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The Trafficking of Men and Boys in the United States and India: A Legal Analysis

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50% of sexual exploitation cases in New York involved boys.¹ (John Jay)

Even though men and boys make up a significant portion of trafficking as a whole, they are wholly underrepresented when it comes to our international legal systems.

Males make up **12%** of all trafficking cases worldwide.²(UNODC, 2009)

Important Laws

Pay special attention to wording!

1. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children³ (OHCHR, 2000)
2. SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution⁴ (SAARC, 2002)
3. Report and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children⁵(1998)



Common Misconceptions

Perceptions are critical to the development of laws

1. Only women are trafficked
2. Only men are traffickers
3. Men are only subjected to labor trafficking

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As a result of the anti-trafficking efforts directed solely at women, males who have been trafficked often go under the radar of law enforcement. This stifles anti-trafficking efforts, allowing traffickers to go undetected.

Additional Challenges

- Traditional gender roles stigmatize vulnerability in males
- The clandestine nature of trafficking results in an underrepresentation of numbers
- Males are more likely to be seen as victimizers, while women are more likely to be seen as victims, obscuring instances where this is not the case.⁶

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