Economic globalization has resulted in increased migration of labor, some of it voluntary, some driven by economic necessity and/or political dislocation. In this movement of people, women and girls are the most vulnerable. They are in demand by receivers for domestic and sex work, regarded as dispensable by their families, and prized for their docility and compliancy by traffickers. The exact number of those trafficked is unknown. However, the International Labor Organization estimated that in 2005 at least 2.4 million people, half of them women, were trafficked. Trafficking in women and girls is a Human Rights issue of profound importance in the USA and India. Both democracies are committed to improving the lives of women. Both countries are senders and receivers of trafficked women and girls, a fact little understood by the general public, academics, and students.

Students taking HIS 381/WST 395 in Fall 2009 will have the opportunity to travel to India in January 2010 to research and advance their knowledge of human trafficking. This ten-day optional trip is NOT required for enrollment in HIS 381/WST 395. Participation in the India trip will be selective and limited to those students enrolled in the course.

The Office of International Education and Programs will administer the travel portion of this program, which will include planned visits to the Taj Mahal, Delhi, and other sites of importance in India. India is a 21st century economic and global power of over one billion people. The remainder of the program will take place in Kolkata.

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