

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

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Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
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1 This issue highlights the 2004 TIP Report and several US-coordinated Conferences that have recently been held in the US and abroad.

Vol. 2 No.7 July 15, 2004

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report 2004

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell released the fourth annual Department of State *Trafficking in Persons Report* on June 14, 2004. Following Secretary Powell's opening remarks, John R. Miller, the Secretary's Senior Advisor from the *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons*, responded to press queries, on-the-record and on-camera.

According to the State Department's press release, the 140-country report

is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, or modern-day slavery. Its findings raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The assessment includes reports on countries determined to have a significant number of victims of severe forms of human trafficking.

This year there is an added focus

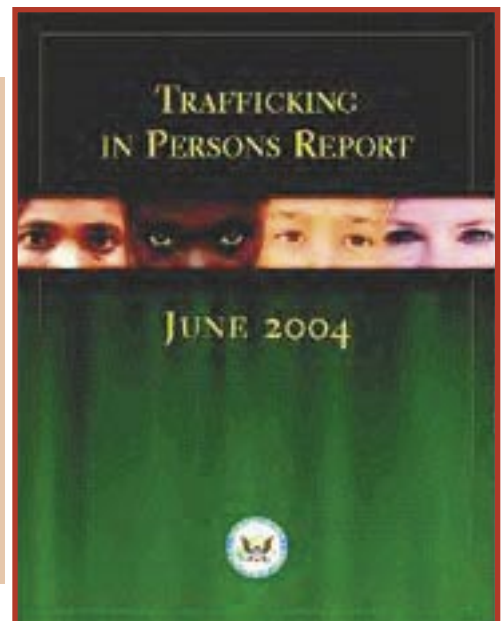
on the supply and demand sides that fuel trafficking in persons. Also new this year, the *Trafficking in Persons Report* recognizes national and international heroes, some in attendance at the news conference, who worked to prevent and combat this crime in their communities.

(The report is available in HTML or PDF formats.)

"The fourth annual Trafficking in Persons Report reflects the growing concern of the President, Members of Congress, and the public over the serious human rights, health, and security implications of human trafficking around the world.

One way this concern has been expressed is through the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA), which amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Among other things, the TVPRA strengthens the tools U.S. law enforcement authorities use to prosecute traffickers and enhances assistance to victims of trafficking. It also requires the Department of State to scrutinize more closely the efforts of governments to prosecute traffickers as well as evaluate whether our international partners have achieved appreciable progress over the past year in eliminating trafficking in persons."

-- Secretary Colin L. Powell



*Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2004.
Faces of Change/Joel Grimes photos.*



Awareness

A Call to Action: Joining the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons

Ambassador James Nicholson, America's representative to the Holy See, organized a recent conference at the Gregorian University in Rome entitled, "A Call to Action: Joining the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons." Vatican officials, including Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Monsignor Pietro Parolin, Undersecretary for Relations with States, attended along with international experts. (See article pg. 4.)

Earlier Nicholson had arranged for the US State Department to fund a program to train women religious around the world to become anti-trafficking activists.

The U.S. government's 2004 *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* names S. Eugenia Bonetti as one of the "heroes" in the work to help victims. S. Eugenia, a Consolata Sister, actively organizes various anti-trafficking efforts with members of USMI, the *Italian Conference of Women Religious*, as well as in Nigeria and Romania. She has a team of 250 Italian religious sisters, who staff 100 centers that offer shelter, language courses, vocational training and most importantly, assistance with legal paperwork, for women and children who "no longer know who they are." She said, "Sisters leave their convents, even at night, to reach out to prostitutes." S. Eugenia works against trafficking in Italy with few resources.

Nicholson also hosted a three-way videoconference with John Miller of the US State Department's Office on Trafficking and members of the US embassies to Italy and to the Vatican. Attendees included Msgr. Ettore Balestrero of the Secretariat of State; Fr. Francis Thoolen from the Pontifical

Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples; Msgr. Frank Dewane from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; and Fr. Hugh Cleary, superior general of the Holy Cross Fathers.

The cooperation between the Holy See and the U.S. government on combating human trafficking is important since Catholic organizations do much to assist immigrant women and children and direct them to the appropriate government programs.

The anti-trafficking effort is beginning to target not only the supply side of the issue, but the demand side as well. Nicholson was quoted in a July 2, 2004 *National Catholic Reporter* article by John Allen as stating, "The criminals are also those whose demands make trafficking a lucrative business -- the so-called entrepreneurs who want low-cost labor for their factories; homeowners who want cheap maids and babysitters and gardeners; surgeons and their patients who do not care where a donor organ may come from; and, the men who willingly pay to sexually exploit women and children."

"I think we have a moral obligation to remove the shackles that today keep hundreds of thousands - perhaps millions - of men, women and children from enjoying their freedom," Nicholson stated.

To Colin Powell

from pg. 4

In the case of India and Japan, some signs exist of intended movement and reform for which we are grateful and hope to see expand this year. For that reason, we believe that the *TVPA Reauthorization Act's "Special Watch List"* category is a reasonable designation for those two countries - this because the February 2005 *Special Watch List* reports are means of monitoring what we hope will be serious follow-through by the governments in question. As to the Netherlands, we reiterate our view that its vast, embedded, and generally accepted systems of enslavement are clearly evident and must be opposed. The Dutch policy on prostitution fosters a protective environment for the sex slave industry that enables and emboldens criminals who, "for profit," systematically rape and publicly offer trafficked women and children for rape to their customers.

We respectfully ask for a meeting with you, at your earliest convenience, and a representative coalition group, to discuss the views and requests set out in this letter. We conclude it by noting that this letter has been duly sent to the ambassadors of India, Japan and the Netherlands, as well as to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee.

Respectfully,

(Signed by)

Mayor of Midland
Members of the Midland City Council
One District Judge
One Midland City Attorney
Members of the Midland Ministerial Alliance
Members of the Midland Assoc. of Churches
FACES OF CHILDREN Organization
Midland Women for International Justice
The Junior League of Midland
and other national supporters solicited by e-mail.



Advocacy

**A Few Observations
By a Member of the
Salvation Army's
Initiative Against
Human Trafficking.**

- 1) Australia makes its first appearance on the list;
- 2) The Netherlands still remains on *Tier 1* despite increased attention to the demand issue;
- 3) India and Japan are on the *Tier 2 Watch List*, a special new status just created by the reauthorized version of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This means there will be a special follow-up report on these nations. If they don't step up their efforts, they move to *Tier 3*;
- 4) New Zealand, which just legalized prostitution, is on *Tier 1*; (This raises questions about how the US State Department makes its decisions about rankings.)
- 5) The Czech Republic has *Tier 1* status despite many documented abuses;
- 6) Iran is on *Tier 2*, but could easily be ranked on the *Tier 2 Watch List*;
- 7) The developed nations, which create so much of the demand for sexually trafficked women (using women and children as exploitable commodities in their legalized sex industries), continue to get high Tier placements. Developing nations, judged much more harshly by the US State Department, dominate the lower Tiers (with a few notable exceptions such as Ghana and Columbia that make it to *Tier 1*).

TIP Report Tier Placements

Based on the extent of a government's actions to combat trafficking.

Tier 1: Governments that fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Australia	France	Macedonia	Spain
Austria	Germany	Morocco	Sweden
Belgium	Ghana	The Netherlands	Taiwan
Canada	Hong Kong	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Columbia	Italy	Norway	
Czech Republic	Korea, Rep. of	Poland	
Denmark	Lithuania	Portugal	

Tier 2: Countries that make significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Afghanistan	Cameroon	Kyrgyz Rep.	Saudi Arabia
Albania	Chile	Latvia	Singapore
Angola	China	Lebanon	Slovak Rep.
Argentina	Costa Rica	Malaysia	Slovenia
Armenia	Egypt	Mali	South Africa
Bahrain	El Salvador	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Belarus	Finland	Moldova	Switzerland
Benin	The Gambia	Mozambique	Togo
Bosnia/Herz.	Guinea	Nepal	United Arab
Brazil	Hungary	Nicaragua	Emirates
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Niger	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Iran	Panama	Ukraine
Burundi	Israel	Romania	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Kuwait	Rwanda	

Special Watch List: Based on the overall extent of human trafficking in the country and the extent to which government officials have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or are otherwise complicit in trafficking.

Azerbaijan	Georgia	Malawi	Serbia-Montenegro
Belize	Greece	Mauritania	Suriname
Bolivia	Guatemala	Mexico	Tajikistan
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	Honduras	Nigeria	Tanzania
Cote d'Ivoire	India	Pakistan	Turkey
Croatia	Jamaica	Paraguay	Vietnam
Cyprus	Japan	Peru	Zambia
Dominican Rep.	Kazakhstan	Philippines	Zimbabwe
Estonia	Kenya	Qatar	
Ethiopia	Laos	Russia	
Gabon	Madagascar	Senegal	

Tier 3: Countries that do not fully comply and do not make significant efforts to work toward compliance.

Bangladesh	Ecuador	North Korea	Venezuela
Burma	Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone	
Cuba	Guyana	Sudan	

It is interesting to compare this report with that of 2003.

Concerns regarding the Tier Rankings may be sent to:
 John Miller, Director
 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
 Send via:
 Chad Bettes, Public Diplomacy and Outreach
 E-mail: BettesCM@state.gov



Advocacy

Efforts to Influence the TIP Report

Key persons from Midland, TX (hometown of Pres. George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush) delivered a letter May 21, 2004 to Secretary Colin Powell and to ranking members of Congress, White House advisors, the Embassies of India, Japan, and the Netherlands and various media contacts. The following are excerpts.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We understand that the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* is soon to be issued and wish to set forth our particular interest in the *treatment and rating that the report will give to three countries: India, Japan and the Netherlands.*

In our view, the failure of each of the above countries to deal with the mass trafficking of women and children within and across their borders clearly merits a departure from the leniency afforded these three nations in past reports. ... The tier status of these countries will clearly signal to the world whether or not the pledge made by the President in his September 23, 2003 address to the UN is to be taken seriously – and whether the clear mandate of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* can be outweighed by political considerations.

India: Save for a handful of additional criminal prosecutions, we believe that the situation in India remains as it was last year when India was assigned a *Tier 2 rating*. ... India is a country of origin, transit, and destination for thousands of trafficked persons. Internal trafficking of women, men and children for purposes of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, bonded labor, and indentured servitude is widespread. Indian men and women are put into situations of coerced labor and sometimes slave-like conditions in the Middle East and the West. India is a destination for sex tourists from Europe and the United States. Bangladeshi women and children are trafficked to India or transited through India to Pakistan and the Middle East for purposes of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced labor. Nepalese women and girls are trafficked to India for commercial sexual exploitation. The Government of India does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

We take issue with last year's grossly understated ... reference to India's mere "thousands" of trafficked and enslaved persons. In our view, the number of such persons is clearly in the *hundreds of*

thousands. India is the country with the world's most widespread and systemic sex and slave "industry." We value the good relations that exist between the respective governments of the United States and India, but maintain that India's growing economic strength and its widespread NGO anti-slavery community make it likely that firm and unwavering leadership from the US against trafficking in India can achieve dramatic results. Moreover, other geopolitical considerations can in no sense override the clear terms of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act*. India's failure to meet the newly enacted "appreciable progress" standard of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003* is further justification to re-evaluate their Tier status.

Japan: Japan notably fails to protect tens of thousands of enslaved victims "imported" into its borders and "owned" by its mafia-dominated sex industry. Further, the Japanese government's issuance of tens of thousands of bogus "entertainer visas," and its lack of meaningful anti-trafficking laws, make it a notorious co-participant in the world's sex and slave trafficking abuses. Finally, little has been done in the past year to address the facts and problems described in last year's *Trafficking Report*, and clearly there has been no "appreciable progress" toward the standards of the *TVPA Reauthorization Act*. In sum, no major industrial power is as culpable on the trafficking issue as Japan. Here again, we are grateful for the good relations and friendship that exist between the United States and Japan. However, diplomatic considerations and friendship notwithstanding, no excuse exists which justifies Japan's failure to act against trafficking abuses perpetrated under its watch. ...

Netherlands: The Netherlands is a major sex industry capital of Europe and a significant destination country for victims of trafficking. In proportion to its population and economy, it has one of the world's most visible, popularized commercial sex industries. The Netherlands is the world's proponent

and exporter of the "prostitution legalization" model. The many overt programs conducted by the Netherlands to regulate commercial sex are, in our view, largely shams that provide cover for the widespread enslavement of girls and women trafficked within its borders. This is evidenced by NGOs' observations and by personal testimonies of victims, who report that they are held as virtual slaves, forced into the sex industry by deception. In exporting the legalization model, the Netherlands disguises the true nature of this exploitative and abusive trade. Legal prostitution in the Netherlands has increasingly served to facilitate a growing, illegal underground industry whose practices and brutalities are barely imaginable. The *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act*, enacted last year by Congress, was significantly and explicitly designed to hold the Netherlands and other destination countries to account. *That Act both imposed a performance rather than effort standard to judge the efficacy of anti-trafficking programs and, critically, further made clear that countries with vast and legalized commercial sex industries would be judged by the percentage of non-citizens engaged in commercial sex activities.* As noted in Senator Brownback's statement:

[C]ritically, the reauthorization adds a standard based on the percentage of non-citizen trafficking victims. This provision was added to permit the Trafficking Office to employ critical and needed standards to evaluate the anti-trafficking performance of countries that have legitimized prostitution. Simply put, this provision both allows and mandates the Trafficking Office to cut through dubious claims by legalizing countries that they are providing meaningful protections to their so-called "sex workers."

Given these factors, as well as the absence of appreciable progress, the Netherlands does not and could not rise to merit the *Tier 1 rating* that it was given in last year's report.

To Colin Powell pg. 2



Advocacy

The ultimate means to end trafficking however is through programs of economic development and social justice that address the real needs of the world's poor.



Would Legalizing Prostitution Help Curb Human Trafficking?

(Taken from the Introduction of the TIP Report)

“The United States Government takes a firm stand against proposals to legalize prostitution because prostitution directly contributes to the modern-day slave trade and is inherently demeaning. When law enforcement tolerates or communities legalize prostitution, organized crime groups are freer to traffic in human beings. Where prostitution is legalized, the cost of sexual services includes brothel rent, medical examinations, and registration fees. Due in part to these costs, illegal prostitution

has flourished in legalized areas as clients seek cheaper sex. In some countries where prostitution is legal there are from three to ten times as many non-registered women involved in prostitution as registered women. Many of these non-registered women are foreigners who have been trafficked. There is no evidence that legalization in any country has reduced the number of trafficking victims, and NGOs working in this field note that the number of trafficking victims often increases. In short, where prostitution is legalized, a “black market” in

trafficking emerges, as exploiters seek to maximize profit by avoiding the scrutiny and regulatory costs of the legal prostitution market. Legalized prostitution is therefore a trafficker’s best shield, allowing him to legitimize his trade in sex slaves, and making it more difficult to identify trafficking victims.”

You may wish to write the State Department’s Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons, supporting their strong policies aimed at protecting women and children from global sex markets. (See pg. 3)

Voices from the Vatican Conference

Donna Hughes, the chair of Women’s Studies at the University of Rhode Island, and Dorchen Leidholdt, the co-executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, both spoke at the conference organized by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican and held at Rome’s Gregorian University. (See pg. 2.)

Dorchen Leidholdt said human trafficking is driven by the huge demand of the sex industry and curbing the demand is key to reducing the supply. “Demand is the weak link in the sex industry chain. There is no question about that. Unlike the women and girls in prostitution, the men and boys who buy women and girls in prostitution have choices to make. They very often have standing in their communities, they have

families, they are very responsive to that bright light exposing their activities, to stigma and shame, and if they are subjected to criminal sanctions, we are going to see demand dropping and that is going to make a big difference. It means that fewer women and girls are going to be subjected to this horrible form of slavery.”

Donna Hughes agreed saying, “The most effective way to combat the problem is to criminalize the demand; that is to make buying a sex act a crime; that is to criminalize pimping of women. It means criminalizing brothel-keeping, criminalizing trafficking of women, the recruiting of them and bringing them into countries for prostitution. All of those activities have to be criminalized.”

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women 2003 Report

In the 2003 Coalition Report, CATW reports on the new anti-trafficking law passed in the Philippines, as well as on an exciting demand-based prevention program CATW is developing there.

To read the full report, go to:
<http://action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/catw2003report.pdf>

(Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=1588BAC1-53F2-48B2-B569627EC5C6E224>)



Advocacy

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation... It is all God's work. It was the Spirit who reconciled us to God, and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation

(2 Corinthians 5: 17-18)

Women Religious Recommit to Work Against Human Trafficking

The *International Union of Superiors General (UISG)* unanimously affirmed in their 2004 Declaration to be *Women Disciples of Jesus Christ: Bearers of Reconciliation in Our World*. The Declaration follows.

We live in a time of extreme violence, a time when lights of hope and reconciliation are desperately needed. We are nearly 800 women leaders from 69 countries and five continents. The *International Union of Superiors General* represents members of Catholic religious institutes in 98 countries throughout the world. We believe that no more important mission exists at this time than to be bearers of the reconciling hope for which the world cries.

Believing that reconciliation is God's desire for the world, we humbly declare our reliance upon God, the source of reconciliation, and the source of all healing and forgiveness. We know too that we are not alone as we journey with people of many faiths and traditions who long for a reconciled world. We walk with them in our insecurity, fragility, and need for continuous conversion of heart, recognizing our common desire to make the basic principles that govern our lives inclusive love and the search for truth.

As leaders, we commit ourselves to work with one another, with the members of our institutes and national conferences of religious, by:

Living a spirituality of reconciliation

We will witness in community this spirituality of compassion, respect, courage, truth and reconciling hope.

Proclaiming publicly our commitment to be bearers of reconciliation

We will:

- *collaborate with other associations for justice, resolution of conflict and an end to war in all its forms*
- *use the media to announce an alternative vision, tell stories of reconciliation and denounce violence and injustice*
- *create and promote dialogue, understanding and reconciliation among peoples, cultures and religions*
- *intensify efforts toward healing, reconciliation and right relationships between women and men*
- *continue to intensify our efforts, as bearers of reconciliation in the world, to eradicate the trafficking of women and children,*
- *promote the education and formation of women and girls,*
- *be proactive in peace-building and in caring for all creation.*

We move forward as women religious leaders, disciples of Jesus Christ. We are firm in our belief that, in solidarity with others, our members will collaborate in the Spirit's work of transforming the world.

*UISG Assembly,
Rome, Italy May 16, 2004*

U.S. Senate Urged to Protect Children Exploited by Trafficking

S. Mary Ellen Dougherty, a School Sister of Notre Dame and a member of the US Bishops' *Office for Migration and Refugee Services*, spoke July 7, 2004 before the *Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights* at a hearing on "**Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery.**"

"While efforts to find and assist victims of trafficking have been pursued with commendable commitment over the last several years," S. Dougherty said, "I fear that children, as a group, have fallen through the cracks of these enforcement efforts. Since the enactment of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* in 2000, only 34 child victims have been identified within the United States and referred to trafficking victims assistance."

S. Dougherty went on to state, "However, knowing the nature of trafficking, the sexual exploitation of children, and statistics gathered by the *US State Department* on children being trafficked globally, one is forced to conclude that many more children are being held involuntarily in trafficking situations in the US than we have so far identified."

She described some problems child victims face. "When children are not correctly identified as trafficking

Dougherty pg. 7



Advocacy

First National U.S. Training Conference on Human Trafficking

The US Department of Justice held a conference entitled **“Human Trafficking into the U.S.: Rescuing Women and Children from Slavery”** July 15 – 17, 2004 in Tampa, FL.

President George W. Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft and other Department of Justice officials addressed teams of local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as NGOs drawn from across the country where there are known concentrations of trafficking victims.

*“The **Protect Act of 2003** allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We’ve also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.*

*Stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. (They cannot be stopped) ...until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. And so that’s why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched **Operation Predator**, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide.”*

(President G.W. Bush from his address)

Alert Field Worker

“A few years ago, Anna Rodriguez was working for the Collier County Sheriff’s Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnapped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first, Anna’s superiors told her there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn’t give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison.

***Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.** Because a good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez.*

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the many like Anna Rodriguez and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.”

(President G. W. Bush from his address)

Dougherty *cont. from pg. 6*

victims, they may be mistakenly treated as adults, thus detained and deported through the Department of Homeland Security detention system. Or children may be placed in overburdened local child welfare systems with little security and planning, or released back to traffickers or their associates.” When not properly referred, *“they can be placed in short-term shelters where they experience frequent moves, receive no orderly assessment or treatment, or have no long-term safety or security,”* she said.

To avoid such traumatic consequences for children, S. Dougherty recommended the following:

- Procedures should be developed for all federal, state and local law enforcement personnel to refer children in trafficking-like situations immediately and expediently for assessment and age determination with the *“best interest of the child”* standard used as the basis of all decision-making regarding each child;
- A system of *“immediate safe haven”* should be developed, so a child is safe while being determined eligible. It would involve immediate care, assessment of needs, and a strategy to assess family for possible safe reunification. Great care must be taken to assure that the claimants are genuine family members, do not have connection to traffickers, and are capable of providing safety for the child.
- Long-term care in a *“least restrictive setting”* should be arranged, with capacity for therapeutic intervention; assistance with legal obligations; plan for family reunification; or eventual self-sufficiency.
- A *“child-welfare specialist”* should be appointed to oversee the child from rescue to self-sufficiency. Such an expert can act as a decision-maker for a traumatized child in a complex legal and child welfare system. (Source: Zenit July 7, 2004 <http://www.zenit.org/english>)



Action

**Toll-Free
Hotline:**
(Trafficking Information
and Referral)
1-888-3737-888

Important Web-Site:
Office of Refugee Resettlement
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

Prayer to End Trafficking

Lord of freedom and love, we are saddened to know that more than one million people are trafficked into slavery each year.

The effects of contemporary slavery are felt in every one of the 180 countries where Franciscans serve.

As sons and daughters of our father, St. Francis, we are tormented by this reality that will leave devastating repercussions for generations to come.

Our hearts grieve for what our minds can barely comprehend, particularly when we hear of women, men, and children, who are deceived and transported to unknown places.

We recognize this sexual and economic exploitation occurs because of human greed and profit.

We are sorrowful and our spirits angry that human dignity is being degraded through deception and threats of force.

Help the violators to be transformed and enlightened to realize the scope of their unjust actions.

Allow them to see the value and the dignity of every human person.

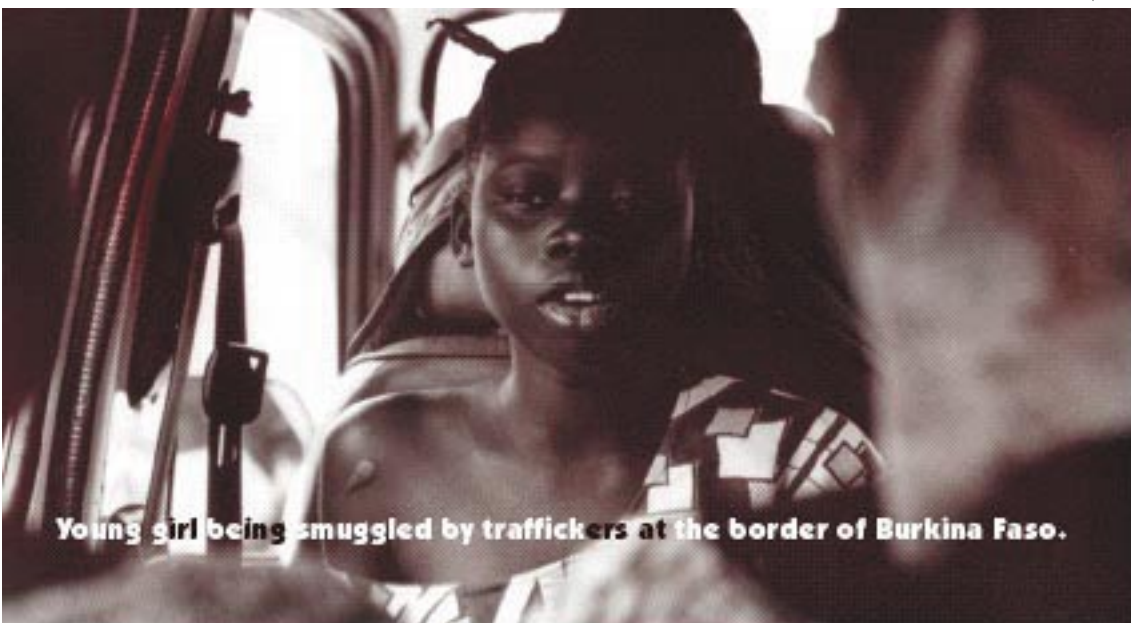
As Franciscans who serve the poor in a spirit of peace and justice, we must protest this atrocity and work against the demeaning practice of human trafficking.

Lord of Life, strengthen those whose hearts have been broken and lives have been uprooted.

Give us the light, grace, and courage to work with You so that we can all participate in the goodness of creation.

Fill us with the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with the victims so that we may all enjoy the freedoms and rights, which have their source in Your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Adapted from a prayer by Sr. Genevieve Cassani, SSND
You may also adapt the prayer as you wish.
(www.FranciscansInternational.org)*



(Photograph ©
International Labour
Organization/Gianotti E.
Benin, 2001)

Young girl being smuggled by traffickers at the border of Burkina Faso.



- 600,000 to 800,000 modern-day slaves are transported across international borders each year.
- Slavery - in all its forms - was outlawed in 1865 in the USA. Yet, 14,500 to 17,500 victims of trafficking are brought into the US annually. (2004 TIP Report)

Action

What Has the US Federal Government Done to End Human Trafficking?

Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), Chairperson of the *House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness*, called a hearing to examine the actions taken by both the Federal government, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGO's), to combat and eradicate the unlawful trafficking of persons. The Subcommittee's hearing, entitled "**Trafficking In Persons: The Federal Government's Approach To Eradicate This Worldwide Problem**" was held July 8, 2004, in Washington D.C. The Subcommittee discussed how the Federal Government and NGO's could better work together to educate law enforcement agencies, so they are more prepared to assist victims of trafficking.

Human trafficking and slavery take many forms, such as child sex tourism (CST), forced prostitution, child soldiering, involuntary servitude, sweatshop labor, as well as domestic and intensive servitude in industries such as agriculture and construction. Profitability drives the growth of the illegal industry, with human trafficking contributing over \$13 billion every year to the global economy.

The U.S. government has taken several aggressive steps to stem the tide of this global catastrophe. In December 2003, Congress passed H.R. 2620, the *Trafficking Victims' Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003*, which expanded the government's anti-trafficking agenda as established in the original *Victims' Protection Act of 2000*. Some of the new initiatives include additional campaigns to combat sex tourism, harsher punishments for those convicted of trafficking crimes, and expanded eligibility for victims and certain family members for access to services and funds. H.R. 2620 also stipulates that the Attorney General submit an annual report of their activities to combat trafficking, which was first released on May 1, 2004.

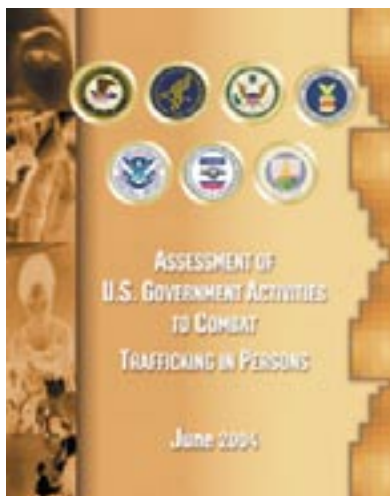
Presenters included: John Miller, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, State Dept.; R. Alexander Acosta, Asst. Att. General, Office for Victims of Crime, Dept. of Justice; Christopher Gersten, Principal Deputy Asst. Sec., Adm. for Children and Families, Dept. HHS. Representatives from several leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) included: Charles Sung, Director of Legal Services Program, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking; Michele Clark, Co-Director, Protection Project, Sch. of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins Univ.; Brooke McMurray, Chair, Safe Horizon, Inc.; Derek Ellerman, Co-Executive Director, Polaris Project.

For more information, or to look at hearing resource materials, please visit

Dan Burton's website:

www.reform.house.gov/WHR

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Assessment of U.S. Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons
53 pgs. (June 2004)

The Subcommittee heard testimony from the *Office of Refugee Resettlement* (part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - HHS) on the various programs and services that the HHS has implemented to ensure the health and well being of rescued victims of trafficking in the U.S.

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

Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) 2004

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/>

To give feedback use the Presidential Comment Line (202.456.1111) or send your e-mail message (president@whitehouse.gov)

Assessment of U.S. Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons (June 2004)

<http://www.justice.gov/trafficking.htm>

Florida Conference

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/traffic/index.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!*

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: jeansds2000@yahoo.com

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