

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

April 2012 Vol. 10 No. 4

This issue highlights the strengths and weaknesses of anti-human trafficking legislation in various countries.

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## Effectiveness of Global Human Trafficking Legislation

### The Victims

*"I, Tomas Miko (not his real name), came to Toronto in August 2009 to work for the Domotor family. The first two weeks were good, but then I was taken to a new residence where I had to sleep in the basement on a mattress. Six other men were there. We all were made to work many hours each day making tiles or doing stucco, but we were never paid. We could not use the toilet or shower in the house, but only at the construction site. Finally, I told another man at the worksite what was happening and he reported the situation to the police.*

*In January 2010 a police officer came to the door and asked us if we wanted to leave and go to a safe place to live. Everyone said, 'Yes!' For safety we had to move several times. On our own it was hard to find work because we could not speak English. We got \$200 a month from welfare and some of us worked at an Indian restaurant. We worked every day for 16 hours and got paid \$30.00 each. Our food barely lasted a month. Most of us had to see doctors to get pills to sleep because of nightmares.*

Victims cont. pg. 2

### The Traffickers



Photo source: The Hamilton Spectator

In March 2012, Ferenc Domotor age 49, the head of the largest proven human trafficking ring in Canadian history entered a guilty plea in a Hamilton, Ontario, courtroom on charges of conspiracy to commit human trafficking, being part of a criminal organization and coercing victims to mislead immigration authorities. His son, age 21, pled guilty to the same charges and his wife, age 41, pled guilty to coercing victims to mislead immigration authorities and welfare fraud exceeding \$5,000.

Domotor led the Canadian operations of a modern-day slave ring that targeted often-vulnerable men desperate for work in their hometown of Papa, Hungary. These men were promised good-paying jobs in the Domotor family stucco business and easier lives in Canada. Instead, they were threatened, coerced into falsely claiming refugee status and welfare, forced to work without pay, and lived like slaves with little food and no outside contact in their captor's basement.

Hamilton Case cont. pg. 2



## Awareness

### Victims *cont. from pg. 1*

*My family in Hungary has been threatened many times. My father will not allow my brothers and sisters to go to school for fear of safety. My father sleeps with a large piece of metal by his bed in case the traffickers break in.*

*If I go back to Hungary I know in a short time I will be harmed. I can only hope these people get a long sentence for what they have done to all the others."*

### Hamilton Case *cont. from pg. 1*

Four others pled guilty ahead of the family and three remain in jail, awaiting their court date. Because so many of the accused have entered pleas, the court will not have to undergo an estimated \$1-million renovation to a courtroom to accommodate the large number of accused in a jury trial.

In stark contrast to earlier court appearances where the courtroom was teeming with members of the extended Roma family, only the Domotors' eldest daughter appeared for support. A couple of the Domotors' victims appeared in court to watch their captors be sentenced. (<http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/684782--human-trafficking-kingpin-pleads-guilty>)

## Canadian Trafficking Case Spotlights Refugee System

The removal of Hungarian visitor visa requirements provided "the opportunity for the expansion of a criminal organization into Canada." The result was the 'Hamilton case', the largest human trafficking case in Canadian history. Thirteen members of an alleged Hungarian Roma criminal organization were arrested. The alleged criminal organization would recruit people from Hungary, pay for their airfare to Canada, have them claim refugee status, sign up for welfare and then work like slaves.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) took statements from 19 alleged victims, who described being forced to hand over their documentation, live in their captors' basements and work for little or no pay.

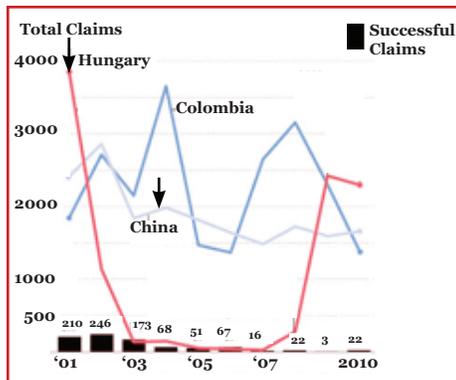
In 2001, Canada required Hungarians to apply for a visa before entering the country. This was in response to the large number of Hungarian refugee claims. But when Hungary entered the European Union, Canada lifted that visa requirement in 2008. Since then, Hungarians have been flocking to Canada to claim refugee status.

In 2007, 34 Hungarians claimed refugee status, and of the cases finalized, 43% were accepted as refugees. But in 2009, 2,423 Hungarians claimed refugee status. The refugee board was only able to get through 268, of which only 1% were accepted. Most cases are withdrawn or simply abandoned without notice or explanation. Hungary went from not making the list of top 10 countries that Canadian refugee claimants come from to ranking second

highest in 2009 and highest in 2010. In the first half of 2011, Hungary continued to dominate, with 1,600 refugee claimants referred to the board. Many of the claimants coming from Hungary said they were persecuted because they were Roma. Most of the victims and all of the accused in the ongoing human trafficking case are also Roma.

The Roma population of Hungary has long claimed persecution and there is clearly racial tension between Hungarian nationals and the gypsy group. However, some authorities believe that Hungarian claimants are simply trying to abuse Canada's immigration and refugee system. If truly in danger, people would not so easily abandon or withdraw their refugee claims and go back to Hungary.

Prosecutors of the 'Hamilton' case found that several of the accused human traffickers skipped out on criminal charges in Hungary when they came to Canada. But, in many cases, when the Hungarian court could not find or access a suspect after a handful of years pass, the charges were dissolved. This happened also with two alleged key members of the Roma criminal organization, who had criminal charges against them dropped in Hungary in 2006. This meant that (they) had status in Canada and were also free from any threat of deportation back to Hungary. It was shortly after these developments that the pair began to expand their alleged organization in Canada. (<http://www.thespec.com/news/crime/article/653197--human-trafficking-case-puts-spotlight-on-refugee-system>)



**Graph to left:** Colombia and China consistently rank among the top 10 sources of refugee claim requests to Canada. However, the number of annual Hungarian refugee claims has risen and fallen as visa requirements have changed. Hungary had 3800 claims in 2001. Then Canada imposed visa restrictions and claims fell to less than 20 in 2007. In 2008 Hungary joined the European Union and Canada dropped visa requirements. In 2009 and 2010 Hungary has more claims than from any other country.



## Awareness

### Canada: Debating Prostitution Laws

According to a March 26, 2012 ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeals, *'sex workers' should be allowed to conduct business in homes and brothels and hire security 'so long as the relationship is not exploitative'*. In its 132-page decision, the Court upheld a third law that effectively *'criminalizes street prostitution.'* The court stayed its judgment for 30 days to allow both sides time to appeal and suspended their ruling on brothels for one year to allow Parliament the chance to redraft legislation. The ruling gave 30 days before the amended *'living on the avails'* provision comes into force.

*"Prostitution is a controversial topic, one that provokes heartfelt debate about morality, equality, personal autonomy and public safety. It is not the court's role to engage in that debate,"* said the decision, adding that it was the panel's role to determine whether the provisions were unconstitutional. It is up to Parliament to respond with new legislation, the decision said.

After the ruling was released, Ontario's Attorney General said the province wants to study the prostitution decision. *"The matter may very well be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada."* Asked if he thought the Ontario public would accept brothels, the Attorney General replied, *"I somehow doubt it...that's only my personal opinion at this point in time. Our main concern is that people feel safe in their communities, feel safe in their homes, and that this kind of an issue may well need legislative action from the federal government,"* since the prostitution law is part of the Criminal Code of Canada. (<http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/article/1151925--prostitution-law-ontario-s-top-court-allows-brothels-but-soliciting-ruled-illegal>)

In December 2011 Winnipeg MP, Joy Smith, brought 2940 signatures on petitions to support her proposed bill, which asks that *'Parliament amend the Criminal Code to decriminalize the selling of sexual services and criminalize the purchasing of sexual services and provide support to those who desire to leave prostitution.'*

Smith's proposal is based on the 'Nordic model' (see below), which involves a public education program aimed at making it socially unacceptable to buy any sexual services and provision of a wide range of social services including housing, education, detox and income support to address the reality that poverty and desperation often drives women and children into the sex trade. (<http://www.joysmith.ca>)

### The Netherlands Model vs. the Sweden Model

In 2000, the **Netherlands** decriminalized the trade and began to enforce stringent regulation of sex work. The result has been a huge increase in the number of prostitutes in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands drug use, prostitution, organized crime and human trafficking continue to rise. *"Lover boys,"* young men who seduce young women, gang rape them, drug them and traffic them, are a phenomenon in the Netherlands. In 2008, the country's *National Centre Against Human Trafficking* listed 809 registered victims of human trafficking.

In 1999, **Sweden** adopted the **'Sex Purchase Act'**, which aimed to erase prostitution at its source: the sex buyer. Under the Act, whether in 'sex work' or trafficking, there is a criminal and a victim. The victim is the 'sex worker' (usually a woman) and the criminal the 'john' (usually a man). *"It is not reasonable,"* the act stresses, *"to criminalize the one that is, in*

*most cases, the weaker part whom is exploited by others who want to satisfy their own sexual drive."*

The result has been a huge decline in the number of prostitutes in Sweden. The attitude of Swedish men to buying sex has also changed. In 1996, 33% were in favor of criminalization. In 2008, 71% were in favor. Since Sweden introduced its laws, drug use and organized crime has also dropped, as has human trafficking. The last time a prostitute was murdered in Sweden was in 1989. (In Canada, which has a population roughly three times that of Sweden, 63 prostitutes were murdered from 1991 to 1994, 26 of them in British Columbia.)

Swedish penalties are tough. In Canada, sex buyers go to "john school" to be instructed on the evils of prostitution. If convicted of "communicating" they are rarely jailed. In Sweden, sex buyers get up to a year in jail and steep fines. Fines are based on the buyer's income on the day of the sex

purchase. (The highest penalty was handed out to a company director with an annual salary of about \$220,000, who was fined about \$10,000.) (<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Going+Dutch/5803952/story.html>)

The Canadian *'Charter of Rights and Freedoms'* guarantees to everyone 'liberty and security of person'. It ought not, *"guarantee men a right to the prostitution of women or a right to profit from the prostitution of others. The danger to women's security is due to the actions of men, who demand the sale of women's bodies ... It would be illogical and contrary to the principles of fundamental justice to decriminalize men's prostitution of women in order to protect women from those same men."*

(<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Backbench+aims+abolish+trade/5056661/story.html>)



## Awareness

### Ireland

A subversive criminal European ring is suspected of operating brothels and street prostitution in various parts of Ireland. The masterminds advertise through the Internet and local contacts. The women being victimized come from Romania, Brazil, Portugal, and other parts of Eastern Europe. They arrive with the promise of a job, but are then trafficked into a real human tragedy. 'Legitimate' tenants rent the apartments and then sublet the properties to the gangs.

In an effort to stem the growth of this underground industry, the *Immigrant Council of Ireland* (ICI), along with a myriad of groups, including those that work with women involved in prostitution, children and rape victims, have been campaigning for Ireland to adopt the Swedish approach by tackling the crucial link in women's exploitation – the demand for paid sex.

Under Irish law women working as prostitutes can be charged, as can pimps, for soliciting sex. But a man who frequents a prostitute does not face criminal charges. Under the new law those who pay for sex rather than those who sell it would be criminalized. Telephone records and e-mail messages of clients who contact prostitutes could be used to prosecute them.

Iceland and Norway have introduced the Swedish legislation in their own countries. (<http://www.limerickpost.ie/index.php/navigation-mainmenu-30/local-news/2835-city-prostitution-is-linked-to-european-ring.html>) (<http://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/editorial/modern-slavery--a-simple-way-to-hit-traffic-fickers-165903.html#ixzz1WcH2vxAW>) (<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/front-page/2011/0103/1224286669821.html>)

### France

Around 20,000 people are believed to be working as prostitutes in France. Statistics indicate that nine out of 10 prostitutes were victims of trafficking. Pimping is punishable with a prison sentence of up to seven years, with some 1,000 convictions annually.

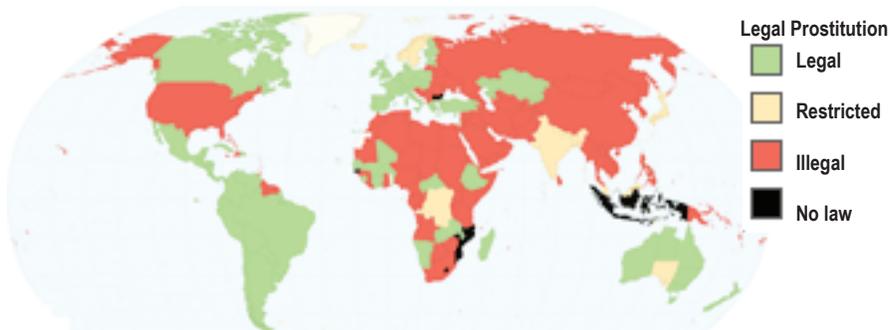
As of December 2011 France's parliament has backed a proposal to fight prostitution by making payment for sex a crime punishable by fines and prison. Six-month prison sentences and fines of 3,000 euros (\$4,000) are envisaged for clients of prostitutes.

The resolution said that France should seek "a society without prostitution" and that sex work "should in no case be designated as a professional activity". It urged abolition at a time when "prostitution seems to be becoming routine in Europe".

The head of the *Fondation Scelles*, which fights human trafficking and advocates criminalization said it remains unclear whether the bill would eventually be adopted. "Will the deputies who vote for the abolitionist resolution then vote for its concrete application? More than ever, it is necessary to clarify the French position."

Opponents drew a clear distinction between consensual prostitution and sexual trafficking. "If I thought that the prostitutes I know were being enslaved, I would no longer be a client," one demonstrator remarked. (<http://www.stopdemand.org/afaweso153418/CATID=1/ID=404/SID=667343846/admin=1/productdetails.html>)

The strong report of the committee "shows that the cultural stereotype of the French male's irrepressible sexual needs, enshrined in an archaic vision of French culture, can be opposed in the name of a revolutionary French vision of human dignity, equality and liberty." Malka Marcovich, author & historian. (In an article by Janice G. Raymond. <http://www.truth-out.org/under-new-law-france-would-no-longer-be-sexual-playground/1328824750>)



### International Human Trafficking Ring Busted

Nineteen people were detained in Finland, six in France and one in Belgium in February 2012 on suspicion of human trafficking. The 26-member criminal group, most of whom are Sri Lankan men and women, is suspected of arranging illegal entry to the European Union for dozens of Sri Lankans in 2010-2012.

The Gulf of Finland Coast Guard and the French border police spent a year investigating how the suspects organized illegal entry. The smuggling routes stretched from India to Finland through Dubai, Kenya, Tanzania and Turkey. The journey continued from Finland to France. Over 110 officials from Finland, France and Belgium took part in the operation. The profits from the crimes are suspected to be in the tens of thousands of Euros for each person illegally brought into the EU.

The investigation began in Finland, when an illegal entry case came to light at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport in December 2010. Two Sri Lankan women were being trafficked through Finland to France. ([http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2012/02/international\\_human\\_trafficking\\_ring\\_busted\\_3248253.html](http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2012/02/international_human_trafficking_ring_busted_3248253.html))



## Awareness

### Taiwan: Legalized Red-Light Zones

In 2011 Taiwan legalized the creation of red-light districts. Local governments were allowed to set up special penalty-free sex-trade zones, but outside of them prostitutes would still be fined, as would their clients and pimps.

In October 2011, women's rights groups held a press conference under the theme "When Will Structural Evil End?". They called on voters to reject those presidential and legislative candidates who supported the zoning bill. They charged that the Cabinet had essentially disregarded the views of all five municipalities in the country.

Case studies conducted by the *Garden of Hope Foundation* found that most teenage girls forced into prostitution in Taiwan were victims of poverty, domestic violence, incest, alcoholism or drugs. They were victims of bad policies, rising consumerism and poor support systems within family, educational, and social structures. Falling into prostitution because of poverty reflected the Taiwan government's incompetence and negligence. Rather than set up zones for prostitution, the women asserted that the government should insert a clause to penalize sex trade patrons instead of prostitutes.

The former law prohibited sex work on grounds that it adversely affects social norms. Patronization of prostitutes was not listed as an offense. ([http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news\\_detail.asp?pp\\_cat=10&art\\_id=116763&sid=34361577&con\\_type=1&d\\_str=20111107](http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=10&art_id=116763&sid=34361577&con_type=1&d_str=20111107)) ([http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews\\_Detail.aspx?Type=aALL&ID=201110210026](http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aALL&ID=201110210026))

### Israel Counters Demand

On a global scale, countries are more open to discussing measures to prevent human trafficking. Parts of these efforts involve finding ways to decrease prostitution – a form of violence and degradation against women and children, many of whom have been trafficked. As Israel evolves and grows, and as global attention to this issue intensifies – spurred on by North-South, wide-spread socio-economic disparities, in addition to endemic war and the emerging phenomena of climate change – Israel is forced to deal with immigration and, therefore, with human trafficking. Today, Israel has a staggering 15,000 women working in the prostitution industry, an estimated 5,000 of whom are minors.

For eight years ATZUM's (<http://atzum.org/>) *Task Force on Human Trafficking* worked, together with an Israeli law office, to engage the public and government agencies in confronting and eradicating modern slavery in Israel. It lobbied for reform in the areas of prevention, border closure, protection of escaped women, and prosecution of traffickers and pimps.



AZTUM put together the 'Women-To-Go' campaign, a powerful portrayal of prostitution in which women stood in store windows as objects to be purchased; organized 'CREATE', a conference for religious educators on trafficking and exploitation; and launched 'Project 119', a volunteer lobbying effort whereby individuals were assigned to members of Knesset to lobby for legislation proposing the criminalization of the purchase of sexual services.

On February 12, 2012, the *Ministerial Legislation Committee* of the *Israeli Knesset* passed this legislation, dealing a blow to the 'supply chain' for

sexual services in Israel and setting in place a proven deterrent (in countries such as Sweden, Norway, Iceland and most recently France) for human trafficking and prostitution. This decision represents a huge victory for Israel. The Israeli government made a statement that human beings are not for sale in our society, and that trafficking in sexual services is no longer a legitimate enterprise on our streets. Most importantly, women who are in this industry will know that the Israeli government is no longer turning a blind eye to their suffering and has resolved to put an end to this societal malady.

(<http://siachconversation.org/putting-an-end-to-prostitution-in-israel/>)

### Bulgaria

Bulgaria ranks third to fifth in Europe by the number of prostitutes, according to the *Risk Monitor Foundation*, which conducted a study on prostitution in Bulgaria and recommends legalization.

56% of survey respondents view prostitution as immoral; 23% as a profession; and 19% believe it is a crime. Half say poverty is the reason for someone to become a prostitute, while another 18% believe selling sex can lead to higher income. There are about 5,000 to 8,000 people practicing prostitution in Bulgaria each month – 90% are women, 5% are men, and 5% - transsexual. Roma are 70% of all prostitutes. There are also 3,700 people who are customers each month.

Prostitution is more "popular" in Bulgaria than in many other European countries, although it is run by organized crime groups similarly to Russia and the Ukraine.

Experts calculate that the average annual turnover on the "sex market" in Bulgaria is between BGN 270 M and BGN 430 M. They point out that there are four main official responses to prostitution across the globe – silent permission, decriminalization, legalization and criminalization. Bulgaria is in the first group with countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy and Spain. ([http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=133291](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=133291))



## Awareness

# New Slavery in England

A 48-year old unemployed Lithuanian, Gediminus Rekesius, was sitting in a park sipping coffee when a stranger asked, "Are you working?" No, he was not working. "Go to England; I'll get you a job and accommodations," the man promised. Rekesius traveled via minibus from Lithuania to London, where he was met by a Russian man and his Lithuanian wife. They took his passport.

Each morning he had a list of chores to perform around the Edmonton flat where the couple lived with their two young children. "For five months I asked when I would get a job, but all I did was clean their home. They were always sending me to the shop to buy them meals or things for the children. I felt if I said no, there would be big problems." He slept on a mattress in the living room. He ate his meals alone outside on a balcony. "They said, 'When you find a job, you will pay us for your room, but until then you will have to work around the house.'"

The Russian man, whose wife told the authorities she was a single mother and was claiming benefits, helped Rekesius open three bank accounts. "The Russian didn't work, but he drove a nice car, had nice clothes. Other Russians would come and visit him at the flat," Rekesius said. One day the Russian said, "We have to go to the bank to withdraw money; we have five hours." Actually the Russian and his accomplices were participants in a sophisticated fraud. £10,000 were transferred into Rekesius' account, which he was then forced to withdraw. It was clear that the gang had performed the operation before.

One night, as the gang celebrated another scam, he fled. He had no money, but a Lithuanian woman at a bus stop bought him a ticket to central London, where he stayed for more than a month before being taken in by the homeless charity, *Thames Reach*. Rekesius said he wanted others to learn from his story. "I want people to know what happened to me. I will find it hard to trust anyone again."

Not an isolated story, this is part of a disturbing new trend in which UK police and homeless charities receive weekly reports of eastern European men being exploited in the UK by criminal gangs, often from their home countries, who lure them in with offers of jobs, housing, or drink or drugs.

*Thames Reach* came across more than 20 cases of enforced slavery in the last couple of years. "In March we helped two Czech men who had been held against their will in a flat in Birmingham for two years. They were taken every day to a factory and had to work from seven in the morning to seven in the evening. If they argued with their captors, they endured horrendous beatings. One of them was handcuffed to a radiator; another was burnt with a pipe on his torso when he asked to send some money home." Four Hungarian men were forced to hand out leaflets and steal petrol from cars at night to pay the £20 cost of their accommodation.

They were permanently in debt to their captors and existed on a diet of Nutella sandwiches. "Their teeth were ruined," *Thames* staff said.

*Thames Reach* helped a Lithuanian woman who had paid £3,000 to a middleman to secure her a job in England. She worked on a farm in wet, freezing conditions. After months of picking onions in fields, her leg swelled up and surgeons were forced to remove a limb. She was told she would get an artificial limb, but because she was not entitled to benefits she could not stay in the country to have it fitted.

A Polish gang trafficked more than 200 people to the UK and used their identities to carry out an estimated £2m benefit fraud.

Homeless charities are calling on embassies to alert their citizens back home to the threat of exploitation.

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/nov/06/trafficking-britain-eastern-europe>)

By late 2011 thirty-one people had been arrested in relation to the scam, a two-year investigation by customs officers and Polish police. "It's the sheer diversity of the scammers that's troubling. We have seen people in the building industry; people in suits; people speaking in English accents; people with Eastern European accents, all targeting our clients. Four or five times we've had people try to push their way into the day center to target sleepers. It's astonishing that in 21st-century London this is going on."

Clarke fears the Olympics will see a significant increase in eastern European workers being exploited. "There's this myth, even with the economy as it is now, that people believe you can come to London and the streets are paved with gold. But unless you've got a firm offer of a job, don't come."



## Advocacy

### Iceland: 'Big Sister' Monitors Buyers of Prostitution

Police authorities admitted that they neither had the funds nor the personnel to fight prostitution, which they conclude is clearly thriving in Iceland despite it being illegal. So, in a press conference Icelandic women announced they would take steps to insure that Icelandic legislation on prostitution and human trafficking are followed, i.e. the buyer of prostitution but not the prostitute is prosecuted.

The women formed an underground movement called 'Stóra systir' ('Big Sister') and after three weeks of 'work' handed over a list to the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police containing 56 names, 117 telephone numbers and 29 e-mails of men who expressed interest in purchasing the services of prostitutes through the websites 'einkamal.is', 'mypurplerabbit.com', 'raudatorgid.is' and from classified ads offering 'massages' in the daily newspaper, *Fréttabladid*.

"We advertised at 'einkamal.is' and in the 'massage' columns of the papers. Our intent was to check the reaction," one spokesperson said. "But the demand proved extensive, so we expanded our investigation." One night a few of the movement's members all logged into 'einkamal.is' and asked their respondents to meet them outside an ATM in Mjódd in Reykjavík. They were supposed to identify themselves by carrying a copy of *Fréttabladid*. They wouldn't say whether they observed the respondents arriving at the meeting place.

They played the same game at a press conference, announcing that a 'model agency' was having a party at the same time and place. At least one man responded asking whether he could buy a girl at the party. The 'Big Sisters' said, even though the buyers of prostitution try to hide their

Iceland cont. pg. 8

## 'Free the Slaves' Announces 2012 Award Winners

To be honored as recipients of the Fourth Annual 'Free the Slaves' Freedom Awards are three amazing women. Two are former slaves who have dedicated their lives to helping others to freedom. One is a former government official who showed the world how to combat slavery at a national level.

All three winners will receive assistance from 'Free the Slaves' to support their work. They will visit the U.S. to inspire others in the anti-slavery movement.

### Frederick Douglass Award Winners:



**Timea Nagy** was a TV producer in Hungary, looking to raise quick funds for a show. She answered an ad to work temporarily in Canada. But when she arrived, she learned she had been tricked. After many months as a sex slave, she escaped and founded 'Walk With Me', a group that rescues sex trafficking victims, provides immediate support to survivors, and trains Canadian police to recognize and respond to sex slavery.



**Josefa Condori Quispe** left her small village in Peru at age 9 to work as a maid in Lima. After spending most of her childhood and adolescence as a house slave, she managed to get an education and escape the life of domestic servitude. She founded the group 'Yanapanakusun' to fight the root causes of slavery in Peru. She runs a residential shelter for young slavery survivors, providing medical treatment, education, psychological support and legal aid.

### William Wilberforce Award Winner:



**Ruth Vilela** was Brazil's Secretary of Labor inspector, and created the world's most innovative anti-slavery SWAT squad. The unit raids farms and sweatshops, freeing thousands of slaves each year. She also created the 'Dirty List', which quarantines companies where slavery is found. And she created the 'National Pact', prompting major companies to pledge that they will root-out slavery in their product supply chains.

For more information, go to: <http://www.freetheslaves.net>

## United Nations: Addressing Human Trafficking

Human trafficking has assumed greater prominence at the UN and among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the creation of an NGO 'Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons'. Formerly linked with the 'migration' interest group, the 'trafficking' NGO interest group's separate status attracted a diversity of other NGOs, resulting in expansion from eight persons to over 40. It has several subgroups under its umbrella, with UNANIMA International represented on the 'Demand' task force. The committee will work with the *UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons*. (Source: <http://www.unanima-international.org>)



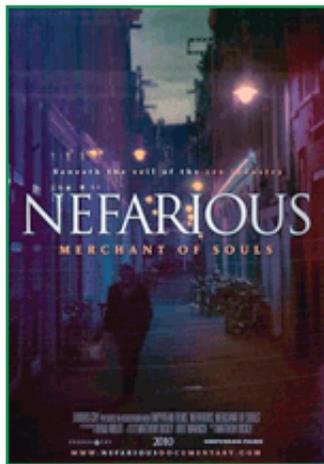
## Action

### 'Nefarious I: Merchant of Souls'

This hard-hitting documentary exposes the disturbing trends in modern sex slavery. Filmmaker Benjamin Nolot is currently producing three documentaries on modern sex slavery, called the 'Nefarious' documentary trilogy. He believes that media is the premier communication vehicle of the 21st century and vitally important in bringing exposure to the injustice of modern slavery.

Nolot has been on a four-year journey of discovery, which yielded over 800 hours of footage and a view into the closeted, heinous, nefarious underworld of human trafficking. He traveled across four continents, through 19 countries, and into dingy Cambodian karaoke bars, Amsterdam's infamous red-light district, Moldovan orphanages, legal Nevada brothels, and the street corners and alleyways of cities worldwide for an in-depth look at the fastest-growing organized crime industry in the world.

Regardless of nationality, victims are systematically stripped of their identity, battered into gruesome submission, and made to perform humiliating sexual acts on up to 40 strangers every night. Most are held in dingy apartments and brothels, forced to take heavy doses of illegal drugs, and monitored very closely. Victims are often thrown into such ghastly oppression at 13 years old. Some are abducted outright, while others are lured out of poverty, romantically seduced, or sold by their families.



From the very first scene, 'Nefarious' ushers you into the nightmare of sex slavery that hundreds of thousands experience daily. You'll see where slaves are sold (often in developed, affluent countries), where they work, and where they are confined. You'll hear first-hand interviews with real victims and traffickers, along with expert analysis from international humanitarian leaders.

On May 1, 2012 this six-time award winning documentary will be available on DVD and Blu-ray. 'Nefarious II: The Sexual Apocalypse' is in production and 'Nefarious III' will be announced.

(<http://nefariousdocumentary.com/>)

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline  
National Human Trafficking  
Resource Center  
1.888.3737.888**

#### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

##### **U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report 2011 - Canada**

<http://canada.usembassy.gov/key-reports/trafficking-in-persons-report/2011-trafficking-in-persons-report-canada-chapter.html>

##### **Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons Anti-Trafficking Poster (in 14 languages warning of Canadian laws)**

<http://www.international.gc.ca/crime/human-traf-personne.aspx>

##### **Free the Slaves**

<http://www.freetheslaves.net>

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identities, their computer skills vary and it is usually easy to find out who they are. "We are good at what we do and we have former prostitute assistants, who teach us the 'industry's lingo'."

At the press conference a few conversations between the movement's members and buyers of 'prostitutes' were played. One was between a 48-year-old man and a woman whom he took to be 15, which made him all the more interested in buying her services.

The 'Big Sister' movement is demanding that current laws are complied with, but also that web sites and porn clubs be shut down, and that the publication of ads for prostitution in the media in all forms be stopped. "No one is safe now; 'Big Sister' is everywhere", one spokesperson warned. ([http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily\\_news/Big\\_Sister\\_Watches\\_Buyers\\_of\\_Prostitution\\_in\\_Iceland\\_o\\_383393.news.aspx](http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/Big_Sister_Watches_Buyers_of_Prostitution_in_Iceland_o_383393.news.aspx))

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

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To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: [jeansds2010@yahoo.com](mailto:jeansds2010@yahoo.com)  
Editing and Layout: *Jean Schaffer, SDS*