

## Talking Points:

Introduction: After drugs and arms, the trafficking of women and children is the largest source of profit for organized crime. The Federal Government now estimates that 17,000 people are trafficked illegally into the U. S. each year. In 2000 the CIA estimated 45,000-50,000 annually.

What is trafficking? It's the buying and selling of men, women and children who are forced to work in the sex industry, sweatshops, demeaning occupations and other illegal operations. These people are imprisoned by traffickers and lose their rights; they become, in fact, slaves.

Who are the victims? Immigrants who come to the U. S. looking for work and a better life; women who are imported, and American children are frequently trafficked.

Why don't they leave their situations? They or their families are threatened with injury or death; they are lied to or deceived; their documents are confiscated; they are unable to pay back money; they are terrified of the police; they are in a strange country where they don't speak or understand much English.