

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Capacitar International, Inc.

1 This issue highlights the corporate stance process of two congregations and the relationship between trafficking and women immigration workers.

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Work to Eliminate Human Trafficking: International Mission Focus of School Sisters of Notre Dame

S. Joan Hart, SSND *Justice and Peace Coordinator* for the Baltimore Province, reported to participants at the *2003 National Migration Conference*, Washington D.C. on her Congregation's theological reflection on human trafficking.

In 2000 the coordinator of International SHALOM, the J&P effort of the SSND's, called for action against trafficking. The SHALOM group of S. Joan's province prepared a packet of materials to guide the members through the "See-Judge-Act" process. Sisters also focused on learning about "Trafficking in Our Own Backyard" by being alert to articles on trafficking in their local newspapers.

S. Joan reported on the energetic, informative presentation by *Laura Lederer* to the SSND's of the Baltimore Province. Laura was then *Deputy Director* of the U.S. State Department's *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* (OMCTP was established March 4, 2003). Founder of *The Protection Project*, she continues in the U.S. State Department as *Senior Advisor in the Office for Global Affairs*. OMCTP goals include 3 P's: *protection of the victim, prosecution of the perpetrators, and prevention of trafficking*. Building a broad base of awareness about the complex issue of human trafficking is an important step in achieving these

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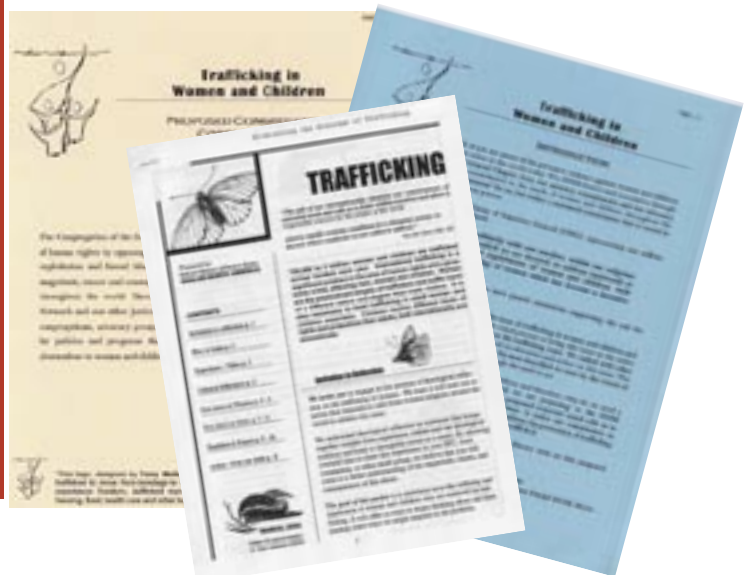
Samples of materials from the SSND and SNJM reflection packets.

Corporate Stand re. Trafficking in Women and Children

Sisters, Associates of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Grounded in scripture, Catholic social teaching, and the enactments of past general chapters, the SNJM's have begun a congregation-wide theological reflection process on human trafficking. Peggy Kennedy, SNJM General Councilor, explained, "In 1991 our general chapter mandated us to develop instruments and processes that would enable us to take public, corporate stances for systemic change. It was a natural step to embrace the call of the UISG and LCWR/CMSM statements on working against the scourge of trafficking. Because we know that women religious around the world are engaged in the same process with their social service and peace

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SSND's Commitment cont.

goals. Laura included information about the relationship between trafficking and the presence of US military personnel in foreign countries.

SSND's are committed to working locally, nationally and internationally in collaboration with their NGO representatives and with other congregations and organizations to further education and action. The SSND's have already made their reflection packet available to several congregations.

S. Joan enthusiastically stated, *"Being a congregation of 5000 members worldwide we have both personal insight into the global problem and will find creative ways to become part of the global solution."*



Cover of the National Migration Conf. Program July 6-10, 2003

and justice partners, we sense a great energy in our own process."

SNJM Process cont.

In order to undertake a corporate stand process, an issue must meet the following criteria: be one of major importance in light of gospel values and church social teaching, be one of basic human rights, be of global concern or structural injustice, be in line with SNJM goals and priorities, be an issue external to the SNJM's and be an issue about which there is adequate information to understand the issue in a context and make reasonable judgments about it.

When an issue is deemed suitable, a committee appointed by leadership prepares materials so the provinces and sectors may study and discuss the issue and proposed stand. Within a designated time period all members vote on the proposed corporate stand. If 70 % assent, the position becomes an official stand of the entire congregation. Public press releases and concrete actions are then adopted at all levels.

Leadership approved the proposal against human trafficking presented by a group of members as the focus of a corporate stand process. The committee then prepared a packet of materials that guide the members in regular group reflections on the issue. The materials aid in study, information gathering, reflection and prayer, dialogue and potential action.

S. Peggy Kennedy commented, *"It is obvious that no follower of the gospel would stand for human trafficking. So you may wonder why SNJM's are engaged*

in a formal process of adopting a corporate stand?"

This proposal will be much more than a statement against trafficking. It will ask a commitment on the part of every member to educate herself and others to the issue in all the contexts in which we are present. It will require us to work with others to advocate for policies and programs that prevent trafficking and that give women and children viable alternatives for obtaining a livelihood. In other words, a corporate stand will affect our ministries and affect our resources in ways that will unfold as we continue."

Eliza

Eliza is a 14-year-old Mexican girl. She was working cleaning hotel rooms when a man, Rogerio Cardena, approached Eliza's parents, telling them about a well-paying job he could get for Eliza doing the same work north of the border in the United States.

Eliza was eager to go. Her parents were reluctant. But the smooth-talking man said Eliza would be "in good hands."

Eliza was taken to Houston, Texas and from there to Orlando, Florida. It was then that Eliza was told she would have to work as a prostitute until she paid off the \$2,200 debt for her passage out of Mexico.

(Part of SSND and SNJM packets, origin *Reader's Digest*, April 2001)



Advocacy

Protecting Migrant Women Workers from Going into Exploitative Work Situations:

An Information Guide – Preventing Discrimination, Exploitation and Abuse of Women Migrant Workers

(Publications of the International Labor Office, Geneva Gender Promotion Program)

This Guide consists of six booklets, which may be downloaded from the web site of the *International Labour Organization* of Geneva (www.ilo.org).

Each booklet is structured to:

- *Enhance knowledge and understanding* by government officials, the social actors and individual migrants themselves of the concerns and challenges relating to the prevention of discrimination, exploitation and abuse of migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers, and the protection of their human rights.
- *Facilitate learning* from the experiences of actors in countries of origin, transit and destination by documenting a variety of approaches, strategies and practical examples for preventing and redressing discrimination, exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers, including those who have been trafficked. Where possible, the factors behind the success or failure of these strategies and approaches are also identified.
- *Indicate the normative framework* that could be used for addressing discrimination, exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers. Law and policy makers can refer to relevant international and regional standards and some

national examples to adopt a rights-based approach and to formulate or review legislation.

- *Present guidelines, checklists and practical examples for action*, so that government agencies, workers' and employers' organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and other interested groups and migrants themselves have better knowledge and are equipped with practical tools on what might be possible or effective for assisting vulnerable women in the migration process. However, since circumstances vary from one country to another, the information is not intended to represent "best" or "good" practices that should be adopted in all situations or be used in any definitive manner.

- *Indicate the scope for, and the advantages of, cooperation and collaboration* between government agencies, law enforcement and judiciary sectors, workers' and employers' organizations, NGOs, CBOs, the media, research institutions and other interested groups in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Descriptions, taken from the website, of two booklets follow:

Booklet 1 Introduction: Why the focus on women international migrant workers

Highlights the vulnerability of women migrant workers to discrimination, exploitation and abuse in the different stages of the migration process. The labor market situations women migrant workers go into put them at greater risk to human rights violations, compared to male migrants and local women. To protect women migrant workers, it introduces a multidisciplinary and comprehensive framework addressing both demand and supply factors, and incorporating the promotion of human rights, gender equality, decent work and poverty reduction; and involving a wide range of social actors in legal and policy instruments and practical action at international, regional, national and community levels.

Booklet 6 Trafficking of women and girls

Focuses on a global problem of growing concern: trafficking in persons, especially women and girls. It identifies the supply-side and demand-side causes, describes the mechanics of trafficking and explains why women and girls are more vulnerable to becoming



Advocacy

Protecting Migrant Women Workers cont.

victims. It points out that trafficking in human beings is, first and foremost, a violation of human rights; it should not be dealt with merely from the perspective of fighting illegal migration nor protecting national interests. A wide range of actors need to tackle the entire cycle of trafficking through policy, action and cooperation at different levels for the prevention of trafficking, support for and protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.



Guide Booklets available in .pdf format at www.ilo.org

Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

Facts:

Child sex tourism is the act of traveling to another country to have sex with a minor (under the age of 18). Reports indicate that perhaps 25 percent of sex tourists are Americans. According to child advocacy groups, child sex tourism is a growing problem.

In Mexico, more than 16,000 children are victims of the child sex trade. Many of the sex tourists who travel to Mexico each year to exploit these children come from the United States and Canada.

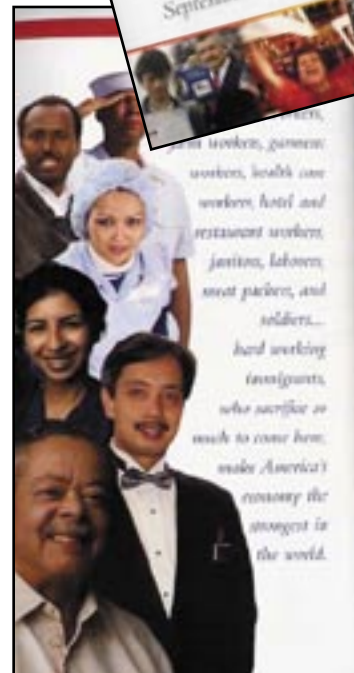
Seminar and Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Child Sex Tourism September 28, 2003 Nogales, AZ



Speakers:

Laura Aguilar has a Bachelor's degree in Tourism from the University of Guadalajara, a Masters in Anthropology of Tourism from the University of Oviedo, Spain, and is a Doctoral Candidate there in the field of Social Anthropology of Tourism with research on commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

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Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 immigrant workers and their advocates began traveling from nine major US cities and will converge in Washington D.C. to speak for:

- legalization and a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers in the US;
- the right to re-unite families; and
- protection of worker rights on the job without regard to legal status.

If you know immigrant worker women, do you know their condition in the workplace? where they live?



Action

5

Action Alert! Urge Your Congressional Members to Oppose the CLEAR Act!

Earlier this summer a bill was introduced in the House, and will be introduced in the Senate shortly, that would greatly endanger the confidence and ability of immigrant women to seek assistance from local law enforcement in escaping abusive relationships, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes.

The Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal (CLEAR) Act (H.R. 2671) legislates the legal authority of police to enforce federal civil immigration laws (currently state and local police may only enforce criminal immigration laws, except in very specific circumstances), and requires them to either do so or lose certain federal funds. With local police enforcing immigration laws, immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, traf-

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

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: jeansds2000@yahoo.com

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Jean Schafer, SDS

ficking and other crimes will not feel safe in approaching law enforcement officials for the police clearance letters necessary for VAWA self-petitioning, for certification for helping with a criminal investigation or prosecution necessary for the U visa, or even for immediate emergency assistance if trapped in a potentially life-threatening domestic violence situation.

Already introduced in the House, a companion bill for the CLEAR Act is likely to be introduced in the Senate SOON. On September 18, 2003, the *Senate Immigration Subcommittee* will hold hearings on local police enforcement of immigration laws. They need to hear from us that the CLEAR Act would undermine the intent of the *Violence Against Women Act and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act* while greatly endangering the lives of immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault!

What You Can Do

Call Orrin Hatch, Chair of the *Senate Judiciary Committee*
Tel: (202) 224-5251;
(Fax: (202) 224-6331)

Talking Points to Stress:

- Give your name and location.
- Ask him to oppose the CLEAR Act, which, if passed, would have disastrous consequences for immigrant survivors and witnesses of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other crimes.
- The CLEAR Act will further endanger already vulnerable immigrant women and their children, who will be afraid to report abuse and seek help for fear of the immigration consequences.
- Victims of domestic violence will not leave their abusers if they fear that they cannot seek help and protection from the police without the threat of being turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for deportation. They may also fear they will lose custody of their children to their abusive husbands if they are deported.
- In the past Congress has sought to encourage immigrant victims to report crimes without fear of deportation.

For instance, it created the U visa for victims of crimes to both encourage cooperation with the criminal justice system and provide humanitarian relief for victims of crimes.

- Congress also has repeatedly included help for noncitizen victims of domestic violence in laws it has passed to stop the epidemic of domestic violence in this country, namely the *1994 Violence Against Women Act* and *VAWA 2000* (the law that created the U visa for victims of crimes and the T visa for victims of human trafficking).
 - The CLEAR Act will harm thousands of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes, whom the
- cont. pg. 6

Nogales cont.

Aguilar worked in the hotel business for 10 years before becoming an investigator and professor in Tourism Social Impact in 1997. In 1999, she became a founding member of *Por Nuestros Niños Foundation in Puerto Vallarta* following a local scandal involving two cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and is current president. Aguilar spoke at the Regional Consultation for the Americas on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism held in Costa Rica in May 2003.

Carol Smolenski worked for children's rights for the last 11 years. She has served as liaison to the United Nations for various NGOs. In 1996 she chaired the *Children's Rights Caucus for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul, Turkey*, bringing together representatives of children's rights organizations from all over the world.

Smolenski has a Bachelors degree from Rutgers University, a Masters in Urban Planning from Hunter College, and is a PhD candidate at Columbia University.

Smolenski was a founding member of ECPAT-USA and has been Coordinator since 1996. She has spoken about the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children in venues ranging from the US Senate, to the UN, to the NY City Council.



Action

Send In News!

We will regularly publish information regarding what is happening within congregations and collaborating organizations on the issue of human trafficking: awareness-raising, advocacy for victims, and action taken to counter trafficking.

We would like to feature the ministries of particular congregations, the efforts of LCWR Regions, and/or highlight collaborative work being done with agencies engaged in anti-trafficking.

Your contributions are welcome and appreciated!

*Salvatorian Sisters and
Capacitar International Staff*

Action Alert cont.

members of Congress intended to help under these laws. Although this may be an unintentional result, it undermines Congress' efforts to help immigrant victims of violence.

- Ask him to do all he can to defeat this dangerous legislation.
- Tell him his vocal opposition to the CLEAR Act is critically needed.
- THANK HIM for his commitment to helping domestic violence survivors gain safety, well being and the control of their own lives.

If you live in AL, AZ, CA, GA, ID, IL, IA, MA, NY, NC, OH, TX, VT, please call and e-mail your Senator who sits on the *Senate Immigration Subcommittee*. *Senate Immigration Subcommittee* allies also need our letters, using your organization's letterhead stationery,

to refer to during hearings and to create a favorable record that protects immigrants' rights. Give examples of how this new legislation will harm immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Most *Senate Immigration Subcommittee* members have websites through which to send an e-mail. To find a Senator's website, the address formula is: www.lastnameofthesenator.senate.gov. (For example, Dianne Feinstein is www.feinstein.senate.gov; Orrin Hatch is www.hatch.senate.gov)

The Senate Immigration Subcommittee members are:

Republican Members

Saxby Chambliss, GA (Chairman)
(202) 224-3521
Charles E. Grassley, IA
(202) 224-3744
Jon Kyl, AZ (202) 224-4521;
Fax: (202) 224-2207
Mike DeWine, OH (202) 224-2315;
Fax: (202) 224-6519
Jeff Sessions, AL (202) 224-4124;
Fax: (202) 224-3149
Larry Craig, ID (202) 224-2752;
Fax: (202) 228-1067
John Cornyn, TX (202) 224-2934;
Fax: (202) 228-285

Democratic Members

Edward M. Kennedy, MA (Ranking Democrat) (202) 224-4543;
Fax: (202) 224-2417
Patrick J. Leahy, VT
(202) 224-4242
Dianne Feinstein, CA
(202) 224-3841
Charles Schumer, NY
(202) 224-6542;
Fax: (202) 228-3027
Richard J. Durbin, IL
(202) 224-2152;
Fax: (202) 228-0400
John Edwards, NC
(202) 224-3154;
Fax: (202) 228-1374

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

*International Society for
Prevention of Child
Abuse and Neglect*
www.ispcan.org

*Immigrant Workers
Freedom Ride*
www.iwfr.org

*International Labour
Organization*
www.ilo.org

Now Legal Defense
www.nowldef.org

*Family Violence
Prevention Fund*
www.endabuse.org

National Immigration Project
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

Sweatshop Watch
www.sweatshopwatch.org

*Arizonans for the
Protection of Children*
www.protectchild.org

*Salvatorian Sisters
Anti-Trafficking Site*
www.sdssisters.org/slavery