

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

February 2017 Vol. 15 No. 02

This issue explores the growing victimization of people, especially women and children, into slavery in various parts of the world.



U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Sponsors of 'Stop Trafficking'

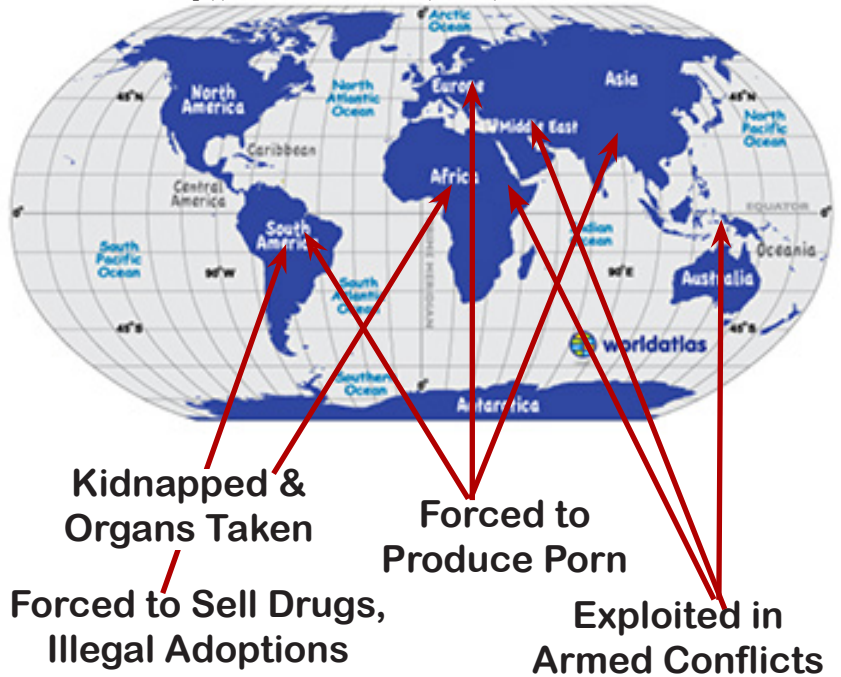
- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Benedictine Sisters, Mother of God Monastery, SD
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS
- Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of St. Louise
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Prov. of West
- Dominicans 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, Little Falls, MN
- Franciscan Sisters of Peace
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
- Holy Spirit Missionary 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
- 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
- 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 Divine Savior
- 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, Mother Joseph Province, WA
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada
- 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. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Prov.s
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.
- Society of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, MO
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union, USA

USCSAHT Partner

•Society of the Divine Savior USA

Globally, It Doesn't Stop! Sexual Exploitation--Prostitution--Sex Trafficking--Victimization of Women/Children

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>



The 2016 Report from the United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime, 'Global Report on Trafficking in Persons,' provides an excellent overview of current global trends in human trafficking.

Traffickers may target anyone who can be exploited in their own countries or abroad. When foreigners are trafficked, human trafficking movement broadly follows migratory patterns. Perhaps the most worrying development is that the movement of refugees and migrants is the largest seen since World War II. Some migrants are more vulnerable than others, such as those from countries with a high level of organized crime or from countries affected by conflicts.

Tragically, 79% of all detected trafficking victims are women and children. From 2012-2014, more than 500 different trafficking flows were detected. Countries in Western and Southern Europe detected victims of 137 different citizenships. These figures recount a worrying story of human trafficking occurring almost everywhere.

Sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most prominent. But trafficking can have numerous

UNODC Report cont. pg. 2



Awareness

2

UNODC Report *cont. from pg. 1*

forms including: victims compelled to act as beggars, forced into sham marriages, exploited by benefit fraud, pornography production, organ removal and others.

Through graphics and statistics the Report shows strong evidence of the following:

- 1). *No country is immune from human trafficking;*
- 2). *Trends are changing*, with more reports of children and men being trafficked than in the past. There is also evidence of more labor trafficking and more domestic-based trafficking. Now 42% of victims are trafficked domestically. These phenomena are partially the result of a better understanding of what human trafficking actually entails.
- 3). *Traffickers and victims have the same background.* Traffickers and their victims often come from the same place, speak the same language or have the same ethnic background. Such commonalities help traffickers generate trust to carry out the trafficking crime.

Traffickers rarely travel abroad in order to recruit victims, but they do travel to destination countries to exploit them. As general pattern, traffickers in origin countries are usually citizens of these countries. Traffickers in destination countries are either citizens of these countries or have



the same citizenship as the victim(s) they trafficked.

While traffickers are overwhelmingly male, women comprise a relatively large share of convicted offenders, compared to most other crimes. This share is even higher among traffickers convicted in the victims' home country. Court cases and other qualitative data indicate that women are often used to recruit other women.

Family ties can also be abused to carry out trafficking crimes. For instance, this

is seen in cases of relatives entrusted with the care of a family member, who break promises and profit from the family member's exploitation.

- 4). *People are trafficked for many exploitative reasons.* These examples are explained throughout the Report.
- 5). *Cross-border trafficking flows often resemble regular migration flows.* Many factors can increase a person's vulnerability to human trafficking during the migration process.

The presence of transnational organized crime elements in the country of origin is significant in this regard, and a person's socio-economic profile can also have an impact.

- 6). *Conflict can help drive trafficking,* (See pg. 3)

7). *Children are among the most vulnerable victims of trafficking.* There are clear regional differences with regard to the sex of detected child victims. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa detect more boys than girls, which seems to be connected with the large shares of trafficking for forced

labor, child soldiers (in conflict areas) and begging reported in that region. In Central America and the Caribbean and South America, on the other hand, girls make up a large share of the detected victims, which could be related to the fact that trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most frequently detected form there.

- 8). *Solid legislative progress has occurred, but few convictions of traffickers follow.* Many countries have criminalized most forms of trafficking as set out in the *UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol*. The number of countries doing this has increased from 33 in 2003 to 158 in 2016. Such an exponential increase is welcomed and it has helped to assist the victims and to prosecute the traffickers.

Unfortunately, the average number of convictions remains low. UNODC's findings show that there is a close correlation between the length of time the trafficking law has been on the statute books and the conviction rate. This is a sign that it takes time, as well as resources and expertise to chase down the criminals.

Perhaps the 2016 Report's main message is that inroads have been made into this horrendous crime. We must, however, continue to generate much needed cooperation and collaboration at the international level, and the necessary law enforcement skills at the national and regional levels to detect, investigate and successfully prosecute cases of trafficking in persons.

Thanks to the UN 2030 *Sustainable Development Agenda* (see pg. 6), there is now an underpinning for the action needed under the provisions of the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. (UNODC Report, pgs. 5-12)



Awareness

Women and Children in Armed Conflict

“With an estimated 45.8 million slaves alive today, modern slavery is one of the most significant human rights tragedies of our time. Conflict makes people especially vulnerable to exploitation and enslavement,” said a permanent United Kingdom (UK) representative to the United Nations (UN). There are three patterns of human trafficking in armed conflict situations: 1) human trafficking within and into conflict-affected areas; 2) child recruitment by non-state armed groups (NSAGs); and 3) human trafficking issuing from conflict-affected areas. While NSAGs have long forced vulnerable people into sexual exploitation, military service, and forced labor, these groups, including ISIL and Boko Haram, are now encouraging — and organizing — slavery on a scale not seen since World War II.

Children are used by NSAGs as combatants, as sexual slaves and in supporting servitude roles (as porters, cooks, lookouts and intelligence gatherers).

Increasingly, children are forced to become suicide bombers. There is a rapid increase in the online grooming and deceptive recruitment of children into NSAGs, for exploitation. This is an alarming new manifestation of human trafficking in conflict.

Security Council members first took



up the issue of human trafficking in conflict in December 2015 at the prompting of the U.S. after hearing the brave and moving testimony of Ms. Nadia Murad Basee Taha, a survivor of enslavement by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL (Da’esh)). The rare, sustained ovation that Ms. Murad Basee Taha received from the Security Council

signalled a recognition by members of the Council of the gravity of the issue. She is now an articulate and passionate activist for the rights of the Yazidi minority in Iraq.

The report, *‘Fighting Human Trafficking in Conflict: 10 Ideas for Security Council Action’*, published in September 2016 by the United Nations University (UNU), a UN think tank, and supported by the UK and Liechtenstein, identified steps by which UN personnel in conflict zones could increase protection for potential victims, especially those displaced by conflict. The report was the result of a July 2016 workshop that brought together over 100 experts from UN entities, permanent missions to the UN, national law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, the technology sector, the financial sector, the media and civil society, to consider how the UN Security Council might help strengthen an international response to human trafficking in conflict.

“Disturbing evidence in this report suggests human trafficking in conflict is a growing problem,” said Dr. James Cockayne, Head of the UNU Office in New York and lead author of the

report. “Armed groups including ISIL and Boko Haram are openly reviving slavery and organizing slave markets, using the more sophisticated and institutionalized techniques, including social media platforms to both groom victims and to auction them off. Institutionalized sexual slavery, forced child recruitment as suicide bombers, and trafficking in organs are horrifying new twists on human trafficking.”

Over 5,000 Yazidi women, children and men are thought to be enslaved by ISIL. ISIL fighters have used the encrypted communications app *Telegram* and applications such as *WhatsApp*, *Twitter* and *Threema* to auction enslaved Yazidi women and launder the resulting profits.



The ten options put forward by the UNU report for future UN actions are: 1. Have the UN Secretary General present an annual report; 2. Specify the content of the report and conduct an annual Security Council Open Debate of the report; Denunciation and Accountability: 3. Promote and enforce existing norms; 4. Encourage active discussion; Disruption: 5. Data-sharing; 6. Monitoring; 7. Sanctions; 8. Due diligence; Protection: 9. Strengthen UN field capabilities; and 10. Encourage action by Member States. (<https://i.unu.edu/media/unu.edu/news/88961/UNU-Executive-Summary-Fighting-Human-Trafficking-in-Conflict.pdf>)



Awareness

Women & Girls Suffer Untold Abuses

Despite their utility as fighters and servants, girl soldiers are raped, prostituted, mutilated, infected with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and made pregnant by soldiers. Many are permanently injured and will suffer lifelong pain as a result of multiple rapes and untreated infections. Returning to their villages and homes, numerous girls have reported that they are rejected as filthy and immoral, and they are blamed for disgracing family and community honor. Even more shunned are girls who return pregnant or with children born of rape. Losing family and social support, they are compelled to turn to prostitution or stay with an abusive ex-soldier 'husband' in order to raise their child and survive.

In contrast to the outcast plight of girl soldiers, many boy soldiers earn a manly status in their communities. Leymah Gbowee, the Liberian Nobel Peace Prize laureate, worked with ex-child soldiers from Charles Taylor's army during Liberia's civil war. A boy she counseled explained that he became a child soldier because, *"boys who joined the rebellion came back and were really respected and were often seen in the company of the elders and community leaders."*

Gbowee is convinced that the nexus between violence, weapons and manhood is responsible for drawing many former boy soldiers into the brutal, macho cycle of war. Many of the girls she assisted were 'child wives' of the ex-soldiers and had been abducted, raped and beaten into submission. With no exit, each girl was *"caught up in a spiral of one individual trying to prove his maleness. ... The abuse women suffer during conflict is a reflection of the interaction between men and women, boys and girls, during peace time."* (http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/girl_soldiers_forgotten_casualties_of_war_20161019/)

Myanmar Army Takes Young Rohingya Women as Sex Slaves

One 18-year old victim said she was abducted by the army, who killed her parents in front of her. *"They took me to their camp because they found me attractive. In exchange for my life, they gang raped me every day,"* she said. After two attempts, she escaped to the border. *"A boat man saw my bloodied state and took mercy on me. He brought me here for free."* She was referring to boatmen who ferry the fleeing Rohingyas from Myanmar to Bangladesh on the Naf River for money.

A 20-year old victim said, *"You do not know how humiliating it is to be subjected to such violence,"* she said. *"Sometimes three or four army men raped us for hours."* Many families were sending their young females away to Bangladesh to save them from the military.

Many Rohingya rape victims want to hide that they were raped, fearing social stigma. This makes it difficult to determine how many Rohingya women have been abused by the Myanmar security forces.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and MSF (Médecins Sans

Frontières – Doctors Without Borders) are providing primary treatment to the Rohingya rape victims at the camps. Several aid workers said the number of victims was quite high even though many victims were reluctant to seek treatment. (<http://www.dhakatribune.com/world/south-asia/2017/01/13/survivors-claim-myanmar-armytaking-away-young-rohingya-women-sex-slaves/>)

Forced & Sham Marriages

One innovative form of trafficking is that of forced or sham marriages, reported by 15 countries in many parts of the world during the 2012-2014 period. Trafficking for forced or sham marriages accounts for about 1.4% of the total number of detected victims. This form of trafficking targets only female victims, and it takes on different permutations, from involved organized irregular immigration and benefit fraud schemes in Europe, to traditional practices in Central Asia and the Middle East, to the trade of women for marriages in South-East Asia.

Although many sham marriages do not involve trafficking in persons, some do. A different mode of trafficking has surfaced in the form of a large transnational organized crime group that recruited Central European women for sham marriages in Western Europe. In Latvia, an extensive criminal proceeding saw many offenders investigated and several women recognized as victims.

Sham marriages were used to give Asian men the possibility of obtaining a residence permit for the European Union. Many of the victims had some form of emotional or behavioural disorder, which contributed to their vulnerability to coercion or fraud. Once they arrived in their destination country, the victims were locked in apartments, raped and abused physically and psychologically to obtain their consent to marriage. After marriage, they were treated as if they were the property of their 'husbands' and the abuse continued.

(UNODC Report, pg. 32)



Awareness

Sold for Ransom or Killed for Organs

The UNODC has reports of trafficking of African migrants and refugees who, on their journey along the East African routes to North Africa and eventually to Europe, are kidnapped for ransom by those who they thought were facilitating their travel. This came to light for the first time in 2010.

This trafficking involved an estimated 25,000-30,000 people between 2009 and 2013. More than 4,000 people are believed to have died in the context of trafficking along the route from Eastern Sudan and the Horn of Africa since the beginning of 2008.

The victims of trafficking in persons involved in this flow are mainly Eritrean - including men, women and children - fleeing widespread human rights violations and indefinite military service. Once they have crossed the border into Eastern Sudan, usually with the help of smugglers, migrants and refugees are abducted by nomadic groups living in Eastern Sudan and North Western Eritrea. Sometimes victims are sold to traffickers by the smugglers who helped them leave Eritrea. Officers of the Eritrean military collaborate with traffickers from nomadic tribes and are often direct beneficiaries of the payments extorted from the victims.

After being kidnapped, the victims are transported by car to the desert and forced to pay around US\$3,000 per person for the journey. They are handed over or sold to nomadic tribes, who first gather them in warehouses, and then sell them to different gangs along the route. Chained together and locked in the so-called 'torture houses',

victims are exposed to extreme heat during the day and freezing cold temperatures at night, deprived of food, water and sleep, subjected to sexual abuse and forced labor, and routinely tortured for extortion. While tortured, they are forced to call their relatives and to ask them to pay ransoms up to US\$50,000 for their release.

Ransoms are collected with the help of middlemen and transfers are usually made through large, international payment services. The hostages provide the traffickers with the code to withdraw the money transferred by their relatives. If the traffickers realize that a hostage cannot pay, that person may be killed as an example for others. There have also been reports of traffickers continuing to collect ransoms when hostages have already died, or demanding new ransoms after the required amount of money was paid.

The issue of forced removal of organs in the context of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling in North-Eastern Africa gained renewed international attention in July 2016, when the Italian authorities arrested 38 people suspected of being members of an transnational organized criminal group involved in these crimes. The investigation revealed that Eritrean migrants, who had been kidnapped along the route to North Africa and who were unable to pay ransoms, were killed to remove their organs. The organs were then sold for around US\$15,000. (UNODC Report, pg. 62)

Forced to Perform Illegal Acts

Trafficking for the commission of illegal activity has also been reported, although it is a difficult form to detect. Cases of children and adults exploited in the cultivation of cannabis, trafficked

for shoplifting, for theft and other forms have been reported in countries in Europe and Central Asia, South America and Africa. About 1% of the total number of detected victims in 13 countries were trafficked for the commission of illegal activity.

Examples of these different forms of trafficking can be found in court cases. Two victims from Poland, for example, were trafficked to Sweden using false promises of residency in the destination country and work in the construction sector. Once at destination, the victims were forced to shoplift and subjected to violence and threats. Eventually, the victims managed to escape and return to Poland.

Similarly, in Norway, the authorities reported a case of two traffickers who recruited victims in Romania to exploit them in Norway by making them steal petrol and beg under constant life threats. One of the traffickers was arrested in an attempt to bring another two victims from Romania to Norway. (UNODC Report, pg. 32)

Other Means of Exploitation

Baby selling and **illegal adoption** - in countries that consider these to be forms of trafficking in persons - have been reported in Europe, Africa, Central and South America, Central Asia and East Asia.

Trafficking for the purpose of **human sacrifice** and **removal of body parts** has been reported in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Trafficking for the **production of pornographic material** was reported by a few countries in South-Eastern Europe, South America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Trafficking for **mixed exploitation** has been reported by a limited number of countries, usually combining forced labor and sexual exploitation. In the Dominican Republic, for example, teenage girls were forced to wait tables in a bar and to have sexual relations with the bar's customers. (UNODC Report, pg. 32-3)



Advocacy

Anti-Trafficking Progress through UN Efforts

Archbishop B. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations (UN), recounted efforts to bring human trafficking more to the forefront of UN actions. His comments follow:

The UN in September 2016 adopted the document “*Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” just moments after Pope Francis addressed the UN General Assembly. This document is the result of two and half years of intense negotiations. It is the first global sustainable development agenda of its kind directly negotiated by the UN Member and Observer States and other stakeholders from all sectors of life and interest groups. Its adoption saw the biggest gathering of Heads of State and Government in history.

However, although human trafficking, forced labor and exploitation are now in the forefront of human rights and development discourse, they are not specifically one of the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) and the phrases “modern slavery and human trafficking” were added during the very last days of the negotiations. Yet there is improvement, since the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) did not use any of these terms. Now they are found as Targets in three SDGs, namely:

SDG 5 – which aims to “*achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*” – has in **Target 5** the aim to “*eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.*”

SDG 8 - which seeks to “*promote inclusive and sustainable economic*

growth, employment and decent work for all” – has in **Target 7** the aim to “*take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.*”

This target is comprehensive and, as you can observe, it uses internationally recognized terminology, aligning itself with common approaches to labor trafficking and exploitation.

SDG 16 – which aims to “*promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies*” – has in **Target 2** the aim to “*end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.*”

This has always been one of the gravest forms of violence against women and girls. In conflict settings, this violence takes on the most brutal and horrific forms, including rape (also as a war tactic), sexual assault, torture, human trafficking, forced marriages, forced religious conversions, slave trade, or even given as gifts or trophies to combat leaders.

The SDGs address human trafficking explicitly from three different angles:

- 1). From the **human rights perspective** in SDG 5, in particular from the context of violence against women and girls in all situations other than armed conflict;
- 2). From the **economic perspective** in SDG 8; and
- 3). From the **perspective of violence against women and girls in the context of armed conflict and other violent situations** in SDG 16.

All three perspectives mainly address women and girls, because they make up the majority of victims of trafficking and exploitation. According to the 2014 *UN Report on Trafficking in Persons*, 49% of those trafficked were women, 21% were girls, 18% were men and 12% were boys. Although the data contained in the Report were very limited – 40,177 out of the estimated 30 million persons trafficked or subjected to forms of modern slavery – it does indicate that 70% of the victims are women and girls, 97% of whom are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Notwithstanding, the SDGs do not overlook trafficked men and boys. According to the same UN Report, 83% of the men are trafficked for forced labor. SDG 8 Target 7 addresses the “use of child soldiers,” who are overwhelmingly composed of boys.

There is so much to do, not only for the sheer gravity and magnitude of the problem, but also for the fact that it is largely a ‘submerged’ reality. They are ‘underworld crimes’ in the literal sense of the term. For these reasons, there is so much impunity. According to the 2014 UN Report, justice for the victims has been practically nonexistent. While the number of trafficked persons has dramatically increased, the number of convictions of traffickers remain extremely low. In a word, while trafficking in persons is among the worst of crimes, impunity prevails.





Advocacy

‘GLO.ACT’

Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) is a four-year (2015-2019) joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The program forms part of a joint response to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants delivered in 13 strategically selected countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Emphasis is on giving assistance to governmental authorities, civil society organizations, victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.

The program aims to assist the selected countries in developing and implementing comprehensive national counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling responses. A dual prevention and protection approach is used and includes six key responses linked to the following objectives:

Strategy and policy development - Objective 1 (UNODC): Work with countries to develop strategies and policies to address trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants tailored to their national context.

Legislative assistance - Objective 2 (UNODC): Work with governmental authorities to ensure that domestic legislative frameworks meet international standards for criminalizing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

Capacity building - Objective 3 (UNODC): Work with governmental authorities to enhance the capacity and knowledge of criminal justice practitioners to combat trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and assisting and protecting victims as well as vulnerable migrants.

Regional and trans-regional cooperation - Objective 4 (UNODC): Promote cooperation and information exchange with law enforcement officials on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offenses related to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants - Objective 5 (IOM): Work with government authorities and civil society organizations to develop assistance and support programs for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, such as smuggled migrants.

Assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants - Objective 6 (UNICEF, IOM): Work with victim support services and relevant Government authorities to develop frameworks for protection and assistance of children.



Example of Efforts to Advocate for Victims

‘Free the Slaves’ works in the Democratic Republic of Congo with local groups to support education and access to schooling, good governance, citizen advocacy and government accountability, law enforcement, workers’ rights associations, increased transparency by companies that use Congo minerals, micro-credit, and the development of viable alternative livelihoods to mining—such as farming and animal husbandry.

The *Free the Slaves* Congo Program is based on five pillars.

1). Strengthening Community Resistance to Slavery. The establishment of village committees and clubs in schools is fostering community mobilization and advocacy to eliminate slavery and demand accountability from government officials. The launch of savings and loan associations is creating access to micro-credit so that vulnerable villagers can weather financial emergencies without falling into debt bondage slavery.

2). Building General Public Awareness. Guided community discussions with illustrated booklets, a community radio series, and a mobile cinema feature film that dramatizes ways to resist slavery are helping the Congolese visualize that freedom from slavery is possible.

3). Building the Capacity of Congolese Civil Society. A variety of community mobilizing, advocacy, media relations, and monitoring and evaluation skills are being strengthened at Free the Slaves front-line partner organizations and coalitions.

4). Improving the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice of Key Government Officials. Elected officials, prosecutors, judges, customary chiefs, and administrative authorities are being educated about slavery and trafficking laws—and their duty to enforce them.

Advocacy cont. pg. 8



Action

Advocacy *cont. from pg. 7*

5). **Adoption of Anti-slavery Practices by International NGOs.** Training on how to recognize slavery and take action is being provided to a wide range organizations working in eastern Congo.



13-year old Ghanaian boy enslaved in a gold mining enterprise.

Short Clips to Educate One-self & Others About Slavery

- **Free the Slaves:** 5 minutes
<https://vimeo.com/134148272>
- **Overcoming Slavery:** 2 minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzupyGtuUqQ>
<http://www.freetheslaves.net/about-slavery/survivor-stories/>
- **Educating Children of the Mines:** 3 minutes
<https://vimeo.com/134148272>
- **Becoming a Slavery-Free Business: Removing Slavery from Supply Chains:** 8 minutes
<https://vimeo.com/37626566>
<http://www.freetheslaves.net/global-advocacy/slavery-free-commerce/>

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



What is 'Red Hand Day'?

'Red Hand Day' is the *International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers* and it is an annual commemoration day for child soldiers.

It falls on February 12th each year, when pleas are made to world leaders to better protect children from being recruited by fighting forces.

Have your local school get involved and send a message to world leaders in February 2018 on the 18th anniversary of the treaty against child soldiers.

For more information, go to:
<https://www.child-soldiers.org/red-hand-day-campaign>



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

UNODC 2016 Report
http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf

GLO-ACT
http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2016/glo.act/Glo-ACT_ProjectSummary_EN_2016.pdf

Free the Slaves Videos
<http://www.freetheslaves.net/building-awareness/videos/>

Red Hand Day
<https://www.child-soldiers.org/red-hand-day-campaign>

Depicting Child Soldiers: Boys vs. Girls

Using 'Google,' do a search to compare images you find for 'girl soldiers' versus 'boy soldiers.'

Images of the boys are realistic war photos: children carrying, aiming and shooting weapons sometimes taller than they are; roaming streets in search of prey; poised to kill, faces deadly serious, some hardened, some older than their years, others still bearing traces of their stolen childhoods.

Images of girls include some painful, authentic images. But too many images trivialize and/or sexualize the girl soldier. Real girl soldiers, who constitute up to 40% of child soldiers and suffer the most vile sexual violation and rejection, are missing.

(http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/girl_soldiers_forgotten_casualties_of_war_20161019/)

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>

To contribute information, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org

Editing and Layout: *Jean Schaffer, SDS*