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Project report
STS390, “Media, war and peace”

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The report has two parts.

1. A response pack for an actual organisation. This is not an official document and does not necessarily represent the views of the organisation.

Esther Johnson's response pack, a slide show for the Salvation Army, is a separate file, with an additional separate file for music backing. This response pack was produced jointly with Julia Beasy.

Please note that this slide show was not produced on behalf of The Salvation Army and may not entirely reflect their beliefs or views. This was purely an assignment and not an official statement from The Salvation Army. However, the facts presented are true, as referenced in the bibliography.

2. A dialogue between two students discussing the project. This dialogue is fictional. Pseudonyms were used so that the marker, Brian Martin, would not know the identity of student authors.

Esther Johnson's dialogue starts on the next page.

This dialogue is an assignment for STS390 at the University of Wollongong and is not a document used by the Salvation Army.

Deborah: Hi Andrea, how is your research going for information about social justice? Have you thought of any specific case we should look at within the social justice theory for our project pack?

Andrea: Well I was thinking about the class activity that focused on social justice. They looked at human rights vs. animal rights. I went online and researched human rights ideas and I found the issue of Human Trafficking to be very interesting.

Deborah: Oh really? From my research I actually looked at the issue of Human Trafficking as well. That sounds like a good idea. Should we focus on Human Trafficking in Australia or as a global issue?

Andrea: If we are creating a pack for an Australian organisation it would be easier to focus on human trafficking work in Australia.

Deborah: Good point. My mother works for The Salvation Army in Australia. They deal with issues such as homelessness and Human Trafficking at a community based level. We could interview some of the employees at The Salvation Army to gain an understanding of how they are addressing this issue of Human Trafficking.

Andrea: That's a great idea. Our audience for our pack can be the church members of The Salvation Army. We could interview some of the members at your branch of The Salvation Army Church to find out what they would like to know about Human Trafficking and The Salvation Army's work with this issue.

Deborah: Well firstly let's compare our research on social justice. I found some definitions and theories on our topic. Miller defines social justice as the distribution of benefits such as wages, legal rights, housing and medicine¹. Essentially social justice is about the protection of human rights and equality amongst the human race.

Andrea: I think that definition describes it well. However, before we define social justice in the pack I think we need to define social injustice first in order for the

¹ Miller 1976, p22.

church members to gain an understanding of the importance of human rights and social justice. In an article by Simon, he states that social injustice causes harm to powerless individuals because of their negative group identity².

Deborah: That sounds good. After we define our theory we should discuss the relevance of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights that define Human Trafficking as illegal and then relate our case study back to these definitions. What case study should we do?

Andrea: When I was researching the issue of Human Trafficking I found a few cases studies that we could possibly use for our pack.

Deborah: That's good. We should pick a case study that includes the main aspects of Human Trafficking. From my research I discovered that Human Trafficking is the transportation of persons by means of threat or use of force for the purpose of exploitation³. Also from another article by Fergus I discovered that Human Trafficking is a modern form of slavery which includes sexual servitude, domestic labour, sweatshop and agricultural labour⁴.

Andrea: Oh really? One of the case studies I found on a continental African female would suit those definitions. Let's call her Layla. At the age of eleven Layla was smuggled out of Africa into the United States in 1988⁵. She will fit the criteria of a Human Trafficking victim as she was forced to raise her captor's two children and complete their household chores⁶. Layla was also repeatedly raped and was impregnated at the age of thirteen⁷.

Deborah: That's terrible. This is an awful issue occurring in our world. From my research into the history of legislation against Human Trafficking I found that it wasn't until 1949 that slavery, including Human Trafficking was officially banned as

² Simon 1995, p30.

³ Fergus, 2005, p2.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Africans in America, Inc, <http://www.aiainc.org/a/p/case/case0002.html>.

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *ibid.*

illegal⁸. Also, it wasn't until 2000 that the United Nations actually set up the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that even included two protocols regarding trafficking persons and the smuggling of migrants⁹. This delay of legislation just shows how the law alone cannot solve this problem.

Andrea: Wow I didn't think of that. You're right though. Thinking back to our interviews with the employees of The Salvation Army, Robyn Pullen highlighted the importance of their work as the law struggles to help every individual involved in Human Trafficking.¹⁰ This is seen through this case study of Layla. While her captor was arrested and pled guilty to rape charge in 1992 he was still given funds to assist his court case¹¹. However, Layla was given no support financially or morally¹². Her case shows how legislation does not solve all the problems with Human Trafficking.

Deborah: This is definitely a large problem. While there are legal implications in place to assist the prevention of Human Trafficking, I have also found from my research that the other half to solving this problem is through the assistance of organisations.

Andrea: This is where The Salvation Army's work will become relevant in showing how individuals such as Layla can be helped. This was a concern from the church member interviews. Both Michael Hosking and Amy Thompson said that they are not aware of The Salvations Army's work concerning Human Trafficking¹³. There are many victims of Human Trafficking that need help, particularly in Australia.

Deborah: I agree. From my research I found that 100 people are estimated to be trafficked into Australia each year¹⁴. However that figure only comes from those reported. Think about how many other possible victims are out there.

⁸ The Salvation Army 2007, http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/SALV?STANDARD/PC_61644.html.

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>.

¹⁰ Robyn Pullen, Interview, 10 October 2008.

¹¹ Africans in America, Inc, *Op.cit.*

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ Michael Hosking and Amy Thompson, Interviews, 15 October 2008.

¹⁴ Fergus 2005, p18.

Andrea: I know. It's unthinkable. I discovered from The Australian Federal Police that they estimate there is up to 500 trafficked women in debt bonded prostitution in Sydney at any one time¹⁵. That's only in Sydney! There must be some way to prevent this besides legislation. The law does not seem to be doing its job.

Deborah: Definitely. These facts will be relevant for our pack. Both Michael and Melissa from the church member interviews wanted to know how common Human Trafficking is, where it takes place and who it affects¹⁶. Particularly Amy wanted to know the statistics of this information¹⁷. You know what I also found? Apparently the demand for trafficked women in Australia is fuelled by three main reasons. Firstly there is a lack of women in Australia to do prostitution¹⁸. Secondly there is customer demand for women seen as compliant and lastly there are customer demands for women who they can be violent towards¹⁹.

Andrea: Really? That is so wrong. I also discovered that women are denied the right to refuse any customers or any sexual act²⁰. This is why there needs to be organisations like The Salvation Army to help these victims as the law is not enough. Why do so many get tricked into trafficking?

Deborah: Well from an article by Hodge I discovered that organisations actually approach potential victims with offers of employment, modelling contracts and marriages²¹. These offers appeal to potential victims because they promise a better life than to what they are currently experiencing²².

Andrea: Wow! They must be really desperate. This is all relevant, but how are we going to connect all this information with The Salvation Army? How do we even know what to focus on in our pack with so much information?

¹⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁶ Michael Hosking and Melissa Murphy, Interviews, 15 October 2008.

¹⁷ Amy Thompson, Interview, 15 October 2008.

¹⁸ Humantrafficking.org, <http://www.humantrafficking.org>.

¹⁹ Hodge, 2008, p143.

²⁰ *ibid.*

²¹ *Op.cit.*, p146.

²² *ibid.*

Deborah: This is where our interviews with The Salvation Army employees will be relevant. In our PowerPoint presentation we need show the congregation of The Salvation Army church how this organisation is helping victims. Remember our interview with Robyn Pullen? She spoke about the program they are currently running called the Samaritan Accommodation that assists women who have been victims of Human Trafficking²³. The problem with this campaign is that it is only for women and those over eighteen. Unfortunately it does not benefit men and those who are under eighteen such as Layla. The only problem is showing how The Salvation Army's work is useful with these barriers.

Andrea: That is true but we can still reveal the positive side by showing an example of a victim who has been helped by The Salvation Army. Particularly Michael from our church member interviews wanted to know some examples of rescue stories by The Salvation Army²⁴. From my research I found many instances when The Salvation Army has assisted individual victims. For example Mary, a nineteen-year-old female from Mexico was a victim of Human Trafficking²⁵. She was forced to work without pay and was repeatedly sexually and verbally abused²⁶. The Salvation Army helped Mary by providing her with shelter, counselling, clothing, food and legal advocacy services²⁷.

Deborah: I guess so. Least there is organisations that are helping victims with other needs rather than just legal implications. What other information did you find out about The Salvation Army's involvement with fighting against Human Trafficking?

Andrea: Well if you can recall from our interview with the employee David Pullen, he spoke about a campaigning program that The Salvation Army and World Vision have made together²⁸. It's called Stop The Traffik²⁹. This campaign programme works on three levels. They created awareness and education through their own

²³ Samaritan Accommodation, http://www.antislavery.org.au/pdf/sa_brochure.pdf.

²⁴ Michael Hosking, Interview, 15 October 2008.

²⁵ Stop The Traffik, <http://www.stophetraffik.org>.

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸ David Pullen, Interview, 10 October 2008.

²⁹ The Salvation Army, <http://www.stophumantraffik.com>.

awareness packs and various campaigning events and conferences³⁰. Secondly they advocate by appealing to the powerful such as the government or police. They actually got 1.5 million people to sign a petition that they sent to the United Nations about the problem of Human Trafficking³¹. Lastly they raise funds for victims by selling Stop The Traffik merchandise such as T-Shirts³².

Deborah: That will definitely be relevant for our pack. Particularly both Michael and Melissa wanted to know what The Salvation Army is doing and how they can help³³. Is there much evidence that these practices are having an affect?

Andrea: I think from our research we can only judge case by case. We can overcome this by showing how the individual church members can practically help victims of Human Trafficking.

Deborah: That's a good idea. Particularly one of the church members, Michael, said that he would like to assist The Salvation Army through finance and pray³⁴. They could be active by running a fundraising event such as a bake sale or car wash.

Andrea: The only downside is that they cannot help individuals personally. Two of the church members that we interviewed, Melissa and Amy wanted to know if they could physically help³⁵. From my research I found that The Salvation Army does not really offer services for volunteers actually helping victims. For future research, I would like to look into more ways that volunteers can physically help. Did you find that too?

Deborah: Yes I did. I also think that it will be hard to answer all the church members' questions in our pack. We only have a limited view on the theory of social justice as there is only so much time we can research. For future investigation I think it would be important to research more into the social justice theory in order to answer the questions from the church congregation.

³⁰ Stop The Traffick, *Op.cit.*

³¹ *ibid.*

³² *ibid.*

³³ Michael Hosking and Melissa Murphy, Interviews, 15 October 2008.

³⁴ Michael Hosking, Interview, 15 October 2008.

³⁵ Melissa Murphy and Amy Thompson, Interviews, 10 October 2008.

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