

Wednesday, April 26th at 4:45PM  
Blow Hall - Board of Visitors Room

## Human Trafficking and Gender Inequality's Role in Impoverished and Developing Regions

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Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that exacerbates gender inequality and leads to increases in the level of poverty in a region. It is an emerging transnational phenomenon, however as human trafficking is a shadow market, it is extremely difficult to accurately collect concrete statistical data. Females are often more vulnerable to sexual exploitation than men, and the threat increases for women in developing regions. Trafficking can have a devastating effect on developing communities, making it much more difficult for impoverished regions to further develop. Poverty reduction is the first step to solving human trafficking, as it is the root cause of the problem. Giving educational and employment opportunities to women has been shown to decrease the levels of poverty in a region, as well as lead to further gender equality. Until gender inequality and human trafficking are solved, a cyclical pattern of poverty will remain and development will not adequately begin.