

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

August 2014 Vol. 12 No. 8

This issue highlights the plight of children in the U.S. and those seeking asylum because of violence and sexual exploitation.

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The World's Children At Risk

Arresting Child Traffickers

Operation Cross Country VIII, the eighth weeklong enforcement action to address commercial child sex trafficking in the U.S. took place in June 2014.

Task force operations usually begin as local enforcement actions that target truck stops, casinos, street "tracks," and websites that advertise dating or escort services, based on intelligence gathered by officers working in their respective jurisdictions.

June's operation included enforcement actions in 106 cities across 54 FBI field divisions nationwide and resulted in 168 recoveries of children who were being victimized through prostitution. Additionally, 281 pimps were arrested on state and federal charges. (See pg. 4 table for details.)

To date, the FBI and its task force partners have recovered nearly 3,600 children from the streets. Investigations and the subsequent

1,450 convictions have resulted in lengthy sentences, including 14 life terms and the seizure of more than \$3.1 million in assets.

Arresting Innocent Children



The humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border grows as tens of thousands of children flee gang violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador and brave a dangerous border crossing in search of safety. It is important to recognize that the immigrant children seeking safety and shelter in the U.S. are not migrant workers – they are refugees from political violence.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, leading Democrat on the House Judiciary Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee, joined a bipartisan fact-finding trip to the Rio Grande Valley, where they talked to refugees and border officials alike. They found deplorable conditions that toddlers and other small children are being subjected to while being jailed at the border including one 3-year old child who had been held for 12 days – she had been looked after by a teenage detainee, but after her caretaker was transferred to another Border Patrol facility in Nogales,

HELP END CHILD PROSTITUTION
AMERICA'S CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE.

1-800-CALL FBI
CALL FBI (225-5324)

Arrests cont. on pg. 2



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Arrests *cont. from pg. 1*

the child was handed off from one preteen detainee to another as they were churned in and out of the station.

Lofgren reported that, “many thousands of these children are bona fide refugees fleeing dangerous situations. They are deserving of protection under international and domestic law.”

“Vulnerable children who are fleeing persecution and extreme violence in Central America are entitled to protection under domestic and international law,” said U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA,) in a statement during the House Judiciary Committee hearing July 29, 2014.

“Application for asylum has been an important part of our immigration for decades. Repealing bipartisan protections for victims of human trafficking, slavery, and sex trafficking would irresponsibly return children to their traffickers.” (<http://lofgren.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=389596>)

Tahirih Asks a Humanitarian Response for Children

Archana Pyati, Director of Public Policy for the *Tahirih Justice Center* in testifying before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, called for funding to ensure a humanitarian response for children currently crossing into the U.S. Her partial text follows:

“The root causes of the flight of refugee children from their homes may be complex, but our obligation to protect them is not. Regardless of why they left home, or what they would face if they should return, we are legally obligated to offer them shelter and basic care. We are also obligated to provide them with due process while they make their claims for humanitarian protection.

“Unfortunately, in response to this refugee flow, many are calling for changes in these basic obligations in order to “stem the tide” of children coming to this country. This would be devastating, and could signal a willingness to shift policies protecting due process for all immigrants when such situations arise.

“Tahirih stands opposed to rolling back any due process or other protections. We also oppose any increase in the detention of children in jail-like facilities and their deportation before they have had a meaningful opportunity to

The *United Nations* is also increasing pressure on the U.S. to accept more of the children currently ineligible for asylum by pushing for many of the Central Americans detained by U.S. Border Patrol to be treated as “*refugees displaced by armed conflict*.” (<http://lofgren.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=386846>)

ask for humanitarian protection.

“Instead, we seek increased funding for the agencies that run the shelters and offer services to immigrant children, as well as funding to help with backlogs among the officers and judges who are trained to adjudicate these cases.

“Tahirih urges that the children fleeing violence in Central America who are arriving at the U.S. border be treated as humanely as possible while their claims for protection are adjudicated by qualified personnel.

“Tahirih objects to the President’s Emergency Supplemental Request for Unaccompanied Children insofar as it prioritizes the detention and rapid repatriation of these children and does not include measures to adequately protect their safety, well-being, or due process rights.

“In addition, we strenuously object to any proposals that would diminish existing protections for immigrant children. The law currently provides a bare minimum of safeguards for the basic due process rights of children who may have claims for humanitarian protection in the U.S. These must not be rolled back through legislation or policy of any kind.

“Tahirih strongly recommends that the Senate Appropriations Committee consider the following:

1. Funding should be directed towards care and adjudication for children, not detention and removal. Any appropriations made through this supplemental should prioritize the safety and wellbeing of the children. HHS provides shelter to children who have survived the arduous journey to the U.S.. Under the law, all children must be quickly transferred from DHS custody to HHS custody. Overcrowding in HHS facilities leads to children and families remaining in ICE detention. ICE detention facilities are not equipped to hold children humanely and should be avoided at all costs. As such, funding to HHS so that it can increase its capacity is essential. The current Supplemental Request seeks an unreasonably high proportion of funds for detention and removal.

2. Funding should be directed to Citizenship and Immigration Services. Tahirih is seriously concerned that the Supplemental Request does not include additional funds specifically for CIS. DHS must be funded to increase and improve the capability of CIS and its asylum officers to offer timely and thorough credible fear interviews. Each child’s fear of return to his or her country of nationality should at a minimum be assessed by asylum officers who are trained to interview children while using accurate

Tahirih *cont. on pg. 3*



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Tahirih *cont. from pg. 2*

translation. CBP officers do not have the specialized training to conduct these interviews. The current crisis does not justify lowered standards of protection and non-specialist officers conducting critical life-or-death interviews; it demands a greater vigilance to ensure due process especially for such vulnerable migrants.

3. Funding to hire additional immigration judges must be increased. The plan put forward by the DOJ to move unaccompanied children's cases to the high priority list, along with detained individuals, will not be possible without increased funding. Without increased funding, an already strained system reflecting delays of several years for adjudications would be even more pronounced. We recommend increasing the amount currently proposed for the DOJ for the purpose of hiring more qualified immigration judges than currently envisioned.

4. Funding must be allocated to legal services. Whether in detention, HHS custody, or released to relatives, unaccompanied minors need legal counsel to navigate our complex immigration system and access the humanitarian protections to which they may be entitled. As unaccompanied minors, they face difficult decisions upon arrival without anyone to consider their best interests and advise them accordingly. Allocations must be made for pro bono legal services provided by charitable organizations to ensure fairness and due process for these children.

5. Protections provided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act must not be curtailed in any fashion.

The TVPRA established baseline protections for children entering the U.S. which must not be compromised under any circumstances. The Administration seeks to place the power to exercise discretion and expeditiously remove children in the hands of uniformed border officers who are not trained in assessing claims for humanitarian protection. This is a dangerous proposition. Unaccompanied children are often exhausted and malnourished, traumatized, without guardians or legal counsel, and detained by uniformed officers. Their applications must be assessed by trained immigration officers or judges. Children may choose to withdraw their applications at any time, and no changes to the law are needed. To the contrary, additional protections may be necessary to ensure that all children fleeing persecution, including children of Mexican citizenship, are properly considered. Rolling back minimal procedural protections is not a necessary or appropriate measure to address the current crisis.

In short, the current refugee crisis is a humanitarian situation that demands a humanitarian response. Tahirih urges the Senate Appropriations Committee to reject any proposals that would result in increased detention, inhumane treatment, due process violations, or the repatriation of children who face persecution.

For the complete text, go to:
<http://www.tahirih.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Tahirih-Testimony-to-Sen-Approps-on-Supplemental-071514.pdf>

'Beyond Detention'

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued a new global strategy aimed at helping countries move away from the detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless people worldwide.

Detention of asylum-seekers and refugees has become routine in a number of countries. It has serious lasting effects on individuals and families. UNHCR is concerned about the growing use of immigration detention, particularly of children.

The new strategy, '*Beyond Detention*' calls firstly for an end to the detention of children, secondly to ensure that alternatives to detention are available in law and that they are implemented, and thirdly to ensure that conditions of detention when unavoidable fully meet international human rights standards.

"Seeking asylum is lawful and the exercise of a fundamental human right. The detention of asylum-seekers as a routine response should be avoided – these are people who need protection. We are ready to work with governments on this, particularly to end the practice of detaining asylum-seeking children," said UNHCR's Director of International Protection Volker Türk. (<http://www.unhcr.org/53b550239.html>)

More than 51 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013, the largest number since the end of World War II. Half of the world's refugees in 2013 were children. (<http://www.unhcr.org/53a155bc6.html>)

With 109,600 new asylum applications registered during 2013, Germany was for the first time since 1999 the largest single recipient of new asylum claims among the group of industrialized countries. The United States of America was second with an estimated 88,400 asylum applications, followed by France (60,100), Sweden (54,300), and Turkey (44,800). The top five receiving countries together accounted for nearly six out of ten new asylum claims submitted in the 44 industrialized countries. (<http://www.unhcr.org/5329b15a9.html>)



Awareness

Online Epidemic Against Children

“Sextortion” is a crime exclusive to the digital age. Predators pretend to be teens on social media and gaming sites. They befriend young people, gain their trust and entice them to send lewd photos of themselves. Then they use the photos to extort more and more illicit images.

The number of complaints of online enticement of children is climbing. The *Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force*, which helps state and local law enforcement agencies fight online child pornography, reports that the number of complaints to its 61 offices nationwide has grown from 5,300 in 2010 to 7,000 in 2013.

The increase in sextortion cases has led authorities to also educate parents and teens about online safety. *Homeland Security Investigations*, the investigative arm of *Immigration and Customs Enforcement*, has started a program called *iGuardian* in which agents visit elementary, middle and high schools. They use real-life examples to warn kids never to send nude photos of themselves electronically or share identifying information such as their school or address.

What sets this crime apart is that one suspect can victimize hundreds of children anywhere in the world, explained Patrick Redling, head of the child exploitation unit at HSI’s Cyber Crimes Center.

Innocent Victims Suffer

Parents of some of the victims relate how their children suffered, even with deadly ramifications in some cases.

Canadian Amanda Todd was one of the earliest and ultimately most prominent victims.

In 2010, at age 13, the Vancouver-area girl used video chats to meet other teens. She became friends with someone who talked her into showing her breasts during a webcam chat. She did. It was a fleeting moment, something she did on impulse. She didn’t know he had taken a photo.

Shortly after, the person messaged her via Facebook and said if she didn’t show him more, he’d post her photo for others to see. He messaged her several times. When she didn’t do it, the photo went to all her Facebook friends.

She was ridiculed and so embarrassed that she changed schools. She became anxious and depressed. She was teased by schoolmates and harassed online.

In a cry for help, Amanda told her story in a poignant nine-minute video in September 2012. “I have nobody,” she said.

Sextortion cont. on pg. 5

Operation Cross Country VIII

(<http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/168-juveniles-recovered-in-nationwide-operation-targeting-commercial-child-sex-trafficking>)

FBI Division	Juveniles Recovered	Pimps Arrested	FBI Division	Juveniles Recovered	Pimps Arrested
Albany, NY	0	0	Milwaukee, WI	6	12
Albuquerque, NM	0	0	Minneapolis, MN	1	9
Anchorage, AK	0	3	Mobile, AL	0	0
Atlanta, GA	11	15	Newark, NJ	1	8
Baltimore, MD	2	5	New Haven, CT	1	1
Birmingham, AL	1	3	New Orleans, LA	3	17
Boston, MA	0	0	New York, NY	3	3
Buffalo, NY	2	0	Norfolk, VA	0	1
Charlotte, NC	0	3	Oklahoma City, OK	2	14
Chicago, IL	13	4	Omaha, NE	1	2
Cincinnati, OH	0	1	Philadelphia, PA	0	2
Cleveland, OH	16	12	Phoenix, AZ	5	21
Columbia, SC	1	2	Pittsburgh, PA	0	3
Dallas, TX	2	2	Portland, OR	1	2
Denver, CO	18	11	Richmond, VA	0	2
Detroit, MI	5	6	Sacramento, CA	9	7
El Paso, TX	0	1	Salt Lake City, UT	0	0
Houston, TX	4	4	San Antonio, TX	6	3
Indianapolis, IN	4	3	San Diego, CA	2	6
Jackson, MS	2	19	San Francisco, CA	6	13
Jacksonville, FL	0	1	Seattle, WA	4	13
Kansas City, KS	2	7	Springfield, IL	2	1
Knoxville, TN	0	1	St. Louis, MO	0	1
Las Vegas, NV	7	2	Tampa, FL	8	3
Little Rock, AR	2	5	Washington, D.C.	0	2
Los Angeles, CA	10	12	Total	168	281
Louisville, KY	0	4			
Memphis, TN	2	5			
Miami, FL	3	4			

“Predators used to stalk playgrounds. The Internet is the new playground,” said a HSI special agent from Atlanta. “I would argue that this is an epidemic and people have no idea.”

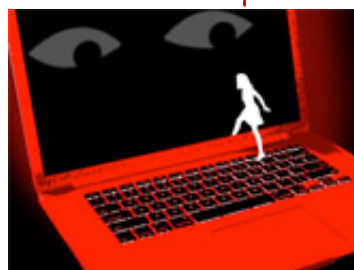


Photo: Sam Ward



Advocacy

Sextortion *cont. from pg. 4*

"I need someone." A month later, she committed suicide. Her video went viral with more than 30 million views.

In 2013 Dutch police arrested Aydin Coban, 35, and accused him of extorting Amanda and dozens of other girls, as well as adult men, in Canada, the U.S., Britain and the Netherlands.

"In the back of my mind, I never thought of a predator," said Amanda's mother, Carol Todd. "I thought the person who wanted the pictures was an older teen. I was never thinking it was a 35-year-old man on the other end. I've learned about the whole dark world that's out there on the Internet."

She tells her daughter's story as a cautionary tale, urging parents to talk often with their teens about how they lead their virtual lives.

(<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/07/01/sextortion-teens-online/11580633/>)

"Human trafficking thrives when it is hidden in plain sight—illicit and immensely profitable, traffickers know that they can exploit vulnerable human beings with little risk of detection. In addition to the identification of at-risk individuals, a screening instrument will capture valuable data to identify the ways in which individuals are trafficked within specific regions and populations, and help craft a focused response toward eliminating modern day slavery within our midst."

Lori Cohen, Director of Sanctuary for Families' Anti-Trafficking Initiative, one agency that tested the VERA tool

New Screening Tool to Identify Trafficked Persons

The greatest obstacle to assisting victims of human trafficking is identifying them. Due to the nature of human trafficking, victims are often kept out of sight, living in fear, or—as can be the case with victims used in prostitution—treated as criminals by law enforcement.

To make identifying victims easier—and subsequently, getting them the services and support they need while also generating evidence against their traffickers—the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) created and tested a screening tool (<http://www.vera.org/pubs/special/human-trafficking-identification-tool>) to be used by victim service providers and law enforcement when faced with someone who may be a victim of human trafficking. The tool, a 30-topic questionnaire administered to potential victims, is designed to elicit evidence of human trafficking—namely, abusive labor practices, physical harm or violence, sexual exploitation, isolation, and force, fraud, and coercion—making it easier for tool administrators to identify who is a victim of trafficking and who is not. It was tested and shown to be effective at identifying victims by victim service providers in NY, CA, TX, CO, and WA State. The development and testing of the tool were part of a two-year study funded by the National Institute of Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice.

In the study, data were gathered through structured interviews using the screening tool with a diverse sample of 180 potential victims of trafficking, case file reviews, and focus

groups with service providers. Subsequent interviews were conducted with victims who had already been screened, service providers, and law enforcement with experience in human trafficking. Of the 180 interviewees, 53% were found to be trafficking victims. Of those trafficking victims, 40% were victims of sex trafficking and 60% were victims of labor trafficking.

A shortened version of the questionnaire aims to significantly enhance victim identification and anti-trafficking efforts at hospitals, youth shelters, domestic violence service agencies, and by law enforcement agencies.

"Many human trafficking victims live their lives in the shadows of fear, often trapped in a cycle of abuse and exploitation," said Laura Simich, research director for Vera's Center on Immigration and Justice and the study's primary investigator. "This questionnaire provides law enforcement and victim service providers with a tool to identify victims so that they can be connected with the support necessary to live their own lives, free of their traffickers."

(See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9X4SMieQTY>)





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‘STOP’ App Wins Hackathon Awards

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The #YesWeCode Hackathon was one of the most unique and exciting experiences that took place at the 20th Annual Essence Festival in New Orleans. While more than 500,000 people traveled there to experience the music, close to 40 youth participants, over 60 mentors and over 70 volunteers spent four days working in teams to create apps that address problems facing the African American community. Qeyno Labs and founder Kalimah Priforce orchestrated the event, providing staff and support.

At the conclusion of #YesWeCode a panel of judges, including representatives from Essence, Facebook, Make It Right Foundation, Code2040, Echoing Green, and local community organizations, selected winners from among 13 teams. The app created by Team STOP won the top award in both the “Global Impact” and “Greatest Impact for Women” categories. Michael Martell personally won \$7,500 in cash and software to continue his development efforts. He is currently an 8th grader with plans to major in oceanography and civil engineering at an Ivy League school. The STOP team also included Victoria Pannell, Anthony Bates, Errol King, Chelsea Roebuck, Warren Jones and Laquitta DeMerchant.

The STOP (Sex Trafficking Operations Prevention) app was envisioned by teen coder Victoria Pannell after her experience portraying a human trafficking victim for a Change.org public service announcement. “After I portrayed Monica, the victim, I couldn’t sleep thinking about how there were girls whose bodies were being ravaged by strangers every day,” Pannell said. “Sex trafficking is an operation, and we want to prevent that operation from happening.”

The STOP app incorporates three key help features: **I Need Help** that, when pressed, immediately dials the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Polaris Project hotline, **I Am A Witness** and **I Want More Information**.

Martell explained, “With the ‘I am a Witness’ button, you can fill out a form with your name, or you can remain anonymous. Then, you write what you saw and a description of the person doing the trafficking or a description of the person being trafficked. And you can take a picture, or upload a picture from your gallery. And the ‘I Want More Information’ is a button that lets you see information on sex trafficking and what it is. The app provides a way for

people to come together to act,” he said. “The most exciting part was customer validation. It was so much like a science experiment: hypothesis, test scenario, validate.”

“It was a priceless experience to be a part of a team working to help 15-year-old Victoria Pannell’s vision come to life,” said Team Mentor Yorri Berry-Harris, of stemsistersummit.org. “We stuck to the vision and began to develop what I know will be a great product.” (<http://myclickurban.com/blog/yeswecode-hackathon-winners-spotlight-the-stop-app/>)



Credit: Victoria Pannell on Instagram: @victoriapannell (l to r) Anthony Bates, Michael Martell, and Victoria Pannell.

Brazil: Smartphones Target Violence Against Women and Girls

During the World Cup in Brazil, locals and tourists saw posters, billboards and ads on buses and subways with an image of women and men holding a cellphone with the following message: “Violência contra as mulheres? Eu ligo 180” (“Violence against women? I’ll call 180”).

Launched in May 2014, the government campaign emphasized the public’s responsibility to end violence against women and promoted a 24-hour women’s helpline (Central de Atendimento à Mulher – Ligue 180), where survivors of violence could access information about their rights, where and how to seek help, and how to report cases.

The newly developed smartphone application Clique 180 provides information about the types of violence against women and the country’s legislation for each crime, as well as guidelines on what to do and where to go for women who have suffered different types of violence. It includes a button to dial the Women’s Helpline and a collaborative tool that allows users to pin areas of the city that pose safety risks on a map. The app is supported by a website (www.clique180.org.br).

Developed for iOS and Android operating systems by UN Women, in partnership with the British Embassy, the Clique 180 app builds on a previous SmartWomen App piloted in 2013 under the Rio de Janeiro Safe and Sustainable City for All Joint Programme “Rio por Elas,” in partnership with UN-Habitat and UNICEF. It was tested in 10 favelas (shantytowns) in Rio.



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Brazil *cont. from pg. 6*

The new app now includes nationwide services and is available for free download on the Apple Store and the Google Play Store. Using geolocation, Clique 180 taps into a Network of Specialized Services of Assistance to Women – indicating which local, state-level or federal public services, non-governmental or academic resources are located closest to the user, their hours of operation and how to get there.

Ideojane Melo Conceição, educator and activist of the Women's Collective of Feira de Santana, a women's rights organization in the state of Bahia, northeastern Brazil, is in daily contact with women who don't realize they are experiencing violence in personal relationships, at work or on public transport.

"There are many types of violence that affect different women in different ways," she says. "It is very important that the app clarifies this, through simple words with lots of examples."

Maria do Carmo Bittencourt, coordinator of the State Reference Centre for Women in Porto Alegre, capital of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil, explains that many women choose not to seek services for women survivors of violence in their own city, especially in small towns, because they feel embarrassed to be entering the site.

"Because the application has registered services across the country, these women may also find other locations outside of their cities to ask for help or make a complaint," she says.

(<http://www.care2.com/causes/how-smartphones-are-being-used-to-combat-rape-and-violence-against-women-in-brazil.html>)

Educational Materials for Teachers and Students

The *Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives* developed a three-lesson curriculum to educate children about child labor and its relation to historical slavery. The 2014-2015 Human Trafficking Education Program entitled, "History, Human Rights and the Power of One," can be downloaded at: <http://www.fdfi.org/>

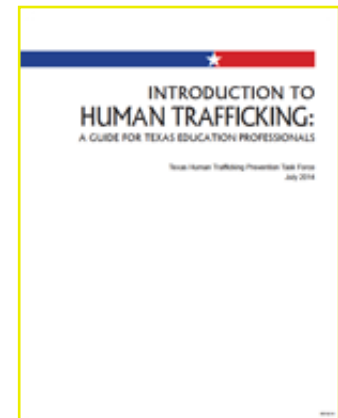


The *National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Student Toolkit* is designed to provide students with resources to identify and raise awareness of human trafficking in their community. To download the *Student Toolkit*, go to: <http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/out-reach-and-awareness-materials/student-toolkit>

Texas Task Force Aids Educators

The Texas Human Trafficking Task Force announced release of a human trafficking prevention manual is targeted to teachers and other education professionals who will be facing an onslaught of potential victims in the coming school year. It is meant to help school personnel gain the knowledge they need to understand human trafficking, recognize how it might look for children in their schools, realize why this pervasive crime must be reported, and take the proper steps when reporting suspected instances of the crime.

Entitled, "Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals July 2014," the manual is available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/232145007/HumanTraffick-RPRT2014#download>



Statistics

- One in seven endangered runaways reported to the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)* in 2013 were likely sex trafficking victims. (www.missingkids.com; October 2013)
- 19% of identified offenders in a survey had images of children younger than 3 years old; 39% younger than 6 years old; and 83% younger than 12 years old. (www.missingkids.com/Testimony/01-04-12)
- In 2009, police and law enforcement agencies discovered close to 22 million public I.P. addresses that were offering pornographic images of children through peer-to-peer file sharing. Almost 10 million of the I.P. addresses that were involved in file sharing were located in the U.S. (www.justice.gov/psc/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf)

(Source: <http://www.wearthorn.org/child-trafficking-statistics>)



Action

Franciscan Federation Statement of Resolution 2014

Be is resolved that we, as members of the Franciscan Federation, upholding the inherent dignity of each human person in the tradition of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, denounce all forms of human trafficking as criminal acts that violate basic human rights and exploit innocent people.

We renew our pledge to work for the elimination of human trafficking and its causes. We make special efforts to recognize the inter-relationship of trafficked persons around the world, especially related to climate change, which forces persons to relocate home and family and increases their risk of victimization.

We advocate for rescue, safety and justice for trafficked persons; demand prosecution of perpetrators; and look within ourselves as complicit by continuing to consume products that exploit the vulnerable and by indifference to sustainable environmental and climate safety programs.

Call to Respond

As members of the Franciscan Federation, let us commemorate the 35th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Francis of Assisi as Patron of Ecology, by responding individually and collectively, live our faith by sustaining God's creation and deterring human trafficking, especially among environmental refugees. We recognize that our actions may appear to have little effect on this global atrocity; however, we are compelled to persevere in our commitment to remain faithful to our call to be prophetic witnesses to our Gospel values.

Therefore, members are encouraged to act on the following five elements of the St. Francis Pledge:

PRAY

- Reflect and pray on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable
- Engage in prayer services, remembrances and offering intercessions during liturgies and on occasions such as Human Trafficking Day, Refugee Day, and Earth Day

- Pray to be open to how we may be complicit in human trafficking by continuing the demand for consumer products that exploit people
- Pray to be open to how we may participate in environmental sustainability

LEARN

- Educate yourself and others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change
- Educate yourself and others on simple steps that may promote sustainability of God's creation for the next generation
- Promote education in reducing trafficking risks for refugees
- Learn about how you may economically support refugees and agencies that care for refugee children, women and men
- Learn about international refugee agreements in relation to environmental refugees.
- Learn about agencies in the United States that offer legal help to protect the rights of those entering our country, especially refugees and victims of human trafficking (CLINIC)

ASSESS

- Use energy audits and footprint tools to assess how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- Research the sustainability practices and supply chain codes of conduct for the companies you support and the investment power of your communities

ACT

- Change choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change
- Financially support agencies working with refugees especially those offering legal protections to refugees and victims of human trafficking
- Purchase products through Fair Trade markets especially those that empower women
- Take the Catholic Climate Covenant St. Francis Pledge and encourage others in your communities, families, ministries, parishes to do so

Franciscans cont. on pg. 9

Sisters of Charity Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking

The *Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, in accordance with our mission and core values of freedom, education, charity and justice, oppose the trafficking of human persons for any purpose whatsoever.

We stand in solidarity with all who work to eliminate this tragic evil.

We pledge ourselves, as a Congregation, to these actions:

- Through prayer and study, we will educate ourselves and others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of human trafficking.
- Through collaboration with others, we will work for changes in society on both the state and federal level by supporting anti-trafficking legislation that protects the rights of all human beings and helps to provide resources for their healing as survivors of trafficking.
- We will participate in highlighting issues related to trafficking and all forms of sexual and labor exploitation especially prior to political, cultural, and athletic events.

Evaluation/Follow-Up/Accountability

Through the BVM Council Report to each BVM Senate, Council Members will identify actions which have been taken. Members are encouraged to share their actions in opposition to human trafficking through the variety of congregational communication channels available. *Irene Lukefahr, BVM*



Action

Do Not Amend TVPRA 2008

In late July the *Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking* (ATEST) urged organizations fighting human trafficking to sign the letter being sent to President Obama and to members of the U.S. Congress, which strongly opposed the amendments to the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008*.

This proposed amendment would harm unaccompanied alien children and make victims of human trafficking particularly vulnerable. These changes would weaken legal protections for unaccompanied children by curtailing access to due process, legal representation, and child-appropriate services.

ATEST urges support to oppose any attempt to amend or eliminate these protections and help preserve the important procedural safeguards for unaccompanied children, who must navigate the complexities of the immigration process. Emphasis instead should be on an appropriate humanitarian response.

To endorse this appeal, go to: http://www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org/research_resources/urgent-sign-protect-unaccompanied-children

Send Your Own Message to Save TVPRA 2008

Since October more than 52,000 unaccompanied children have reached the US-Mexico border, three-quarters of whom emigrated from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Studies show it often takes a longer relationship for children who have been abused or exploited to open up and share their stories. Immediate deportation would not allow their potential asylum eligibility to be considered. Sending these children back puts their lives in greater danger.

Send a message to your legislators urging them to oppose any proposals to change the TVPRA. We cannot remove this protection when children need it most.

Go to: <http://cqrcengage.com/ipjc/app/write-a-letter?1&engagementId=53953>

Franciscans *cont. from pg. 8*

ADVOCATE

- Engage in advocacy efforts for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.
- Engage in advocacy for just and humane immigration reform in the United States that will protect refugees and trafficking victims
- Engage in advocacy for National Supply Chain Transparency Legislation that will promote the dignity of workers, sustainability, and deter child and trafficked labor
- Promote legislation that will protect trafficking victims and promote stiffer fines for the trafficker
- Promote international refugee agreements that will offer refugee status to people displaced by environmental factors and climate change.

Maryann Agnes Mueller, CSSF

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

USCCB HT Ads

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOcheWILkXk&feature=youtu.be>
<http://youtu.be/-WeSJAR7iRk>

VERA HT Tool

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/human-trafficking-identification-tool-summary.pdf>

United Nations

5-min video on world migration issues
<http://youtu.be/CIL1mQv4vm8>

TVPRA Petition

http://act.polarisproject.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18162

International Rescue Committee Petition

<http://www.rescue.org/take-action/help-children>

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
or text HELP or INFO to
BeFree (233733).**

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 past issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

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