

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

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This issue highlights how fair trade helps prevent human trafficking. October is Fair Trade Month.

October 2005
Vol.3 No.10

Co-Sponsored by:

- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Capacitar International, Inc.
- Sisters of Mercy International Justice Network

What Is the Difference?

Free trade isn't fair for farmers and artisans, their families, communities, or the environment. Most farmers get only half of the world coffee price because they thus are forced to sell their next crop in advance to exploitative middlemen who pay far below the value. Most cocoa farmers are so poor they resort to using child labor, even child slaves. As a result of the drop in world coffee prices, millions of coffee farmers and workers experienced malnutrition, loss of jobs and even loss of their farms. Some even turned to drug cultivation to survive, or have cut down parts of the rain forest in order to sell the trees for extra money or to make room for more profitable crops.

Fair Trade, on the other hand, creates an equitable and fair partnership between consumers in the Global North and producers in the Global South — and is an alternative to sweatshop production. Fair Trade, which encompasses agricultural products (coffee, tea, chocolate, and bananas), household items, clothing, handcrafts and decorative arts, helps indigenous producers escape from exploitation and gives them a way to maintain their traditional lifestyles with dignity.

Fair Trade products are identified by the "Fair Trade Certified" label or the "Fair Trade Federation" logo on a product.

1. The "Fair Trade Certified" system involves non-profit organizations in 17 different countries, all affiliated

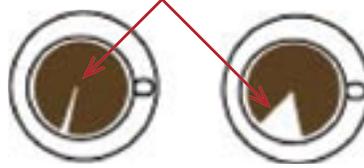
with the "Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International" (FLO). In the USA, TransFairUSA places the "Fair Trade Certified" label on coffee, cocoa, tea, bananas and other fruits. This label is product-specific. Its presence on one product doesn't mean all of that company's products are Fair Trade.

Fair Trade cont. pg. 2

Fair Trade is:

- **A fair price for products.** Prices are set by the Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO) at levels that cover the cost of production and provide a fair return/living wage to the farmer.
- **Empowerment for farmers.** Farmers and producers belong to cooperatives that are democratically controlled by the members. Equal employment opportunities are provided for all. Producers have access to financial and technical assistance.
- **Empowerment for women.** Women are participants and leaders. They receive training and health care.
- **Safe working conditions.** Working conditions must be inspected for safety. Forced labor and exploitative child labor are not allowed.
- **Investment in people and communities.** Cooperatives invest in community development: health clinics, schools, housing, scholarships, etc.
- **Environmental sustainability.** Farmers avoid use of toxic chemicals and utilize organic methods of agriculture.
- **Direct, long-term relationships.** Importers establish stable relationships with their producers and suppliers.
- **Public Scrutiny** All aspects of trade and production are open to public accountability.

From what you pay for a cup of coffee, the farmer gets



Conventional Trade

20 ¢ per pound

Fair Trade

\$1.26 per pound

Why Fair Trade?

"Fair Trade is a model of international trade that provides a clear and just alternative to free trade.

Fair trade is built on right relationships between consumers and producers, based in human respect, economic justice and global solidarity." (Catholic Relief Services)



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"We all have to go shopping. Fair Trade is just shopping with respect."
 Mr. Ohmeng-Tinyase, Director of a Fair Trade Coca Cooperative in Ghana.

Fair Trade *cont. from pg. 1*

2. The "Fair Trade Federation" is an association of businesses that follow fair trade principles across the board, so its logo on a product means that the company supports the highest level of commitment to fair trade — 100%.

The Fair Trade system benefits nearly a million farmers organized into cooperatives and unions in 48 countries. It is a system that helps them provide for their families' basic needs and invest in local community development.

Fair Trade criteria require sustainable farming techniques, and offer an extra premium for organic production. Revenues from Fair Trade cooperatives are often used to train producers in organic and sustainable techniques like composting and integrating recycled materials. Most Fair Trade coffee and cocoa are shade grown and organic because these are the traditional methods used by small farmers. Approximately 80-85% of all Fair Trade coffee farms do not use pesticides. Organic and shade-grown methods are important for the health of local communities and for the earth.

However, these farmers are still forced to sell most of their crop outside of the Fair Trade system because not enough companies are buying at Fair Trade prices.

It is important that consumers increase the demand by pressuring companies and retailers to buy Fair Trade, thereby advancing a sus-

tainable model of international trade based on economic justice. Consumers should demand accountability from corporations that sell Fair Trade applicable products. They should also ask local businesses such as stores, bakeries, and restaurants to sell and use *Fair Trade Certified* and *Fair Trade Federation* members' products. Consumers from educational and faith-based community groups should consider switching purchases and fundraising programs to Fair Trade.

For action tools and help, see:
Global Exchange
www.globalexchange.org
 and

the *Fair Trade Resource Network*:
www.fairtraderesource.org

Why Fair Trade is Urgently Needed

July 2005 was a sad moment in the United States — a moment when corporate interest won over democratic values as the US Congress approved CAFTA (*Central American Free Trade Agreement*) 217-215. Those Republicans who did not support CAFTA were pressured by the Bush Administration into following party dictates rather than voting in the interests of their constituents. The result — CAFTA will expand corporate rights over some of the poorest countries — Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and the Dom. Republic.

CAFTA is based on the massive failure of NAFTA, the agreement that caused the loss of 38,000 US family farms and millions of other US jobs and pushed 1.5 million Mexican farmers off their land. CAFTA will also undermine workers' rights, drive family farmers off their land, and

expose communities throughout Central America and the U.S. to privatization of essential public services (water, electricity, health care and education). The approval of CAFTA essentially represents corporate interests winning over the values of workers' rights, fair trade, and environmental protection. (Excerpted from www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/cafta/)

Who Earns When Farmers Hand Over Their Coffee Beans? (CRS)





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Fair Trade Participants

Fair Trade involves three different groups of people, with certain agreements among them.

Producers: the farmers, artisans, workers, cooperatives that produce the products - coffee, tea, cocoa, honey, handicrafts etc. They must follow certain agreements to qualify their products as Fair Trade.

Importers: the people who import the Fair Trade products into their country for further processing and sale either by themselves or by other processors and retailers. Importers and subsequent processors of products also have to follow certain agreements and standards to qualify them as Fair Trade importers and/or processors.

Fair Trade Certifiers: organizations/entities that certify producers and importers as Fair Trade, if they follow the Fair Trade guidelines. The *Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO)* is the entity which certifies producers from all over the world as Fair Trade and ensures that producers are following the producer Fair Trade standards, while *TransFair USA* is the organization that certifies importers and processors in the USA as Fair Trade and ensures that they follow the Fair Trade standards for importers/processors. Similarly, there are other organizations in other countries (Japan, Germany etc.) certifying their importers and processors

as Fair Trade. There is also the Fair Trade Federation, an association of importers, retailers and producers who commit themselves to certain Fair Trade guidelines, but these guidelines are neither enforced or the products certified to meet their guidelines.

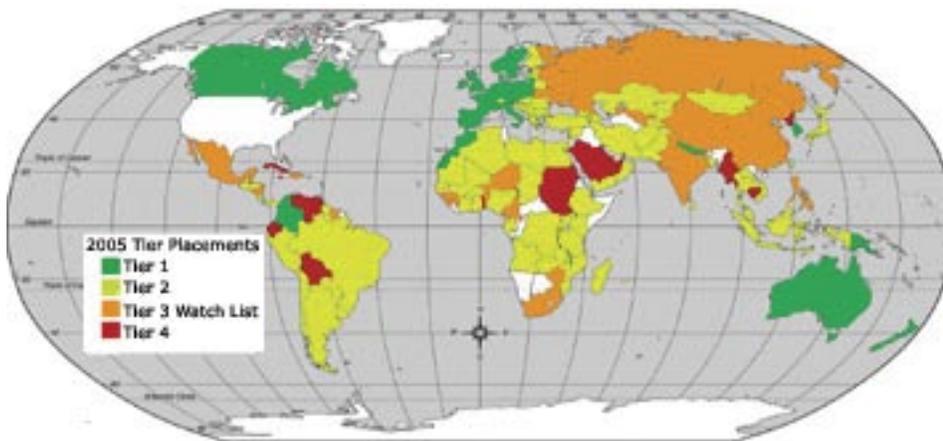
Issues that Still Need Attention

No Differentiation Among Importer Certifications

TransFair USA has certified Starbucks, Green Mountain, Proctor & Gamble as fair trade importers, although they only import a very small percentage of their coffee as fair trade. The amount they import and the prices paid are also not public information. This serves as “green/social washing” by big corporations that claim they are fair traders, while importing only a fraction of their total products as fair trade. This unfairly penalizes small importers, many of whom, import 100% of their products as fair trade. Both 100% importers and 1% importers are deemed as fair trade importers. As a result many small importers have pulled out of the TransFair certifica-

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**People Want to Stay Home.
But Those Jobless Continue to Search for Work.**



Impoverished countries and those that are considered “sending countries” for human trafficking tend to be the same.

According to the USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reported that 2004 was the fourth straight year of decline in the global number of refugees, falling 4 percent to 9.2 million, the lowest total in almost a quarter century. The decline is largely a result of voluntary repatriation in countries like Afghanistan.

However, the numbers of internally displaced and stateless people increased to 19.2 million from 17 million over the course of the past year.

Excerpted: John Thavis Catholic News Service, June 2005



Advocacy

Principles of U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice

International trade and investment systems should:

- ✓ respect and support the dignity of the human person, the integrity of creation, and our common humanity.
- ✓ respect the legitimate role of government, in collaboration with civil society, to set policies regarding the development and welfare of its people.
- ✓ safeguard the global commons and respect the right of local communities to protect and to sustainably develop their natural resources.

International trade and investment activities should:

- ✓ advance the common good and be evaluated in the light of their impact on those who are most vulnerable.

International trade and investment policies and decisions should:

- ✓ be transparent and should involve the meaningful participation of the most vulnerable stakeholders.



Focus on Chocolate

Twenty-seven million people are still in slavery, many of them working in agriculture and mining, producing goods that end up in our local stores. We buy them. We are buying into slavery, one consumer dollar at a time.

Working to root out slavery at its source, *Free the Slaves* helps real people out of slavery by promoting a sustainable livelihood, so they never fall prey to slaveholders again.

Working over the past four years, members of the chocolate industry, consumers, farmers, and governments worked with *Free the Slaves* representatives to ensure that all the commitments to end slavery in cocoa production are met. Although not yet fully successful, their efforts produced the *Harken-Engel (Cocoa) Protocol*, a model for corporate social responsibility. See information about it on the *Free the Slaves* website.

Free the Slaves targets not one business at a time, but focuses on an entire industry. It's not about smearing businesses, although businesses clearly have some mistakes to correct, some checks to write, some supply chains to overhaul, and a lot of learning and cooperating to do.

Free the Slaves is now researching the next commodities that contain slavery and will need the help of consumers to convince these industries to follow the lead of the chocolate companies and do the right thing.

Jacob Patton, Dir. Outreach/Technology
Source for excerpts: <http://ozspirit.info/2005/112b.html>

**PUT FAIR TRADE INTO
YOUR HALLOWEEN!**

**Don't buy chocolate
made through
child labor.**

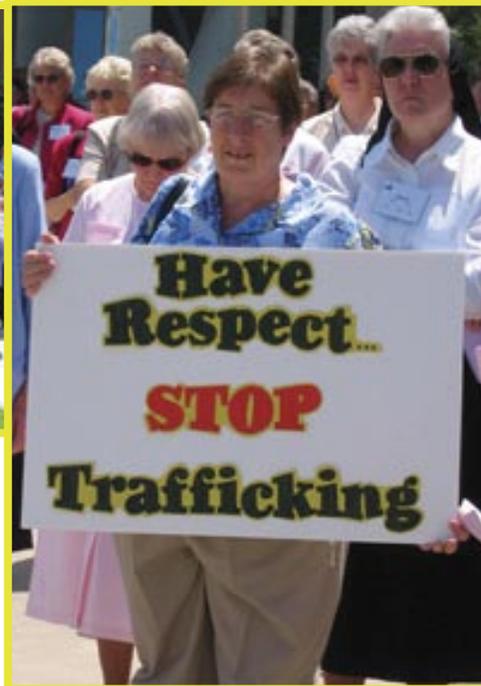


Advocacy

“When I was young, I didn’t have the opportunity to study. I thank Fair Trade because it enabled me to pay for my studies as an adult. Now I have an undergraduate degree in engineering and a graduate degree in sustainable agriculture. I am educating my children as I would like to have been educated at their age.”

Blanca Rosa Molina, woman from a 1900-member coffee cooperative in Nicaragua. (From Coop America’s Guide to Fair Trade)

LCWR Public Protest



More than 500 of the attendees at the August 2005 annual *Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)* in Anaheim, CA conducted a public demonstration to protest the abuse of women, men, and children as a result of human trafficking in the Los Angeles area and throughout the United States.

Photos thanks to: Patrick Mott, Editor, Orange County Catholic

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tion process and have chosen to make all their contracts and purchases totally public information.

Lack of Transparency Among Some Producers/Sellers

Lack of transparency applies more to goods that are being sold as “fairly traded,” but where the producers have not been certified as “fair trade” producers. Handicrafts, clothing, paper and many other items are currently being sold as “fair trade,” but the businesses importing and selling them have almost no transparency as to what they are paying to the producer for a particular item. For fair trade certified products, the prices are set by FLO, but for others goods, there is no set price and hence it is easy for businesses to claim that they are “fair trade”.



Action

Integrity Express

is a California Fair Trade Company that distributes many products, including these, throughout the US:

Talon Sports of Pakistan has introduced Fair Trade indoor soccer balls for \$24.95.

Stevia Plus is a sweetener made from the herbal plant *Stevia Rebaudiana* that is native to Paraguay. Stevia is 8-10 times sweeter than sugar, yet has a glycemic index of 0. It does not affect blood sugar. A 1/4 teaspoon of Stevia = 1 teaspoon of sugar. Stevia is a unique and versatile sweetener - it is stable for both baking and freezing. Packages of 100 Stevia Plus single-serve packets are \$11.95 and the 4 oz. shaker bottle is \$12.75.

Choice Organic Teas – Russian Caravan is \$4.00, and Dragon Well and Decaf Chai is \$5.00. For loose-leaf teas in 2 lb. bulk bags several teas are extraordinary – Darjeeling FTGFOP1S, Oolong – Mist of the Mountains, Gunpowder, Dragon Well and White Peony – all delicious, fair trade and organic.

Seventh Generation product offerings include: non-toxic, vegetable based cleaners for healthier homes and offices. Biodegradable, phosphate and chlorine-free ingredients are always used without animal testing.

Their natural paper products (bathroom tis-

sue, paper towels, facial tissue, table napkins, etc.) are 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Many of the paper products are made from *bagasse*, the crushed outer stalk of sugarcane, i.e. the fiber remaining after the juice has been extracted from the plant.

Sugarcane is not only a readily renewable resource, but the *bagasse* fiber can be used in the manufacture of many products normally made from plastic or paper. Typically, the *bagasse* would be burned after the sugar production process, furthering air pollution. Using *bagasse* for biodegradable food service products saves on paper and plastic production.

Bagasse is soak proof, has no plastic or wax lining, can be used for both hot and cold applications, is microwave and freezer safe, is sterilized and sanitized conforming to U.S. FDA guidelines, is strong and sturdy, and is fully compostable after it is used.



Integrity Express:
Owners/Distributors: Mike & Erin Monroe
www.integrityexpress.us
408-848-3736 Fax
Mike@IntegrityExpress.us

WorldCentric Product Selection Criteria:

As another example, *WorldCentric* only carries products that:

- are primarily used for everyday consumption
- are fair-traded, sweat-free and/or are produced in a socially responsible way
- are sustainably produced and manufactured, i.e. organically grown, contain post-consumer recycled content, are easily biodegrade, and/or were created with sustainable materials
- reduce environmental impact and/or conserve energy and resources
- educate and create awareness of social/environmental issues
- are handmade by artisans, who keep alive cultural traditions and practices
- are made/produced locally, using local resources that support the local community and businesses

www.worldcentric.org/store/fairtrade.htm

Toll-Free Hotline:
(Trafficking Information and Referral)
1.888.3737.888



Action

TUNE IN!

LIFETIME TV Series on

'Human Trafficking'

starring Mira Sorvino and
Donald Sutherland
October 24 - 25, 2005
9:00 P.M. (ET/PT)

Fair Trade-Related Web Sites

- ✓ **CO-OP America** (www.coopamerica.org) has a *National Directory* (www.greenpages.org) of screened green and fair trade businesses (Coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, clothing, jewelry, crafts, sporting goods, shoes).
- ✓ **Cooperative Coffees** (www.cooperativecoffees.com) is a green coffee-importing cooperative comprised of 17 community based coffee roasters.
- ✓ **Catholic Relief Services** (www.crsfairtrade.org) has many tools on its website to help readers understand the power behind buying Fair Trade.
- ✓ **Eco-labels** (www.eco-labels.org) was developed by the Consumers Union and compares, contrasts and rates a variety of labels of interest to consumers.
- ✓ **Equiterre** (www.equiterre.qc.ca) works towards the creation of a more equitable system of international trade through the promotion of fair trade and other consumer alternatives. It is co-sponsor of Cafe Unidos, an information clearinghouse for sustainable coffee with information in English, French, and Spanish.
- ✓ **Fair Trade Resource Network** (www.fairtraderesource.org) and the **Fair Trade Federation** (www.fairtraderesource.org) are trade associations of North American Fair Trade retailers and wholesalers.
- ✓ **Global Exchange** (www.globalexchange.org) conducts Fair Trade campaigns and sells Fair Trade products through its on-line catalog and retail shops.
- ✓ **Interfaith Fair Trade Initiative** (www.lwr.org/fairtrade/index.asp) increases the involvement of people of faith in fair trade.
- ✓ **International Federation for Alternative Trade** (www.ifat.org) is a global network of Fair Trade organizations.
- ✓ **Network of European World Shops** (www.worldshops.org) sell fairly traded products from small-scale producers in developing countries.
- ✓ **Oxfam** (www.oxfamamerica.org) leads campaigns to respond to the global agricultural crisis and help consumers become part of the solution. See their *Fair Trade Campaign*.
- ✓ **RUGMARK** (www.rugmark.org) is a global nonprofit organization working to end child labor and offer educational opportunities for children in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
- ✓ **Seek Justice** (www.seekjustice.org) is a program of World Vision that offers trade resources designed for people of faith
- ✓ **Stop CAFTA Coalition** (www.stopcafta.org) exposes the negative effects of this trade agreement and helps consumers get involved.
- ✓ **SweatFree Communities** (www.sweatfree.org) promotes the collective bargaining power of both workers in sweatshops and communities of consumers.
- ✓ **TransFair USA** (www.transfairusa.org) provides Fair Trade certification and labeling for food products in the United States.
- ✓ **United Students for Fair Trade** (www.usft.org) is a collaboration of students working towards economic justice through the promotion of Fair Trade products, principles and policies.
- ✓ **US Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign** (www.tradejusticeusa.org) works to get faith communities involved in trade justice.
- ✓ **World of Good Development Organization** (www.worldofgood.org) is a non-profit organization focused on building strategies to substantially improve economic and social conditions for millions of artisans and their families living on less than \$4 per day.



Action

8 Another City Passes Laws to Block Sweatshops

San Francisco is another large city in the USA working to prevent sweatshops from doing business with city contractors. In mid-September 2005 San Francisco supervisors unanimously signed the "sweat-free code of conduct." City contractors must put in writing their guarantee that uniforms, computers and other goods they supply to the city were not made in sweatshops.

Manufacturers and wholesalers that do business with the city must now promise that their workers are paid the local minimum wage, have the right to unionize and enjoy safe working conditions. They must assure that no child labor, foreign convict labor or slave labor are used to produce the merchandise that comes into San Francisco hospitals, fire stations and City Hall offices.

San Francisco joins Los Angeles CA, Newark NJ, Albuquerque NM, and Milwaukee WI in having placed anti-sweatshop laws on their city books. But SF's laws go further by including an initial \$100,000 for enforcement and a stricter definition of what constitutes a sweatshop. **And your city?**

Letter to the Editor

Dear *Stop Trafficking*,

Thank you for the good attention given in your September issue to the Conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council this past June. I would like to comment, not so much on the article, as on some issues of content of the Conference.

An international meeting on pastoral care for women who have been prostituted is surely welcomed. Many good recommendations came from the work of the experts who were gathered in Rome. It does seem unfortunate, however, that within the very title of the conference, women who are in prostitution are labeled as "Women of the Street." Surely this is an objectification of women that is anti-pastoral. Likewise, one of the keynote address titles labels women as "Street Women." Until we change language usage, it is unlikely that the best pastoral care will influence the systems and structures that underpin both the prostitution and trafficking of women, as well as all forms of gender based violence.

The language referring to the purchaser and sexual exploiter is also starkly problematic. While the woman victim has been labeled in the conference as a "street wom-

en," the purchaser is masked in the most socially acceptable of terms, as "client" or as "consumer" - albeit in parenthesis. Yes, the purchaser, the perpetrator of violence against women, is in need of pastoral outreach. But as demonstrated so clearly in the film *Dead Man Walking*, the man who had murdered another person benefited from pastoral care only when the nature of his crime was named, claimed and appropriate criminal consequences faced.

Without fully clarifying the true nature of the violence of the prostitution and the trafficking of women, we are all at risk of being complicit with dynamics of patriarchal domination in which it is quite acceptable to expose all the vulnerabilities of the female victim while protecting all descriptions and characterizations of the male (sometimes female) perpetrator of such egregious violations to human dignity. When such dynamics persist, we do not progress toward a society, nor a church, characterized by gender equality and full participation of women.

Clare Nolan RGS,
NGO representative to the UN,
Sept. 19, 2005 cnolan8345@aol.com

Anti-Trafficking Lecture Series in Pennsylvania

During September Mary Ellen Dougherty SSND, of the USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services, spoke on "The Situation of Human Trafficking in the US" as the first presenter in a three-part series organized in the Pittsburgh PA area.

The series was organized by PATH - *Pennsylvanians Against Human Trafficking*, a sub-committee of the Tri-Diocesan Sisters' Leadership Conference, primarily the Pittsburgh and Greensburg dioceses.

The second lecture by Regina Birchem, entitled "Human Trafficking Around the World," is scheduled for October 19th at Carlow College - the Mercy Sisters' Motherhouse. The last in the series, to be held at Chatham College, is scheduled for November 9th. The presenter is Dr. Mary Burke, who will address "Human Trafficking and the Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children: A Need for Advocacy." For details contact:

Susan Merrie English OSB
412-931-0769.

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/srjeanschaffersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

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jeansds2000@yahoo.com

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