

# HALF THE SKY

TURNING OPPRESSION INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE

BY NICHOLAS KRISTOF AND SHERYL WUDUNN

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## Sex Industry



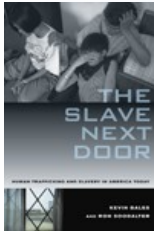
**"Women might just have something to contribute to civilization other than their vaginas."**

-Christopher Buckley, *Florence of Arabia*  
Half the Sky, p. 3

In many parts of the world, young girls leave for cities with the promise of employment. Yet many of these opportunities turn out to be forced prostitution. Girls are often or unable to escape and suffer violence and rape. Others leave but are forced to return either because of the shame prostitution causes their family, or, in order to keep them compliant; they were drugged and become addicted. See *Half the Sky*, p. 35.

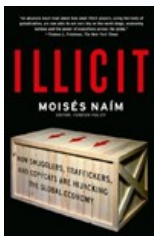
### Human Trafficking

- [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 Fact Sheet](#) (Health and Human Services Dept.)
- [Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000](#) (US State Dept.)
- [US Laws on Trafficking in Persons](#) (US State Dept.)
- [The Story That Broke Emma Thompson's Heart](#) (Daily Beast) June 15, 2010.  
As Hillary Clinton released a report ranking countries—including, for the first time, the U.S.—on human trafficking, actress Emma Thompson was in New York, speaking out against the scourge. [Video: The Journey](#) (YouTube)
- [The Pimps of America's Underage Sex Trade](#) (Daily Beast) June 14, 2010.  
Why is it so hard to prosecute the men who traffic underage girls for sex? Julia Dahl of The Crime Report on the shocking ease with which pimps operate—and why law enforcement is often powerless to stop them.



**Bales, Kevin and Ron Soodalter. *The Slave Next Door*.** (University of California Press) 2009. In this riveting book, authors and authorities on modern day slavery Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter expose the disturbing phenomenon of human trafficking and slavery that exists now in the United States. In *The Slave Next Door* we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. In these pages we also meet some unexpected slaveholders, such as a 27-year old middle-class Texas housewife who is currently serving a life sentence for offences including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices—from slaves, slaveholders, and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and others—this book is also a call to action, telling what we, as private citizens, can do to finally bring an end to this horrific crime.

**Kara, Siddarth. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*.** (Columbia University Press) 2008. Kara, a former investment banker and executive, uses theoretical economics and business analysis to propose measures that could eradicate sex trafficking by undermining the profitability of the illegal activities associated with the crime. At considerable personal risk and expense—he is nearly attacked by a gang of pimps in Mumbai—the author penetrates seedy underworlds and forced labor markets to meet the women and children in the dungeon of human disgrace in Asia, Europe and the U.S. He highlights ubiquitous and disturbing trends—the heavy involvement of law enforcement agencies and personnel in trafficking and slavery. (Reed Business Information)



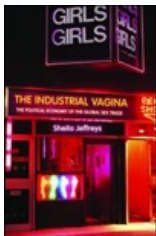
**Naím, Moisés. *Illicit*.** (Anchor Books) 2006. Illicit activities are exploding worldwide. The onslaught of globalization has unleashed a tidal wave of bad stuff—everything from arms trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering to music bootlegging. Here is the dark side of globalization: the mushrooming underground economy. Moisés Naím explores this murky world in his book *Illicit*. Naím is the editor of the relaunched magazine *Foreign Policy* and a former executive director of the World Bank and Minister of Trade and Industry of Venezuela. In *Illicit*, he unties the connections between the Colombian cocaine dealer, the New York banker steering money to offshore tax havens, the Albanian forcing women into prostitution, and the Chinese market stall-holder selling counterfeit DVDs. (Amazon)

### Prostitution

- [New U.K. Study: One in Ten Women in Prostitution Are Slaves](#) (Change.org) August 18, 2010. An explosive new report out of the U.K. has estimated that at least one in ten women in prostitution in the country are victims of human trafficking. It also found that at least 15% of migrant women in prostitution are forced or coerced into the trade and up to 40% of them may be exploited just shy of slavery. These findings could help blow the lid off the notion that exploitation and trafficking in commercial sex is rare.
- [Should prostitution be legal?](#) (ProCon) June 15, 2010.  
Prostitution ProCon.org presents facts, studies, international comparisons, and pro and con statements on

questions related to legalizing prostitution.

- [My Drive to Save African Sex Workers](#) (Daily Beast) May 10, 2010. On a trip to Congo, peace activist and Daily Beast Africa columnist Leymah Gbowee witnesses the violent arrest of a refugee girl forced into a bleak life as a sex worker. Inside her rage and helplessness.
- [100 Countries and Their Prostitution Policies](#) (ProCon) November 4, 2009. This page details 100 countries' policies on prostitution, brothel ownership, and pimping. Countries were chosen in order to be inclusive of major religions, geographical regions, and policies towards prostitution. Taiwan and Scotland were included in the country listings for China and the United Kingdom, respectively, in accordance with the country listings and population estimates provided in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook.
- [Violence against sex workers and HIV prevention](#) (WHO)  
Sex workers are among those who are most vulnerable to HIV infection in the world today. In low prevalence settings with a concentrated epidemic, such as India, Indonesia, Cambodia and the Russian Federation, the HIV epidemic initially spreads rapidly among sex workers with prevalence reaching as high as 65% in some sex-worker populations.



**Jeffreys, Sheila. *The Industrial Vagina: The Political Economy of the Global Sex Trade*** (Routledge) 2008. The industrialization of prostitution and the sex trade has created a multibillion-dollar global market, involving millions of women, that makes a substantial contribution to national and global economies. The Industrial Vagina examines how prostitution and other aspects of the sex industry have moved from being small-scale, clandestine, and socially despised practices to become very profitable legitimate market sectors that are being legalised and decriminalised by governments. Sheila Jeffreys demonstrates how prostitution has been globalized through an examination of: the growth of pornography and its new global reach, the boom in adult shops, strip clubs and escort agencies, military prostitution and sexual violence in war, marriage and the mail order bride industry, the rise in sex tourism and trafficking in women. She argues that through these practices women's subordination has been outsourced and that states that legalise this industry are acting as pimps, enabling male buyers in countries in which women's equality threatens male dominance, to buy access to the bodies of women from poor countries who are paid for their sexual subservience.

### Video

- [Sunitha Krishnan fights sex slavery](#) (TED)  
Sunitha Krishnan has dedicated her life to rescuing women and children from sex slavery, a multimillion-dollar global market. In this courageous talk, she tells three powerful stories, as well as her own, and calls for a more humane approach to helping these young victims rebuild their lives.

### Movies



**Holly** (2006) 114 minutes  
Holly has been sold by her poor family and smuggled across the border to Cambodia to work as a prostitute in the infamous "K11" red light village. While Holly waits to be sold at a premium for her virginity, she meets Patrick who is losing money and friends through gambling and bar fights. Their initial strong connection is disrupted when Holly is sold to a child trafficker and disappears. Patrick's pursuit to find Holly again, and her unrelenting efforts to escape her fate, carry us through the beautiful and harsh Cambodia. HOLLY is not just one girl. She is the voice of millions of children who are exploited and violated every year with no rights or protection.