

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

September 2012 Vol. 10 No. 9

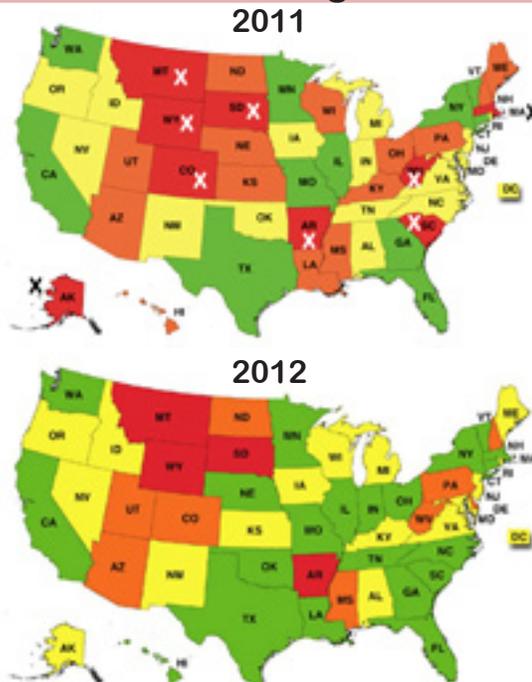
This issue highlights legislation in place or needed to effectively address human trafficking and features efforts on the part of some of the 'Stop Trafficking' co-sponsor groups.

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- Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City
- Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, MN
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, Prov. of USA & Canada
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, N. / S. Amer. Prov.s
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union USA

Polaris Project Ranking of State Laws Against Human Trafficking



Tier Descriptors

Tier 1 (Green: 7-10 points): State has passed significant laws to combat human trafficking, and should continue to take steps to improve and implement its laws.

Tier 2 (Yellow: 5-6): State has passed numerous laws to combat human trafficking, and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws.

Tier 3 (Orange: 3-4): State has made nominal efforts to pass laws to combat human trafficking, and should

take major steps to improve and implement its laws.

Tier 4 (Red: 0-2): These "Faltering Four" states have not made nominal efforts to enact a basic legal framework to combat human trafficking, and should actively work to improve their laws.

Note: The 10 categories are not exhaustive of all the important legislation that helps combat human trafficking in a given state. The ratings used to evaluate states do not assess the effectiveness or implementation of these laws, nor the anti-trafficking efforts of task forces, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, service providers, and advocates in the state.

To take action regarding federal/state legislation, go to 'Legislative Actions' on pg. 7, col. 3.

State Ratings Statistics

- 28 states (55%) passed new laws to fight human trafficking since 2011.
- As of July 31, 2012, 21 states are now rated in Tier 1 (7+ pts), up from 11 states in 2011. WA received 11 pts, the most of any state.
- Four states are "Most Improved" (MA increased by 12 pts, SC by 8 pts, WV by 6 pts, and OH by 5 pts).
- Four states -- the "Faltering Four" -- are now rated in Tier 4 (WY, AK, MT, and SD). In 2011, 9 states were in the bottom tier -- the "Nine Lagging Behind."
- WY has yet to pass any human trafficking law and received -2 pts, the lowest number of any state.

State Legislation cont. pg. 2



Awareness

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Federal Legislation Not Yet Enacted

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2011 (S. 1301)

The TVPA, introduced in 2000, greatly increased America's efforts to protect victims, assist survivors, improve prevention methods, and successfully prosecute traffickers. The TVPA was reauthorized three times by bipartisan majorities, but was allowed to expire in September 2011. Some of the provisions included in S. 1301 that would better protect victims:

- Create programs to help foreign governments investigate labor recruitment centers where trafficking victims may be recruited;
- Encourage the distribution and posting of the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center* hotline number within federal agencies, as well as by states;
- Create programs to assist minor victims of sex trafficking through grant programs to states; and
- Prohibit the provision of peacekeeping operation funds to countries that use child soldiers.

Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act (H.R. 2759)

From cotton to chocolate, we buy products that result from the use of child and forced labor without even knowing it. H.R. 2759 requires companies with a minimum of \$100 million in income to report the measures they take to address slavery within their business operations to the Securities and Exchange Commission and on their websites.

Although the bill doesn't require organizations to take action against slavery, it opens the door for competition to improve standards and prac-

tices by making the public aware of which companies are taking action to combat slavery – and which ones are not. Rather than subject businesses to confusing and often conflicting state laws, H.R. 2759 would establish clear requirements that would apply equally to companies across the country.

Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act (H.R. 2730)

Shockingly, while children as young as twelve have become victims of human trafficking in the U.S., very few law enforcement and child welfare agencies have adequate training and resources to support these children's unique needs. H.R. 2730 would strengthen the child welfare approach to child trafficking:

- Provide child welfare employees with training and guidance on how to identify, document, educate and counsel children at risk;
- Ensure that victims are placed in homes with sufficient capacity to meet their needs including mental health counseling and security;
- Improve data collection by adding "human trafficking" to the current child welfare reporting system.

H.R. 2730 establishes a strong base for welfare agents and law enforcement to provide the support and care that child trafficking victims need.

End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act of 2012 (H.R. 4259/S. 2234)

Recognizing that human trafficking can take place anywhere, the *End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act* aims to prevent human trafficking that may occur through U.S. government contractors and subcontractors. This act would require an

agency that is entering into a grant or agreement of more than \$1,000,000 that will take place primarily overseas to certify that the recipient of the award has implemented a plan and procedures to prevent human trafficking, and verify that the recipient and subgrantees are not engaged in human trafficking related activities. This act would also expand fraud in foreign labor contracting to include work that takes place outside of the U.S.

Human Trafficking Reporting Act (H.R. 2982)

In an effort to better document the crime of human trafficking, the *Human Trafficking Reporting Act* (HR 2982) requires states receiving federal funding through the *Bureau of Justice Assistance* and *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance* programs to provide information about arrests and prosecution of the crime. The legislation also amends the *Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act* of 1968 to include severe forms of human trafficking in the definition of Part I "violent crimes," ensuring that statistics on the crime of human trafficking will be compiled and made available through the *Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report*.

State Legislation

cont. from pg. 1

- 17 states (34%) increased their rating by at least one tier since 2011.
- In 2007 only 28 states had anti-trafficking criminal statutes. As of July 31, 2012, the number of states with anti-trafficking criminal statutes, including the District of Columbia, has grown to 48 for sex trafficking offenses and 50 for labor trafficking offenses.



Awareness

'Anti-Porn: The Resurgence of Anti-Pornography Feminism'

Written by Julia Long, this book examines the social problems porn can cause. It starts with a history of modern 'pro- & anti-porn' political stances before examining the ways in which the new feminist arguments and campaigns around pornography are articulated, deployed and received. Drawing on original, ethnographic research, it provides an in-depth analysis of the campaign groups challenging the pornography industry today, as well as some eye-opening facts about the damage porn can do to women, even those outside the industry, and therefore to society as a whole. This unique and inspiring book explains the powerful comeback of anti-porn feminism and controversially challenges liberal perspectives and the mainstreaming of a pornographic culture that threatens to change the very nature of our intimate relationships.

Published by Zed Books, it was released Sept. 13, 2012 and is priced £14.99/\$29.95, ISBN 9781780320250. For more information or to order, contact Ruvani de Silva at: ruvani.de_silva@zedbooks.net

Reviews by leading anti-pornography experts follow:

'At last a book that tells the truth about the radical feminist fight against the misogynist porn industry, and the bravery of women everywhere who organize against these predatory capitalists... This book is a must for every person who is fed up with the objectification of women's bodies, and

wants to take back our culture from the pornographers.' Prof. Gail Dines, Wheelock College, Boston, *founding member of Stop Porn Culture!* and author of *Pornland: How Porn Has Hijacked Our Sexuality*.

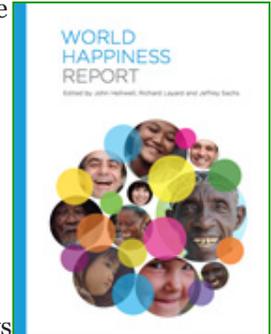
'This book is a very important and badly needed antidote to the celebratory literature on pornography within academe and even in gender studies. It shows that for women at work, in their relationships, in public space, pornography is not just 'representation' but has hugely destructive effects... It gives fascinating insights into the motivations of the brave and passionate young women now challenging this harmful practice, and how activism against pornography can be effective. The style is eloquent and clear and the book is a pleasure to read.' Sheila Jeffreys, Prof., School of Social and Pol. Studies, Univ. of Melbourne.

'In this lucid and engaging account, Long gives the feminist anti-pornography movement the respect it deserves, putting it in a broader historical, philosophical, and social context, and avoiding common smears and oversimplifications.' Rebecca Whisnant, Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy, Univ. of Dayton and author of *Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography*

'Those of us who understand that pornography is women hating and degrading of human sexuality, but are lucky enough to see little of it, need this book. It describes clearly how society has become more pornified and pornography more violent. And depressingly how the pornography industry has become globalised. But it also describes a new wave of activism of women against pornography which has to be part of our struggle to build a more decent and dignified way of life for all of us.' Rt. Hon. Clare Short, member of UK Parliament until 2010 and UK Secretary of State for International Development (1997-2003).

World Happiness Assessed

The first ever 'World Happiness Report' was commissioned for the April 2012 UN Conference on Happiness by the UN General Assembly. The report, published by the



Earth Institute, reflects a new worldwide demand for more attention to happiness and absence of misery as criteria for government policy. It reviews

the state of happiness in the world and shows how the new science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness.

The happiest countries in the world are all in Northern Europe (Denmark, Norway, Finland, Netherlands). Their average life evaluation score is 7.6 on a 0-to-10 scale. The least happy countries are all poor countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Togo, Benin, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone) with average life evaluation scores of 3.4.

But it is not just wealth that makes people happy: Political freedom, strong social networks and an absence of corruption are together more important than income in explaining well-being differences between the top and bottom countries. At the individual level, good mental and physical health, someone to count on, job security and stable families are crucial.

The report lists factors that measure how happy people are with their lives.

- Happier countries tend to be richer countries. But more important for happiness than income are social factors like the strength of social support, the absence of corruption, and the degree of personal freedom.
- As living standards have risen, happiness has increased in some countries, but not in others (eg., U.S.).
- Unemployment causes as much unhappiness as bereavement or separation. At work, job security and good

Happiness Report cont. pg. 7



Advocacy

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

The *Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word* (CCVI) are members of the *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility* (ICCR), which works to combat human trafficking.

The ICCR members have focused on child sex tourism, modern day slavery in supply chains, and have challenged corporations to exert leadership in stemming human trafficking.

“Because human trafficking is so egregious and pervasive, companies need to go beyond individual initiatives to partner with other industry leaders and non-governmental organizations in multi-stakeholder initiatives and public-private partnerships that are actively confronting this issue.” (From the ICCR Investor Statement)

The CCVI Sisters also serve on the Houston, TX *Rescue and Restore Coalition* and support it in their educational and community efforts.



The CCVI Health System, *Christus Health*, is working on a digital program to educate all the System

Associates about human trafficking.

For more detailed information, contact Margaret Bulmer at the CCVI Office of Social Concerns at: mbulmer@ccvi-vdm.org

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA



The *Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA* (CSJ-O) are active members of the *Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force* (<http://www.egovlink.com/ochumantrafficking/>). Annually during anti-slavery month they and other participating anti-slavery organizations promote public walks through the LA garment and jewelry districts, engaging street vendors, shop workers and people on the street with information about human trafficking, including how to recognize and report victims.

“We participate in walks with many other religious congregations of Sisters because we want to raise awareness about modern-day slavery,” explained Maria Elena Perales, justice coordinator for CSJ-O. *“We hear about these things happening in other parts of the world like Asia and Africa, but we never think about it being here locally, especially in Orange County,”* Perales pointed out. *“But there is slave labor taking place here among domestic workers and sex trafficking in enclosed communities.”*

The CSJ-O sisters support several shelters, in Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties, that offer mentoring and life skills to survivors of slavery.

Sisters of St. Agnes

The *Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes* (CSA) have been actively involved in anti-human trafficking efforts for many years. As members of *Unanima International* (UI) since 2001, they are involved in the UI ‘*Stop the Demand*’ Campaign, which educates on men’s role in furthering/stopping human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children.



In 2007 the CSAs took a corporate stance against

human trafficking and have published educational materials, as well as operate a lending library of materials. In 2011 they, along with 10 other congregations of religious, were actively involved in efforts to prevent trafficking during the 2012 Super Bowl in Indianapolis, IN. They worked actively to educate hotel management about the signs of commercial sexual exploitation and the role of hotels in reporting it. The CSAs are members of the *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility*. As such they have been instrumental in raising awareness about the role of business in promoting/solving global labor trafficking.

The CSAs also work at prevention of human trafficking by supporting an active sewing project in Tanzania for AIDS orphans that enables these young people to make a living from the sale of their products. *“CSAs have been concerned about vulnerable women throughout their history”*, said the CSA Justice Office representative, Stella Storch OP. *“The sisters began Leo House in New York City in the 1800s to provide a safe place for women to stay. It’s just a part of who the CSAs are.”*



Advocacy

5 Religious of the Good Shepherd

Located in 67 countries on five continents the *Good Shepherd Sisters'* (RGS) efforts on behalf of human trafficking have a global reach. Some

of the RGS strategic efforts to integrate direct service ministries with attempts at systemic change in the structures of society include: gaining NGO status at the UN with special consultative status on ECOSOC;

establishing Peace and Justice Offices on the international level and regional and national Peace and Justice networks across the Congregation; setting up a National Advocacy Center in Washington, DC, which works specifically on U.S. anti-trafficking legislation along with other social and economic issues; setting up income-generating and micro-credit projects for women in developing countries; and networking and collaborating with a host of organizations on specific issues including human trafficking.

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand is a network of organizations and projects conducted by the Good Shepherd Sisters and mission partners throughout Australia and New Zealand. In 2012 they released a report entitled, *Hidden Exploitation: Women in forced labour, marriage and migration*. It identified gaps and emerging issues in labor rights for women and girls, particularly those in transit, forced to migrate, or who had been trafficked. The Report looked at women in precarious employment; children; international students; indigenous women and girls; and Australia's Fair Work Act.



The Report is the first Australian study to expose forced and servile marriage among vulnerable women. A forced marriage occurs when one or both parties to the marriage have not given free and full consent. In a servile marriage one or both parties is treated like a 'chattel', where they are either bought, transferred or inherited.

Of the 24 far-reaching recommendations in the Report, those in regard to forced and servile marriage, include:

- Little is known about patterns of forced marriage in Australia and accurate data is difficult to obtain.
- Forced marriage is a hidden practice located within families and family obligations.
- Anecdotal reports of forced marriage are common. Research to investigate the nature and extent of forced marriage in Australia is needed.
- Recent court cases illustrate that young people in Australia have been faced with the prospect of being forced into marriage in countries outside Australia.
- Australian citizens are not the only people to seek protection from being forced to marry abroad. Women who fear being subjected to forced marriage abroad have successfully sought protection visas in Australia arguing that they would be forced to marry if returned to their country of origin.
- Forced marriage is an area that clearly requires cultural sensitivity and community consultation. But it is critical that any response has the safety and well-being of the person at risk as the main focus.
- In some instances the extent of coercion

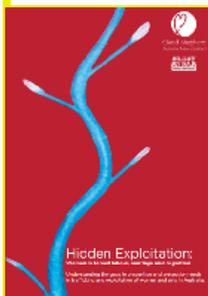
may be so serious that the conduct itself may be appropriately characterized as the kind of conduct that should be framed within a criminal justice response.

- On the other hand, the criminal law may not necessarily be the best response or the kind of response sought by a woman living in a forced marriage. For these reasons, community consultation is essential to agree on the balance between civil protection and criminal sanctions.

The Report states that the following principles should underpin proposed reform on forced and servile marriage:

- Need for community engagement and education.
- Additional immigration and emigration safeguards to prevent forced and servile marriage.
- Systemic service provider coordination and training.
- Obligation to identify and support women and children, who are victims of forced and servile marriages.
- Civil penalties to empower and protect women and children.
- Criminal penalties to deter and prosecute offenders.

Helene Hayes RGS interviewed victims of human trafficking, exploring what the women's lives were like before and after being trafficked. Her research was conducted in Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Belgium, France, Italy, the U.S. and Saipan. Her findings will be recounted in a book she is writing, in which she will explore factors that promoted the trafficking of these women: the globalization and the feminization of poverty, migration, and survival; the role of 'demand' in the sex industry; the impact of gender inequality; the infiltration of organized crime; the phenomenon of war-torn and destabilized countries such as Eastern Europe being drawn into human trafficking.





6

Advocacy

Sisters of Bon Secours

The *Sisters of Bon Secours* are members of *Unanima International* (UI), a non-governmental organization (NGO) with membership status in the *United Nations*.

As a global community, with health care and outreach presence in the U.S., France, Ireland, England, Scotland, and Peru, the *Sisters of Bon Secours* are able to share information with coalition members regarding health care issues in these countries as well as the health-related family services available to support the poor and destitute.

Sr. Katherine Tierney, a Bon Secours Sister from Ireland, was asked to represent Ireland in *Unanima International* (UI). Founded in 2002 by sisters from



seven religious congregations who believed they could make a difference by working collaboratively, UI today numbers over 16,000 members in thirteen countries. The UI coalition is able to bring collective expertise and concerns of their members to the UN. They focus on the economic and social advancement of all people with a special emphasis on women and children in poverty; immigrants and refugees; and the welfare of the planet.

In Ireland Sr. Katherine, with representatives from various women's groups, social workers, teachers, and others, formed the group "*Stop Trafficking*". The main work of "*Stop Trafficking*" is creating awareness. They gain advice through the police and through *Ruhama*. Established in 1989, *Ruhama* is a Dublin-based

NGO which works on a national level with women affected by prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Ireland is an entry point to Europe for criminals trafficking women and children. Some arrests have been made, but the awareness program continues through meetings, letters, pressure put on political representatives, information leaflets, car stickers, and posters. In fact, every communication means available in the electronic age is being utilized.

The information received by the *Bon Secours* sisters from UI and *Ruhama* is explained and distributed at every public meeting on trafficking. Since 2007, a yearly conference on different aspects of '*Violence against Women*' has been hosted in Tralee. "*Until sex trafficking 'buyers' are prosecuted, the 'Stop Trafficking' campaign continues,*" says S. Katherine. S. Katherine is a member of the Peace and Justice Committee of the Congregation of Bon Secours. (<http://bonsecoursvocations.org/category/news/publications/>)

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

The *Holy Names Sisters* (SNJM) are active in anti-trafficking efforts throughout their Congregation. In Brazil the SNJMs participate in the Brazilian Religious Conference's national network against trafficking (*Rede: Um Grito Pela Vida*), where the main focus is the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016, both in Rio de Janeiro. Campaigns are being planned to raise citizen awareness, in partnership with government and civic organizations and NGOs. *Rede* hopes to have the Brazilian Bishops Conference (CNBB) use the theme of trafficking for the Lenten 2013 or 2014 *Fraternity*

Campaign, since through that millions of Brazilians would be informed about trafficking and would take an active part in the campaigns.

Among many efforts in the U.S. SNJMs are active in a STOP SLAVERY Coalition



of women religious in northern CA that is working to prevent human trafficking at the America Cup Race, which will take place in the San Francisco Bay area in 2013. They are modeling their efforts on what was done in Indianapolis during the 2012 Super Bowl. Through a member of the SF Human Rights Commission, they have funneled these plans to representatives of SF City Departments, an organizer from the America's Cup, two police units (sex crimes and anti-trafficking), a representative from the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Director of the Human Rights Commission.

SNJMs are active in the Canadian Windsor/Essex County Human Trafficking Action Group, which has helped 105 persons who came forward for immigration solutions and resettlement in the civic community. The vast majority of those had been trafficked into the farming and fishing industry in Essex County. Four young Canadian-born women, trafficked into prostitution as teenagers, came forward for the resettlement services, as well.

In Lesotho, Africa the SNJMs have made parents and children aware of the dangers of meeting and trusting people through cell phone and Internet use. Sisters in Manitoba, Peru, and Quebec are actively raising awareness. The SNJMs also employ creative actions regularly throughout their sponsored educational institutions. (<http://www.snjm.org/cong/EnglishContent/CongregationalLife/ANTI-TRAFFICKING2012/A-Trepdet-2012juneeng.pdf>)



Action

Franciscan Sisters of Peace

The *Franciscan Sisters of Peace* (FSP) from New York recently took a corporate stand as a congregation to work against human trafficking. Their statement follows.



“We, the **Franciscan Sisters of Peace**, proclaim and live the gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. Continually called to be sisters to all people and in harmony with all creation, we commit ourselves to supporting the advancement of human rights and the elimination of the exploitation of the poor.

Therefore, we stand in opposition to all forms of human trafficking. We pledge ourselves to:

- pray to end the injustice of human trafficking;
- educate ourselves and others;
- collaborate with organizations to eliminate all forms of trafficking;
- support efforts to assist trafficking victims and survivors;
- use our power as consumers to work against incentives for trafficking.”

The FSP are members of the *New York Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of Persons* (NY-CRC-STOP), a partnership of 34 congregations of religious in the New York Archdiocese with the goal of working together to confront human trafficking in the New York city area.

(Source: Regina Holtz FSP)

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

Bakhita Initiative

Margaret Nacke CSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia Kansas, is creating a Internet database entitled, *‘Bakhita Initiative: U.S. Catholic Sisters United Against Human Trafficking’*.

“Once it is operational it will facilitate exchanging ideas, resources, information, as well as consolidate ways to assist victims nationally and globally,” S. Margaret explained. “There is so much being done, so we don’t want to duplicate efforts. At the same time we want to utilize our resources as effectively as possible. The database will help.”



The *‘Bakhita Initiative’* is named in honor of a liberated slave, Josephine Bakhita, declared a saint by the Catholic Church in 2000.

She is considered the “*Patroness of Hope*,” especially for victims and survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

Born in about 1869 in southern Sudan, St. Josephine was kidnapped at age seven and sold into slavery. After some years of rough treatment, she was bought by the Italian consul in Khartoum and eventually was sent to northern Italy. There, she met the *Canossian Daughters of Charity*. An Italian judge ruled her free and in 1893 she joined the Canossians. St. Josephine lived an exemplary religious life. She died in 1947, having stunned people with the depth of her relationship with Jesus.

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

Unanima International
<http://www.unanima-international.org>

World Happiness Report
<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2960>

Polaris Project
<http://www.polarisproject.org>

Tell Your Congressional Representatives to Act on Anti-Trafficking Legislation.

For steps to take, go to:
<http://www.polarisproject.org/take-action/advocate/627-tell-congress-to-act-on-critical-anti-trafficking-legislation-now>

Your State

To get more specific information about your state’s status in the anti-trafficking effort, go to:
<http://www.polarisproject.org/state-map>

Happiness Report

cont. from pg. 3

- relationships do more for satisfaction than high pay and convenient hours.
- Behaving well makes people happier.
- Mental health is the biggest single factor affecting happiness.
- Stable family life and enduring marriages are important for the happiness of parents and children.
- In advanced countries, women are happier than men, while the position in poorer countries is mixed.
- Happiness is lowest in middle age.

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.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com
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