

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

July 2006 Vol. 4 No. 7

This issue highlights the U.S. Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for 2006.

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Trafficking in Persons Report 2006

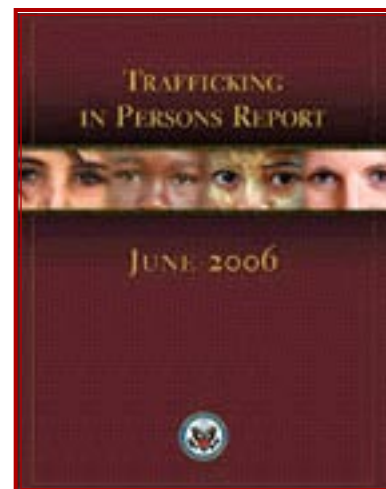
This Report focuses “more attention on the plight of low-skilled laborers from developing countries, particularly women working as domestics.” The Report “is dedicated to Nour Miyati and the many other foreign migrant workers who pursued dreams but found hell on earth. We pledge to give the voices of these victims of involuntary servitude the hearing they desperately need, through this Report and wherever governments can be held accountable for practices that foster modern-day slavery.”

The Staff U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (signed by John R. Miller and 25 other staff) (pg. 291)

This is the sixth annual Department of State TIP Report, covering the period April 2005 to March 2006, and evaluating 149 countries. Its purpose is to “raise global awareness, to highlight the growing efforts of the international community to combat human trafficking, and to encourage foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons.” ...

The TIP Report highlights the ‘three P’s’ — prosecution, protection, and prevention. “But a victim-centered approach to trafficking requires us equally to address the ‘three R’s’ — rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration.” ...

TIP cont. pg. 2



Exploitative Migrant Labor Practices

One sad example of what can happen is seen in the suffering of an Indonesian mother who wanted a better future for her nine-year old daughter.

She went to a Middle Eastern state to work as a domestic and for four years was able to send money home so that her daughter could attend school.

Then she got a new employer, who locked her in his house, tortured her, and did not pay her. She suffered severe injuries to her hands and feet that required amputation of her fingers and toes. She is no longer able to work.

(TIP Report Pg. 291)



Dept. of State photo.

Another example comes from a garment factory in Jordan. A contract labor agency in Bangladesh advertised work at the garment factory.

“The ad promised a three-year contract, \$125 per month, eight hour workdays, six days of work a week, paid overtime, free accommodation, free medical care, free food, and no advance fees.

Instead, upon arrival, workers (who were obliged to pay exorbitant advance fees) had passports confiscated, were confined in miserable conditions, and prevented from leaving the factory. Months passed without pay, food was inadequate, and sick workers were tortured.

Because most workers had borrowed money, at inflated interest rates, to get the contracts, they were obliged, through debt, to stay.” (TIP Report, Pg. 7)



Awareness

The Human and Social Costs of Trafficking

- Violates human rights
 - Promotes social breakdown
 - Fuels organized crime
 - Deprives countries of human capital and inhibits development
 - Harms public health
 - Erodes government authority
- (Each of these costs is explained on pgs. 10 - 14.)

TIP

cont. from pg. 1

Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders annually. About 80 percent of these are women and girls and 50 percent are minors. Most transnational victims were trafficked for commercial sex.

“With a focus on transnational trafficking in persons, however, these numbers do not include millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.

The 2006 Report sheds new light on the alarming trafficking of people for purposes of slave labor, often in their own countries. This is a form of human trafficking that can be harder to identify and estimate than sex trafficking, yet it may be much greater in size when we count domestic trafficking. ...

A wide range of estimates exists on the scope and magnitude of modern-day slavery, both internal and transnational. The International Labor Organization (ILO)—the United Nations (UN) agency charged with addressing labor standards, employment, and social protection issues—estimates there are 12.3 million people in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude at any given time; other estimates range from 4 million to 27 million.” (TIP pg. 5-6)

Country Rankings

The following excerpts show to what extent countries selected from various levels in the tier rankings (see pg. 5), attempted to prevent trafficking. In addition to prevention, the TIP Report evaluated each of the 149 countries’ efforts to deal with human trafficking through prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims.

Poland (remains in Tier 1)

“Poland is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There were isolated reports of Vietnamese nationals trafficked to Poland for labor exploitation. Polish women are trafficked to Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Japan, and Israel for purposes of sexual exploitation. The reported number of victims forced to work in the agricultural industry, sweatshops, and begging rings continued to increase in 2005.”

Prevention

“Poland continued to improve its anti-trafficking public awareness efforts over the last year. NGOs and various ministries cooperated on four separate educational campaigns during 2005. An NGO generated educational materials, and school officials disseminated them to public secondary school pupils in four large cities. The same NGO distributed guidebooks on finding safe work abroad to state-run employment offices throughout Poland. Another NGO worked with the Border Guards on a ‘safe travel’ campaign that distributed information, primarily in Russian, to potential victims on employment laws and included contact information for anti-trafficking NGOs and other helpful authorities. This same NGO received a grant from the Ministry of Education to produce educational leaflets to distribute to at-risk groups throughout Poland.” (TIP pg. 205-6)

Singapore (moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1)

“Singapore is a destination country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Some women and girls from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the People’s Republic of China (P.R.C.) who travel to Singapore voluntarily for prostitution or non-sexual work are deceived or coerced into sexual servitude. A small minority of foreign domestic workers in Singapore face seriously abusive labor conditions that amount to involuntary servitude, a severe form of trafficking.

Singapore cont. pg. 3

The 2005 Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act was signed into law on Jan. 10, 2006. This law mandates new minimum standards for a country’s rating in the TIP Report that take effect in two years including an evaluation of government efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex, efforts to ensure peacekeepers do not engage in human trafficking, and actions to prevent forced and child labor.



Awareness

Singapore

cont. from pg. 2

The Singaporean Government addressed “abuses of foreign domestic workers and made significant progress in its efforts to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation.” Singapore criminalized the offense of child sex tourism committed by Singaporean citizens in other countries and the commercial sexual exploitation of persons under the age of 18.

“Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower (MOM) implemented new regulations to address abuses of foreign domestic workers, ...including higher penalties for holding an employee’s passport, a new licensing scheme that requires a background check on potential employers, ...and a demerit system used to track agencies’ infractions and revoke licenses.”

Prevention

“The Singaporean Government substantially improved efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in 2005. Aware of the trafficking potential in the growing marriage-brokering of Vietnamese women, the government in 2005 formed an inter-agency task force to examine this phenomenon with a focus on ways of regulating it more closely in order to prevent trafficking and exploitation. The MOM launched an information campaign to raise awareness among foreign workers, including domestic workers, of their rights and the resources available to them by printing such information and hotline numbers on prepaid phone cards. The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports launched, in cooperation with local NGOs, a public awareness campaign aimed at stopping child sex tourism.

There were no specific anti-trafficking campaigns directed at the use of fraud or coercion to recruit foreign women as prostitutes. Singapore has no national action plan to address trafficking.” (TIP pgs. 221-223)

Ecuador (moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2)

“Ecuador is a source, transit, and destination country for persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. Many victims are children trafficked for sexual exploitation. Ecuadorians are trafficked to Western Europe, particularly Spain and Italy, and Colombia and Venezuela. Traffickers also move Colombian women and girls to Ecuador for exploitation in prostitution. However, most victims are trafficked within the country’s borders. Child sex tourism is also a problem.”

Prevention

“The government launched a national public awareness campaign in January 2006 and made significant efforts to prevent trafficking in the latest months of the reporting period. Government leaders, including the President, the First Lady, and cabinet members brought national attention to the country’s trafficking problem. The National Institute for Children and Family, headed by First Lady Maria Beatriz Paret de Palacio, led initiatives that spread awareness through radio, television, skits, information booths at concerts and fairs, buttons, shirts, and billboards. The government also reached agreements with several private companies to include anti-trafficking messages at public theaters, through fliers distributed with bank and credit card statements to 40,000 account holders, and on board local air flights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs trained key officials in Machala and Quito, and provided guidance to Ecuador’s embassies on trafficking and how to assist Ecuadorian victims. The government worked closely with NGOs and international organizations to

provide training to officials throughout the country regarding new national laws against trafficking.”

(TIP pgs. 110-111)

India (remains on Tier 2 Watch List)

“India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced or bonded labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The large population of men, women, and children — numbering in the millions — in debt bondage face involuntary servitude in brick kilns, rice mills, and zari embroidery factories. Some children endure involuntary servitude as domestic servants. Internal trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage also occurs. The Ministry of Home Affairs estimates that 90 percent of India’s sex trafficking is internal. India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

In addition, boys from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are trafficked through India to the Gulf states for involuntary servitude as child camel jockeys. Reportedly, Bangladeshi women are trafficked through India for sexual exploitation in Pakistan. Moreover, Indian men and women migrate willingly to the Gulf for work as domestic servants and low-skilled laborers, but some later find themselves in situations of involuntary servitude including extended working hours, nonpayment of wages, restrictions on their movement by withholding of their passports or confinement to the home, and physical or sexual abuse.

The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. India is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for the third consecutive year due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking in persons. India lacks a

India cont. pg. 4



Awareness

“Human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and turn a commercial profit at the expense of innocent lives.”
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

India *cont. from pg. 3*

national law enforcement response to any form of trafficking, but took some preliminary measures to create a central law enforcement unit to do so. However, India did not take steps to address the huge issue of bonded labor and other forms of involuntary servitude. The Indian Government also did not take meaningful steps to address its sizeable trafficking-related corruption problem....”

Prevention

“India’s efforts to prevent trafficking in persons were limited this year. To address the issue of bride trafficking, the government instituted public awareness programs to educate parents on the laws against sex-selective abortions and infanticide causing gender imbalance in parts of India and driving the demand for purchased brides. The newly created Minister of State for Women and Child Development has continued the past work of the Department of Women and Child Development in hosting quarterly meetings with other government agencies and local NGOs to share anti-trafficking ideas and facilitate cooperation on preventing trafficking in persons. The government also aimed to prevent child labor by offering financial incentives to parents to keep their children in school.

Nevertheless, the central government was unable to guard its long, porous borders with Bangladesh and Nepal through which several thousand trafficking victims reportedly enter India each year. The government did not take adequate measures to prevent internal trafficking for sexual exploitation or involuntary servitude

despite the prevalence of such trafficking to major cities, and increasingly in smaller cities and suburbs. The Government of India also did not institute a broad public awareness campaign to notify the public of the consequences of engaging in trafficking crimes. India should increase awareness of trafficking issues in rural areas where there is a high risk of trafficking. India should also better monitor its borders to interdict trafficking victims and trafficking rings. In addition, the government should also consider offering training for men and women traveling overseas for employment, to avoid situations of involuntary servitude abroad.”

(TIP pgs. 136-140)

Syria (moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3)

“Syria is a destination country for women from South and Southeast Asia and Africa for domestic servitude and from Eastern Europe and Iraq for sexual exploitation. Women from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone are recruited for work in Syria as domestic servants, but some face conditions of exploitation and involuntary servitude including long hours, non-payment of wages, withholding of passports and other restrictions on movement, and physical and sexual abuse.

Similarly, Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarussian women recruited for work in Syria as cabaret dancers are not permitted to leave their work premises without permission and have their passports withheld — indicators of involuntary servitude. In addition, of the 450,000 Iraqis in Syria, some of the women and children are reportedly

forced into sexual exploitation. The Government of Syria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.

Syria has done little to address its trafficking in persons problem. It has no anti-trafficking policy, programs, or coordinator, but has shown some political will to tackle the issue. With the *International Organization for Migration’s* (IOM) assistance, Syria conducted a workshop to raise awareness of the trafficking problem and formed a committee to combat trafficking. Nonetheless, this committee has never met. The government also reported no trafficking prosecutions during the year. The government failed to provide protection for trafficking victims, and even incarcerated child victims of sex trafficking in detention centers. Syria should prosecute more traffickers; improve protection for victims by building a shelter; providing medical, psychological, and legal aid; and increase public awareness of trafficking.”

Prevention

“Syria took minimal steps in preventing trafficking over the year. Syria continues to monitor its borders closely for signs of smuggling and trafficking, though it did not detect one case of trafficking over the last year. The government should consider formulating a broad public awareness campaign to increase awareness of trafficking in persons.” *(TIP pgs. 237-238)*



Advocacy

TIP Report Tier Placements

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

Tier 1: Governments that fully comply with the TVPAs minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. (n) new country in ranking as of 2006; (+/-) indicates the number of tiers a country moved up (+)/down (-) since 2005.

Australia	Finland (+)	Italy	The Netherlands	South Korea
Austria	France	Lithuania	New Zealand	Spain
Belgium	Germany	Luxembourg	Norway	Sweden
Canada	Hong Kong	Malawi (+)	Poland	Switzerland (+)
Columbia	Ireland (n)	Morocco	Singapore (+)	United Kingdom
Denmark				

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

Afghanistan	Cote D'Ivoire	Guinea-Bissau (n)	Mongolia	Slovak Republic (+)
Albania	Croatia	Guyana	Mozambique	Slovenia
Angola	Czech Republic (-)	Honduras	Nepal (-)	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan (+)	Dominican Repub. (+)	Hungary	Nicaragua (+)	Suriname (+)
Bangladesh	East Timor	Japan	Niger (+)	Tajikistan
Belarus	Ecuador (++)	Jordan (n)	Nigeria	Tanzania
Benin (+)	El Salvador	Kazakhstan	Pakistan	Thailand
Bosnia/Herz.	Estonia	Kyrgyz Republic	Panama	Tunisia (n)
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Latvia	Paraguay	Turkey
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Lebanon	Philippines (+)	Uganda
Burundi	The Gambia (+)	Macedonia	Portugal (-)	Ukraine (+)
Cameroon (+)	Georgia	Madagascar	Romania	Uruguay
Chad	Ghana	Mali	Rwanda (+)	Vietnam
Chile	Greece (+)	Malta (n)	Senegal	Yemen
Congo (DRC)	Guatemala	Mauritius (+)	Serbia-Montenegro	Zambia
Costa Rica	Guinea (+)	Moldova	Sierra Leone (+)	

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 human trafficking.

Algeria (-)	Cent. Afr. Rep. (n)	Indonesia (-)	Macau (n)	Qatar (+)
Argentina (-)	China (PRC)	Israel (-)	Malaysia (-)	Russia
Armenia	Cyprus (-)	Jamaica (+)	Mauritania (-)	South Africa
Bahrain	Djibouti (n)	Kenya (-)	Mexico	Taiwan (-)
Bolivia (+)	Egypt (-)	Kuwait (+)	Oman (-)	Togo (+)
Brazil (-)	Equa. Guinea (-)	Libya (-)	Peru (-)	Un. Arab Emir. (+)
Cambodia (+)	India			

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

Belize (-)	Iran (--)	Saudi Arabia	Syria (--)	Venezuela
Burma	Laos (--)	Sudan	Uzbekistan (-)	Zimbabwe (-)
Cuba	North Korea			

Concerns regarding the Tier Rankings and other comments may be sent to:
 TIPReport@state.gov or fax to 202-312-9637



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Advocacy

Help for Victims Increases

Corporate Stance

The **Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA** have joined the growing list of religious congregations that have taken a formal corporate stance against human trafficking:

- o Religious of the Good Shepherd
- o School Sisters of Notre Dame
- o Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- o Sisters of the Divine Savior
- o Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- o Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
- o Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia
- o Springfield Dominicans

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced in May 2006 that 1,000 victims of human trafficking have been certified since the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (TVPA) was signed into law in October 2000. Certification enables victims to receive federally-funded or administered services or benefits including safe housing, food, Medicaid, welfare cash assistance, employment and assistance from state-specific programs.

Since HHS launched its *'Rescue and Restore'* campaign to increase public awareness of human trafficking the number of certifications has been increasing annually. The campaign relies on a coalition of those likely to encounter victims: law enforcement officials, health care providers, faith-based communities and other first responders. A key component of the campaign is a toll-free, 24/7 human trafficking hotline (1-888-3737-888) that connects victims and those who know of victims to grantees and other assistance providers.

Churches and Women Religious Play Important Role

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime indicated in a recent report that human trafficking has spread to nearly every country of the world. In many countries, churches are reaching out to the victims. When victims manage to escape enslavement, *"they are so traumatized and brutalized that they need a secure place"* — often provided by church organizations, said Mary DeLorey, adviser on migration and trafficking for Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB international development and aid agency. In an interview with Catholic News Service DeLorey verified, *"Women's religious orders are definitely in the lead."*

"People are going to make desperate choices that they know to be dangerous, and other people are going to profit off that," DeLorey said. *"If you care about trafficking, you've got to care about economic policies. You've got to care about trade policy that displaces people. You've got to care about providing for aid in emergencies. You've got to care about migration policy. These are not divorced from each other."* (Source: CNS Barbara J. Fraser, June 2, 2006)

Regional Law Enforcement Statistics (pgs. 47-52)

Country	Year	Prosecution	Conviction	New or Amended Legislation
Africa	2003	50	10	3
	2004	134	29	7
	2005	194	58	12
East Asia & Pacific	2003	1,727	583	1
	2004	438	348	3
	2005	2,580	2,347	5
Europe & Eurasia	2003	2,437	1,561	14
	2004	3,329	1,274	20
	2005	2,598	1,984	12
Near East	2003	1,004	279	4
	2004	134	59	1
	2005	112	104	3
South Asia	2003	2,599	355	0
	2004	2,705	1,260	1
	2005	964*	214*	0
Western Hemisphere	2003	175	27	2
	2004	145	56	7
	2005	170	59	9

*Lack of information from India in this period.



Advocacy

International Best Practices

Australia

“The NGO, Child Wise, campaign to combat child sex tourism program aims to heighten the awareness of child sex trafficking/tourism, among airline personnel, travel agents, and immigration and visa officials, as well as the general public. It urges target audiences to call a local hotline to report suspicious activities.” (TIP, pg. 34)

Bangladesh

“By distributing anti-trafficking brochures during micro-credit lending sessions in rural areas, the government reached 400,000 at-risk women in 39,061 sessions, warning these women of the dangers of trafficking. This example shows the beneficial relationship between anti-trafficking campaigns and broader economic and social development initiatives.”

(TIP, pg. 34)

Brazil

“In Brazil, most victims returning from foreign countries re-enter the country through Sao Paulo’s international airport. The State of Sao Paulo has worked in partnership with the NGO, Association for the Defense of Women and Youth, to establish a victim support center near the airport so that returning victims have prompt access to help. The NGO assisted more than 150 women and girls during the past two years by arranging transportation to get victims back to their final home communities and providing information about government protection services and legal procedures.”

(TIP, pg. 34)

Ecuador

“In Ecuador, volunteers from the National Institute for Children and Family (INNFA) worked with visiting international musician Ricky Martin, his charitable foundation, and Colombian entertainer Carlos Vives to disseminate anti-trafficking messages and information that reached approximately 24,000 people attending their concerts in Quito and Guayaquil. Some 50,000 soccer spectators in Ecuador watched a game played on a field bedecked with a huge INNFA *No to Trafficking in Persons*’ graphic.”

(TIP, pg. 35)

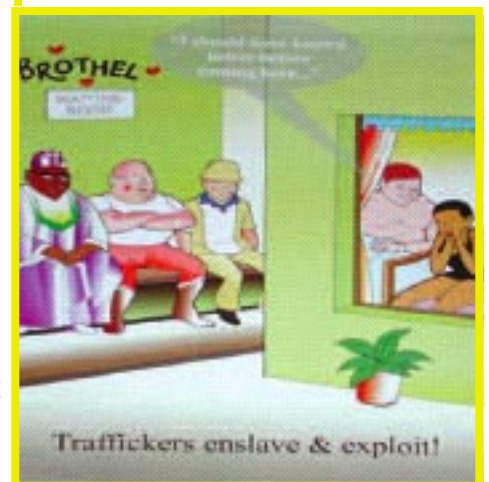
Indonesia

“In 2004, the Scout Movement, which incorporates nearly all public school students across the country, began an anti-trafficking campaign in Indramayu, West Java, where too many young women and girls fall victim to trafficking. In its current phase, the Scout Movement will provide anti-trafficking education to 25,000 students in 116 schools in the Indramayu area by August 2006. The Scout Movement has trained 285 school-level facilitators who utilize innovative training and a campaign kit containing a four-part video documentary, comic books, and other anti-trafficking materials. The national Scout movement is considering expanding the program to other districts and instituting an anti-trafficking merit badge to encourage more Scouts to learn about and promote anti-trafficking efforts.”

(TIP, pg. 36)

Malawi

“The Government of Malawi hired child protection officers to conduct country-wide sensitization meetings that educated rural communities about human trafficking. Informative posters and brochures were also used to raise awareness among local populations. Villagers in one Malawian town learned to recognize trafficking activities through this campaign and quickly notified local police of a suspicious man attempting to cross the border with a group of children. An investigation ensued, and the man was convicted and sentenced to seven years imprisonment with hard labor for trafficking children.” (TIP, pg. 37)



(Government of Malawi photo pg. 37)

(The Report contains a fuller explanation of these examples and those of other countries.)



Action

Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

A Means to Stem Human Trafficking

In May 2006 the US Senate passed the *Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIRA)* of 2006 by a vote of 62-36. Its positive aspects include: *path to citizenship; family-based visa reform; temporary worker program; AgJOBS (legalizes farm workers)/ DREAM Act (legalizes undocumented students)*. Its negative aspects include: *border wall; detention and due process provisions; criminalization of refugees and asylum seekers*.

Meanwhile, leaders in the House of Representatives indicated unwillingness to accept many of the provisions in the Senate bill. House leaders are holding hearings throughout the country during July and August. In September House and Senate conferees will work out a compromise bill, with the goal of enacting legislation prior to the November elections.

Please use the USCCB website 'action alerts' when you contact Senators and Representatives to urge them to enact comprehensive immigration reform. During the coming weeks, it is vital to convince our elected officials to enact a bill that reflects humanitarian and faith-based values.

Without comprehensive and humanitarian immigration reform, attempts to successfully stem the expansion of human trafficking for all types of labor will remain elusive.

'The Line in the Sand'

A Catholic Relief Services' Drama Project is now available on DVD. This dramatic theatre performance tells the story of migration through the eyes of nine different characters, each one based on a real person. The DVD also includes special features such as discussion questions, suggested web links, and an interview with Erica Dahl-Bredine from the CRS Mexico country program. Order a free copy of *The Line In the Sand* to use as an educational tool for your school, parish, or neighborhood. Rather than charging for the DVD, CRS is encouraging small donations to support its work in Mexico. Please visit:

www.crs.org/dramaproject/index.cfm
to order your copy(ies).

William Weldon, Chair
Johnson & Johnson
(Stafree, OB, Carefree products)
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933

Thomas Falk, Chair
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
(Kotex; Kleenex)
P.O. Box 619100
Dallas TX 75261-9100

Neil P. Defeo
Playtex Products
300 Nyala Farms Road
Westport, CT 06880

Alan Lafley, Chair
Procter & Gamble Company
(Tampax, Procter & Gamble products)
One Procter & Gamble Plaza
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Get the Word Out to Women

Justice Organizers, Leadership, Treasurers (JOLT) — A California Catholic Coalition for Responsible Investing has taken on a justice action related to human trafficking.

JOLT has representatives from 19 religious congregations and other faith-based organizations working to promote economic justice through investments, education and action.

JOLT is asking the manufacturers of women's feminine products to print the human trafficking HOTLINE phone number on the inside of their packaging as a quiet way of distributing this vital information to millions of women and girls who may be involved in trafficking or know someone who is.

They invite you to use the sample letter (see pg. 9) to send to the companies listed below, encouraging them to participate in this effort.

JOLT sees this as a grassroots effort with no central coordinating organization doing follow-through.

For more information, contact: Kathy Kelleher, a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Justice Team. Kathy can be reached by: tel. 301.587.0423 x.2249 or e-mail: kkelleher@sistersofmercy.org

Addresses for Manufacturers:

David Dillon, Chair
Kroger Co. (Ralphs, Bell, Cala, and Payless brands of personal products)
1014 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1100

Steven Bard, Chair
Safeway (Vons and Safeway brands of personal products)
5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd.
Pleasanton, CA 94588-3229

Warren Bryant, Chair
Longs Drug Stores (Longs brands of personal products)
141 North Civic Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Mary Sammons, Chair
Rite Aid Corporation (Rite Aid brands of personal products)
30 Hunter Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011-2404



Action

JOLT Sample Letter

*(This draft was prepared by members of RSM, OP and RSHM.
Please use your letter head stationery and adapt the wording as you see fit.)*

(Name and address from pg. 8)

Date:

Dear Corporate Executive (Name),

As a leading producer of feminine hygiene products used by women and girls in the United States and beyond, you are in a position to make a significant impact on decreasing the crime of human trafficking, which has been on the rise. We are writing to seek your partnership in combating this egregious human rights violation.

There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today – an estimated 15,000-18,000 of whom are trafficked into the U.S. annually. The majority of victims are women and girls who are forced to work as domestics, in the garment and agricultural industries or as sex slaves, among others. Non-profit agencies, law enforcement, communities of faith and the government have begun to address this horrific problem. Their efforts have been supported through the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

We urge you to join our efforts in assisting victims, in getting the word out to the general public and in reaching out to the millions of victims who remain enslaved for fear of their families' well-being and their own. We propose that you include the national 24-hour hotline number, 1-888-3737-888, in all your product packages. This number provides critical information to potential victims, as well as to citizens who want to report suspicious incidences that could well be cases of modern-day slavery. As more people learn to identify this crime, more victims will be helped.

The problem of human trafficking has grown to vast proportions as the movement of goods, services – and human beings – is now easier than ever. The biggest challenge we face is finding the victims. We are working collaboratively with law enforcement and community partners to ensure police officers will be trained to identify victims. Non-profit agencies and communities of faith have joined in efforts to address the need for safe housing, advocacy, and counseling for trafficking victims. As a community leader, you have the opportunity to make a vital difference in the lives of women and girls who are abused and enslaved.

We urge you to print ***'1-888-3737-888 HOTLINE for anti-human trafficking resources'*** on your products. In doing so, you would save lives and give the gift of freedom to millions of women and girls nationwide who suffer severe physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse.

Thank you for your leadership in helping to combat modern-day slavery. We look forward to an affirmative response to your support in this effort to make a difference in the lives of thousands of women.

Gratefully,

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

TIP Report

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>

TIP 2006 Comments

Condoleezza Rice
www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/67551.htm

John R. Miller
www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/67521.htm

USCCB Immigrant Justice Action Network

www.justiceformigrants.org
www.justiciaparalasinmigrantes.org

Immigration Action Alerts

<http://capwiz.com/justiceformigrants/utr/1/MLNEGBWOOW/IOOGBWPFO/786682981>

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/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptraffic/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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