



Civil Society All Topics

A True Tale of Drug Cartel.....	Page 2
Author & Speaker Attwood.....	Page 4
Civil Society – United Nations.....	Page 6
Hope International	Page 9
Stronger Civil Society Can Improve the Environment.....	Page 14
Human Trafficking.....	Page 17
Illicit Drugs.....	Page 19
International Drug Trafficking.....	Page 27
Juvita.....	Page 28
Kid-repreneurs	Page 30
Migration & Climate Change	Page 33
Psychiatric Drugs, not a Lack of Gun Control.....	Page 36
Sophie.....	Page 40
The Role of Civil Society.....	Page 44
The World Transformation Movement.....	Page 48
Victim Specialists Are on the Front Lines.....	Page 55
What is Civil Society?.....	Page 58

A True Tale of Drug Cartels

A True Tale of Drug Cartels, Money Laundering and Horse Racing

By Ioan Grillo September 22, 2017. New York Times.

“In September 2010, bettors at the All American Futurity race in New Mexico watched the long-shot Mr. Piloto gallop to the million-dollar first prize by less than a nose, the second-closest win in the race’s history. Meanwhile, over the border in Mexico, a gang of drug traffickers from the Zetas cartel cheered the victory with whiskey, from a safe house. Mr. Piloto was registered to the company of a Dallas bricklayer named José Treviño Morales, but the money to buy him had come from his brother Miguel Treviño, alias ‘El Cuarenta,’ a Zeta boss blamed for some of the worst massacres in Mexico’s drug war. Bloodstained dollars had gone from American drug users over the Rio Grande to cartel killers, and then back north into the American racing industry.

The true-life tale of the Zetas’ foray into quarter horses is masterfully recounted by the journalist Joe Tone in his debut book, ‘Bones.’ He shines a light on an often overlooked corner of the blood bath ravaging Mexico: how cartel money is laundered in the United States. In this case, federal agents finally busted the operation, seizing more than 400 ‘narco horses,’ which they auctioned off for \$12 million. But with Americans estimated to spend \$100 billion a year on illegal drugs, this is probably just the tip of an iceberg.

In addition to following the drug money, Tone has found a great yarn. His finely-painted cast of characters includes a rookie F.B.I. agent hungry to make his name, a Texas cowboy fighting to keep his family business afloat and a talented Mexican horseman picking winners for a very dangerous boss. Tone weaves the threads together with skillful pacing and sharp prose, marking him as an important new talent in narrative nonfiction.

He is helped along by ample documentation of the case. While much of the narco world remains in the shadows, Treviño and his cronies were brought to trial in Austin, in 2013, in one of the most extensive lawsuits against a Mexican cartel to be heard in an American courtroom. (Major Mexican traffickers often don't go to trial, because they cut deals.) Even though he builds on the reporting of Ginger Thompson, who broke the story in *The New York Times*, Tone adds some vivid details, recounting wiretapped phone calls and drawing the full back story from Lawson, the rookie F.B.I. agent who pursued the case. 'Lawson could hear the horses if he listened closely,' Tone writes. 'He was standing outside the black-iron gate with the horse silhouettes, at the bottom of a long driveway that led up to José's brick homestead. It was a little after six in the morning, the earliest moment the court would allow them to raid without a judge's permission.'

Tone digs deep into the colorful world of quarter-horse racing, a variant of the sport developed by white cowboys, Mexican ranchers and Native Americans. He also shows how some players in the horse industry reaped the drug money and went on to enjoy their profits; how those arrested were all Hispanic while some white horsemen doing similar things remained free; how José Treviño's daughter, a college student who married a Marine, was caught up in the sweep.

Like many journalists of the drug war, Tone sheds doubt on the whole strategy of fighting the trade. 'Better answers might lie in the halls of American power and influence — in the way drugs are regulated, drug users treated, drug traffickers sentenced.' He is right to push for more debate on how to stop the billions of drug dollars from funding the crime armies tearing Mexico apart. But law enforcement agents still need to keep hacking at the tentacles of cartel finances that stretch through the United States, where the blood wealth of narcos could be right before your eyes." By Ioan Grillo, *New York Times*, September 22, 2017.

Ioan Grillo's latest book is "*Gangster Warlords: Drug Dollars, Killing Fields, and the New Politics of Latin America*."

BONES -Brothers, Horses, Cartels, and the Borderland Dream

By Joe Tone

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/22/books/review/bones-joe-tone-trevino-brothers.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FMexican%20Drug%20Trafficking&action=click&contentCollection=world®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=collection

**Author & Speaker
Shaun Attwood**



“I arrived in Phoenix, Arizona a penniless business graduate from a small industrial town in England. Within a decade, I became a stock-market millionaire.

But I also led a double life. An early fan of the UK rave scene, I threw raves and distributed Ecstasy in competition with the Mafia mass murderer Sammy the Bull

Gravano, who put a hit out on me. On May 16th 2002, a SWAT team knocked my door down.

Facing a 200-year sentence, I entered a lengthy legal battle. After two years of being held unsentenced, I was convicted of drug crimes. I was sentenced to 9½ years, and served almost 6.

I had only read finance books prior to my arrest. While incarcerated, I submerged myself in literature – reading over 1000 books, including many classics. By studying original texts in psychology and philosophy, I sought to better understand myself and my addictive personality. I credit books for being the lifeblood of my rehabilitation.

Released in December 2007, I continue to campaign against Sheriff Joe Arpaio – the boss of a jail where guards were murdering mentally-ill inmates. I keep Jon's Jail Journal going by posting stories mailed to me by my prison friends.

In July 2008, I won a Koestler award for a short story, which I read to an audience at the Royal Festival Hall.

Banned from America for life, I presently live near London, and talk to student audiences across the UK and Europe about my jail experience and the consequences I faced by getting involved in drugs and crime. I have appeared on TV worldwide, speaking about issues affecting prisoners' rights.

I am the author of my life story, *The English Shaun Trilogy*, which consists of *Party Time*, *Hard Time*, *Prison Time*, and a self-help book, *Life Lessons*.”
<http://shaunattwood.com/>

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If you want to book Shaun as a speaker or for an interview you can email:

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Other books written by Shaun Attwood include: *Pablo Escobar: Beyond Narcos* by Shaun Attwood

The Cali Cartel: Beyond Narcos (War On Drugs) by Shaun Attwood.

Civil Society - United Nations

“Civil society is the ‘third sector’ of society, along with government and business. It comprises civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations. The UN recognizes the importance of partnering with civil society, because it advances the Organization’s ideals, and helps support its work. Here are some useful websites for members of civil society and also for those interested in the work of the UN.



UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Participants at the opening of the 62nd annual UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference in Mexico City on 9-11 September 2009.

Non-Governmental Liaison Service

The UN's Non-Governmental Liaison Service provides strategic information, analysis and support to a wide range of constituencies, using its unique convening and networking capacity to strengthen multistakeholder dialogue and alliance-building on issues like culture and education, human rights, peace and security, environment, economic and social development, health, and population, all from the perspective of the entire UN system.

Working with the UN System

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can participate in the work of the UN in one of two ways: either through consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), or association with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

Consultative status with ECOSOC

Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council provides NGOs with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly. There are three types of ECOSOC consultative status for NGOs. ECOSOC consultative status is separate and distinct from association with DPI.

- Apply for consultative status with ECOSOC

Association with DPI

The NGO Relations Section of the UN Department of Public Information is the link from the Organization to the approximately 1,300 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are associated with the UN and support its efforts to disseminate information on the priority issues on its agenda, including sustainable development, creating a safer and more secure world, helping countries in transition, empowering women and young people, and addressing poverty, among others. NGOs associated with DPI help build knowledge and support for the Organization at the grassroots level.

- Apply for association with DPI

The UN Democracy Fund

The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was built to support projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations -- both in the transition and the consolidation phases of democratization.

The Integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) System

The Integrated Civil Society Organizations System provides online registration of general profiles for civil society organizations, including address, contacts, activities and meeting participation. It facilitates the application procedure for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and assists accredited NGOs in submitting quadrennial reports and in designating representatives to the United Nations.

Academic Impact

Academic Impact is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution.

United Nations University

The United Nations University (UNU) is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan. Its mission is to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its peoples and Member States.

UN Foundation

The United Nations Foundation links the UN's work with others around the world, mobilizing the energy and expertise of business and non-governmental organizations to help the UN tackle issues including climate change, global health, peace and security, women's empowerment, poverty eradication, energy access, and US-UN relations.

Hope International

Who we are:

“We are a group of Christ-followers motivated by the **Great Commission** and **the Greatest Commandment** to love God, love our neighbor, and make disciples of all nations.

We proclaim and live the Gospel, affirming that we all need daily bread and the Bread of Life. In fighting global poverty, we are confronting one of the greatest challenges of our day in service to an even greater God.

Get to know us

Read about HOPE's mission, identity, and culture through our guiding statements and principles

Our mission

Learn more about HOPE's mission, identity, and culture through our guiding statements and principles.

Mission

To invest in the dreams of families in the world's underserved communities as we proclaim and live the Gospel.

Method

We share the hope of Christ as we provide biblically based training, savings services, and loans that restore dignity and break the cycle of poverty.

Motivation

The love of Jesus Christ motivates us to identify with those living in poverty and be His hands and feet as we strive to glorify God.

HOPE International has a heart for underserved areas.

We look for areas where our services can make a tremendous difference—places where poverty is stifling dreams and opportunities are scarce. With these goals in mind, we launch HOPE-managed programs or partner with existing organizations.

The HOPE network consists of microfinance institutions and savings and credit associations throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

HOPE also serves in two countries in Asia whose names have been withheld for security.

Where we serve

We have a heart for underserved areas. In some cases, we start a HOPE-managed program; in others, we partner with an existing Christ-centered ministry. Together, the HOPE network consists of microfinance institutions and savings and credit associations working throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Why Christ-centered financial services?

We believe families in poverty have the God-given talents and skills to provide for their families. What they don't have is a lump sum of money to invest in their potential—by paying school fees, saving for the future, or investing in businesses.

Christ at the center

We desire to see men and women around the world find their soul's satisfaction in Christ and become dignified, hope-filled providers in their families and communities.

A holistic approach

In obedience to Christ's command to love our neighbor and make disciples of all nations, HOPE International provides discipleship opportunities, training, a safe place to save, and small loans.

Discipleship

Through regular interactions with clients, staff members share the Gospel, facilitate Bible studies, and invite clients to experience lasting transformation through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Training

Because many clients have had limited access to formal education, HOPE's network offers biblically based training, mentoring, and coaching to help clients start or expand their businesses.

Savings

Clients regularly save money to stabilize household income, provide a safety net in emergencies, start or expand businesses, or pay for household expenses such as school fees.

Small loans

As they access much-needed capital, clients can launch or expand businesses by purchasing productive assets, buying supplies in bulk, improving inventory, or investing in improvements.

Savings and credit associations

Savings and credit associations (SCAs) are groups of individuals who save their money together in partnership with the local church. As they build a secure sum of money, members often take out loans from their group to pay for household expenses or invest in businesses.

Microfinance institutions

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are banks designed to serve entrepreneurs in poverty by providing small loans, a safe place to save, and other financial services to help men and women invest in their businesses and provide for their families.

What we believe

Rooted in Christ, HOPE adheres to the following statement of faith, adopted from the National Association of Evangelicals.

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What we celebrate

PASSION guides our corporate culture and represents the qualities we seek and celebrate in our staff members.

<i>Prayer</i>	<i>On your knees, please (<u>Psalm 95:6</u>)</i>
<i>Allegiance</i>	<i>We will serve the Lord (<u>Joshua 24:15</u>)</i>
<i>Service</i>	<i>We'll wash feet (<u>John 13:14</u>)</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>To whom much is given ... (<u>Luke 12:48</u>)</i>
<i>Innovation</i>	<i>We find solutions (<u>Genesis 1:27</u>)</i>
<i>Optimism</i>	<i>Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow (<u>Lamentations 3:22-24</u>)</i>
<i>Nurturing</i>	<i>Love one another as I have loved you (<u>John 13:34</u>)</i>

Who we are

Our brand manifesto grounds and inspires us, reminding us in compelling, relatable language who we are and who we hope to be.

We are HOPE International.

We are bankers, pastors, and development workers—concerned with both body and soul.

We are the friend who encourages “Don’t give up!”

We are a push in the right direction.

We are hard work coming to fruition.

We are dignity affirmed.

We are partners in effecting change.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to a world in need.

We are HOPE International.

Stronger Civil Society Can Improve the Environment

Stronger civil society can improve the environment
Updated: 24 June 2014

“Albania is facing environmental problems, especially regarding waste management, nature conservation and unclear environmental legislation. Sida supports the civil society’s environmental work in Albania, to give them a stronger role in society and better assist communities in managing natural resources.

“We want to strengthen the role of the environmental civil society, both in addressing the community needs and in improving communication with central and local government actors” says Mihallaq Qirjo, Albania Director for The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

There is little progress taking place in the fields of environment and climate change in Albania, which is also the finding concluded in the EU progress report for 2013.

Substantial investments are needed but resources remain limited. Albanian environmental civil society organisations are quite weak and donor dependent. However, civil society can play an important role as a provider of knowledge and service to communities, concerning sustainable environment and natural resources management. This is why Sida is funding the SENiOR-A Programme, which is implemented by REC, in mutual collaboration with most of the approximately 100 environmental CSOs in the country. Regular meetings are being held between the different actors, which is important for civil society to perceive REC not only as an implementing entity, but as a partner in achieving their own goals.

Training sessions have been held through Junior Fellowship Programs, Master Classes and Organization Viability Toolkits, to teach basic skills and increase the democracy in the organisations, as well as to improve knowledge about some of the main environmental problems such as waste, nature protection and unclear environmental legislation. The latter has been combined with site visits showing bad examples or best practices.

In addition to the training, some 28 small operational grants have been awarded to CSOs throughout Albania, which has helped them achieve a stronger infrastructure, better internal organisation, web pages and social media visibility.

Network of education coordinating protests

The outcome of the programme has been positive so far: the environmental civil society movement in general has in the last two years significantly enhanced its cooperation with the government, which has led to e.g. banning the import of waste and issuing a two year moratorium on hunting. The flagship outcome of the programme is the establishment of four topic networks: Biodiversity and Nature Protection, Information and Education, Watchdogging & Advocacy and Environmental Services.

Xhemal Mato, who is lead partner of the Network on Information and Education, explains:

“There are several environmental problems affecting Albania right now and one of the main threats is the lack of information and community involvement on environmental concerns. Our network is trying to do just this on several locations at once. For example, several small hydropower Plants have been built in protected areas, which have affected the adjacent villages. The CSO network has been involved in raising the voice of the local community to protect their environmental rights or to stop the construction of these hydropower plants that are considered harmful to the environment.

“Another issue we dealt with was the management of chemicals and their risks, not only in informing the population but also in practical cases such as signalling to the authorities about an informal pesticide dumping site in Saranda, which was used illegally some twenty years ago and now needs to be properly rehabilitated,” he concludes.

Another topic network that was developed is the one for Watchdogging & Advocacy. The lead partner Ermelinda Mahmutaj describes how the network is actively monitoring some of the main industrial operators causing major pollution in soil, water, and air:

“Industrial operators are not yet fully compliant with the requirement of their environmental permits and they don’t always monitor their pollutant discharge or make all the data transparent. Our activities do not only aim to push industries such as cement factories, fuel extraction industries or melting industries into being more responsible in monitoring and reporting the data, but to help the local communities nearby to better articulate their voices.

For these issues, we have mobilized not only the local community and other NGOs but also international investment donors that have supported these operators financially”.

About the programme:

Sida is the sole donor of the Support for Environmental Civil Society Organizations in Albania (SENiOR-A) with a total of 16 150 000 SEK. The programme is implemented by The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) Albania between April 2012 and April 2015.

The overall goal of the programme is to strengthen and specialize environmental civil society in Albania, making it more able to articulate community needs, provide services and support, develop partnerships and networks, and more capable to address Albania’s environmental priorities and progress towards a sustainable development.

The programs aims to develop the environmental civil society organisations:

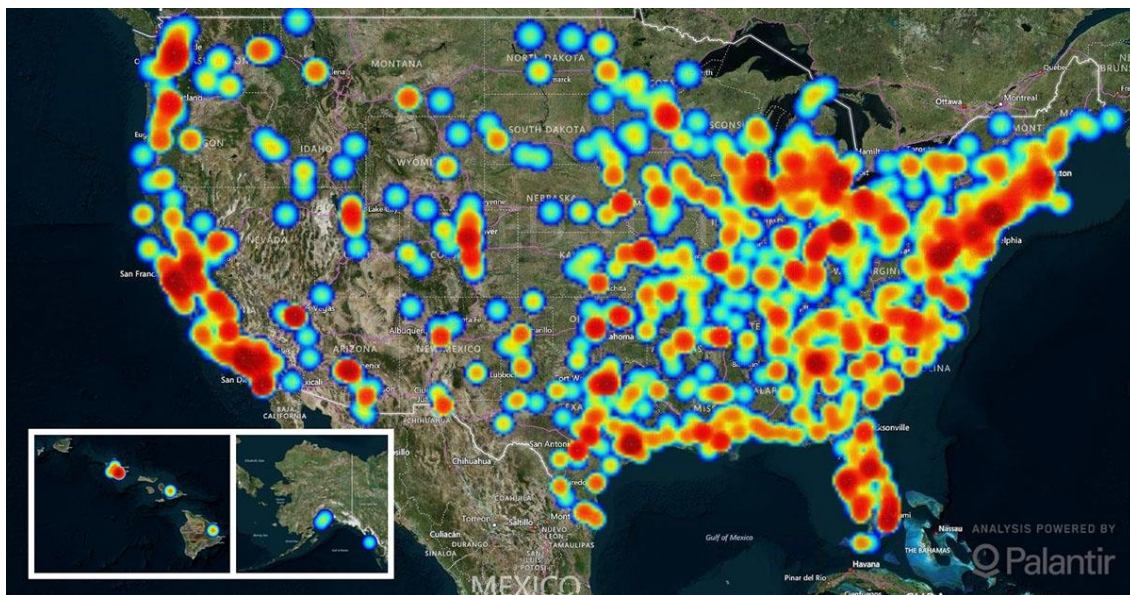
- From weak organizations to strong and institutionalized CSOs with better democratic functioning (decision making, transparency, etc) and stronger environmental civil society (mission driven, clear focus, long term sustainability).

- From donor driven and broad “shooting” project based organisations to programme based planning and support organisations (better strategic planning, stable no. of programs, long term sustainability) and specialized CSOs/Networks (with developed specific environmental expertise).
- From individual organisations with no or limited level of cooperation to environmental networks and coalitions (concrete and effective cooperation and partnerships on specific environmental topics/themes).

Half way through the programme, some 15 trainings have been carried out and around 50 grants awarded to NGOs around the country.”

<http://www.sida.se/English/where-we-work/Europe/Albania-/examples-of-results/Stronger-civil-society-can-improve-the-environment/>

Human Trafficking



Human Trafficking

“Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery—a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world. And no matter where you live, chances are it's happening nearby. From the girl forced into prostitution at a truck stop, to the man discovered in a restaurant kitchen, stripped of his passport, and held against his will. All trafficking victims share one essential experience: the loss of freedom.

Although slavery is commonly thought to be a thing of the past, human traffickers generate hundreds of billions of dollars in profits by trapping millions of people in horrific situations around the world, including here in the U.S. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will. While more research is needed on the scope of human trafficking, below are a few key statistics:

- The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally.
 - 68% of them are trapped in forced labor.
 - 26% of them are children.
 - 55% are women and girls.
- The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide.
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 139 goods from 75 countries made by forced and child labor.
- In 2016, an estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims.
 - Of those, 86% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.
- There is no official estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. Polaris estimates that the total number of victims nationally reaches into the hundreds of thousands when estimates of both adults and minors and sex trafficking and labor trafficking are aggregated.

Statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline and Polaris BeFree Textline

- More than 31,600 total cases of human trafficking have been reported to the Hotline in the last eight years.
- The Hotline annually receives multiple reports of human trafficking cases in each of the 50 states and D.C. Read more Hotline statistics here.
- The number of human trafficking cases that Polaris learns about in the U.S. increases every year. Review our 2016 statistics fact sheet here.
- 23% of texting conversations on the Polaris BeFree Textline were from survivors of human trafficking compared to 11% of phone calls on the Hotline. Read Polaris BeFree Textline statistics here.
- The Hotline receives an average of 100 calls per day. Read stories of survivors who called the hotline for help.

The map above only reflects cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2016 where the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location. Map image powered by Palantir Technology.” <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking>



Illicit Drugs – by Anup Shah (Note: This page was created Sunday, March 30, 2008. It is now September 30, 2017. Almost ten years have passed. What is wrong with the United Nation and national governments?)

It appears as if the United Nations and most government leaders throughout the world have become bewitched by the red herring of “man-made global warming” which is now known as “climate change”. Yet everyone knows that the climate has always changed. However, many are not yet aware that it is the Sun’s interaction with the Galaxy which is the source of the Earth’s changing climate. Alarming, this is now combined with scientist’s geo-engineering the climate. This tinkering with the Earth’s climate, which has confused many, must surely be the idea of a few mad scientists acting in the shadows, unseen by the public and national leaders.

Can these weird scientists be locked up and put away, or must they be allowed to continue with their unseen experiments, experiments that could not only destroy humanity, but the Earth itself?

Surely, it is time for humanity to pay attention, become involved and educated about what is occurring under our noses. At least this is the purpose of The Creative Revolution. The aim is to inform, educate, awaken, stir up controversy, make people wake up and start taking notice. Time to put away the computer games and mind-sapping, manipulative television. No more time for idling and chatting. Time to link up with those who still have their wits about them. Time to become involved.

With that in mind, let us focus on one of the greatest dangers imaginable and that is the fact that millions of citizens (and leaders) are drug addicted by either legal prescriptions or illegal drugs. These millions of people have been unwittingly enticed by the medical establishment, the pharmaceuticals or by the criminal drug cartels, who are now linked to terrorists. What a nightmare!

For this reason, I am devoting considerable space in this section to this urgent situation. It is hard to credit that when searching the Internet for recent graphics, such as a map showing the drug patterns of the illicit drugs trade that I could *not* find a current map put out by the United Nations, or any other concerned group. Instead, all I could find was a map and information put out by Anup Shah in 2007. At that time, the illicit drug trade was worth \$322 billion according to the UN World Drug Report, 2007. That was ten years ago! Can you imagine what it must be worth today?

More importantly, why is the illicit drug trade *no longer of interest* to the United Nations?

The problem has increased by leaps and bounds. Yet despite that, the United Nations has instead focused its attention on the man-made global warming hoax—when all along the illicit drugs trade infiltrated not only the Mafia, but terrorists.

Think of the threat to human health, sanity and safety. Instead of making this an urgent priority in 2015 the United Nations called world attention to the man-made global warming hoax setting up the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11, which was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 12 December 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties (CMP) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The conference negotiated the *Paris Agreement*, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change.

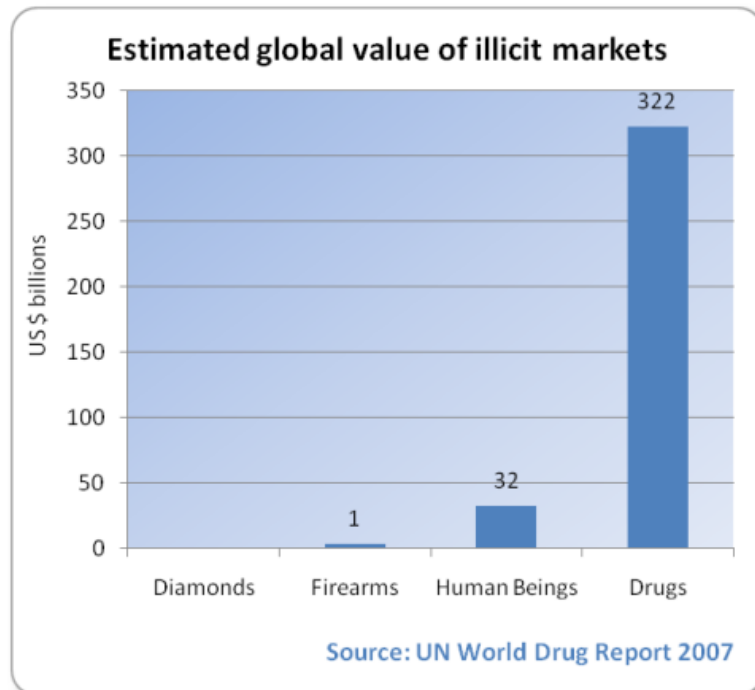
Is this not mysterious? Why would the United Nations set the world off on a wild goose chase by focusing on a hoax, when all along the world is coming apart at the seams due to the illegal drug trade worth billions and billions of dollars at the expense of much of humanity which is now clearly drugged and hopeless?

There must be a reason. What is it? Does anybody know? Does anybody care?

One thing is for sure. Drug trafficking is huge. Below are the findings of Anup Shah on March 30, 2018:

“The illicit drugs trade (also referred to as the illegal drugs trade or drug trafficking) is one of the largest global businesses, at some \$322 billion, according to the UN World Drug Report, 2007.

It attracts criminal organizations because the potential profits are significantly more than from other criminal commodities:



As the 2007 report notes (p.170), the high value is understandable because unlike human beings, diamonds or firearms, the drug supply is consumed each year and in need of continuous renewal.

It is also a global issue because profits [from illicit drugs] accrue to a wide range of actors, from poor rural farmers to affluent urban dealers. But, in many instances, the single most profitable sector of the market is the process of transporting the drugs internationally. The funds raised by trafficking groups can be used to underwrite other criminal activity and even political insurgency.

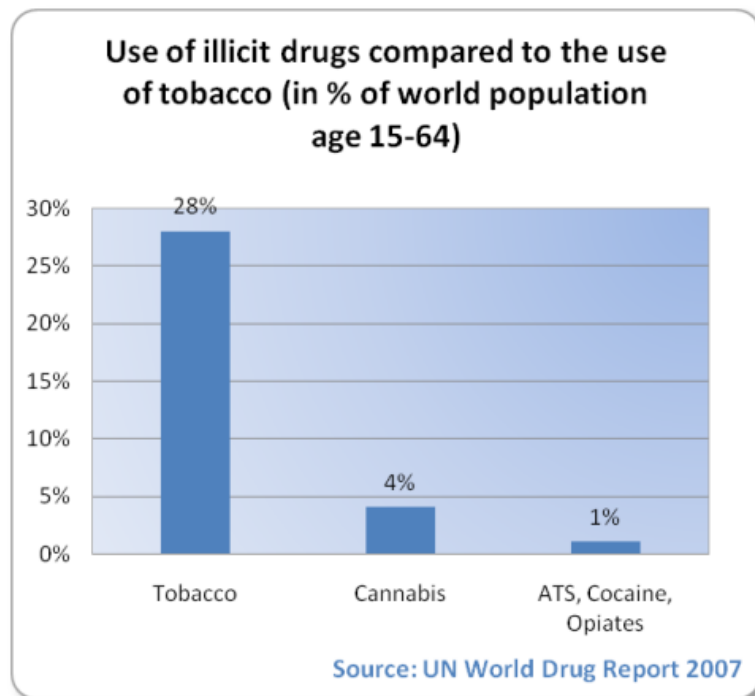
World Drug Report 2007, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (p.170). The main illicit drugs are the opiates (mostly heroin), cocaine, cannabis, and ATS (amphetamine-type stimulants) such as amphetamines, methamphetamine and ecstasy.

The UN estimates that some 200 million people (4.8% of the world's population aged 15-64) use illegal drugs annually with 25 million being classed as problem users (0.6%). (See p.9 of the report.)

[Back to top](#)

Legal and Illegal Drugs

A lot of effort goes into tackling illegal drugs, but there are some legal drugs that affect far more people worldwide than illegal drugs: tobacco and alcohol. The 2007 UN World Drug Report (p.30) compares usage of illegal drugs with tobacco and finds tobacco usage to be far higher:



(Tobacco and alcohol are considered drugs by health professionals even though these ones are legal and usually regulated in some way. They are all mind-altering/addictive. In that context, drug use of some sort, such as alcohol and marijuana, has been common throughout the history of human civilization.)

It seems that people like to consume mind-altering substances even though there may be serious health implications associated with many of these drugs. But today, there is also the criminal element that drugs attract.

Back to top

Tackling the problem: criminalize or decriminalize?

A common approach (and one taken by countries such as the United States and international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) is that drugs should be made illegal and there should be strong emphasis on clamping down on the illegal drugs trade. In many countries, this has led to extra law-enforcement costs and overflowing prisons. (The drugs problem is seen as a criminal issue.)

The Netherlands, however, has taken a different approach and partly decriminalized certain soft drugs in small proportions. (The drugs problem is seen

primarily as a health issue.) This has had a knock-on effect of drug tourism where some tourists go there to get substances.

Should illegal drugs be decriminalized?

The prestigious *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) provided some interesting insights into the question of whether drugs should be decriminalized or not:

Why drugs should not be decriminalized

Joseph A Califano, Jr, chairman of The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University argues that **drugs are dangerous, therefore illegal. Legalizing them risks increasing their availability:**

Drugs are not dangerous because they are illegal; they are illegal because they are dangerous. A child who reaches age 21 without smoking, misusing alcohol, or using illegal drugs is virtually certain to never do so. Today, most children don't use illicit drugs, but all of them, particularly the poorest, are vulnerable to misuse and addiction. Legalization and decriminalization—policies certain to increase illegal drug availability and use among our children—hardly qualify as public health approaches.

Joseph A Califano, Jr, Should drugs be decriminalised? No, BMJ, 335:967, November 10, 2007

Why drugs should be decriminalized

In the same *BMJ* as mentioned earlier Dr. Kailash Chand argues that **drugs should be decriminalized because drugs drive crime:**

Many people may think that taking drugs is inherently wrong and so should be illegal. But there is a question of effectiveness—does making it illegal stop people doing it? The answer is clearly no. One could even argue that legalization would eliminate part of the attraction of taking drugs—the allure of doing something illegal.

Countries like Afghanistan, Columbia, and Jamaica have had their economies rocked and destabilized by the illegal market while bribery, corruption, and conflict have ruled.

In the UK we have cut off huge swathes of the population, branding them criminals and creating an underclass of people who no longer feel part of our society. A sensible policy of regulation and control would reduce burglary, cut gun crime, bring women off the streets, clear out our overflowing prisons, and raise billions in tax revenues. Drug users could buy from places where they could be sure the drugs had not been cut with dangerous, cost saving chemicals. There would be clear information about the risks involved and guidance on how to seek treatment. It is time to allow adults the freedom to make decisions about the harmful substances they consume.

Kailash Chand, Should drugs be decriminalised? Yes, BMJ, 335:966, November 10, 2007

Decriminalization as regulation and control

It is easy to assume talk of decriminalization means a kind of free-for-all where there is no care for people addicted to drugs, and letting anyone use them when they want.

Yet both Chand's argument above is really about regulation and control. While still against legalization/decriminalization, Califano also adds that more resources and energy should be devoted to research, prevention, and treatment, and each citizen and institution should take responsibility to combat all substance misuse and addiction.

Back to top

Supply and demand

The approach Califano advocates is to help people understand what they are doing (i.e. tackle the demand side). This seems important because the increased recreational use we see—often in the wealthiest countries—may point to deeper social/personal problems and issues.

(Just recently, the UN accused celebrities of often being involved in illicit drug trafficking or illegal drug use and that it is often glamorized. They fear that this may send out the wrong message to young people, too. In addition, they accused some countries off letting celebrities drug-takers off too lightly when caught.)

The approach Chand advocates seems to imply addressing the supply side by taking away control from criminals, and managing the demand side by trying to provide a safer environment, at least as a starting point to address immediate issues.

The UN's approach of being tough against illegal drugs could be having some effects. The above-mentioned UN World Drug Report 2007 begins its overview stating that the global drugs problem is being contained:

The global drug problem is being contained. The production and consumption of cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines and ecstasy have stabilized at the global level—with one exception. The exception is the continuing expansion of opium production in Afghanistan. This expansion continues to pose a threat—to the security of the country and to the global containment of opiates abuse. Even in Afghanistan, however, the large scale production of opium is concentrated and expanding in a few southern provinces where the authority of the central government is currently limited and insurgents continue to exploit the profits of the opium trade.

On the whole, most indications point to a leveling of growth in all of the main illegal drug markets. This is good news and may indicate an important juncture in long term drug control. A stable and contained problem is easier to address than one

which is expanding chaotically, provided it is seen as an opportunity for renewed commitment rather than an excuse to decrease vigilance.

World Drug Report 2007, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (p.25)

However, while the report shows the number of seizures of illegal drugs increasing more than two-fold between 1985 and 2005, the use has not gone down in proportion; it has stabilized. It may be that containment is working, but maybe it is not effective as other measures? Furthermore, it seems the costs are very high for this approach too. The US's war on drugs is in the order of billions. And then there are the associated effects of increased crime and health problems because the market is largely controlled by criminals.

This last point was explained quite well by Tom Lloyd, former chief inspector of Cambridgeshire Police in the UK. In a radio interview on BBC's Radio 5 Live (March 5, 2008), Lloyd raised some important issues:

- He felt over a longer period of 30 to 40 years, the international policy was a failed policy because of the increase in illegal drugs, the increase in associated crime, and the increasing health problems by substance users.
- He added that while many human beings seem to like taking mind-altering drugs, **international policies have ensured the mind altering drugs are supplied by criminals who have no regard to the health of the users, or the crime that results.**
- Banning drugs has failed, in his opinion. However, instead of some free-for-all, **regulating drugs would take the market away from the criminals**, dramatically reducing the harms caused by prohibition (because prohibition leads to lots of death from the increased crime and health issues that results from criminals controlling the market).

Lloyd's approach is to initially get control over the issue through this regulation of it so that at least we stand a chance of doing something about drug use that can help reduce the harm. If someone is addicted to drugs, it is far worse if the supplier is a criminal because the substance could have impurities, causing further health problems, he argues.

There are also some medicinal uses of some drugs. When these are made illegal, research or provision of these is restricted.

Related to the crime aspects of illegal drugs is corruption. Professor Robert Neild from Trinity College, Cambridge University wrote the book *Public Corruption; The Dark Side of Social Evolution* (London: Anthem Press, 2002). Neild suggested that international and national laws in rich countries that prohibit drugs may serve to produce a scarcity value irresistible to producers, smugglers and dealers thus contributing immensely to the problem of corruption.

Neild adds that governments and civil society in the third world are often undermined, sometimes destroyed by the violence and corruption that goes with the drug trade. This is probably the most important way in which the policies of rich countries foster corruption and violence. Yet the effect on the Third World seems scarcely to enter discussion of alternative drug policies in the rich countries.

Legalizing drugs, a system of taxation and regulation, comparable to that applied to tobacco and alcohol might do more to reduce corruption in the world than any other measure rich countries could take, Neild suggests.

Complicating this further, are the two major legal drugs that kill far more people than illegal drugs: tobacco and alcohol. Although these are legal and regulated, they continue to put enormous strains on social systems such as police and health services. In the United Kingdom, an excess drinking culture is affecting many young people and is a constant theme on mainstream news.

It would seem that tackling both supply (i.e. the criminal aspects) as well as demand (the social conditions that create the demand) both need addressing but by no means are the policy choices clear cut.

(For further view points and arguments, see for example this [Wikipedia article](#).)

This page is quite short, for a topic that is very large.

Issues such as geopolitics (e.g. using drugs to fund political agendas, such as in Colombia, or fund terrorism as in Afghanistan) are major problems. Due to time constraints these, and other aspects, have not been discussed further here—yet. That does not diminish these issues of course, and over time, more will be added.”
<http://www.globalissues.org/article/755/illicit-drugs>

International Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking

Introduction – “Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. Drug trafficking is a key part of this research. Further information can be found in the yearly World Drug Report.

World Drug Report 2017

To celebrate 20 years since its inception, the World Drug Report 2017 is presented in a new five-booklet format designed to improve reader friendliness while maintaining the wealth of information contained within.

Booklet 1 summarizes the content of the four subsequent substantive booklets and presents policy implications drawn from their findings. Booklet 2 deals with the supply, use and health consequences of drugs. Booklet 3 focuses on the cultivation, production and consumption of the three plant-based drugs (cocaine, opiates and cannabis) and on the impact of new cannabis policies. Booklet 4 provides an extended analysis of the global synthetic drugs market and contains the bulk of the analysis for the triennial global synthetic drugs assessment. Finally, Booklet 5 contains a discussion on the nexus between the drug problem, organized crime, illicit financial flows, corruption and terrorism.” To learn more and to see an interactive map please go to this link. <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/index.html>



Juvita

Why Juvita believes in God's glory

“It wasn’t easy for Juvita Cerron to set foot in a church for her first savings group meeting in Comas, Peru. As an unmarried mother expecting her second child, she feared the group would be a place of judgment—but her drive to meet her children’s needs eclipsed her concern for what others might think. As the group welcomed her warmly, their response surprised Juvita: “Through joining a savings group, I found a community that loved me for who I was and reminded me that God loved me too.”

Juvita was still new to the group when her daughter was born three months prematurely. Her savings group embraced her fully, providing support and prayers for her family. After months of constant medical attention, her daughter, Julieta, was near death. Amid crisis, Juvita found new life in Jesus Christ, putting her trust in His faithfulness rather than the relationships or alcohol on which she once relied. Despite doctors’ warnings that her daughter might never fully recover, Juvita rejoices that the Lord miraculously healed her, and now, two years later, Julieta is strong and healthy.

Investing in dreams

Before becoming a mother, Juvita spent two years studying administration at the university level. When she withdrew from college to care for her first child, she had no income and relied entirely on support from her family and her son’s father. She didn’t know how to break the cycle of dependency and provide for her own children—though she longed to do so.

After joining a savings group, Juvita learned of a part-time position as secretary of the savings program her church operated in partnership with HOPE. It was a strong fit with her skills and background, and Juvita was offered the job. She has quickly become an ambassador for the program, visiting groups and encouraging women with hope for financial and spiritual transformation. She openly shares her own story, and in turn, women confide in Juvita. Through her friendship, many have found life and forgiveness in Jesus.

Juvita has continued to save with her group, increasing her biweekly savings from \$6 to \$33. Along with other savings group members, she recently participated in a vocational training for bakers. She's now saving to purchase a \$200 oven and open her own bakery. She's also started saving toward her dream of owning her own home where she and her two children can live independently as they continue to trust God together." <http://blog.hopeinternational.org/2016/08/29/why-juvita-believes-in-gods-glory-2/#more-6601>

Kid-repreneurs

When the Church unleashes kid-repreneurs

“For 51 weeks of the year, the front lobby of Willowdale Chapel’s Kennett Square campus is an airy space with cozy chairs and a café. But one Sunday each December, the room transforms into the HOPE Market—a vibrant, bustling marketplace operated by the church’s youngest entrepreneurs.

The wooden tables where people usually chat over coffee instead display greeting cards and candles, wooden clocks, and mini-marshmallow shooters, all handcrafted by the children at Willowdale. With each sale, the kids work toward paying back the small loan they received from the church to make their item. Once that’s done, they give their profits to HOPE International. **Last year, all their work totaled up to being a significant gift of \$5,000.**

‘Part of our church’s vision is to love the world that Jesus is working to restore, and we wanted our youth to really learn what that means and to be a part of it,’ says Jodi Byrne, who serves as a children’s ministry pastor at Willowdale Chapel, a church network in southeastern Pennsylvania that partners with HOPE.

The kids are invited to explore the role they play in that restoration during the three months leading up to the HOPE Market.

They start by studying how God has created everyone—including themselves!—with gifts and abilities. They also learn about how HOPE International invests in hardworking men and women around the world, equipping them to use their God-given strengths to provide for their families and build up their communities.



Then, the children have the chance to experience HOPE's model firsthand, by receiving a \$20 loan from the church and using those funds to create a product to sell at the HOPE Market.

Breaking off into small groups, they consider potential products and challenge each other to think like true business owners.

Jodi explains, 'We teach them about the market, so they're encouraged to not just look at how much they love the finished product but to weigh the cost, to figure out, will there be good profit margin? And also, will they be able to make it with the steps and the time given for the Market?'

In a special loan disbursement ceremony that mirrors HOPE's, each group receives its loan, which members use to purchase the materials they need to make their selected product. They also get a banking book to keep track of their funds and any other costs related to the process.

Over the next two months, they go to work, each week making more progress on their selected craft. In the final week before the Market, the teams focus on advertising, creating posters to catch the eyes of potential customers.

The day of the HOPE Market is filled with joy, exuberance, and enthusiasm—not to mention a few people breathing sighs of relief as they find the perfect Christmas gift for a loved one. Even more importantly, **the experience serves as an opportunity for the whole church to respond to its call to love and serve others.**

'Our church really embraces it,' Jodi remarks. 'We're trying to encourage our church to partner in God's work, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's far away—we're trying to live out the belief that it all matters.'

Martin Campagna, who participated in the market last year, selling 'monkey's fist' keychains, zipper pulls, and luggage tags, says he was pleasantly surprised by the church's enthusiastic response: 'I didn't



expect that many people to be selling things. And it was also cool because a ton of people were buying everything, since it was all going to HOPE.’

As Jodi reflects, much of the purpose of the HOPE Market is to simply plant seeds among church members—of all ages. ‘Sometimes the world can seem hopeless, but this is a reminder that we can do things that make a difference,’ she says. **‘We don’t need to be ones who just sit back and sink in the problems of the world; we can be part of the solutions.’**

*If you’d like to learn more about hosting an event like the HOPE Market at your church, please contact the **HOPE representative** in your region!*

<http://blog.hopeinternational.org/2017/10/19/when-the-church-unleashes-kid-repreneurs/#more-7456>

Migration & Climate Change

IOM's Perspective – “Environmental factors have long had an impact on global migration flows, as people have historically left places with harsh or deteriorating conditions. However, the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, with unprecedented impacts on lives and livelihoods. Such migration can have positive and negative effects on both the local coping capacity and the environment in areas from which these migrants originate, as well as in their temporary or permanent destinations.

Migration, climate change and the environment are interrelated. Just as environmental degradation and disasters can cause migration, movement of people can also entail significant effects on surrounding ecosystems. This complex nexus needs to be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account other possible mediating factors including, inter alia, human security, human and economic development, livelihood strategies and conflict. Migration often seems to be misperceived as a failure to adapt to a changing environment. Instead, migration can also be an adaptation strategy to climate and environmental change and is an essential component of the socio-environmental interactions that needs to be managed. Migration can be a coping mechanism and survival strategy for those who move. At the same time, migration, and mass migration in particular, can also have significant environmental repercussions for areas of origin, areas of destination, and the migratory routes in between and contribute to further environmental degradation.

IOM applies its comprehensive migration management approach to the complex linkages between climate change, the environment and migration. Through its activities, IOM helps to reduce vulnerability of populations exposed to environmental risk factors; assists populations on the move as a result of environmental causes; and builds the capacities of governments and other actors to face the challenge of environmental migration.

IOM's central objectives in managing environmental migration are:

First, to prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors to the extent possible.

Second, where forced migration does occur, to provide assistance and protection to affected populations, and seek durable solutions to their situation.

Third, to facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change.

Read more:

Migration, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation -
A Complex Nexus

Near or Far?

Temporary or Permanent?

Forced or Voluntary?

Problem or Solution?

Leave or Stay?

What are the Estimates?

Migration, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation -
Definitional Issues

IOM's Activities - IOM's involvement and interest in the field of migration and the environment is long established, but has received renewed impetus due to the increasingly irrefutable evidence surrounding climate change and its impacts. One of IOM's first publications on the issue of migration and the environment dates back to 1992. In 1996, a symposium on "Environmentally-induced Population Displacements and Environmental Impacts Resulting from Mass Migrations" co-organized by IOM, UNHCR and the Refugee Policy Group, was pioneering in its comprehensive discussion of the cycle of environmental damage and mass migration and the measures and actions that can prevent, mitigate and reverse environmental degradation causing, and resulting from, population displacements. At the same time, major natural disasters have increasingly demanded emergency and other operational responses from IOM, starting with Hurricane Mitch in 1998, and especially since the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004.

Policy - IOM offers a forum for policy dialogue as well as guidance on policies and practices appropriate to addressing the challenges facing mobile populations today, including those resulting from extreme environmental events or gradual environmental degradation. IOM has organized, co-organized and participated in numerous events, including regional and international conferences on the topic.

Research - IOM undertakes extensive research on various aspects of the migration–environment nexus, in particular with a view towards fostering interdisciplinary approaches, improving existing data and producing policy-relevant research.

Operational Activities - IOM has developed a wide range of operational activities over the years ranging from humanitarian response to displacement caused by natural disasters to promoting adaptation to gradual environmental degradation through migration and development activities. In general terms, IOM's response aims to increase communities' resilience to underlying risk factors and expected changes in their natural environment. » [Read more](#)

Partnerships

IOM is committed to close cooperation with governments, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to develop more comprehensive strategies to better manage environmental migration and to address potential impacts of migration on the environment.

For further information, please contact:

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Psychiatric Drugs, not a Lack of Gun Control

Psychiatric Drugs, Not A Lack of Gun Control, Are The Common Denominator In Murderous Violence Jan 14, 2013

“In 2000, New York legislators recognized the ubiquitous and unambiguous connection between violence, especially gun violence and mass murder, and the widespread prescribed use of psychiatric drugs. Senate Bill 7035 was introduced in the New York State Senate that year requiring police agencies to report to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) on certain crimes and suicides committed by a person who is using psychiatric drugs, including assault, homicide, sex offenses, robbery offenses, firearms, and other dangerous weapons offenses, kidnapping and arson. The preamble to the bill read, in part:

‘There is a large body of scientific research establishing a connection between violence and suicide and the use of psychotropic drugs in some cases. This research, which has been published in peer reviewed publications such as the American Journal of Psychiatry, The Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and The Journal of Forensic Science, has shown, among other things, that: certain drugs can induce mania (a psychosis which can produce bizarre, grandiose and highly elaborated destructive plans, including mass murder);. . .and certain drugs can produce an acute psychotic reaction in an individual not previously psychotic.’

The bill died in committee. Since that time, there have been at least 12 additional high-profile mass murders linked to the use of psychiatric drugs, about one a year. And, in virtually every mass school shooting during the past 15 years, the shooter has been on or in withdrawal from psychiatric drugs. Here is a partial list of 24 such horrific events that occurred since 1998, not including the Virginia Tech shootings and the recent Sandy Hook shootings where the authorities continue to suppress information about whether and to what extent the shooters were on or in withdrawal from a psychiatric drug.

These examples are not unique. According to the Citizens Commission On Human Rights International (CCHR), between 2004 and 2011, there were 12,755 reports to the U.S. FDA's MedWatch system of psychiatric drugs causing violent side effects including: 1,231 cases of homicidal ideation/homicide, 2,795 cases of mania and 7,250 cases of aggression. Since the FDA admits that only one to ten percent of all side effects are ever reported to it, the actual occurrence of violent side effects from psychiatric drugs is certainly nine or ten times higher than the official data suggest.

Yet, federal and state governments continue to ignore the connection between psychiatric drugs and murderous violence, preferring instead to exploit these tragedies in an oppressive and unconstitutional power grab to snatch guns away from innocent, law-abiding people who are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution the right to own and bear arms to deter government tyranny and to use firearms in self-defense against any miscreant who would do them harm. Therefore, it is pharmaceutical makers, not law-abiding gun owners or gun manufacturers, who should be held to account for the series of "lone-wolf," mass shootings that have occurred since the widespread use of psychiatric drugs began.

Although it is doubtful any single variable can explain what causes someone to commit such unspeakable acts as we saw recently at Sandy Hook, one common denominator surfaces time and time again, in hundreds and hundreds of cases where a "lone wolf" commits violence, murder and mayhem for apparently no reason: Prescribed psychiatric drugs, which are well documented to induce mania, psychosis, violence, suicide and murder, including mass murder for no apparent reason by otherwise non-psychotic people.

Given the mass of supporting data linking psychiatric drug use/withdrawal and violence, and given the fact it has been ignored studiously by the U.S. Congress and federal agencies, it is well past time that Congress and state legislatures and government agencies at all levels formally investigate the well-established link between prescribed use of psychiatric drugs, school shootings and similar acts of senseless violence.

This video below reveals the indisputable connection between psychiatric drugs and violence, especially young "lone-wolf" shooters in gun massacres. (Note: To view this video, go to the link.) <http://www.riseearth.com/2013/01/psychiatric-drugs-not-lack-of-gun.html>

As psychiatrist Peter Breggin observes in the video:

‘One of the things in the past that we’ve known about depression is that it very, very rarely leads to violence. It’s only been since the advent of these new SSRI drugs that we’ve had murderers even mass murders taking these antidepressant drugs.’

Instead of intimidating the NRA into negotiating away Americans’ Second Amendment rights through its seat at the table in Washington, the government should be demanding answers and explanations from PhRMA and the pharmaceutical companies.

Instead of extorting NRA chairman Dave Keene and NRA president Wayne LaPierre into participating with the gun snatchers’ efforts to nullify the Second Amendment in the name of reducing gun violence, why aren’t the White House and Congress putting former Business Roundtable President and current head of PhRMA, John Castellani, along with the presidents of the pharmaceutical companies on the hot seat?

Why isn’t Castellani sitting in on White House and congressional meetings about the connection between his products and mass shootings instead of Keene and LaPierre of the NRA?

Why isn’t there a White House Task Force on the connection between psychiatric drugs and violence, suicide and murder, both gun related and otherwise?

Why aren’t there congressional hearings on the connection between violence and psychiatric drugs?

Why aren’t there bills being introduced in Congress and state legislatures to tighten down on the indiscriminate, unmonitored use of these killer drugs?

Why is the government still suppressing information about the shooters’ psychiatric drug use at Sandy Hook and Virginia Tech?

Why is the government turning America into a police state in the name of protecting us against nonexistent “reefer madness” while it turns a blind eye to the real, deadly mad madness created by psychiatric drugs and the uncontrollable violent rages they produce in some people?

Could it be there is a quiet conspiracy afoot among pharmaceutical companies, the government and the gun grabbers to make Mr. and Mrs. Gun Owner of America the

patsies for the violence and to blame lone-wolf violence on guns rather than psychiatric drugs?

Could it be that power-hungry politicians and gun snatchers are out to exploit rare tragedies such as Sandy Hook and use the blood of innocent children to scare America into giving up its constitutional rights to own and bear arms and use them as a deterrent against tyranny?

Could it be that big pharma is today's big tobacco?

Could it be there is an intentional effort underway in the centers of power in Washington, DC to hide the truth from the American people about the strong connection between psychiatric drugs and violence and to protect the pharmaceutical companies from civil and criminal charges for their responsibility in these heinous crimes?

Could that be the explanation for why there continue to be lawsuits against gun manufacturers — not for defects in their products but rather for the misuse of their products by drug-addled individuals — and why there are few lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies for the obvious flaws in their products, which are producing violence and mayhem?

Could it be the Gun Control movement is simply a blind; just an effort by the triple alliance of left-fascists, big-government politicians and big-pharma prescription-drug dealers to dose and oppress the American people in the name of public safety, “officer safety” and social order?

The gun snatchers such as Sen. Dianne Feinstein, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg all shamefully exploit the bloody murder of children as a pretext to nullify the Second Amendment and short arm the American public with their so-called “assault-weapons” ban and ammunition/clip restrictions. The fact is, the kinds of guns used by mass shooters are far less relevant than the kinds of drugs they were prescribed.”

Source: worldtruth.tv

Why isn't there a White House Task Force on the connection between psychiatric drugs and violence, suicide and murder, both gun related and otherwise?

Sophie

This British Human Trafficking Survivor Was Forced to Have Sex 25 Times a Night — But Now Fights Modern Slavery

“Sophie vanished for six months after going on holiday with her boyfriend. Sophie was just 24 when she travelled from Leeds to Italy to be with the man she believed was her best friend and boyfriend.

She thought she was just going on a week’s holiday. Instead, she vanished for six months.

Her boyfriend had tricked her, forcing her to begin working as a prostitute to earn money for him. He bullied her, beat her, and pressured her to have sex with strangers. Sophie, an alias, became what she never imagined she would.

After six months, Sophie managed to escape, and she now runs a survivor support programme for women in England who have been identified as having been trafficked.

There must be justice for the Yazidis.

On June 16, 2016, a United Nations human rights inquiry reported that ‘Genocide has occurred and is ongoing’ against the Yazidi community in Iraq. ‘Thousands of women and girls, some as young as nine years old, have been sold in slave markets. The Islamic State (ISIS) and its fighters hold them both in sexual slavery and in slavery,’ the report says, ‘with Yazidi women and girls being constantly sold, gifted and willed between fighters.’ The surviving Yazidi community has requested that the International Criminal Court (ICC) begin work in identifying the individuals responsible for the genocide. But until now the International Criminal Court could not intervene because the Genocide was committed in Iraq, which is not a state party to the Rome Statute. A total of 147 states are signatories of the Genocide Convention

and have committed to prevent and to punish acts of genocide. Many of them are also parties of the International Criminal Court and can fulfill their commitment to end the impunity for genocide. Join us in supporting brave Yazidis like Nadia Murad in asking the states parties of the Rome Statute and the Iraqi government to refer the Yazidi case to the ICC to hold ISIS accountable.

Sophie campaigns to raise the voices of those who have survived the sex trafficking industry, to remind those in the UK that sex trafficking isn't just something that happens far away. It happens to British people too, and on British streets.

This is Sophie's story.

‘Caz said, there's something you can do for me. There's something you can do to show me that you love me. I've got a debt that has to be paid. You are going to repay this debt for me. I will find you a place to work, on the streets. And then it suddenly struck me, almost like a physical blow, that the work in the streets he was talking about was prostitution.

‘It's hard to imagine what it's like to be totally under someone else's control. I didn't even think to question Caz's authority over me, and I believed him completely when he said, my word is law, you must do as I say. All I did think about was trying not to do anything that made him angry. Even the smallest, even the most apparently significant mistake, would send him into a rage. I was always frightened.

‘[One day] without warning, he flew across the room. He grabbed my throat and started banging my head against the tiled wall of the shower. I began to gasp as I tried to catch my breath. I was still spluttering when he grabbed my throat again, slamming my head back against the wall and shouting, you f***ing try and do anything and then you'll see what I'll do to you. If you try to go anywhere, or tell anyone, I'll kill you.

‘Surviving meant separating my mind from my body. If I thought about anything else, I just got upset and that made it harder for me to detach myself from what used to be my reality, but was now my past. What I wanted, and what I felt, didn't matter anymore, because my sole purpose had become to earn money for Caz.

‘I worked seven nights a week, from 8 in the evening until 5 or 6 in the morning. I would have an average of about 25 customers every night, and it wasn't long before

my spirit was crushed. I was so weary that nothing seemed to matter, and I didn't care whether I was alive or dead.

'I had customers of all ages, from early 20s to late 60s or even older. And some of them were good-looking, which I hadn't expected. I certainly wouldn't have imagined that some of them would be normal guys with girlfriends, or wives and children.

'I never, never got used to the fact that most of the men who picked me up didn't appear to consider it to be a big deal, and clearly had no sense of shame about it. Sometimes, a man would ask how old I was, and when I told him he'd say, ah, you're the same age as my daughter. Which seemed really creepy to me, but never appeared to bother the men at all. It was a bizarre and surreal world, and although nothing in it was familiar to me, nothing really surprised me either.

'My life had been reduced to a handful of basic functions. I slept, got up, ate, had sex with strangers, tried to dodge the police and avoid getting attacked by anyone, went home, gave all the money I'd earned to Caz. One day, when he was in one of his rare good moods, he told me he'd fallen in love with me the first time he saw me. How can you love me? What is there to love about me? I'm like a zombie. I don't speak except when I'm spoken to, I only smile when you tell me to smile. How can you love someone like that? But he just laughed and said, you're crazy woman. This is all in your head. And for a moment, I wondered if perhaps he really did love me, and I just couldn't see it because I was so used to believing I was un-loveable.

'It's easy to dismiss girls who work on the streets as deadbeats or drug addicts, without ever thinking about why they're working as prostitutes. And the truth is that many of them have been trafficked, and they work long, and miserable, and soul-destroying hours, for men who are cruel and violent. They're constantly afraid, not just because of what might be done to them if they don't do what they're told, but also because of the very real threats that are made against their families and the people they love.

'Robin from the Vice unit asked me, do you understand what's happened to you? That you've been trafficked? And strange as it may seem, that was the first time that I'd ever thought about it in those terms.

'I still think about him for some reason on most days. And I sometimes wonder if he's doing the same thing to other poor girls, and pray that he isn't. If I came face-to-face with Caz now, I'd still be frightened of him. But only because I've been

conditioned to fear him. I'm stronger than I used to be, and I'm not alone anymore, so I know he can't hurt me. And I think I'd have the strength to say, leave me alone.'

Following her experience, Sophie launched the [Sophie Hayes Foundation](#) in 2012, which provides support services to women and girls who have been trafficked.

Read more: [Scotland Is a Hotbed of Modern Slavery, Campaign Reveals](#)

Sophie's testimony is taken from her book '*Trafficked: My Story*', and was shared as part of an immersive audio-visual walking tour of London's red light district in Soho, in recognition of UK Anti-Slavery Day on October 18.

The event, organised by international women's rights organisation [Equality Now](#) , shared a collection of powerful first-hand narratives from three women, all of whom have personal experience of sex trafficking and commercial sex exploitation.

Interwoven with the women's narratives, are real comments left by men on a UK website where men who pay for sex go online to review the women they have had sex with.

Read more: [The UK Government Has Pledged £20M To Say, 'Enough Is Enough' to Modern Slavery](#)

The women's stories reveal a unique insight into the realities and emotional impact of the sex industry from a British perspective, either through being British citizens, or through being trafficked to the UK. [You can listen to the women's stories in full here.](#)

By telling their stories, Equality Now hopes to increase understanding in the UK, and enable the development of more effective policies and support services in England.

Global Citizen campaigns to achieve the Global Goals, including goal No.5 for gender equality. You can join us by taking action [here](#) , to help [Saveensure](#) equal rights for women and girls across the world." By [Imogen Calderwood](#) Oct. 18, 2017.

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<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/uk-human-trafficking-survivor-modern-slavery/>

Role of Civil Society

The Role of Civil Society in Accountability Systems

The role of civil society in accountability systems: A human rights perspective
Published in UNESCO - World Education Blog
Zama Neff

Executive Director, Children's Rights Division

“From girls in rural Afghanistan, to children in immigration detention on the US-Mexico border, to grandmothers fleeing war in Sri Lanka, throughout my career working on children's rights, I've heard firsthand the importance that education has for families and their children, even in the midst of the most desperate circumstances. These families expect their children to be able to access a quality education, and they have a right to do so.

In light of this, I welcome the launch of the new Global Education Monitoring Report, especially its focus on accountability, which is a key element in building equitable and quality education systems.

This blog explores how civil society can work to increase accountability, drawing on my experiences at Human Rights Watch, with the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, and as a human rights lawyer.

More than 120 Form II students prepare to sit their mock exams in a secondary school in Mwanza, northwestern Tanzania. © 2016 Elin Martínez/Human Rights Watch

How can civil society hold governments accountable for education?

Governments are responsible for ensuring that children receive an education. International law is very clear: primary education must be free and compulsory. Secondary education must be available and accessible without discrimination, and SDG 4 sets the target of free secondary education by 2030. Civil society has a crucial role in making sure that governments fulfil those obligations.

There are a number of methods that civil society can use, including monitoring, reporting, and advocating for change.

Monitoring government performance—ensuring they deliver on their promises

Independent civil society organizations like Human Rights Watch can review government commitments and compare that with the reality faced by children. While, globally, primary and secondary school enrollment numbers have improved significantly, many governments are still failing to guarantee education for all children. Human Rights Watch has termed this the “education deficit”: meaning the shortfall between what governments have committed to do and what children experience in education.

Almost all governments annually report on their progress towards their global development goals, but these are often based on government macro data, which may not show what’s really happening at the local level and who is being denied their right to education. For example, in South Africa, which has been a leader in promoting education and reported that it had reached universal primary education in 2015, we found that there were more than half a million children with disabilities out of school that year.

Civil society organizations can go deeper by conducting their investigations, going to the most remote villages or under-served slums or townships. We talk with children, with teachers, with government officials, and anyone else who has information. We then verify that information, and contrast what we’ve documented and observed with what governments report.

Our investigations in more than 30 countries have identified significant barriers affecting students, including:

The cost of going to school, especially at the secondary level

Discrimination and violence, including sexual violence

Targeted attacks on schools, teachers, and students

Child marriage and the worst forms of child labor

Being held in detention or other institutions.
Reporting findings to a wide audience

In addition to monitoring governments, civil society organizations need to report out what they find. This includes to the public, so that they can use the information to mobilize and hold their governments to account; to international accountability mechanisms; and of course to government officials themselves, who can use information to make changes. In this, the media is an important partner as their reach is often much greater than NGO reports. However, the media is changing: threats include a reduction in funding for international reporting, a loss of public trust, and government censorship. There are also a number of new opportunities for civil society groups to interact directly with the public, particularly with young people, through the rise of social media.

The GEM Report mentions NGO reports, or shadow or parallel reports, submitted to UN treaty bodies as mechanisms for holding governments to account. Human Rights Watch regularly writes parallel reports and parliamentary submissions and we have been glad to see that information frequently considered when we do.

For example, UN treaty bodies have helped to highlight attacks on schools and military use of schools in countries where these practices occur. Following our regular reports, the UN Committees overseeing child rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and discrimination against women, plus the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have called out more than 10 countries, including Kenya, India, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, for their practices and called on them to protect students, teachers and schools. Two bodies have specifically mentioned the Safe Schools Declaration in five country situations.

Advocating for policy and funding change

Finally, civil society should advocate for change, not just for more funding but for policies that reduce the education deficit. For example, after civil society groups drew attention to the problems facing Syrian children while attempting to get an education in Jordan, the Jordanian Education Ministry ordered schools to register Syrian children even when they lacked the government-issued “service cards” that were previously required to enroll and which many Syrian families could not get. The education ministry also lifted a ban on school enrollment for students who had been out of school for more than three years.

Accountability for education needs to reach across the entire government, not just Ministries of Education. This is something the GEM Report emphasizes: accountability must include identifying who is responsible. This could include, for example, Ministries of Defense who station troops in schools or Ministries of Interior whose refugee registration policies prevent refugee parents from registering and, therefore, taking their children to school without fear of arrest. At the same time, the fact that several parts of government are responsible for children not being in schools should not be an excuse to pass the buck.

The GEM report also emphasizes that donors and international mechanisms must be accountable for their aid commitments. International aid remains an essential part of global progress in education, especially in conflict-affected regions or in countries that go through protracted natural hazards. Human Rights Watch has urged donors for Syrian refugee education to be more transparent in reporting the delivery and timing of aid, and urged host countries to fix bottlenecks, lift restrictions that undermine Syrian children's access to school, and collect better enrollment data.

How can civil society be more effective?

To better hold governments and other actors to account and secure justice for those excluded from education, civil society organizations should strive for better coordination and partnerships across disciplines: this includes human rights and child protection groups, as well as education specialists. This may require joining forces to push back against government threats to independent civil society—as government threats against groups in Tanzania challenging the president's ban on schooling for pregnant girls and teen mothers so aptly highlights.

With 264 million children and young people still out of school, ending the education deficit means ensuring every child has a quality primary and secondary education without the financial and systemic obstacles many face today. Funding is important, but too often we see policy decisions by governments that maintain or even create the education deficit. Civil society has a crucial role to play in supporting progress in education, including by holding governments to account for tackling the numerous abuses that keep children out of school.” By Zama Neff. November 20, 2017.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/11/20/role-civil-society-accountability-systems-human-rights-perspective>

World Transformation Movement (WTM)

“The WORLD TRANSFORMATION MOVEMENT (WTM) is a global, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to transforming the individual, the human race and thus our world through bringing psychologically relieving biological understanding to the underlying problem in all human affairs of the human condition — which is our species’ extraordinary capacity for what has been called ‘good and evil’. In particular, the WTM recognises the breakthrough biological explanation of the human condition put forward by Australian biologist Jeremy Griffith in his various publications, especially his 2016 book *FREEDOM: The End Of The Human Condition*. Read more about the WTM as an organisation.

As these extracts show, solving the human condition makes possible the immediate transformation of every human’s life from a human-condition-afflicted, tortured state to a human-condition-free life of unimaginable excitement and happiness.

WTM Centres opening around the world

In February 2017 the first three WTM Centres outside of Sydney were launched — in Zambia, Austria and Melbourne.

[Download Video](#) | [Read/Print Transcript](#) (presented as a booklet titled *The Rising Sun*)

WTM Centres continue to open around the world:

Roz Bachl,
United Kingdom WTM Centre

Visit WTMCentreUK.com

Pete Sadler,
New Zealand WTM Centre

Visit WTMCentreNZ.com

James Moffett,
South African WTM Centre

Visit WTMSouthAfrica.com
More WTM Centres coming soon!

Become part of the only movement that can save the world

The great hope, faith and trust of the human race has been that one day all our tireless efforts of thought and enquiry would deliver the redeeming, reconciling and psychologically rehabilitating understanding of our species' 'good and evil' conflicted so-called human condition.

While there have been all manner of desperate false starts to a human-condition-free new world for humans, it is only through finding this actual understanding of the human condition that the real start to a transformed world for humans becomes possible — and, astonishing as it is, it is that dreamed-of understanding and the real transformation of us that it makes possible that has finally arrived!

There are two steps to this fabulous, world-saving transformation of your, and every other human's life that has finally become possible:

Step

1

Verify for yourself that this is the long sought-after redeeming explanation of the human condition.

Start by becoming a subscriber to our mailing list. It is free, requires no interaction from you, and the bi-weekly Explanatory and Inspirational WTM Emails that you receive will allow you to learn about the transforming explanation of the human condition that fully and compassionately explains every aspect of human life.

Undertake a short, free Introductory Course to overcome the ‘deaf effect’ difficulty of reading about the human condition. As will be explained, while we humans have lacked the redeeming explanation of our seemingly horrifically flawed human condition, we had no choice but to live in deep psychological denial of the subject. It follows then that when the relieving understanding of that condition arrives we will initially find the analysis difficult to read about. To overcome this ‘deaf effect’, short courses — that will be free — are being designed to help readers access these all-precious, transforming understandings.

Read *Transform Your Life And Save The World*. These 68 short pages represent a condensation of the contents of the definitive explanation of the human condition in *FREEDOM: The End Of The Human Condition*. As such, this small booklet provides the perfect introduction to *FREEDOM* and its understandings.

Watch as many Introductory Videos as you can. Here are some of our favourites.

The 10 min Explanation of
the Human Condition

The 1 hour Explanation of
the Human Condition

4.5 hour Full Introductory Video

Focus Group Intro Video

Savage Instincts Excuse – 3 parts

Read *FREEDOM: The End Of The Human Condition*, Jeremy Griffith’s masterpiece that contains everything you need to know about the human condition.

Talk, discuss, interact. It very much helps to talk to others about this transforming understanding of our lives — so talk or interact with us or others via any of these formats:

BLOG

Personal posts, latest news.
Engage & comment.

FORUM

Ask questions, meet
others, discuss and learn

CHAT

Live chat with a WTM
Member now

CALL Arrange a time to have a call with a WTM Member
WTM Social Media - SOCIAL MEDIA - Stay connected with daily posts on
these networks

EMAIL Please contact us for any assistance

Step 2

Take up the Transformed Way of Living that understanding of the human condition finally makes immediately possible for all humans — indeed, it is the only responsible way to live now.

As the understanding of the human condition reveals, we humans have necessarily had to artificially relieve ourselves of the psychological insecurity caused by our previously unexplained ‘good and evil’ conflicted human condition through winning as much power, fame, fortune and glory as we could — but now that we’ve found the redeeming biological explanation of our species’ fundamental goodness, all those artificial ways of reinforcing ourselves are necessarily obsoleted and replaced by an understanding-defended Transformed Way of Living for all humans. Understanding liberates us from insecurity; the truth sets us free.

Watch the 3 key Transformation videos in which Jeremy Griffith provides the simple, easy to follow path to the transformation of your life that this all-redeeming and all-relieving explanation of the human condition finally makes possible.

Become a Member of the WTM

Become a member of the World Transformation Movement. The relief, excitement, happiness and meaning that is now available is so spectacularly wonderful that every human from every corner of the world will, in the not too distant future, want to become a member of the World Transformation Movement. Love has come to the

world in its purest form, namely as relieving biological understanding of the human condition. So become a WTM Member now and help transform the world, because at last we really can!

Participate in WTM membership activities. Below the Transformation videos you will find extracts of the global meetings that are frequently held to talk about the exciting transformation of the world that understanding the human condition opens up, which you can join to share in all the excitement and fellowship of this fabulous new world community.

3 Videos to watch to become Transformed

Note, for the complete explanation of how understanding the human condition is able to immediately transform the lives of all humans, read chapter 9 of FREEDOM. Importantly, as is explained in chapters 9:5 and 9:6, the new transformed way of living is not another defer-to-a-deity religion, or another deluded, superficial, ‘think positive’, ‘everyone-just-be-kind-to-each-other-and-the-environment’ false start to a better world, but the real human-condition-understood-and-resolved transformation of our lives and thus world.

1. Introduction to the Transformation

Watch Jeremy Griffith describe the wonder and excitement of what is on offer for all humans now that the human condition is solved.

2. How to become Transformed

Watch a discussion in which Jeremy explains how easy it is to become transformed now that the human condition has been solved.

3. The Transformation of the World

Watch a 2 part talk about the dangerous politically correct false start to a transformed world, and this real human-condition-solved start.

Personal Transformation Affirmations

[Download Video](#) | [Read/Print Transcript](#)

[Participate in WTM Membership Activities](#)

[Participate in or simply observe our live global monthly meetings](#)

Each month all the WTM Centres get together to discuss the new human-condition-free world and help each other with their, and the world's, transformation.

Highlights of March 2017

Highlights of June 2017

Highlights of July 2017

Highlights of September 2017

More meetings will appear here soon

Have a personal Transformation call with WTM Members

Jimmy talking with
John & Tony

Christine talking with
Genevieve & Prue

More calls will
appear here soon

Want to have a talk like this with a WTM Member? It doesn't have to be recorded. [Click here](#) for more details.

Candid discussions that took place during the visit from the Zambian, Austrian and Melbourne WTM centres

Savage Instincts Excuse –
3 parts

Franklin's Home | Africa | 'The Arms Race'

Resignation | Unresigned 'Ships at Sea' – 2 videos

Psychological Stages That Accompany Ages

Jimmy's Transformation

& The Transformed State

Jeremy's Super-Ordered
Work Place

Effective Psychological Therapy

Jeremy's Children's Book
'A Perfect Life'!

More about the WTM, - Description of the WTM

While the Sydney World Transformation Centre, which has been established and run by 50 WTM founding members, lies at the heart of the WTM's operations, with the publication and promotion of the definitive description of the human condition and its transforming benefits in 'FREEDOM' in 2016, WTM membership is now rapidly growing worldwide, leading to the formation of more World Transformation Centres.

READ MORE

History of the WTM

Founded in 1983, the WTM has been pioneering the new, human-condition-resolved world for over 30 years. Click the link below to read a chronological documentation of the main events in the life of the WTM.

READ MORE

The WTM is a Charity

The WTM is a not-for-profit organisation that pursues the objectives set out in its Constitution, which include developing and promoting investigation into human evolution and biological development, with the aim of understanding and ameliorating the human condition. The WTM is a registered Australian charity, holds an Authority to Fundraise for Charitable Purposes, and is audited annually by an independent registered company auditor.

WTM Books and Products

WTM BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS, WHICH ARE ALL FREELY AVAILABLE

WTM POSTERS WHICH ARE FREELY AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD, AND OTHER WTM PRODUCTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

This is a scientific pursuit and was not created for profit. For this reason, all information and materials are provided free of charge.

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Victim Specialists Are on the Front Lines

Victim Specialists Are on the Front Lines in Battle Against Human Trafficking BY ERIN CALABRESE

“The FBI’s massive, multi-state operation rescuing 84 children and capturing 120 human trafficking suspects this week employed a key weapon: the victim specialists who help survivors bridge the gulf from captivity to freedom.

Once the guns are holstered and the suspects are handcuffed, specialists like Anne Darr are the first to speak to victims, helping them begin to navigate the long road to recovery and a normal life.

‘We always have a saying: We’ve seen everything,’ said Darr, a member of the FBI’s Denver office. ‘But that’s not always the case.’

Operation Cross Country: FBI Arrests 120 Human Traffickers

Darr is one of 153 victim specialists who work for the FBI across the country. She worked on Operation Cross Country XI, which culminated Wednesday in rescues and arrests across the country, from California to Florida. The sting was centered on apprehending the ‘pimps’ who run human trafficking rings.

‘This operation isn’t just about taking traffickers off the street,’ FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement. ‘It’s about making sure we offer help and a way out to these young victims who find themselves caught in a vicious cycle of abuse.’

Related: 84 Children Rescued, 120 Human Traffickers Arrested Across U.S., FBI Says

In Denver, FBI agents said they recovered sisters as young as 3 months old and 5 years old.

For Darr, who has nine years of service with the FBI and a total 13 years of trauma response advocacy work in law enforcement, said she believes her role is instrumental in helping survivors find their way back to some semblance of normalcy.

FBI victim specialist Anne Darr. Handout

‘We come from a social work perspective where we can really focus on that victim and make sure that we’re addressing all types of impacts that they’re facing,’ she said.

One of the main tasks of a victim specialist, Darr said, is trying to understand the logic of the bond victims often have with their captors. Similar to Stockholm Syndrome, where kidnappers develop an affinity for their captors, bonds can form between the trafficking victims and their pimps, she said.

Related: Mother Pleads to Close Loophole on Online Sex Trafficking

‘They identify with their captors and are compliant in their victimization, and, therefore, they see that kind of love is like a domestic violence wheel, where we need to find a way to break that cycle,’ she said.

It’s also critical for victim specialists to understand the strategies of traffickers who can be ‘so savvy in their manipulation tactics,’ Darr added. Sometimes human traffickers can appear as a boyfriend-type figure to their victims and dangle the promise of a better life — but the situation for those victims can become increasingly dangerous.

‘If they don’t follow the rules or if they don’t meet their nightly quota,’ then they suffer physical violence, Darr said.

In this frame grab from an FBI video, agents work inside a hotel room during Operation Cross Country XI. FBI

Other aggressive and humiliating tactics might include public-shaming techniques, such as shaving a victim's head when she doesn't get ready for a date on time or look how the pimp expects her to, according to Darr.

'I had a victim where [the pimp] stripped her naked in front of the entire group, threw her out in the snow, and poured cold water on her,' Darr said. 'I've seen pimps who

have put victims in animal cages and made them sit there all night. I have seen them lock them in a closet for three days at a time where they have not received any food or hygiene or any other needs.'

But the help and counseling that are afforded to victims gives them a chance to turn their lives around.

For Darr, the reward of watching the survivors she's worked with achieve regular life accomplishments, such as getting their first job, graduating from high school or landing a coveted scholarship for college, fuels her passion for the work.

She said, 'seeing the amount of resiliency and seeing our victims with empowerment, feeling like they gain control back and having a sense of clarity and the tools to move forward in order to be successful — I think that for me, resonates with me the most'."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/victim-specialists-are-frontlines-battle-against-human-trafficking-n812491>

What is Civil Society?

What Is Civil Society?

Civil society is a term that's increasingly popular with government ministers, academics, diplomats, aid-workers, international agencies, teachers, and a host of other professions. It's an idea that affects everyone in every nation.

What Is Civil Society? aims to discover what the term actually means. In a 12-part series, Rahul Sarnaik sets out to explore the many different aspects of the concept and investigates how it has been put into practice in both the developed and the developing worlds.

To listen to part one of What Is Civil Society? Please click here:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/highlights/010705_civil.shtml

Talk of A Civil Society

Civil society is a term that's cropping up more and more amongst those concerned with the changing shape of modern society.

Politicians talk about the needs of a civil society; in fact, next to the state and the market, advisors to the US Government have suggested that it is ‘the ultimate third way’ of governing a society.

In his inauguration speech US President George W Bush stated that:

‘A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness.’

Diplomats also talk of the value of a civil society. Addressing a conference recently UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan said:

‘The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organisations, the business community and civil society. In today’s world, we depend on each other.’

Even journalists reflect on the likelihood of a civil society; the British journal The Economist recently commented:

‘After decades of totalitarianism and centuries of autocracy, it would be silly to expect Russia to sprout a strong civil society.’

There may be a lot of talk about a civil society – but what does it actually mean?

Diversity

Consider a selection of images - anti-World Trade Organisation demonstrators clashing with the police in capital cities across the world; volunteer rescue-workers from the developed nations helping to save victims of the Gujarat earthquake.

Eco-warriors fighting to protect whales and dolphins; children being saved from a life of bonded labour in the carpet-factories of South and South-east Asia; millions of TV viewers across the world watching rock stars perform in Live Aid in 1985 to raise funds for famine-relief.

What they have in common is that they’re all aspects of civil society.

Definition

The paradox about civil society is that it covers a vast range of activities - yet it's very hard to define.

One description puts it quite succinctly:

‘A civil society is a public space between the state, the market and the ordinary household, in which people can debate and tackle action’.

So that could include any voluntary collective activity in which people combine to achieve change on a particular issue - but not political parties, even though civil society has a political dimension.

By this definition, civil society includes charities; neighbourhood self-help schemes; international bodies like the UN or the Red Cross; religious-based pressure-groups; human rights campaigns in repressive societies; and non-governmental organisations improving health, education, and living-standards in both the developed and developing nations.

Civil Society for All

A key feature of civil society is its universality - it affects everybody, in every nation on earth.

What Is Civil Society? looks back at how the concept originated around 2500 years ago in ancient Greece and Rome, how it developed in Europe during the Enlightenment, and how it's applied today across the globe.

The series also examines examples of civil society in action worldwide - at the street, community, national and international level, and on a host of different issues. And asks whether civil society is - as its supporters claim - an essential feature of a free society?

Does it provide a social structure in nations where government is non-existent or rudimentary? And if so, should criminal networks like the Mafia's of Colombia and Russia be considered as part of civil society?

Future Societies

It's also a term that we're all going to hear much more often in future.

But what role will civil society play in a world where globalisation and marketisation are driving social, economic and political change?

What impact will the rapidly changing field of information technology have on civil society? And how will phenomena such as the greenhouse effect, international migration, population growth, and the fight against HIV and Aids all shape our ideas of civil society in the future?

These are diverse issues, but they affect everyone, and they will continue to define the way that we all live.”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/highlights/010705_civil.shtml