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I. Empowering Women and Reducing Inequality in our Society

“What we have achieved is still not enough”

-Catherine Embonodza Lipiti

Introduction

After nearly a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which established the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).¹ The Millennium Summit was held in September, 2000 and was built upon a series of major nations committing to a new global partnership.² They built a platform for reducing extreme poverty and child mortality, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, improving maternal health care and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The summit also created a global partnership for development and set out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015.³

During a periodic review, the 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals adopted a global action plan called “Keeping the Promise.”⁴ With this came the announcement of initiatives and plans to fight poverty, hunger and disease. Hoping to accelerate the progress on women’s and children’s health, Heads-of-State and Governments from both developed and developing nations, foundations, international organizations, civil societies, research organizations, as well as members of the private sector pledged over \$40 billion in resources over the next five years.⁵ The global development agenda past 2015 was a single document based off a High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in 2010 in regards to the Millennium Development Goals. Since the document’s production, the Secretary-General has

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

⁵ Ibid.

requested to initiate formation of a post-2015 development agenda and has included recommendations in his annual report on efforts to accelerate The MDGs and their progress.⁶

While many of the MDGs have been greatly impacted (if not fulfilled) prior to the final 2015 deadline, the progress has been uneven throughout the member nations.⁷ Because of these inequalities, it is imperative that further efforts are made and a stronger global partnership for development is formed in order adequately progress in the post development era that is to come.⁸

Equality Targets: Absent from Millennium Development Goals

While member nations are on track to meet several of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, progress on MDGs related to women and girls has been minimal and at best uneven.⁹ It's been noticed across the board, "overall progress for women and girls remains slow...calls for a new approach," said the Head of the Division for Gender Equality and Women's Affairs in Austria's Federal Ministry for Education and Women's Affairs. It is imperative now, more than ever, for greater focus brought to and more done concerning equality of women in all areas of society and life.¹⁰

There are three millennium development goals which address women directly. The first of those is "the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women."¹¹ The second is "reducing child mortality rates" and third, "improving maternal health."¹² While several of the United Nation's goals have been reached to a moderate level, the attention and time spent on goals directly pertaining to women has been significantly lower than the attention put towards other goals, such as poverty and disease control.¹³

It is also important to take note of the inequality of aid given to women in terms of the other development goals. While money and programs may have been established to combat HIV and AIDS, the percentage of women suffering from these diseases is significant and has seen little to no improvement since the MDGs were established.¹⁴ Young girls are still blocked out of primary education in many member nations, and poverty among young women and girls remains higher than any other demographic group.¹⁵

Women on a wide scale seem to have been forgotten within the folds of change. It is important that after we meet our 2015 MDGs, we learn to focus not just on lofty goals but instead on the interworking of societal change. Many of the inequalities women face in today's modern society are derivative directly from societies that oppress women.¹⁶ If we can't attempt to change the mindset of societies towards women, we cannot truly promote equality. If women are encouraged and empowered to seek change in their societies, and focus is brought to goals that effect women directly and overall, then the world will come closer to achieving equality for all.¹⁷

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/outcome_documentN1051260.pdf

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>

¹⁰ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/gender.html>

¹⁷ http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/PopAspectsMDG/10_INSTRAW.pdf

Striving for Equality for Women in the Post 2015 Era

Though women have been greatly ignored in regards to the overreaching goals that pertain to the Millennium Development Goals, they have not been completely shunted from the stage. In July of 2010 the Geneva assembly took an historic step towards gender equality and women's issues when they created UN Women.¹⁸ UN Women is an umbrella organization and faction of the United Nations which focuses exclusively on issues pertaining to women.¹⁹ UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda and has brought certain factions of the United Nations such as the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in order to pull resources and to work cooperatively with one another.²⁰ By doing so, UN Women has been able to make further mandates for greater impact on issues pertaining to women. They have made significant progress in advancing gender equality through landmark agreements such as, but not limited to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).²¹

There are three main goals of UN Women: support inter-governmental bodies (such as the Commission on the Status of Women) to form policies and global standards, strive to help Member States in implementing these standards and stand ready to provide technical and financial support to countries that request it, and make the UN system accountable for its own commitments and actions on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress and making sure women are included and assisted in regards to all development goals.²² As the leading organization on women's rights, UN Women has become a voice for women and is responsible for creating a global mandate to promote gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.²³ Recently UN Women has hunkered down to focus on methods of creating and executing the very mandate. In 2013, UN Women created a platform that called for a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.²⁴ The UN Women Policy Division has created this mandate as an attempt to insure an across the board commitment to achieving these goals and pull focus towards dismantling systems of oppression in modern society.²⁵ UN Women created this new goal with the hope that it will be included the United Nations post-2015 development framework and focused on in all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁶

The effects of UN Women

In regards to the mandate UN Women has proposed, an integrated approach that addresses three critical target areas of gender equality has been developed.²⁷ For starters, they have proposed for

¹⁸ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/governance>

²¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015>

²² Ibid.

²³ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015/~/_/media/F4AA23E30D8248B09A3E61283807A677.ashx

concrete actions to be taken in order to eliminate the debilitating fears and/or experience(s) of violence experienced by women worldwide.²⁸ Secondly, this new goal suggests bringing more exceptionally more focus to Gender equality in regards to the distribution of funds and education on the physical, psychological, sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls.²⁹ The goal also mandates all women gain access to resources and opportunities, including land, work and equalized pay to build women's economic and social security.³⁰ Lastly, the mandate demands steps to be taken towards Gender equality in terms of decision-making and power in public and private offices.³¹ It stresses that women need to be included in national parliaments and local councils, the media and civil society, in the management and governance of firms, as well as within families and communities. As the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals draws to a close, this call for a transformative framework on women's issues has come into the midst of an emerging global conversation on what to do in this new Post Development era; it is extremely significant during this critical shift in paradigms that all member nations of the UN body listens to these calls for equality and take steps towards achieving gender equality for peoples across the world.³²

Understanding Gender Inequality in Societies

In modern society women in all parts of the world suffer from a substantial inequality in the quality of treatment for the different genders.³³ Women are constantly made the subjects of violence and discrimination in public and private life.³⁴ Women not only lack access to decent work, but are constantly faced by occupational segregation, hiring biases, promotional biases, and gender wage gaps.³⁵ Women are too often denied access to basic education and health care; when it is provided, it is often times minimalistic and less than adequate, particularly when compared to the aid men receive.³⁶ Women are also affected by poverty on a far larger scale than any other demographic and are often the last to receive aid in bridging the gap between poverty and a sustainable living situation.³⁷ Also, women are exceedingly under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes throughout the world and in every major society and organization, including the United Nations.³⁸

Gender equality is not only a basic human right, but if we achieved it would have an enormous socio-economic impact.³⁹ There are currently 7,258,505,234 people on this earth and women make up for more than half of them.⁴⁰ It is beyond unreasonable to deny more than half of the world's population human rights. If we focused on promoting gender equality and empowering women it would fuel the economies of all nations by filling necessary jobs and would cause productivity and growth to sky rocket by giving back to the economy. Given this information, it is particularly unfortunate that gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in almost every

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/outcome_documentN1051260.pdf

³³ <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/gender.html>

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment>

³⁸ <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/gender.html>

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

society, damaging our economies and potential for development.⁴¹ Because women make up such a large percentage of the population, it is imperative that these inequalities are brought into focus and steps are made to solve these issues.

Truly achieving gender equality is a serious challenge, and it has been a struggle for the United Nations to promote gender equality within the UN and globally.⁴² It has been frequently noted that these types of issues normally receive inadequate and minimal funding; even though the UN Women, a single force focused on solving these issues, was established to compel global change and awareness, their efforts have been mostly halted by an overwhelming number of nations that refuse to change.⁴³

Changing Societies That Oppresses Women: Empowering Women to Be Agents Change

Due to nations which practice Sharia Law, it has been difficult to form any agreeable stance on what women's roles in society should be. Sharia Law is an Islamic legal system which provides a religious alternative to secular models of government.⁴⁴ Often times, women in societies governed by Sharia will have more limited rights than women in the West or than women who live in place where Sharia Law is not practiced.⁴⁵ Many Muslim feminists argue that current interpretations of Sharia have no basis in actual Islam and wrongly oppress women.⁴⁶ Under certain aspects of modern Sharia Law, wife-beating is permitted; there is no joint property (meaning the man owns all property), and there is often no specific minimum age for marriage.⁴⁷ It is not uncommon in Muslim-majority countries for girls as young as 12 or 13 to be married off.⁴⁸ A highly publicized case from Yemen in 2013 was of an eight-year-old girl who died of internal injuries suffered on her wedding night. According to an article on the subject, "Nearly 14 percent of Yemeni girls [are] married before the age of 15 and 52 percent before the age of 18." Under Sharia, women have fewer inheritance rights compared to men and they frequently have a low status in court as a reliable as witnesses. In Saudi Arabia, women are not even allowed to drive.⁴⁹

Musawah- A Global Movement

In recent years and as retaliation to the oppressive nature of Sharia Law, an international network of Muslim feminists has started an organization called Musawah.⁵⁰ Launched from Malaysia in February, 2009, Musawah has become a global movement for equality and justice in the international Muslim family.⁵¹ Musawah builds upon centuries of efforts to promote and protect equality and justice in the family and in society.⁵² Increasingly, women in Musawah are becoming empowered and are reclaiming the right to shape the interpretations of the laws and

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

⁴³ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015/civil-society-engagement>

⁴⁴ <http://www.clarionproject.org/understanding-islamism/womens-rights-under-sharia>

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ <http://www.musawah.org/about-musawah>

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

the way that affects their daily lives.⁵³ Over the past few decades, women activists, scholars and rights groups in Muslim contexts have been pushing for the recognition of equality between women and men in terms of Sharia Law. At a Global Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, over 250 women and men from over fifty countries attended; activists and NGOs came together with scholars and legal practitioners to form a collation focused on bringing women's rights to Sharia Law and create a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family.⁵⁴ While it is true that not all Islamic countries practice Sharia Law, it is fair to note even the minimal practice of modern Sharia Law causes undeniable harm to women's rights and their overall role in Islamic societies.⁵⁵ It is also obvious that some Islamic nations, because of their practice of Sharia law, have been uncooperative at best when it comes to promoting gender equality for women.⁵⁶

Addressing Rape Culture and other forms of Women Suppression

Sharia Law and the countries that practice it are not the only element of the societies that contribute to the lack of equality for women. Societies and cultures all around the world are guilty of practices which have held women back.⁵⁷ Many nations have societal norms that are deeply rooted in gender rolled, sexist, and chauvinistic behavior.⁵⁸ Women on a wide scale are viewed as less than human and are often denied basic rights that men readily receive and have grown to expect for the male population.⁵⁹ Internationally, societies are all also guilty of playing part to a common phenomenon known as rape culture.⁶⁰ Rape culture is a term that was coined by feminists in the United States in the 1970's, and was invented to bring notice to the ways in which societies consistently protect rapists and instead blame victims of sexual assault for crimes committed against them; modern society has normalized and accepted sexual violence against women.⁶¹ Rape culture is, at its essence, a complex set of beliefs that encourages male sexual aggression and supports violence against women in the media, in the workplace, in social settings, schools, and even the home.⁶²

Violence against women and girls is not confined to a specific culture, region or country.⁶³ The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination, dehumanization, and embedded hatred towards women and girls; in today's modern society, violence is, to a certain extent, seen as sexy and sexuality as violent.⁶⁴ Every year, millions of women and girls worldwide suffer gender-based violence.⁶⁵ It can be domestic violence, rape, female genital mutilation/cutting, or human trafficking.⁶⁶ Women and girls who experience violence suffer from a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished due to psychological and emotional damage.⁶⁷ Violence against women harms families and communities across

⁵³ <http://www.musawah.org/what-we-do>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/endviol/>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ <http://www.wavaw.ca/what-is-rape-culture/>

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/endviol/>

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

generations and reinforces many other types of violence prevalent in today's society.⁶⁸ Rape culture accepts physical and emotional terrorism against women as the norm, forcing both men and women to act within the perimeters of sexual violence being a fact of life and inevitable; therein the more the world accepts this pointed violence as non-solvable; the likeliness for people to enact change of our societal norms drops dramatically.⁶⁹ If there is any hope in achieving gender equality, we must start by changing our mindset towards the genders. Women can never truly be empowered, or our culture be able to change until all of society understands the implications and results of the way we view women.⁷⁰ Women must be looked at as more than objects, and instead viewed as the human beings they are. If we are to truly make a difference in the lives of women, we must first restore their humanity. Then and only then can steps be taken to achieve equality for women across the world.⁷¹

Questions to Consider:

How does the suppression of women and girls affect the suppression of the global population? Who should be responsible for empowering women and girls? How should these traditional beliefs be addressed in certain regions if they are suppressing women and girls? What can be done in order to empower women and achieve gender equality?

I. Eradicating Human trafficking

"In this great land of the free we call it human trafficking. And so long as we don't partake in the luxury, ignoring slavery is of no consequence. It is much easier to look away and ignore the victims. The person who ignores slavery justifies it by quickly deducting the victim is a willing participant hampered by misfortune."

- D'Andre Lampkin

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Introduction

Every year thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers.⁷² The people enslaved in this system are captured in their home countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether they are a country of origin, or a destination for trafficking victims.⁷³ Human trafficking generates billions of dollars in profits for traders and is a monster of an industry which affects citizens of both developed and developing nations.⁷⁴ That makes this an issue of dire consequence and something that deserves worldwide conscience in terms of its elimination.⁷⁵

The protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons defines human trafficking as a person's recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring by means of threats of the use of force or the use of other forms of coercion such as abduction, fraud, deception; the abuse of power or of a person in a position of vulnerability, and the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

achieve the consent of a person and by which having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.⁷⁶ Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery.⁷⁷

Victims of human trafficking include female children involved in the sex trade, as well as adults who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts.⁷⁸ Human trafficking is also when anyone is forced into different forms of "labor or services," such as domestic workers held in a home, or farm-workers forced to labor against their will.⁷⁹ The human trafficking factors each of these situations has in common are the elements of force, fraud, or coercion, which are used to control people.⁸⁰

Human Trafficking Amongst Women and Girls

Poverty and lack of economic opportunity make women and children some of the most vulnerable and potential of victims for human trafficking.⁸¹ Because of their poverty and, frequently, lack of suitable education, women fall prey to the false promises of job opportunities that traffickers will often offer.⁸² Many women who accept offers from what appear to be legitimate sources will often find themselves in situations where their documents are destroyed, and where they or their families are threatened with harm, or are bonded by a debt that they have no chance of repaying.⁸³ Once in the hands of traffickers, a woman will have her passport taken and her official papers confiscated and held.⁸⁴ Women are then told they are in the destination country illegally. This in turn increases the victims' dependence on her traffickers by preventing her from legally reporting to authorities.⁸⁵

Women and girls are typically trafficked into the commercial sex industry; meaning they are forced into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation against their will.⁸⁶ Sex trafficking is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international borders, for the purposes of forced sex work.⁸⁷ Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking of women and girls, and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being (in this case, a woman or child's body) in exchange for goods or money.⁸⁸ Each year, an estimated 800,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders.⁸⁹ Adult women make up the largest group of sex trafficking victims, followed by female children, although a small percentage of men and boys are trafficked into the sex industry as well.⁹⁰ Some sex trafficking is highly visible, like street prostitution.⁹¹ However, many more trafficking

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview>

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuaside>

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ <http://www.soroptimist.org/trafficking/faq.html>

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ http://www.humantrafficking.org/combat_trafficking/prevention

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

victims remain unseen by the public eye.⁹² Often times they are forced to operate out of unmarked brothels or in unsuspecting, sometimes even suburban neighborhoods.⁹³ Sex traffickers also operate out of a variety of public and private locations, such as spas and strip clubs.⁹⁴ Often before servicing clients, women are raped by the traffickers themselves in order to initiate the Stockholm-esque cycle of abuse and degradation.⁹⁵ Women are also frequently drugged in order to prevent them from escaping. Once they have been “broken in” via destruction of their sense of self, sex trafficked victims can and regularly do service up to thirty men a day.⁹⁶ During these experiences women become particularly vulnerable to contracting sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infections and having unwanted pregnancies.⁹⁷

Criminalizing and Preventing Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights.⁹⁸ Because of its overreaching and broad effect on societies worldwide, the United Nations has made valiant efforts to criminalize and eliminate human trafficking.⁹⁹ In November, 2000 the General Assembly created The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.¹⁰⁰ It has now become one of the most highly recognized international instruments in the fight against transnational organized crime.¹⁰¹ This organization is guided by three protocols which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime.¹⁰² The first protocol was enacted to prevent and suppress and therein punish the people responsible for human trafficking, especially in regards to women and children. The second protocol fights the smuggling of migrants by land for forced labor purposes. The final protocol calls for the condemnation of illicit manufacturing of human trafficking of firearms.

This convention represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime. Because it is widely supported amongst nearly all member nations, it signifies the recognition of the seriousness of the problems posed by trafficking and helps to foster and enhance the much needed international cooperation it takes to tackle these problems. States which ratify this instrument have committed themselves to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime. This marks the creation of domestic criminal charges against participation in an organized criminal group, including money laundering, corruption and obstruction of justice.¹⁰³

Behind Human Trafficking

In today’s modern era at any given time, an estimated 2.4 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery or human trafficking.¹⁰⁴ These people; Women, children and men across the globe

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ http://www.humantrafficking.org/combat_trafficking/protection

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund.html>

find themselves being enslaved in forced labor and domestic servitude, sexually exploited or used as child soldiers. Human trafficking has become a global enterprise worth US\$ 32 billion, because human trafficking affects every country in the world and has become a major concern and has forced the United Nations to take on combative campaigns against trafficking as well as install preventative measures in attempts to stop human trafficking.¹⁰⁵

Many indications point toward the idea that most trafficked persons are subjected because of their poverty.¹⁰⁶ They fall victim to trafficking because their poverty forces them to believe there are no other options.¹⁰⁷ In a bid to provide help and support to those most affected, in August of 2010, General Ban Ki-moon, with the help of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), launched the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking.¹⁰⁸ The Victims' Trust Fund helps supports on-the-ground humanitarian aid.¹⁰⁹ It aims to provide legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking through a range of avenues. The fund works governmental and civil society organization to collectively provide the aid.¹¹⁰ The main goal of the fun is to “provide the opportunity for people from all walks of life including Governments, the private sector, international organizations, NGOs and individuals to work together to help victims of human trafficking in a practical and tangible manner”.¹¹¹

Though there is a lot of work still to be done to truly eliminate human trafficking, the United Nations remains committed to coming up with new and innovative way to address the issue. Because human trafficking is notably higher with women and young girls than any other demographic it is essential that gender inequality issues are also resolved.¹¹² One overriding factor in the continuation of trafficking is the fundamental belief that the lives of women and girls are expendable, and worth less than the lives of men.¹¹³ In societies where women and girls are greatly undervalued or not even treated as human, women are at a far greater risk of being abused, trafficked, and coerced into sex slavery. If we want to prevent the human trafficking of women, we must first take them out of situations that force them to fall prey to the system.¹¹⁴

Questions to Consider:

Besides funding and education, what are other ways to combat human trafficking? How does gender inequality affect human trafficking for both males and females? How should victims of human trafficking be treated post-experience? How should human-trafficking criminals be punished post-experience? Who should be responsible for international human-trafficking crimes?

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/endviol/>

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.