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Research exercise: Understanding The U.S. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report

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Background on the TVPA

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Palermo Protocol describe Human Trafficking using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor. Their annual report places country to tiers that identify the extent of their government action to combat trafficking.

*No tier ranking is permanent. Each and every country can do more, including the United States. All countries must maintain and increase efforts to combat trafficking.

The TIP Report:

- **Came about as a measure to decrease human trafficking**
- **The United States monitors how other states are doing in preventing Human Trafficking**
- **Set up to protect human rights**
- **Seeks not only to protect, but to also rebuild lives**
- **Encourages other countries to adopt victim-friendly laws and regulations**
- **Advocates for victims**
- **Appreciates and encourages Fair Trade products**
- **Seeks to clarify misconceptions of Human Trafficking:**
- **such as, the difference between trafficked victims and illegal immigrants**
- **End goal: To end modern day slavery**

Tier 2 Watch List:

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards:

- The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing.
- There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.
- The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional steps over the next year.

Haiti: Tier Two-Watch List

- Haiti, also known as the official Republic of Haiti, is a country in the Caribbean.
- Haiti occupies and shares a portion of the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. The border between these two countries is a huge source to the problem of human trafficking.
- Haiti is currently on the Tier 2 watch list. Meaning Haiti's government does not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

**B. Current Government Efforts**

- **Historical and Current:**
  - **Girls, and lesser extent, boys are exploited in domestic servitude by older females.**
  - **Rwanda continues to train immigration officials on document verification and other details**
  - **In May 2010, the government completed a draft to penal code which should help with the current difficulty in prosecuting and punishing suspected traffickers.**
  - **The government has been given by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Insurance**
  - **The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Palermo Protocol describe Human Trafficking using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.**
  - **The United States monitors how other states are doing in preventing Human Trafficking.**
  - **The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Palermo Protocol describe Human Trafficking using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.**
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