The sex trafficking of women & girls

Bought and Sold: The Sex Trafficking of Women & Girls

The second largest criminal industry in the world.
(Source: ILO, 2005)

98% of sex trafficking victims are women and girls.
(Source: UNODC)

$32 billion per year
The second largest criminal industry in the world.
(Source: ILO, 2005)

Crime groups involved in sex trafficking are often also involved in the trafficking of drugs and firearms.
(Source: UNODC)

Gender inequality
and the cultural belief that women can be bought and sold is the root cause of sex trafficking.
(Source: Soroptimist Whitepaper: "The New Face of Slavery")

Almost every country in the world is involved in sex trafficking.
(Source: UNODC)

Only about 5% of trafficking cases are ever reported.
(Source: UNODC 2006)

The myth of choice
Nearly all prostituted women have been coerced into prostitution against their will, either directly or by their circumstances, which include addiction, poverty, an unstable or abusive home life, lack of education and/or opportunity.

The myth of choice

12-14
12-14 73%
12-14 67%
12-14 89%
The average age of entry into prostitution
of prostituted women have been physically assaulted, and 57% have been raped.
of prostituted women suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder
of prostituted women want to exit prostitution but cannot due to a lack of healthcare, money, education, and other basic resources.

(Source: Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) (Source: Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)