

Women Victims of Human Trafficking in Globalized World of Entertainment and Sex Industry: Humiliation of Women Dignity and Existence

© Bahija Jamal

Abstract prepared for the 2007 Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, Columbia University, New York, December 13-14, 2007.

Abstract

According to a recent study released by the United Nations Fund for Population, Female migrants constitute now nearly half of all migrants worldwide with an overwhelming majority migrating to developed countries. Mix of political and socio-economic factors is fuelling female migration.

At the age of the globalized poverty, lack of chance, illiteracy and marginalization that affect women in specific way, migration is considered by some women as the unique solution to reach the welfare. Globalization via its tools is exercising a negative impact particularly on women who are not well educated or are illiterate and marginalized. International media system idealizes "how the other half lives" and promotes the belief that life is better and possible elsewhere. Many Migrant women are victims of this propaganda.

Women while moving to find work opportunities in other countries could become increasingly victims to trafficking via friends, and sometimes even relatives, acting as job recruiters. Many trafficking victims typically apply for advertised jobs as babysitters, models, hairdressers, dancers and waitresses. Once reaching countries of destination, another reality appears. Recruiters are acquaintances, criminal networks, often working in collaboration with corrupt customs officials, will process travel documents and seize victims' passports upon arrival.

Human trafficking is now the third most lucrative illicit business in the world after arms and drug. Trafficking is a major source of organized crime revenue. Most of women victims of human trafficking are sexually exploited forced into prostitution and sex tourism. The boundary between "entertainment" (singers, dancers, hostesses...) and sex work is often blurred-especially for those women who have been coerced and/or abducted.

Sex work as a lucrative business is growing .Globalization has resulted in an explosion in the entertainment and sex industries. These are providing additional migration channels for women-looking for other alternatives. Regions in the world such as: .South Asia, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and some Arab states are home of large numbers of internationally trafficked women. At the climate of free flow of international capital, high technology, labour, information, women trafficking will increase, particularly if countries still keep strict international migration regulations and restrictions.

I conclude that the trafficking of women in the globalized world is a slavery act and humiliation of their human dignity, and a sever threat to their existence. Trafficking of women is a social problem which needs arising awareness about its negative impact. Different NGOs of women's rights and human rights in general are highlighting the plight of trafficked women and advocating their rights to a decent life as all human beings. Annually many reports are released to highlight this phenomenon.

© Bahija Jamal

The aim of this paper is the analysis of Humiliation and slavery act inflicted to trafficked women at the Age of Globalization. I will adopt a human rights based approach and a gender sensitive approach to deal with the overall situation of these women (The legal, socio-economic, medical...) A special focus will be given also to the nature of international and regional legal and institutional responses to the special needs of the trafficked women victims of humiliation.