

Chapter 10

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Combat Human Trafficking: Integrating AI-Based Innovations With Law Enforcement

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ABSTRACT

AI has a huge potential to address human trafficking through improved detection, prevention, and intervention strategies. AI can be empowered further, to be more dynamically engaged in the fight against traffickers, cybercrimes, and other threats. Utilizing machine learning algorithms, AI analyzes big data from social media, online ads, and travel data to recognize patterns and assess risk for trafficking victims. The hidden traffickers and victims may have been discovered more easily by using AI tools such as natural language processing and face recognition. And finally, AI can enhance collaboration among international law enforcement agencies, providing real-time data sharing and predictive analytics for more coordinated responses. The scope of anti-trafficking efforts can be greatly enhanced with similar tools and mechanisms offered by AI to scale efforts and prevention mechanisms for this global crisis.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights and involves the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion for such activities as commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or the removal of organs. And it is an umbrella term, which includes multiple forms of trafficking, from sex trafficking and labor trafficking to organ trafficking. Sex trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sexual purposes, whether as a prostitute or for pornography. Labor trafficking is the coerced work in something like agriculture, construction or domestic work. Human organ trafficking refers to the mafia-style hidden extraction of a human entity, often without their notice, where the human organ is replaced by replacement like or unsuitable organ (Khalifa & Sabry 2024).

Human trafficking is a problem of staggering proportions worldwide. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 40 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide at any given moment, and millions more fall victim to its consequences each year. Human trafficking is a global problem, according to continuing statements by the United Nations, and various NGOs, high rates being particularly evident in regions such as South East Asia, Eastern Europe and certain areas of Africa. Developed countries are not immune; trafficking occurs in both urban and rural areas and can be hiding in plain sight. So, the effects of human trafficking on its victims are, indeed, pervasive and lasting. Psychological: Survivors face acute trauma, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), etc. These mental health issues can arise due to prolonged abuse, isolation and a feeling of helplessness inflicted during their captivity. Victims also experience emotional pain, where feelings of shame, guilt, and worthlessness intensify their suffering (Li, 2024). It also discusses the potential ethical and legal issues with using AI to prevent trafficking, as well as providing frameworks for ensuring that the data collection is safely used and respects privacy and human rights. Victims may suffer abuse, malnutrition and exposure to dangerous working conditions that can lead to chronic health conditions. Victims can also suffer permanent ailments as a result of physical attacks or unsafe workplaces.

The impact of human trafficking goes beyond the immediate harm inflicted on victims. It is also an economic burden, with trafficking victims frequently exploited in low-wage, dangerous or illegal jobs. This leads not only to a perpetuation of poverty, but also a draining of legitimate economies by distorting labor markets. At a social level, human trafficking perpetuates a cycle of exploitation, vulnerability, and inequality, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities such as women, children, migrants, and ethnic minorities. It instills fear in and erodes rule of law among impacted communities. In addition, trafficking creates significant strain on legal systems and public services, which are ill-prepared to invest in the

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