

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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1. TECHNOLOGY: PART OF THE PROBLEM

Traffickers are as diverse as the countries in which they operate. Some are poorly educated individuals who have few skills but those they learn in crime, while others are respected members of the community as well as clandestine members of well resourced, highly sophisticated crime syndicates who can afford to remain on the crest of technological advances. Regardless of which end of the 'sophistication' spectrum traffickers are operating and regardless of where in the world they are committing their crimes, all of them are benefiting in their criminal activities through advances in technology which make it faster, easier cheaper (and ultimately more profitable) to conduct transactions.

The increase in the use of technology for exploitative purposes (from sexual or

pornographic, to trafficking in persons or a combination of offences) has been

attributed to:

- More generalised access to internet
- Increased number of internet users each year
- Increased affordability of technology and services
- Anonymity of users
- Speed –fast (leaving only digital traces)
- Criminals can work from home (although the crime itself can affect victims and have consequences in several countries)
- Difficulty to trace (criminals can operate in many countries)
- The high profitability of the sale of pornography relative to the investment
- required

1.1. TYPES OF COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

There are various forms of technology which offer organized traffickers arenas in which to convene transmit communications and illegal material to each other. Some of them include:

- Newsgroups: sites for exchange of information;
- Websites and search engines;
- Chat rooms: real time communication; no messages are archived or stored, and no log files are maintained;

- File Transfer Protocol (FTP): effective file exchange on the internet, allows users direct access to another's computer hard drive to upload and download files;

- Peer to Peer networks and file swapping programs: used to share illegal material by finding and downloading files on online networks without leaving traceable transmissions and etc.

An enormous advantage criminals are offered by information communication technology is the ease of anonymity and disguise.

Electronic communications can be similarly anonymous. Emails for instance can be routed through different countries and different time zones, hampering attempts to identify sources and recipients of communications. Messages can be simply sent through 're-mailers' who remove identifying information and replace it with false information before sending it on; this system is known to take advantage of chinks in the global law enforcement cooperative community, with re-mailers sending communications through at least one country known for its lack of cooperation with the global community and law enforcement. New technologies such as Web TV allow traffickers to communicate without accidentally leaving illegal materials on a file cache to be discovered by law enforcement.

1. 2. USING TECHNOLOGY TO RECRUIT VICTIMS

The relationship between recruitment of victims and technology takes various forms.

As the Council of Europe notes, these include:

- Victims may fall prey to traffickers via websites and other internet services;

- Victims may be traded or their services 'advertised' to clients via the internet;

- Victims recruited in traditional ways may be forced to contact clients online.

There seems to be some evidence that traffickers use the Internet to recruit women into trafficking situations. Chat rooms and advertisements are the two principal methods used by traffickers to recruit such victims. The types of sites used by traffickers for the recruitment of victims can include:

- sites of marriage agencies (that could act as mail-order bride agencies or dating clubs);

- escorts' sites;

- dating clubs;

- various job offering sites including:

- home assistance

- waitressing / bartending and etc.

A report by the Danish Police notes suspicious advertisements for nannies, waitresses and dancers on Web sites in Latvia and Lithuania.

The traffickers used Internet sites to post job advertisements for jobs in Western Europe just as they do in magazines and newspapers. The magazine ads give mobile phone numbers for contacts, while the Internet sites give email addresses. The danger posed by the internet has also been highlighted by the La Strada Foundation in Poland, which reported that 30% of its clients (trafficked women) were recruited through the Internet.

Mail order brides (International Matchmaking Organizations).

«Marriage agencies» operating online can be a front for the recruitment and exploitation of victims of trafficking. It has been suggested that some sites may be mail-order bride sites which involve the sale of trafficked victims online by credit card, while marriage agency sites may be offering sexual services.

The «mail order bride» industry is almost completely unregulated. Businesses advertise for adults (and sometimes minors) for marriage and require the women and young girls they attract to disclose sometimes highly personal details, while failing to screen the mail clients or scrutinize their backgrounds at all.

1.3. USING TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLOIT VICTIMS

Technology can be used for the purpose of exploitation, particularly sexual – either by individuals for their own private use or by organized criminal groups or other entities using the Internet as a commercial tool to general profit by selling images or services. Types of online technology which can be exploited for such purposes include the following:

- Newsgroups: sites for exchange of information can be misused to find women
 - and children for the purpose of exploitation, and to upload and download illegal
 - pornography;
- Web message and bulletin boards: exchange of information misused by sexual
 - perpetrators; similar to newsgroups but can be private and password protected;
- Websites: can be misused as venues for distribution of pornography, maintained
 - recreationally or for profit. Can now offer streaming videos;
 - Chat rooms: real time communication can be misused by predators to

abuse

- children or recruit potential victims. No messages are archived or stored, and no
 - log files are maintained;
 - File Transfer Protocol (FTP): effective way of exchanging files on the internet, is
 - misused to exchange child pornography. Allows users to have direct access to
 - another's computer hard drive to upload and download files;
 - Search engines: powerful indexes of cyberspace, can be misused by criminals to
 - find illegal content;
 - Peer to Peer networks and file swapping programs: used to find and download
 - files on online networks, misused to share illegal material.
- Transmissions are not
- logged or traceable.

2. TECHNOLOGY: PART OF THE SOLUTION

It is impossible to halt the advance of technology. So it becomes necessary to harness its potential to interfere with organized criminal activities and to combat trafficking and assist its victims.

2.1. USING TECHNOLOGY TO INVESTIGATE TRAFFICKING

Law Enforcement Cooperation through Technology

There are several examples of such cooperation:

- Interpol provides an intelligence clearing house on traffickers, to facilitate the identification of international links in trafficking investigations;
- The United Kingdom's Internet Watch Foundation is an internet 'Hotline' for internet-users to report their exposure to potentially illegal contact online;
- In January 2003, the Toronto Police made a personal appeal to Bill Gates. Microsoft responded with the «Child Exploitation Tracking System», which enables law enforcement officers to collaborate in the pursuit of pedophiles and in the rescue of abused children.

Computer based Training for Law Enforcement

Computer-based training is a form of e-learning, involving training presented on interactive CD-ROMs, designed to enable law enforcement officials to enhance their skills, knowledge and awareness at their own pace and in

their own language.

2. 2. USING TECHNOLOGY TO INTERRUPT TRAFFICKING

Security and Control of Documents

Technical measures are required to make documents more difficult to falsify, forge or alter:

- The European image archiving system called «False and Authentic Documents» makes the efficient and effective verification of documents possible, and enables prompt notification of relevant law enforcement authorities when misuse of a document or a fraudulent document is detected;
- Another example of passport security is evident in the use by the Australian government of biometric technology in Australian passports. Common biometrics include fingerprints, iris, hand geometry, voice recognition and face recognition.

Border Security

For example, the initiative ‘Operation Paludin Child’, conducted in the UK in 2004, involved the recording of the personal details of every child arriving at border posts throughout the UK who was assessed as possibly being at risk or trafficking or exploitation. Details of the adults welcoming unaccompanied children at airports or ports were also recorded.

Creative approaches to preventing trafficking using technology

Rapid advances in technology hail new potential and new capacity for creative solutions to creative problems. Some such measures are showcased below:

- Operation PIN, launched in December 2003, created a website that purports to contain images of child abuse but which is in fact a law enforcement site. Anyone who enters the site will be confronted with an on-law law enforcement message, informing the individual that s/he has entered a law enforcement website, has committed an offence and that his/her details have been captured and provided to relevant national authorities;
- For many years, young boys have been trafficked primarily from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sudan to serve as camel jockeys in the UAE. After years of campaigning by governments, international organizations and NGOs, a particularly innovative approach to curtail demand emerged in 2005. Alongside legislation banning the use of young boys, camel owners started using remote-control operated robots of comparable size to the young boys formerly used.

2. 3. USING TECHNOLOGY TO PROSECUTE TRAFFICKING

Because human trafficking is an offence that frequently occurs across borders, States must take steps to ensure that they can cooperate and assist each other in the investigation of trafficking offences and the prosecution and pun-

ishment of offenders. Some of those tools are showcased here:

- The Online Directory enables competent national authorities to easily access updated contact information of their counterparts in most countries of the world, as well as means of communication and information on the legal requirements for cooperation;
- A mutual legal assistance request writer tool to help practitioners streamline the process of lodging requests. It guides the user step by step through the request process using on-screen templates. When data entry is finished, the tool consolidates all data and then automatically drafts a correct, complete and effective request for final signature.

2. 4. USING TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT VICTIMS

Ensuring the Physical Safety of Victims

The fears of victims are often fully justified by the very real prospect of retaliation if they assist the competent authorities. Protecting of victims and witnesses can be significantly aided by the use of technology. Measures can range from simple low-cost measures (such as giving witnesses a mobile phone with some credit and relevant emergency telephone numbers) to highly complicated resource-intensive measures (such as domestic or foreign relocation of witnesses or changing the identity of witnesses). Video-link testimonies allow witnesses to testify in a location other than the courtroom. This method protects the witness from direct confrontation with and intimidation by the accused. In cases where it is necessary to guarantee the anonymity of the witness, video-link testimonies can be combined with techniques allowing for the distortion of the image or voice, or both, of the witness.

Providing assistance to victims

There is a clear role for information communications technology in facilitating the safe return of a victim to their place of origin. For example, the Asia Foundation seeks to build linkage between isolated anti-trafficking actors and facilitate anti-trafficking efforts by sharing valuable information among counterpart organizations. For instance, many NGOs in rural areas maintain lists for missing persons, some of whom are likely to have been trafficked while many NGOs in cities which are often trafficking destinations, have information on victims currently seeking help. By linking this rural and urban information, victims could be identified and put in touch with their families and outstanding issues could be resolved.

ВЗАИМООТНОШЕНИЯ США И ЛАТИНСКОЙ АМЕРИКИ В 1947 – 1960ГГ.

Р. Е. Снявский

Как известно, проведение любой политики должно иметь под собой