

# Stop Trafficking !

*Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter*



*Awareness*

*Advocacy*

*Action*

October 2015 Vol. 13 No. 10

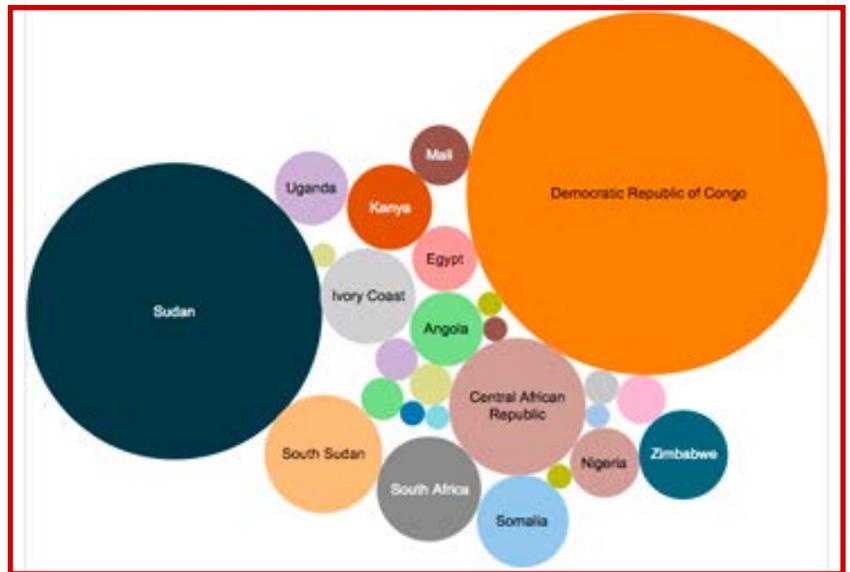
This issue highlights the interrelationship of social unrest and war with the spread and persistence of human trafficking among vulnerable populations.

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## Slavery in Times of War: Exploitation and Trafficking



Rape as a Weapon of Political Violence by African Country, 2006-2015

- Angola
- Nigeria
- Central African Rep.
- South Sudan
- Democratic Rep. of Congo
- South Africa
- Egypt
- Somalia
- Ivory Coast
- Sudan
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Mali
- Zimbabwe



## Awareness

## ‘Comfort Women’ in World War II

Sept. 2, 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of Japan’s formal surrender in World War II. Despite celebrations to honor the service and sacrifice of those who fought, no events commemorated the hundreds of thousands of women conscripted into military sexual slavery and also sacrificed in this war.

In this “comfort system” of state-sponsored prostitution, Japan subjugated between 100,000 and 200,000 women, most of whom are now deceased. The methods of procuring women ranged from abduction to deception and spanned Japan’s wartime empire in the Asia-Pacific. Japanese historian Yuki Tanaka called this crime *“the largest and most elaborate system of trafficking in women in the history of mankind, and one of the most brutal.”*

The terms “comfort women” and “comfort stations” are euphemisms used by the military authorities to mask Japan’s brutal system of prostitution and make it sound like the women were performing a voluntary service. In 2007, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced there was no evidence the Imperial Japanese Army had forced Asian women into military brothels during World War II. A paid Washington Post advertisement that followed claimed the women were *“embedded with the Japanese army ... working under a system of licensed prostitution that was commonplace around the world at the time.”*

Most women procured for military sexual slavery came from the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, Korea, and China. More than 100,000 of the women taken into sexual servitude were Korean. In the Philippines, Japanese soldiers pressed an estimated



A Filipino “comfort woman” during World War II, now age 85, displays a placard during a rally outside the Japanese Embassy in Manila. (Bullit Marquez/AP)

1,000 women into sexual servitude during the war, seizing women and girls from homes and streets and then raping and confining them.

In other countries, the Japanese military used recruiters to stock the “comfort stations.” Many women were deceived about the real nature of their position, being told they owed debts for payments to parents or relatives. On a normal day, women serviced 10 men, but the number would increase to 30 or 40 a day before and after battles.

In Indonesia, 20,000 Indonesian women and a small number of Dutch women were victims of sexual servitude. Numerous brothels were built to accommodate the 220,000 Japanese military personnel stationed there. After the war, Dutch authorities organized a war crimes tribunal but prosecuted only those Japanese officers responsible for violating white Dutch women.

When the war ended, most of the comfort women were abandoned. Many stationed close to the battlefields died as a result of warfare. Those who survived lived with lifelong illnesses

and injuries. The Allied forces rescued some, but others were drafted again into sexual slavery when the system was replicated by the U.S. military, which occupied Japan after the war.

Decades after World War II, researchers found documents buried in the national archives of Japan, the U.S. and Australia. These records proved that Japanese authorities institutionalized the comfort system during and after the war.

It took an Asian feminist movement, inspired by the brave public testimonies of survivors, to make the victims’ plight visible to the world. Matsui Yayori, a Japanese journalist at the time, wrote the first article about the comfort women in the newspaper Asahi Shimbun, marking the first time any major newspaper had addressed the issue.

The Korean women’s movement has led international efforts to pressure Japan into accepting legal responsibility for their war crimes against women and for paying compensation to the survivors.

In April 2015, Abe visited Washington and addressed the U.S. Congress. Asked about making an official apology for Japan’s system of sexual slavery during the war, he evaded a direct admission of guilt. *“I am deeply pained to think about the comfort women who experienced immeasurable pain and suffering due to human trafficking,”* Abe said. He made no reference to Japan’s responsibility for this pain and suffering.

Then in August of this year, Abe offered only an indirect statement avoiding official culpability for these crimes against women. He added, *“We must*

*cont. pg. 3*



## U.S. Military Then and Now

*not let our children, grandchildren and even further generations to come, who have nothing to do with that war, be predestined to apologize.”*

The evidence for World War II military sexual slavery points not to Japan alone. U.S. re-enactment of the comfort system in postwar Japan is less well known but not less abusive. When Japan surrendered in 1945, the Japanese government, fearful that “sex-starved” U.S. occupation troops would behave as Japanese forces did abroad, recruited thousands into officially organized brothels.

Many of these women were war orphans and widows who were starving and homeless. Some were high school students who had been compelled to work in the munitions factories and had lost their jobs and families. Some were raped by U.S. soldiers at the end of the war. Still others were returning from wartime comfort stations in the Asia-Pacific.

Both the Japanese and American occupation authorities treated prostitution as a necessary amenity for the “recreation of the warriors.” From the beginning, U.S. authorities not only tolerated military prostitution but also systematized it. They colluded with Japanese officials to inspect women for venereal disease, monitor the red-light districts and brothels and set up prophylactic stations. U.S. military police were commanded to keep order among the lines of soldiers waiting their turn to enter the brothels and initially could hardly contain the mobs of men who lined up to be sexually gratified. Each woman had to service from 15 to 60 buyers a day.

It has been estimated that at the peak



of the legal postwar system, 70,000 women were used by 350,000 occupation troops, most of whom were from the U.S. but also included 40,000 from Britain and Australia.

The Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, held to prosecute Japanese war crimes, took place from 1946 to 1949. U.S. authorities who held key positions at the tribunal were well aware of Japan’s crimes against the comfort women but chose not to prosecute. It is likely that U.S. officials did not want their own “comfort women” system exposed. That it was mostly Asian women who were violated by both the Japanese and the Americans added to the U.S.’s lack of accountability.

The history of the comfort women system is timely because it reverberates with lessons about state-sponsored prostitution today. In a non-military context, governments are as persuasive in promoting prostitution as in a military context. Countries that have legalized or decriminalized systems of prostitution become prostitution nations in which women are encouraged to prostitute because it is legal. More men are given legal permission to buy women because prostitution is rebranded as a “sexual service” and pimps are transformed into legitimate business agents. State-sponsored prostitution regimes weave

the sturdy fabric of sexual exploitation in peace as well as in war.

In 1952, historian Yanai-hara Tadao stated that the consequences of America’s postwar sexual exploitation of women corrupted Japanese society both morally and economically, not only when the brothels were set up for the Allied occupation

troops but also when Japan became the rest and relaxation center for U.S. and Australian forces during the Korean War. High taxes levied on the Japanese sex industry played a key role in raising public money for the rebuilding of Japan and constructing the economic infrastructure of Japanese capitalism after the war—the same infrastructure that governments are replicating through legally sanctioned prostitution of women in state-sponsored regimes such as the Netherlands, where prostitution accounts for 5% of the country’s GDP.

The Japanese government whitewashed its conscription of women into military prostitution by alleging that they were “embedded” within a system of voluntary legal prostitution, which masked the exploitation and violence. The Netherlands, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand use the same rationale and ignore the harmful consequences of their legal regimes of prostitution.

We must honor the “comfort women” by opposing the “comfort systems” of today. (Excerpted from Janice Raymond)

[http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/70\\_years\\_after\\_v-j\\_day\\_still\\_no\\_honor\\_for\\_japans\\_comfort\\_women\\_20150830/](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/70_years_after_v-j_day_still_no_honor_for_japans_comfort_women_20150830/)



## U.N. Recommends the U.S. Military Confront Its Sexual-Assault Problem

The U.S. military has a problem with sexual violence. That is the conclusion of the Universal Periodic Review Panel, a U.N. panel that aims to address the human rights records of the 193 U.N. member states. This is the second time that the panel has scrutinized the U.S. The first was in 2010, when the list of concerns included detention in Guantanamo Bay, torture, the death penalty, and access to health care. Its latest report came out in May 2015, and there was a surprising addition to the predictable laundry list of U.S. human rights violations.

In one of 12 final recommendations, the U.N. Council urged the U.S. military *“to prevent sexual violence in the military and ensure effective prosecution of offenders and redress for victims.”* Other recommendations included stopping the militarization of police forces, closing Guantanamo Bay, ending the death penalty, and stopping NSA surveillance of citizens.

For years U.S. lawmakers and activists have complained about sexual assault in the military, but this is the first time the U.N. has addressed the issue.

Representatives from Denmark and Slovenia were especially outspoken in their criticism of the U.S. for not doing enough to prevent and prosecute alleged cases of sexual assault.

The U.N. panels likely decided to investigate U.S. military sexual violence in response to a report last year from the Service Women’s Action Network and Cornell Law School’s Avon Global Center for Women and Justice and the Global Gender Justice Clinic. It analyzed statistics from the Dept. of Defense, survivors’ stories from federal

cases, and interviews with survivors.

The report concluded, *“In cases where an act of sexual assault has already been committed in the military, the U.S. often times fails to promptly and impartially prosecute and effectively redress the assault and thereby violates servicemen and women’s rights under international law.”*

The U.N. Human Rights Council evaluation targeted the military’s reporting process, in which the decision of whether to prosecute cases of alleged sexual assault or harassment is left to superiors in the chain of command rather than an outsider with experience in sexual assault. For years, activists and lawmakers in the U.S. have tried to change this protocol—but leaders in the military have balked at bringing civilians into bases and military academies to investigate alleged assaults. Advocates say that commanders should not be in charge of handling these cases, since they are not trained in legal or criminal matters and often directly supervise both the victim and the perpetrator. Victims often are afraid to report the assault, fearing retribution or inaction. In a 2014 RAND Corporation survey of service members who reported sexual assaults, 62% of those who responded claimed they experienced social or professional retaliation after reporting unwanted sexual harassment, including being fired.

Denmark’s representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council, Carsten Staur, recommended *“removing from the chain of command the decision about whether to prosecute cases of alleged assault.”* His comments marked the

*“first time that a human rights body has called upon the U.S. to remove key decision-making authority from the chain of command in cases alleging sexual violence,”* noted Liz Brundige, the Avon Global Center’s director, in a press release.

The State Department, the Pentagon, and the U.S. representative to the U.N. did not respond to requests for comment on the council report.

When the U.N. Human Rights Council last reviewed the United States in 2010, the U.S. government promised to respond to all of the recommendations—including improvements to health care, criminal justice, and other areas of concern—with a written report of goals. This year, the U.N. Human Rights Council commended the U.S. for six areas of “positive achievement,” including strengthening the social welfare system in the United States, creating a task force on 21st-century policing, taking some measures to address violence against women, upholding some of the rights of LGBT individuals, improving access to health care, and releasing details on CIA interrogation techniques.

When the panel reviews the United States again, the U.S. will have to update the United Nations on its progress on sexual assault in the military.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/05/un-human-rights-council-us-military-do-better-victims-sexual-violence>



## Awareness

# U.N. Peacekeeping Forces

In September 2009, a research paper, entitled 'U.N. Peacekeeping Economies and Local Sex Industries: Connections and Implications' was put out by MICROCON (Micro Level Analysis of Violent Conflict). ([http://www.microconflict.eu/publications/RWP17\\_KJ\\_VNR.pdf](http://www.microconflict.eu/publications/RWP17_KJ_VNR.pdf))

Examining Blue Helmet missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Liberia, and Haiti, the paper examined *"the interplay between the peacekeeping economy and the sex industry, including domestic sex work, trafficking for sexual exploitation, and sex tourism."*

Despite claiming "zero tolerance," U.N. officials have not stopped decades of serious peacekeeper-committed abuses.

According to MICROCON, sexual exploitation was wide-ranging, including slavery and prostitution, or what the U.N. calls "transactional sex," with peacekeepers very much involved. In countries like Bosnia and Kosovo, *"domestic sex work/sex trafficking have become a seemingly permanent part of the economy."* Peacekeeping missions affect both supply and demand, *"effectively creating avenues (for) trafficking of women for sexual exploitation into/through these areas."*

Local women often cannot satisfy the demand so foreign women from poor nations are imported to supplement. Bosnia and Kosovo *"are consistent with other (countries where) the development and evolution of sex trafficking is a component of the overall expansion of the sex industry, which in turn is driven by militarism."*



Women and young girls are brutally exploited, and *"documented cases of U.N. soldiers (show) that, far from helping the victims,"* they become clients or otherwise implicated in the trade. Former prisoners said they saw girls forced into U.N. vehicles and driven away. International military and civilian personnel are directly involved in the sex industry, including trafficking.

In addition, once established, the sex trade continues when peacekeepers leave, its effects permanent and destructive. MICROCON investigated whether a link between peacekeeping economies and sex industries continues, given U.N. claimed efforts against it. *"The impact of the U.N.'s zero-tolerance policy on (Haitian and Liberian) sex industries... remains debatable."* The policy is hard to enforce, harder with little or no effort made to do it. Further, it says nothing about the legality or illegality of the sex industry in countries with peacekeepers, and doesn't try to regulate their types or nature. In fact, it cannot as it is up to national or sub-national authorities, often corrupted and complicit.

*"The critical issue — the environment that enables the commoditization of the sexual labor of local women, men, and children — is ignored, except insofar as mission personnel are prohibited from patronizing certain establishments,"* or otherwise being involved. Yet, peacekeepers patronize anyway, with evidence showing how pervasively and abusively.

(<http://dissidentvoice.org/2010/10/un-peacekeepers-complicit-in-sex-trade/>)

## 'Whistlerblower' Reports Abuse

In 2014 Swedish U.N. official, Anders Kompass, leaked to French authorities an internal investigation detailing allegations that French soldiers on a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic raped children and traded food for sex. Kompass said that he leaked the report because he was concerned that the U.N. would not disclose its findings or take action. In May 2015, after the report was revealed by the newspaper, the Guardian, French prosecutors launched an investigation (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/07/france-criminal-inquiry-alleged-sex-abuse-french-soldiers-un-central-african-republic>) into the allegations.

The whistleblower is now under internal investigation, according to the U.N. secretary general's office, for a "serious breach in protocol" and risking victims' privacy. French President Francois Hollande declared he "will be merciless" if the allegations are proven true. (<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/05/un-human-rights-council-us-military-do-better-victims-sexual-violence>)



## Awareness

### ISIS in the Middle East

The Islamic State is kidnapping and raping hundreds of Yazidi and Christian young women and they are not attempting to hide it.

In fact, the Islamic State is unapologetic about condoning sex slavery. A New York Times report (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/21/world/middleeast/the-islamic-state-is-forcing-women-to-be-sex-slaves.html>) stated that ISIS fighters use sex trafficking and rape to strengthen their campaign and get more young men to join them.

The Islamic State leaders have also published theological arguments in their online magazine, Dabiq, explaining why the rape of infidels is permitted by their religion and defending slavery.

*“There is a great deal of scripture that sanctions slavery,”* said Mr. Bunzel, the author of a research paper published by the Brookings Institution on the ideology of the Islamic State. *“You can argue that it is no longer relevant and has fallen into abeyance. ISIS would argue that these institutions need to be revived, because that is what the Prophet and his companions did.”*

One 34-year-old Yazidi woman, who was bought and repeatedly raped by a Saudi fighter in the Syrian city of Shadadi, described how she fared better than the second slave in the household — a 12-year-old girl who was raped for days on end despite heavy bleeding.

*“He destroyed her body. She was badly infected. The fighter kept coming and asking me, ‘Why does she smell so bad?’ And I said, she has an infection on the inside, you need to take care of her,”* the woman said.

Unmoved, he ignored the girl’s agony, continuing the ritual of praying before and after raping the child.

*“I said to him, ‘She’s just a little girl,’”* the older woman recalled. *“And he answered: ‘No. She’s not a little girl. She’s a slave. And she knows exactly how to have sex and having sex with her pleases God,’”* he said.”

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/world/middlee->



A woman, who said she was raped by Islamic State militants, at a refugee camp in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. Credit: Mauricio Lima for The New York Times



ISIS proposes establishing an Islamic State (black), 2014 (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2674736/ISIS-militants-declare-formation-caliphate-Syria-Iraq-demand-Muslims-world-swear-allegiance.html>)

### Sex Slaves as ‘Prizes’ by ISIS in Koran Contest

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has already committed countless unspeakable acts on Yazidi and Christian girls and women in Iraq, but the terrorist army reached a new low with a new contest in which female slaves captured in war are given away as ‘prizes’ (sibya) to fighters who show they have mastered the Koran.

The practice was organized by the Da’wa and Mosques Department in Al-Baraka province in Syria in honor of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and was announced in June on ISIS Twitter accounts, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) and the Clarion Project, two independent research institutes that track social media accounts linked to terrorist groups.

*“By showcasing its slavery, ISIS is boasting that it practices Islam in its most literal interpretation, doesn’t capitulate to public opinion and rejects modern interpretations.”*

Ryan Mauro, Clarion Project

An announcement on Twitter *“begins with congratulations to ISIS soldiers and departments in the province upon the beginning of the month of Ramadan,”* MEMRI wrote. *“It then announces the upcoming Koran memorization competition where participants will be tested and given prizes accordingly.”*

The statement lists the prizes planned for the top ten competitors. The top three would each be awarded a female slave: *‘Winner of the first place [will be granted] (sibya) [a female slave who was captured at war],’* the translation by MEMRI read.

(<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/06/22/new-low-isis-reportedly-gives-away>)



## Advocacy

# United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals

**Achieving the UN Goals will help prevent human trafficking.**

**Goal 1.**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2.**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goal 3.**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Goal 4.**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 5.**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 6.**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7.**

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Goal 8.**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 9.**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goal 10.**

Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 11.**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



**Goal 12.**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13.**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goal 14.**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15.**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 16.**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 17.**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

## New Goals for the Global Community

In September 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) were adopted by the U.N. General Assembly.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the SDGs a "to-do list for people and the planet."

Paragraph 29 of the draft text states: "We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons."

### Spread the Word!

For the SDGs to be reached, everyone must do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and ordinary citizens.

Do you want to get involved? Start by telling everyone about the goals and their importance for a peaceful world.



Action

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

## 'Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Global Overview and Implications for the Security Sector'

The above titled 2007 Report by Megan Bastick, Karin Grimm, and Rahel Kunz studied the effects of armed conflicts on subsequent violence in 50 countries of the world.

"Armed conflict often has consequences in terms of sexual and gender-based violence after the shooting has stopped. A number of countries emerging from armed conflict report a very high and/or increasing incidence of criminal and family violence. Impunity for acts of sexual violence committed during the conflict, post-conflict poverty, lack of livelihood opportunities and the weakened rule of law, may combine to foster increased inter-personal and sexual violence, and to make women and girls particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking." (Report, pg. 10)

To read the full report, go to:  
[http://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story\\_id/sexualviolence\\_conflict\\_full%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story_id/sexualviolence_conflict_full%5B1%5D.pdf)

Involvement in means to empower women  
is one effective way to lessen the risks of human trafficking.

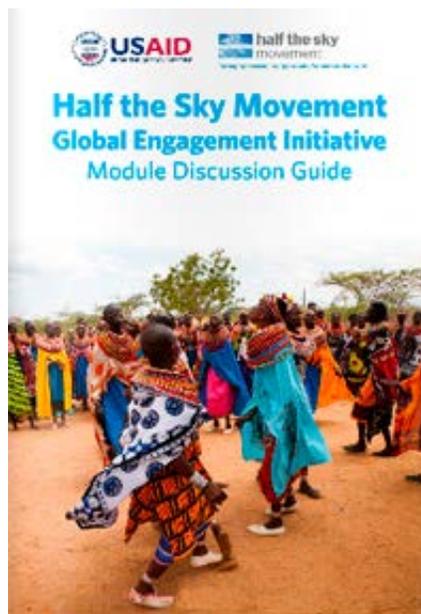
## Half the Sky Movement

The movement, inspired by journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book of the same name, 'Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,' is a creative effort to help put an end to a defining issue of our time —the oppression of women and girls worldwide. The movement brings together video, websites, games, blogs and other educational tools to not only raise awareness of women's issues, but to also provide concrete steps to fight these problems and empower women.

To date, supporters of the movement have donated more than \$5 million to organizations helping women and girls; more than 1.1 million people have played the Facebook game; and more than 1,500 campus and community ambassadors have hosted screenings, held panel discussions, and educated members of their communities about the issues facing millions

of women and girls and the inspiring individuals and organizations that are working for a fairer, freer world.

*Next col.*



<http://www.halfttheskymovement.org/pages/global-engagement-initiative>

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

**San Francisco to build 'Comfort Women' Memorial**  
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/09/23/national/politics-diplomacy/san-francisco-unanimously-adopts-measure-to-build-comfort-women-memorial/>

**'Comfort Women' Photos and Stories**  
<http://www.panos.co.uk/stories/2-13-1144-1650//Comfort-Women/#>

**2030 UN Goals**  
[http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815\\_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf)

**UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon, Sept. 25, 2015**  
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17111.doc.htm>

The Video Series includes a four-hour film broadcast, shot in 10 countries: Cambodia, Kenya, India, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Liberia and the U.S. The documentary series introduces women and girls who are living under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable — and fighting bravely to change them. Their intimate, dramatic and immediate stories of struggle reflect viable and sustainable options for empowerment and offer an actionable blueprint for transformation.  
(<http://www.halfttheskymovement.org/>)

**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](http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm)

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: [jeansds@stopenslavement.org](mailto:jeansds@stopenslavement.org)  
Editing and Layout: *Jean Schafer, SDS*