Overview

- History of slavery
  - Gold Coast - major transporter to Trans Atlantic slave trade

- International Law
  - Slavery illegal in all countries (illegal to own and exercise complete control over another human being)

- Contemporary Slavery/Human Trafficking
  - Types of Trafficking

- Human Trafficking in Ghana

- Challenging Heights
  - International Partners
  - History
  - James Kofi Annan (Founder & Activist)
Human Trafficking

- The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, trading or receipt within and across national boarders by:
  - The use of threat, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or exploitation of vulnerability
  - Giving or receiving payments and benefits to achieve consent

_Ghana Human Trafficking Act, 2005_
Types of Trafficking

- Bonded Labor
- Forced Labor
- Sex Trafficking
- Child Labor

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Slaves are cheaper than in the past
2. Held for shorter periods of time
3. Slavery in different parts of the world are becoming more alike.
Human Trafficking in Ghana

- Trafficking inside Ghana is more prevalent than Transnational trafficking
  - Child Labor
    - Close correlations are found in child labor and trafficking practices in Ghana often associated with agriculture, street hawking, domestic servants and the fishing industry.
    - Fishing industry has highest number of trafficked children in Ghana
  - Religious enslavement
    - Trokosi- female virgin slave
Fishing Industry

- Recruitment
  - Youth between the ages of (5-15 years old)

- Regions prevalent for trafficking
  - Northern Volta region
  - Yeji, Buipe, Winneba, Senya, and Awutu

- Working Conditions
  - Long hours (seven days a week)
  - Forced to endure abuse
Trokosi

- Life long servitude
  - Virgin girls dedicated to religious shrine to atone for familial offense
- The practice is found primarily in Southeastern Ghana
- Conditions
  - Girls/ women are often stigmatized
  - Provide agricultural or domestic labor for priest at the shrine
  - Endure abuse

Everywoman- Practice of ‘Trokosi’ (video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edfTtpxL1h8
Challenging Heights

- **Mission** - To ensure a secured, protected and dignified future and life for children and youth by promoting their rights, education and health.

- Help children who have come back from the slavery and other forms of child labour through education.
  - Support families to keep children in school
  - Empower fishing communities and families to resist child slavery
  - Rescue exploited children from slavery

[http://www.challengingheights.org/](http://www.challengingheights.org/)
In 2009 Challenging Heights rescued 47 children from trafficking in the Volta Lake fishing region.

Another 27 survivors and at risk children received a variety of school support.

Families of the children were assisted as well with funds to build or strengthen business.

Challenging Heights also identified, withdrew and supported another 240 child labourers in the cocoa industry.
International Partners

- Global Fund for Children
- American Jewish World Service
- Free the Slaves
- African Women’s Development Fund
- Barclays Bank of Ghana
- Hovde Foundation
Challenging Heights History

- Started by James Kofi Annan in 2007
- Now has 3 administrative staff members and 10 program staff members
- Has received international attention such as Jason Mraz and CNN.
James Kofi Annan

“To whom much is given, much is expected”

- James gave up a lucrative job managing the Barclays Bank of Ghana to start Challenging Heights and help children in child slavery.
- Was a victim of child trafficking for six years.
- Escaped and worked his way to a Masters degree in the U.K.
- Winner of the 2008 4th International Frederick Douglas Purpose Freedom Award.
- Winner of the 2008 Educational Promoter of the Year Award from the World Association of NGOs.
- Winner of 2006 Barclay’s Chairman’s Awards.