Laura: Okay, so as Dr. [inaudible] said we did our human trafficking on Brazil. My name is Laura, this is Sierra and this is Brooke. We're going to start out with a video on a social public service announcement from Brazil. Brazil is strongly trying to improve their human trafficking issues.
The human trafficking industry produces millions of victims around the world including in Brazil. Your indifference also fuels the situation. Denounce this crime.
Human Trafficking in Brazil

[YouTube video screenshot]
Human Trafficking in Brazil

Laura Bovee, Ciara Brooks, Brooke Silveria
Laura: So this was a public service announcement in Brazil. Here if you go back one of these,
Laura: This is a map so you can see Brazil and South America. They are a tier II country meaning that they don't meet the standards that they should be at, but they're trying to do a lot of improvements to get where they need to get to stop this crime.
Laura: Most of Brazil has a high rate of trafficking in and out so the rate to go out of Brazil their trafficked for sex trafficking but people trafficked into Brazil are mostly trafficked for labor forces. Speaking of labor forces, the “Gato” is like a recruiter and they are doing things like recruit force labors. They promise them tons of like benefits meaning that they can send money back to their families and they'll pay for all of their traveling expenses, they'll pay for a place to live, but basically what that is promising is that they're going to be in debt so they're going to have this debt bondage which means in the actual definition of slavery there's a slave race even though they call it the [inaudible] to go away from slavery it's basically the same thing. The Gatos they also like have to along with the debt bondage they are forced to get away from like they switch out their traffic people often so they're not caught. There's one case this man was in debt bondage for 30 years in Brazil. He never got away from it. So never once was he actually earning money. He was always in debt bondage and it goes in a huge circle. There's 25,000 to 40,000 Brazilians working in labor force. They work on ranches, cattle farms, logging, mining, everything you can possibly think of they're forced into labor. Like I said earlier Brazil is one of the top destinations for labor forced workers.
Laura: Brazil they're trying to do so much about it like I said earlier because it's such a huge problem. One, Brazilian women are seen as exotic so that's why Brazilian women are trafficked out of Brazil and then people are trafficked into Brazil because they need labor. There's an increase of training in Brazil for the enforcement because like we said earlier they don't know what human trafficking is so if you're educated you can learn how to stop it. They are also passing this implement on the national plan to fight trafficking and that's going along with the government sending money but since Brazil is such a poor country that they're really forcing on having partnerships with businesses and different organizations to help them stop buying people to be in forced labor. There's very few people convicted of it. Most of the time people have to have like a physical evidence on them in order to be convicted and since they're the labor force they are more threatened. They are beaten as well but most of it is threatening that they're going to hurt their family or they're not going to get paid and things like that. Also if they are penalized it’s a 3 year penalty only, therefore, after 3 years they get back into it and most companies, not companies but human trafficking they put this into their budget and they're like, okay, if we get caught this is what's going to happen then they have a plan to improvise after those 3 years have gone by.
Laura: The Administrative Labor Anti-Trabalho Escravo Mobile Units, it was created in 1995 and this has actually freed over 39,000 laborers. They require the people who are caught to pay fines and these fines actually go to the freed person to help them start a new life and to get back on their feet. They are also put on the list of people who are purchasing products or looking into them they know that this person was caught human trafficking. They have convicted also 7 policemen which means there's probably a lot policemen involved, but just to convict 7 is a step in the right direction. Here's a picture and it's translated let's abolish this time of shame and that's a really important picture because it leads back to, you know, slavery back in our time, so.
Laura: Now Sierra is going to talk to you about prostitution.

Sierra: Okay, so the facts. Prostitution is currently legal in Brazil, pimping is illegal, but in order to avoid being caught by law enforcement, many places will hide themselves as only a place that serves drinks or massage parlor, any other kind of service. The negotiation for sex is strictly between the client and prostitute. The legal age for prostitution is currently 18 but many of them are much younger than that. According to a recent United Nations survey Brazil has estimated 500,000 child prostitutes which is the highest in Latin America and the second highest in the world after Thailand. Since 2009 the age of consent is 14 years old. In 2007, the Federal Traffic Police said they knew of nearly 2,000 roadside locations where sex with children was being sold.
Sierra: Why it happens. Many mothers in Brazil are prostitutes so the children grow up believing that that's the fastest and easiest way to get money. There’s also a lack of education and a very high poverty rate. It's common that Brazilian families make less than $230 a month and their homes are less than 20 square meters in size with up to 10 people living in it together. The women and children often feel forced to sell themselves because of this to get more money. It's also not uncommon for children to be supporting their own mother’s crack cocaine problems. Problems with this is there's a lot of dangerous abortions. The most common reported form of abortion involved siphoning bleach into the vagina through a plastic hose. Most adolescent births here occur in between 14-16 years old and it's not unusual to find a 16-year old with her third pregnancy. Most births in girls of 10 and 11 are by Caesarian section because their bodies aren't even developed enough to have a vaginal birth. Most eventually come down with malaria or venereal disease because they have to continue working for the medication so it's just a circle.
Sierra: So what is being done? There's several non-government organizations working on the issue. Also there's a few shelters throughout Brazil taking in victims but there's no government funding for this and the charity-run shelters that they do have are overflowing and they're overcrowded. Also there are programs that work on prevention by targeting those at risk and providing education, work training and other income alternatives. Brazil has sex trafficking laws but they do not execute them enough. In 2012, there were no convictions of sex trafficking reported, which is saying a lot because there's obviously plenty. So now Brooke is going to talk to you about child sex tourism.
Brooke: Hi everyone. So maybe when you think about the term child sex tourism you're likely to think of Thailand because it's a pretty well-known fact that Thailand has a big problem with people coming specifically to buy sex with children, but what most people don't know is Brazil has the second highest level of child sex tourism and may soon overtake them to be number one in the world. It's especially prevalent in the northeastern cities on the coast because the warm climate and the beaches bring a lot of tourists. It is fostered by a network of travel agents, hotel workers, taxi drivers, drug dealers, pimps, et cetera, who all work together to lure girls or boys into the business and keep them working and to bring them clients. The reasons why girls easily succumb to the sex tourism include the ones that Sierra mentioned when she talked about prostitution and also specifically to sex tourism the people who recruit them will tell them that there are all these foreigners or gringos who want to marry them and take them to their own countries, take them away from poverty so girls really like that idea but, of course, later they find out that they interactions with foreigners are only temporary but by then they are already involved in the world of sex tourism. Another problem in Brazil is that there are a lot of international events that go on including like the World Cup, which just happened in 2012 and the Olympics are coming in 2016 and then there's carnival which happens every year and the increase in tourists coming for these events lead to a higher, there's more trafficking of children in anticipation of the more tourists who come in.
Brooke: So why does this specifically happen in Brazil? Mostly it's due to the stereotypes around the world that people have of Brazilian culture and Brazilian women. Brazil is seen as the sexual playground where people are really relaxed about sex and are really open minded and they are also thought to really love partying and they have a wild lifestyle.

Specifically about Brazilian women they're thought to be exotic, beautiful, sexual, feminine, also submissive and that's easily exploitable so this image right here this is the first image that came up when I searched Brazilian women. So that just goes to show you how prevalent these stereotypes are. So the Internet is very widely used to spread these stereotypes. These descriptions on the slide are all from the site I found that gave advice about where and how to buy sex when you vacation in Brazil, which was from the first page of the results as well. A direct quote from the site's author they were asked to take it down or face legal action and their response was we are not advertising Brazil as a sex tourism destination; we are simply saying it is in providing some common sense advice. They also claim to [inaudible] child sex but they also at the same time promote seeking out nightclubs and other places in these northeastern coastal cities where the majority of the prostitutes working there are under age. So these are the kind of attitudes you can see online and, of course, there are a lot of sites like this and it's largely unregulated.
Brooke: We also found this other online forum called the World Sex Guide where you can basically look up any city and look at how to find prostitutes there and people describing their experiences. I'll let you read these; I won't read them out loud. Like these are the kinds of things that people say about the prostitutes they encounter.
Brooke: So what is Brazil doing about child sex tourism? The administrative tourism has promised to make a greater commitment to eliminating it. Some states have started programs where they work with hotel workers. They'll require them to ask for ID's of all children who are checking in and also they have to put up posters that site the penalties for sex with a minor and then they give out awards and benefits for those who comply so there's more incentive. They're also doing a lot of public awareness campaigns like the PSA which we saw in the beginning. Also several cities especially ones associated with the World Cup and other events like that will do sweeps of red light districts especially right before the event and they will like have police raids, shut down brothels, they'll arrest pimps and then take girls into shelters. So, sex tourism is punishable under sex trafficking laws and other offenses, but there are no specific laws to address it and according to the 2012 trafficking and persons report despite continued prevention efforts on child sex tourism and investigations of commercial sexual exploitation of children there were no reported prosecutions or convictions of child sex tourists. Thank you.