafficking. The article includes examples of education programs designed to discourage men from soliciting sex, and also the new global trend started by Sweden in 1998 of pursuing and prosecuting the traffickers and those seeking these illicit services as opposed to targeting the sex-workers themselves.

Bales, Kevin. 2004. Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: The author highlights a modern form of slavery attributable to three interrelated factors: a population explosion that has inundated world markets with impoverished and desperate people; economic globalization and modernized agriculture that has made agrarian lifestyles increasingly obsolete; and rapid economic change in developing countries that has bred corruption and violence while simultaneously destroying social norms. All of these phenomena are brought to light through the author's use of country and individual case studies. The author presents suggestions for combating this "new" slavery including calling on researchers to follow the flow of raw materials from slave to marketplace to identify corporations linked to slavery. This is a comprehensive analysis of globalization and its detrimental socio-economic repercussions that increase vulnerability to trafficking within certain demographics.

Bales, Kevin. 2000. "Expendable People: Slavery in the Age of Globalization." *Journal of International Affairs* 53 (2):461.

Annotation: This broad article deals more with slavery than with human trafficking in particular. However, it contains a section in which globalization is defined, and in which the facilitation of trafficking across nation-states is discussed. The author shows how forms of slavery have evolved by making a comparison between old and new usages of slaves. The author stresses that new forms of slavery and human trafficking are not just outcomes of economic globalization, but are part of the globalization process itself as people become commercialized and are exploited for a variety of different reasons.

Bales, Kevin. 2005. Understanding Global Slavery: A Reader. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: Bales renders a concise working definition of globalization as it pertains to the facilitation of human trafficking. Specifically, Bales considers globalization a process that, in part, disseminates practices, values, technology, and other human products throughout the globe. Bales alludes to the fact that economic globalization and the facilitation of trade between nation-states has contributed a great deal to the trafficking of humans across state boundaries.

Bertone, Andrea M. 2004. "Transnational Activism to Combat Trafficking in Persons." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 10 (2):9-22.

Annotation: This article focuses on transnational efforts to combat trafficking. The author highlights three themes: sex trafficking vs. labor trafficking; legalization vs. abolition; and supply vs. demand. The author awards credit to NGOs for campaigns to clamp down on violence against women for having a positive effect in the global campaign to combat trafficking. However, the author expresses frustration with the global governance structure. Namely, the author denounces a lack of coordination between NGOs, international institutions, and state governments.

Biemann, Ursula. 2002. "Remotely Sensed: A Topography of the Global Sex Trade." *Feminist Review* (70):75-88.

Annotation: The author alludes to the notion that globalization is a "gendered" process that, in particular, makes women most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Much discourse is dedicated to the idea that large syndicates alone are not culpable for human trafficking, but rather smaller groups acquainted with the trafficked people themselves are responsible. This is an authoritative source specific to the trafficking of women and not useful for understanding the whole spectrum of human trafficking.

Cao, Lan. 2004. "The Transnational and Sub-National in Global Crimes." *Berkeley Journal of International Law* 22(1): 59-97.

Annotation: The author refers to specific organized crime groups such as the Chinese Triads and the Russian and Italian Mafias responsible for a considerable share of global human trafficking. The author notes that the market supersedes states' capabilities to control trafficking especially when proceeds are laundered and remitted to underground banks around the world that operate in cultures where the absence of rule of law hinders international crackdowns on these operations.

Chastain, Claudine. 2006. "The Nexus Between Free Trade Agreements and the Trafficking of Human Beings." *Washington University Global Studies Law Review* 5 (587).

Annotation: The author touches on the notion that free trade agreements between nation-states exacerbate the existing deficiencies in the underdeveloped state when state institutions are weak and do not assist poorer demographics. The author presents statistics indicating that poverty increased in Mexico after a free trade agreement was signed with the United States. This article is germane for those trying to understand how foreign policy, coupled with economic globalization, facilitates human trafficking across state borders.

Chuang, Janie. 2006. "Beyond a Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy." *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* 13 (1):137-163.

Annotation: The author argues that current legal responses to human trafficking fail to address the socio-economic causes that make people vulnerable to trafficking to begin with. Instead of solely focusing on the prosecution of traffickers, there should be a push throughout the international community to promote basic economic, social, and cultural rights. The absence of these rights, especially in the underdeveloped world, has perpetuated the trafficking of humans. By advocating grass-roots remedies, the author takes a pro-active and pre-emptive approach to eradicating human trafficking; it is an approach that is oftentimes overlooked in other works on the topic.

Farr, Kathryn. 2005. Sex trafficking: The global market in women and children. New York: Worth Publishers.

Annotation: The purpose of this book is to spread the word about the trafficking industry- its sources, operations and structures. The author offers a feminist perspective based on the notion that oppression of women and trafficking are attributable to a globalized patriarchal society. Farr also details the various networks that perpetrate human trafficking and how their jobs are facilitated by a global economy that contributes to a lack of job opportunities for women in underdeveloped countries. This is a helpful account and description of why and how women are targeted by traffickers.

Flowers, R. Barri. 2001. "The Sex Trade Industry's Worldwide Exploitation of Children." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 575:147-157.

Annotation: This article examines how children are victimized and affected by trafficking. The author asserts that untold numbers of children are being systematically deprived of their human rights, dignity, and childhood through child prostitution, child pornography, and other "sex-ploitation" that damage children in numerous ways. The article offers data that indicate the number of children being trafficked for sex purposes across an array of countries including: Colombia, China, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and South Africa among others. The article acknowledges contributions made by NGOs such as End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) that encourage more global cooperation among countries to combat child trafficking.

Hodge, David R., and Cynthia A. Lietz. 2007. "The International Sexual Trafficking of Women and Children: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Women & Social Work* 22(2): 163-174.

Annotation: The article refers to the Palermo Protocol which is a supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime and its shift of focus from the victims of trafficking to the perpetrators, and its emphasis of targeting them for legal prosecution. The article also differentiates between countries of origin, transit, and destination and enumerates which countries are prominent in these respective stages of trafficking. The "push" and "pull" phenomenon is mentioned in the sense that poor women are often "pushed" away from their countries by poverty and war, while being "pulled" towards other countries in the pursuit of a better life. The essay advocates a multilevel "ecological" approach by social workers in the areas of policy, community, and direct practice.

Joshi, Aiko. 2002. "The Face of Human Trafficking." *Hastings Women's Law Journal* 13(1):31-52.

Annotation: The author discusses the economic toll on the "third world" created by globalization and industrialization of former agrarian societies, and how women in particular become more vulnerable in "transition economies" of developing nations. Though capitalist globalization is in part responsible for the increasing incidence of human trafficking, the author also points out the fact that inequalities in general, whether they be social, economic, gender, or racial based, contribute to the prominence of global human trafficking. The author advocates the partnership and syndication of international police forces to counter the increasingly well-networked crime syndicates responsible for a large amount of human trafficking worldwide.

Kantarci, Serap. 2007. "The Effects of Globalization in the Sex Tourism." *Conference Papers-New England Political Science Association, Annual Meeting* 1.

Annotation: The author asserts that improved communication and transportation due to globalization has facilitated the emergence of sexual trafficking. The author mentions that sex work is often the only line of work available to poor women in third world countries and that prostitution for them is a "survival strategy." Nonetheless, the author mentions prostitution as a more lucrative alternative to lower paying domestic or factory works which may lead the reader to believe that less degrading forms of employment do in fact exist, albeit for lesser pay.

Laczko, Frank. 2005. "Data and Research on Human Trafficking." *International Migration* 43 (1-2):5-16.

Annotation: The author points out that research in human trafficking has surged in the past decade and documents the regions of the world where research in trafficking is most prominent. The author concludes that Europe has conducted forty-four percent of studies in trafficking. The author elucidates limitations in studies on trafficking, including the fact that some states, especially in the developing world, do not have trafficking laws on the books and the crimes get reported under different "headings." Nevertheless, the author applauds recent efforts by NGOs and international institutions to help foster a common understanding of trafficking across the globe and their concerted efforts to collect data systematically.

Mameli, Peter A. 2002. "Stopping the illegal trafficking of human beings." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 38 (1):67-80.

Annotation: The author addresses the surge of the transnational sex industry in the 1990s as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The author's approach to the topic caters to a law enforcement perspective by addressing the roles that transnational police organizations can play with respect to preventing and investigating the activities of the global sex industry. Specifically, the author addresses how governments and international

governmental organizations such as the United Nations are also now focusing on this issue from local and global perspectives. Upon identifying the actors involved in the global sex trade crackdown, the author presents recommendations for strengthening law enforcement of illegal sex-trafficking activities.

Martin, Philip, and Mark Miller. 2000. "Smuggling and Trafficking: A Conference Report." *International Migration Review* 34 (3):969-975.

Annotation: The author makes the helpful distinction between smuggling and trafficking. The article touts efforts by the Clinton administration and international institutions such as the United Nations for their concerted efforts to heighten global awareness of and to combat trafficking. The author presents statistics from the various regions of the globe to illustrate some of the reasons for which people are smuggled and trafficked.

Naim, Moises. 2003. "The Five Wars of Globalization." *Foreign Policy* 134: 28-37.

Annotation: The author counts human trafficking as one of the five scourges of globalization upon which "war" must be waged. The author concedes that confronting the market that stimulates trafficking is a daunting task and that the international community needs to revamp its approach to trafficking. Among other things, the author proposes strengthening existing multilateral institutions, revising our universal conception of sovereignty when it comes to allowing states to pursue traffickers in other countries' territory, and devising new mechanisms and institutions with which to enforce laws.

Ndiaye, Ndioro. 2007. "Human Trafficking and Smuggling: The Ugly Faces of Globalization." *Global Social Policy* 7 (1):20-22.

Annotation: The author, as Deputy Director General for the International Organization of Migration (IOM), states how the IOM and its many partners worldwide provide assistance with shelter, physical and psychological health care, legal counseling, and voluntary return and reintegration assistance to empower victims once they have returned home. Efforts to provide assistance to exploited children are also enumerated such as ways to promote microfinance among poor employers who often exploit children for cheap labor. The author stresses addressing root causes of irregular migration to ensure that people migrate of their own accord and not under duress.

Polakoff, Erica G. 2007. "Globalization and Child Labor: Review of the Issues." *Journal of Developing Societies* 23 (1-2):259-283.

Annotation: The author discusses the impact of economic globalization on low income families in the poorer regions of the world. The article underscores the crucial role that children in the third-world play in supporting their families and assigns blame for this undesirable phenomenon to underlying processes of economic globalization whereby

children become commodities on the global labor, agriculture, and sex markets. Interestingly, the author addresses how economic globalization has created a form of “global apartheid” resulting in a “fourth world” populated by millions of homeless, incarcerated, impoverished, and otherwise socially excluded denizens. The author advocates restructuring of the global economy to benefit local communities and not just global capitalist interests. The article presents a useful analysis of the prominent role of children in the global economy.

Samarasinghe, Vidyamali. 2003. “Confronting Globalization in Anti-trafficking Strategies in Asia.” *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 10(1): 91-105.

Annotation: The author takes a fairly unorthodox approach by suggesting that instances of human trafficking may be reduced by legalizing prostitution. Such alternative approaches have been broached in Thailand and also in Sweden. In the case of Sweden, in 1999, men were punished for soliciting sex from prostitutes who were, themselves, immune from criminal prosecution. The discourse on legalization, however, ends on a rather negative and ambiguous note when the author cites that although demand for prostitution decreased in Sweden, demand increased in neighboring countries.

Shifman, Pamela. 2003. “Trafficking and women’s human rights in a globalised world.” *Gender & Development* 11 (1):125.

Annotation: The author presents compelling statistics from the United Nations which indicate that human trafficking is increasing each year as its lucrative nature continues to attract traffickers. The author conducts an interview with four women, from diverse backgrounds, involved in challenging the international trafficking of women that offers insight from their various perspectives into how to best combat a new and challenging form of globalized human trafficking. This is a reliable primary source that harvests the experience and knowledge of four women who have made combating trafficking their lives’ work.

Tran, Jonathan. 2007. “Sold into slavery.” *Christian Century* 124 (24):22-26.

Annotation: The article focuses on the problem of human trafficking in the twenty-first century. The author broaches the startling notion that slavery may be one of the most representative consequences of global capitalism. The author highlights a basic supply and demand phenomenon of the global market whereby a surplus of individuals are trafficked to more affluent regions of the world to perform highly demanded duties or jobs at minimal expense. The author credits NGOs with heightening awareness during the late 1990s and urges the imposition of more political and economic sanctions by states to help eliminate human trafficking.

Van den Anker, Christien. 2007. “Global Ethics and Contemporary Slavery.” *Global Social Policy* 7 (1):3-6.

Annotation: The author believes that a key to reducing trafficking is to foment a comprehensive effort within the global community to reduce global inequality that would

have real benefits for individuals who suffer from exploitation or slavery. The author somewhat radically advocates the imposition of an assortment of taxes, including trans-Atlantic slave trade reparations deemed useful in reducing poverty in countries where people are most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Van Impe, Kristof. 2000. "People for Sale: The Need for a Multidisciplinary Approach towards Human Trafficking." *International Migration Special Issue*: 1-19.

Annotation: This article addresses how to tackle the matter of trafficking in women. Based on conclusions drawn from past studies, the author advocates a multidimensional approach that combines punitive approaches to traffickers and protection of human rights of those being trafficked, as well as stricter border control and the removal of the impetus of irregular migration movements in the first place. In addition, greater law enforcement coordination between origin, transit and receiving states is advocated.

International Organizations

Anti-Slavery International Website. 2008.

<http://www.antislavery.org/archive/press/010208traffickingcouncilofeurope.html>.

Annotation: The press release documents the momentous occasion of the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The convention is a pact between fourteen European states committed to ensure enhanced respect and protection of the rights of trafficked people. This is a useful example of how states are treating trafficked people as victims instead of as illegal aliens or criminals. This is a valid portrayal of how globalization and nation-state interaction has contributed to the battle against human trafficking.

International Labor Organization (ILO). 2008. ILO action against trafficking in human beings. Geneva: International Labor Organization.

Annotation: The ILO prides itself in its pioneering estimate that out of 12.3 million forced-labor victims worldwide, 2.4 million of these have been trafficked. The ILO by virtue of its interest in labor, views trafficking from a labor market perspective; thereby, seeking to eliminate root causes such as poverty, lack of employment, and inefficient labor migration systems. This is a significantly thorough report on human trafficking and the forced labor it typically results in.

(O.S.C.E.) Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. 2006. A Summary of Challenges Facing Legal Responses to Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in the OSCE Region.

Annotation: This is an authoritative account by a well respected international organization. This report brings to light the increasing prevalence of human trafficking as a facilitator of forced labor especially in the European region. The report urges the unified action of European states to become more aware of the problem of forced labor and to collaborate in

preventing it, prosecuting the traffickers, and protecting the victims. This is a helpful source in understanding the dynamics of human trafficking in Europe.

Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns. 2006. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Annotation: This is a comprehensive report that deals with global patterns in human trafficking. The report covers every area of the globe that is involved with human trafficking and gives detailed definitions and descriptions of terms typically associated with trafficking. Its self professed endeavor is to close the knowledge gap that exists when it comes to lay people and law enforcement agencies alike in understanding the various forms of human trafficking and how to combat them. This is a valuable source in the context of human trafficking as a global phenomenon.

(UNGIFT), United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. 2008. UNODC launches Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

Annotation: The report documents the launch on March 26, 2008 of a global initiative to fight human trafficking, or UNGIFT. The program is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with other United Nations agencies, governments, and NGOs. The ultimate goal of this concerted effort is to end human trafficking by increasing public awareness, building regional alliances, and mustering political support by channeling existing efforts into a cohesive framework. The report is useful in that it presents an up-to-date synopsis of a globalized effort to combat human trafficking.

U.S. Department of State. 2007. Trafficking in Persons Report, edited by U.S. Department of State.

Annotation: This is perhaps the most authoritative and comprehensive source on all things related to human trafficking. As the most recent in a series of annual reports, the 2007 Report on Human Trafficking has the most current statistics on every country. Included is also a “random factor” section that is pertinent to how globalization has facilitated human trafficking. The report cites that a greater variety of nationalities have been documented among trafficking victims in destination countries. An explanation for this is that traffickers are relying on vast distances and cultural and linguistic differences to increase the vulnerability of victims. The report warns that as economic and logistical barriers to travel diminish this trend should continue.