

“Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia rapidly emerged as one of the largest countries of origin, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking. Years passed, however, before Russian authorities officially acknowledged the extent of the crime; today, legislative and law-enforcement bodies need to intensify their efforts in addressing what has become a blight on the country’s economic and democratic development. A whole spectrum of measures is needed to counteract this form of modern-day slavery. Russia must, first and foremost, pass a comprehensive law to prevent and combat human trafficking. Specialized centers at the federal and regional levels should be set up to coordinate the exchange of intelligence information and to facilitate interagency cooperation. Educational institutions and nongovernmental organizations ought to develop training programs to raise awareness of the issue among law-enforcement agencies, other government bodies, and the general public. Service providers should be equipped to provide temporary shelter, counseling services, and legal aid to trafficking victims. Lastly, data-collection methods and a region-specific knowledge base should be developed to facilitate the study, investigation, and prosecution of human-trafficking cases. Only by combining the efforts of state and non-state actors, both at the federal and regional levels, can Russia have any hope of combating this hidden evil.”



—Ekaterina Osipova, July 1, 2009

A Hidden Evil: The Fight Against Human Trafficking in Russia

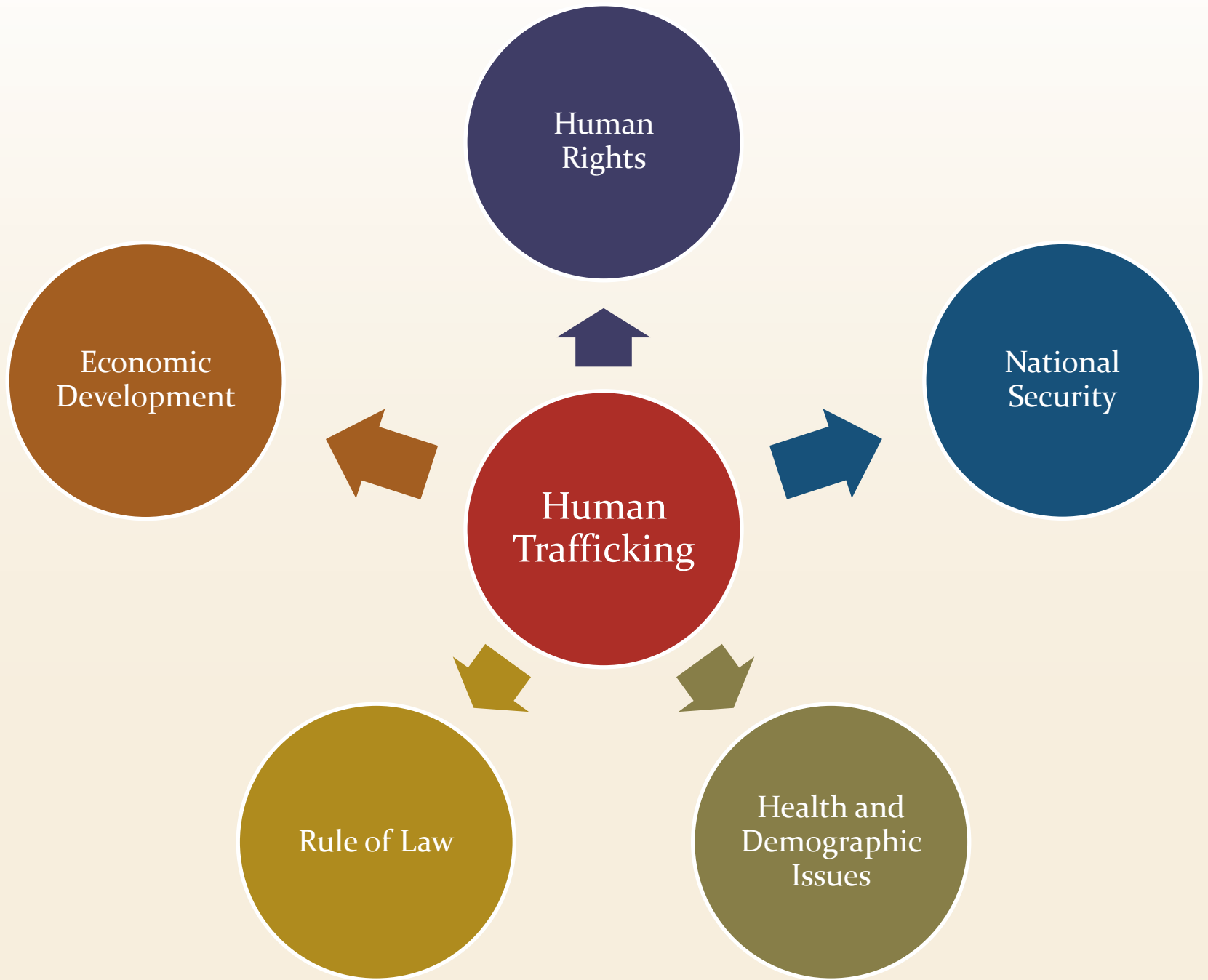
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International Forum for Democratic Studies

National Endowment for Democracy
Washington, D.C.
July 1, 2009

The views expressed in this presentation represent the analysis and opinions of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for Democracy or its staff.

Outline

- ▣ Part I. Introduction to Human Trafficking
- ▣ Part II. The Situation in Russia
- ▣ Part III. Combating Human Trafficking in Russia
- ▣ Part IV. Recommendations
- ▣ Part V. Conclusions



Competing Definitions of Human Trafficking

▣ UN / International Definition

*“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, **by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.***

▣ US and Russian Definitions

The Issue of Consent

Human Smuggling

- Involves the illegal crossing of national boundaries
- Smuggled individuals give consent to the act of transportation.
- Upon arrival, smuggled individuals can change jobs, are free to leave, etc.
- Here the person is violating the law – and not a victim.
- These individuals are now referred to as ‘illegal immigrants,’ as the act of smuggling is complete.

Human Trafficking

- Involves either the crossing of national boundaries or the transport of individuals within a state
- Trafficked individuals are exposed to either:
 - Force
 - Fraud
 - Coercion
- Labor and/or sexual exploitation of trafficking victims

NOTE: Some trafficking victims initially give their consent to be transported in search of legal employment. However, once force, fraud, or coercion are introduced, the individual is now referred to as ‘trafficked,’ having not agreed to exploitative circumstances.

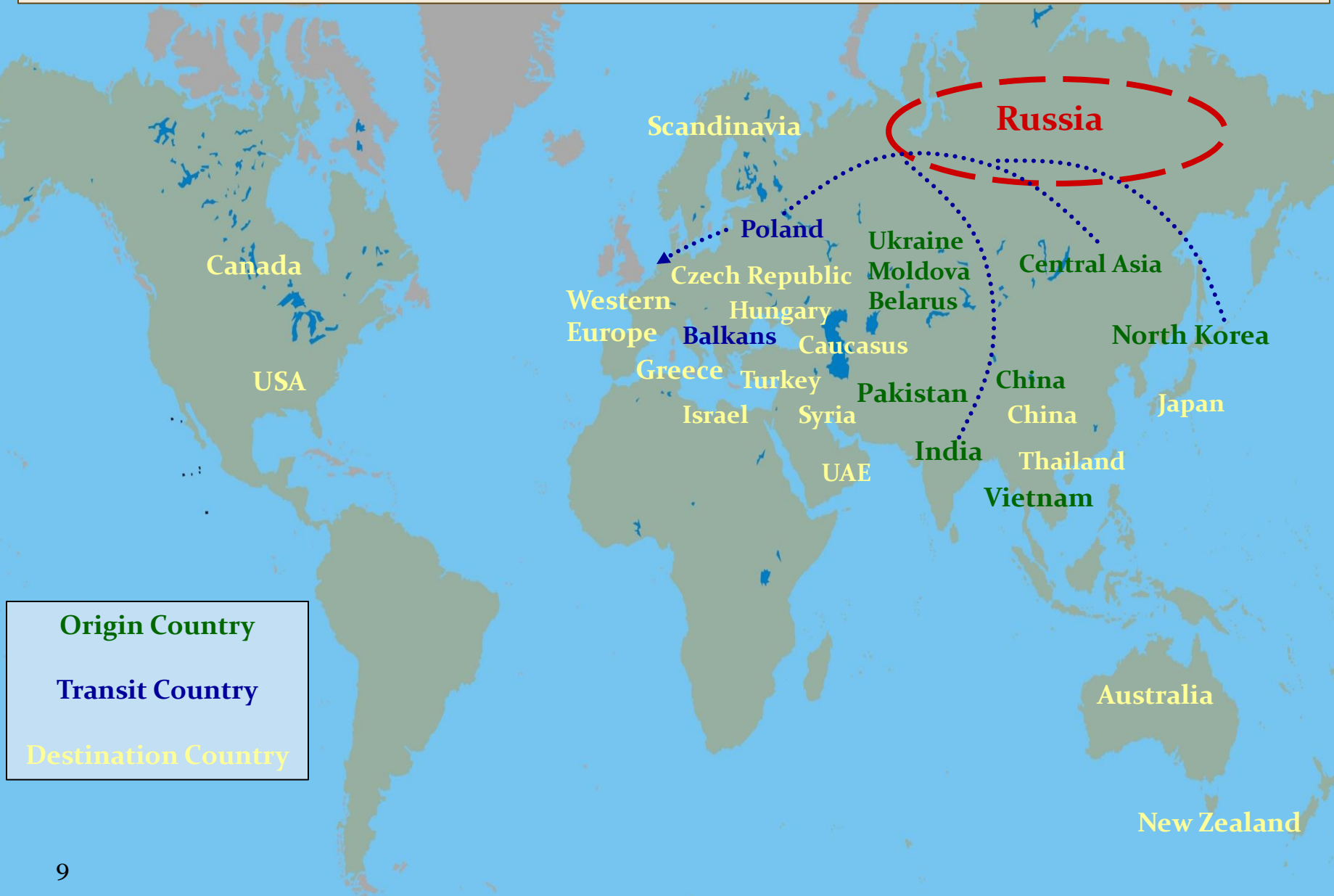
Waves of Human Trafficking

- ▣ 1970s - : Southeast Asia
- ▣ Early 1980s - : Africa
- ▣ Mid-1980s - : Latin America
- ▣ 1990s - : Former Communist Countries
 - Russia, Ukraine, Moldova
 - Baltic States
 - Central Asia and the Caucasus
 - Eastern Europe

Part II. The Situation in Russia

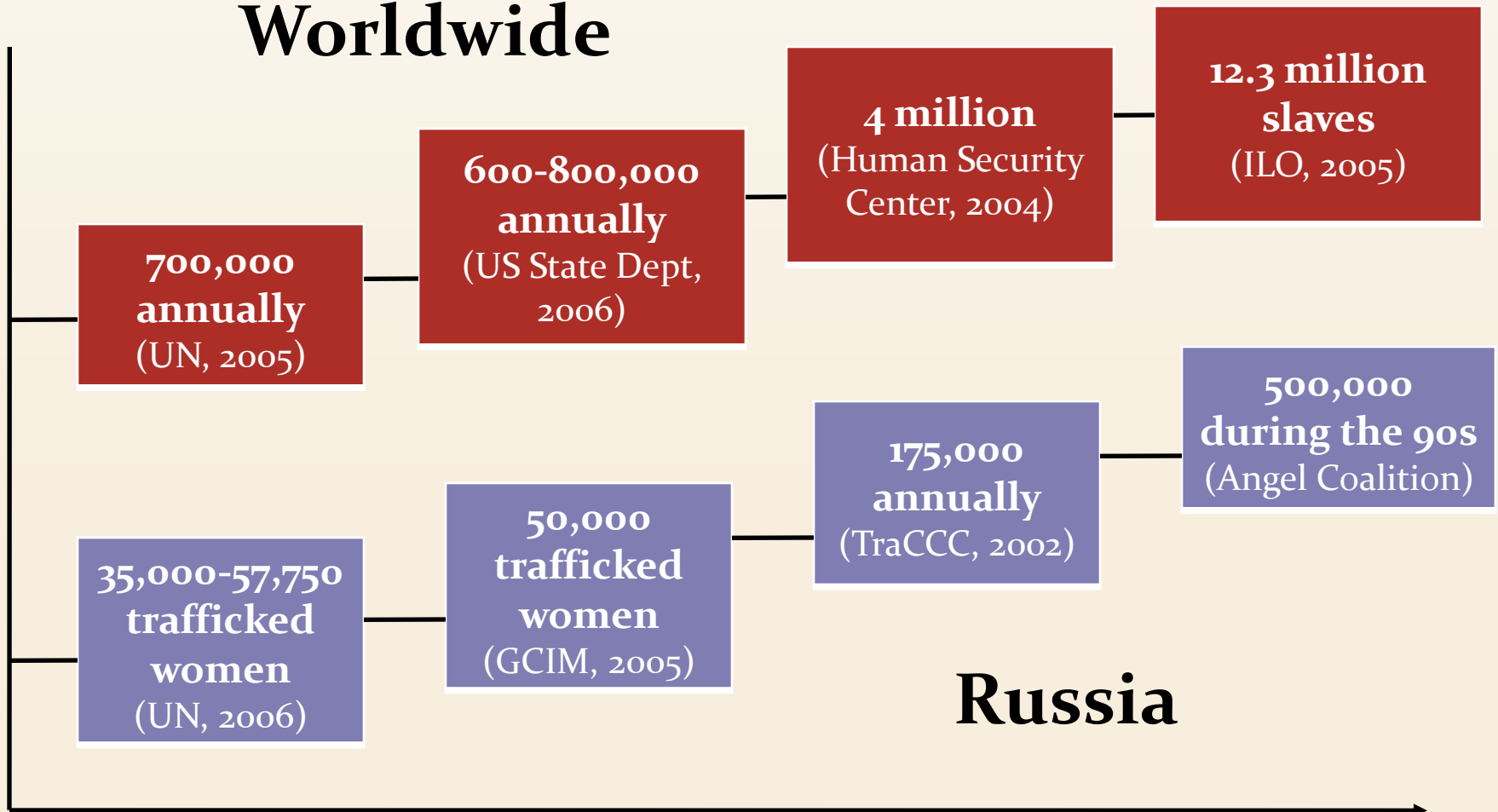
- 1991: The fall of the Soviet Union and opening of borders
- 1990s: Political, economic and social instability
 - Vulnerable population
 - Rise of organized criminal organizations
- 2000s: Unequal economic development
- Russia as a 'three-in-one' in the field of human trafficking
 - Origin
 - Transit
 - Destination

Russia as a Country of Origin, Transit, and Destination



Scale of Crime

Worldwide



Types of Trafficking and Exploitation

Russia as a Country of Origin

Sexual Exploitation

Labor Exploitation

Mail Order Brides

Exploitation of Minors
(sexual and labor)

Sex Tourism

Organ Harvesting

Adoption

Russia as a Country of Destination

Sexual Exploitation

Labor Exploitation

Begging / Panhandling

Exploitation of Minors
(sexual and labor)

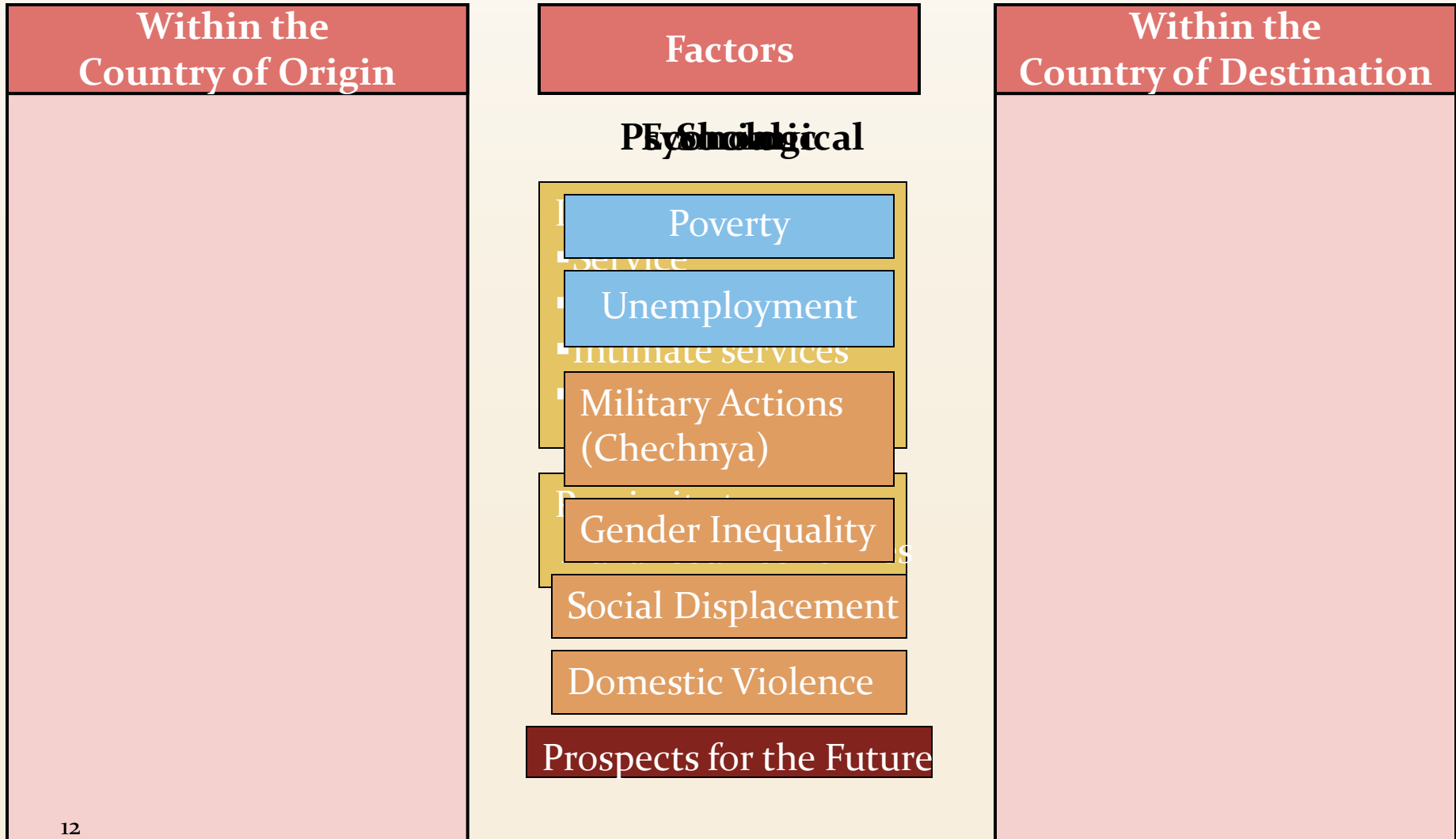
Sex Tourism

Contract Soldier Exploitation

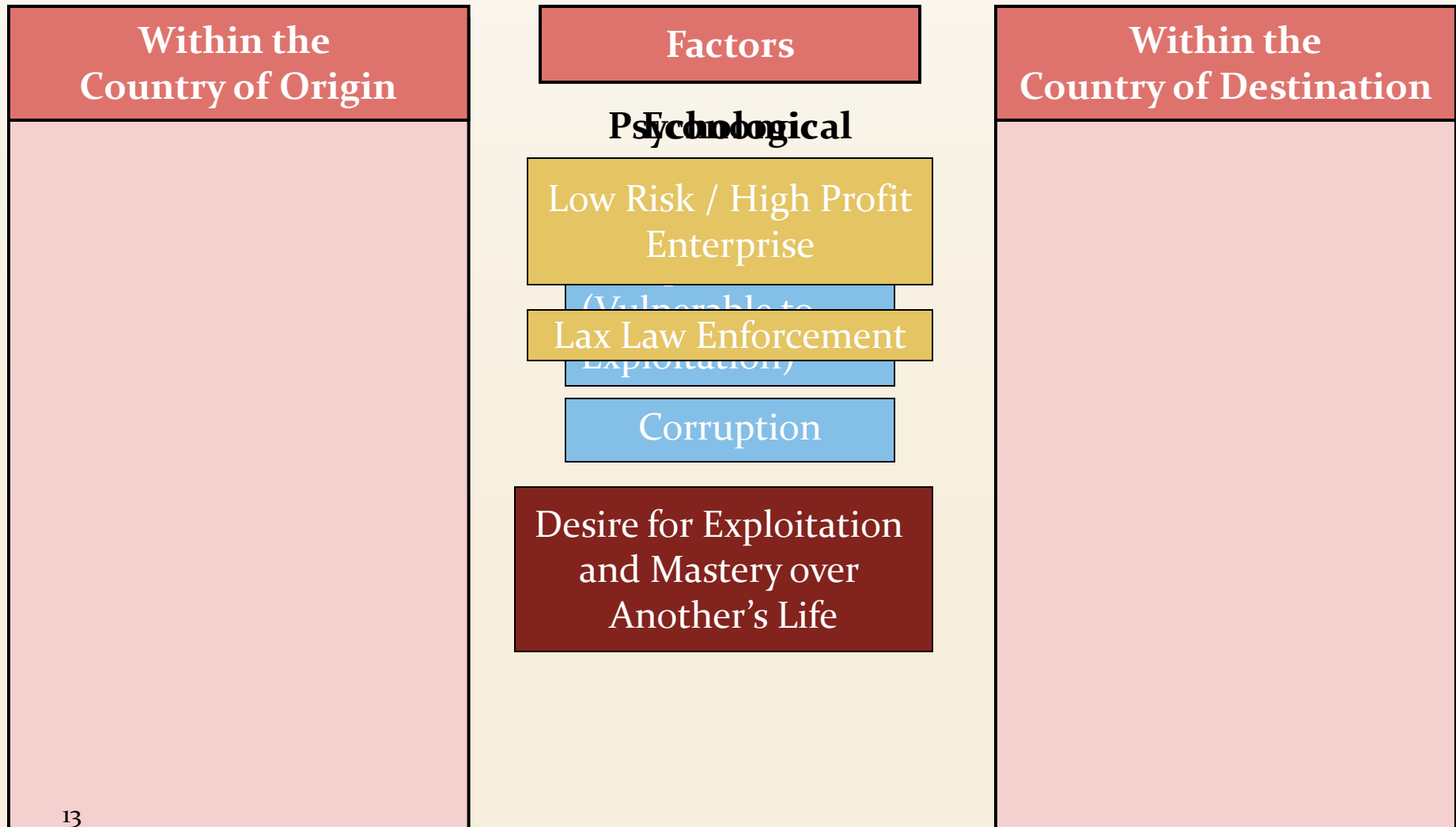
Surrogate Mothers

Organ Harvesting

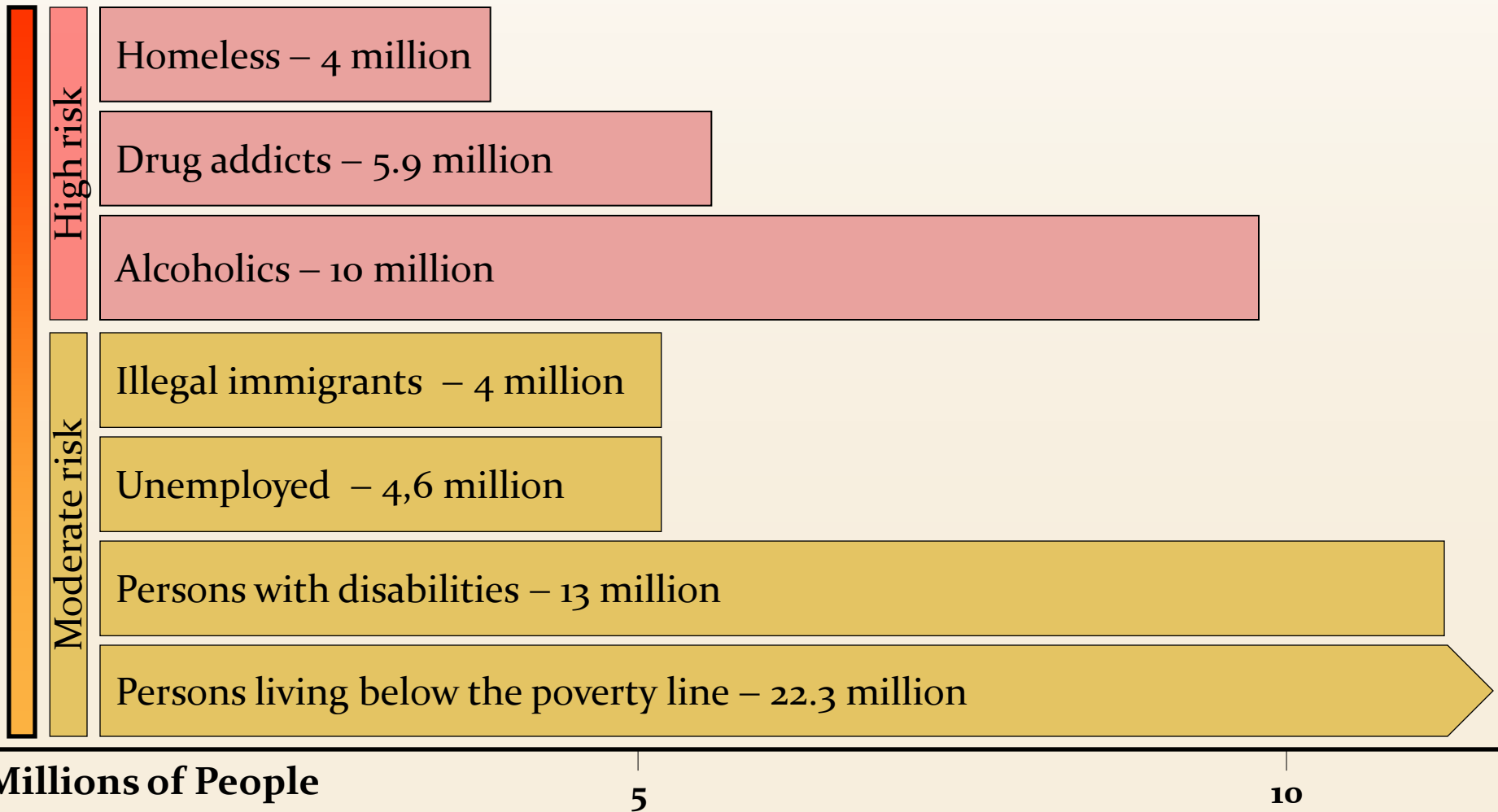
Motivating Factors Affecting Victims of Human Trafficking



Motivating Factors Inducing Criminal Activity in Human Trafficking

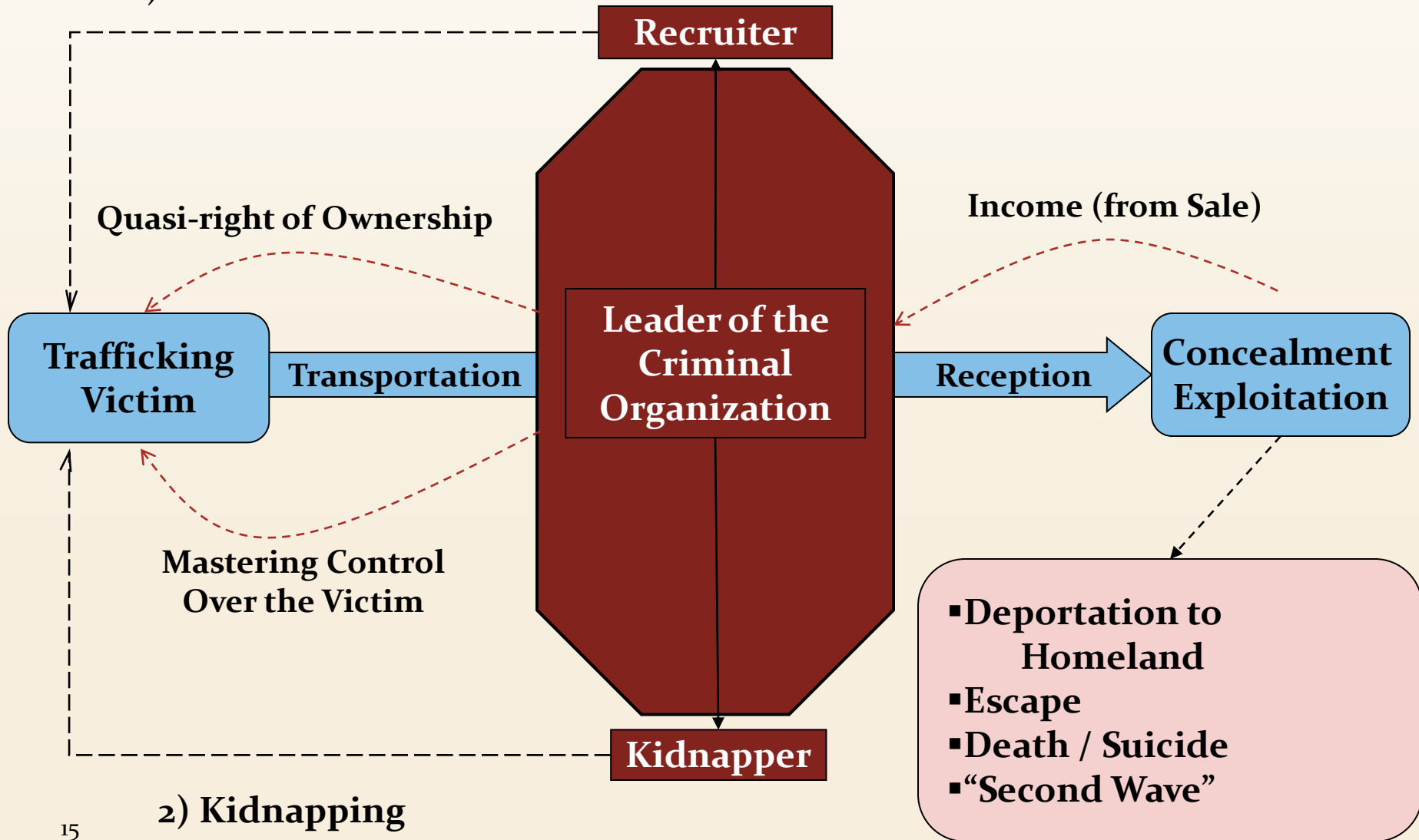


Groups At-Risk



Human Trafficking Mechanism

1) Recruitment



Methods of Recruitment

**Organized
Criminal Group**

**Newspaper and Internet
Advertising**

Travel Agencies

Marriage Agencies

Dating Sites

Modeling Agencies

Personal Contacts

**Groups
At-Risk**

**Former
Victim**

Victim

“Second Wave”

Examples of Advertisements

Кл. Частные объявления принимаем бесплатно: 333 - 888 - 127

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Молодежные программы

- ♦ работа на круизных лайнерах (США)
- ♦ стажировка в отелях Санкт-Петербурга, Турции и Египта, на Кипре, в Тунисе (аниматоры)
- ♦ Au-pair (США, Канада, Германия, Франция, Голландия, Австрия)
- ♦ Internship (США, Аляска, Канада, Австралия, Англия)
- ♦ Work & Study USA ♦ Work & Study UK ♦ Work & Study Australia
- ♦ работа для танцевальных коллективов в Италии, Турции, ОАЭ, Тунисе (с профессиональным образованием)
- ♦ работа в Чехии ♦ работа в Польше ♦ работа в ОАЭ
- ♦ работа в Китае ♦ сбор клубники в Польше
- ♦ работа в США для мужчин и женщин в возрасте от 20 до 45 лет
- ♦ эмиграция в Канаду, Америку, Австралию, Новую Зеландию и Великобританию (помощь в оформлении документов и получении вида на жительство)

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238560 г. Светлогорск, пер. Береговой 3, тел/факс (40153)214-90, (40153)215-43

Part III. Combating Human Trafficking in Russia

- **Insufficient training and education** of all actors involved in combating human trafficking
- **Lack of awareness** by law enforcement of the problem of human trafficking
- **Lack of coordination and integration** within the Russian law enforcement system
- **Inconsistent recognition** of the issue across the regions of Russia
- **Inadequate financial support and resources** from the state to agencies and organizations
- **Legal nihilism** and reluctance to cooperative with the state to combat the crime

Actions Taken Prior to 2003

- Ratification of international treaties and UN resolutions
- 1996: New Criminal Code of Russia with Article 152 concerning trafficking of minors
- Activities of non-governmental organizations
 - 1992: International Organization for Migration
 - 1998: Miramed
 - 2001: Angel Coalition
 - 2001: Winrock International
 - 2001: IREX



A Turning Point in Law Enforcement 2003-present

- **2003:** Federal Law “On Introducing Changes and Additions to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation”
 - Trafficking in Persons: Article 127.1
 - Use of Slave Labor: Article 127.2
- **2004:** Russia ratifies 2000 UN Convention & Protocol on Human Trafficking
- **2004:** Federal Law “On State Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Parties to Criminal Proceedings”
 - Witness and Victim Protection

A Turning Point in Law Enforcement 2003-present (cont'd)

- **2006:** Program of Cooperation established between CIS member-states on combating human trafficking for 2007-2010
- **2007:** Specialized Division on Countering Kidnapping and Human Trafficking established under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia
- **2008:** Amendments passed to Criminal Code Article 127.1
 - Modifications to the definition of human trafficking and sanctions

Amendments to Criminal Code

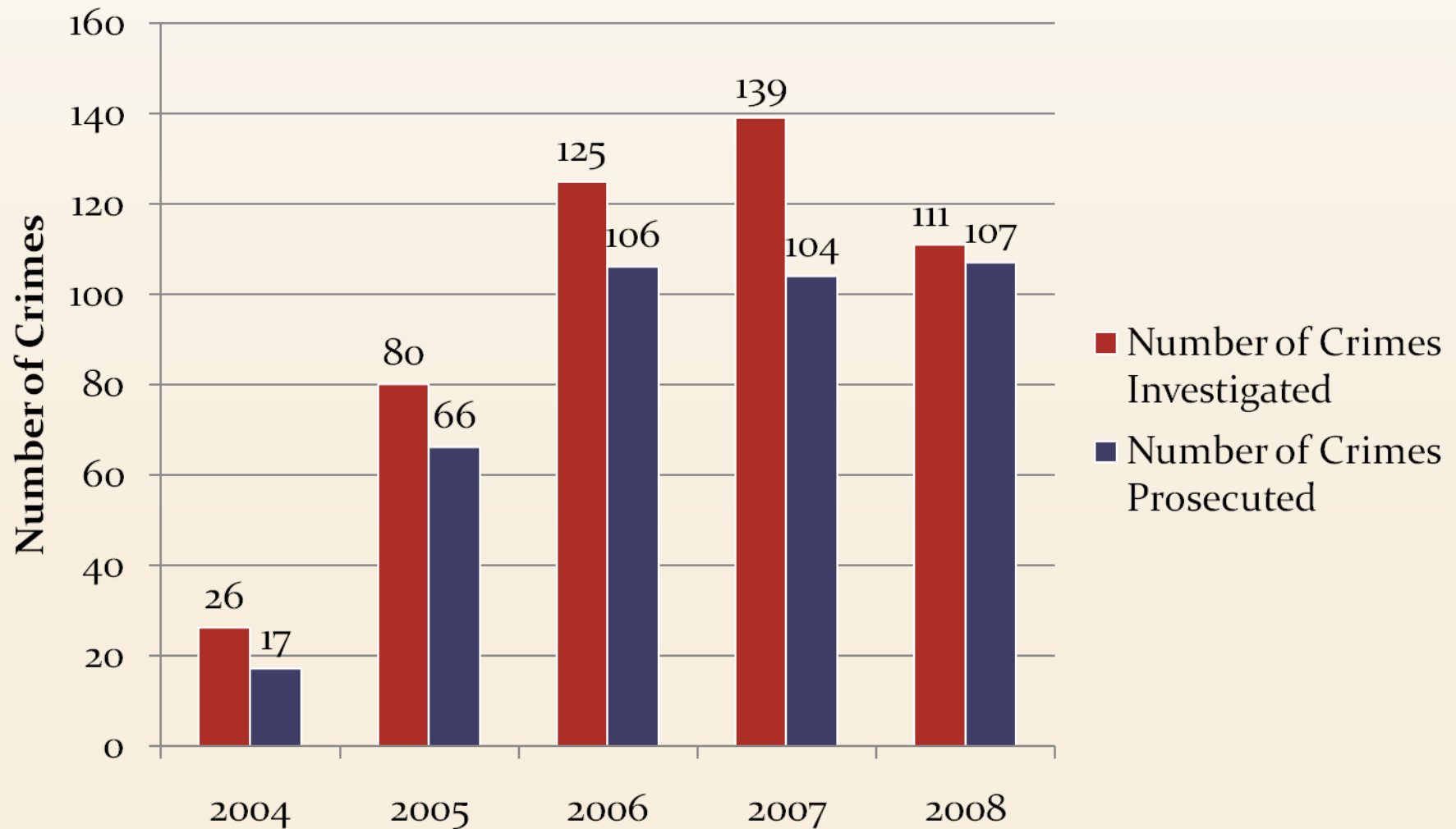
2003: Article 127.1 on Human Trafficking

- Definition of 'human trafficking' refers to the:
 - *buying and selling* of a person
 - **OR** other actions in the form of *recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt*
- committed for the **purpose of exploitation.**
- Sanctions: imprisonment up to five years (mid-level felony)
 - Aggravating Factors: imprisonment up to fifteen years

2008: Article 127.1 on Human Trafficking

- Definition of 'human trafficking' refers to the:
 - *buying and selling* of a person,
 - *other related transactions related to the person,*
 - **OR** other actions committed for the **purpose of exploitation** in the form of *recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt.*
- Sanctions: imprisonment up to *six years (high-level felony)*
 - Two Aggravating Factors added

Registered Human Trafficking Crimes



Russian Law Enforcement Activities

INVESTIGATIONS

Ministry of Internal Affairs
(Investigative Committee)

Federal Department on Countering
Organized Crime and Terrorism

Division on Countering Kidnapping
and Human Trafficking

IDENTIFICATION of CRIME

Federal
Migration
Service

Federal
Customs
Service

Federal
Security
Service

PROSECUTIONS

Office
of the Prosecutor General

Detective
Committee
(Case
Preparation)

Prosecutor's
offices
(Prosecution)

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

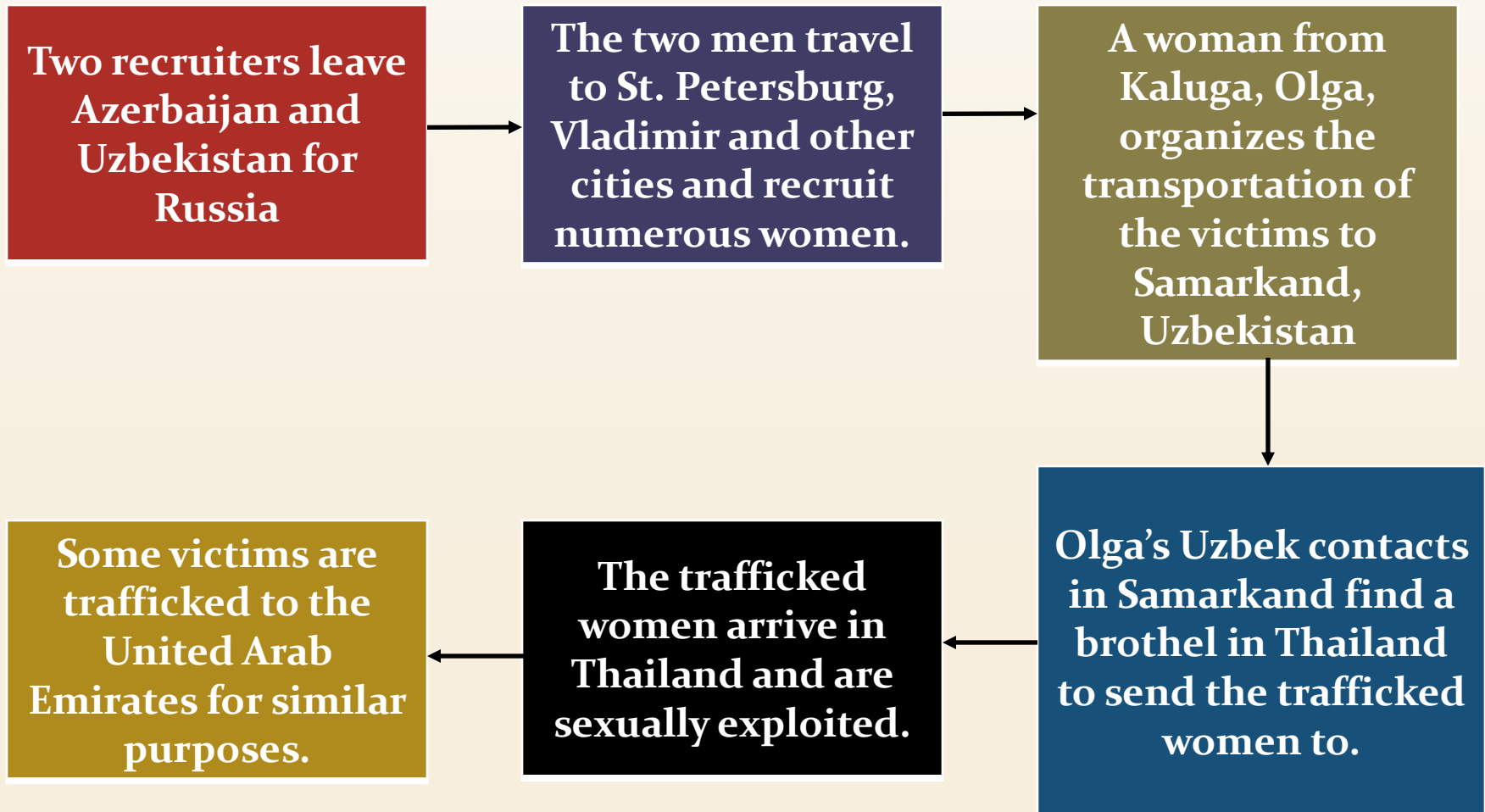
Nongovernmental
Organizations

The Work of Nongovernmental Organizations



- **2006:** IOM begins the large-scale project “Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation”
 - Small grants competition
 - Victim shelter building
- Approximately 100 NGOs are currently engaged in the fight against human trafficking
 - Victim protection
 - Information campaigns
 - Hotlines
 - Research
- The majority of funding for these NGOs comes from international donors

Example of Trafficking Process



Part IV. Recommendations

- ▣ Policy and Legislation
- ▣ Prevention and Education
- ▣ Identifying the Crime
- ▣ Investigations and Prosecutions
- ▣ Victim Protection and Assistance
- ▣ Promotion of Research

Policy and Legislation

- Pass a comprehensive law to prevent and combat human trafficking
- Establish specialized centers at the federal and regional levels
 - Information and intelligence exchange
 - Interagency cooperation
 - Improved communications between various actors
 - Policy coordination

Prevention and Education

- Raise awareness about the scale of and issues surrounding human trafficking
 - General public
 - Mass media
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Government officials
- Develop special courses and trainings at various levels of educational institutions and at law enforcement agencies
- Build the capacity of nongovernmental organizations providing relevant services
- Regulate of mass media outlets exploited by recruiters

Identifying the Crime

- Prioritize human trafficking as a high responsibility of law enforcement agencies
 - Encouraging proactive vigilance
- Provide ample, specialized training to actors and service providers according to best practices
- Increase support for federal and regional hotlines

Investigations and Prosecutions

- Develop a systematic methodology for investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases
- Facilitate cooperation between law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations and victims through judicial process
 - Promote positive relations and interactions between state and non-state actors

Victim Protection and Assistance

- Elevate the status of non-governmental service providers in the eyes of state officials
 - Utilizing the advantages of NGOs in victim assistance
- Establish specialized shelters for human trafficking victims across the country
- Create immigrant service centers to assist potential and former victims of human trafficking

Promotion of Research

- Improve collection of data and statistics related to human trafficking
- Develop a Russia-specific knowledge base for understanding and combating human trafficking
- Arrange international exchanges for practitioners and scholars to study international experience in the field

Part V. Conclusion

- The continued incidence of human trafficking worldwide negatively affects several important elements of democratization.
 - Rule of Law
 - Human Rights