

# The Current Situation of Abduction and Trafficking of Women and Children

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**Abstract.** Trafficking refers to the behavior of abducting, kidnapping, buying, bombing, and transferring people for profit. Abduction and trafficking of women and children is a problem in countries all over the world, which not only violates human ethics, but also has a very bad impact on women, children and related families and society. This study analyzes the current situation of trafficking in women and children and provides corresponding solutions, and discovered the global impact of trafficking and the inhuman torture suffered by trafficked persons. The purpose is to more effectively prevent, manage and punish crimes of trafficking in women and children, so as to effectively curb the rise of human trafficking and minimize the phenomenon of human trafficking. It is hoped that the abduction and trafficking of women and children will attract the attention of people and relevant agencies around the world and make efforts to put an end to the abduction and trafficking of women and children.

**Keywords:** Crime, kidnapping and trafficking, women, children.

## 1. Introduction

Human trafficking has existed since slave society and has never been truly eradicated. Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for prostitution and forced labor is one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity and has received increasing attention from the international community [1]. Although men are also victims, the vast majority of those trafficked are women and children. Approximately 800,000 to 900,000 people are trafficked across borders worldwide each year for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation [2]. Japan is considered to be the largest market for Asian women's sex trade. Victims are believed to be primarily from the Philippines and Thailand. Increasing numbers are also being trafficked to Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand. Cross-border trafficking is common in the Mekong region of Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. Vietnamese women are trafficked to China and Cambodia. According to various NGO sources, hundreds of thousands of foreign women and children have been trafficked. The majority of those who have entered Thailand's sex industry since 1990 come from Myanmar, southern China, Laos and Vietnam. Since women and minors are vulnerable groups, and most traffickers are men, their quality is low and their strength is difficult to resist. Now, there are trafficking incidents all over the country. Although it has declined in recent years, this phenomenon has not stopped and disappeared. Trafficking in women and children has become a common phenomenon in every country in the world. It is unfair to women and children, causing very serious physical, psychological and spiritual harm that is irreparable. Women are half the sky of the family and children are the representatives of the family's vitality. However, because of their poor self-protection ability and inability to help themselves, they lack good education and care from their families, thus distorting their hearts and minds, which may become a destabilizing factor in society. Child abduction and trafficking is a serious violation of the right to personal freedom and human dignity of abducted children. The right to personal freedom, as a fundamental right in life, cannot be restricted, controlled or hindered by any organization or individual for any reason. As independent persons, everyone's freedom is not something that others can interfere with, even children are equal, including children and minors, although there is no doubt that they are unable to decide or dictate

their own behavior due to their young age, nor can they express a negative will or express a negative opinion on the behavior that restricts their personal freedom. Although the child is not yet old enough to determine or control his or her own behavior, nor can he or she express a negative will or opposition to acts restricting his or her personal freedom, his or her personal freedom, as a passive and autonomous holder of rights, is equally inviolable. The same applies to the human dignity of the child. The harm suffered by abducted children in terms of physical, mental and health is extremely high. According to the report from the social reality, a series of problems caused by the difficulties of abducted children in settling down, such as upbringing, medical care, employment and other problems, have an important negative impact on their own development. Stories of abducted children seeking to find their way back to their families after they have grown up continue to unfold in real life. Furthermore, child abduction and trafficking have a certain impact on children's development and growth, including emotional aspects. A series of problems caused by the difficulties of abducted children in settling down, such as upbringing, medical care, employment and other problems, have an important negative impact on their own development. Stories of abducted children seeking to find their way back to their families after they have grown up continue to unfold in real life.

At present, the crime of human trafficking has emerged with new characteristics such as grouping of criminal subjects, diversification of criminal methods, and interweaving with other crimes, which has seriously affected social harmony and stability [3]. This study explores the main characteristics of trafficking and proposes corresponding measures to reduce trafficking. In order to reduce human trafficking, the following aspects can be carried out: strengthening the management of the government, improving our own safety awareness, and strengthening the awareness of women and children through the media or schools. Through multiple considerations and more solutions to better help women and children, reduce the occurrence of this phenomenon, and reduce the physical and psychological injuries suffered by women and children.

## **2. Current Situation of Women and Children Abduction and Trafficking**

With the continuous improvement of information technology and the rapid development of transportation networks, new trends have emerged in the crime of abducting and trafficking women and children. Criminals mostly use "soft violence" methods such as deception, threats, and mind control to control abducted women. Criminal gangs are becoming more and more sophisticated, and criminal methods are becoming more concealed, cunning, and cruel, disrupting social order and causing serious harm to society. Now trafficking the population has become a black "industrial chain". They often use special methods to lead women and children into cages step by step. For example, they ask you to go to the car for interviews on the grounds of random TV interviews, or some elderly people ask you to help them go to a specific small restaurant to buy food for them. Criminals lure victims into business in the name of work or behavior, or resort to theft, robbery, etc., and a significant increase in violence. The way criminals select their victims, plan their crimes, and act in organized crime is very secretive. In addition, most criminals commit crimes across provinces and regions. The crime of abducting and trafficking women and children is often a crime of abducting and trafficking women and children by a certain criminal group composed of foreign criminals and local criminals. The division of labor is relatively strict, and there are special personnel responsible for identifying, abducting and trafficking women. Some even involve husbands and wives, brothers and other family gangs dividing labor and committing crimes together. This has caused great harm to the physical and mental health of the trafficked women and children, and brought great pain to the victims' families [4]. In order to find their wives and daughters, the relatives of the victimized women often sold their properties and left their homes, leaving their families ruined. Many parents have lost their children and have nothing to look for. They are in great pain. Some become sick with longing, become mentally disturbed, and even commit suicide with hatred. Here are the characteristics of trafficked people.

## **2.1. Mainly young women or minors**

The age distribution of the trafficked women is roughly between 18 and 35 years old. According to the 2021 Global Human Trafficking Report, adult women accounted for 46% of the victims discovered in 2018, and underage girls accounted for 19%. Adult women and children are the main victim groups, and the number is increasing. It accounts for about 80% of the total human trafficking, so now the target of human trafficking is mainly women and underage girls instead of men. Most of the women and children who go out from home lack the ability to prevent crimes and identify crimes due to their low social experience. Moreover, cases of parents selling their own children happen from time to time. This is the concept of "son preference" of some parents. Girls are often not valued, which has also led to an increase in the rate of criminals abducting and trafficking them. In recent years, there have been numerous cases of abduction of women, resulting in the disintegration of countless families and countless victims of women, so we should also take corresponding protective measures to prevent or reverse the occurrence of tragedies.

## **2.2. Relatively low education level and quality of criminals**

Most criminals have a low level of education and lack jobs or skills. Among them, more than half are illiterate, 40% are below junior high school, and very few have high school education. Many of them live in remote or economically underdeveloped areas [5], without a clear understanding of the law or its provisions. They crave wealth and face high profits and rewards that encourage them to engage in trafficking in women and children. In 1997, about 41% of inmates in US prisons or jails had not completed high school (or its equivalent) compared to just 18% of the general population aged 18 or older. Machin et al. found that 2.57% of UK men aged 21–25 with no educational qualifications were in prison in 2001 compared to 0.3% of those with some qualifications. In 2001, more than 75% of Italian convicts had not completed high school.

## **2.3. Wide sales area**

Now different countries have different black "industrial chains". They turn the industry of abducted women or children into a serious business transaction, buy and sell abducted women, and set prices according to the country, age, and race. Some backward areas are extremely obvious, and they will manipulate these women and children at will. In recent years, criminals have trafficked and sold domestic women to Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa in the name of online chatting, job recruitment, and studying abroad to force prostitution. In 2011, it destroyed a huge criminal gang that abducted Chinese women for forced prostitution, and rescued 19 Chinese women victims in Africa. Criminals cheated them out of the country on the pretext of working as waiters in a hotel in Angola, Africa, with a monthly income of five to six thousand, and forced them to engage in prostitution. According to the descriptions of the abductees, the place where they were imprisoned was like a prison, with layers of guards and airtight, and the possibility of them escaping was almost zero. Moreover, there are strict regulations in the place, and they are not allowed to communicate with each other without authorization.

## **3. Measures to reduce women and children abduction and trafficking**

The damage done to women, children and their families by kidnapping and trafficking is immeasurable. In any country, the importance of family should come first. Similarly, since ancient times, every family in the world has hoped to achieve "family harmony" [6]. The premise of family harmony is that the family is complete. A family that loses a child and loses a mother is doomed to be unable to realize the vision of "family harmony" and talk about family happiness. In order to reduce human abduction and trafficking, it is necessary for all parties to work together to take some measures.

For people at high risk, they should raise their awareness and work together to further establish and improve the long-term mechanism of "combating trafficking" and "anti-trafficking" work. Strengthen their awareness of prevention, be careful of strangers around them, and raise their

vigilance [7]. Parents should also give reasonable education and good communication to the majority of teenagers, so as not to let their children have a rebellious mentality and do dangerous things. Usually, we should pay more attention to such cases, increase the heat, and let more people pay attention to the work of preventing abduction and trafficking.

The government should set up a professional anti-trafficking team and improve the quality of case-handling personnel [8]. According to the current situation of trafficking in women and children, the key to combating trafficking is to dismantle the entire criminal network, while the non-professional anti-trafficking teams are often "powerless" due to their busy work. The fight against trafficking in women and children can only stop at the level of rescuing women and arresting one or two traffickers, and cannot be further carried out. Break up the entire criminal network. Moreover, we should strengthen the guarantee of funds and raise the awareness of science and technology to strengthen police. As the cases of human trafficking are complicated, involve a wide area, and difficult to investigate and collect evidence, a large amount of funds need to be invested. Although the national anti-trafficking work plan requires the government to include anti-trafficking funds in the budget, the implementation situation is different in different places, and the special funds for anti-trafficking are difficult to achieve, which has affected the intensity of the crackdown to a certain extent. If there is sufficient funding guarantee, the "anti-trafficking" work will be further strengthened.

Public security organs should step up publicity of the legal system and raise people's awareness of the law. It is necessary to give full play to the publicity role of all kinds of news media, vigorously publicize and report the work of public security organs in cracking down on the crimes of abducting and trafficking in women and children and rescuing women and children, demonstrate the determination of public security organs in cracking down on the crimes of abducting and trafficking in women and children, and at the same time, combine typical cases to do a good job of "law spreading education" among the people, so that the people understand that buying women and children is also illegal. To raise their awareness of resisting such crimes, and mobilize the masses to actively provide criminal clues, take the initiative to fight against the crime of abducting and trafficking in women and children, create a social atmosphere to severely crack down on the crime of abducting and trafficking in women and children, promote the comprehensive development of the crime of combating the crime of abducting and trafficking in women and children, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of women and children.

Parents and schools should strengthen education and care for children. Parents should establish a good relationship of communication and trust with their children, and let them know what abduction is, the dangers of abduction, and how to protect themselves [9]. Children should be taught to know how to refuse contact and invitations from strangers, and told not to trust strangers' words easily. Schools can organize educational activities on abduction and trafficking prevention to raise students' awareness of precautionary measures and to develop children's self-protection skills [10]. When children are alone at home, they should be instructed that if there is a knock at the door, they must first look through the cat's eye to see what the visitor looks like, and that they should not open the door if they are strangers; but in view of the fact that there are now many cases in which acquaintances have committed crimes, it would be better to be careful, and not to let anyone in except the next of kin.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Abduction and trafficking is a hateful crime that threatens social harmony and people's safety. Woman and child abduction and trafficking have serious potential harm to the physical and mental health of abducted children and woman and their health. According to the feedback from the social reality, a series of problems caused by the difficulties of abducted children in settling down, such as upbringing, medical care, employment and other problems, have an important negative impact on their own development. Stories of abducted children seeking to find their way back to their families after they have grown up continue to unfold in real life. The abduction of women will cause a family

to split up, to the stability of the society caused a great hidden danger. In order to inform researchers and the public about the abduction and trafficking of women and children and to reduce its occurrence, this study summarizes the prevalence of abductions and abductions of women and children and proposes strategies to prevent and reduce abductions and abductions of parents and children by individuals, governments, families and schools. In order to prevent the phenomenon of trafficking, each of us should take actions to enhance the awareness of self-protection, strengthen the education of children and care for women, at the same time, let more people know the harm of trafficking, and jointly build awareness and action power to prevent trafficking. Only the joint efforts of the whole society can truly prevent and reduce the phenomenon of trafficking. It is hoped that the abduction and human trafficking has attracted the attention of the public and relevant institutions, and efforts have been made to reduce the phenomenon of trafficking in women and children.

### Authors Contribution

All the authors contributed equally and their names were listed in alphabetical order.

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