


# **The hidden crime of Human Trafficking in the Pacific Islands region**

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# Introduction

- ◆ A regional story (crewman)

- ◆ Pacific Dialogue's approach (recently endorsed by IOM).

Acknowledging the interest & support of the Fiji Police Force's Human Trafficking Unit, Juvenile Crime Bureau, & Transnational Organised Crime Unit, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, & the New Zealand High Commission in Fiji

# Presentation outline


## Section One

- Definition
- Pacific examples; how much
- How easy; how hidden – what we identified

## Section Two

- Pacific regional resolve (from 1992 to present)
- International resolve – conventions, score card, assistance

## Section Three

- Implications for the region - social, economic
  - Evidences
  - Governments not hiding any more – reputation, global partner, social & economic well-being
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# S.1 – the Basics

- ◆ **What IS human trafficking?**

- ◆ **What does it involve?**

  - (a) **Acts** (what is done) – recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt of person(s)


  - (b) **Means** (how it is done) – force, threatening the use of force, other coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power over vulnerable person, giving/receiving payment/benefits to secure consent from/to control a person

  - (c) **Purpose** (why it is done) – sexual exploitation, forced labour/services, slavery, servitude, organ removal

- ◆ **How does it affect people?**

- ◆ **Detection, prosecution – time (victims)**

# Pacific examples

- ◆ **Source** (USTIP) – Nakasi woman
  - ◆ **Destination** (USTIP) – American Samoa; Tonga
  - ◆ **Transit** (USTIP) – Asian ladies; Pacific circular route
  - ◆ **Domestic** – Sr Doreen's story; Fiji's 3<sup>rd</sup> prosecution; yachts; domestic workers
  - ◆ **At sea** – Burmese; other Asians
  - ◆ **Children** – exiting with tourists; Indo-Fj boys on farm; kept at home; child *roti* sellers?; overseas marriage? (cf CSECTT; CSA)
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# How much; how easy– what we identified

**How much?** – no stats, but warnings. HT industry = huge profits + low risk: vulnerable people + businesses looking for low costs

**How easy?** – targets are developing countries w. poor social/economic system, high rates of **poverty**, **under-resourced** judiciary & gov't agencies, inadequate laws; **tourism** = key source of country's revenue; 'kick-backs' at top and below; **low risk** of being caught; weak laws, penalties

**What we found?** – it is 'new'; PI people's friendliness/innocence; modesty; (espec. young) people looking for work, friendship




# S.2 - resolve

## Pacific resolve

- ◆ Honiara Declaration 2000
  - ◆ Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security 2002
  - ◆ Leaders' vision 2004
  - ◆ Pacific Plan 2005
  - ◆ Model Law (Forum) 2007
  - ◆ Human Security Framework for the Pacific 2012-15
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# International resolve

- ◆ UNCTOC, incl. 'Palermo' Protocol
  - ◆ UNOHCHR conventions & optional protocols
  - ◆ UNODC – advice & database; support
  - ◆ US Department of State - annual TIP score card
  - ◆ IOM (ILO, Interpol, others)
  - ◆ Regional neighbours – Australia (AFP, AIC, Bali Process), New Zealand, USA, Canada, Indonesia, (WCPFC - FFA)
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# S.3 – implications; future

## Effect of TNC /HT

- ◆ **Black market** – when sophisticated, is most difficult to control (money laundering is one offshoot)
  - ◆ Illegal working population upsets general **labour rights** (undermines regulation & better worker conditions)
  - ◆ Upsets economies - **impedes** national and international economic growth
  - ◆ Negative **social & cultural** effects – on person, community, nation; MDG's not attainable
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# Evidences

- ◆ **Benefit-cost** frameworks – sex industry (Minnesota study)
  - ◆ **Push-Pull** (emigrants, immigrants, asylum seekers)
  - ◆ **Demand** for cheap labour in face of rising costs
  - ◆ **Globalisation** -> interdependence between States for commerce & facilitates transfer of commodities — including people!
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# PI governments must bite-the-bullet

First – **acknowledge** it (that it's not going away):  
**Human trafficking as a human  
development issue**

Second - **awareness-raising**;

- **training** of judges, legal officers, relevant gov't officers;

- **better resourcing** of law-enforcing agencies

- freeing up **court** dates; witness **protection**

- link up better/**share** with other PICs, agencies, CSOs, businesses

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Third - access available resources better –  
espec. **international support**;

- **ratify** global treaties (such as Palermo, CTOC)

- develop **stand-alone HT laws** (e.g. Palau) & stiff penalties

Fourth – turn regional ‘soft’ laws into ‘**hard**’  
**laws**

Fifth – more attention to **home** (jobs, education, health, people’s well-being; enhance birth registers)


Sixth – more attention to **national & regional markets & migrant workers**

# Finally

**Sound political** (regional) **will** fundamental to stopping the tide: **resources, strong laws, awareness, victim support, using international support better**

**At stake** is not only the regional economy and the social and cultural characteristics of the Pacific Islands region.

**Just as important is the region's reputation** - safe holiday & work destinations, better living & wage conditions, being responsible member of global community, and 'slave-free' canned Pacific tuna.

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