

## ***Where do the human trafficking statistics come from?***

According to the US GAO,\* the ‘estimates’ of victims of human trafficking ***are not based on any real evidence.***

***These statistics are wild guesses... made by people with an ideological agenda...***

***“such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable. The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data, and numerical discrepancies... There is also a considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking...”***

This is true of statistics both in the US and internationally... so why do organizations and individuals use *non scientific, unverifiable and questionable* estimates to generate concern for victims of trafficking?

## ***Who benefits from the use of hyper-inflated numbers?***

For starters, the many ‘faith based’ non profit organizations (the founders of which I call ‘victim pimps’) rely on the retelling of the sad stories of the stereotypical ‘sex trafficking victim’ to generate emotional responses in the gullible public- ***benefit financially from using numbers that they do not have to verify or confirm.*** If the media prints a guesstimated, hyper-inflated number of ‘victims,’ these non profit organizations feel confident that no one will question *their* use of unsubstantiated numbers because they are merely quoting the same baseless, factless statistics put forth by alleged journalists who quote the numbers they find on other prostitution abolitionist websites. If someone ever DOES question the numbers, they can always say they are merely citing the numbers that they found posted on some else’s website. ***There is no one to blame for spreading inaccurate information (lies) that generates so much money for so many.***

GAO: Government Accountability Office

***\*“The U.S. government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders annually. However, such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable. The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt because of methodological weaknesses, gaps in data, and numerical discrepancies. For example, the U.S. government’s estimate was developed by one person who did not document all his work, so **the estimate may not be replicable, casting doubt on its reliability.** Moreover, country data are not available, reliable, or comparable. There is also a **considerable discrepancy between the numbers of observed and estimated victims of human trafficking.** The U.S. government has not yet established an effective mechanism for estimating the number of victims or for conducting ongoing analysis of trafficking related data that resides within government entities.”***

***US GAO Report 2006 “Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-trafficking Efforts Abroad”***

***<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-06-825>***