

FOCUS ON JUSTICE

CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice

Loyola Marymount University
Fall 2017



Brenda Wells,
Founder and
Executive Director
of i-5 Freedom
Network and
panel member,
*Human Trafficking:
It's Everybody's
Business*

A Professor's Reflections on the Human Trafficking Symposium

by Cathleen McGrath, Ph.D., Professor of Management, College of Business Administration

Human Trafficking

What do I know? What do I think I know?

Who are the victims of human trafficking?

Who are the perpetrators of human trafficking?

Who are the people fighting human trafficking?

Attending the lectures was the beginning of the conversation. Getting to know more. The conversation begins before the symposium and continues during the symposium.

WHAT I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

When I learned that the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice was planning a symposium exploring local and global issues of human trafficking I knew that I wanted to be involved and to invite my students to be involved as well. In preparation for the January symposium, Sr. Judith Royer invited my class to join her

class for a presentation on human trafficking facilitated by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST). We were honored to be part of a group of approximately sixty people who listened to the stories of different survivors of labor and sex trafficking. During the Fall semester, I mentored two groups of students who studied aspects of human trafficking that related to business in the Los Angeles area. One group explored issues of awareness of human trafficking among university students. Students reported that they were aware of issues of human trafficking. However, they found that students' perceptions of the magnitude of people being trafficked was very inaccurate. Students were as likely to overestimate as to underestimate the number of cases of human trafficking occurring in California. When asked who was likely to be a victim of trafficking, students overestimated the likelihood that a victim would be a minor and underestimated the likelihood that a victim would have U.S. citizenship. After interviewing people who work with survivors of human trafficking in Los Angeles, this group began to design an approach to education about human trafficking for college students. A second group of students focused

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on the question of how business owners and members of the business community could ensure that they were not benefitting from human trafficking in their supply chains. This group interviewed business owners to learn more about real world approaches to the prevention of human trafficking. I had bid farewell to my students before Winter Break and told them that I hoped to see them at the symposium in January.

When the CJS symposium commenced in January 2017 I was ready to continue my own and my students exploration into issues of human trafficking, especially from a business perspective. The first session that I attended was Trafficking 101 with Terry Coonan, Executive Director of Florida State University for Advancement of Human Rights. This session provided a good introduction to significant issues of human trafficking. And more importantly to me, Dr. Coonan was able to open our hearts to the human face of victims of human trafficking. He shared photographs of the places where people who were trafficked were living, photographs of their possessions. As I listened to his talk, I began to really see the people who had been moved from their homes, across state lines, to a place they did not know. I saw people who could be certain of nothing. At any moment they might be moved, they might be abused, they might be abandoned. Sitting in the reality of their lives was painful – I felt their loss of human dignity. And I began to understand even more the importance of listening to the stories of survivors of human trafficking. As I listened to their

stories, as I learned of their journey to recover from their experience, I learned a great deal about what it means to be human and to be in relation with others – for good and for bad.

The discussion of TRAFFICKCAM by Kimberly Ritter, director of Development for the Exchange Initiative provided an opportunity to build on Dr. Coonan's talk. We learned more stories about people who had been trafficked. These stories were mostly of young women as well. I was interested to learn the extent to which traffickers use fear, shame, and uncertainty to trap the people they are trafficking. As I listened to Ms. Ritter, I was struck by the feeling in the room that this is a problem that affects everyone – Ms. Ritter, herself was so clearly affected by what she knew about trafficking. And as we experienced this sense of concern, Ms. Ritter offered a bit of hope. Her organization, The Exchange Initiative, has created a data base of photographs of hotel rooms that can be used to determine the location of sex trafficking victims. Anyone who travels can help by uploading photographs of their hotel room to the database. The Exchange Initiative worked with hospitality industry experts, law enforcement professional, computer scientists, and other people to develop methods of identifying location based upon multiple pieces of data that are provided by a photograph. This is an example of a project that many of us can contribute to in order to stop human trafficking.

Through the sessions I attended, I was able to meet with people who approach issues of human trafficking from several different perspectives. Throughout the symposium, my primary awareness was toward the victims of human trafficking themselves. I learned a great deal about their experiences. Next I learned so much about the people who work directly with victims of human trafficking. I noted an intensity in their discussions that went beyond a general commitment to work and helped me to better understand what vocation means. And finally, I met many people who worked in the governmental and industry sectors who are starting to focus more on stopping human trafficking. The work that I learned about in the business sector was primarily related to creating awareness, insuring that one's own company was not unknowingly participating in human trafficking by employing individuals who were trafficked, and finally, by providing information and expertise that was a critical component of preventing human trafficking. As the symposium unfolded, I first learned so much more about human trafficking and the victims themselves and then moved toward understanding some things that we as business people might be able to do to address human trafficking and support victims of human trafficking.

One Alum's Eye Opening Look at the Hidden World of Human Trafficking

by Maryrose Hopke '74

In my world view human trafficking was something that happened in foreign countries thousands of miles away...in dark, sad, poor places. What I knew about it was from movies or television and we all know that rarely do they portray the complicated and real life picture of this horrible practice. I was about to learn more than I could have imagined about this underworld.

In January on the campus of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice, with an interdisciplinary approach, held a 3 day symposium entitled "Hidden in the Crowd: Human Trafficking Locally and Globally" to open our eyes and bring to light the real issues and problems of human trafficking. This conference gave all of us who attended the



Terry Coonan (right), Florida State University, lawyer and professor and **Christine Cervenak**, Assoc. Dir. at the Center for Civil and Human Rights at Notre Dame Law School. *What Can University Communities and Religious Congregations Do?*

opportunity to be educated on the many levels of this industry.

The first session entitled *Human Trafficking 101* introduced trends and cases nationwide and included a brief survey of federal and California laws meant to combat trafficking. It was presented by Terry Coonan, Executive Director of Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and Associate Professor of Criminology at Florida

State University. He leads the multidisciplinary Center's efforts to educate and train a new generation of human rights advocates, tracks human rights issues and serves as an advocate for human rights nationally and internationally. In this session, what stood out for me was discovering that human trafficking is prevalent here in the UNITED STATES as well as abroad. Whether it is for sex or labor it involves extortion and degradation of the human person.



LARRY KALBERS, R. CHAD DREIER CHAIR IN ACCOUNTING ETHICS,
MODERATOR, *HUMAN TRAFFICKING: IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS*

Another symposium session *What to Look For: Under our Noses* included Corrine St. Thomas-Stowers from Orange County District Attorney's Office, Tina Paulson from the Association for the Recovery of Children. They brought to light a clearer picture of both victims and traffickers. Some of the facts were surprising. Human trafficking can take place anywhere from the obvious - escort services, massage parlors, porn industry, to the less obvious - domestic/farm labor, restaurants, door-to-door sales and factory work. They described how victims are recruited or coerced into this modern day slavery.



LIZA TAYLOR (FAR RIGHT), VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE,
PARTNERING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Human Trafficking: It's Everybody's Business was a session that showed the underbelly of the issue - organized crime. The panel explored the legal and ethical issues in business with emphasis on the supply chain. The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, and its enforcement, was also included. Brenda Wells, Founder and Executive Director of i-5 Freedom Network, Todd Forester, GM of the Holiday Inn San Clemente and Vice President

of i-5 Freedom Network and Anthony Seferian, Deputy Attorney General, State of California Department of Justice were the participating panelists. Lawrence Kalbers, R. Chad Dreier Chair in Accounting, Loyola Marymount University was the moderator.

On the final day Fr. Charles Vijay Kumar showcased his series of three short films on human trafficking. In *Human Sex Trafficking in California*, trafficking survivors Susan Munsey and Amanda Long gave deep and personal revelations of what they went through when they were trafficked and the road to survival. *What Parents Need to Know About Human Trafficking* provided insights to parents on how vulnerable their children can be online and at school. The film *Faith Communities Against Human Trafficking* showed the role that faith communities can take to help those survivors in transition. Fr. Allan Deck, S.J., Distinguished Scholar of Pastoral Theology and Latino Studies in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at LMU was the moderator.

At the end of the symposium I was deeply affected and profoundly educated about this so called "industry". Here are some practical action points I will embrace from now on: pay more attention to those around me in service jobs whether it is in restaurants, hotels or supermarkets; look into what it means to buy fair trade goods; support businesses that treat employees with dignity, respect and fair wages and contact sources for more information (see contact information). We all need to be aware of this hidden epidemic in our communities and what we can do to help those in need.



NICOLE GON OCHI, FROM ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE,
LEGAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PANEL

For more information on how to help contact:

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking - <http://www.castla.org>

Catholic Relief Services - www.crs.org

Polaris Project - <http://polarisproject.org>



KATHLEEN KIM, LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
LEGAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PANEL

Student Quotes from 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium

"In about three weeks, I went from knowing the basic notions of human trafficking to creating a relationship with a survivor and being trusted to hear what he went through and how he has grown since escaping his situation."

"These dramatized stories help heal the survivors and allow them to take a step back and see what they have experienced from a different point of view."

Ashley Lillegraven '18 Accounting

"As a part of the Voices of Justice class, I composed and performed a dramatic narrative story based on interviews with a male lifer from The Francisco Homes, a nonprofit organization providing transitional housing for male lifers. Through the connection we made with each other in the interviews, he was able to share his struggles and the experiences of other lifers with me."

"Restorative Justice aims to help offenders prevent future crimes; with the help of Sr. Teresa, The Francisco Homes has successfully given lifers a second chance at life. Not a single lifer who has participated with the Francisco Home Program's has returned back to jail."

Oscar Orozco '17 Accounting

"A team of LMU student developers has been working closely with staff at Safe Place for Youth, a Venice-based nonprofit that serves youth experiencing homeless, to investigate the potential positive impact of students gratuitously developing software for organizations as part of their course projects."

"I think this project reveals the potential and huge demand for future collaborations between undergraduate computer science/engineering students and nonprofit organizations whose funding does not yet match their growth rates and demands for their services. As students we can provide new forms of infrastructure resources for these organizations to continue striving for a more just world while fulfilling our educational goals simultaneously."

Chris Franco '17 Computer Science

"The purpose of our Ignacio Companion trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti was to learn about border relations and

interact with the community. We ended up learning more about human nature and ourselves than we could have ever expected. Meeting new people can often be a difficult process, and meeting people who speak a different language is even harder. But language is nowhere near the only way to communicate. Everyone shares common experiences on some level, such as a universal game, sports, music, etc. The best way to meet someone new is to say hello in the form of a smile."

Chase Speicher '17 English

"Our presentation recounts the incredible stories and interactions that my group members and I experienced during our travels to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as we had the pleasure of engaging and learning alongside local communities, organizations, and individuals."

"Travel has become such an immensely transformative form of education for me, as it is through all my travel experiences that I have come to not only better understand the diverse and complex world around me, but also have grown in my own abilities as a global citizen of the world."

Jenna Peterson '17 Communications

Come Celebrate...

Come celebrate our courageous and gifted **Hidden Heroes** on February 4 at 1:00 pm in Murphy Hall. (Yes, it is *Super Bowl 2018*; however, we know that you would not want to miss the opportunity to hear the inspiring and uplifting stories of these individuals).

Norma Bowles Lecturer, Theatre Arts; Founder and Artistic Director, Fringe Benefits Theater

Tom King Assistant Director of Campus Service, Center for Service and Action

Jonathan Rothchild Associate Dean, Bellarmine College and Associate Professor, Theological Studies

Henry Ward Director Intercultural Affairs, Ethic and Intercultural Services

Uakea (Kea) Jose Assistant Director Student Engagement, Center for Service and Action, Communication Studies and Psychology Majors, Class of '18



From the Associate Director

By
MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ

As the year 2017 comes to an end, we realize that this concludes our fifth year at Loyola Marymount University. Many of you – students, faculty, and staff – have partnered with us in the mission of reconciliation and justice. Because of you, we have worked with every College and School, various Centers and student organizations in order to: create symposia, explore engaged and community based learning, experience the power

of the arts as social change, and support the immediate needs of the LMU community and beyond. That being said, we know we have just begun our journey. There are many more of you with whom we hope to engage in the future. Our desire is that we may continue to imagine, explore, and create together in order to be a healing presence in our communities – locally and globally.

During this season in which we remember our beloved family and friends who have gone before us, may we hold in our hearts those who have lost loved ones most recently this year. May we continue to be a presence and a support in their lives.

As we give thanks to God for our family, friends, health, talents, and so much more, let us remember the fragility and vulnerability of so many in our world.

Let us join Meister Eckhart who reminds us:

"If the only prayer you said was thank you; that would be enough."

2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stages of AIDS:

The Baltimore Waltz

November 30 - December 2

8:00pm Banelle Theatre

Proceeds from this will benefit local AIDS charity.

Post play discussion and reception on November 30.

CSJ Center Spring 2018 Symposium

The World on the Move: Migration and Immigration in Uncertain Times

1/23/18-1/25/18

For Schedule of Events, please check lmu.edu/csjcenter

Hidden Heroes Recognition Presentation

2/4/18 1:00pm Murphy Hall

Reception following in Dunning Courtyard

Voices of Justice Performances

Stories from The Francisco Homes

2/24/18 2:30pm

Murphy Hall Reception

Following

Based on dramatized narrative writing from the Fall '17 Voices of Justice Class

Reception following

Stories from S.P.Y. (Safe Place for Youth) and The People Concern (Homeless Services)

2/25/15 2:30pm

Murphy Hall Reception

Following

Based on dramatized narrative writing from the Fall '17 Voices of Justice Class

Reception following

St. Joseph's Day Liturgy and Luncheon

3/19/18 12:00pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Sponsored by the Office of the President and Campus Ministry

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Voices of Justice Panel Presentation

Selected students share experiences of engaged / community-based learning, service and action.

3/24/18 time TBA

