

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

November 2015 Vol. 13 No. 11

This issue highlights the types of persons who may be rubbing elbows with us daily but for whom exploitation, fear and coercion are their daily fare.

Sponsored by the: Sisters of the Divine Savior

## Co-Sponsors

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Benedictine Sisters, Mother of God Monastery, SD
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS
- Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of St. Louise
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Prov. of West
- Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI
- Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL
- Felician Sisters
- Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN
- Franciscan Sisters of Peace
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
- Holy Union Sisters
- Marianites of Holy Cross
- Maryknoll Sisters
- Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Religious Sisters of Charity
- San Jose CA Police Dept. Vice Unit, HT Task Force
- School Sisters of Notre Dame, Shalom North America
- School Sisters of St. Francis, PA
- School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King
- Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, USA Province
- Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, WI
- Sisters of Bon Secours USA
- Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, OH
- Sisters of Charity of Halifax
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
- Sisters of Charity, Leavenworth, KS
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- Sisters of Charity of New York
- Sisters of Christian Charity Mendham, NJ & Wilmette, IL
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of Notre Dame, CA Prov.
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, USA
- Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco, CA
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada
- Sisters of the Sacred Hearts
- Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma, WA
- Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
- Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City
- Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, MN
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Prov.s
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, N. / S. Amer. Prov.s
- Society of the Divine Savior USA
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.
- Society of Jesus, CA Prov.
- Society of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, MO
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union, USA

## In Plain Sight, But Hidden Exploitation

### From Guatemala to the U.S. for Work

**Alejandro** served in the Guatemalan military. When his family farm ran into financial difficulty he decided to go to the U.S. for work. He traveled 1,942 miles from Guatemala to Colorado.

**Bait:** Alejandro used a “reputable” coyote, or labor broker, to cross the U.S. border, who promised employment once in the U.S. for a fee of U.S.\$5,000.

**Switch:** The border crossing took 22 days, and included inedible food, unsanitary, dangerous traveling conditions with very little water, and a seven-day walk through the Mexican desert.

**Abuse:** At several stops on the journey, Alejandro was grouped with dozens of other migrants in unsanitary housing with little food. Immigrants who objected to their treatment were beaten or left in the desert. Drug and gang-related personnel oversaw operations and threatened or beat those who tried to escape or complain. Alejandro lost 18 pounds and was already U.S.\$6,000 in debt.

**Piling on debt:** Once Alejandro arrived in California, he had to pay an additional U.S. \$1,000 to the coyote to get to Colorado. Alejandro was also charged U.S.\$125 per month in interest on his loan.

**Outcome:** He did find work that made it able to begin to repay his debt.

**Fernando** sought legal, short-term employment in the U.S. through the H2B guest worker program. He traveled 2,148 miles from Guatemala to New England.

**Bait:** A recruiter offered Fernando minimum wage for 3-5 months planting trees in North Carolina as a H2B worker. He was going to the U.S. on a legal visa, through a good broker, and he was not generating any interest on his debt to get the job.

**Switch:** Fernando was illegally trucked to New England to work long hours at a plant nursery for meager pay, technically performing H2A work under the much less stringent H2B program.

**Abuse:** Fernando was told not to leave the worksite at all, even when not working. He was forced to sign a contract in English – a language he did not speak. His passport was taken away and he was threatened with deportation. Seven men shared a filthy two-bedroom inner city apartment. Workers were forced to work when sick and given unreasonable daily quotas.

**Piling on debt:** Fernando paid close to U.S.\$2,000 for the embassy interview, plane ticket, and living expenses.

**Outcome:** Eventually Fernando filed a lawsuit against his broker and employer. It took him almost two years to repay his \$2,000 loan.

<http://www.verite.org/node/668>



## Awareness

### Exploitation of Temporary Visa Holders

Aleksandr Maksimenko and his co-defendants were ringleaders in a conspiracy to bring women from Eastern Europe to work as exotic dancers in strip clubs in Detroit, MI.

Posing as a legitimate business, Beauty Search Inc., the defendants promised participants through the J-1 Cultural Exchange Program an opportunity to learn English and work at local restaurants.

These young women were forced to dance at strip clubs by threats of physical violence and deportation, document confiscation, debt bondage, and confinement. In particular, one woman was forced to dance for 12 hours a day, six days a week, and forced to meet a daily quota of \$1,000 a day, or face physical and sexual abuse. Similarly, the victims were made to believe that they incurred significant debt for travel and entry into the U.S.

The defendants pleaded guilty to involuntary servitude, money laundering, and immigration conspiracies. Maksimenko was sentenced to 14.5 years in prison and ordered to pay \$1.5 million in restitution and his co-defendants received similar sentences. (<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/final-defendant-sentenced-his-role-international-conspiracy-involving-forced-labor-eastern>)

### Labor Trafficking and Temporary Work Visas

The 2015 Polaris study focused on the A-3 (diplomatic), B-1 (business), G-5 (domestic employees), H-2A (agriculture work), H-2B (non-agriculture work) and J-1 (cultural/educational exchange) visa categories. In fiscal year 2014, more than 500,000 of these visas were issued to people coming into the U.S. However, this subset of non-immigrant visas account for only about 6% of all non-immigrant visas issued during fiscal years 2010-2014.

Between August 2014 and July 2015, 805 labor trafficking and 1,275 labor exploitation cases were received at the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline and the BeFree Textline. Of these 148 (labor trafficking) and 644 (labor exploitation) cases respectfully involved temporary visas, involving 823 people. In approximately 18% of calls Polaris was able to positively determine that at least one victim of the situation had a temporary visa.

While human trafficking spans all demographics, there are some circumstances that lead individuals to become more susceptible to victimization. Foreign nationals who have paid large recruitment and travel fees to labor recruiters often become highly indebted. Traffickers control and manipulate these individuals by leveraging the non-transferability of many temporary visas as well as the victims' lack of familiarity with surroundings, laws and rights, language fluency, and cultural understanding.

Victims face many barriers accessing help. Their traffickers may confiscate their identification documents and money. They may not speak English. They may not know where they are, because they have been moved frequently. They are often not allowed to communicate with family or friends. And they may have trouble trusting others, due to their traffickers' manipulation and control tactics.

#### Top Countries of Origin:

Philippines, Jamaica, Peru, Mexico, Dominican Republic

#### Top States Involving

##### J-1 Visa Abuse:

Florida, North Carolina, California/ Maryland

#### Top Industries Reported:

1. Agriculture/Farms/ Animal Husbandry
2. Landscaping Services
3. Hospitality
4. Restaurant/Food Service
5. Domestic Work
6. Forestry/Reforestation
7. Recreational Facility
8. Construction
9. Traveling Carnivals
10. Transportation

#### Methods of Coercion

##### (Num. of Instances):

- Sexual Abuse - 8
- Intimidation - Displays/Threatens with Weapons - 10
- Threat to Report to Police - 10
- Physical Abuse - 15
- Threat to Harm Subject, Family or Other - 25
- Withholds/Denies Basic Wants or Needs (food, water, protective gear, shelter) - 28
- Withholds/Destroys Important Documents - 52
- Isolation/Monitoring/Stalking - 53
- Emotional Abuse - 63
- Threat to Deport/Report to Immigration - 79

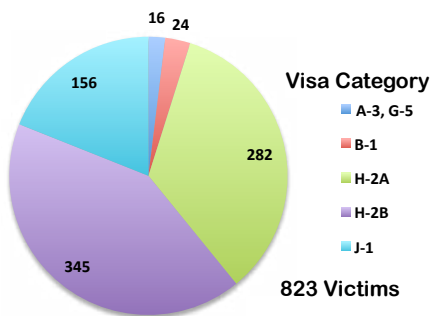


## Awareness

### Visas *cont. from pg. 2*

#### Types of Economic Abuse (Num. of Instances):

- Threat to Blacklist 8
- Other Forms of Economic Abuse 21
- Debt/Quota Related 22
- Limits Access to Finances 24
- Takes/Withholds Earnings 76



#### Proposed Remedies:

To ensure that migrants on temporary visas are better protected from the risk of labor trafficking and labor exploitation, Polaris urges support for the following U.S. federal policy recommendations:

- Prohibit the application of recruitment fees to individuals who have obtained a temporary visa.
- Require employers to provide complete and accurate contracts directly to workers in a language the worker understands.
- Require foreign labor recruiters to register with the U.S. government and encourage companies to use registered labor recruiters.
- Ensure that temporary visa holders can change employers without losing their visa status.  
(<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/resources/labor-trafficking-temporary-work-visas>)

## Human Trafficking Survivor Suffers Further Wage Theft

Tina, an Indonesian, was brought legally to the U.S. as a domestic servant. She was forced to work up to 20 hours a day, every day of the week. She received no salary for her work. Her employer deducted it all from a ledger; she kept saying it was to pay Tina's debts. She was never allowed to leave the house and told to speak to no one.

After five months of working for no pay she escaped her traffickers and received help from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) in Los Angeles. After receiving her T-visa, Tina found a job working at a popular restaurant.

Although Tina had legal status and believed she would be paid a fair wage, her new employers required her to work 16 hour days and did not pay her overtime wages.

Thanks to the education she had received at CAST, Tina was able to recognize that this was not acceptable and quit her job, but was too afraid to file for the back wages she was owed.

## Help to Persons Entering the U.S. on Temporary Visas

According to U.S. Federal law (Public Law 110-457 the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008), the U.S. government is responsible to provide information on rights and responsibilities to persons entering the U.S. on the various types of visas. This was done by developing a 12-page pamphlet in many languages that is reviewed and updated every two years.

It is posted on federal websites of the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and all United States consular posts processing applications for employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visas.

In addition the pamphlet is available to any government agency, nongovernmental advocacy organization, or foreign labor broker doing business in the United States.

More information can be obtained at:  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ457/pdf/PLAW-110publ457.pdf>

#### Are You Coming To The United States Temporarily To Work Or Study?

We Are Confident That You Will Have An Interesting And Rewarding Stay. However, If You Should Encounter Any Problems, You Have Rights And You Can Get Help!

#### You Have the Right to:

- Be treated and paid fairly;
- Not be held in a job against your will;
- Keep your passport and other identification documents in your possession;
- Report abuse without retaliation;
- Request help from unions, immigrant and labor rights groups and other groups; and
- Seek justice in U.S. courts.

These rights, and others, are explained in this pamphlet.



## Advocacy

### SB 657: Why Businesses Have a Stake in Supply Chain Transparency

Five years ago California signed the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, also known as SB 657, which requires manufacturers and retailers with more than \$100 million in gross annual receipts to disclose their efforts to ensure that their supply chains are free of human trafficking and forced labor.

The law was the first of its kind. Since then, California's leadership to eradicate trafficking in supply chains has pushed reform efforts in Congress, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Because of known abuses, there is now a global demand from consumers, governments, and investors alike for more transparency and accountability in corporate supply chains. KnowTheChain was originally created in 2013 to document compliance with and encourage greater understanding of SB 657.

Abusive labor practices in a company's supply chain can jeopardize business performance, shareholder confidence, and consumer loyalty, making this issue more than a legal or ethical consideration. It is a business risk not worth taking.

In today's global economy consisting of complex supply chains with overseas suppliers, it can be difficult to discover labor abuses deep within a supply chain. Companies without effective and adaptive management and risk mitigation practices may unknowingly be connected to forced labor, trafficking or other labor abuse practices through their direct and indirect suppliers.

Recently KnowTheChain published an Insights Brief that reviewed the successes and shortcomings of the law since its enactment. Based on a sample of 500 companies identified as being

affected by SB 657, KnowTheChain highlighted three key lessons and recommendations to improve future laws:

**1. Improve transparency.** Although the law requires companies to publically disclose their efforts to eradicate labor abuses from their supplier networks, it does not require that the names of the companies subject to the law be made public. As a result, neither consumers nor investors know which businesses must comply with the law. KnowTheChain was only able to identify 19% of the companies required to comply with SB 657. A public list of companies subject to transparency laws should be made available.

**2. Provide clear and timely guidance to businesses.** Of the companies identified by KnowTheChain, 47% did not disclose sufficient information as specified by the law. In part, this was because of delayed guidance on how to comply. In order to avoid confusion on how a company should comply, future transparency laws should require enforcement agencies to release clear and timely guidance prior to the law taking effect.

**3. Require annual updates and an even playing field.** In California, whether a company is impacted by the law is based on its state tax classification, not on its assumed labor abuse risks. This inevitably creates an uneven playing field for competitors who have identical supply chains but different tax classifications. The law also requires a disclosure statement only once instead of annually, which would better reflect the changing dynamics of supply chains.

([http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news\\_and\\_views/stakeholder\\_trends\\_insights/kilian\\_moote/sb\\_657\\_review\\_why\\_businesses\\_have\\_stake\\_supp](http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views/stakeholder_trends_insights/kilian_moote/sb_657_review_why_businesses_have_stake_supp))

## Working Against Labor Trafficking in Europe

In October 2015, La Strada International and the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) put out a Resource Guide for NGOs aiming to prevent human trafficking in European work forces.

SOMO is an independent, not-for-profit research and network organization working on social, ecological and economic issues related to sustainable development. Since 1973, the organization investigates multinational corporations and the consequences of their activities for people and the environment around the world.

European NGOs regularly come across cases of human trafficking and labor exploitation. In 2012, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that 880,000 people are in a situation of forced labor in the European Union (EU) alone. Forced labor and human trafficking occur across a wide variety of sectors in Europe, such as agriculture, construction, hospitality and care work. These sectors are largely dependent on migrant workers, who have less access to legal protection and also lack local support of friends and family.

The United Nations (UN), ILO and EU are increasingly incorporating businesses in anti-trafficking work and regulation, and the UN Business and Human Rights framework has outlined clear responsibilities in this regard. Although the private sector has become seen as an important stakeholder in anti-trafficking work, European NGOs working in the field have as yet not started to fully engage corporations in their strategies and practices.

The 146-page Resource Guide aims to close that gap by providing guidance and background information for



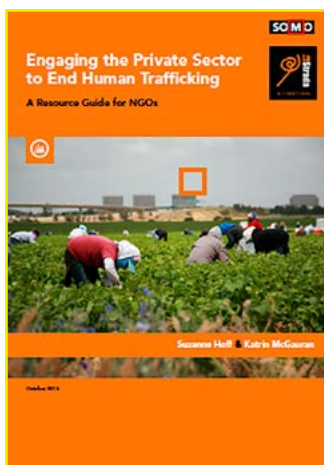
## Advocacy

### Europe *cont. from pg. 4*

NGOs. Different vulnerable sectors and the role that corporations could potentially play in contributing to and preventing human trafficking are described. Steps are outlined that businesses can take to avoid contributing to human trafficking, based on existing guidelines and toolkits. The Guide explains UN, ILO and EU business and human rights frameworks and highlights their relevance to anti-trafficking work. Examples of private sector engagement from other NGO networks are given, ranging from campaigns for corporate justice and lodging complaints to NGO-business partnering and multi-stakeholder initiatives. The last chapter of the guide provides information on which strategies NGOs can pursue to engage the private sector to tackle human trafficking and to hold corporations accountable.

The Guide is available at:

<http://www.somo.nl/news-en/engaging-the-private-sector-to-end-human-trafficking-a-new-resource-guide-for-ngos>



## Palo Alto, CA & Super Bowl 50

Some Palo Alto City Council members want the city to join a regional push against human trafficking ahead of Super Bowl 50 in Santa Clara in 2016. *“We all recognize this is a serious problem,”* said Councilwoman Liz Kniss. *“We know it goes on all the time, but given that the Super Bowl is coming and hundreds of thousands of people will be here, we think it’s really important not only to raise visibility but put resources toward the issue.”*

All police personnel were trained in 2014 to identify and investigate such trafficking, and they learned about resources available for victims. Santa Clara County’s Office of Women’s Policy released a report in August that sought to quantify the number of victims in the area. The report acknowledges the challenges in data collection because of confidentiality, a lack of uniform reporting and the fact that trafficking cases typically materialize in police investigations under different crimes such as pimping, pandering and prostitution.

Betty Ann Boeving, of the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition, sees sex trafficking and forced labor cases in small and big towns, rural and urban areas. Victims are children and adults, men and women. *“It’s a serious, 365-day-a-year issue. There’s no baseline numbers in cities that have hosted the Super Bowl to measure if there is an increase. We’re comfortable saying it is a very difficult crime to measure. The Super Bowl is the impetus for lighting the fire under people’s feet,”* Boeving stated.

The coalition and other anti-trafficking advocacy groups are working to get all 101 cities in the Bay Area to adopt resolutions similar to what Palo Alto



is considering. *“We want to send a message worldwide that if people are coming to the event and in any way partake in any kind of forced labor that it’s not going to be permissible here,”* she said.

One of the more effective ways in which trafficking victims have been rescued is through the “eyes and ears” of citizens she said. She cited some examples: A resident might notice a street side fruit vendor who turns money over at the end of the night or a massage parlor that is open after its posted hours.

Actual cases included a neighborhood in San Jose where one resident noticed that a house had barred windows on the inside rather than the outside. The resident alerted police, who investigated and found a residential brothel with underage kids. There was another case where a teacher spotted a domestic servitude case in Walnut Creek when she noticed that a nanny dropping off students wore the same outfit every day for weeks.

One thing cities can do is organize town hall meetings to train residents and businesses, especially those in the hospitality industry. Cities should encourage ad campaigns and post the National Trafficking Hotline, 1-888-373-7888 at bus stops, hospitals and airports.

In November, Palo Alto police participated in an event sponsored by the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office and the Sandra Day O’Connor Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation Action Project to give free training to hotels and other hospitality businesses. ([http://www.mercurynews.com/sports/ci\\_28905147/palo-alto-tackles-human-trafficking-ahead-super-bowl](http://www.mercurynews.com/sports/ci_28905147/palo-alto-tackles-human-trafficking-ahead-super-bowl))



## Advocacy

### Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking

As the **Congregation of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio**, moved by our mission to actualize the compassionate and saving love of the Incarnate Word by promoting human dignity, *“we affirm the dignity and rights of all people and denounce human trafficking and the economic and social systems that promote it.”*

We support programs and initiatives that:

- Educate and motivate groups to take effective actions towards the elimination human trafficking.
- Promote equitable and sustainable development and eliminate extreme poverty.
- Rescue, rehabilitate, and reintegrate into society victims of human trafficking.

We oppose practices that:

- Take advantage of people while seeking wealth and/or pleasure.
- Destroy the environment, thus eliminating opportunities for income and contributing to forced migration.

We remind ourselves that in order to end the crime of human trafficking we will all need to work together; and so, as Congregation, we need to unite with other persons or groups to:

- Eliminate the causes and profitable markets for this crime
- Help victims to recover and develop in mind, body and spirit.

We commit ourselves to action:

**Spiritual Prayer**, especially *February 8th*, feast of St. Bakhita; *July 30th*, World Day of Prayer to End Human Trafficking; and *September 23rd*, International Day against Human Trafficking.

#### **Spreading the Word and Sensitization**

Encourage other interested people.

Include the topic of human trafficking in community and institutional projects.

Share personal knowledge and experiences through our blog.

Have talks/conferences on this topic in our schools and hospitals.

#### **Generating Economic Resources**

Establish a local community and/or institutional budget to assist these activities.

#### **Formation and Training**

Participate in or organize activities for prevention of human trafficking.

Strengthen knowledge and training that promotes a culture of protecting Human Rights.

Locate and patronize local businesses that treat their employees justly.

#### **Networks**

Organize or join networks and other organizations.

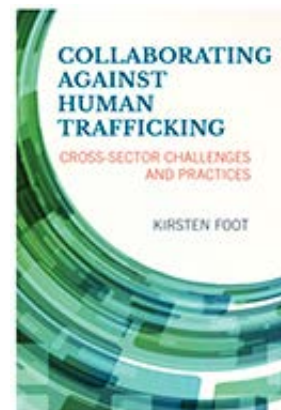
Learn about and share information about the work of National Conferences of Religious in each country where we minister and other organizations.

### ‘Collaborating Against Human Trafficking: Cross-Sector Challenges and Practices’

In the fight against human trafficking, systemic tensions can potentially undermine the effectiveness of cross-sector alliances. Kirsten Foot, Professor of Communication at the University of Washington, explores the most potent sources of such difficulties, offering insights and tools that leaders in every sector can use to re-think the power dynamics of partnering.

Weaving together perspectives from many sectors including business, donor foundations, mobilization and advocacy non-governmental organizations (MANGOs), faith communities, and survivor-activists, as well as government agencies, law enforcement, and providers of victim services, the author assesses how differences in social location (financial well-being, race, gender, etc.) and sector-based values contribute to interpersonal, inter-organizational, and cross-sector challenges.

She convincingly demonstrates that finding constructive paths through such multilevel tensions—by employing a mix of shared leadership, strategic planning, and particular practices of communication and organization—can in turn facilitate more robust and sustainable collaborative efforts. An appendix includes exercises, tools and resources to facilitate cross-sector collaboration.



All royalties from this book go to nonprofits in U.S. cities dedicated to facilitating cross-sector collaboration to end human trafficking.

For information on how to order, go to: <http://www.collaboratingagainstrafficking.info/>



Action

## Business Sustainability Begins With Fair Hiring

Migrant workers all around the world make the products we buy and harvest the food we eat.

These migrants leave home for jobs that can help them achieve a better life, or simply allow them to feed their family. Almost all of our products - clothes, shoes, computers, toys, furniture and food - involve a supply chain that employs migrant workers. Migrants provide the flexible workforce that keeps our just-in-time global economy humming.

Workers will go to great lengths to snag promising jobs, no matter where they are located. Often workers become indebted to middlemen - labor recruiters and moneylenders - whose practices can be exploitative and illegal and it becomes difficult or impossible to come out on top.

Verité's research shows that:

- The job probably won't pay what the recruiter promised;
- They don't often know about the compound interest on their debt, which increases every month;
- There are illegal wage deductions and unexpected fees;
- Their passports may be taken away so that they can't complain or flee;
- Their work visas will tie them to their employer, giving them no other alternative way to dig themselves out of debt;
- What they also don't know is that they may end up for months - even years -- in slave-like conditions or debt bondage.

How do we end this practice? Verité's 'Help Wanted Initiative' begins with fair hiring worldwide. It addresses the recruitment and hiring practices of workers in all supply chains.

Whether you are a brand owner, supplier, government, investor, anti-slavery or labor-rights organization, social auditor, or certifier, your approach to protecting migrant workers is not complete unless it includes a focus on the path that workers take to get a job in the global economy.

The Verité 'Fair Hiring Toolkit' offers tools, guidance, and approaches to support the responsible recruitment and hiring of migrant workers in global supply chains.

Explore Verité's 'Fair Hiring Toolkit': <http://www.verite.org/helpwanted/toolkit>

Verité is a US-based NGO whose mission is to ensure that people worldwide work under safe, fair, and legal conditions. Verité's programs leverage the power of multinationals to deliver positive change for vulnerable factory and farm workers in company supply chains. The organization's partnerships with Fortune 500 companies, global NGOs, trade unions and governments reduce child labor and forced labor; eliminate unsafe working conditions; increase incomes for workers; and decrease inequality and discrimination.

Verité is a member of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, and with 20 of the largest companies in the world a Founding Circle member of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition. Verité has regional offices in China, Southeast Asia, India and Latin America.

## Brazil and U.S. Labor

In response to growing awareness about the pervasiveness of forced labor in global supply chains, governments have engaged in efforts to regulate companies' and governments' supply chains. Forced labor enslaves women, men, and children globally into manual labor, sexual servitude and debt bondage. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), forced labor in the global private economy generates profits of U.S.\$150 billion a year. Some of these profits derive from production and consumption of goods that have forced labor in product supply chains.

An article by A. Feasley aims to evaluate the efforts of the Brazilian and United States (U.S.) governments to create and implement supply chain transparency disclosure laws. Brazil and the U.S. are engaged in legislative and administrative action to implement disclosure and transparency measures to eliminate forced labor from supply chains. The approaches of the two governments take disparate forms. Brazil has worked to combat forced labor through internal and domestic operations with a focus on products and production carried out within Brazil. In contrast, the U.S. approaches the elimination of forced labor with a focus on goods and services produced abroad and domestically. Brazil utilizes the publication of a national 'lista suja' or 'Dirty List' of companies that were found to have forced labor in their supply chains. The Brazilian government reinforces the viability of the 'Dirty List' through investigations, sanctions such as bank-lending penalties, and business adherence through a voluntary pact that some businesses have joined. The U.S. has federal disclosure requirements on conflict minerals, an executive order overseeing the federal government's supply chain, and a state-level supply chain disclosure law, but has yet to enact a federal disclosure law specifically targeting forced labor in supply chains. The level of government

Brazil & U.S. cont. pg. 8



Action

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

## Brazil & U.S. *cont. from pg. 7*

ownership and enforcement of supply chain disclosure regulation and business community acceptance of regulation are key indicators of successful engagement.

Analysis of Brazil and U.S. governmental approaches in implementing supply chain disclosure regulations to eliminate forced labor maps the progress and setbacks that have occurred with states' regulatory efforts to clean up supply chains. It is clear the viability and effectiveness of supply chain disclosure regulations are still in flux. It is imperative that governments robustly support regulatory efforts.

The early successes seen in Brazil illustrate the remarkable progress that can be achieved when government is invested in political support and enforcement. The delays and controversies surrounding implementation of Section 1502 of Dodd-Frank show the result when government is not aggressively engaged. With business opposition to supply chain disclosure likely to occur, it is necessary that governments and civil society work with businesses to create as much buy-in and positive incentives for cooperation as possible, but also employ true financial penalties for non-compliance. In Brazil, the 'Dirty List's power to impede financing opportunities for non-compliant businesses was critical; in the U.S. there are no comparable penalties. In addition to having penalties, they must be meaningfully implemented. The recent setbacks in Brazil show the power of business opposition and the need for government support when business attacks such efforts. Without the 'Dirty List', businesses have not been required to address forced labor as in previous years and are also not penalized for failing to do so. (Excerpted from: A Feasley, 'Deploying Disclosure Laws to Eliminate Forced Labor: Supply chain transparency efforts of Brazil and the United States of America', *Anti-Trafficking Review*, issue 5, 2015, pp. 30-49, <http://www.antitraffickingreview.org>) (<http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/135>)

## 'Food Chains'

There is more interest in food these days than ever, yet there is very little interest in the hands that pick it. Farmworkers, the foundation of our fresh food industry, are routinely abused and robbed of wages. In extreme cases they can be beaten, sexually harassed or even enslaved – all within the borders of the United States.

'Food Chains' premiered at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival and reveals the human cost in our food supply and the complicity of large buyers of produce like fast food and supermarkets. Fast food is big, but supermarkets are bigger – earning \$4 trillion globally. They have tremendous power over the agricultural system. Over the past three decades they have drained revenue from their supply chain leaving farmworkers in poverty and forced to work under subhuman conditions. Yet many take no responsibility for this.

The narrative of the film focuses on an intrepid and highly lauded group of tomato pickers from Southern Florida – the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** or CIW – who are revolutionizing farm labor. Their story is one of hope and promise for the triumph of morality over corporate greed – to ensure a dignified life for farm workers and a more humane, transparent food chain.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.foodchainsfilm.com/>

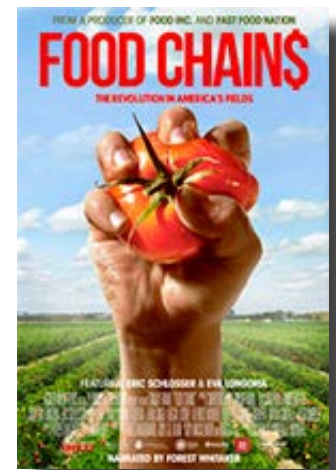
### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

**Polaris Project**  
<http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>

**KnowtheChain.org**  
<https://www.knowthechain.org/>

**Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations**  
<http://www.somo.nl>

**Verité**  
<http://www.verite.org/>



### Short Video Clips on Human Trafficking

**Labor Trafficking**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOHqoMLN3PY>

**Trafficked Survivors Speak Out**  
 This clip can be downloaded to share.  
<http://www.ovc.gov/videos/htvideo.html>

**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 Schaffer, SDS*