

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A CYBERCRIME

*A Rational Choice Theory Perspective*

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

**45.8 MILLION**

people have been **victims** of human trafficking globally

**11 MILLION**

of these victims have been **children**

**75%**



of trafficked minors report being sold **online**

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of person for the purpose of **exploitation**"

"A form of modern-day slavery"

- Rhodes 2017

## CYBERCRIME & THE DARK WEB

Surface web → Deep web → **Dark web**

- **Open** to everyone
- What we use everyday

- 500x the size of the surface web
- **Restricted** access
- Legit purposes that require anonymity

- Purposefully **hidden**
- Makes illegal activity easier

The Internet provides quick, easy, remote **communication** methods

The dark web provides heightened **anonymity** through cryptocurrency, TOR, onion encryption, data obfuscation, and more

## RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

A criminological theory based on the assumptions that people are:

1. **Rational**
2. **Have free will**
3. **Have utilitarian beliefs**

Such that, people will reason their decisions to **maximize benefits** and **minimize costs**

Historically, this theory has been used to explain street crime, but it can be used to explain **cybercrime** as well

**The dark web provides a low risk / high reward environment for human traffickers to operate in due to its ease of communication and anonymity**