



# Modern-Day Slavery in Haiti

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## Abstract

The State Department of the United States of America has in 2019 raised concerns about human and sex trafficking taking place in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti. Our research project examines the many factors contributing to human trafficking in the nation of Haiti, where thousands are affected by human trafficking every year. As a developing country, Haiti struggles to overcome this problem. We seek to expose the main developments and causes for the Haitian sex and labor trafficking market by reviewing and compiling government data, reports issued by international non-governmental organizations, and individual case studies over the past decade. We will show that the Haitian government has not taken sufficient action to hold traffickers accountable or to eradicate the “Restavek” system, a system that has delivered one quarter of Haitian children into domestic servitude and harsh labor. We contend that Haiti continues to be in a human rights struggle of devastating consequences for individual lives. Our project aims to bring to widespread public attention the violations of basic human rights in developing and often ignored countries like Haiti and we hope to shine a spotlight onto human trafficking in Haiti in an effort to try and gain support for the movement to overcome human trafficking.

## What is Human Trafficking?

- Any form of recruitment, movement, or targeting of persons with the goal of exploitation in mind, through the use of deception or violence to encourage cooperation.
  - Implies forced action in some form
- Uneducated women, children, and those in poverty are more susceptible



## References

Graphics:  
Restavek Freedom  
Information:  
Restavek Freedom, Foreignpolicy.com, Global Centurion, UNHCR “RefWorld”, Antislavery.com  
\*Works Cited Page can be provided if requested.\*

## Acknowledgments

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## Restavek System



- Parents give their children up for financial compensation
- Children are forced into exhausting labor and are subjected to harm and humiliation
- Gateway into sexual exploitation and further physical harm



## History of Human Trafficking in Haiti

### UN Peacekeeper Incident

Some United Nations Peacekeepers have allegedly been involved in a sex exploitation ring within Haiti’s borders. Thousands of reports had come in claiming sexual assault from the peacekeepers, and yet there were arguments that the U.N. had done very little in addressing the issue and didn’t even convict the peacekeepers involved.

### 2010 Earthquake

- The 2010 earthquake in Haiti increased the amount of human trafficking occurring
- Organ harvesting occurred in response to a need for organs by hospitals
- Children were being taken and sold abroad under the pretense of “adoption”
- 70-80% of the country’s aid came from NGO’s due to fear about keeping sovereignty