Global women: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers I

At the end of this session, you should be able to understand

- Facts about and definitions about sexual exploitation of women and children
- The relationship between global militarization, tourism/underdevelopment, and sexual exploitation
- Causes of sex tourism/sex trade/prostitution and the devastating effects of AIDS/HIV
- Possible solutions against the sexual exploitation of women and children (UN agencies, International Law)

Pairs discuss the following topics:

1. Why is the trade in women and children, sex tourism, and exploitation a human rights issue?
2. Give a definition of sex tourism, human exploitation, human trafficking, human smuggling, prostitution, and child porn
3. In how far can we talk about a global phenomenon? Isn’t it a private issue? Give examples
4. What are the causes of sex tourism and trade in women and children? What factors contribute to sexual exploitation?
6. How are prostitution and the distribution of AIDS/HIV related? Give examples
7. What are the major causes of AIDS/HIV?
8. What can and should be done against the sexual exploitation of women and children?

Definitions and Terms

- Sale of children=transaction of a child for remuneration or other consideration
- Child prostitution=use of child in sexual activities for remuneration of other consideration
- Child pornography=representation of child or sexual parts engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities for primarily sexual purposes
- Trafficking in personas=recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation
- Exploitation=prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs
- Child=any person under eighteen years of age
- Smuggling of migrants=the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident
- Illegal entry=shall mean crossing borders without complying with the necessary requirements for legal entry into the receiving State
Fraudulent travel or identity document= any travel or identity document: i) That has been falsely made or altered in some material way by anyone other than a person or agency lawfully authorized to make or issue the travel or identity document on behalf of a State; or ii) That has been improperly issued or obtained through misrepresentation, corruption or duress or in any other unlawful manner; or iii) That is being used by a person other than the rightful holder

Human Rights Issues related to our previous topic

- Crimes Against Humanity
- Crimes Against Peace
- Ethnic Cleansing
- Disappearances
- Torture
- Starvation
- Forced Labor
- Concentration Camps
- Blocking of Humanitarian Aid
- POW Camps
- Genocide
- Internal Displacement

Human Rights Issues related to Women & Children

- Sexual violence
- Rape & Gang-Rape
- Prostitution
- Forced Pregnancy
- Child Soldiers

Facts about Global Sexual Exploitation

- An estimated 2 million children (mainly girls) are sexually exploited in multi-billion dollar commercial sex trade
- Asia: 1/3 of all sex workers in Cambodia are children under age 18; 20-40,000 child sex workers in Taiwan
- U.S: 1 in 5 children using Internet are approached by strangers for sex. 325,000 children at risk
- Mexico: 16,000 children involved in prostitution
- Central/East Europe: children as young as 11 work in brothels, 20-50% of sex workers in Lithuania are minors

Prostitution in Asia

Different perspectives in Asian cultures:
- On average tolerated.
- Most prostitution is internal.

Boomed after World War II:
- Rising prosperity in developed countries.
- Development of tourism.
Poverty, conflicts and natural disasters.
Commodification of sex by the pornography industry.
Establishment of American military bases (R&R).

Complex networks of abductions, trafficking and bondage (debt):
- 2 million girls (aged 5 to 15) introduced into the sex industry each year.
- Replace overworked, sick or dead prostitutes.
- Each year, at least 10,000 girls and women enter Thailand from poorer neighboring countries for prostitution.
- A prostitute gets $10,000-$15,000 of debt to work in Australia.

Child Prostitution in Asia
- About 1 million in Asia.
- 800,000 children working in the sex industry in Thailand.
- Average age: 10 to 14.

Prostitution in Pacific Asia
- Sex cities:
  - Significant infrastructures of bars, karaoke clubs, hotels, and massage parlors.
  - Bangkok, Manila and Saigon as major destinations.
  - 200,000 in Japan working as “entertainers”.
- Sex tourism:
  - Mainly Europeans, Americans, Australians, Saudi Arabians and Japanese.
  - Either informal or organized by sex travel agencies.
  - Seek exotic, submissive, obedient woman not contaminated by feminism.
- “Mail-order brides”
  - 100,000 – 150,000 women a year advertise themselves for marriage.
  - About 10,000 available on the Internet at any time.
  - Mainly from Southeast Asia and Russia.
  - Come from places in which jobs and educational opportunities for women are scarce and wages are low.

Sex Tourism at the Example of Bangkok/Thailand
- Like Manila, Taipei, and (increasingly) Saigon, Bangkok is one of the “sex capitals” of the world. Desperate men and women enter into prostitution as a last resort to survive or to feed a drug habit. There is also an active slave trade from Myanmar (Burma).
- Destitute families in urban squatter settlements and poor villages are enticed to sell their children (primarily girls) to middlemen who promise to find them employment with a rich family who will send them to school.
- These children are enslaved and forcibly turned into prostitutes by whatever means necessary including physical abuse and drug addiction.
- AIDS has reached critical proportions, but the industry continues to thrive on tourism. Planned sex tours are widely available from around the world and are especially popular with Japanese businessmen.

Reasons for Prostitution:
- Get out of debt: make a lot of money fast
A Thai waitress makes $30-60/month
A prostitute makes $400-800 (over 25 times as much)
Support family and advance their status

Factors Contributing to Sexual Exploitation
1. Societal: poverty, general attitudes, prevalence of crime, violence & prostitution, media/advertising, knowledge about AIDS/STD, sexual mores and special groups (military, seasonal workers, truckers, motor cycle gangs, conventioneers…)
2. Family/Peers: parents/sibling, relatives, neighbors, schools, gangs/crime organizations, local pimps…
3. Individual: poor self esteem, chronic depression, restricted future orientation, drug dependency, family dysfunction, history of physical/sexual assault…

AIDS in Pacific Asia
- About 7.1 mio HIV positive cases in East, South and Southeast Asia--1 mio cases in East Asia.
- Mostly transmitted through heterosexual sex and drug use.
- Link with prostitution:
  - In some brothels, 60% of prostitutes are HIV positive.
Thailand:
- About 1.8% (670,000) of adult population HIV positive
- Reversing the growth of life expectancy.
- Life expectancy was reduced by a year and a half to 68 years.

Major Causes of AIDS
- Prostitution
- Lack of sexual education
- Unsafe sex due to either poor education or lack of money
- Power imbalance between men and women
- Polygamy

What to do against exploitation of children and women?
- Build a protective environment
- Government need to recognize problem and respond
- Enforce laws and punish adequately
- Change attitudes and educate public, parents & children themselves. Involve mass media
- Provide free, compulsory, relevant and attractive education
- Support families to be able to care for children and women
- Involve parents, communities, religions, teachers, police, health providers, travel industry etc in preventing sexual exploitation
- Monitor and report nationally and internationally
- Care for survivors of sexual exploitation

International Law & Conventions
- ILO Convention #182: prohibition of child labor
- UN Convention on the Rights of Children, Articles 34 & 35: prohibition to sell children, child
prostitution and child porn [U.S. has NOT signed this Convention. Why??]

UNICEF’s approach/solution
- Prevention: send children, esp. girls to school to have means for supporting themselves with regular employment
- Protection: enforce existing law, create awareness among public, police, judiciary
- Recovery and Reintegration: reaching and extracting victims, provide services & support, finding long-term solutions