

A Report on Modern Day Slavery for the Pacific Center for Global Justice

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November, 2010

The following paper examines the issue of modern day slavery in a global context. The paper is presented in four parts. The first section is an overview of modern day slavery presenting definitions and statistics as well the ways in which people are affected by slavery in different parts of the world. The second section examines root causes of modern slavery. The prime root causes according to recent scholarship: extreme poverty (with a focus on the feminization of poverty), the effects of globalization and greed, and a lack of public awareness and victim education, are concentrated on and assessed for their validity. Identifying root causes is important because they will inform possible designs for potential root solutions.

The third part of the paper will contemplate possible root solutions to modern slavery. Proposed root solutions include: addressing wealth imbalances and demand for slavery in the global market, addressing the needs of poor women, and the benefits of education and awareness of the issue. This section also takes a look at existing organizations around the globe and the various ways in which they have taken action to combat the issue.

The fourth and final portion of the paper will consider the Pacific Center for Global Justice's possible role in carrying out root solutions to modern day slavery, while keeping with its mission of engaging people in a process of contemplation, social analysis, and social action. By drawing on approaches taken by other organizations and taking into consideration PCGJ's capabilities and limitations, suggestions are made for potential action.

Overview of Modern Slavery

Despite worldwide moral and legal condemnation, slavery still exists and may even be growing as an industry (van den Anker, p.17). Though slavery is not legal in any state and global treaties exist to combat the issue, the slave trade continues to flourish. An estimated 27 million slaves are in bondage around the globe today (Bales et al., p.18). That's double the number of slaves that came from Africa in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. (Rickert, p.1)

There are only two countries in which modern day slavery has not been recorded and those are Iceland and Greenland (Bales, 2010). It is truly a global issue. However, the bulk of modern slaves are located in South Asia and their numbers can be anywhere between fifteen and twenty million. Other areas of concentration include Southeast Asia, Northern and Western Africa, and parts of South America (Bales et al, p. 19). The strongest predictors of slavery in a country are the presence of government and police corruption, a high level of infant mortality, a high percentage of young people in the population, and a low Gross Domestic Product (Bales, p.76)

There are many definitions for modern slavery in the legal world, scholarly community and in the public mind (Bales et al, p.27), which make it hard to come up with a single definition. Bales presents some basic ways to identify modern slavery. First, modern slavery is globalized, in that it looks similar no matter where you go in the world. Second, small businessmen are mainly the profiteers of the modern slave trade. And third, modern slavery is generally not a life-long condition but only a matter of being enslaved for a few years. (Bales et al, p. 28). Modern slavery is also characterized by high profits for slave traders and the low cost of slaves. (Bales et al, p. 28)

Scholars of modern slavery also offer up three definitions that appear to be most agreed upon. The first definition is the complete control of one person by another through physical or psychological violence. The second is hard labor for little or no pay. The third common definition is the act of economic exploitation. These identifiers coincide with traditional definitions of slavery.

Modern slavery robs individuals of their free will. They are exploited when they are either kidnapped, tricked, or born into slavery. (Bales et al, p. 30) Modern day slavery takes many forms. Human trafficking is often discussed, but the sex trade, bonded labor, inherited slavery, contract slavery, early and forced marriage, chattel slavery, child labor (including child soldiers), and domestic slave labor are forms of slavery that can be found all over the world.

Most slaves around the globe work in agriculture, but other types of work include brick making, mining, textile manufacture, forest clearing, charcoal making, commercial sexual exploitation, and domestic service (Bales et al. p.19). Slavery also has different faces depending on where you go in the globe. While forced labor accounts for almost 90% of slavery in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, industrialized countries have commercial sexual exploitation as 75% of slavery (Bales et al. p.19).

Men, women, and children are all affected by modern day slavery. Of the three, women are disproportionately affected by slavery. About 80% of all modern slaves around the world are women. (Bales et al, p. 36) Children compose around 50% of all slaves. (Bales et al, p. 36) Women and children are much more vulnerable in many ways compared with men and have more of a chance of falling victim to traffickers looking to take advantage of their susceptibility.

Understanding these basic aspects and the scope of modern day slavery is vital to determining root the causes of the phenomenon; which will be discussed in following section.

Root Causes of Modern Slavery

Identifying the root causes of modern slavery and not just devising ways to manage the issue is an important step in working towards root solutions. Root solutions take a holistic approach to discovering why a problem keeps recurring. In this day and age most problems are treated for their symptoms rather than their root causes. For example, laws and punishments are created to deter crimes in the United States, but little is done to alleviate the circumstances that contribute to criminal behavior; such as poverty alleviation and better access to education for minorities.

Governmental corruption and lack of comprehensive enforceable laws are often pointed to as reasons that modern slavery is able to flourish. Though law making and enforcement may help deter the modern slavery to some extent, it is simply a way to manage the issue and not a long-term solution. To be successful, long-term solutions for modern slavery will address the conditions and demands that create the need for it to exist in the first place.

Scholars continually mention a state of extreme poverty as a leading root cause for modern slavery. Extreme poverty means that households cannot meet basic needs for survival. Chronic hunger, lack of education and health care, and lack of sanitary conditions all are characteristics of extreme poverty (Bales et al, p.56) Being in a state of

poverty brings with it the absence of choice, the denial of opportunity, the inability to achieve life goals, and ultimately the loss of hope (Thibos et al, p.1).

Conditions that affect third world countries such as environmental degradation, the effects of globalization, government corruption and lawlessness, and natural disasters, exacerbate extreme poverty and make them excellent praying grounds for the slave trade. A 2001 ILO report observed a relationship between poverty and modern slavery recognizing that the poor are more vulnerable to falling victim to slavery. (van den Anker, p.219) An assessment that compared levels of poverty with levels of slavery in 193 countries, shows that countries in extreme to moderate poverty showed the highest incidences of slavery across many sectors (Bales et al, p.57).

The extreme poor are more susceptible to being tricked by promises of employment and good pay. Hunger and poverty create desperate conditions for those seeking a way to improve their economic well being. Deceit is one of the tactics often employed by slave traffickers in order to bring people into slavery. A job is promised or better education for a child is offered and a person is enslaved only when it is too late to extract themselves from the situation.

Extreme poverty is a primary cause of people entering into debt bondage. Debt bondage is the most common form of modern slavery in which a person pledges him/herself against a loan of money. Labor is the payment, but that labor does not diminish the original debt. The debt is often passed down to subsequent generations. In some cases the debtor enters the bondage with the full knowledge that they are trading their freedom for a loan, while others are tricked with false promises (Cullen-Dupont, p.24).

It is not just at the individual level that poverty creates the right circumstances for slavery to exist. Most slavery occurs in the poorer parts of the world and many of these poor countries are poor because the citizens have lost control of their economies (Bales et al, p.58). The country a person lives in sets the economic conditions for its population. A person's country may not be able to provide it with such necessary resources as employment, education, and health care (Cullen-Dupont, p.24)

The lack of economic well-being for a state can contribute in other ways to the perpetuation of the slave trade. Poor countries are not able to pay civil servants very well. With little income agents of the law will look the other way for a few extra dollars, allowing slave traffickers to carry out their business. Also, though there may be anti-slavery laws in place in a country, its lack of resources might make it difficult for it to enforce them.

There is no doubt that an economically weak state will have vulnerable citizens. Females are among the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. "Women do two thirds of the world's work...yet they earn only one tenth of the world's income and own less than one percent of the world's property." (Thibos et al-Conable, 1986 World Bank Meeting) Women perform 60% of the world's work, produce 50% of the food and perform more than 70% of the world's unpaid work. Women around the globe women carry a disproportionate economic burden and scholars have taken note.

The 'feminization of poverty' is a term coined by Diane Pearce in the 1970's and is used to describe the phenomenon of women experiencing significantly higher poverty rates than men, particularly in female-headed households (Thibos et al, p.1). When

considering poverty as a root cause of modern day slavery, it is important to consider the nature and face of poverty today.

Women experience additional side effects of poverty that men do not. Their gender makes them more susceptible to domestic violence and rape. They are usually the first to starve in times of hunger, since their priority is to feed their children. They also suffer the trauma of not being able to breast feed their children in times of famine (Yunus, p. 72).

At least half of international trafficking cases are for sexual exploitation. Women account for ninety-eight percent of all forced sexual exploitation (Bales, p.66). The trauma these victims face is brutal in nature and often women are unable to recover physically or psychologically from it. When ideologies of women as second-class citizens are present alongside extreme poverty, it creates a lethal combination that permits their bodies to be regarded as commodities (Bales et al, p.83) As reported in the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. “the unequal status of women in families and society, the feminization of poverty and harmful stereotypes of women as property, commodities and sexual objects are among some of the root causes of trafficking in women” (Macdonald and Trapanier,2002)

Women are more vulnerable to the AIDS virus HIV (Africa News, 2009), which is prevalent in countries where slavery thrives. Women shoulder the added burden of being the caregivers for those around them affected by the virus. This is a drain on their time and energy and leaves less time for income earning and household work.

Gender also affects women’s earning capabilities through occupational sex segregation (Pressman, p.353) Women’s wages are lower because they are able to spend

less time in the market place building their careers and being competitive with men. Women often have the dual responsibilities of household chores and earning income (Africa News, 2009). In many countries, women also have the disadvantage of not being considered a priority to educate. International studies indicate that nearly two thirds of the world's illiterate populations are women (Africa News, 2009).

The global financial crisis has hit women the hardest. The crisis is expected to push an additional 22 million women into unemployment, which will create a 7.4% unemployment rate for women; compared with 7% for men. (Africa News, 2009) The financial crisis has also lead to a reduction in state services in many countries. As primary caregivers, women face the brunt of these shortfalls and must struggle to fill in the gaps (van den Anker, p.204) With the increase in limited opportunities for employment, it is easier for slave traffickers to lure women abroad so that they can in turn sell them into slavery (Ozonen, p.49)

Afua B. Ansre, the National Program Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, attributes the increased vulnerability of women to the fact that women are “concentrated in insecure jobs in the informal sector with low incomes and few rights. Women tend to have few skills and basic education, if they are lucky, and they are usually the first to be fired” (ILO Employment Trends for Women 2009).

Parenthood means lower wages for women (Pressman, p.353) Caring for children takes away from potential time earning income and limits time that could be spent traveling to and from a job. Women as single parents are the only earners in the

household and are more vulnerable to changes in the market and turns of bad luck such as illness or disasters.

The feminization of poverty does not affect just women. Children reside disproportionately in female-headed households and have a high rate of poverty as well. According to scholar Christiana Kangsangbata, poverty is the greatest single force, which creates the conditions for the flow of children into the workplace (Kangsangbata, p.19).

The famous micro-financier and founder of the Grameen Bank, Muhammad Yunus, recognized the impact of the feminization of poverty. He chose to focus his lending on women, since he felt lending to them would have the most impact in lifting the people he worked with out of poverty. He knew that women are often better than men at making the most out of development aid (Bales, p.221).

Yunus observed that women work harder to lift their families out of poverty. Women are more likely to invest in their children so they can have better lives, and since many poor women run their households, they are more likely to invest in ways to better the home. Yunus believes that women are in general more likely to have the desire to improve the welfare of both children and men. He confirmed this belief as comparative studies of women versus male borrowers consistently showed women doing just this (Yunus, p.73).

Overall, women suffer an economic disadvantage compared with men no matter where you look around the globe. Their larger share of the economic burden makes them easy targets for slave traders, since they are more desperate to take care of and provide for their families. When devising a strategy to fight modern slavery at its roots, women and their role in the economic landscape must be taken into consideration.

Poverty and the feminization of poverty are large driving factors in the perpetuation of the slave trade, but there are other factors at work as well. The effects of globalization have created conditions that contribute to the flourishing of modern slavery. Many scholars argue that globalization contributes to exacerbated poverty, which leaves people more vulnerable to the possibility that they will fall into slavery (van den Anker, p.3).

Bales defines globalization as a process of social change that is making the world seem smaller; the result being that governments are less able to control the flow of money, products, information and people across their borders (Bales, p.208). But depending on whom you ask, there are many definitions. Political scientists see it as a new internationalism, while economists see it as a linking of financial networks. (Groody, p.13) Others see it as a universalizing of global capitalism and neo-liberal principles(vna den Anker, p.22). However defined, globalization has brought with it both positive advancements as well as negative consequences for the global community.

The creation of a global economy had many world leaders and economists convinced that open markets would lift people around the globe out of poverty. But economic globalization has integrated third world nations into the world market, making them dependent on it and its turbulent nature (van den anker, p.42). Furthermore, the advent of globalization has concurred with widening gaps between rich and poor and an increasing number of people are falling into poverty (Amoroso, p. 13). Those who are already poor, are falling further into poverty.

Scholar Daniel Groody breaks down these growing disparities by presenting them in a simple picture. If the entire population of the globe was a village composed of 100

people, the richest person in the village would have as much as the poorest 57 taken together. Nineteen live on a dollar a day or less, and forty eight on less than two dollars a day. Fifty do not have a reliable source of food are hungry some or all of the time, and 30 suffer from malnutrition. Forty do not have access to adequate sanitation, only 2 have a college education, 18 are unable to read, 31 live in substandard housing, and 31 do not have electricity (Groody, pp.3-4).

Research indicates that this disparity in wealth and standards of living is not getting any better (Groody, p.4). In a world of over 6 billion people, the three richest people have more assets than the combined Gross National Product for the poorest forty-eight nations, a quarter of the world's countries. (Groody, p.5)

Western modernization that accompanies globalization has not been beneficial for everyone. Those particularly affected are those in extreme poverty in third world countries in the global south. More than one billion, over people currently live on less than one dollar a day and most are in the developing world (Bales et al, p.56). Countries where the bulk of the world's poor reside are also saddled with mounting debt. Poor countries spend as much as thirteen dollars in debt repayment for every one dollar they borrow, limiting the chances of escaping the poverty cycle (Groody, p.6).

Globalization with its advancing technology and growing markets has helped major cities expand and develop around the world. This has increased levels of poverty because rural people displaced by commercialized agriculture move to the city in hopes of finding work, then end up becoming part of an urban poor. These urban poor live in shantytowns on the outskirts of the cities and include displaced people of civil unrest and economic decline (Bales et al, p.57).

Rural farmers who do try to survive in the globalized economy find themselves competing with crops that are subsidized in Western nations. Developing country farmers cannot produce the same quantity or quality as Western subsidized farmers. In this way the global economy squeezes poor countries and poor people begin to have fewer and fewer options. Slavery becomes one of those remaining options (Bales et al, p.57). For instance, Africa's cocoa industry has seen world prices plummet and it has suffering much of the shock. The use of slave labor has permeated the industry there to make up for the price shortfalls (van den, Anker, p.23).

Slave trafficking is an economic crime that is aided by globalization's advantages. As mentioned earlier in this paper, Kevin Bales identifies modern slavery by its globalized nature. The way slaves are used and the part they play in the world economy is similar all over. (Bales, p.4) These similarities are due to the globalization of the slave trade. Globalization has created more movement of people between countries which has made it easier for traffickers to move slaves between countries. Information technology and advanced communications are all at the hands of traffickers, even in third world nations, which makes the obstacle of physical distance less relevant (Bales, p.19).

Slavery is a global business. The three most lucrative international crimes today in order are: the traffic of weapons, then drugs, then humans (Tiefenbrun, p.14) Estimated annual global profits of trafficking humans into slavery are around 12 billion dollars. (IJM, 2010) Slave profits flow smoothly across national borders and governments find it very difficult to stop its flow (Bales et al, p.48) These kind of profits help build a global network of human traffickers. Traffickers also take advantage of the lack of legal and political cohesion in the international community. It is easy to hide people and abuse

them when traffickers can move from country to country and not worry about the authorities following. (Bales, p.19)

Increased migration is a large hallmark of globalization and it feeds into the global slave trade (van den Anker, p.39). Those who emigrate to Western nations seeking better lives as illegal immigrants are vulnerable to slave traffickers. Once trafficked into a foreign country, they are stripped often stripped of their documents and forced to work for little or no pay. They are told they will be turned in for being illegal immigrants and arrested if they try to run away from their captors.

The globalization of the slave trade is largely driven by the human desire of greed and the ability to make a profit at the expense of others. An increased demand for the cheapest products makes the lowest-priced labor in demand (van den Anker, p.23) and the ability to take advantage of cheap labor sometimes trumps morality. Employers who utilize forced labor usually have the resources to pay a fair wage but choose not to (Human Trafficking, p.27). It is no revelation that some people use power to immorally or illegally enrich themselves (Bales, p.10). "Slavery continues to exist due to human nature and its ability to sense vulnerability in others and to exploit" (Rickert, p.1). Those who benefit from the slave trade are making the conscious choice to do so.

Not all who support slavery are consciously doing so. As consumers of products made around the globe, we are all likely to buy products made by or contributed to by slavery at some point. There are numerous steps and parts that go into making a product and slavery can creep into any one of them. A Bales point out: "Economic links can tie the slave in the field or the brothel to the highest reaches of international corporations" (Bales, p.235). Slaves are used to produce many of our basic commodities including

carpets, cocoa, cotton, timber, beef, produce, gold, diamonds, fish, clothing and bricks (Bales et al, p.49). Companies that produce these products might not even be aware that slavery is used to make them.

A lack of awareness of the prevalence of the use of slave labor by both global industry and consumers contributes and fuels the continued demand for the inhuman practice. Globalization does not help to remedy this problem, since the global scale of production conceals labor sources. Furthermore, there are not trans-national mechanisms for tracking such things or ways for holding them accountable in any legal framework.

There is also a lack of awareness among those who are at a high risk of becoming victims of slave trafficking, when it comes to the various tactics used to lure people into enslavement. Desperate people are very easily manipulated by those offering opportunities to escape their situation and they will take a chance on a dubious situation, even if they suspect it might not be legitimate. Various countries and NGOs have conducted campaigns to try and raise awareness about ways to avoid such situations, but the resources are not available on the scale that is needed to reach all those who might be affected.

Root Solutions to Modern Slavery

Root solutions to the causes of modern slavery must be well tailored to their root causes, sustainable, and able to be practically implemented. Addressing large issues such as poverty, globalization, and education require massive amounts of resources that can be hard to mobilize. Creative approaches need to be devised that individuals as well as organizations and governments can utilize to tackle root causes of the issue. Eradicating

modern day slavery may be one of the toughest challenges of the 21st century. In most instances it requires fundamental changes in the way society operates.

As one of the established predominant root causes of slavery, the issue of poverty should be addressed in any root solution. When people do not have the desperation that accompanies poverty, they will be less susceptible to falling victim to slavery. If poverty is reduced, there will also be less demand for slavery because employers can afford to pay livable wages. But, poverty is a far-reaching and complicated issue. It is hard to know where to begin to devise a solution.

It makes sense to begin with adopting root solutions that have been proven to work with poverty, such as addressing the feminization of poverty. Because women are so disproportionately affected by poverty, it makes sense to focus any efforts combating it on women. Focusing on women also has a spill over effect, because when women are lifted out of poverty so are children; and ultimately whole families and communities.

There are many organizations that have designed creative strategies for targeting women in poverty with the intention of combating slavery in their communities. For example, Made by Survivors is an organization that not only helps survivors of slavery sustainably build up their lives, but also work with high-risk communities to prevent slavery by creating jobs and educational opportunities.

Made by Survivors cite poverty and lack of economic opportunity as a primary cause of slavery and trafficking and build their programs to address these root causes (www.madebysurvivors.com). They have created a program called Handicrafts which gives women a stipend for part-time work as they learn a craft that will allow them to go into business for themselves. Items made by these women such as jewelry and handbags

are sold on their website. Through this program women are given the economic and social tools they need to remain free from slavery.

Another major root cause of modern slavery has been globalization. An adverse effect of globalization has been the inability of third world farmers and businesses to compete in the world market and make a livable wage. As mentioned earlier, slave labor is turned to as a way to cut costs and stay competitive. Many of the products we buy in the Western world are produced with slave labor as a result.

A root solution to this problem will offer consumers a way to fight these negative effects of a globalized market by giving them the choice to buy products that do not support a slave labor economy. Recognizing the power of the consumer and using that as leverage to change imbalances and uniformed consumer habits in the world market can be a powerful tool for combating modern slavery.

One approach to using the power of the consumer is the Fair Trade movement. Born over forty years ago it is a response to the increasingly unfair marketplace and disparities in the new global economy (Moore, p.1). Fair trade's purpose is to improve the livelihoods and well-beings of producers by improving market access, strengthen producer organizations, pay a better price for goods, and to provide continuity in the trading relationship. It is also meant to raise awareness among consumers of the negative effects on producers of international trade so that consumers make more informed decisions when purchasing products. (Moore, p.2) Connecting consumers to their role in the global economy helps raise awareness of the disparities in wealth created by global trade.

Fair trade allows participating producers to sell their product not through the world market, but directly to the distributors (van den Anker, p.219). Producers earn more money in this fashion because prices paid for their products are higher and less dependent on world markets (van den Anker, p.219). Though fair trade may not be a root solution to poverty, it is a viable root solution to restructuring the inequities of world trade, which foster the slave trade. The more fair trade practices are demanded by consumers, the more its impact will be felt by those it is designed to help.

The Fair Trade movement is not an end in itself, but a means to challenge the status quo of global capitalism as it exists today. If the movement gains enough support and becomes a force to be reckoned with in the market, then it will put pressure on governments to set better international trade standards for labor conditions, trade regulation and production. It may also put pressure on global corporations to practice greater corporate social responsibility and to eliminate slave labor from their chain of production (van den Anker, p.196).

Another market strategy that is being used to combat the demand for slavery in the world market place is being used by the Rugmark Campaign. Rugmark created a special label that guarantees handmade rugs are not made by slaves. Rugmakers that use the label agree not to exploit children, to be independently monitored, and to give one percent of their wholesale price to a fund for child workers.

The fund set up from sales of the rugs has built allowed for the building and staffing of two schools in India, where slave labor is a large issue in the rug making industry. These goal of these schools is to keep children out of slavery and give them the needed education to avoid falling victim to it in the future. The Europe market for slave-

free rugs is 30% and growing and major Western governments have recognized the brand. (Bales, p.241). Slave-free goods are in demand and rug makers are doing what they can to earn the label.

Though globalization has negative consequences for modern slavery, it also has some positive aspects. Enhanced global communication has made the world a much smaller place. Globalization contributes to more effective campaigns to raise awareness and to better international legal mechanisms to combat modern slavery. (van den Anker p.3) Anti-slavery advocates and non-governmental organizations can take advantage of these new communication networks, such as the Internet, to raise awareness about the issue.

The root solution of education can be approached in three different ways. First, education can be the education of the public about slavery and the products consumed by the public using slave labor. Second, education can mean educating those who are potential victims of slavery about the signs and dangers of entrapment. Deceptive promises of traffickers are difficult for intended victims to properly assess when their educational opportunities have been limited (Cullen-Dupont, p.85).

Finally, education can mean providing education, both primary and occupational, to communities who lack the resources to educate themselves. This last approach to education may be the most effective of the three since it keeps children away from slavery, and can strengthen communities in a sustainable way by providing skills for self-sufficiency. Compulsory primary education in some cases has been more effective than legal bans on child labor or the products of child labor (van den Anker, p.33) The simple act of being in school keeps children out of the workplace and away from slave labor.

Women and girls are not only disproportionately poor, but they receive less education than men and boys (Modern Slavery, p.84). Women are often expected to remain in the home and care for family and household needs and their exposure to useful job skills and knowledge are limited. Focusing education efforts on females in order to combat poverty and slavery addresses the gender imbalance that contributes to both of these issues.

There are many organizations that have created prevention programs using education for women and girls as a root solution. The SOLD Project is a U.S. based non-profit working in rural Thailand in high-risk areas where children are vulnerable to forced prostitution. SOLD has developed a sponsorship program called the Freedom Project that allows donors to sponsor a child with scholarship, mentorship, and resources so that they can stay in school for just 4 dollars a week. SOLD has also instituted Human Trafficking Awareness programs in sixth grade classrooms where it operates. Through its Freedom Project, SOLD has created a root solution to slavery by focusing on prevention.

The Association for People for Practical Life Education (APPLE) is a grassroots non-profit based in Ghana that uses community outreach and education to end child slavery in its fishing communities. APPLE works with adults as well as children, giving them skills training so that they can be self-sustaining. This helps to keep parents from selling their children. Children who are rescued by the organization are placed in schools or given apprenticeships for learning a trade. APPLE also works with all members of the community to spread awareness about the reality of slavery and the laws that exist in their state to combat it.

By looking at the big picture and taking a holistic approach to root solutions, organizations such as the ones discussed here are becoming successful at reducing slavery in their communities. Through fairer wages, the learning of vocational skills, and awareness and education, those most vulnerable to falling victim to the slave trade are becoming empowered. Giving the ultra-poor alternatives to slavery and eliminating the demand for it will eventually lead to a weakening and ultimately an end to the slave market.

Pacific Center for Global Justice's Role in the Fight Against Modern Slavery

Many of the organizations looked at so far in this paper operate on similar principles as the PCGJ by employing social analysis and social action. However, research for this paper was unable to identify an organization that has the same three-fold mission the Pacific Center does, which not only includes social analysis and social action, but also a mission of engaging people in a process of contemplation. When considering how the PCGJ might address the issue of modern slavery there are many successful models of social analysis and social action to follow, but a meditative element must be present in any approach the PCGJ takes.

Researching the issue of modern slavery, as this paper has done, is part of the social analysis aspect of the PCGJ mission. And any social action that the PCGJ might take can be modeled after proven root solutions like the ones implemented by organizations presented in this paper. Meditating and reflecting spiritually on the issue of modern slavery from a moral, ethical and spiritual perspective will bring the third necessary component to the triumvirate. It can be considered the driving force as to why

one would want to conduct social analysis or social action in relation to the issue of modern slavery in the first place. It brings well thought out personal meaning to the cause.

Scholars and modern theologians have not overlooked the importance of this aspect of modern slavery and have written about their own meditations concerning the issue. The value of global justice and its ability to be realized is looked at through a spiritual lens. Greed is also discussed as a common human element that threads itself throughout all aspects of the modern slave trade and is addressed as a thing to meditate and reflect on as part of the fight against slavery.

The injustice of slavery is not one that has to be taught to people. Van den Anker notes “there is a historic consensus that justice requires the end of slavery”(van den Anker, p.17) Humans value their freedom and know at a fundamental level that slavery is unjust. That is why slavery has been internationally condemned and made illegal across the entire globe. But the injustice of modern slavery does not stand alone. It part of a larger picture of global injustice that includes mass poverty and inequality. The PCGJ understands that justice is multi-faceted and that approaches to realizing it must be too.

As global citizens we directly and indirectly participate in the economic and social injustices that ensure the existence of modern slavery. Spending and consumer habits, governmental policies, and a lack of awareness of slavery all contribute to modern slavery’s stronghold. Considering our place in this larger picture is a step towards taking responsibility for our place in it.

Ethics are never black and white. While a person may believe something is wrong, it doesn’t mean they wouldn’t participate in it under the right set of

circumstances. We unknowingly participate in things we may find unethical everyday, such as buying slave-made products. It is worth examining how our modern systems of values and ethics contribute to the perpetuation of the slave trade.

A perceived lack of justice absent in modernization and globalization has spurred an academic discipline called development ethics. Looking at development policy through the lens of ethics is the purpose of development ethics and it evaluates the true human consequences of progress. Development ethics help us reflect on global justice and if it is being served or not when development is done in the name of “progress”. Van den Anker writes “If development ethics can help us be more morally exposed to the realities of the world, than it will help us tackle one of the root causes of new slavery- namely extreme poverty itself”(van den Anker, p.200).

Groody asserts that issues of freedom and slavery can only be “worked out in the inner depths of the human heart, where we forge the metal of what we most value” (Groody, p.240). Universally, spiritual and religious communities place a high value on justice and neighborly love. All the great religious traditions contain their own systems of ethics that address fundamental human concerns (Muzaffar, p.xiii) Main tenants of many of the world’s religions include treating other people as you would be treated yourself and helping those in need. Religious or not, it is these core values that need to be accessed in people around the globe in order to inspire them to combat slavery.

As mentioned earlier, eradicating slavery will require fundamental changes in the way society operates. Rethinking attitudes toward the current economic system should grow out of a deeper desire for enhancing the fundamental human ethics that underlie all economic activities if they are to generate healthy and sustainable development

(Muzaffar, p.xiii) Contemplation and meditation on the issue of slavery can bring each of us closer to discovering sustainable root solutions to modern slavery.

The PCGJ can integrate this concept into its Alternative University along with other modern slavery issues as part a featured course that uses modern slavery as a conduit (or case study) for teaching the PCGJ's unique and integrative approach to teaching justice making. It could be included in the two, hour, one day, or nine-month course. This featured course could change to include other topics as the PCGJ adjusts its focus in the future.

When considering other options for root solution action the PCGJ could take to confront modern slavery, one must bear in mind its limited resources. The PCGJ is an all-volunteer organization and currently does not have any revenue. The question must be posed: How can the PCGJ make the most of its existing resources to deliver root solutions to modern day slavery through social analysis, social action, and engaging people in contemplative meditation?

Acting locally while thinking globally is a good start. Modern slavery is a real and present issue right here in Portland, Oregon. The state ranks 2nd in the nation in the number of child victims of sex trafficking recovered from FBI sting operations. (OATH website). Sex trafficking is the dominant form of trafficking of people in the Untied States.

Many Oregon-based organizations have been working to combat slavery in the state and many are in Portland. Oregonian's Against Human Trafficking (OATH) works to educate the public about the sex trade and how to look for signs that someone is

trafficking or has been trafficked. They also provide statistical research, training and education, as well as victim resources.

Transitions Global is another organization working in Portland to stop victims of sex trafficking from falling back into the industry, where there is a 78% recidivism rate. They employ sustainable long-term solutions by providing education, job skills as well as other support services to clients so that they can build lives for themselves.

These organizations and others can be seen as potential partners for the PCGJ. Staff members and clients could attend PCGJ's Alternative University to learn more how they can affect social justice. The PCGJ could produce literature that promotes awareness of slavery in Oregon and share it with such organizations as well as the public. The same literature could be distributed to high-risk areas where trafficking is likely to occur, aiding potential victims.

The PCGJ can have a resource guide page on the website with links to all the organizations found in the course of this and other research. This could include a list of fair trade companies and organizations for consumers to consult. The PCGJ can also create fliers for publication that can raise awareness of root causes and solutions of modern slavery and share them at events designed to raise awareness about the issue, such as the one held this past August.

The PCGJ can apply its mission's three-fold approach to the issue of modern slavery and work within its means, while at the same time leaving room for growth. It has already begun social analysis by commissioning this paper and will undoubtedly continue to procure more information for further analysis. Social analysis concentrated on

modern slavery at the local level would also benefit a domestic and local PCGJ approach to the issue.

The PCGJ can participate in social action through incorporating modern day slavery issues into its educational curriculum, by raising awareness at planned events, and making information available for the public in the form of literature and online guides. Engaging people in contemplative meditation can be accomplished by appealing to people's morals, ethics and spirituality in its literature and course materials. Framing modern slavery as a moral issue encourages contemplation and reflection for those who question what their role is in bringing it to an end.

Finding partners in the community to share information and resources with will only increase the visibility of PCGJ and make more people aware of its unique mission and curriculum. This will have the added benefit of attracting interested volunteers and supporters. Effective partners could include the World Affairs Council of Oregon who brings in speakers to lecture on topics such as modern slavery.

Starting with these attainable and practical steps will give the PCGJ a chance to become familiar with the issue and how the local community will respond to it. It will also give the organization an opportunity to find inspiration for where to go next in terms of growth. It may choose to continue addressing the issue of modern slavery, or it may find another worthy cause. Either way, it will have discovered what it is capable of as an organization and what steps it can take in the future to successfully focus its efforts.

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