

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2006 Vol. 4 No. 12

This issue highlights aspects of a major driving force behind human trafficking: 'Demand.'

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## 'Demand' Fuels Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is "one of the most important issues of our time... The sale of human dignity would be inconceivable without **demand** for prostitutes and cheap labor from people in rich countries." Kent Hill, senior health official, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Aug. 10, 2006.

"Those who demand bodies to consume in commercial sex fuel the need for a supply of those bodies. Traffickers are simply supplying women and children through acts like recruiting, procuring, transporting, and the selling of persons to meet that demand. Fortunately for the sex trafficker, there is a global marketplace made up of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of brothels, bars, strip clubs, massage parlors, escort services, and street corners where men purchase people for use in sex acts.

This is the **demand**. Most people casually refer to this 'marketplace', its 'consumers', 'business owners,' 'employees,' and 'suppliers,' in total as the 'commercial-sex industry.' I call it the '**Sexual Gulag**'." Lisa I. Thompson, Liaison for the Abolition of Sexual Trafficking, Salvation Army.

"The owners abet, facilitate and conspire with other abusers to perpetuate the exploitation of the trafficked victims. The extent of abuse unleashed on the victims by the brothel owners is not low in comparison to the abuse heaped by other exploiters such as traffickers and clients.

"It is this nexus between them that creates the **demand** for trafficking, perpetuates trafficking and leads to the gross violation of the rights of women and children, especially of girl children.

"Policies and strategies to prevent and combat the problem of trafficking can be effective only when they address these links in the chain of exploitation." From the 748-page study "Trafficking in Women and Children in India" sponsored by the National Human Rights Commission, funded by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and conducted by the New Delhi-based Institute of Social Sciences.

"More women are migrating nowadays, and we know that for a variety of reasons women are those often most desperately affected by poverty and those most in danger when they migrate, becoming an easy target of the traffickers.

Over the last decade we have been discussing the trafficking in human beings mainly for the purpose of sexual exploitation," he said. "However, what we are becoming more and more aware of is that trafficking is taking place in other areas as well ... men are forced on building sites, on ships, in agriculture and held like slaves; children are trafficked for pickpocketing or begging." (Torsten Moritz, Conference of European Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe representing Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Old Catholic churches, Catholic News Service, Oct. 23, 2006)

One of the responses to human trafficking is to spread information to consumers regarding the **demand for products** made by victims of human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery. For example, Norwegian Church Aid, which is fighting labor exploitation in sweatshops by organizing an information campaign, asks the public, "Are you sure your T-shirt was not produced in slave-like conditions?"

Ruta Tumenaite, Catholic News Service, Oct. 23, 2006

"Everyone says being a woman on the street is bad, but when I see six cars all lined up for a 14-year-old girl, why don't we hear that it's the man on the street that is worse? Sometimes men tell me they feel they are doing the prostitute a favor by offering the money she needs to live or to pay off her huge debt to traffickers. But they are wrong. They are feeding the problem. We would not have so many young women on the streets if we didn't have a **demand** because it is like in any business: **if there is no demand, there is no offer.**" Italian Consolata Sister, Eugenia Bonetti, head of anti-trafficking initiatives for the Italian Union of Major Superiors.



## Awareness

# World Cup

## Excerpts from the Coalition Against Trafficking In Women (CATW) Statement

### Without 'Punters' 2 There Would Be No Sex Trafficking

In the UK there's been a sudden, brief, lull in the media feeding frenzy on human trafficking. ... Mainstream journalism is a transient business, and maybe there are no new 'angles' on human trafficking right now. Well, here's a suggestion. Having fixated on the victims of these brutal crimes, journalists could now attempt to throw light on the perpetrators that we so rarely talk about - the 'punters.'

The question of who brutalizes trafficked females is the most neglected and shameful part of the whole debate on human trafficking. If men in the UK were not happy to pay for sex with women and girls who are too frightened to refuse unprotected sex, traffickers and pimps wouldn't bring them here in the first place.

There seems to be national resignation to the fact some men who pay for sex don't ask, or care, whether the woman or girl they are having intercourse with has made an informed choice about selling sex to them. These punters are not from another planet: they live in our communities. They are our neighbors, colleagues, friends and partners.

Not all punters are violent misogynists. But the violence meted out to all sex workers is outrageous. So where is the outrage about it? Is it OK for there to be several thousand women and girls, some aged 12 or under, being confined inside flats, houses and massage parlors so that men can pay to have intercourse with them whenever they feel like it?

In Moldova, where many trafficked women come from, Liliana Gorceag, a psychologist, described the trafficking situation to me as 'slow genocide'. She said the women and girls of her country were being gradually destroyed by

sexual violence and exploitation at the hands of men from western Europe. This has become a war on women and girls, and we are not confronting the punters who fuel it. ...

Sex workers are getting younger and trafficked females are increasingly confined in private flats and houses where they're much harder to locate. The situation is complicated by the fact that punters who know where these places are have been encouraged to tip off police....

On the one hand, the government has threatened to prosecute punters who have sex with trafficked women; on the other, it is urging these men to call the police if they do. The UK's *Joint Committee on Human Rights*, which published its own recommendations on human trafficking, has urged the government to clarify its 'inconsistent' position.

Meanwhile, the government is refusing to sign the *European Trafficking Convention*, so any migrants unfortunate enough to be trafficked here from outside Europe still don't have a legal leg to stand on. The joint committee has also urged the government to sign the convention, claiming there is no credible evidence this will act as a 'pull factor' for migrants....

Britain is now a major destination for traffickers because we offer them great business opportunities. Trafficking has been most rigorously policed in London and southern England, so traffickers are increasingly moving north; unless demand is tackled in Scotland, the situation is going to worsen. We have clearly identified there is a problem, though the trafficking of migrants into industries outside

Due to 'demand' CATW and other organizations estimated that there would be a 10 percent increase in the number of prostitutes during the Games, which German officials denied (see *Stop Trafficking* November 2006). The denial was based on police searches for foreign women in brothels without legal entry papers.

German officials acknowledge 400,000 women are in prostitution, a 'legal occupation' in Germany. Of those 90 percent are foreign. Yet only 600 women declare it as their 'occupation'. German police have little knowledge of 'who' constitute the 90 percent foreign women during normal periods, which thus casts doubt on their investigative results during the Games.

*"It was reported that Dutch 'johns' openly discussed, in an Internet forum, the fact that many women in the German nude clubs were trafficked and controlled by pimps."*

*"...Most German men solicit prostituted women on the street, in spite of the existence of legal venues, or go elsewhere for sex tourism. Germany has large numbers of male sex tourists who flood the border areas in countries such as the Czech Republic where they have been widely implicated in the buying of children for sex. Likewise, it has been reported by European NGOs that numbers of sports fans followed this pattern of buying sex from women on the street or in illegal venues to preserve anonymity, to access women they fantasize as more exotic, to obtain children, or to pay reduced prices."...*

*"Sex industry entrepreneurs predicted a 30 percent boom in sex buyers. This increase in male buyers appears to be validated by several reports. One report stated that 'sex workers in Berlin have gone into extra time and are doing double shifts to cash in on the mega event.' Thus, even if no additional women - trafficked or otherwise -- were brought into the legal sex venues, reports stated that 'clients were virtually queuing up to get into the host nation's 'freudenhauser' (literally, joy houses).' There are 400 'joy houses' in Berlin. One taxi driver was quoted as saying that customers he had ferried into Berlin's red light district were turned away because*



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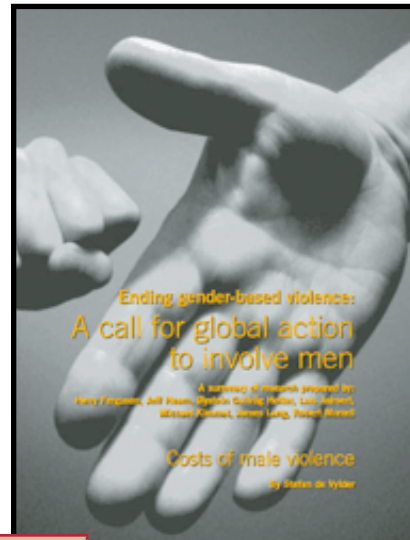
# Ending Gender-Based Violence: A Call for Global Action to Involve Men

A summary of research prepared by: Harry Ferguson, Jeff Hearn, Øystein Gullvåg Holter,

“Violence against women is, according to a definition adopted at the Beijing Conference in 1995, ‘any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.’

A categorization of violence against women could also include harmful traditional practices, i.e types of violence that, according to a UNIFEM definition ‘have been committed against women in certain communities and societies for so long that they are considered to be part of accepted cultural practice’ (UNIFEM 2003, p. 2). These violations include female genital mutilation, dowry murder, ‘honor killings’, early, forced marriage, acid attacks and others, which lead to death, disabilities, and physical and psychological dysfunction for millions of women annually.” (Report pg. 87; Table below on pg. 88 of Report)

Ending Gender Violence cont. pg. 4



Phase	Type of Violence Girls and Women Experience
Prenatal	Battering during pregnancy (emotional and physical effects on the woman; effects on birth); coerced pregnancy; deprivation of food; sex selective abortion.
Infancy	Female infanticide; emotional and physical abuse; differential access to food and medical services for the girl infant.
Childhood	Child marriage; genital mutilation; sexual abuse; differential access to food and medical care; child prostitution.
Adolescence	Rape; sexual assault; forced prostitution; trafficking; sexual abuse in the workplace; economically coerced sex.
Reproductive	Abuse of women by intimate partner; dowry age abuse and murders; partner homicide; psychological abuse; sexual abuse in the workplace; sexual harassment; rape; legal discrimination.
Old Age	Abuse and exploitation of widows.

## Gendercide

One United Nations’ report estimates that between 113 million and 200 million women around the world are ‘missing.’ Every year, between 1.5 million and 3 million women and girls lose their lives as a result of gender-based violence or neglect. According to the *Economist*, “Every two to four years the world looks away from a victim count on the scale of Hitler’s Holocaust.”

Gendercide cont. pg. 4

## HIV & Gender Inequality

Women comprise almost half of all adults living with HIV today and in the last two years the proportion of women and girls living with HIV has increased in every region of the world, especially in Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. In sub-Saharan Africa, women comprise nearly 60 percent of adults living with HIV.

“Effective HIV prevention for women requires understanding how women’s risk for HIV/AIDS is rooted in social inequality and power differences between the sexes. The pursuit of HIV prevention for women is deeply embedded in the struggle for gender equality,” said Director Michael Merson, M.D. Director of the Yale University Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), April 6, 2006. (Please visit “Women, Power and HIV/AIDS” online for additional information: <http://cira.med.yale.edu/lpe/index.html>)



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Ending Gender Violence *cont. from pg. 3*

The Argument Summarized

(discussed on pgs 11-55 of Report)

1. Violence is a global problem, manifest at every level of society.
2. Violence is among every society's most costly and most urgent problems.
3. Much violence is gender-based, and much gender-based violence is men's violence to children, women and other men.
4. Gender inequalities create gender-based violence.
5. Men's violence is socially cultivated and promoted.
6. Transforming gender relations to create greater gender equality can help end gender-based violence.
7. Ending men's silence can reduce gender-based violence.
8. Men can engage in various ways in the efforts to end gender-based violence.
9. We can learn from others societies how to engage men to reduce gender-based violence.
10. Much important work is happening around the world to enable men to commit themselves to reduce gender-based violence.
11. These initiatives demonstrate the best practices of engagement for men in the effort to reduce gender-based violence.
12. Ending gender-based violence will benefit women, children and men.
13. Men's awareness of gender-based violence will promote children's rights and enhance children's lives.

Examples of impacts/types of costs (Report pg. 69)
<p><b>Direct Costs:</b> Police and private security, costs of trials, prisons, health-care costs, social services (e.g. shelters, crisis services).</p>
<p><b>Indirect Costs:</b> Loss of income of both victims and offenders, increased mortality and morbidity, lower productivity.</p>
<p><b>Intangible Costs:</b> Pain and suffering among victims of violence and their relatives, increased fear and anxiety in society as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Multiplier Effects:</b> Erosion of social capital, intergenerational transmission of violence and dysfunctional behavior, brain drain, lower domestic and foreign investment, lower economic growth.</p>

Gendercide *cont. from pg. 3*

Estimates of some of the factors in 'gendercide':

- In countries where the birth of a boy is preferred, selective abortion and infanticide eliminate female babies.
- Young girls die disproportionately from neglect because food and medical attention is given first to males.
- In countries where women are considered the property of men, their fathers and brothers can murder them for choosing their own sexual partners.
- The brutal international sex trade kills uncounted numbers of girls.
- Domestic violence is a major reason for the deaths of women in every country.
- Six thousand girls undergo genital mutilation every day, according to the World Health Organization. Many die, and others live the rest of their lives in crippling pain.

(Author: Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali-born Dutch legislator, living under 24-hour protection because of death threats against her by Islamic radicals since the murder of director Theo van Gogh, with whom she made the film "Submission." Excerpted: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0404/p09s01-coop.html>)

*"The best way to fight human rights abuses is to increase local and international awareness. Traffickers take advantage of our silence, of our inaction."* Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih Justice Center



## Advocacy

# How Best to Serve Poor Women

*The following is an excerpt from the Report of the UN Expert Group on Women and Finance, chaired by Women's World Banking (WWB).*

### Backing Women as Economic Actors

A major means to improve the status of women is to open poor women's access to finance.... A woman's economic position directly affects:

- her ability to purchase needed improvements in health, housing and education.
- her bargaining position and power in the family and community.
- her ability to act against violence in her home and in her world.

Most poor people are women and most women are poor. Almost all low-income women are economically active. Most are microentrepreneurs and self-employed in the informal sector. The major economic roles of low-income women entrepreneurs and producers are often undervalued and ignored.

Low-income women entrepreneurs and producers—the majority of the world's women—need and merit expanded access to finance, information and markets. Access to finance and economic participation is key to building a woman's confidence and capacity to use her voice to reshape her life. Credit access enhances women's status in the community and enables a woman to build income and assets that are clearly hers. Access to finance is central if women are to leverage their time and talents to transform themselves, their families, their enterprises, their economies and their world. Compelling arguments exist for making particular efforts to open low-in-

come women entrepreneurs' access to finance, information and markets:

- Women are major actors in the global economy. Women's roles as the farmers, traders, and informal sector industrialists are major, and often overlooked.
- Global experience with micro-lending demonstrates that women are better credit risks than men, and that poor entrepreneurs have higher repayment rates than large bank clients.
- Investing in low-income women entrepreneurs is a highly efficient means to achieve economic and social objectives. Women manage household finances in most of the developing world. As more cash and assets get into the hands of women, most of these earnings get into the mouths, medicine and schoolbooks of their children.
- Increasingly, many households are headed by women, de facto or de jure, relying on the woman's earnings as the main or sole source of income for the family.
- Women tend to be honest, practical and reliable. This results in a low percentage of business failures and loan defaults among women business owners.
- Most women place a high utility on security. This means major potential for large savings mobilization, if the mechanisms are women-friendly.

### Responding to Where Women Are.

If financial systems are to reach low-income women entrepreneurs and

producers, the delivery systems need to respond to the common characteristics of low income women and their businesses:

- Women do most of the work but have a small share of the physical and financial assets. As a result, most women do not have traditional collateral.
- Most women in developing countries are poor, meaning that their difficulties in achieving access and expanding economic participation are related both to gender and poverty.
- Low-income women have heavy productive and reproductive roles, which keeps many in very small businesses.
- Low-income women normally are busier and less mobile than men. It is important that lending and savings services are available where the women are.
- Many women in developing countries are illiterate. While illiteracy usually does not hinder the success of a woman's microbusiness, illiteracy does create barriers in meeting normal bank loan requirements. Poor women entrepreneurs often do not fit traditional lenders' images of "bankable" clients.
  - Low-income women tend to concentrate on different economic activities than poor men: different industry and service subsectors, different niches in the value adding chain, and different price-quality segments. If the needs of low income women are to be addressed, these subsector



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### Women's Finance *cont. from pg. 5*

differences need to be taken into account in designing general and sub-sector-specific policies and programs.

- Women are often less exposed to different environments and innovations, since they have fewer opportunities to move from their locale. Exposure is important.
- Poor women entrepreneurs operating in isolation often lack the confidence to change their fate. Organizing and relationships are key.
- Women, particularly low income women, face many cultural barriers that need to be taken into account in designing policies, programs and specific services: norms on appropriate sectors for women, family expectations on a woman's role, denigration of women's economic activities, and undermining of women's confidence. For many reasons, confidence-building activities are more important for women than for men.
- Women face particular constraints on property rights, and in some countries, legal barriers still exist for women as subjects of credit. These barriers need to be removed.
- Poor producers, entrepreneurs, and self-employed women need different mechanisms and procedures than those of the formal banking sector. Key characteristics of poor self-employed women include: concentration in goods and services rooted in a traditional skill base, low capacity for bearing financial risk, family-based operations, capacity for hard work, spirit of endurance and enthusiasm, and openness to learn and improve their economic conditions.

Normally, financial services that

meet the needs of women, but that are open to men, will give women adequate access. Women tend to take advantage of sound financial services geared to microentrepreneurs and producers. In some settings, however, specific targeting and women-only approaches are necessary.

#### **Backing Women Microentrepreneurs and Producers.**

For low-income women in developing countries, the focus should be on backing microenterprises.

- If the objective is to reach poor women and to alleviate their poverty, it is important to target microentrepreneurial firms with fewer than five workers. This is where the vast majority of poor women are, and where the major problems with access exist.
- The vast majority of women start out with very small businesses. Today's microenterprises are tomorrow's small firms, if they are positioned to grow.
- Microenterprises help reduce rural and urban unemployment, and provide goods and services to the poor at reasonable prices.
- We now know how to build sustainable financial services for microenterprises. Successful systems can be expanded, and adapted for use elsewhere.

(Ed.: The report continues, explaining why it is important that services are available to help women make the transition from micro to small business and how to accomplish this. [http://www.swwb.org/English/2000/why\\_focus\\_on\\_poor\\_women.htm](http://www.swwb.org/English/2000/why_focus_on_poor_women.htm))

### 'Punters' *cont. from pg. 2*

the sex trade still barely gets a mention in the press.

*Anti-Slavery International* has spoken recently about the fact that trafficking for forced labor has been a criminal offence since 2004, but outside of the sex industry, there has not been a single prosecution. It's estimated 4000 migrants are being forced to work throughout Britain as domestics, construction and agricultural workers, food processors and sex workers. It is what we do to assist them that matters now.

Signing the *European Convention* would be a good start. We could also appoint independent Regional Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Scotland, England and Wales, who would be a liaison between the government, police, immigration and refugees services and develop public awareness campaigns on trafficking.

Voyeuristic stories about the plight of sex slaves are not the answer. To tackle trafficking into sex work, we need a hard-hitting national campaign aimed directly at the men who pay for sex. We don't have a hope of winning this war against trafficking unless we challenge our own attitudes towards punters, and their attitudes towards sex and violence.

(By Louisa Waugh October 28, 2006, <http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/73103.html>)

Louisa Waugh's second book is *Selling Olga: Stories of Human Trafficking and Resistance*, Weidenfield & Nicolson.

### World Cup *cont. from pg. 2*

the places were full. One brothel keeper said that *'the demand had gone through the roof... We have VIP reservations right through to the end of the tournament. Sometimes we don't know where to put all the men... We are earning as much in one day as we normally would in a week.'*

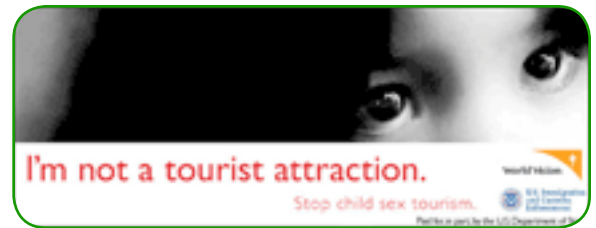
Europe's biggest brothel in Cologne, reported, *'We are working at 100 percent capacity and could do more if we had more space.'* (Contributed by Janice G. Raymond, CATW Co-Executive Director.)

(The CATW Statement is much more extensive, with corroborating sources, and may be obtained in its entirety from CATW.)



## Action

# Marriott Hotel Chain Opts to Safeguard Children



The *Boston Common Asset Management Company* co-led a shareholder initiative with *GES Investment Services of Sweden* to urge Marriott executives to implement steps to prevent exploitation of children at their 2800 sites globally.

The shareholder group met with the company three times, once with the entire task force comprised of senior officials in the organization across the areas of human resources, compliance, public affairs and international lodging operations.

David Schilling from the *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)* played a key role throughout the nine-month dialogue, lending his expertise on the development and implementation of human rights codes of conduct.

*Boston Common* representative, Lauren Compere, expressed satisfaction with the results of their intensive negotiation with Marriott. *"Marriott officials have done much in a short amount of time. The company agreed to meet with us in spring 2007 to update us on how the policy is being implemented,"* she added.

## Marriott's Statement

"As a world leader in hospitality, Marriott International supports and respects the protection of human rights within the company's sphere of influence. We endeavor to conduct our business operations accordingly. This includes standing against such tragedies as human trafficking and the exploitation of children. ...

To more fully encompass and embrace the issue of helping children at risk, Marriott's Human Rights Policy was amended. Marriott's Board of Directors approved the amended policy at their November 2, 2006, meeting.

The following statement expresses Marriott's commitment to human rights around the world." ...

The *Responsible Tourist and Traveller*, a brochure developed by the *United Nations World Tourism Organization*, will be included in pre-arrival e-mail messages sent to registered guests at Marriott hotels globally beginning in December 2006. Nearly 20 million pre-arrival messages are sent to Marriott guests each year."

(Ed.: The statement outlines various initiatives taken to provide job training for youth.

The document concludes with the following statement.)

### Our Ongoing Commitment

"Marriott ... will leverage and update its internal communications vehicles and training materials to sustain awareness about child protection and exploitation.

Marriott International's policies and practices surrounding human rights, ethical business conduct, human resources and the environment are embedded in our belief that how one does business is as important as the business one does, a belief to which we will remain dedicated."

## 'Marriott International Inc. Human Rights Policy Statement' Revision

### Section on the 'Protection of the Rights of Children'

"Marriott condemns all forms of exploitation of children. The Company does not recruit child labor, and supports the elimination of exploitative child labor. Marriott also supports laws duly enacted to prevent and punish the crime of sexual exploitation of children. Marriott will work to raise awareness concerning such exploitation, and will cooperate with law enforcement authorities to address any such instances of exploitation of which the Company becomes aware. ... Marriott will continue to focus on programs that help children break out of the cycle of poverty that makes them and their families vulnerable."

November 2006



Action



## 'Demand' Demeans Dignity

## Save the Date!

Save  
Saturday,  
March 10, 2007 for  
**PUTTING OUT THE WELCOME MAT**

a workshop for all Religious and Associates  
at Mercy High School  
3250 19th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
10:00AM to 3:00PM  
to learn how to create or support  
a home for Human Trafficking Survivors.

This workshop is sponsored by  
16 Religious Congregations in Northern California.

The San Francisco, CA workshop '*Putting Out the Welcome Mat*' is designed for those interested in creating or supporting a home for human trafficking survivors.

The workshop (10 am - 3 pm) is sponsored by the Northern California Coalition Against Trafficking, comprised of 16 religious congregations collaborating to stop global trafficking.

For information, contact Michele Gorman RSM: [mgorman@mercysisters.org](mailto:mgorman@mercysisters.org)

## Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) Will Address 'Demand'

ICCR's *Human Rights working group* intends to address commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. The initial focus will be on the hotel industry. They will collect information about other corporations in case they need to purchase stock, which must be held for a year before stockholders may file a resolution.

The ICCR *Militarism and Violence working group* intends to address human trafficking in the private military corporations e.g. *Halliburton et al.* The concerns raised by this working group will include laborers.

UNANIMA International, a NGO that promotes education and advocacy in its work at the UN, has undertaken an 'Anti-Demand' Campaign to address the demand for trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. The organization stated:

"Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is the greatest illicit global slavery of today caused by the growing demand for victims of commercial sex. The link between **trafficking for sexual exploitation** and **prostitution** is irrefutable. Both realities are rooted in poverty and the structural inequalities between men and women. UNANIMA International advocates uprooting the demand for trafficked women and children for sexual exploitation as a significant step to eliminating the crime of human trafficking. UNANIMA International believes...

- Trafficking and prostitution are violations of human rights driven by male demand that demean the dignity of all human beings.
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the violation of women and children who come often from harsh environments and who have few options.
- Terms such as 'industry' or 'business' mask the dehumanizing reality suffered by trafficked victims from pimps, profiteers; purchasers, pornography and the culture that fosters demand for sexual exploitation
- Public awareness campaigns, promotion of gender equality leading to legislation are crucial steps to eliminating demand."





## Action

# Child Labor Down

A new report by the *International Labor Organization, ILO*, says child labor, especially in its worst forms, is in decline for the first time across the globe. Between 2000 and 2004, the ILO report finds the number of child laborers worldwide fell by 11 percent from 246 million to 218 million. ILO Executive Director, Kari Tapiola, said these latest figures make the ILO cautiously optimistic that the fight against child labor could be won.

*"It is feasible that within a period of say 10 years, we could get rid of the whole issue of worst forms of child labor,"* he said. *"Now that is a very tall order. If the international attention is maintained and if it continues to be translated into concrete global support for action, then we believe it is realistic to arrive at this task."*

The ILO describes the worst forms of child labor as activities that are illegal. These include child prostitution, the use of children for drug trafficking or pornographic purposes and debt bondage. Four years ago, the ILO estimated at least eight million children work in these areas. The ILO also considers hazardous work, that is work that endangers a child's life and health, to be among the worst forms of child labor. This includes deep-sea diving, certain forms of domestic work and quarry mining.

The report attributes the reduction in child labor to increased political will and public awareness of the problem. Tapiola says a worldwide movement against child labor has been gathering momentum. More consumers are boycotting goods that are produced by children and this is having an effect. (<http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-05-04-voa45.cfm>)

## Thank You

*We wish to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project during 2006:*

- Our SPONSORS listed on pg. 1
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  - Fr. Michael Newman SDS Chico, CA
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- Sisters of Christian Charity Wilmette, IL
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  - Benedictine Sisters Monastery of St. Gertrude Cottonwood, ID
  - Mrs. Claire Williams SDS Huntsville, AL
  - S. Clarice Steinfeldt SDS Milwaukee, WI
- *In memory of* S. Louise Grant SC Halifax, Nova Scotia
  - Fr. Sal Ragusa SDS Moraga, CA
  - Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Watsonville, CA
- Charles and Margaret Crosby SDS Orangevale, CA
- S. Margaret Bosch SDS Milwaukee, WI

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

**Women's World Banking**  
<http://www.swwb.org/INDEX.HTM>

**National Migration Week**  
**Jan. 7 - 13, 2007**

**Resources**  
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.shtml>

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

*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/stoptraffic/index.html>

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