This report is a compilation of notable research on human trafficking that was released in 2013. The 10 research papers included in this report cover revealing research findings in areas that can illuminate our understanding of how to end child trafficking and exploitation. The findings cover topics such as the prevalence of modern day slavery on a global scale, gender-based violence, the production and distribution of child pornography, the strengths and weaknesses of law enforcement response to trafficking in the U.S., and the exploitation of boys in the U.S. and Cambodia.

For each report, you’ll find a short introduction and a bulleted list of key findings-- think of it as a cheat sheet for learning about major research findings regarding trafficking!

While this report does not include every research paper that came out in 2013, the findings outlined in the following pages offer insight into a variety of aspects of child trafficking and exploitation-- a complicated and systematic problem.

As fellow Abolitionists, we hope that this report will help fuel your journey as you continue to learn and evolve in your understanding of human trafficking and how to respond to it.
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## What Do the Colors Mean?  
- **Global**
- **United States Specific**
- **Online Exploitation**
- **Boys**
The Global Slavery Index provides a ranking of 162 countries around the world, based on a combined measure of three factors: 1) estimated prevalence of modern slavery by population; 2) a measure of child marriage; and 3) a measure of human trafficking in and out of a country.

The Index identifies factors relevant to risk of slavery, and provides a way for these factors to be measured so that countries can be compared. It also examines the 20 countries at the top and bottom of the list in detail, describing the problem, government responses, and action needed.

The Global Slavery Index used the following definition of modern slavery when estimating prevalence:

Modern slavery is the possession and control of a person in such a way as to significantly deprive that person of his or her individual liberty, with the intent of exploiting that person through their use, management, profit, transfer or disposal. Usually this exercise will be achieved through means such as violence or threats of violence, deception and/or coercion.

Walk Free Foundation’s definition of “modern slavery” encompasses definitions for the terms “trafficking,” “slavery,” and “forced labour” that have been used in previous reports.

This means that their definition includes slavery-like practices such as debt bondage, forced or servile marriage, sale or exploitation of children (including in armed conflict) and descent-based slavery. Also, forced labor includes all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily. Trafficking includes recruitment through force with the intent of exploiting that person through prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor, servitude, and removal of organs.

The prevalence of modern slavery is highest in:
1. Mauritania
2. Haiti
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. Nepal
6. Moldova
7. Benin
8. Côte d’Ivoire
9. The Gambia
10. Gabon

When considered in absolute terms, the countries with the highest numbers of enslaved people are:
1. India
2. China
3. Pakistan
4. Nigeria
5. Ethiopia
6. Russia
7. Thailand
8. Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Myanmar
10. Bangladesh

Taken together, these ten countries account for 76% of the total estimate of 29.8 million enslaved people.

The Global Slavery Index rankings reflect a combined weighted measure of three variables:
1) Estimated prevalence of modern slavery in each country (accounting for 95% of the total);
2) A measure of the level of human trafficking to and from each country (accounts for 2.5%); and
3) A measure of the level of child and early marriage in each country (accounts for 2.5%).

Frankly, no-one will ever know for sure exactly how many people are victims of human trafficking due to the underground nature of the crime, but these estimates give us an idea of the scope of the problem.
Prevalence and patterns of non-partner and partner rape

- Male rape of women was pervasive across the region, but prevalence varied across sites: From 10% (Bangladesh-urban) to 62% (Papua New Guinea-Bougainville) of all men interviewed reported perpetration some form of rape against a woman or girl in their lifetime.

- Rape of an intimate partner was more common than non-partner rape in most sites: In all sites except Papua New Guinea-Bougainville, partner rape was more common than rape of a non-partner.

- Rape perpetration starts early in life. Overall, half (49%) of the men who reported having raped a woman did so the first time when they were teenagers.

- Rape was most commonly motivated by sexual entitlement: Across all sites in the study, the most common motivation that men reported for rape perpetration was related to sexual entitlement—men's belief that they have the right to sex, regardless of consent.

- The majority of men who perpetrated rape did not experience any legal consequences: The study found that the vast majority of men who had perpetrated rape (72-97% in most sites) did not experience any legal consequences.

- Although not nearly as prevalent as the rape of women, some men also perpetrate rape against other men: Most men who had raped another man or men also had raped a female non-partner. The greatest overlap in reporting was between male rape and gang rape perpetration against women.

The diversity of men’s lives: gender practices, experiences of violence and adversity

- Not all men used violence: There was great diversity in men’s lives across the region: Some men expressed frustration with the dominant notions of what it means to be a man; others embodied and practised alternative forms of masculinities that promote equitable power-sharing arrangements between men and women.

- Men and women supported gender equality in the abstract, but less so in practice: A large majority (between 84% and 99%) of respondents, both men and women, believed in the abstract idea of equality—supporting the statement that ‘people should be treated the same whether they are male or female’.

Factors associated with violence perpetration

- Men’s experiences of abuse during childhood were common and had serious consequences: Men’s experiences of abuse were associated with depression, low life satisfaction, poor health, gang membership, being involved in fights with weapons, alcohol and drug abuse, use of transactional sex and violence perpetration.

- Some men also experienced rape by other men: From 3 percent of the male respondents in China-urban/rural to 7 percent in Papua New Guinea-Bougainville reported they had been raped by another man.

- A large proportion of men suffered from work-related stress, depression and suicidal tendencies.

- Men’s use of violence was associated with a complex interplay of factors at different levels: The findings show how men’s use of violence against women is also associated with a complex interplay of factors at the individual, relationship, community and greater society levels.

- Intimate partner violence was largely driven by factors related to gender inequality and harmful, hegemonic masculinities within the relationship space. In particular, violence was strongly associated with controlling behaviour, quarrelling, depression, having transactional sex and multiple sexual partners and experiences of child abuse, among other factors.

- Rape perpetration was strongly associated with having more sexual partners, transactional sex, using physical violence against female partners, men’s own victimization and participation in violence outside the home.

- Rape of a man was strongly associated with having more sexual partners, men’s own victimization and participation in violence outside the home.

- Factors associated with men’s use of violence against women varied by type of violence across sites, thus it is crucial to know your situation to know your response: Intimate partner violence is more strongly associated with male violence, while non-partner violent incidents are also associated with a complex interplay of factors at the individual, relationship, community and greater society levels.

- Factors associated with men’s use of violence against women varied by type of violence across sites, thus it is crucial to know your situation to know your response: Intimate partner violence is more strongly associated with male violence, while non-partner violent incidents are also associated with a complex interplay of factors at the individual, relationship, community and greater society levels.
The aim of this assessment is to identify current trends in production, distribution and access to commercial child abusive material (CAM), based on the insight and expertise of European Financial Coalition members, as well as observations of EU Member States law enforcement representatives. It seeks to highlight opportunities for intervention, and specific gaps in the information available. It is anticipated that the findings will be used to inform further intelligence gathering, crime prevention and enforcement activities by the EFC and its member organisations.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- The vast majority of child abusive material is still distributed non-commercially on the open net, using peer-to-peer technologies. Commercial distribution persists, however, and is evolving, including new forms of activity on the hidden net.

- Analysis of web search terms reveals a reduction in interest in traditionally popular “series” of images, persistence in the popularity of generic keywords for child abusive material, and increased interest in “borderline” and “barely legal” material. While more sophisticated offenders use closed online networks to access child abusive material, web search continues to provide an “entry level” means of access.

- The top countries with the highest number of servers hosting commercially distributed child abusive material include the United States, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Japan, The Netherlands, Ukraine, Germany, Czech Republic and Hungary. For some of these -- but not all -- high levels of identified commercial child abusive material URLs may to some extent reflect the misuse of globally popular legitimate hosting services.

- Just 8 Top Level Distributors were responsible for 513 commercial distribution brands in 2012, and the top 10 most prolific brands recorded in 2012 were all associated with a single Top Level Distributor. Associated with Top Level Distributor means that these sites all point to identical merchant accounts with the same provider, use the same email addresses for contact/payment, or utilise the same web payment form on the same URL, for example.

- Children and young people are frequent users of video chat platforms. This activity is being exploited by individuals employing “sextortion” techniques. “Sextortion” is the popular term for the process by which young people are coerced into continuing to produce indecent material by the threat of exposure, and is one of the cornerstones of this evolved solicitation strategy.

- While some offenders continue to post as children in order to make contact with young people, respondents have noted an increase in recent years in the use of aggression and coercive tactics to ensure victim compliance.
Terre des Hommes Netherlands raises the alarm about a largely unknown, but quickly spreading new form of child exploitation that has got tens of thousands victims involved in the Philippines alone: webcam child sex tourism.

In less than two and a half months Terre des Hommes researchers were able to identify over 1,000 adults who were willing to pay children in developing countries to perform sexual acts in front of the webcam.

With the help of a virtual 10 year old Filipina girl the researchers identified adults from more than 71 countries.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Little is being done by governments in Western countries to stem the enormous demand for webcam sex tourism (WCST) that arises from predators within their own borders.
- Parents often rationalize the exploitation of their children through WCST as having no ill effect due to the absence of physical contact with predators. However, this is an unfounded belief, as child victims experience severe psychological trauma.
- Most public chat rooms have moderators whose job it is to survey the room for unwanted conversations or content like child pornography. During this research, however, these moderators were never very active in their tasks. One of the 1,000 predators identified was, in fact, working as a moderator for one of the most visited public chat rooms for teenagers and children.
- Payments for WCST are commonly made between predators and children performing webcam sex shows via Western Union, which does not permit anonymous transactions. This suggests that anonymity is not a priority or requisite for most predators who to engage in WCST.
- The number of children exploited in the WCST trade is predicted to grow rapidly due to the increase of internet accessibility in developing nations.
- Governments must replace the reactive policies with proactive policies that empower law enforcement agencies to catch predators trying to engage in WCST, identify them, and successfully prosecute them using evidence collected through proactive investigation techniques.
- The legal framework established in most national criminal codes and international law provides adequate grounds to prosecute predators engaging in WCST.
From December 7, 2007, through December 31, 2012, the NHTRC answered 65,557 calls, 1,735 online tip forms, and 5,251 emails — totaling more than 72,000 interactions. This report is based on the information learned from these interactions during the first five years of the hotline’s operation by Polaris Project.

Although the extent of awareness regarding human trafficking and the NHTRC heavily influence the number and location of the calls received between 2007-2012, the data in this report offers insight into the broader human trafficking trends in the United States.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Of the 9,298 potential human trafficking cases reported to the NHTRC, 29% involved at least one child victim of human trafficking.
  - 74% of child trafficking cases involved sex trafficking, and the majority of those involved pimp-controlled prostitution.
  - Child victims were also exploited in the pornography industry, escort services, commercial-front brothels, and residential brothels.
  - Minors were found in traveling sales crews, peddling rings, domestic work, begging rings, and in the agriculture industry.

- The NHTRC also found that a significant portion of trafficked minors had interacted with the child welfare system in some capacity while in their trafficking situation.

- The NHTRC responded to 5,932 cases of sex trafficking
  - Pimp-controlled sex trafficking was the most commonly referenced form of sex trafficking, occurring in places like hotels, motels, streets, and truck stops, and was often facilitated online.
  - Commercial-front brothels and residential brothels were also frequently cited.
  - More than 85% of sex trafficking cases involved women and girls, but cases also included male and transgender victims.

- The NHTRC responded to 2,027 cases of labor trafficking
  - 40% of labor trafficking cases involved men and 61% involved women.
  - 66% referenced foreign nationals, and 20% referenced U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents.
  - Cases of labor trafficking were most commonly found in domestic work, with significant concentrations appearing in the Northeast as well as southern Florida and southern California.
  - Victims of labor trafficking were also found in traveling sales crews and among the nation’s migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council studied commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking as they affect U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States under age 18.

This report offers recommendations concerning strategies for responding to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States, new legislative approaches, and a research agenda.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- There is substantial evidence that commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States are serious problems with immediate and long-term adverse consequences for children and adolescents, as well as for families, communities, and society as a whole.

- Efforts to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States are essential but largely absent.

- Efforts to identify and respond to the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States are emerging, with some noteworthy examples, but efforts to date are largely undersupported, insufficient, uncoordinated, and unevaluated.

- Efforts to prevent, identify, and respond to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States require collaborative approaches that build upon the core capabilities of people and entities from a range of sectors.

- Efforts to address commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States need to confront demand and the individuals who commit and benefit from these crimes.

This graph from the report shows the levels and variety of risk factors that surround a victim of or children at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation.
This report from Colorado’s Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT) is centered around the question: “What would it take to end human trafficking in Colorado?” Although the report’s data is specific to Colorado, the larger themes in the findings regarding human trafficking reveal a lot about what it looks like to take a critical look at what the strengths and gaps are of current approaches to anti-trafficking. The report was intentionally designed to bridge the gap between academic researchers and practitioners working on the ground.

### Key Findings

**Prevention**

**Strengths**
- Several organizations target general community and service providers
- Several organizations aim at identification, protection and services for victims
- Several organizations target service providers, law enforcement and medical personnel
- Several organizations develop programs based on organization mission and needs assessment

**Gaps**
- Few raise awareness among vulnerable groups
- Few provide advocacy among private sector to address labor trafficking
- Few conduct training among vulnerable populations and private sector; little training on cultural competency for service providers
- Few offer prevention programs among vulnerable populations; formal prevention program evaluations

**Protection**

**Strengths**
- Agencies provide intensive case management and a consistent worker/representative
- Agencies assist clients in obtaining subsidized housing, help with relocation to other communities, and provide interpretation services
- Agencies provide and refer out for mental health services, using a combination of victim-centered approach and a trauma-informed approach
- Agencies provide life skills, refer to education programs and tailor services based on individual need
- Agencies provide information on rights, reporting to law enforcement, defense attorney, file for T- and U-visas, renewing continued presence

**Gaps**
- Few provide shelter for youth, very few shelters offer separate wings for trafficking survivors
- Few offer alternative, non-traditional methods of therapy as part of culturally-sensitive practice. Few refer or provide job training programs
- Few work with civil remedies for human trafficking survivors

**Prosecution**

**Strengths**
- Having an array of investigative tools that are used for many crimes, including surveillance, undercover operations, and partnerships. Based on the results of each of these areas, strengths and gaps were identified in promising practice components.
- Commitment to partnerships is a strength, including non-governmental and victim service agencies that support survivors as they investigate and build cases.
- Capacity, protocols and referrals (it was common to have less than five officers trained and assigned to work human trafficking cases).
- The work of law enforcement and prosecutors needs the support of a community that can also recognize and identify human trafficking.
- Need for support in working with victims to build solid cases and prosecute on their behalf.

**Partnership**

**Strengths**
- Having an interdisciplinary response, a diverse set of skills among members, and good planning resulted in achievement of goals.
- Survey participants felt that their partnerships accomplished a great number of achievements that included: increases in identification of survivors and development of protection services; an increase in successful prosecutions; a community coordinated response through collaboration and networking; increased awareness of human trafficking; and the development of protocols and tools.

**Gaps**
- Among informal partnerships many felt that the partnership could possibly collapse if the current leader left.

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Covenant House New York is New York City’s largest provider of services for homeless youth, serving approximately 3,000 youths ages 16-21 per year. The data for this report was collected by a screening tool that was designed by Covenant House to reliably identify trafficking victims among homeless youth who arrive at shelters.

Many victims of domestic trafficking pass through homeless facilities around the country, yet many remain unidentified.

Survival sex refers to engagement in a sexual activity in exchange for a means to fill basic needs such as food and shelter. A youth’s victimization in survival sex is often the result of extreme vulnerability due to factors such as running away from an abusive or neglectful home.

One reason for the difficulty of identifying trafficking survivors is that young victims are reluctant to disclose their experience. The screening tool developed by Covenant House is based on research that shows that young adults are more likely to respond honestly to questions if the questions are softened.

For example, one survey question, “Did you ever have sex for money or drugs or a place to stay?” would frequently lead to false negatives, and was subsequently changed to: “Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Sometimes they are exploited or feel the need to use their sexuality to help them survive. Have you ever received anything of value such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors in exchange for performing sexual activity?”

The findings for this report are based on the survey responses of 185 young people, including 11 known victims of labor or sex trafficking, and a random sample of 174 others ages 18-23. 130 were female, 51 were male, and four were transgender.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- For homeless youth, many contributing factors work together in what seems like an inevitable path to commercial sex. These include: the lack of a place to sleep, the lack of a relationship with a caring adult, previous abuse and/or trauma, lack of employment opportunities and education.
- 14.9% of youth in the random sample experienced some form of trafficking victimization.
- An additional 8% engaged in survival sex. Therefore, approximately 1 in 4 youth were either a victim of trafficking or had engaged in survival sex at some point in his/her life.
- Shelter was the number one commodity traded in return for sexual activity (48% of victims)
- Research results demonstrated a great deal of fluidity between survival sex and sex trafficking. What initially started as survival sex often turned into coercive and violent trafficking experiences.
- Two gay male youth, one bisexual male and all four transgender participants reported having engaged in commercial sex activity. A perceived lack of constructive employment opportunities for transgender youth led to the belief and explanation that commercial sex activity was the only option they had.
- Though the screening tool proved to be effective in identifying trafficking victims among homeless youth, the results show that despite efforts to scientifically measure and understand trafficking, there is a great deal of variability on whether trafficking survivors will disclose their experiences.

**SHELTER WAS THE NUMBER ONE COMMODITY TRADED IN RETURN FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY.**
Discussion of boys as victims or survivors of commercial sexual exploitation is frequently appended to a discussion about commercially sexually exploited girls. A panel discussion about commercial sexual exploitation often ends with these words: “...and boys too.”

The ECPAT-USA’s study of existing research and interviews with providers of services to sexually exploited children and youth agencies explored questions such as: what is the extent of commercial sexual exploitation of boys in the United States? Why are boys vulnerable to sexual exploitation? Who are their exploiters—are they under the control of pimps/traffickers? What in their age of entry into “the life,” their race and ethnicity? What is their sexual orientation and gender identity? What are the long-term health outcomes of their exploitation?

**KEY FINDINGS**

- The most significant finding was the unexpectedly large number of boys who are commercially sexually exploited.
- As they do with many girls, both the literature and key informants indicate that boys enter the sex trade in order to meet their basic needs, including for money, shelter, food, drugs, clothing and transportation.
- Common to girls as well, the literature finds boys and young men to have high rates of previous physical and sexual abuse and a lack of family support, leaving them vulnerable and at high risk for exploitation.
- For many boys there is also a strong link between meeting basic needs and their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- From the little that is known about traffickers and sexual exploiters of boys, recruitment approaches vary. For the most part, boys appear to be largely recruited by friends and peers and do not commonly have “pimps.”
- Anecdotal information suggests that boys can enter the life at a similar or even younger age than girls, between 11 and 13 years for boys and young men compared to 12 and 14 years for girls.
- According to the few key informants who noted race and ethnicity of the boys and young men they have seen, they appeared consistent with regions of the country: Hispanic on the West Coast, African American on East Coast, and Caucasian in the Midwest.
- Key informants and desk reviews are in agreement about the disproportionately high rates of illicit drug use among CSE boys, including alcohol and amphetamines as well as marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and heroin, sometimes forced on them by their pimps/traffickers in cases where a pimp or trafficker is involved.
- Boys and young men represent a small percent of minors who enter the criminal justice system on prostitution charges. Law enforcement officers do not refer boys to agencies. They look specifically for “the stereotypical girl” victim.
- Cultural ideas of gender and perceptions of boys play an important role in the way the commercial sexual exploitation of boys is discussed, reported, and responded to.
- CSE boys are surrounded by a culture that is both hetero-centric and homophobic; it is a culture that portrays girls as vulnerable, weak and victims and men as strong, powerful and perpetrators.
- Rooted in a culture that amplifies feelings of shame and self-loathing, this fear is very common to CSE boys and often leads to their re-identifying themselves as “ hustlers” to give the illusion of control and power.
Many of the masseur and escort young men in Mumbai are known to be from marginalized villages and families, living lives which are shown to deplete their self-respect, bring about shame to themselves and their families, and experience a harsh reality in an attempt to earn money to gain financial stability, support their families, and pay for an education.

This study hopes to shed light upon these boys and young men in an attempt to increase awareness of the need for training for alternate vocations and empowering these boys through intervention, advocacy, and empowerment that encourages independence, dignity, and growth psychologically and spiritually.

The population for this study is young men from two groups. The first group is 79 young male masseurs who were trafficked from the Mathura and Bharatpur districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan State to work in Mumbai. For most, ‘masseuse’ is a euphemism for sex workers and these are street based. The second group is 79 young male escorts who participate in direct sex work in Mumbai (not massage services) and primarily come from Mumbai.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- The young men were asked if the people residing in their village, city, or home were aware of their work. Sixty one percent of the young men masseurs stated no people in their village or home are aware they are masseurs. Thirty nine percent indicated yes.

- The young men masseurs in Mumbai were asked if those in their village or home were aware of the line of work they are in and if not, the reason. Thirty of the participants shared their family would lose respect, they would be ostracized, and they would get a bad name. A slightly smaller number of young men, 27, stated they, themselves, would lose respect and be made fun of. They also stated that they would be humiliated. Six of the young men interviewed feared their sisters would not be able to get married.

- When the masseur young men were asked if they would ever recommend a family member, such as a brother, nephew, cousin, or son to become a masseur, 100% of the participants answered no. The escort young men were divided in their answers to this question. The majority, 68%, said no, while 16 % answered yes, and 16% answered maybe.

- The groups were asked if they had ever experienced violence at the hands of the police. Thirty four percent of the masseur young men responded this had never happened, 27% said they had been faced with police violence sometimes, 21% responded they had always faced violence at the hands of the police, and 18% stated they are faced with police violence very often. The young men escorts face this type of violence at a lesser number. Ninety percent stated they have never encountered violence from bullies or goons, while the remaining 10% stated they sometimes experience this.

- Among the multitude of factors that contribute to the boys’ exploitation is their lack of skills in order to secure gainful employment and training.

- In an attempt to eradicate the exploitation of these boys and young men, it is imperative that the acknowledgment of this industry and these communities exist.

- The boys and young men are in hazardous and consistently violent situations and are continually exposed to multiple partners, thus significantly increasing the risk of HIV/AIDS and trauma related injuries and illness.

- The boys and young men are stigmatized not once but twice. Although they earn for their families, they are unable to speak about sex or sexuality, which increases stigmatization.

- The majorities of both sets of young men suffer from low self-esteem and are exposed to an industry that is on the receiving end of ambiguous laws and legalities.

The exploitation of boys/youth in the massage trade: A comparative study of masseur and escort young men in Mumbai, India