



Violated identities. New slaveries in the globalized society and the rise of the sex industry: the phenomena of trafficking and sexual tourism. A sociological perspective

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Abstract

The document addresses the issue of new slavery and sexual trafficking from a sociological perspective. Developing considerations on the impact and growth of sexual tourism and child pornography, including online, on the identity of the victims, mainly millions of children and women, but also of those who sexually abuse them and of those who torture, buy, sell for sexual purposes. The identity that interests us is also that of the States that transmit data on trafficking and that make political decisions for or against. Added to this is the identity of the power structures colluding with organized crime, and on the opposite side, that of the associations that fight against trafficking, to help and prevent this deep global social wound. The identities of women, girls and children are constantly violated, sold even by their families, often because of poverty. Victims of trafficking and new slavery, often become ill, malnourished, may contract HIV, become drug addicts, and suffer from social marginalization. Although there is the Palermo Protocol of 2000 and other intervention tools, sex trafficking, now also digital, constitutes together with drugs and weapons, a generator of gigantic profits. Repression and regulation have many limits, it is fundamental to act on the education, culture and poverty. Starting from the fifteen theses on capitalism and the global exploitation of prostitution proposed by sociologist Richard Poulin and on the basis of the data collected, we will also address the geopolitical factors that favor the phenomenon of trafficking and sexual tourism. We will develop further considerations, drawing inspiration from the investigations and testimonies collected by Siddharth A. Kara and Lydia Cacho who have given enormous visibility to these painful realities of human rights violations, through their studies and their travels, to trace the maps of trafficking, in the era of globalization.

Keywords: *identities; new slavery; globalization; sex industry; sex trafficking; sex tourism; child pornography; violation of human rights.*

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1. New Slaveries and Sexual Trafficking

Richard Poulin, the sociologist, professor emeritus of the University of Ottawa and associate professor at UQÀM's *Institut de recherches et d'études féministes* (IREF), in his work *Prostitution, la mondialisation incarnée*, starts from the observation that in globalized society, in relation to the commercialization of sex, not only in the political debate, it is improper to speak only of prostitution and prostitutes (Leonini 1999). «But to give the global phenomenon that we have before our eyes its only name: trafficking» (Poulin 2006).

Poulin explores, through fifteen theses, the inseparable link between contemporary capitalism and the global exploitation of prostitution, in which the power of the industrialization of the sex trade is exacerbated, which modifies the identity of women and children, making them objects to be sold and bought, making them sexual goods exportable throughout the world (Poulin 2006: 9).

The first of the fifteen theses proposed by Poulin concerns the very close correlation between globalization and the industrialization of the sex trade.

This is followed by the thesis that liberal policies are complicit in the development of the sex industry (Poulin 2006: 10-14). The third and fourth theses concern respectively the phenomenon of impoverishment of many regions of the world, which create optimal conditions for all types of trafficking and prostitution of human beings. And the worsening of the disparity of development between countries caused by capitalist globalization. To which are linked the flows of emigration at an international level (Poulin 2006: 10-30). The fifth thesis concerns «the industrialization of the sex trade that has led to the development of mass production of sexual goods and services that has generated a regional and international division of labor» (Poulin 2006: 16). While in the sixth thesis, Poulin states, in 2005, the year of publication of this work: *Prostitution, la mondialisation incarnée* that the majority of analyses on contemporary capitalist globalization do not consider the impact of the sex trade (Jahnsen and Wagenaar 2018) industry on societies and on social relations between the sexes (Poulin 2006: 17). The seventh and eighth theses focus mainly on prostitution. Prostitution in its relationship with organized crime, which controls the sex markets and of which it is historically a traditional activity. And that «prostitution is based on violence, which it fuels and amplifies» (Poulin 2006: 18-19). In the ninth thesis, Poulin delves into the condition whereby women and children belonging to ethnic minorities are victims of the global sex industry and in the tenth, he develops reflections on the great development of prostitution as a consequence of the presence of soldiers engaged in wars or in the occupation of territory (Poulin 2006: 22). The eleventh focuses on the growth of sexual tourism, which involves millions of minors and millions of sex consumers in the world and the twelfth examines profit as the sole purpose of the system in its entirety (Poulin 2006: 25-26).

The thirteenth thesis draws attention to how the growth of the sex industry has forced a part of the world to call into question fundamental human rights, the fourteenth thesis speaks mainly of the relationship between liberal values and the women's movement. Finally in thesis number fifteen Poulin states that «it is useless to fight against human trafficking without fighting against the prostitution system that is its cause» (Poulin 2006: 29).

The monetization of social relations, the objectification of culture, already analyzed by George Simmel (1858-1918) in his theory of the tragedy of culture, find further strengthening with the internet and the digital revolution.

An example is the Deep Web or Deep Network, or «that part of the Internet that is invisible to search engines. And among its less explored parts it includes the world of the darknet, networks built in such a way as to make anonymous both those who surf and the identity of those who manage sites hosted there. Darknets are one of the few places left that are not easily controlled by large Internet companies and governments» (Faccioli 2015: 33). The Deep Web is that part of the Internet where cybercriminals and online pornography surf. With the Digital Service Act, the European Commission is also acting through stricter rules against very large online platforms such as Pornhub, XVideo, Stripchat, which must comply with it within 4 months of their designation (Jowitt 2023). «The designation is the result of investigations by the European Commission, which revealed that the three services reach the threshold of 45 million average monthly users in the EU» (European Commission 2023).

Today the internet also represents an instrument of extensive and profound control over our time and our lives. «We understand it less and less, but we need it more and more» (Ritzer 2014: 67). The Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (adopted 15 november 2000) (also known as the Palermo Protocol) is the internationally accepted definition of human trafficking. This Protocol article 3 defines trafficking in person as: «(a) human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or 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. 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, servitude or the removal of organs» (United Nations 2000). This Protocol is the first legally binding instrument with an internationally recognized definition of human trafficking (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2000).

This definition is composed from three fundamental elements of the crime of human trafficking: the act, the means, the purpose. These three elements must be present for an adult to be considered victims of trafficking, but for minors the means element is not required as they are not capable of giving consent (Human Trafficking Foundation. The Issue).

In this regard, we specify that it is Walk Free, which introduced the Global Slavery Index, the most extensive and complete at global level. Walk Free is international organization for human rights, committed against all forms of modern slavery, with a multifaceted approach. Its Team «includes statisticians, criminologists, lawyers and international development experts, who work to create and promote mass systemic change, to address the root causes of slavery» (Walk Free 2023) (Mennim 2022).

Throught *The Global Slavery Index* it is estimated that in 2021 approximately 50 million people live in conditions of modern slavery, with an increase of 10 million compared to 2016 (Walk Free 2023).

According to many reports, «modern sex trafficking is more prevalent today than during the Transatlantic Slave Trade's most prolific years. The most common figures estimate there are 45.8 million people currently enslaved worldwide. Of these, the International Labor Organization (ILO) reports that 22 percent of victims of slavery are

sex slaves. This means that almost ten million people are being forced into sexual slavery» (Boyles 2019).

Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA explicit: «Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime, often committed within the framework of organized crime, a gross violation of fundamental rights and explicitly prohibited by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is a priority for the Union and the Member States» (The European Parliament and of the Council 2011), (Palmer 2019: 551-562).

A profound change that has occurred with globalization is that, unlike a century ago, today women participate massively in the mobility of the population and travel to look for work and better opportunities, mainly because of poverty, while in the past it was not easy to move or emigrate without their husbands. However, although the sex trade has existed for centuries, it is only since the 1990s that its seriousness and danger have been recognized on a global level. We remember among all the *Palermo Protocol 2000* and *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000*.

Yet, with the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union made materially visible to the world, with the fall of the Berlin Wall (November 9, 1989), the belief spread that social planning would be replaced by a greater democratic pluralism inclusive of as many processes of realizing the modernization of global social justice and a greater awareness of the defense of human rights. Instead, with globalization to which globalization is linked, we are witnessing a strong and continuous increase in the international phenomenon of sexual trafficking, mainly of women and girls, the exploitation of prostitution, and the market, including online, of child pornography. With the in globalized society, we therefore see the affirmation in the international criminal economy of the laundering of profits from the sex industry, strongly connected to the New Slavery and sexual tourism. With globalization, the boundaries of the power of the nation-state at a territorial level, as Ulrich Beck states (Beck 2002: 16), become increasingly porous and relative. The affirmation of the neoliberal policy of deregulation has consolidated and organized crime has become transnational organized crime, which is embedded in the cycle of global criminal finance.

In the broad articulation of the «new global economic system, characterized by the complexities of international trade policy, global financial markets, planetary flows of goods, services and labor [...]» (Steger 2016: 7) in which the mobility of people has increased, globalization not only in its economic aspects, has acquired a clear power of impact on the relationships of the lives of individuals and States. It has worsened the gap with the poorest countries, increasing their debt and encouraging the acceptance of very low wages in order to work (Javate de Dios 2006: 37). This economic discrimination and social inequality at a global level has affected the increase of the sex market, the phenomenon of prostitution, and the trafficking of women and children (Holt 2020).

Given the large number of definitions of human trafficking in our globalized society, there is a problem of terminology. As demonstrated by the work of the Polaris research group, founded in 2002. Of great interest are the data collected, and specifically by the publication of the results emerging from the analysis of over 32,000 cases relating to human trafficking, developed between December 2007 and in December 2016, through the management of the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline, the largest and most complete set of data on human trafficking in the United States (Hennessy

2020) ever previously compiled and analyzed. Based on this data, the Polaris research group has developed a classification that identifies 25 types of human trafficking in the United States, each of which corresponds to a specific business model, trafficker profiles, recruitment strategies, victim profiles and methods. controls that facilitate human trafficking (Polaris project 2017). However, the international definition of sex trafficking states: «forced labor includes forced sexual services. The ILO's Forced Labor Convention defines forced labor as all work or service exacted from a person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily» (End Slavery Now. Sex Trafficking), (Gebrewold, Kostenzer and Müller 2017).

It is useful to mention the differences that emerge from the comparison that Javate de Dios develops between trafficking in the past and that of the 21st century (Javate de Dios 2006: 38-40).

The first difference is in the number and extent of women and girl victims of sex trafficking (World Health Organization, 2012), which compared to the past is a fundamental part of the international network of criminal organizations. The number of supplier countries and the countries to which the goods are destined have increased exponentially compared to the past. The feminization of poverty is increasingly marked, the victims more vulnerable. The second difference is that sex trafficking, already a profitable market in the past, has now become, alongside drug trafficking and weapons smuggling, the most flourishing and profitable illegal market in the world with gigantic profits. Another difference is that in the past the trade in women had brothels as places of consumption and pleasure, today there are numerous methods and types of sexual slavery of women and girls, «brothels, sex tourism, mail order marriages, pornography, cybersex» (Javate de Dios 2006: 39) forms of solicitation such as grooming, the deep web. The fourth difference concerns the impact of digital and information technologies. Javate de Dios specifies that «70% of the content on the network concerns or is related to sex» (Javate de Dios 2006: 39).

2. Sex trafficking, Globalization and new geopolitics

As Jean François Gayraud and Carlo Ruta summarize, with the advent of globalization, the new geopolitics used as a tool for analyzing contemporary crime and transnational organized crime, follows three perspectives: flows, power and territories (Gayraud and Ruta, 2014: 41).

The first perspective to consider is that of migratory flows. International migratory flows over time with globalization are characterized by an ever-increasing feminization of migration and, equally, by an increase in the feminization of poverty, which has led to an increase in the sex industry and the phenomenon of prostitution (Poulin, 2006: 15).

Prostitution that was thought to have been eradicated, or at least greatly reduced with the abolition of the white slave trade (Heuman and Burnard 2010) and the regulation of prostitution (Schettini, 2019). In reality there is a deep connection between the campaign against the white slave trade (Peach, 2005: 107-134), an expression used to define prostitution and the kidnapping of women who were kidnapped and sold in various European and American countries, and the origin of the global prostitution market. Of the pleasure industry. Built on a strong racial qualification, the white slave trade mobilized Western public opinion around the theme of forced prostitution, both internally and in the colonies and countries of arrival of the great migratory flows of the period (Schettini 2019).

Therefore, the role of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is fundamental. An intergovernmental organization that includes 172 member states.

In October 2023 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has published the first global technical guide for administrative data on *Trafficking in Persons*. The latter to be distinguished, as Lydia Cacho points out, from the single «term trafficking, which has been literally translated as traffic, a term used for decades to indicate the smuggling of illegal immigrants (my translation) » (Cacho, 2010: 322). This International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP), entitled: *Making each case count. Leveraging Administrative Data of Trafficking in Persons*, aims to respond to the growing demand from governments for more tools to implement effective policies and to develop strategies, most appropriate national ones, against human trafficking. «International standards and guidelines that specify best practices are essential to produce the highest quality information and ensure that people are properly safeguarded from harm. In the absence of a common set of indicators with standardized definitions, it is difficult for any government to take stock of either the local or global reach of the problem. Without a robust evidence base, it is also unclear how policymakers can shape policy and targeted interventions to combat trafficking» (International Organization for Migration, 2023: 1) (Laczo, Mosler Vidal and Rango, 2023).

Indeed, even in 2023 there was a serious lack of reliable data, evidence and research to serve governments and especially their national policies in the fight against human trafficking. And the fundamental role it plays in the sex industry.

This serious deficiency is mainly due to illegality that implies corruption and impunity, and to clandestinity, which characterize the complexity of the criminal phenomenon of trafficking.

The problem of certainty and objectivity of data is evident; a high percentage of sexual violence crimes fall within the dark figure of crime. As emerges from the most recent studies and the results of statistical institutes (Eurostat 2025), sexual violence is the crime with the lowest probability of being reported. Constituting one of the crimes with the highest dark figure of crime (Merzagora 2023: 151). Then the Eurostat report shows how many data also due to Covid 19 have not been communicated by all EU member states, or only partially. These are States that therefore disregard articles 19 and 20 of Directive 2011/36/EU concerning the commitment of EU member states to the collection and communication of data for statistical purposes on the human population. For this reason, the data at our disposal are only partially reliable (Smith 2013). Then there are the political decisions regarding the communication of data, of countries outside the European Union. Decisions, which are mainly influenced by the factor of State discretion and that of the competence and transparency of the judicial system.

In the Eurostat Statistics Explained, Date extracted- January 2023, the data collected illustrate that 63.3% of victims of human trafficking are mainly women and young girls, and that sexual exploitation is still the prevalent one with 43.8%. (Eurostat 2025).

The data problem significantly limits prevention and intervention strategies (U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE 2025). However, of great importance is the fifth *Progress Report on the fight against trafficking in human beings* published by the European Commission on 20 January 2025 (Migration and Home Affairs 2025). Published every two years, this report, organized by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, is made up of research from EU Member States, various EU agencies and members of the EU Civil

Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings (Ibidem). «The report shows that the EU has reinforced its fight against trafficking, delivering on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025). During the period between 2021 and 2022, the number of registered victims has increased by 20,5%, with the majority of victims being non-EU citizens (54%). This increase can be linked to better detection of victims. Despite the progress in the legal, policy and operational framework, several challenges persist, including low numbers of prosecutions and convictions, difficulties in collecting evidence and the growing online presence of victims and traffickers. New challenges emerge, including new forms of exploitation and the link with high level criminal organisations» (Migration and Home Affairs 2025).

The other two perspectives of the new geopolitics used for the analysis of contemporary crime are: power and territories. The other two perspectives of the new geopolitics used for the analysis of contemporary international crime are: power and territories. The perspective of power is essential to the relationships inherent in slavery, sex tourism, the sex industry, the sex market, and abuses of power at the government level. An element of great centrality, as Lydia Cacho shows us, is impunity. Cacho, investigative journalist and activist for human rights, women's and children's rights, in her risky reports made in numerous countries around the world, starting from Mexico (Eekelaar and George 2014) and in particular from Cancún. Cacho played a decisive role in the conviction on appeal, pronounced on August 31, 2011 by the federal court, of the pedophile Jean Succar Kuri to 112 years in prison for the crimes of child pornography and corruption of minors (Cacho 2014: 218). The case of Succar Kuri, a rich and powerful hotel entrepreneur, with powerful friends such as the governor, and his child pornography network shows, as Cacho states, that in the map of sexual trafficking of human beings (Piotrowicz, Rijken and Heide Uhl 2017), mainly women and girls, there is a close relationship between mafias, state corruption, connivance, low level of democratization and the underground economy (Cacho 2010: 11).

Territories constitute the third perspective of geopolitics. Here I focus on the geographical distribution of modern slavery proposed by End Slavery Now, which demonstrates that «the sex trade is high in the following countries and regions: the Amazon, Eastern Europe, Nepal, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, West Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. While sex trafficking occurs in every country, the United States is one of the least prolific source countries. It tends to be more of a distribution center for trafficking victims» (Boyles 2019) (McAlinn and Pejovic 2012). This confirms that sex trade and sex tourism is moving from Asia to North America (Javate de Dios in Poulin 2006: 41) (Wan Nur Ibtisam Wan 2014).

3. Violated Identities. Sex tourism and child-pornography. The field investigations by Siddharth Ashor Kara and Lydia Cacho.

Of particular note are the investigations and fieldwork of Siddharth Ashor Kara and Lydia Cacho. Both have dealt with what we have called violated identities, with particular reference to the map of sexual trafficking of women and children, trafficking in person, Sex tourism, child pornography.

Siddharth Ashor Kara has published important studies, including *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives* (2023). A best-selling finalist for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize, this book investigates the ferocity, brutality, violence and death that characterize the exploitation, even of children, in the extraction of cobalt in Congo. (Sheila

Devi 2016) Kara director of the Program on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, reconstructs the cobalt supply chain, from its extraction in toxic mines, to the multinational technology companies and the consumer. There are many reflections on human rights, exploitation and capitalism in the global society where cobalt is fundamental to every rechargeable lithium-ion battery produced today. It is therefore a factor of economic power. This highlights a double morality, primarily Western.

Additionally, between 2009 and 2017, Kara published the modern slavery trilogy: *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery* (2009), *Bonded Labour: Tackling the System of Slavery in South Asia* (2012) and *Modern Slavery: A Global Perspective* (2017). Kara, just like Lydia Cacho, began touring brothels and places linked to human trafficking, in many countries around the world, interviewing the «families of the victims, the men who bought them, operators of shelters and NGOs, the anti-trafficking police, lawyers specialized in human trafficking, a brothel owner and a trafficker» (Kara 2009: xii). At that time there was not much research on sex trafficking. Yet, along with the arms and drug markets, the sex industry is the fastest growing. Kara says that «Drug trafficking generates greater dollar revenues, but trafficked women are far more profitable. Unlike a drug, a human female does not have to be grown, cultivated, distilled, or packaged. Unlike a drug, a human female can be used by the customer again and again» (Kara 2009: x). Kara delved into the reality of sex trafficking in India. Among the many countries he has conducted research in Nepal, China, Moldova, Romania, Italy, Slovenia, Albania, Serbia, United States, Mexico, Thailand, Burma, Laos, Vietnam.

Then Kara writes that the interviews took place «in one of two places: inside a sex club or in a shelter for victims of trafficking. Most of the victims interviewed were under the age of twenty-five, and most suffered from debilitating physical injuries and malnutrition, infection by a scourge of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS» (Kara 2009: xiii-xiv).

Cacho risked her life for having dealt in a capillary way with sexual tourism, which in the era of globalized capitalism, represents one of the activities of sexual exploitation highly profitable for the mafias that control it. Cacho draws attention to the dangerous language, when some speak erroneously of «child prostitution, a false definition that supports an exchange on the one hand of money, on the other of voluntariness - between an adult who pays for sex and a thirteen-year-old girl [...] who is forced to accept it to make her exploiter earn money» (Cacho 2010: 199). Cacho indicates in 2005 on her website www.missingkids.com, to which today, fifteen years later, unfortunately an exponential number of other sites can be added, where there is a list of the reasons that push tourists and in general many adult men to buy packages including sexual activities with minors in countries such as Cuba and Mexico (Cacho 2010: 200). The child pornography industry generates unimaginable profits. «The tourism networks are so extensive and sprawling that Cacho tells how even taxi drivers in cities such as Cancun become contacts to accompany tourists to the destination of places where minors are sexually exploited» (Cacho 2010: 201). The dangerousness of the process of normalization of sexual exploitation is favored by culture, language and dysfunctional education. In addition to the protection given to the powerful to organized crime, the corruption inherent in the state apparatus and the androcentric vision of society (Cacho 2010: 200).

As Cacho points out, the sexual exploitation industry to which it is linked «the organized crime that buys and sells sexual slaves is not made up of isolated, dispersed groups hidden underground; [...] they are active members of an industry, and as such they

must be studied... they must be sought among lawyers, owners of clubs, massage parlors, bars and restaurants, just as one must investigate among the entrepreneurs of adult pornography production houses, owners of maquiladora casinos and hotels (my translation)» (Cacho 2010: 183).

As Kara and Cacho demonstrate through dangerous testimonies, interviews and reconstructions of the maps of trafficking, in addressing the intricate web of relationships and interdependence between global capitalism, violence-sexual trafficking and victims, we cannot ignore the theme of identity. The complex and sometimes controversial concept of identity, in trafficking of women and girls, leads us to reconsider Charles Horton Cooley's social self, and the looking-glass self in the interaction, as well as multifactorial dimensions approach, which make identity a plastic and changeable social reality. Even more conditioned, in the globalized society by the consumer system and the media system (Abruzzese and Ferraresi 2009: 7).

Reconnecting to the theoretical «approach that links violence, agency, body and identity (Feldman 1991), (Appandurai 2005), Consuelo Corradi highlights how Violence can be conceived as an independent variable that gives meaning and form to identity and at the same time sets in motion and develops individual and collective action. Extreme violence is a social force that [...] objectifies identity, that is, gives it form. [...] Violence is a force that structures personal identity and, under certain conditions [...] fills the void between personal identity and collective identity. Violence shapes the victim's body (my translation)» (Corradi 2009: 19).

However, the constants that characterize the individual and therefore his identity and subjectivity are mainly reflexivity or self-consciousness and recognition (Crespi 2004) which, however, are repressed and denied with «the criminal phenomenon of the industrialization of the sex trade and its ability to transform women and children into sexual commodities exportable throughout the world» (Poulin 2006: 9). Just as Joanne Bourke's myths tells us about in rape, including: no means yes, or women lie (Bourke 2009), that legitimizing violence, act as processes of normalization of sexual abuse.

Identities are violated, raped and humiliated, starting with children who are robbed of their uniqueness and subjectivity. The victims of sexual exploitation assimilate their being sexual objects, goods, which are bought, sold, bartered, consumed and thrown away. And if virgins increase in value on the market.

Sometimes Cacho underlines with the tacit connivance of society and the State, as happened in Cancún in Mexico, with the case of Jean Succar Kuri thousands of children become victims of traffickers who transform them into sexual objects for the benefit of millions of men, who from child pornography and sexual abuse of minors derive personal enjoyment free from ethical questions» (Cacho 2014: 5). Cacho describes the cultural substratum on which hatred towards women rests, and the intricate plot that unites those who commit sexual abuse, the sex industry within organized crime, the role of impunity and corruption of the powerful who manage to silence the voices of denunciation. «The complicity, added to the lack of protection of the victims and the terror they feel towards their executioners, causes thousands of victims of violent crimes in Mexico to retract their denunciations or, for not having remained silent, to be murdered» (Cacho 2010: 5-6). The identities of the victims who are abused, enslaved, and sometimes killed, are deprived of the freedom to choose, they are deprived of the right to a dignified life, and therefore of the future, of planning for life. As mentioned previously, trafficking victims can contract AIDS, become drug addicts, suffer from malnutrition and social marginalization, as well as

showing signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and sometimes Stockholm Syndrome.

Furthermore, with the exponential spread of the use of file sharing programs, which allow the mutual sharing of files and documents between habitual internet users, we are witnessing the growth in the consumption of snuff movies. The Snuff movies are those illegal and pornographic films, censorship video (Jones 2001) in which the protagonists are children raped, abused, subjected to torture mainly of a sexual nature, which lead to the death of the victim, to the death of the child. Whose body is made to disappear. There are also light versions of child pornography, *snuff light* (Cacho 2010: 341), which involve torture but not death. In this regard, we recall a film of denunciation: *Trade of Innocents*, from 2012, which denounces the terrible condition of minors, victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. *Trade of Innocents* is set in Cambodia, which Cacho calls the black hole of Europe (Cacho 2010: 78), (Okyere, Agyeman and Saboro 2021).

The strategies implemented in the fight against new slavery are mainly linked to the three P: Prosecution, Protection and Prevention. Bradley Myles executive director and Chief Executive Officer of Polaris states that «Prevention is often the forgotten “P”» (Boyles 2019). «Economic security for women and education for children are two of the best preventative solutions to fight sex trafficking to add focus to the lost "P," providing an upstream solution and sustainable opportunities to the world’s most vulnerable people» (Ibidem).

United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime proposed list of Human Trafficking Indicators divided into six parts: General Indicators on victims of human trafficking, Indicators on children victims of human trafficking, people who have been trafficked for the purpose of domestic servitude or sexual exploitation, or labour exploitation or begging and petty crime (United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime 2019). Victims of human trafficking can find themselves in different of situations. These indicators can play an important role in identifying such victims (Ibidem).

The active involvement of Kara and Cacho in the fight against the sex trafficking industry has been of enormous importance, starting from the disclosure and the acknowledgement that this reality of sex capitalism is one of the most abominable and silent forms of contemporary slavery. Kara as a scholar and university professor, Cacho risking her life as a journalist (Cacho 2011), have given resonance, a voice and a face to the victims of trafficking and traffickers.

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