Child Labor Issues and Human Trafficking

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Disclaimer

- The materials and information shared in this presentation do not represent the views of the Department of L&I.
Outline

- Definition & Terms
- Scope of the Problem
- International Policies
- Root Causes
- Impacts of Child Labor
- Child Labor & Trafficking
- Recommendations
- Resources
Introduction

“In their little worlds in which children have their existence, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt, as injustice…”

~ Charles Dickens, 
Great Expectations
Case Example – Detroit, January 2013

- 4 children brought to US with illegal documents by adult male from West Africa
- Forced labor for 5 years
  - domestic servitude 16-18 hours a day
  - forced to do the same work for his friends
- Beaten and abused daily
- Food withheld regularly as punishment
  - Growth stunted so looked younger than age
- Reported to Homeland Security by Sheriff Dept.

Scope of Problem

International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates

Child Labor:
- 215 million children in child labor worldwide
- 115 million of them in hazardous forms of work

Human Traffic Victims:
- 21 million people are in forced labor
- At least 6 million are children

Numbers in the U.S. difficult to determine
Definition of Terms

Child Work:

- Normal contribution to family and community life
  - Carrying water or firewood, delivering milk, helping parent in the fields, child care, housework

Child labor:

- Hired work performed by those < 15 yrs of age
  - adjusted to 12 years for some work (e.g., agriculture) and in some countries (ILO Convention 138, 1973)
- Hazardous work for 14- to 17-year-olds
History of Child Protection

- **1924 ~ Declaration on Rights of the Child**
  - League of Nations
  - First international document to affirm rights of the child, which includes any person < 18 years of age

- **1959 ~ Declaration of the Rights of the Child**, recognized right of children to education and freedom from exploitation

- **1989 ~ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**
  - First legally binding international instrument to incorporate full range of civil and political rights for children, including economic, social and cultural
  - [Ratified by all member countries except US and Somalia](http://www.unicef.org/crc/)

- **1999 ~ ILO Convention 182: Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor**
  - Ratified 175 of 183 member countries
  - US ratified in 1999, but has been cited by World Court for insufficient protections for youth working in agriculture.
UN Convention on Rights of the Child – Adopted 1989

Most widely accepted international instrument to protect children – recognizes unique vulnerability and their need for special protections

- **Article 1** – Definition of child <18 years of age
- **Article 32** – Child Labor
  - Governments should protect children from dangerous work, or work that inhibits their ability to get an education or interferes with health and well-being
  - Limit hours and conditions of employment

www.childrightscampaign.org
UN Convention - Rights of the Child (cont’d)

- **Article 34** – Protect children from sexual exploitation
- **Article 35** – Protect children from abduction, sale, and trafficking
- **Article 36** - Protect children from all other forms of exploitation
- **Article 38** – Protect children from armed conflict
  - Optional Protocol of 2000 specifies that children under 18 cannot be recruited for armed conflict
ILO Convention 182
Adopted 1999

- Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention
  - Preamble recognizes poverty as a root cause
  - Long-term solution lies in sustained economic growth leading to social progress, including reduction in poverty and universal education
ILO Convention 182 – Article 3

- Article 3 definitions
  a) All forms of slavery, such as sale and trafficking of children (includes sexual exploitation), debt bondage, and forced labor including compulsory recruitment for armed conflict
  b) The use, procuring or offering a child for prostitution or pornographic purposes
ILO C 182 – Article 3 cont’d

- Article 3
  
  c) Use of children for illicit activities, including drug trafficking
  
  d) Work that by its nature or circumstances is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children
    
    • to be determined by national laws, regulations, international standards, and consultation with employer and worker groups
Harmful Work – ILO C 182 Article 3 (d)

- Work …
  - exposing child to physical, psychological or sexual abuse
  - underground, under water, at dangerous heights or confined spaces
  - with dangerous machinery, equipment, tools or involving handling of heavy loads
  - in unhealthy environments exposing child to hazardous substances, agents, processes, temperatures, noise, or vibrations damaging to health
  - under difficult conditions such as long hours, late night or confined by employer
Harmful Condition (UNICEF)

- Working…
  - Too young
  - Too late
  - Under strain
  - On the streets
  - For inadequate pay
  - Without adequate stimulation
  - Assuming too much responsibility
  - Being subject to intimidation
Human Trafficking for Child Labor

- Recruitment, harboring, transporting or obtaining a person for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion → May occur within or across borders
  - Many children kidnapped from their communities

- Types of trafficked labor involving children:
  - Forced labor
  - Involuntary domestic servitude
  - Indentured servitude and debt bondage
  - Sex trafficking
  - Child soldiering
Root Causes

- Poverty often 2° to globalization
- Lack of living wage for adult workers
- High demand for cheap labor
- Orphaned children – with no social protections
  - War
  - HIV/AIDS
- Lack of educational opportunities for children
- Crisis -> leading to disruptions and desperation
  - civil unrest, armed conflict, natural disasters
- Lack of political will to intervene
Effects of Child Labor

Individual level

- Deprivation of right to health, safety, education, childhood, normal development
- Impact of work activities on growth and development $\leftrightarrow$ exploitive and abusive work $\rightarrow$ poverty
- Overwork, strain, & job-specific health hazards
- Denial of decent future
Effects of Child Labor

Community level

- Lower educational attainment
- Disruption of families
- Unprepared adult work force
- Lower standard of living
- Poor health of population
- Early occupational morbidity and mortality
### Occupational Health Impacts of Child Labor*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Task(s)</th>
<th>Selected Hazards</th>
<th>Selected Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Pesticide application, lifting, tending animals, lifting, operating machinery</td>
<td>Toxic chemicals, physical strain, moving machine parts, insects and snakes</td>
<td>Pesticide poisoning, machine-related injuries, bites and stings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Crushing and carrying stone,</td>
<td>Dust, heavy lifting, falls, machinery</td>
<td>Pneumoconioses including silico-tuberculosis, injuries,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick factories</td>
<td>Shaping bricks, carrying,</td>
<td>Repetitive trauma,</td>
<td>Pneumoconioses including silico-tuberculosis, injuries,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpet factories</td>
<td>Hand knotting carpets, cutting</td>
<td>Organic dusts, sharp objects, repetitive trauma</td>
<td>Asthma, arthritis, lacerations, pneumoconioses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine shops</td>
<td>Polishing metal, cutting, grinding</td>
<td>Unguarded machines, sharp objects, metal dusts, noise</td>
<td>Noise induced hearing loss, amputations and lacerations, pneumoconioses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*D. Parker & S. Bachman, unpublished manuscript 2001
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<td>Garbage picking</td>
<td>Picking and sorting garbage</td>
<td>Chemical and biologic wastes, infectious organisms, rats and other vermin</td>
<td>Infectious diseases, injuries, bites and stings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House work</td>
<td>Cleaning, cooking, child care</td>
<td>Sexual violence, isolation, removal from family</td>
<td>Sexually transmitted diseases, failure to thrive, poor nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Soldiers</td>
<td>Most forms of light military service</td>
<td>Military violence, forced violence against family and community members</td>
<td>Psychological trauma, loss of life, disability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*D. Parker & S. Bachman, unpublished manuscript 2001*
Additional Health Impacts of Trafficking

**Physical Health Issues**
- Malnutrition
- Dehydration
- Exhaustion
- Injuries from beatings
  - contusions, fractures, lacerations, etc.
- Drug Addiction
- Dental & Vision Problems

**Mental Health Issues**
- Depression and/or Anxiety
- Drug addiction
- Suicidal thoughts
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
Recognizing trafficked children

- Unable to speak on own behalf
- Does not know where s/he is
- No identification or travel documents
- Signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect
- Appears frightened, depressed, anxious
- Resistance by adult to allow the child to be spoken to alone
Individual Assessment ~ Questions to Ask

- Where are you from?
- How did you get here?
- What brings you to the Washington State?
- What type of work do you do?
- Are you paid for your work?
- Are you forced to do this job?
- Have you been threatened with violence if you leave your job?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, talk to others?
- Where do you live?
- Do you go to school?
Intervention Strategies

- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution
- Partnerships
- Participation
  - Must include children and youth in the solutions
Recommendations

- **Education**
  - Mandatory primary/secondary education
  - Incentives for retaining children in school
  - Accessible, flexible, appropriate
  - Training of parents, teachers, health care providers, employers, children about hazards of work and child labor
  - Public awareness campaigns

- **Birth Registration for All Children**

- **Community-Based Programs & Support**

- **Rights of Women recognized**
Recommendations

- **Prevention**
  - Requires global commitment and action
  - Ratification of international treaties and adoption of laws

- **Protection & Prosecution ~ Local resources**
  - Law Enforcement
  - Outreach and Education
  - Assistance to Individuals
    - Safe Houses; Repatriation, if indicated
    - Access to Medical Care and Mental Health Treatment

- **Partnerships & Individual Champions**
  - Become more educated & increase awareness of what occurs in our communities
Looking Ahead

“ The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future.”

~ Oliver Tambo  
ANC President, 1985
Resources

- **US Department of Labor – Bureau of International Affairs (ILAB)**
  - [www.dol.gov/ilab](http://www.dol.gov/ilab)

- **International Labor Organization - ILO**

- **Global March Against Child Labor**
  - [www.globalmarch.org](http://www.globalmarch.org)

- **US Department of Education**
  - [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.html)
Resources

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
- Polaris Project for a World Without Slavery
- U.S. Department of State
  - Trafficking in Persons Report - 2012
  - http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt
Contact Information

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  - www.TeenWorkers.Lni.wa.gov

- Contact me for questions or concerns about child and youth employment; or possible child labor violations