

Moderator: Our first presenters are Samantha Hewitt and Taylor Weber and as Dr. [inaudible] has said these were students who were in my Women in Contemporary Societies class last semester where people did group projects and this team and the other team really hanged together through this semester and share with you what they researched. So take it away, girls.

Samantha Hewitt: Okay, as she said, I'm Samantha Hewitt.

Taylor Webber: I'm Taylor Weber.

Samantha Hewitt: We did our human trafficking presentation on Russia.



Samantha Hewitt: So the heightening of human trafficking in Russia began with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, which ended 70 years of social and political and economic controls which had guaranteed employment and Social Security for all and protected the population from crime, poverty and capitalism. Another push factor was the acceptance of domestic violence and sexual abuse against women. Seven out of ten victims who are rescued are victims of domestic violence before being trafficked. Also 14,000 Russian women are killed each year by their partner or family members according to the Russian government, which is almost 1 per hour. Criminal groups assumed the role of the state when the Soviet Union collapsed where mobs infiltrated financial and political institutions which are still corrupt today.



The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "RUSSIAN MOB". The slide features a quote: "Brutal, cunning and ruthless, these 21st century Mobsters present a new threat to the U.S. national security". Below the quote is a bulleted list with two points: "Came to power at the end of the Soviet Union" and "No legal definition of 'organized crime'". To the right of the list is a photograph of a group of men in black clothing standing outdoors. The slide is displayed in a browser window with a Windows taskbar at the bottom.

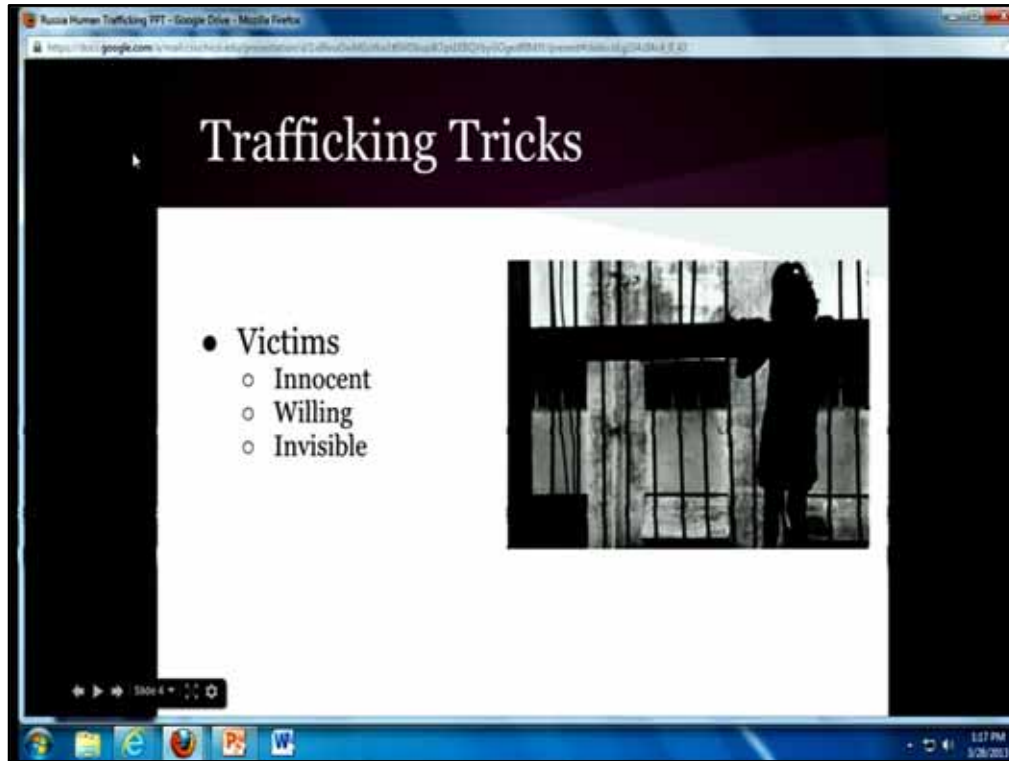
RUSSIAN MOB

"Brutal, cunning and ruthless, these 21st century Mobsters present a new threat to the U.S. national security"

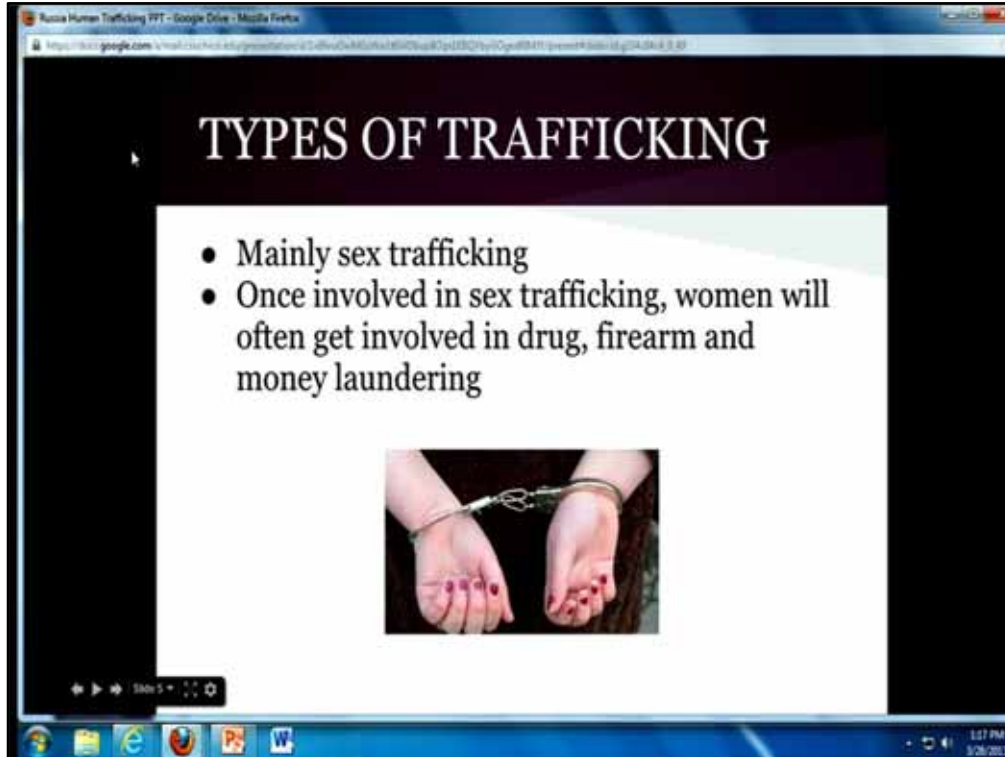
- Came to power at the end of the Soviet Union
- No legal definition of "organized crime"



Taylor Webber: As she mentioned about the mobs, the Russian mobsters are pretty much the main guys responsible for all of the human trafficking in Russia and the reason they can get away with this is because organized crime isn't defined anywhere in Russian laws or codes or anything and there was an article discussing specifically the Mafia that actually stated the organized crime is an institutionalized part of the political and economic environment. So, essentially the country couldn't survive without the Russian mob and everything that they're doing for them. They rose under the Soviet Union and really exploded and became as powerful as they are when the Soviet Union fell because there wasn't much else to keep the country supported. Their underlying mutual values are to participate in illegal acts rather than being based on race or ethnicity like most gangs are here in the United States. These Russian mobsters live by the thieves law, which rooted from the Soviet prisons under Stalin the 1920s and this is basically like a mob book that tells you exactly what rules to live by and what you can get away with and how to get away with it so it kind of is guidelines for the Russian mob.




Samantha Hewitt: There's three different types of victims of human trafficking which are the innocent victims such as the ones we hear about on the news and then there are the willing victims which they know they're going into the sex industry, which they're not necessarily willing but they may not have another option and then there's the invisible victims which are children and teenagers within orphanages, which there are about sixty-five 100,000 children orphanages.



The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "TYPES OF TRAFFICKING". The slide is displayed in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The slide content includes a bulleted list and a photograph. The browser's address bar shows a Google search URL. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing the time as 1:07 PM on 3/26/2013.

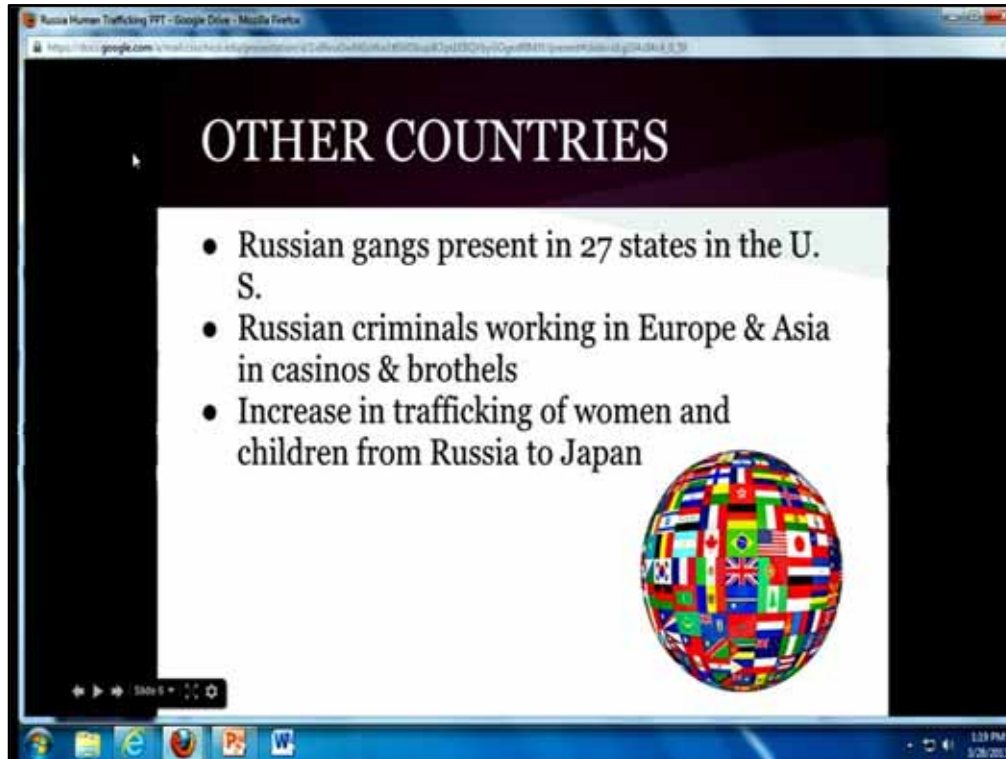
TYPES OF TRAFFICKING

- Mainly sex trafficking
- Once involved in sex trafficking, women will often get involved in drug, firearm and money laundering



A photograph showing a person's hands in handcuffs, with the hands held out in front of them. The person has red nail polish on their fingers.

Taylor Webber: There are many different types of trafficking although the main type is sex trafficking of women and children and this relates after the fall of the Soviet Union as I stated earlier and trafficking represents a large threat to the Russian national security because Russia appears to be having a negative birth rate because of all of the women and children being trafficked out of Russia to become prostitutes. Russia is a destination as well as a source of trafficking so not only are they sending Russian women out, but they're also receiving women from other countries to be sex slaves there. Russia is involved in common forms of trafficking including offering women jobs that they think they're going to get paid for and they're going to be waitresses or they're going to be servers and then the mobsters actually hold them as sex slaves in order to pay off all of their fees. Once in trafficking women don't just stay in sex trafficking as long as the mob will trust them as cooperating women. They can be forced into money laundering and drug and firearm smuggling so that they are really just used as pawns to help the mob get what they want. Prostitution has actually become a desired job for young women so when they were asked what they wanted to do a lot of young women said that they want to be prostitutes when they grow up because of how much money they've seen other women make but they don't realize what exactly they're getting themselves into by wanting to be a prostitute. There's a whole other underground world that they don't get to see.



Taylor Webber: Russian trafficking has a huge impact on other countries besides Russia including here in the United States there's Russian gangs present in 27 of them and the FBI has approximately 250 pending cases out right now for Russian groups that are likely tied to the mob and so that's taking up a lot of our time, sources and money to be dealing with Russian gangs here with their trafficking. There's also been a huge increase in Japan since 1990s with Russian sex trafficking quite possibly because of the huge red light district there and thousands of women and children are arrested annually trying to leave the country illegally. Russian criminals are usually working in East Asia or East Europe and Asia in brothels and clubs to make sure that all of the women working there as their sex slaves are doing everything that they need to and make sure that everything runs smoothly so the women are constantly being watched. In Russia, there's a street called Tverskaya Street in Moscow and it's similar to International in Oakland where there's just a ton, there's 500 women per night walking the streets trying to get sexual business.



Taylor Webber: Here's a little clip we're going to show you guys about a woman who has a story to tell about her sex trafficking.

Video: When she arrived, she was imprisoned in a room with 8 other women.

[Speaking Russian]

She says they forced her to have sex with 30 men a day often without protection. Her parents were searching for her and the Russian authorities [inaudible]. After 8 months, she managed to escape when a customer took pity. As she tries to make a new life, the branding inflicted by her captors makes it hard to forget the past. Nikola [inaudible] daughter, Oskana [phonetic], was not so lucky. The 20-year old languages student was lured to [inaudible] with the promise of fulfilling her dream of being a translator. Three weeks after she arrived she was found dead in a [inaudible] had very little to do with translating. Nikola's life is consumed by his quest to bring his daughter's traffickers to justice.

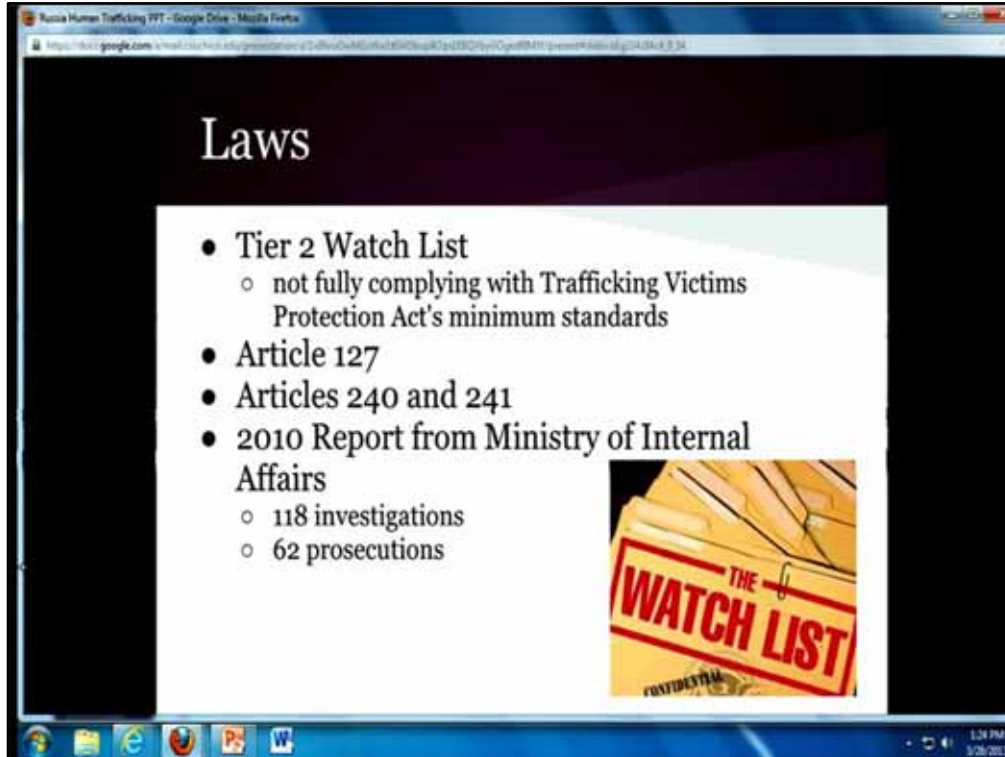
[Speaking Russian]

I died once she died. The parts of me goes on living [inaudible] achieve my goals. I want potential victims to know her story. They need to be made aware of what can happen.



He recently won a landmark ruling [inaudible] court in human rights which declared that Russia and [inaudible] failed to protect Oskana from human trafficking. Within this hospital.

Taylor Webber: So as you guys saw in the video, not everyone can be lucky enough to escape the terrors of sex trafficking and Oskana [inaudible] case nobody involved in it was actually charged until 2010 when the European court for human rights charged both Russia and Cypress for failure to protect her from human trafficking and both countries were charged huge fines. It hasn't been proven whether or not her death was an accident or if she was murdered so that's kind of still a mystery. In order to combat trafficking, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also known as PACE has been urging Russia to ratify an anti-trafficking convention and they were kind of against it for a while but it's looking like they have spoken out and wanting to join it.



The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Laws". The slide is displayed in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The slide content includes a bulleted list of laws and statistics, and an image of a folder labeled "THE WATCH LIST".

- Tier 2 Watch List
 - not fully complying with Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards
- Article 127
- Articles 240 and 241
- 2010 Report from Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - 118 investigations
 - 62 prosecutions

The image of the folder is labeled "THE WATCH LIST" and "CONFIDENTIAL".

Samantha Hewitt: Russia is a tier II watch list which means they are not complying with the minimum standards of trafficking victims protection facts but there are some laws in Russia to combat trafficking which is Article 127 of the Russian criminal code which prohibits both trafficking for commercial, sex exploitation and forced labor. There are other criminal statues which are used to prosecute trafficking offenders, which is Article 240 and 241 for involvement or organizing prostitution. In 2010, the Administrative International Affairs reported that 118 investigations took place and of those 118, 62 were prosecuted.



Samantha Hewitt: Prevention for human trafficking in Russia began in 1999 with Merriman Institute, which is the first American non-governmental organization which received funding from the Trafficking and Persons Office of the US State Department, which was a 4-year anti-trafficking initiative which was known as the Russian Project. This is the only organization that initiates and coordinates the rescue and rehabilitation of victims. There's a conference in St. Petersburg in 2012 to raise awareness of human trafficking and they're also trying to raise awareness before the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi because that could bring a bunch of trafficking if they're not aware of it. Since 2009 President Putin has shut down all anti-trafficking on governmental organizations in Russia and he did this because he believed they were serving foreign interests and he wanted to make sure they were not meddling in internal affairs.



Samantha Hewitt: Russia still has a long way to come because just recently on November 1, 2012, a human trafficking ring was busted in Moscow where a 62-year old woman was trying to sell a 17-month old baby boy for \$17,000 and this happened in the cafes it was right out in public, which is kind of scary, and 12 people are involved and some of these people actually worked in a hospital and it was noted that she tried to sell an 18-month old baby girl to a police officer earlier that year. Thank you. Anyone have questions?

Audience member: What's the primary country that most of the Russian women are exported to?

Taylor Webber: I'm pretty sure the main one is Asia, but they say Europe and Asia.

Taylor Webber: Germany.

Thank you.