

CONNECTOR

SEX TRAFFICKING AND THE ABORTION CONNECTION

By: Bradley Mattes, MBS



Each year sex trafficking claims an estimated 100,000 new victims in the US and in various forms enslaves as many as 400,000 young people. Shockingly, the average age of enslavement of girls is 12-14 years. While public awareness of sex trafficking is growing, sadly most Americans have yet to comprehend just how deeply its ugly tentacles have infiltrated American society. Sex trafficking is literally all around us—hiding in plain sight, if we know what to look for.

Abortion is crucial to keeping the sex trafficking industry humming. The abortion industry knowingly participates by looking the other way when pimps or other representatives of this underworld trade bring pregnant trafficking victims to abortion facilities. Of the three to five girls a pimp controls, at least two will have an abortion; many will have more than one.

I recently interviewed four women who have intimate knowledge of sex trafficking. Two were victims; all four now actively work to end human trafficking, which can involve prostitution or slave labor.

Marlene Carson was a teenager from a solid family when she fell victim to sex trafficking. Her dad, who played

saxophone for BB King, and her mom, who stayed home with the kids, had built a stable Christian home for Marlene and her four older siblings.

The predators, Richard and his wife, moved into the neighborhood and set about befriending nearby families. They became trusted friends.

The process of victimization began with day trips that gradually ventured farther from home until Richard and his wife proposed a Labor Day weekend in New York City. There the couple revealed their true intentions. They effectively isolated the children so they could not contact their parents and the fun trip quickly turned menacing. Marlene and the other girls were forced to perform sex acts for money. Richard threatened to harm or kill Marlene and her family if she ever told anyone what was happening to her. The psychological control such predators hold over girls, and sometimes boys, is very powerful and alarmingly effective.

Marlene's brainwashing came full circle. She moved up in the hierarchy of sex trafficking and became the "bottom girl"—usually the girl who has been with the pimp the longest and makes him the most money. She has status and power

over the other girls and is responsible for a variety of activities such as the "recruitment" of additional sex slaves, collecting the money, monitoring law enforcement activity and running things while the pimp is away. If something goes wrong, the bottom girl is held accountable and punished. Marlene wasn't too concerned about police officers because they were their number one buyers of time with the girls.

Marlene also was responsible to arrange abortion appointments when the girls became pregnant.

A hired "parent" would take girls to Planned Parenthood for abortions. Marlene says the staff would be well aware the girls were being victimized, but they consistently looked the other way to avoid losing a paying customer in the lucrative business of abortion. By doing this, they functioned as criminal enablers or partners with the pimps, allowing the victimization to continue.

Even though Marlene arranged for other girls' abortions, she wouldn't have one herself. She is now the mother of four children, two the result of prostitution. Marlene begged her pimp not to force her to have an abortion and was spared, but it cost her dearly. She was



DYING OF THIRST:

Dehydrating Brain-Injured Patients is Legal in All Fifty States

By Bobby Schindler

In 1990, at age 26, my sister Terri Schindler Schiavo experienced a mysterious cardio-respiratory arrest for which no cause was ever determined.

She was diagnosed with hypoxic encephalopathy – lack of oxygen to the brain – but was able to breathe on her own and maintain vital functions. She was provided a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube for medically assisted nutrition and hydration.

After a period of aggressive therapy, Terri began to make some improvement; in particular, she began to form words. Sadly, this progress was interrupted when her estranged husband and legal guardian, Michael Schiavo, ordered all rehabilitation stopped. He subsequently warehoused her in various nursing homes.

In May 1998, Schiavo filed a petition to withdraw Terri's PEG. In January 2000, Judge George W. Greer heard this petition in Pinellas County, Florida. Following the trial, Greer ordered Terri's feeding tube removed. On March 31, 2005, Terri died of marked dehydration after more than 13 days without food and water. She was 41 years old.

It is still difficult to explain why Terri's situation received such enormous national and international attention. Indeed, what happened to my sister—removal of basic care, food and hydration—had been occurring long before her case found its way to court.

Clearly the public was not aware that a powerful death lobby had been working clandestinely to make dehydrating vulnerable persons like Terri rather easy. By the time of my sister's passing, removing feeding tubes from cognitively disabled patients was routine in all 50 states. Now this movement has even more people in the crosshairs.

How has something considered barbaric not that long ago become so common?

Certainly many dynamics have brought us to this point. I believe, how-

ever, that two significant changes opened these flood gates.

First is the creation by physicians of the persistent vegetative state (PVS) diagnosis. When a person is diagnosed as PVS, he or she is essentially declared unresponsive and written off by most of the medical community from making any meaningful recovery.

However, a PVS diagnosis demands considerable skill, the expertise of a multidisciplinary team and repeated observations over time. Nevertheless, recent studies alarmingly show that more than 40 percent of those diagnosed as PVS are, in fact, not unconscious but may be in a minimally conscious state or have severe sensory deficits.¹

What makes the diagnosis so lethal is that physicians use it as a criterion – every day – to justify killing patients, as happened to Terri. Imagine using as a gauge to kill the most vulnerable among us a diagnosis with an error rate of nearly 50 percent.

We are killing brain-injured and countless other people based on a diagnosis that's essentially the flip of a coin.

Second is the medical community's decision to redefine medically assisted nutrition and hydration as artificial nutrition and hydration. Once considered basic and ordinary care, providing food and water via a feeding tube is now categorized as medical treatment.

As a result, a person now has the right to refuse this treatment not only for him- or herself but also for others, as Michael Schiavo did, a decision often based on so-called "best interest" scenarios.

Tragically, denying the disabled food and water has become a routine part of medicine. It becomes an issue only when family members disagree, as in Terri's case. A growing number of physicians are making quality-of-life judgments to dehydrate patients, and they are permitted to do so because a feeding tube is now deemed medical treatment.

Although no statistics are available to indicate exactly how many persons are starved and dehydrated to death because "loved ones" don't feel like taking on the "burden" of their care, it is safe to say dehydrating the disabled occurs at an alarming rate.

In fact, Michael Schiavo's attorney, a euthanasia advocate, has admitted that denying food and hydration is widely practiced.

How have we become so disconnected from the value and dignity of our medically vulnerable that dehydrating them to death is about as common as buying a loaf of bread? How have we sunk so far?

To have any chance to end this madness, we must first immediately stop using PVS as the reason to kill the brain-injured. Eliminating the term *persistent vegetative state*, which only degrades a person's intrinsic dignity, also would help. Instead, *state of minimal consciousness* can be used to promote compassion towards these individuals. Equally important is to understand that medically assisted nutrition and hydration is basic and ordinary care.

Someone once said that when life becomes difficult, change your life, not your morals. Sadly, faced with difficult life choices, too many today accept blithe assurances from the bioethics movement that immoral actions are merely "medical ethics." 🌀

Bobby Schindler is Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network that works to protect our medically vulnerable.

1. K Andrews, L Murphy, R Munday, and C Littlewood (1996-07-06). "Misdiagnosis of the vegetative state: retrospective study in a rehabilitation unit". *British Medical Journal* 313 (7048): 13-16.

repeatedly beaten during her pregnancies because they disrupted her pimp's income. Marlene's aversion to abortion was so strong that she once secretly had the house raided to rescue a pregnant girl inside.

The pro-life group Live Action documented that Planned Parenthood routinely partners with sexual predators who victimize girls through sex trafficking. They conducted undercover video investigations at seven Planned Parenthood facilities in four different states. Four were in the state of Virginia: Charlottesville, Falls Church, Richmond and Roanoke. Three others were located in Washington, DC; Perth Amboy, New Jersey; and the Bronx, New York. According to Live Action, each was willing to aid and abet the sex-trafficking of minor girls by supplying confidential birth control, STD testing and secret abortions to underage girls and their traffickers. The video and details are available at our sex trafficking resource webpage at www.lifeissues.org/Human_Trafficking.html.

Marlene reports that it is very hard for a victimized woman to leave the sex trafficking industry, in part because of the control the pimp has over her life and the considerable material possessions he lavishes on her. Added hurdles include drug and alcohol addiction. As a result of these combined challenges, the chance of relapse is 21 times higher than with drug addiction. After many years, Marlene's healing has come full circle. She no longer feels guilty but says she will always have remorse.

Marlene now uses her past to help rescue young girls and women from the enslavement she endured for many years. She founded and runs Rahab's Hideaway in Columbus, Ohio, to provide

them for a promising future free of sexual enslavement.

Nita Belles is a regional director for Oregonians Against Trafficking Humans. While never a victim of sex trafficking, early on she was moved and horrified by what this criminal activity is doing to women. She says human trafficking is the second-largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, next to drugs. One of every three runaways is approached within 48 hours by someone in the sex trafficking trade.

It is a lucrative business. The dollar value of a young girl to a pimp is immense. Each can generate \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year and the average pimp has three to five girls. The typical price paid by sex buyers is \$100 but can and often does go much higher. The traffic is not exclusively female; Nita estimates that boys account for 20 percent of victims.

Nita and nearly all who are familiar with sex trafficking believe that a vast majority of the population has no idea how rampant sex trafficking is. It's all around us. Nita has written a book called *In Our Backyard: A Christian Perspective on Human Trafficking in the United States*.

The biggest threat to sex trafficking, Nita says, is awareness and public discussion. The only thing pimps want from us is silence so they can conduct their reprehensible business in total anonymity. Awareness will result in fewer victims, laws against sex trafficking and, most important, enforcement to end this

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE SECOND-LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING CRIMINAL INDUSTRY IN THE WORLD...

modern-day slavery. According to Nita, churches can play an important role in educating the public. They also

can be a refuge for victimized girls and provide spiritual healing.

Nita has taken part in sting operations at five Super Bowl games, a prime

event to victimize girls and "recruit" others. The undercover work consistently results in several arrests. During a recent Super Bowl, she and others were able to intervene on a street corner before a pimp could enslave intoxicated girls trying to get back to their dorms at a Christian college.

The prevailing opinion by experts is that cultural grooming by Planned Parenthood has paved the way for widespread sex trafficking. They consistently isolate teens from their parents regarding sexual activity. Then they promote a promiscuous environment and provide contraception and abortion to facilitate more sexual activity by teens and young adults. Experts say online pornography also feeds the sex trafficking industry.

Melinda Haggerty is Director of Children's Initiatives for the Ohio Attorney General. Her personal background as a child in foster care, she says, has given her helpful insight into her job of protecting young women from sexual predators. In Ohio alone about 1,000 girls are victimized each year. They are "recruited" by parents or caregivers, other girls,

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THE BIGGEST THREAT TO SEX TRAFFICKING IS AWARENESS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

- NITA BELLES

a safe place and practical help for girls to cope with their past experiences. The girls can stay up to two years at no cost, during which time she and the staff train



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Urban Life Issues to Join Life Issues Radio Lineup

Life Issues, our daily radio commentary on abortion and related issues, is carried on over 1,100 radio outlets across the nation. Hosted by Executive Director Bradley Mattes, the program has been on the air since 1985.

Life Issues Institute is pleased to announce the February 2015 launch of *Urban Life Issues*, an extension of the critically acclaimed *Life Issues* broadcast, with Rev. Arnold Culbreath as host. Rev. Culbreath brings to the program a rich wealth of experience and communication skills. The target audience for this new initiative is Black Christian radio stations, Black gospel stations and Black secular radio stations as well.

“Since February is Black History Month, it’s a perfect time to introduce this new program,” said Rev. Culbreath.

To secure airtime for *Urban Life Issues*, please contact LeeAnn Jackson at Ambassador Advertising Agency (LJackson@AmbassadorAdvertising.com).



Host of *Urban Life Issues*
Rev. Arnold M. Culbreath



TV & Radio Special



(L-R) Ryan Bomberger, Arnold Culbreath, Brad Mattes, Catherine Davis, Alveda King, Dean Nelson

Leading up to the launch of *Urban Life Issues* is a special two-part episode of our Emmy© Award-winning television program *Facing Life Head-On*. Titled *Release from Bondage*, the episode will expose Planned Parenthood’s deadly, strategic assault on women of color. The program features five distinguished leaders of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition confronting the issue with perspectives ranging from technology to art to research. The two programs, each 30 minutes, will air during back-to-back weeks beginning December 8. Visit www.facinglife.tv for availability in your area or watch on our YouTube channel, FacingLifeHeadOn.

THE ROLL CALL CAMPAIGN: A CALL TO LIFE

By: Arnold M. Culbreath, Director of Urban Outreach

On September 13, 2007, 22-year-old Laura Hope Smith entered a Women's Health Center to have an abortion. As expected, her unborn child did not survive. Neither did Laura.


People are increasingly aware that abortion remains the number one killer of Black Americans. They are shocked that nearly a thousand Black babies die by abortion in the United States every day.

What many don't know is that an increasing number of women of color also are dying as a result of abortion.

In August, Protecting Black Life launched a billboard campaign in Cincinnati to inform the community at large, and to warn women in particular, about this tragic truth. The billboards featured the lovely face of Laura Hope Smith and were strategically located in 10 of Cincinnati's Black neighborhoods, where most of the city's abortions occur.¹ During the first 30 days of the campaign, nearly 11 million

people saw our life-preserving billboards. If that weren't cause enough to celebrate, the billboard company kept our boards up an additional 21 days at no charge, allowing more than 7 million more people to see our message of life.

I named this outreach our Roll Call campaign, because if a roll were called, young women like Laura could not respond. Because of abortion, they are no longer with us.

We yearn to see an end to the devastation abortion inflicts on mothers, babies, fathers, families and futures, and we're doing something about it! To learn more about this crucial campaign or how to host one in your city, visit www.ProtectingBlackLife.org or call 513.729.3600. 

1 Ohio Department of Health. (2012). Induced Abortions in Ohio, 2012.



Preceding the debut of Rev. Culbreath's *Urban Life Issues*, the annual *Life Issues Sanctity of Life* radio special will echo the messaging of our TV programs. This half-hour special event will air around Sanctity of Life Day, January 18, on hundreds of Christian radio stations. Check your local station's schedule or listen online at www.lifeissues.org by clicking "Special Programs" under the "Programming" link.



Release from Bondage

pimps and older boyfriends. There is no typical sex buyer because they come from all walks of life and every profession. Melinda's office has found that social networks play a crucial role in the growth of human trafficking.

One of the biggest misconceptions about sex trafficking is that it generally affects lower income girls who are recruited by pimps unknown to them. The reality is that victims represent all income brackets and are often enslaved by people they know, love and trust. Another false impression is that girls are somehow being chained or forcibly restrained. In reality, they are psychologically traumatized and made to desperately fear their traffickers should they be tempted to flee or speak out.

Sula Skiles was an aspiring model when she was unknowingly spotted at a legitimate Los Angeles event by the girlfriend of a billionaire owner of a clothing

el who disappeared without a trace. What followed was degrading and humiliating as she became a slave to his every sexual whim. Eventually she convinced his girlfriend to let her go home to tie down some loose ends, promising to return.

Plagued by constant nightmares of rape and self-medicating with alcohol, it was four years before she began her road to normalcy. The emotional healing took a long time, but she is now married to a pastor and a mother of two children. Her warning to other women is that this can happen to anyone.

These four experts say you can help protect women who have fallen victim to sex trafficking. They advise to always be aware of your surroundings and look for key things. Something out of place should be a red flag. For example, if a young girl becomes a chronic runaway, suddenly has large sums of money and expensive clothes, is seen with a

hotel card key or in the company of an older man, she is likely involved with sex trafficking. If you see a young girl alone at a truck stop or interstate rest area,


that is another red flag. Allow common sense to direct you.

If you see a situation that concerns you, don't approach the girl. She may not want to be rescued out of fear that she or her family would be injured or killed, or she may be under the psychological control of her pimp. Instead, call the national sex trafficking hotline. It is

an easy number when recalled this way: 888-3737-888. Relay your location and what you observed and they will take it from there. A law enforcement official will investigate.

The biggest mistake parents, teens and young women make is having a false sense of security—that they are immune from the sex trafficking industry. Marlene recently conducted a demonstration to dramatically prove this point. She went to a local mall and quickly zeroed in on three girls who appeared to be from upper-middle-class homes. She needed only 17 minutes to get all three into her car.

Traffickers are highly trained and will stop at nothing to victimize young people to make obscene amounts of money. Teach your children to be watchful and aware of their environments. Make sure the entire family understands the potential dangers of the society we live in.

There are many resources to help educate the public and provide safety and healing for those who have been victimized. Visit our sex trafficking webpage at www.lifeissues.org/Human_Trafficking.html where we have compiled these resources for you. 

ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SEX TRAFFICKING IS THAT IT GENERALLY AFFECTS LOWER INCOME GIRLS...

line. She was offered a dream modeling job in another country. Sula did her research and everything appeared to check out, but with stars in her eyes and visions of making it big, she didn't want to find red flags. She missed a crucial one: the plane ticket they gave her was only one-way.

When her plane landed Sula was quickly dressed and taken to "the event," which turned out to be nothing more than a nightclub. The evening turned ugly when she was ordered to fulfill the sexual desires of the billionaire. If she refused, she was told, the same thing would happen to her that happened to another mod-

YOU CAN HELP



A Visit with Jahi McMath

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BRADLEY MATTES



Nearly a year ago, 13-year-old Jahi McMath and her family were making headlines. In for a routine surgery to remove her tonsils and adenoids, something went terribly wrong. After the procedure and still in ICU, Jahi bled excessively to the point of cardiac arrest.

Three days later, Children's Hospital in Oakland, California, declared Jahi brain-dead and informed her family that they would take her off the respirator that sustained her life. When the family objected and the standoff became public, the hospital initiated an aggressive effort to end Jahi's life. Sam Singer was the hospital's hired public relations "hit man" who spoke to the media.

Singer's verbal spins went into overdrive. Jahi wasn't referred to by name but instead was called "the deceased," "a corpse" or "the brain-dead child from California." Singer opined in an appropriately somber tone, "No amount of prayer, no amount of hope, no amount of any type of medical procedure will bring her back."

To many, the hospital's actions appeared to be a cover-up for what seemed to be a botched routine procedure. For 28 days Jahi was given no nourishment and received a minimal amount of fluids. But the hospital seriously underestimated the protective instincts of Jahi's mother, Nailah Winkfield. She engaged attorney Christopher Dolan. Working pro bono, Dolan obtained a court order to transport Jahi to another healthcare facility in the eastern part of the country. But the only way Nailah could get her daughter out of the hospital was if a death certificate were issued first. With ruthless bravado, the hospital forced Nailah to fill out the certificate herself.

Recently I visited Jahi, Nailah, and Nailah's husband, Marvin. I was accompanied by Mary Schindler, the mother of Terri Schiavo, Terri's brother, Bobby, and Brother Paul O'Donnell, chairman of the board of the Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network.

What I saw when we walked into Jahi's room was far from a year-old corpse. The sleeping child appeared to be the picture of health. We also witnessed Jahi moving naturally in an apparent effort to get more comfortable in her bed.

Nailah zealously guards her child's privacy to prevent an onslaught of media attention or further efforts by the Oakland hospital to inflict further harm on Jahi. However, she filled me in on some of the events that transpired in the wake of her daughter's medical crisis.

Very soon after the hospital deemed Jahi "brain-dead," a social worker from the facility, armed with her clipboard, incessantly badgered Nailah to donate Jahi's organs. Finally, Marvin asked the woman to leave his wife alone. Immediately after agreeing, the clipboard lady made a beeline for the chapel where Nailah was praying. Ignoring the inappropriateness of time and place, the social worker again harassed her to donate Jahi's organs. She even accosted Jahi's then-16-year-old cousin to inquire when she might get the organs.

At a later date, a man in street clothes brought Nailah a generous bouquet of flowers and expressed his concern, saying he was praying for the family. But the real reason for his visit quickly became apparent. The business card he handed Nailah identified him as a representative from an organ procurement company.

Nailah shed light on why she believes the hospital had, at least in part, a vested interest in Jahi's demise. While current California medical malpractice law limits damages for pain and suffering to \$250,000, the law places no cap on compensatory damages, money awarded to compensate for medical bills. For patients such as Jahi, those bills can mount into the millions.

Further, the medical designation of brain death by the hospital has legally hindered further care for Jahi, delaying her recovery. Even so, further testing has

been conducted to assess Jahi's true condition. The results were conclusive enough to move Mr. Dolan to file a court petition to declare Jahi alive. I believe he will be able to show without a doubt that Jahi is not dead. Her family shares my optimism.

Nailah has witnessed her daughter responding to her voice. While receiving the most basic of care, all of her organs are functioning well, her skin is flawless and she moves. Not bad for a child who's been "deceased" for nearly a year.



Nailah Winkfield kissing daughter Jahi McMath.

The heads of that hospital have every reason to be quaking in their surgical scrubs. A jury in a court of law won't look favorably on what they've done to Jahi and her family. As if to punctuate the hospital's callous and arrogant attitude, they continued to send Nailah bills for Jahi's treatment, even resorting to harassment by phone, to which Nailah responded, "I'll think about paying you after I sue you." That ended further communication.

To other moms who find themselves in similar situations, Nailah says, "Follow your own heart because these doctors don't always know what's going on. You need to fight for your children and be their voice." 🌀

To be continued . . .

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States Exchange

Save the Storks

Everybody knows storks deliver babies, right? In a 21st century take on that old legend, Save the Storks really does deliver. Using innovative medical vans, Save the Storks delivers women from the heartbreak of abortion.

Established in 2011, Colorado Springs-based ministry Save the Storks turns Mercedes-Benz Sprinter vans into custom Stork Buses. With Save the Storks grants to help with funding, pregnancy resource centers purchase the vans and head directly to the need; they park outside abortion facilities and offer counseling and free ultrasound imaging to women in crisis.

Studies repeatedly show that post-abortive women feel they did not receive information they needed to choose life instead of death. Not surprisingly, people who make their living killing the unborn are reluctant to provide it. Stork Buses offer



that information in a beautiful, comfortable, welcoming setting.

As a result, three out of five women who board a Stork Bus choose life after seeing ultrasound images of their babies.

Besides sidewalk counseling, centers also can send their vans to community events and set up regular neighborhood “bus stops.” Stork Buses don’t have to wait for women to find them. Have wheels, will fly.

Pregnancy resource centers in eight metro areas currently operate Stork Buses: Dallas; Englewood, New Jersey; Boston; southwest Florida; Merced and Sacramento, California; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Silver Spring, Maryland. For

more information, visit www.savethestorks.com. 