

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

September 2015 Vol. 13 No. 9

This issue highlights how demand for services can subtly promote sexual and labor exploitation and subsequent human trafficking.

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Demand for Services: Exploitation and Trafficking

U.S. Sales Crews 'I Didn't Know'

Labor trafficking is a form of modern slavery in which individuals are compelled to perform labor or services against their will by means of force, fraud, or coercion. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline (888-373-8888) and the Polaris BeFree Textline (233733) received 419 reports of likely labor trafficking cases involving traveling sales crews from January 2008 to February 2015, more than any other industry except domestic work.

In July 2015 Polaris published a report on this often-neglected aspect of labor trafficking occurring in the U.S. Entitled *'Knocking at Your Door: Labor Trafficking on Sales Crews,'* the 36-page report analyzed factors that allow this crime to persist and exposed the extensive abuses within the industry. The report used data from the hotlines, open source data from legal records, government documents, industry experts, news media, and social media.

Sales crews travel frequently across state lines, most commonly selling magazines. Employment by a traveling sales crew becomes trafficking when the employer uses force, fraud, or coercion to maintain control over the salesperson, causing that worker to believe that he or she has no choice

In July 2015 the CNN Freedom Project reported on organ trafficking in Nepal.

Pariyar makes a living from selling cattle milk and doing seasonal labor jobs on nearby farms. Poor and uneducated, all he has are two cows, a house and a tiny plot of land.

He would visit the capital, Kathmandu, to find construction work. While on a site in 2000 the foreman approached him with an offer. If he let doctors cut out a 'hunk of meat' from his body, he would be given 30 lakhs -- about \$30,000. What he wasn't told -- the 'piece of meat' was actually his kidney. *"The foreman told me that the meat will grow back,"* Pariyar said. *"Then I thought, 'If the meat will regrow again, and I get about \$30,000, why not?'"*

"What if I die?" Pariyar remembers asking the foreman. The foreman assured him that nothing would happen. He was given good food and clothes, and was even taken to see a movie. Then he was escorted to a hospital in Chennai, a southern state of India.

Traffickers assigned a fake name to Pariyar and told the hospital he was a relative of the recipient. The traffickers had all the fake documents ready to prove his false identity. *"At the hospital, the doctor asked me if the recipient was my sister. I was told by the traffickers to say 'yes.' So I did,"* Pariyar said. *"I heard them repeatedly saying 'kidney'.*

Sales Crews *cont. on pg. 2*

Organs *cont. on pg. 2*



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Sales Crews *cont. from pg. 1*

but to stay and continue to work. Instead of the promised commission on sales, crew members typically receive a daily stipend of \$10 to \$20 to cover personal costs and meals. Earnings beyond this stipend may quickly disappear to cover “debts” to the crew for housing and transportation. Crew managers may manipulate, threaten, or abuse their employees to pressure them into working harder or to intimidate those who wish to leave. If a crew member insists on leaving, the manager may abandon him or her in an unfamiliar location – often without money or belongings.

The traveling sales business has a poor reputation due to customer complaints and civil lawsuits attesting to the presence of consumer fraud in many sales crews’ operations. Yet the direct salespeople, often treated as complicit in this fraud, are in many cases victims of a dangerous and highly abusive industry.

Recruitment is a crucial aspect of operations for traveling sales crews due to the high rate of turnover among crew members. Traffickers in sales crews make a high profit with little risk to themselves by targeting low-income, young people within the U.S. Person-to-person recruitment, newspaper ads, fliers posted on college campuses, or online job postings promising fun, travel, and high earnings are all methods crews use to attract new members. While advertisements may specify that new crew members must be at least 18, reports indicate operators do little to verify ages. Of those reported to the NHTRC and BeFree Textline, 34% were potential minors. Thirty-nine reported cases featured workers

brought into the U.S. through the J-1 visa program, who risk deportation if they leave an abusive crew.

Fraud is rampant in the hiring process, and crew members routinely note that working conditions and sales commissions are significantly misrepresented in advertisements or during recruitment. Managers control nearly all aspects of the lives of crew members and drivers while they are on the road, and isolate them from wider society by imposing long work hours, moving frequently between regions, employing “cult-like” peer pressure, and controlling after-hours activity.

Managers may deny crew members food, confiscate their driver’s licenses, or threaten them if they do not meet their sales quotas. Abandonment is a key threat from operators, with 25% of reports to the NHTRC and BeFree involving workers left behind in unfamiliar areas without means to return home. In nearly 24% of cases reported to the NHTRC and BeFree, callers indicated that managers or fellow crew members physically assaulted salespeople who wished to leave. Sexual assault was also reported in dozens of cases. (Report, pgs. 1-2)

Organs *cont. from pg. 1*

But I had no idea what ‘kidney’ meant. I only knew Mirgaula (the Nepali term for kidney.) “Since I didn’t know the local language, I couldn’t understand any conversation between the trafficker and the hospital staff.”

Pariyar was discharged and sent home with about 20,000 Nepali rupees – less than 1% of the agreed amount – and a promise he would have the rest shortly. He never received any more money and never found the trafficker.

“After I came back to Nepal, I had a doubt. So, I went to the doctor. That’s when I found out I am missing a kidney,” Pariyar said. Now he is sick and getting worse by the day. He

has a urinary problem and constant severe back pain. But he cannot afford a trip to the doctor and is afraid he will die. *“If I die I can only hope for the government to take care of my two children. I don’t know if I will die today or tomorrow. I’m just counting my days,”* he said.

(Excerpted from ‘Nepal’s Organ Trail’ – A CNN Freedom Project 21-minute documentary. Pariyar’s experience is one of many similar stories CNN film crews heard in Kavre.) (<http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/26/world/asia/freedom-project-nepals-organ-trail/>)

‘Human Harvest’

From 1980 onwards, China began withdrawing government funds from the health sector, expecting hospitals to start charging people for their services. According to Chinese doctors, state funding was often not enough to cover staff salaries for one month.

When reports first emerged from China in 2006 that state-run hospitals were killing prisoners of conscience to sell their organs, it seemed too horrible to be true. The ‘Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of the Falun Gong in China’ formed and engaged researchers to investigate allegations that the Chinese government was killing practitioners of the Falun Gong in order to harvest their organs for transplantation. The Falun Gong movement, banned by the Chinese government, is a quasi-religious group with millions of followers. In 1999 China outlawed Falun Gong as an evil cult that violated human rights through mind control and has detained tens of thousands of members.

Among investigators were Nobel Peace Prize nominees, human rights lawyer David Matas and former Canadian member of parliament David Kilgour. They spent years investigating organ trafficking in China, where it is claimed that the Falun Gong are used as live organ donors for livers, corneas and other organs.

A Canadian filmmaker, Leon Lee, read about the allegations and found the story too incredible to believe.

Harvest *cont. pg. 3*



Awareness

Harvest *cont. from pg. 2*

When Matas and Kilgour published their investigative report, 'Bloody Harvest,' Lee decided to investigate for himself. As it would have been impossible and very dangerous to film in mainland China, Lee filmed in several other countries and obtained footage from his sources in China. *"Finding people that wanted to talk and gaining their trust was a slow process, the film took eight years to make,"* he said. *"It was very difficult because people fear persecution from the Chinese regime. Identities were hidden in some cases to protect those involved."*

"Some practitioners were still breathing after their organs were removed, but they were thrown into the hospital's incinerator anyway," stated a witness.

Now the China organ trade is worth a staggering US\$1 billion a year, according to Lee. More than 10,000 organs are transplanted in China annually. Yet there are only a small number of people on China's official donor registry. *"Transplants range from about US\$60,000 to over US\$170,000 depending on the operation, so there is a lot of money to be made. Sadly the sale of organs has become a source of funding to pay for hospital expenses,"* Lee explained. *"Orient Organ Transplant Center in Tianjin reported revenue of at least 100 million yuan (approximately US\$16 million) for liver transplants alone in 2007. That's the amount in one hospital for one kind of transplant in one year only. Now imagine the whole of China."*

In recent years China has been heavily criticized by the United Nations for its use of death row prisoners for organ transplanting. Laws preventing organ tourism to China are being instated around the world and are already in place in Israel and Spain. Both the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament have passed resolutions condemning the Chinese regime's practice of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience and asked China to stop such a practice. Canada's recent 'Subcommittee on International Human Rights' also unanimously passed a similar motion. *"It's a start, but a lot still needs to be done. Awareness and action at this point is really essential. We can't keep allowing this human rights abuse to continue,"* said Lee. Lee's documentary, *'Human Harvest,'* was released in April 2015. (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3027088/A-Human-Harvest-Chinas-organ-trafficking-exposed-shocking-documentary-alleges-illegal-trade-worth-staggering-1-billion-year.html>)



(Right) Thousands of Falun Gong practitioners sit in silent protest in front of the presidential office in Taipei, Taiwan.

Hospital 'Laundering'

A 2014 study entitled, *'The Invisible Issue or Organ Laundering,'* by Dr. Ana Manzano, a professor in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, suggests organ trafficking is enabled and facilitated by legitimate institutions.

Once organs are trafficked, mainstream health care services help to 'launder' these transactions, giving them the appearance of legitimacy while hindering estimates as to how often these crimes happen — in fact, nobody knows how many organs are being traded across the world. *"If countries do nothing about this problem, the consequences for both donors and recipients can be terrible, as they may have to deal with dreadful health outcomes,"* said Manzano.

The worldwide demand for donated organs and tissues has grown exponentially since the first successful corneal transplantation over a century ago in 1906. Over time, surgeons developed the ability to perform new transplant procedures, beginning with the first successful kidney operation in 1954, and quickly followed by liver, heart, pancreas, lung, intestines, hand, and in 2010, even face transplants. As difficult as these surgeries may be, acquiring organs for transplantation is the greater challenge. Nevertheless, in the U.S. an average of 79 people receive an organ transplant each day.

However, a long look at the numbers is telling. In 2013, for instance, a total of 121,272 Americans were waiting for an organ, while 28,954 people had received an organ and 14,257 others had donated one. Unless some of these donors gave up two or more organs, roughly half of the recipients (14,697 people) must have obtained their organs illegally.

This discrepancy in the figures speaks to Manzano's point. According to her research, the true extent of organ trafficking is difficult to pinpoint due to organ laundering — when the illegal

Laundering *cont. pg. 4*



Awareness

Laundering *cont. from pg. 3*
purchase of organs appears to be a legal transaction. Aspects that aid laundering:

- Trafficking is a crime that spans several countries and may involve hundreds of people in a single transaction — tracing organs is difficult.
- Countries do not agree on penalties for those who buy organs, and across the globe, there is little consistency in enforcement of organ trafficking laws.
- Some surgeons perform illegal transplants because they know they will only be caught if their colleagues report them.
- Those who give away their organs may be ambivalent or reluctant to talk due to a fear of prosecution.
- Those who purchase organs are likely to have falsified the transaction, saying a relative donated the organ.
- Insurers play a role whenever they pay for the follow-up treatment of transplant patients.

"In effect, illicitly purchased organs are transformed into legitimate organs by the process of integration into mainstream financial institutions (reimbursement by insurers) and health services (follow-up treatment)," wrote Manzano, adding, *"Countries should follow the example of places like Spain where reporting the recipient of an organ purchased abroad is compulsory if follow-up care is requested."*

More than 114,000 organ transplants are done annually in over 100 countries. Unless nations work together on this issue, many more recipients and donors may become victims of this most painful blow to human dignity. (<http://www.medicaldaily.com/organ-trafficking-rise-transplant-surgeries-increase-around-globe-305230>) (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25144445>)

Medical Professionals & Human Trafficking

Trafficked victims are often taken to healthcare facilities, yet receive no real help in escaping their enslavement.

Pediatrician Kanani Titchen remains haunted by a time when she recognized a new mother as a potential victim but did not act. The woman was manicured and made up but smelled as if she had not bathed in days. She was accompanied by a man. *"Something felt very off to me. I wanted to find a way to talk privately with the patient, but I felt intimidated,"* Titchen said. *"I told one of the nurses that the whole situation made me uncomfortable and she agreed. She told me a social worker had already been called. I had two other deliveries to go to, a neonatal ICU full of babies awaiting me, and paperwork to do. So I left."*

That experience inspired Titchen to found Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans, (PATH), a website that gives doctors screening questions and resources for suspected human trafficking victims.

"Whether we see these patients in the operating room, emergency room, or the clinic, if we fail to notice the signs of trafficking, demonstrate empathy, ask pertinent questions, and schedule close follow-up, we fail these patients," Titchen said.

(<http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/08/20/human-traffick>)

'Soft-Core' Porn and a Child's Brain

In 2014 Dr. Jenny Brown, a Utah dentist, researched the effects of exposure to 'soft porn' on small children. 'Soft porn' is sexually explicit images that are ubiquitously found in advertising and at retailers.

Children and teens exposed to sexual images experience 'neurological

stress.' The basal ganglia (the feeling brain, involved with more reflexive, instinctive, and impulsive behavior) is made stronger as a child is exposed to more and more sexualized images. Meanwhile, the pre-frontal cortex ('thinking' brain or the part that overrides immediate gratification and augments self-control and emotional regulation) decreases in response to viewing sexually explicit images. In other words, continued exposure to pornography 'causes the viewer to become more impulsive and less able to think critically.'

The basis of many psychiatric disorders is an imbalance between the pre-frontal cortex and the basal ganglia/limbic system — the reasoning center and the emotional center of the brain. These disorders include: ADHD, anxiety, depression, and mood disorders such as bipolar. Constant exposure to sexualized images can cause subtle brain changes that are then manifested in these disorders.

Dr. Brown hopes to help legislatures pass laws to protect kids from what she and many other experts feel is a public health crisis brought on by pornography.

Find her well-researched study at: <http://pornproofkids.com/2014/09/04/can-soft-core-porn-damage-your-childs-brain/>

September Summit: Fighting Sexploitation

The Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation is hosting a meeting in Orlando for organizations, concerned citizens, community and church leaders, as well as activists dedicated to the movement of opposing sexploitation in all its forms. The CESE Summit is specifically designed to address the continuum of sexual exploitation extending from topics including pornography, stripping, prostitution, domestic minor sex trafficking, sex trafficking of adults, and sexual assault.

In particular, CESE 2015 will also emphasize the way in which pornography fosters the demand that generates other forms of sexual exploitation.

On pg. 9 of this issue is the web link.



Awareness

Clothing Industry: Argentinian Sweatshops

The two brothers, aged seven and 10, died in April 2015 in a fire in one of the numerous clandestine garment workshops in Flores, a Buenos Aires neighborhood, where their parents, immigrants from Bolivia, were living and working.

A few days earlier a 21-year-old woman from Bolivia was rescued from another sweatshop on the outskirts of Buenos Aires after three years of being raped, beaten, tortured and held captive by distant relatives for whom she worked.

These two cases reflect a complex situation. The state, the textile and fashion industries, and consumers mutually blame each other for the problem.



“They live in the same place where they are exploited, and they work over 16 hours a day,” said a spokesman for the Alameda Foundation, which fights slave and child labor and the trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation. *“They are completely under the control of their bosses. They’re forced to pay taxes; they eat in the same place they work, in inhumane conditions. Their meals, discounted from their wages, are skimpy, which*

is why they have a high incidence of tuberculosis. They live in concentration camp-style dormitories with bunk beds and bathrooms shared by 30, 50, 60 people.”

“When people talk about slave labor, they think of it as a ‘Bolivian’ thing and they don’t associate it with consumerism, with local working class people, with the complicity of national and city governments. We are merely the leftovers, the excluded, the exiled.” said Juan Vásquez, a former sweatshop worker, now part of Simbiosis Cultural, a collective of Bolivian immigrants seeking to draw attention to the appalling conditions in the clandestine workshops.

There are some 3,000 sweatshops in and around Buenos Aires alone, with an average of 10 employees each. The majority of the roughly 30,000 workers are from Bolivia, South America’s poorest country. But there are also Peruvians, as well as workers from other Argentine provinces.

“When you come here you’re very vulnerable because you don’t know the place...they tell you ‘this is where you’ll work, and we’ll bring your meals,’ and you start to just accept the situation as normal. You don’t question anything because they’re giving you a solution after things were really hard back in your own country,” Vásquez said.

He was nine years old when he came to Argentina with his brother and his mother, who pawned their house to find a job. *“The idea was to come here and*

not go back, because we didn’t have money. My last memory of Bolivia is being hungry. I remember her desperation to find some money,” he said.

After a complicated border crossing, they made it to the small factory where his father worked. For three months the family shared a single bunk. These hardships were compounded by discrimination. At school Vásquez was teased and bullied for his accent and dark skin.

At the age of 16, he started to work in a sweatshop, and his parents opened their own. *“It’s all just seen as normal, and it doesn’t have to do with cultural characteristics,”* he said. *“When my mom opened up her workshop she didn’t think: now I’m going to exploit people and make money off of them. She had learned how the system worked. She saw working 16 hours, in those conditions, as something normal. It’s capitalism overlapping with the issue of immigration,”* Vásquez said.

In Argentina, a country of 41 million people, including 1.8 million foreign nationals, the law on immigration guarantees the right to work, education and healthcare for South American immigrants. But many of these modern-day slaves are undocumented, with 90% working in agriculture or the textile industry.

Sweatshops are the last link in the garment industry chain, with nearly 80% of the industry dependent on them.

“It’s all part of a big scheme: people are trafficked, reduced to slavery conditions, and forced to work making clothes for big and small brand names, street fairs, famous designers, fashion boutiques, counterfeit clothing markets, and even government departments,” stated the Alameda



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Clothing *cont. from pg. 5*

representative. A 2006 internal audit by the Defense Ministry found that the army procured supplies from clandestine workshops. The racket is closely linked to drug trafficking, which uses sweatshops to launder money.

The Argentinian government is responsible for failing to codify the Law on the Prevention and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons, and the Buenos Aires city government for failing to monitor and carry out inspections, and for protecting the clothing brands that have been denounced.

In 10 years, the Alameda Foundation received some 5,000 complaints of slave and child labor, mistreatment and sexual abuse. Members of the police “*guarantee that the sweatshops will be safe from problems in exchange for bribes.*” One example was the workshop where the two boys died. Despite the police guard after the first fire, it was set ablaze on May 7, in an apparently intentional fire aimed at eliminating documents and evidence.

Although 110 national and international brands – some of them famous – have been named in legal proceedings for allegedly buying from sweatshops, only one was found guilty.

Bolivians are often unfamiliar with the laws, and break them. They don’t know, for example, that what they’re doing is trafficking in persons. Sometimes they bring over a relative, thinking they’re doing them a favor, without knowing that they’re committing a crime.

The Alameda Foundation proposes alternatives like textile cooperatives in workshops that have been confiscated or recovered by the workers. They are also calling for an obligatory label to

guarantee to consumers that what they’re buying was not made in a sweatshop, with slave labor. The governmental National Institute of Industrial Technology tried to adopt a voluntary label, but only one big clothing store accepted it.

The Alameda Foundation is asking the government “*to raise awareness about the laws so people don’t keep bringing people in*” and to monitor the big clothing manufacturers, “*because without them slave labor wouldn’t exist.*”

(<http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/05/garment-sweatshops-in-argentina-an-open-secret/>)

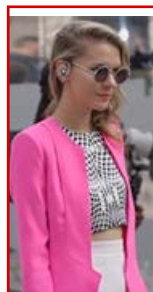
Film: ‘The True Cost’

The world now consumes about 80 billion new pieces of clothing every year. This is 400% more than the amount we consumed just 20 years ago. As new clothing comes into our lives, we also discard it at a shocking pace. The average American now generates 82 pounds of textile waste each year. That adds up to more than 11 million tons of textile waste from the U.S. alone. Historically, clothing has been something we have held onto for a long time, but with cheap clothing now abundantly available we are beginning to see the things we wear as disposable.

On 24 April 24, 2013, 1133 people were killed and over 2500 were injured when the Rana Plaza factory complex collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh — the worst ever industrial disaster in the fashion and textile industry. It was not the first disaster, nor was it the last, but it is symptomatic of how little respect is given to the people who make our clothing and to the environment in which they are forced to work.

‘The True Cost’ is a documentary (with subtitles available in 17 languages) about this situation. It is about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact the industry is having on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. The film asks us to consider, ‘Who really pays the price for our clothing?’

Filmed in countries all over the world, from the brightest modeling venues to the darkest slums, it is an eye-opening journey around the world and into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.



To view the film’s trailer, go to:
<http://truecostmovie.com/>



Advocacy

Polaris Advocacy for Victims of 'Sales Crew' Abuses

Federal government entities should amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in order to cover door-to-door sales workers. They should ensure adequate funding for services designed to assist victims of human trafficking, including victims of labor trafficking on sales crews and hold sales crew employers responsible for providing the required Form 1099-MISC to document expenditures (Internal Revenue Service). They should investigate abuses of the J-1 visa program (Department of State).

State governments should adopt stronger laws to regulate employment conditions on traveling sales crews, potentially modeling them after Wisconsin's successful regulation. They should consider defining a private right of action for individuals who have experienced trafficking situations, employment misclassification, wage violations, or other abuses on traveling sales crews, and highlight the dangers of traveling sales as an occupation.

Law enforcement agents must look for signs of trafficking when stopping crew members for traffic violations or for door-to-door solicitation and pursue action against those at the top of the network rather than on crew members. They can also initiate fraud cases against known abusive businesses.

Service organizations should recognize that sales crew members can be victims of labor trafficking requiring services like other human trafficking victims do, and be prepared to address survivors' immediate needs for short-term shelter and transportation home. They must also be aware that some survivors, both male and female, have had extremely traumatic experiences of psychological control, physical abuse, and sexual assault.

The **publishing industry** should make efforts to ensure a transparent business supply chain in their magazine sales in order to protect their brand reputations. Since it is unlikely that publishers have the resources to oversee sales agents, however, they should additionally be prepared to cooperate with government entities in the case of investigations of bad actors within the door-to-door sales industry.

The **hotel and transportation industry** should train staff to recognize the indicators of traveling sales crew victims, and share available resources like the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (888-373-7888) and the National Runaway Safeline (800-786-2929). Both industries should also partner with service providers to provide hotel or transportation vouchers to victims.

Consumers should be cautious when buying magazines or other items from sales crews that are not clearly affiliated with a local organization such as a school, and be alert to suspicious job advertisements. Consumers can also give the NHTRC hotline number (888-373-888) or the BeFree texting number (233733) to sales crew members, who display signs of being at risk for trafficking. Consumers should not attempt to follow the crew member or intervene directly. (Report, pg. 2; complete list on pgs. 23-26)

Lawyers' Role in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is an issue of public safety, health, migration, development, corporate practices, labor, and immigration – all of which intersect with the law. Of the estimated 27 million people currently enslaved worldwide, less than 1% are identified. To shrink that gap, a variety of professionals, especially attorneys, are needed to integrate identification and prevention strategies into their practices.

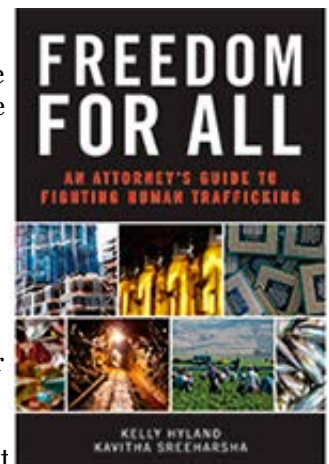
Only with additional information, tools, and resources can attorneys truly understand the various opportunities available to them to transform their interest in combatting human trafficking into action.

'*Freedom for All: An Attorney's Guide to Fighting Human Trafficking*' by Kavitha Sreeharsha is the first book of its kind to address the global scale of human trafficking while preparing attorneys to identify, expand assistance for trafficked persons, and prevent human trafficking overall.

This 254-page book discusses why attorneys must be involved in eradicating human trafficking and why the scale of the problem is simply too vast to conquer without their engagement. It outlines the different ways to engage in anti-trafficking work, including identification among existing clients, *pro bono* representation, corporate and policy development, non-profit support and governance.

The book sells for \$99.95 in print and as an e-book. Go to:

<http://shop.americanbar.org/ebus/store.aspx?productId=213345&term=Freedom+for+All>





Advocacy

Update on the 2015 'Dirty Dozen' List

Annually the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), formerly Morality in Media, publishes a 'Dirty Dozen' List. The 2015 list included: American Library Association, American Apparel, Backpage.com, CKE Restaurants (Carl's Jrs. and Hardee's), Cosmopolitan Magazine, the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Facebook, Fifty Shades of Grey, Hilton Hotels, College Sex Week, Verizon, and YouTube (Google). (See '[Stop Trafficking' March 2015 issue](#)). The Center also publishes updates and victories as they occur, through the efforts of citizens and organizations: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirty-dozen/#victories>.



NCOSE logo

Verizon Update:

Verizon removed the child-themed and slavery-themed movie titles they were offering through their FIOS TV. BUT Verizon still promotes certain child sex fantasy videos, some from Hustler's 'Barely Legal' porn video series designed to appeal to these fantasies. Actresses are selected for 'Barely Legal' porn who look very young and act like children.

To complain, go to:

<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/sign-petition?8&engagementId=53050>

Backpage.com Update:

On Aug. 27, 2015, U.S. District Court Judge, John Tharp, Jr. in Illinois, denied Backpage.com's request for a preliminary injunction against Sheriff Tom Dart, who had requested MasterCard and Visa to cut ties with Backpage.com for advertising victims of prostitution and sex trafficking. NCOSE praised Judge Tharp's decision. Dawn Hawkins, Executive Director of NCOSE, stated, "*Backpage is the leading website in America for prostitution advertising, generating nearly 80% of all the online prostitution advertising revenue. Victims of sex trafficking are regularly bought and sold on this website, which is essentially the equivalent of a modern slave auction. Sheriff Dart has demonstrated commendable leadership in the movement to end Backpage's business model of sexual exploitation.*" Backpage.com officials originally accused Dart of infringing



on the website's free speech rights by calling on credit card companies to sever ties with the website.

(<http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/ncose-praises-court-decision-to-support-critic-of-backpage-com/>)

Hilton Update:

The international Hilton Hotel chain has decided to eliminate all specifically adult films from its on-demand offerings, saying that adult entertainment "*is not in keeping with our company's vision.*" The hotel chain said in a statement: "*We are making immediate changes to our global brand standards to eliminate adult video-on-demand entertainment in all our hotels worldwide. While the vast majority of our properties already do not offer this content today, this content will be phased out of all other hotels subject to the terms of their contracts. We believe in offering our guests a high degree of choice and control during their stays with us, including Wi-Fi on personal devices.*"

(<http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/breitbart-hilton-hotel-chain-eliminates-porn-from-on-demand-video-offerings/>)

Thank Hilton at:

<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/sign-petition?5&engagementId=125941>

American Apparel Update:

American Apparel reevaluated and changed the organization's leadership, advertising strategy, and brand identity purposely in order to avoid the sexual exploitation of women in selling products.

Cosmopolitan Update:

Rite Aid and Food Lion announced they were working to shield customers from the content on Cosmopolitan's cover. Rite Aid said it will carry the publication, but future issues will be behind pocket shields. Food Lion said it is asking the publisher of the magazine to provide a screened holder. "*We encourage those with concerns about the content of this or other magazines to contact the publishers directly, as we believe this is the most effective way to address these matters,*" stated Food Lion. Wal-Mart has provided stores with blockers for more than 10 years but recently decided to send out a communication to remind stores about this policy. The NCOSE said it has partnered with Victoria Hearst, the granddaughter of Cosmopolitan publisher, William Randolph Hearst, to ask stores to put wrappers on all Cosmopolitan magazines and refuse sales to minors.

(<http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/the-hill-retailers-to-shield-customers-from-cosmopolitan-magazine/>)



Action

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text 'Help' at: BeFree
(233733)

Polaris 'Sales Crew' Actions:

- Congress should amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in order to cover door-to-door sales,
- The Federal Government should investigate abuses of the J-1 visa program
- Law enforcement should pursue bad actors at the top of the sales network instead of focusing on crew members violating local anti-solicitation laws,
- Service organizations should recognize crew members as victims of labor trafficking so they can receive support,
- The publishing industry should ensure transparent business supply chains in their magazine sales, and
- Consumers should use caution when buying magazines or other items from sales crews.

Download the Report at:
<http://www.polarisproject.org/storage/knocking-on-your-door-sales-crews.pdf>

Take the pledge at:
http://act.polarisproject.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=20892

Clothing Industry Actions:

For tips on how to shop more consciously, go to:
<http://truecostmovie.com/learn-more/buying-better/>

To learn about the environmental impact of the clothing industry, go to:
<http://truecostmovie.com/learn-more/environmental-impact/>

Ask Twitter to Change Course

Twitter has become a 'micro-porn' service with tens of thousands of porn tweets an hour. Of course, there is no way to keep this from children (who are now using Twitter and Instagram as their main social media site).

Go to:
<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/write-a-letter?12&engagementId=53244>

#PornFreeWiFi

Urge McDonald's and Starbucks to block all porn in their locations.

Go to:
<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/sign-petition?2&engagementId=69395>

Dancing Lessons

Young girls are becoming increasingly sexualized through dance with choreography that exploits and sexualizes children, using sexy moves, adult costumes, and mature, sexually charged songs to make little girls look and act like mature women.

For examples and action steps, go to:
<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/sign-petition?2&engagementId=52695>

Stop Putting Porn in Front of Kids!

Barnes & Noble: Nooks have free unfiltered porn. Some stores place porn topics near the children's section in stores.

Go to:
<http://pornharmSACTION.com/app/write-a-letter?10&engagementId=39707>

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

2015 'Dirty Dozen' List
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirty-dozen/>

Actions to Fight Porn
<http://pornharmSACTION.com/>

American Medical Women's Association
<https://www.amwa-doc.org/our-work/initiatives/human-trafficking/>

P.A.T.H.
<http://www.doc-path.org/>

2015 Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit
Sept. 10-12 in Orlando, FL
<http://www.endexploitationmovement.com/summit-2015>

Cosmopolitan Campaign

Many do not realize that Cosmopolitan, once an inspirational women's magazine, is now filled with dangerous and pornographic sex tips. In recent years, they have started to include actual depictions of nudity and porn acts. They blatantly target young girls with their marketing.

You can tell retailers to do something to protect children by asking them to conceal Cosmopolitan covers.

To take action, go to:
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/cosmo/>

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!*
www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm
To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org
Editing and Layout: *Jean Schaffer, SDS*