

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
- *Capacitar International, Inc.*

1 This issue highlights how the US government, local agencies and citizens work together to combat human trafficking. Vol. 2 No.9 September 15, 2004

Combating Trafficking

in Persons

59th United Nations General Assembly U.S. Principal Objectives

The US would like to strengthen its collaboration with willing partners on the issue of combating trafficking in persons, including child sex tourism -- travel that involves adult tourists sexually abusing minors abroad. The demand for this form of heinous tourism fuels the trafficking of children into prostitution worldwide. We seek to enhance bilateral and multilateral investigations of child sex tourism, advance law enforcement cooperation, and share best practices.

We seek to build on the "three Ps" combating trafficking in persons:

1. *Prevention of trafficking through such efforts as publicity of the threat and Member States' commitment to fight it;*
2. *Protection of victims, such as rescue and rehabilitation;*
3. *Prosecution of perpetrators.*

... The plight of children is a special subset of the trafficking nightmare for which the government allocated an additional US \$50 million to combating trafficking in persons.

The United States also increased domestic attention to this issue in 2003. President Bush signed the PROTECT Act in April 2003, which allows U.S. law enforcement officers to prosecute American citizens or

permanent residents who travel abroad to sexually abuse minors. The law also increases criminal penalties for those found guilty of such crimes.

A number of U.N. Member States have taken actions to combat child sex tourism by engaging the tourism industry and developing partnerships with destination countries and such measures merit multilateral support. There is an important multilateral role in enforcing relevant, existing protocols. We note that under UN protocols, anyone under 18 is considered a child and is not able to consent to commercial sex.

Therefore, anyone profiting from the commercial sexual involvement of a person under 18 is a trafficker of children.

Many countries, however, permit the prostitution of 16 and 17 year olds and do not consider it trafficking.

We intend to work closely in the 59th Assembly with traditional supporters of resolutions concerning trafficking-in-persons, such as the Philippines, but also are considering introducing a resolution that specifically addresses child sex tourism.

*Amb. John C. Danforth,
US Permanent Representative to
the UN, July 20, 2004*
Full text on the U.S. Mission's web
site as: www.un.int/usa/ga59obj.htm

Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2004

U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Representatives Deborah Pryce and Bobby Scott will be introducing the Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act to the Congress in September 2004.

There are *two core premises* that underlie the Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2004. *First*, criminal laws against prostitution are *disproportionately enforced* against the persons who are used in commercial sex acts (typically women and children), and *insufficiently enforced* against the consumers (typically men), or the traffickers and exploiters who provide the supply for, and ultimately make available to the consumer, commercial sex acts.

This traditional law enforcement approach to the problem of prostitution is particularly egregious when one considers that many women who engage in prostitution are physically coerced and could not escape the industry even if they wanted to, and that prostitution is particularly harmful to children who are lured into the industry. These very concerns have been highlighted in recent months, for example, at a

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Awareness

2 Domestic Protection

from pg. 1

July 7 hearing of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, convened by Senator Cornyn to examine U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking and slavery. These concerns underlie the *second core premise* of the bill: that individuals used in unlawful commercial sex acts are all too often *victims of the sex industry*.

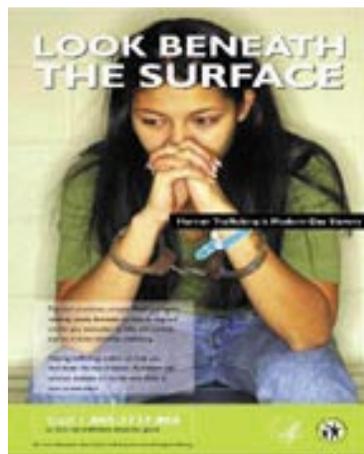
The substantive provisions of the bill thus emphasize a *demand-side approach* to combating the unlawful sex trade by focusing law enforcement energies on consumers, as well as traffickers and exploiters – and not just the persons used in the unlawful acts. President Bush spoke at the Justice Department’s national conference on human trafficking in Tampa, Florida saying in part,

“... We cannot put them (traffickers) out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. ... 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.”

Specifically, the bill contains three major substantive components.

First, the bill (in section 4) would establish a grant program to encourage *demand-side* and other similar strategies for the enforcement of laws against prostitution that are

already on the books. The bill would authorize \$45 million for fiscal years 2005 through 2007 to fund the grant program. Grants could be used (1) to focus prosecution efforts on purchasers of unlawful commercial sex acts – such as through educational programs, shaming penalties, the use of female decoys, and other demand-side law enforcement strategies, (2) to focus prosecution efforts on traffickers and exploiters of unlawful commercial sex acts – such as through surveillance efforts, prosecutions for rape, sexual assault, and tax evasion, and civil actions to obtain restitution for victims, and (3) to fund NGOs specializing in providing services to victims of commercial sex activities, including protection, education, food, and shelter.



US Dept. Justice
Anti-trafficking News Bulletin,
Vol.1, No.4-5, April-May 2004, pg. 3.

Second, the bill (in section 5) strengthens federal criminal law by making two changes to the 1910 Mann Act:

1. The original 1910 version of the Mann Act prohibits the transportation of “any individual” across state or national lines, with the intent that such individual engage in prostitution or some other criminal sexual act. The bill would make clear that “any individual” includes the transportation of consumers across state lines, as well as the

transportation of persons used for prostitution across state lines. This alteration would ensure that the Mann Act could be used to combat *sex tourism*. (The sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act apply only to sex tourism involving minors.)

2. The current version of the Mann Act (as recently amended by the PROTECT Act) specifically protects children against sex trafficking across state lines, by imposing thirty-year maximum sentences for such offenses. The bill would expand the jurisdictional reach of these provisions, to reach consumers, traffickers, and exploiters who knew – or at least should have known – that the child had traveled across state or national borders within one year of the act. *If this change is adopted, the consumer, trafficker, or exploiter would not necessarily have to cross a state line in order to be liable.* The provision is designed to target, for example, those who prey on runaway children, by recruiting them at bus stops and similar locations, and luring them into the sex trade.

Third, the bill (in section 7) contains a number of reporting requirements to strengthen future efforts to combat unlawful commercial sex. It would require the Attorney General to release an annual report on best practices for reducing the demand for unlawful commercial sex at a national conference sponsored by the Justice Department. The report would review the outcomes achieved by grant recipients and examine the Department’s use of the Act’s various amendments to the Mann Act. The bill would also require the Attorney General to undertake a biennial comprehensive statistical review and analysis of the incidence of unlawful commercial sex nationwide.



Awareness

Latest News: Disappearance of Children in Nampula, Mozambique

Following the bravery of the cloistered *Servite Nuns* in reporting incidents and the decisive stance taken by the *Bishop of Nampula* and the *Episcopal Conference of Mozambique*, the traffic in children and especially the disappearances of street children, seems to have come to a halt.

The publicity campaign initiated by the *Servite Order*, which has resulted in some *259,800 signatures from every part of the world* being collected, has attracted much interest on the part of the media (press, radio and television) and from political and humanitarian organizations.

On May 4th, the European Commission officially announced that it has contributed 10 million Euro to reinforce the judicial and investigative resources of Mozambique, with particular reference to the traffic in human beings and organs.

The present President of the European Parliament has sent a letter to the *General Secretary for Justice and Peace of the Servite Order* to assure us that he is following closely the course of the investigations so that full light may be shed on this tragic situation and those responsible brought to justice.

The Diocese of Nampula has set up a commission, of which the cloistered *Servite Nuns* are also members, which is cooperating with the Office of the General Prosecutor of Mozambique in verifying the accuracy of the facts about the traffic in children so that a definite conclusion can be reached on the matter

The General Secretary for Justice and Peace of the *Servite Order* has compiled a dossier on the disappearance of children and the trade in human organs in Nampula. The dossier has been sent to the *United Nations High Commission for Human Rights*, the Presidents of the European Commission and Parliament, the Ambassador of Mozambique in Italy and the Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Italian Parliament.

Photocopies of the signatures received in response to our appeal are also in the process of being sent out.

We thank all those who took part in the campaign through signing the appeal to the Government of Mozambique to bring the investigations to a speedy conclusion.

We are well aware that this traffic in children is not a problem in Mozambique alone. The latest figures published by UNICEF and the UN unofficially estimate the traffic in human beings at 700,000 people a year, a business that brings in for the perpetrators 7 billion US dollars annually. Unfortunately, this news has not succeeded in attracting much media interest.

After the incidents in Nampula, brought to attention by the efforts of the cloistered *Servite Nuns*, hopes are growing that the traffic in human beings can be uncovered and brought to an end across the world.

Patrick Carroll, OSM
OSM General Secretary for Justice & Peace
Rome, 13 July 2004

AFGHANISTAN: Child kidnapping on the rise

From the Afghan capital of Kabul Interior Ministry officials report that child kidnapping is increasing, with over 200 children taken within the past year. Kidnapping is the first link in many international rings of organized crime. Abductors sell the kidnapped children as servants or as sexual playthings, primarily into Arab countries. Many children are killed and their body parts sold.

The *Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan* is working to combat this trend along with UNICEF. Their programs emphasize awareness raising, prevention, law enforcement, and the reintegration of children intercepted or rescued. UNICEF also works with local community leaders to raise their awareness of the problem and encourage the value of education, since schools are safer environments, where abduction is less likely to occur.

(Excerpted from IRIN June 8, 2004)



SDS Photo



Advocacy

HHS Campaign: Look Beneath the Surface

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services developed an outreach program in 2003 to attempt to identify and serve more victims and to educate the public about human trafficking and benefits and services for victims. That outreach campaign, called “Look Beneath the Surface,” will ultimately cost \$5 million over a 24-month period, transcending three fiscal years (Fiscal Years 2003 to 2005), with a potential for extension and expansion. Public service announcements are a part of the endeavor.

This outreach campaign grew out of a strategy to provide fundamental information to more victims and to those who are most likely to encounter victims, for the purpose of encouraging more victims to report their cases, so that they may receive assistance and more traffickers can be prosecuted. In order of priority, the campaign targets are (i) victims of trafficking, (ii) people who are likely to know

of victims, (iii) institutional partners, and – to the extent possible given available resources – (iv) the general public.

People in the first three categories are best approached – especially given budget constraints – by a “narrowcast” strategy of specialized and highly targeted media. Possible examples of such targeted media are non-English newspapers, trade publications and religious media networks. Institutional partners are those local government personnel (e.g., local law enforcement, family court and juvenile justice officials, public defenders, and community health officials) who are likely to routinely encounter victims and therefore need to begin screening for trafficking victims.

Taken from the report, *Assessment of US Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, June 2004, pgs. 41-42

The Invisible Trade: Human Trafficking

A daylong conference on how to recognize the signs of trafficking will be held **October 16, 2004** at the **College of Notre Dame of Maryland** in **Baltimore**. The conference is for persons in social ministries, emergency health care and law enforcement, as well as for the general public.

Speakers will include *Peter Landesman*, the investigative journalist whose article, “*The Girls Next Door*,” appeared in the January 25, 2004, issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. A panel of professionals will focus on different perspectives as they discuss “*The Plight of Victims*.” Panelists will include: *Edward J. Kelly*, special agent of immigration and customs enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; *Cherie Sammis, R.N., M.S., F.N.P.*, clinical administrator, Perry Family Health Center of Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C.; *Joy Zarembka*, director, Break the Chain Campaign, Washington, D.C.

Concluding the day, *U.S. Attorney Douglas Molly*, in a session titled, “*Law & Love: Trafficking Victims Protection Act in Action*,” will discuss U. S. trafficking situations through the eyes of a prosecuting attorney.

The conference moderator: will be *Laura Lederer, Senior Advisor on Trafficking*, from the U.S. State Department.

Sponsors for the event include:

- School Sisters of Notre Dame, Baltimore Province
- College of Notre Dame of Maryland
- The P. Francis Murphy, Justice & Peace Initiative
- Migration & Refugee Services – USCCB
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Amnesty International USA, Women’s Human Rights Program
- Baltimore City Mayor’s Office
- Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Goucher College
- Immigration Outreach Service Center at St. Matthew Church
- Maryland Office for New Americans
- Physicians for Social Responsibility, Baltimore Chapter
- Public Justice Center (Lawyers, Paralegals, Immigrant Advocates)
- Social Action Clearing House of the 1st Unitarian Church, Baltimore
- Towson University, Multicultural Institute
- Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom,
- Baltimore & Catonsville Branches
- YANA (You Are Never Alone)

For information, *Ethel Howley, SSND*
ehowley@ssndba.org
410-377-2071



Advocacy

*"In New Jersey, as throughout America,
we will not stand idly by,
while any individual's human rights are diminished, no
matter their native tongue or country, skin color or creed."
Archbishop John J. Myers, Archdiocese of Newark NJ*

Archdiocese of New Jersey Helps Launch Rescue of Slaves

Annually about 4,000 immigrants, coming predominantly from Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, become enslaved in New Jersey. They suffer from forced labor, confinement, or child prostitution, say representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Together with state officials and law enforcement authorities John J. Myers, the Archbishop of Newark, helped launch a campaign from the Archdiocesan headquarters to encourage New Jersey residents to **"look beneath the surface"** to find human trafficking.

Speakers said victims are subjected to physical abuse, psychological trauma, fraud, and coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor in inhumane and hazardous conditions. The traffickers often leave their victims penniless or, even worse, committed to long-term servitude. *"Physical coercion and violence are commonly used to keep them from running away or seeking help,"* Myers said.

U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie, who ranked pursuing human traffickers among his top priorities, recounted the case of four young Mexican women, forced to perform sexual acts in a Plainfield house of prostitution until their captors were reported by neighbors in 2002.

The captors were two brothers, who would meet women in Mexico, promise to marry them once they got to the U.S., but sent them instead to a brothel operated by their two sisters in Plainfield. There the girls were forced to work as prostitutes. Christie said

two of the captors are still at large, but two others are serving 17 1/2-year sentences. The four victims were granted visas to stay and study in the United States.

The **"Rescue and Restore"** campaign is part of a new U.S. government strategy to communicate with the victims and to let them know that U.S. law sees them *as victims, not criminals*. Visas are available for victims, who are under 18 years old, and for those who cooperate with authorities to apprehend and convict the traffickers.

The campaign includes outreach and training for local law enforcement, health-care professionals, and employees of social service organizations, all of whom may encounter trafficked victims. Efforts include an awareness campaign for the general population and a toll-free

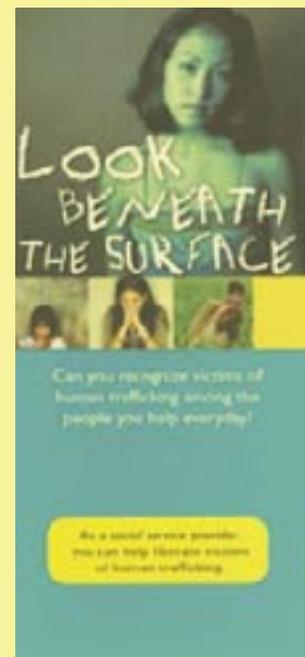
**Trafficking Information and Referral Hot Line:
(1-888-3737-888)**

While 5,000 visas are available each year for victims of human trafficking, the federal quota is never filled. Out of 603 victims identified nationally since 2001, 584 immigrants from 34 countries did receive visas to stay in the United States temporarily, according to officials.

Moreover 153 traffickers have been charged and all of them have been convicted. There are 169 pending investigations, including six in New Jersey. Few victims have been identified - not because they don't exist - but because being illegal immigrants, they are afraid to come forward.

"Most victims of modern slavery are hidden from sight behind doors shut by their exploiters," Bishop Myers said. *"We must search relentlessly for what we hope in our hearts we will never find."*

*(Excerpted from
www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-nj--humantrafficking0823aug23,0,1399512.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire)*



*Assessment of US
Government Activities
to Combat Trafficking in
Persons, June 2004, pg. 41*



Action

6 Tougher Penalties for Using Children in Prostitution

The CA Legislature approved and sent to the Governor ground-breaking legislation that creates a penalty enhancement for those convicted of child prostitution, and encourages society to recognize the crime for what it is: **child abuse**.

Under current law, *'unlawful sexual intercourse'* with a minor is punishable with a term of up to four years in state prison. AB 3042, authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem *Leland Yee* (D-San Francisco), creates a new, one-year sentence enhancement for such a crime.

Additionally, in an effort to curb the growing problem of child exploitation, AB 3042 goes one step further. It no longer considers child prostitution as just an *'arrangement'* (albeit illegal) between two consenting individuals. The bill changes the status of many sexually-exploited children from being labeled *'prostitutes'* by law enforcement, the courts, and society in general, to being considered *'victims of a crime.'* Then, these children will receive much-needed support from the *Victims of Crime Compensation Fund*.

Dr. Yee, a child psychologist, said child prostitution needs to be clearly defined as sexual abuse on young human beings. *"What too often happens is that (prosecutors) charge the child with prostitution and let the 'john' off with a slap on the hand. No longer will we treat these young children as criminals when they are, in fact, sexually exploited victims."*

United States^o vs. Wild and Gutierrez

On May 5, in the Western District of Oklahoma, defendant Shannon Marie Wild was sentenced to 121 months in prison to be followed by three years supervised release.

On January 16, Wild was convicted on charges of violating four counts of 18 U.S.C. 2423(a) (transportation of a minor for illegal sexual activity) and one count of 18 U.S.C. 1591(a)(2) (sex trafficking of a minor). Co-defendant Constantino Guterrez, Jr., is awaiting trial on charges of violating one count of §1591(a)(2).

The defendants transported three young girls (ages 14 to 17) across state lines to Dallas, Texas, to prostitute them, then use the proceeds to finance their drug habit and to pay the rent.

• *Taken from US Dept. of Justice Anti-Trafficking NewsBulletin April-May 2004.*

According to the non-profit organization, SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation), 200,000 to 300,000 children are involved in prostitution in the United States, and an estimated 10 million children worldwide are involved in what experts say is a \$20-billion-a-year sex industry. Each year, an additional one million children enter the industry. Many of those being victimized are only 11 or 12 years old; some are as young as nine.

Not only are these children being sexually exploited, but juvenile prostitution victims also face a greater risk of venereal disease and suicide. Statistics show 75 % of prostitutes have tried to kill themselves.

"These are our children. We should not use them as objects and destroy their lives," Yee said.

United States^o vs. Gates and Heyward

On April 23, a 36-count indictment was returned in Washington, DC, charging defendants Gary Gates and Tamisha Heyward with multiple counts of sex trafficking and other related offenses.

The defendants were charged with operating a sex trafficking ring from their home via the Internet, forcing girls as young as 14 to perform sexual acts. Defendant Gates allegedly beat the girls and women who disobeyed him. He also sexually assaulted many of the women and provided drugs to support some of the women's addictions.

On May 13, defendant Tamisha Heyward entered a plea of guilty to the sex-trafficking charge.

United States^o vs. Valle-Maldonado

On April 8, a federal grand jury returned a 28-count indictment in United States v. Valle-Maldonado, *et al.* (C.D. Cal.), charging defendants Jenny Valle-Maldonado and Javier Sandoval-Garcia, Jose Velasquez-Garcia and Juan Gregorio Martinez-Vasquez with various sex trafficking related offenses.

Between August 2003 and March 2004, the defendants arranged for women, including two minors, to be smuggled into the United States from Mexico. Once in the country, the defendants forced them to perform commercial sex acts, both at the defendants' homes and at massage parlors throughout the Los Angeles area.

Valle-Maldonado threatened some of the women that if they refused to obey her, Valle-Maldonado's sister in Mexico would harm the victims' relatives in Mexico.



Action

Write!

Letters to legislators can influence their positions on issues.

Please let those legislators, who are actively working for passage of the Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2004 know of your support.

John J. Cornyn (R-TX)
<http://cornyn.senate.gov/>
(202) 224-2934

Deborah Pryce (R-OH15)
<http://www.house.gov/pryce/>
(202) 225-2015

Robert C. Scott (R-VA)
<http://www.house.gov/scott/>
202-225-8351

Please write to your own US Senate and House of Representatives members, asking them to also support this or similar legislation.

Letter Writing Tips:

- Use your official letter head format, when appropriate.
- Use proper forms of address:
 - The Honorable (name)
 - Address
 - Dear Sen./Representative (name)
- Identify bills by title and number.
- Start with a clear objective, keeping your message short and concise.
- Use your own words.
- Write from your heart.
- Give reasons for your position.
- Explain how the issue affects you, your community and/or your state.

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

**U.S. Dept. of Justice
Anti-Trafficking NewsBulletin**
<http://www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm>

Legislative Voting
http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a_three_sections_with_teasers/votes.htm

**Introduction of the
Domestic Trafficking Victims
Protection Act 2004**
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>
Search for: "S. Res. 413"

Protect Act
http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2003/April/03_ag_266.htm

The Power of Many

(Invitation to Network)

The *Stop Trafficking* newsletter has two purposes:

- to provide information; **and**
- to link efforts by individuals and groups so as to impact the reality of human trafficking.

During September-October we will post a short questionnaire that aims to link participants in a network of anti-human trafficking action. The questionnaire will suggest various options for getting involved and offer access to packets of materials that will enable participants to educate others regarding the signs of human trafficking and what to do.

Please take the few moments needed to send to jeansds2000@yahoo.com the name and e-mail address of someone who represents your congregation or organization and would serve as your spokesperson in completing the questionnaire.

**Together
we can make a difference!**

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

1-888-3737-888

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

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/stoptraffice/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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