



TOURISM SECURITY-SAFETY AND
POST CONFLICT DESTINATIONS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

PETER E. TARLOW AND ANDREW SPENCER



Human Trafficking and the Tourism Industry

Dr. Peter E. Tarlow and Dr. Andrew Spencer have created a major work on one of the tragedies of modern tourism, the industry's role in human and sex trafficking.

Although human trafficking dates back many millennia, our open global society has created new challenges for both law enforcement and the travel and tourism industry.

Drs. Tarlow and Spencer show the clear distinctions between slavery, prostitution, and human trafficking. They illustrate how the tourism industry is involved in many of these crimes both on a passive and, at times, active level.

They also provide ways for the tourism industry to meet these challenges and become a positive force in the fight against these social plagues.

Their book is an important read for anyone who cares about human dignity, and it is essential for members of the world's tourism and law enforcement industries.

I served more than nine years representing global media on the UNWTO (World Tourism Organization) task group fighting the sexual exploitation of children through tourism. This issue is also close to my heart, and it is so important to raise awareness within our sector, the global travel and tourism industry, and of course everywhere where people travel.

—*Juergen Steinmetz*

TOURISM SECURITY-SAFETY AND POST CONFLICT DESTINATIONS

Series editors: Maximiliano E. Korstanje and Hugues Seraphin

Since the turn of the century, the international rules surrounding security and safety have significantly changed, specifically within the tourism industry. In the age of globalization, terrorism and conflict have moved beyond individual high-profile targets; instead, tourists, travelers, and journalists are at risk. In response to this shift, the series invites authors and scholars to contribute to the conversation surrounding tourism security and post-conflict destinations.

The series features monographs and edited collections to create a critical platform which not only explores the dichotomies of tourism from the theory of mobilities but also provides an insightful guide for policymakers, specialists, and social scientists interested in the future of tourism in a society where uncertainty, anxiety and fear prevail.

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Human Trafficking and the Tourism Industry

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United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Emerald Publishing, Floor 5, Northspring, 21-23 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL

First edition 2025

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-83797-930-1 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-83797-929-5 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-83797-931-8 (Epub)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To all who have been enslaved or trafficked, may you know the joy of freedom and human dignity.

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Acknowledgments

It is not easy to write about human and sex trafficking. It is a sad and tragic subject revolving around human avarice and cruelty. Unfortunately, the subject of human and sex trafficking has become unavoidable. In the printed media, we read a continual flow of the news items, social media speak of the thousands of people who have been caught in a web of crime, slavery, prostitution, and deceit, and almost daily television stations around the world report new and frightful incidents. All too often the travel and tourism industries are either directly or indirectly involved. Despite the difficulties in writing this book, the authors understood from the beginning of their research how important it is for them to have written it and how necessary this book is for anyone who cares about human rights and dignity.

Peter Tarlow and Andrew Spencer want to thank the people at Emerald Publishing who stayed with us and encouraged us throughout the process. We also want to thank Dr. Maximiliano Korstanje of Buenos Aires, Argentina, for his aid and encouragement. We want to express our gratitude to our colleagues around the world who encouraged us. We extend a special thanks to Kemish Gordon of the Jamaica Police, Skeeter McKenzie of the Falmouth, Jamaica Cruise Ship terminal. Additionally, we extend a special thank you to numerous U.S. police departments, both local and national, for their wisdom, guidance, and encouragement. We do not have enough words to express our gratitude to Linda Rosenzweig who was kind enough to review every word of the book's galleys prior to publication, asked thoughtful questions, and provided insightful commentary. We also thank her husband Sandy Bieber who tolerated our many hours of work.

Finally, both authors would be remiss in not thanking our wives and families for their enduring our long hours of work and for their encouragement. To each of you, please accept our heartfelt thanks and know how much we appreciate all that you have done to make this book a reality.

Peter Tarlow
Andrew Spencer

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About the Authors



Peter E. Tarlow, PhD, is a world-renowned speaker and expert specializing in the impact of crime and terrorism on the tourism industry, event and tourism risk management, and tourism and economic development. Since 1990, Tarlow has been aiding the tourism business community with issues such as travel safety and security, economic development, and creative marketing. Tarlow has authored numerous books and scholarly articles on tourism security.

In 2018, Tarlow was appointed as a member of the *Jamaican National Tourism Security Audit Team* and, a year later, he became the team's Head and was tasked with the job of developing a national tourism security program.

In 2019, Tarlow was appointed the security expert for the African Tourism Board and as an advisor to Mexico City's new tourism police unit.

In 2021, Tarlow became an advisory member of the United States Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance (ICITAP) team.

Tarlow is currently working on issues of international human and sex trafficking and chaired the panels at the World Police Summit in Dubai on this subject. He is also working with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on U.S. government building security in Washington, DC.

Tarlow is the President of the World Tourism Network, based in Honolulu, Hawaii. He earned his PhD in Sociology from Texas A&M University and is a Founder and the President of Tourism & More Inc.

Professor Andrew Spencer is the President of Caribbean Maritime University. He was conferred with the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander on August 6, 2024, by the Governor General upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Spencer has served in executive leadership in academia as well as corporate entities across the Caribbean. He was the first to be promoted to the rank of full professor in the substantive field of tourism at the University of the West Indies.

Spencer served for 4 years as the Executive Director of the Tourism Product Development Company Limited (TPDCo), the agency responsible for the maintenance, development, and enhancement of the tourism product in Jamaica, and the largest agency in the Ministry of Tourism. He also gave stellar service from 2013 to 2017, as the Director of the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management (CHTM), University of the West Indies, Nassau Bahamas.

He is the holder of a BSc and an MSc in Tourism Management from the University of the West Indies and was awarded his PhD in Tourism Strategy from Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom. Spencer's research record demonstrates over 50 scholarly publications, including five authored books with top international publishers. Professor Spencer has consulted extensively with Caribbean nations on issues related to tourism development.

Chapter 1

Human Trafficking: The Basics

Introduction

During the summer of 2023, Angel Studios, a minor movie studio, released a surprise box-office-hit, titled *Sound of Freedom*. The film was such an international success that it shocked movie professionals with its astounding performance. Despite not having the marketing budget nor the backing of a major studio, *Sound of Freedom* not only became an overnight success, but it also soon became embroiled in political controversy.

Sound of Freedom recounts the true story of Tim Ballard, a U.S. homeland security government agent, who, on his own volition, quits his job and travels to Colombia to rescue the sister of a Honduran boy who had been kidnapped by human traffickers. The film traces the story of how Ballard rescues over 50 children from human traffickers and makes a strong statement about the scourge of human trafficking. Almost from the time of the movie's release, political controversy has surrounded the film. Many newspapers and left-of-center commentators attacked the film, calling it exaggerated or filled with errors. Brandon Ambrosino, writing in The *British Broadcasting Company's* (BBC) "Culture" section, speaks to the controversy surrounding the film when he states:

Depending on whom you ask, the surprise hit of US film, **Sound of Freedom** is a provocative and gripping film offering "moral clarity" on a harrowing, child-threatening issue - or else it is a QAnon-tinged thriller "... designed to appeal to the conscience of a conspiracy-addled boomer." Either way, it's clear this movie is not just a movie. It has become something else, something more.¹

In the United States and Europe, many on the political left-of-center saw the film as political propaganda and filled with misinformation. From their perspective, *Sound of Freedom* overstated the issue and subtly touched upon

¹Ambrosino, B, "Sound of Freedom: Is the Child Trafficking Drama a Watershed Moment For 'Faith-Based' Filmmaking?" July 14, 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20230714-sound-of-freedom-is-the-child-trafficking-drama-a-watershed-moment-for-faith-based-filmmaking> <accessed July 26, 2023>.

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QAnon theories. Thus, Marco della Cava's writing in *USA Today*, states that QAnon is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an:

... umbrella term for a sprawling spiderweb of right-wing internet conspiracy theories with antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ elements that falsely claim the world is run by a secret cabal of pedophiles who worship Satan and are plotting against President Trump. QAnon believers falsely claim the cabal is abducting children to kill them and harvest their blood for a chemical known as adrenochrome, which is used to extend their lives.²

It should be noted that many on the right-of-center see the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as a mere proponent of leftist values. For example, in a *Fox News* article, Jesser Chasmar and Joe Schoffstal write:

Critics have long accused the SPLC of falsely slapping the “hate group” label on non-violent groups that hold traditional beliefs about hot-button issues such as gay marriage and abortion. One of those conservative Christian groups, the Family Research Council (FRC), was targeted in August 2012 by a gunman who said he was driven by the SPLC's “hate map.”³

We can find criticism of the film throughout the media. Thus, Eve Batey, writing in *Vanity Fair*, questions much of the film and levels a great deal of criticism against the organization called “OUR.” OUR is an acronym for “Operation Underground Railroad” and claims to be active in freeing people, especially children, from human traffickers. Batey writes:

It's a level of success that frustrates trafficking survivor, Jose Alfaro. Alfaro hasn't seen the film, but he's familiar with Ballard and OUR. He tells me that narratives like *Sound of Freedom*'s, which present trafficking as a result of kidnapping that sends victims across borders, “aren't really representative of how more commonly this crime actually happens.” Merlan agrees, saying the movie contributes to the false perception “that the

²della Cava, Marco, *USA Today*, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/movies/2023/07/12/sound-of-freedom-movie-controversy/70405543007/> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

³Chasmar, J and J Schoffstal, “Assault on Conservative Groups: 10 Things You Need to Know About the Southern Poverty Law Center” June 9, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/assault-conservative-groups-10-things-you-need-know-southern-poverty-law-center> <accessed July 30, 2023>.

problem of trafficking is best addressed by kicking down doors and carrying children out.”⁴

The film’s supporters would disagree. They note that the film is nonpartisan and never mentions QAnon. Both the *USA Today* article and the one appearing in *Vanity Fair* corroborate this fact and note that despite what they see as controversial innuendos, the film never mentions controversial organizations such as QAnon. Thus, Marco della Cava writes: “*Sound of Freedom* does not mention QAnon or any issues that are politically partisan,”⁵ and Batey supports this contention when she writes: “No claims like this appear in *Sound of Freedom* itself. Neither do any other conspiracies, or overt politics more broadly.”⁶ This leads many on the right-of-center to question why the criticism of even those who see racists or antisemitic undertones admit that the film does not refer to any conspiracy theory or have any racist or antisemitic dialogue.

Many on the right-of-center note that not only does the film not mention political conspiracies or QAnon but wonder if the left-of-center’s negative reaction to the film comes from the need to defend the Biden administration’s open-door policies along the U.S. southern border. As such, they argue that open borders supporters see any portrayal of human trafficking as an attack on what those on the right see as the Biden’s administration’s lack of border enforcement. People, such as the singer Jewel, speaking on the right-of-center *Fox News*, accused the mainstream media of unfairly politicizing an issue that should not be political. *Fox News* reported that:

... in a Twitter caption accompanying the clip, Jewel criticized mainstream media reception of “*Sound of Freedom*.” She wrote, “It saddens me that some media is trying to politicize this movie. This is not left or right. It’s about millions of kids being trafficked, and no matter what your faith or creed, we need to protect all the vulnerable kids rather than fight over philosophical differences.”⁷

Understanding the controversy surrounding the film “acts as a perfect entranceway into one of the great tragedies of our time, the growth of human trafficking and its relationship with the tourism and travel industries.” No matter what one’s position might be, the fact that this film has caused public debate and has heightened public attention to the problem is important.

⁴Bately, E, *Vanity Fair*, July 20, 2023, <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2023/07/sound-of-freedom-child-trafficking-movie> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

⁵della Cava, Marco, *USA Today*, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/movies/2023/07/12/sound-of-freedom-movie-controversy/70405543007/> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

⁶Bately, E, *Vanity Fair*, July 20, 2023, <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2023/07/sound-of-freedom-child-trafficking-movie> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

⁷*Fox News*: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/singer-jewel-praises-sound-freedom-bashes-media-politicizing-film-see> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

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Chapter 1 will then serve as an introduction to the subject of human trafficking with an exploration on how the travel and tourism industry has, at times, been a willing participant and, at other times, has unwillingly added to the collateral damage.

The Chapter will introduce subtopics, such as:

- Definitions of types of slavery and human trafficking.
- Conceptual differences between slavery and indentured servitude.
- Where is trafficking a problem? Is it universal?
- Which are the supplier nations, and which are the nations that import “human cargo”?
- Human trafficking’s complex relationship with the travel and tourism industry.
- The trafficking of children.
- The trafficking of women.
- Are grown men trafficked?

The chapter will also briefly introduce the possible interconnection between the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic and its impact on human trafficking.

Chapter 1 serves as a smorgasbord of subtopics with the goal of introducing the reader to the complexity of human trafficking as well as a road map through the many subthemes and intellectual tributaries. Readers will, therefore, find that many of the topics introduced here will be fully expanded upon in later chapters.

Defining Human Trafficking

Anyone who is serious about addressing human trafficking issues must first know exactly what it is, what it entails along with the nuances of human trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security website “Blue Campaign” defines human trafficking as: “. . . the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.” The site further states:

. . . every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use the following methods to lure victims into trafficking situations:

- Violence
- Manipulation
- False promises of well-paying jobs
- Romantic relationships⁸

⁸<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking> <accessed on July 26, 2023>.

The United Nation's website has certain parallels to the United States' definition but also expands on the definition. It reads:

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring (sic) or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women, and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.⁹

The British government has created a specific position paper on slavery and human trafficking. Although the British definitions are in many ways similar, it must be noted that the United Kingdom's position paper creates an overlap between slavery and human trafficking. The 2021 position of the United Kingdom states:

... Modern slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the 'Act'). The term is used to encompass slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, bonded and child labour and human trafficking. ... Human trafficking is where a person arranges, or facilitates, the travel of another person with a view to that person being exploited.¹⁰

The British government then distinguishes what it calls "modern slavery" from the transportation of people for the purposes of slavery and calls the latter "human trafficking." The British government then defines its technical term "modern slavery" as:

... a serious and organised crime that destroys communities and causes significant harm to victims. It is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain, and involves people being coerced and forced into providing a service to others. It is a crime that affects people of all genders, ages (including children) and ethnicities and is a violation of fundamental human rights.¹¹

⁹<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html> <accessed July 26, 2023>.

¹⁰UK Parliament: "UK Parliament Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy" January 2021, <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/modern-slavery/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-policy-july-2021.pdf> 3.1, 3.2 <accessed July 26, 2023>.

¹¹UK Parliament: "UK Parliament Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy" January 2021, <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/modern-slavery/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-policy-july-2021.pdf> 1.0 <accessed July 26, 2023>.

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The Australian chapter of World Vision, a Christian humanitarian and aid organization, is even more precise in its definition and distinguishes between child and adult trafficking. It notes that:

The Act: can be the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and/or receipt of persons.

The Means: involving threat or force or other forms of coercion, or abduction, or fraud, or deception, or the abuse of power.

The Purpose: the reason why any of the acts have taken place – for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can involve forced or debt bonded labour, child labour, sexual exploitation, armed conflict and many more situations.

It further notes that: “for adult victims - requires all three of the [elements]; for child victims – only need the Act and Purpose for the crime to occur.”¹²

Are Human Trafficking and Slavery the Same?

These various definitions then lead to the question of how do we, or should we, differentiate between human trafficking and slavery? Are they merely two words for the same phenomenon, or are they similar social cancers in some respects but different in others? The question is essential for policymakers, since without clear delineations, it is almost impossible to create public policies that take us from the ethical to the legal.

As we have noted, and shall further explore in Chapter 3, human trafficking and slavery have existed since the beginning of human history, but there are subtle differences between the two.

Defining Slavery

Slavery in the Americas was so ubiquitous and cruel that the American meaning of the word is usually how most people understand the term. American slavery was not that different from ancient Greek and Roman concepts of slavery. Historically, however, this term has meant different things at different points in human history. For example, in the Hebrew Biblical text, we find the word: עֶבֶד (eved). The word is derived from the verb to work or serve. Though many translators, both classical and modern, translate this term as “slave,” if we read the word “eved” within the context of the Bible, it becomes clear that the word had a very different connotation, and the Biblical reader understood the term in a different context. As an “eved” had multiple rights and his/her body belonged to God and not to the eved’s master, perhaps a more

¹²World Vision Australia: “Factsheet: Understanding Human Trafficking and Slavery”, <https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/buy-ethical-fact-sheets/understanding-human-trafficking-fact-sheet.pdf?sfvrsn=2> <accessed July 27, 2023>.

accurate translation of this word might be indentured servant or bondsman. For example, Peter J. Williams, a theologian and Biblical scholar at Cambridge and Aberdeen Universities (United Kingdom), explains:

... the majority meaning of ‘ebed is ‘servant’ but can also be translated ‘slave.’ It is not an inherently negative term and is related to work. The term shows the person is subservient to another. All subjects of Israel are servants of the king. The king himself is a servant of their God. So, in the time of the Old Testament, no-one was free – everyone is subservient to, an ‘ebed of, someone else. Translating ‘ebed as ‘slave’ is problematic because of its negative connotations, which were not originally there but we associate from other historical contexts.¹³

Williams’ definition and explanation stands in sharp contrast to the Oxford Classical Dictionary definition of slavery:

Slavery in the strict sense of chattel-slavery, whereby the slave-owner enjoyed complete mastery (dominium) over the slave’s physical being (Dig. 1. 5. 4. 1), the power of life and death included (Gai.Inst. 1. 52), was evident throughout the central era of Roman history, and in Roman no less than Greek thought was regarded as both the necessary antithesis of civic freedom and the guarantee of their civic superiority to those who enjoyed it.¹⁴

The Greek, Roman, or American understanding of slavery is reflected in the definition of slavery used at the League of Nations’ 1926 Slave Convention (treaty). That convention or treaty was registered on March 9, 1927, and was to take effect immediately. The convention defined slavery as:

- Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.
- The slave trade includes all acts involved in the capture, acquisition, or disposal of a person with intent to reduce him to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him; all acts of disposal by sale or exchange of a slave acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged, and, in general, every act of trade or transport in slaves.¹⁵

¹³Williams, PJ, “Does the Bible Support Slavery”, <https://www.bethinking.org/bible/does-the-bible-support-slavery> <accessed July 27, 2023>.

¹⁴Oxford Classical Dictionary: <https://oxfordre.com/classics/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.001.0001/acrefore-9780199381135-e-7311.jsessionid=DA5FAB7CBAB30B70E52891DF2696DD60> <accessed July 27, 2023>.

¹⁵Slavery Convention, September 25, 1926, (repeated by) UN Office of High Commissioner: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/slavery-convention> <accessed July 27, 2023>.

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Tragically and despite ratification, the convention (treaty) did not put an end to slavery. For example, the independent author and human rights consultant, Minh Dang, who has been both a slave and a victim of trafficking, notes that we must be careful of our definitions. For example, she asks if a person receives a salary that is one dollar above the poverty line, is that person still not poor? In a like manner, she reminds us that human trafficking, often called “slave-like,” is extremely close to the human degradation we call slavery. She further notes:

- If we compare slavery and human trafficking, we need to be clear about whether we are talking about slavery as an institution, slavery as an economic activity, or slavery as the condition of the person being enslaved.
- The definition for slavery as an economic activity, or the slave-trade, is outlined by the Centre for Human Rights Geneva, as “all acts involved in the capture, acquisition or disposal of a person with intent to reduce him to slavery.”

This definition, which captures some key elements of the modern-day underpinnings of slavery, comes closest to the legal definition of human trafficking. Dang goes on to state that:

- There is currently no victim-centered definition of human trafficking or slavery. The definitions fail to sufficiently describe the condition of the person experiencing the criminal act(s) done to them.¹⁶

The Australian chapter of World Vision has produced a fact sheet on both human trafficking and slavery. That document provides some of the subtle but important differences between the institution of slavery and human trafficking. It asserts that although the two are closely related, there are differences:

Technical definitions of “slavery” and “human trafficking”, as well as related concepts like forced labour, child labour and bonded labour differ slightly legally, but there are enormous overlaps between them (sic). Many of these terms are commonly used interchangeably, as ultimately, they all involve practices that exploit or abuse someone physically or psychologically for profit.¹⁷

The above definitions should serve as a reminder that both human trafficking and slavery have multiple manifestations, and that there is no one single definition for either of them. Although we must not confuse the institution of American

¹⁶Dang, M, “Language Matters: Defining Human Trafficking and Slavery” October 2, 2014, <https://www.endslaverynow.org/blog/articles/language-matters-defining-human-trafficking-and-slavery> <accessed July 27, 2023>.

¹⁷World Vision Australia: “Factsheet: Understanding Human Trafficking and Slavery”, <https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/buy-ethical-fact-sheets/understanding-human-trafficking-fact-sheet.pdf?sfvrsn=2> <accessed July 27, 2023>.