

Gender and Human Trafficking

‘Objects can’t Object’

Man-Made Forms of Woman's Oppression

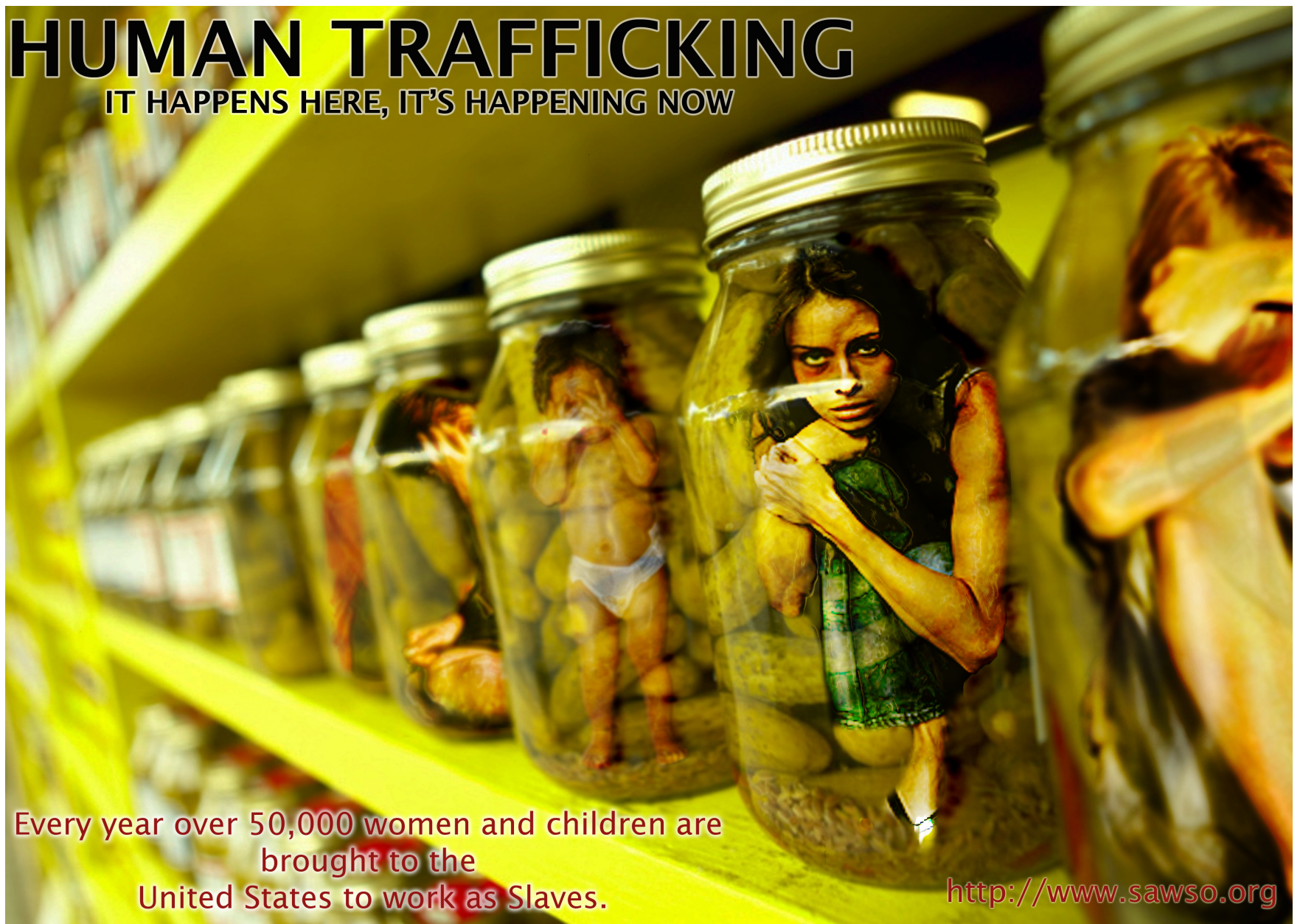
- FORCED MOTHERHOOD, COMPULSORY NON-MOTHERHOOD
- PERSECUTION OF NON-VIRGINS AND UNMARRIED MOTHERS,
- CRIMES PERPETRATED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
- COMPULSORY HETEROSEXUALITY
- ECONOMIC CRIME
- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN
- THE TRIPLE OPPRESSION OF THIRD WORLD WOMEN
- DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IMMIGRANT AND MINORITY WOMEN
- A FEMINIST CRITIQUE OF THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

What is Human Trafficking?

- Human trafficking is the trade in human beings, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour or for the extraction of organs or tissues, including surrogacy and ova removal. Could include the kidnapping/use of child soldiers
- Human Trafficking results in some gain/profit/benefit/satisfaction on behalf of the trafficker

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IT HAPPENS HERE, IT'S HAPPENING NOW



Every year over 50,000 women and children are
brought to the
United States to work as Slaves.

<http://www.sawso.org>

OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN

- **Objectification of women** occurs when women are regarded as a commodity to be exchanged for gain;
- a woman's body, parts of her body, or
- sexual parts and abilities are separated from her person and regarded as representing her to the exclusion of other personal attributes;
- Domestic Labour and child-bearing and rearing
- Other forms of economic exploitation incl. physical labour-agricultural and factory work

Objectification Theory

- Emmanuel Kant-German Philosopher of Ethics: 'commodification' of bodies and persons: one should never treat any person only as a means but also always as an end –as a human being
- Person versus object/recognized in the same way as objects. This is a process of reduction
- Critique of the Media/Advertising/sexually objectifying media i.t.o externally perceivable attributes
- Modern Feminist Conversation: Instances where objectification as a reduction from a person to a mere sexual instrument available for satisfying the needs of others/men. This has informed much of the analysis of pornography
- Sexual Exploitation-Prostitution/transactional sex



International Human Rights Instruments

- The UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948) asserts for all the right to equality, dignity and bodily integrity;
- The Un Declaration for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949) states that these practices are incompatible with the dignity and worth of every human being.

Protecting the Rights of Women

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) CEDAW –most authoritative UN instrument protecting women from Abuse and Discrimination;
- The Vienna Declaration (1993) issued by the World Conference on Human Rights Article 3 on the Equal Status and Human Rights of Women asserted:

Elimination of Violence Against Women in Public and Private Life

- “The World Conference on Human Rights stresses the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the General Assembly to adopt the draft declaration on violence against women and urges States to combat violence against women in accordance with its provisions. Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy, require a particularly effective response”.

UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

- Recognized “the urgent need for the universal application to women of the rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity and dignity of all human beings”... Affirmed “that violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms”...and expressed “deep concern about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women”.

What is Violence Against Women?

- “Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation; (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution; (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs”. (Article 2(b))



I AM TAKING ACTION
TO PREVENT
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

CPSA
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
2012

TEN



ENOUGH!
THERE IS NO
WORLD WITHOUT
WOMEN!!!



Historical Background

- Colonization and Dispossession
- Slavery
- Migrants- Labour/Economic/Trafficked/Climate/Refugees
- Apartheid
- HIV/AIDS
- Enduring Poverty
- Continued dominance of Patriarchy

Domestic Legislation

- Children's Act-includes the Conventions on Human Trafficking and Inter-country Adoption
- Sexual Offences Act
- Domestic Violence Act
- Substance Abuse Act
- Older Persons Act
- Establishment and Maintenance of Registers
- Intersectoral Nature of Legislation
- Lack of Training on the part of Law enforcement agencies

Pervasive Violence

- In spite of the protections afforded by this legislation and the human rights instruments asserting these rights there has been an escalation of crimes against women and children
- Moreover, there has been an escalation in the severity of this violence to the extent that it seems normative
- Furthermore, the violence and crime directed at women and children is committed by people they know in places where they should be safe-home, family, school and community.

Normalization of Violence

- Family Killings-Suicides
- A woman is raped every 4 minutes
- Increasing incidence of teen-suicides
- Violence is pervasive in that it is not particular to any socio-economic class, race or age group
- Prevalence of violence has lead to the normalization of violence as socially acceptable behaviour to be imitated

Popular Culture

- Popular Culture plays an important role in determining what is considered as normative behaviour
- Research indicates that misogynous rap music has an effect on sexual aggression against women
- Language and speech is littered with words referring to the genitalia of women
- The word rape is now used to describe anything onerous-such use subtracts from the seriousness of their meaning

Socialization of Children

- Domestic violence plays a very destructive role in the socialization of children of both sexes-boys grow up to regard such behaviour as normal while girls are likely to grow up to regard it as the 'lot of women'.
- Self perpetuating inter-generational cycle

Home Affairs/Security, Refugees and Prostitution

- In terms of Government the Department of Home Affairs is no longer part of the Social Development Cluster but the Security Cluster
- Difficulties experienced by refugees and migrants-few options
- Criminalization of Prostitution-the Prostitute is the target of Law Enforcement -Law Reform Commission Proposals regarding prostitution
- Marginalization and little protection
- Concern that this increases the vulnerability of women and children

Why? The Impotence of Rights

- Why in spite of the all the rights that women have in terms international human rights instruments, SA Constitution and Bill of Rights does the exploitation of women persist to such an extent that there is a clear disjunction/contradiction?
- There are many women in positions of leadership. Parliament seeks 50/50 representation..
- But this is not reflected in the lived experience of so many women...impotence of rights

Lack of Transformation

- Migration and Human Trafficking are not unique to Africa
- Post Colonial Africa bears the scars of colonization quite literally in terms of its borders-often contested
- Neo-colonization continues to exploit the resources
- Patriarchy-reluctance of men to engage in more equal and reciprocal relationships-loss of status

Men and Human Rights

- Men often do not experience their own rights and continue to feel powerless
- Unemployment –inability to provide for the family/dependants
- Culture of Entitlement
- Lack of role models (Complicity of Police)
- Dehumanizing living conditions
- Participation in Gangs-links to prostitution

The Transformation of Human Beings into Objects

- It is clear that dominance functions best in a culture of disconnections and fragmentation that persists
- All violence against women is an exercise of dominance/power/control-
- Remedy against emasculation
- Compensates for a lack of power/control
- Sexual violence is literally an act of occupation

Alienation of Humanity

- Human Trafficking and sexual violence are signs of deep alienation of all those involved-both the 'object' and the 'objectifier'. The equal rights of all is the only way to realize our shared humanity.