Human Trafficking

• **What is Human trafficking:** Trafficking is not the same as human smuggling.
  - Smugglers help individuals gain illegal entry into a destination country and set them free.
  - Trafficking victims arrive as slaves, and are forced, coerced, threatened or deceived in to exploitation: sex and/or labor
  - Between 600,000 to 800,000 humans are trafficked each year and 50% are believed to be minors.

• **Not a small issue:**
  - According to the Department of Health and Human Services, “human trafficking is tied with illegal arms as the second largest criminal industry in the world”.
  - The UN has identified it as “the world’s second-largest and second-fastest growing criminal enterprise,” trailing only to illegal drug trade.

• **Not just a foreign problem:**
  - An estimated 16,000 children and women are trafficked into the United States annually.
  - Inside the United States, children and women are trafficked to “satisfy the nation’s insatiable appetite for pornography, prostitution, strip clubs, and massage parlors” (Mathew Robb, Social Work Today).
  - **Twenty brothels** (a house of prostitution) posing as legitimate businesses from **Connecticut to North Carolina** were shut down, 31 people were arrested and more than 70 suspected **Korean sex slaves** were freed from a large human trafficking organization.

• **How it affects you**
  - Victims of trafficking may appear as clients and groups that you interact with. As a Social Worker the Code of Ethics requires meeting the needs of oppressed groups and nondiscrimination; it also requires practitioners to be competent in the areas they serve.