

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

March 2007 Vol. 5 No. 3

This issue highlights issues that drive the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

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‘Key Findings on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in America’

- Every day American children are trafficked across our country for abuse in a growing sex industry.
- Thousands of children are trafficked here from other countries for sexual exploitation.
- Americans regularly travel abroad to sexually exploit children overseas, a practice called “child sex tourism.”

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT-USA) puts these problems before the eyes of elected officials, policy makers and the general public to educate them about how to protect children from these abuses.

Since 1990 the *First and Second World Congresses Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* were held, which helped focus the world’s attention on this growing problem. (For more information about these Congresses see pg. 8.)

In 2006, ECPAT-USA and ECPAT International measured progress by publishing two reports: “*Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: USA.*” and “*Key Findings of The U.S. Mid-Term Review on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in America.*” Together they give an overview of where we must focus our efforts to further protect children’s right to grow up free from sexual exploitation.

Excerpts from ‘Key Findings’

1. Demand

“The lack of programs focusing on demand for sexual services of children is an urgent issue. Demand for sexual services of children was recognized as the basis for the increasing crisis of victimized children in America. Demand must be addressed through both prevention and prosecution. There is a dearth of public awareness programs, treatment options and incarceration alternatives for buyers of commercial sexual exploitation of children.”

2. The proliferation of child pornography

“Child pornography has increased exponentially in volume and violence, and it is easily distributed due to emergent technologies. It is a cause,

symptom and evidence of child exploitation. The growth of on-line child pornography in the U.S. was addressed as a catalyst for the rise in demand for child victims and child pornography was acknowledged as a gateway to further child sexual exploitation through trafficking, prostitution and sex tourism.”

3. An urgent need for more resources

“The need for greater resources was a theme echoed throughout. Available resources targeted towards effective and secure services for victims, especially physical shelter, are very limited. Existing funding is dedicated to state foster care systems unable to protect and control this exploited population.

NGO service providers are often unable to keep victims secure due to lack of resources or funds.”

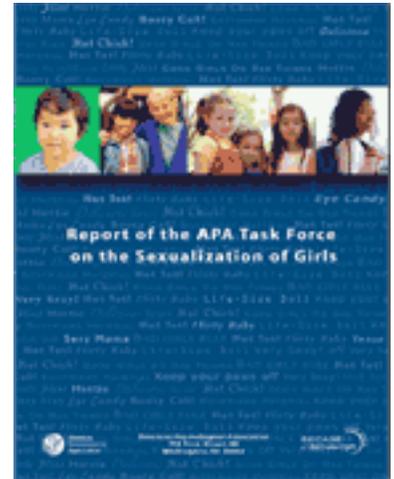
4. Cooperation between civil society and law enforcement

“A need for continued and improved cooperation between local law enforcement, NGOs and the federal government was identified. While significant and productive partnerships have been built between these entities, closer communication and partnership is needed to effectively fight commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States.”

ECPAT ‘Key Findings’ *cont.* pg. 3



Awareness



2 Sexualization of Girls

Is Linked to Common Mental Health Problems In Girls and Women — Eating Disorders, Low Self-Esteem, and Depression — An APA Task Force Reports

A recent report of the *American Psychological Association (APA)* found evidence that the proliferation of sexualized images of girls and young women in advertising, merchandising, and media is harmful to girls' self-image and healthy development.

To complete the report, the *APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls* studied published research on the content and effects of virtually every form of media, including television, music videos, music lyrics, magazines, movies, video games and the Internet. They also examined recent advertising campaigns and merchandising of products aimed toward girls.

Sexualization was defined by the task force as occurring when a person's value comes only from her/his sexual appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics, and when a person is sexually objectified, e.g., made into a thing for another's sexual use.

Examples of the sexualization of girls in all forms of media including visual media and other forms of media such as music lyrics abound. According to the report, such examples likely increased as "new media" were created and access to media became omnipresent. The influence and attitudes of parents, siblings, and friends can also add to the pressures of sexualization.

"The consequences of the sexualization of girls in media today are very real and are likely to be a negative influence on girls' healthy development," said Eileen L. Zurbriggen, PhD, chair of the APA Task Force and as-

sociate professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "We have ample evidence to conclude that sexualization has negative effects in a variety of domains, including cognitive functioning, physical and mental health, and healthy sexual development."

Research evidence shows that the sexualization of girls negatively affects girls and young women across a variety of health domains:

Cognitive and Emotional Consequences:

Sexualization and objectification undermine a person's confidence in and comfort with her own body, leading to emotional and self-image problems, such as shame and anxiety.

Mental and Physical Health:

Research links sexualization with three of the most common mental health problems diagnosed in girls and women—eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression.

Sexual Development:

Research suggests that the sexualization of girls has negative consequences on girls' ability to develop a healthy sexual self-image.

According to the task force report, parents can play a major role in contributing to the sexualization of their daughters or can play a protective and educative role. The APA report calls on parents, school officials, and all health professionals to be alert for the potential impact of sexualization on girls and young women. Schools, the APA

says, should teach media literacy skills to all students and should include information on the negative effects of the sexualization of girls in media literacy and sex education programs.

"As a society, we need to replace all of these sexualized images with ones showing girls in positive settings—ones that show the uniqueness and competence of girls," stated Dr. Zurbriggen. "The goal should be to deliver messages to all adolescents—boys and girls—that lead to healthy sexual development."

The American Psychological Association (APA), in Washington, DC, is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States and is the world's largest association of psychologists. APA's membership includes more than 145,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students. Through its divisions in 54 subfields of psychology and affiliations with 60 state, territorial and Canadian provincial associations, APA works to advance psychology as a science, as a profession and as a means of promoting health, education and human welfare. (*More on pg. 8 Teens Take Action'*)

Full text of the *Executive Summary, Report* (<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualizationrep.pdf>) and tips on 'What Parents Can Do' are available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html>



Awareness

APA Report cont from pg. 2:

Sample Statements

- “Massive exposure to media among youth creates the potential for massive exposure to portrayals that sexualize women and girls and teach girls that women are sexual objects.” (pg. 6)
- The “gross under-representation of women or girls in films with family-friendly content reflects a missed opportunity to present a broad spectrum of girls and women in roles that are non-sexualized.” (pg. 8)
- “For both White and Black teenage girls, the more they idealized TV images and compared themselves . . . to those images, the stronger their drive to be thin and the more dissatisfied they were with their bodies.” (pg. 24)
- “Studies have established an important link between body dissatisfaction and the onset of cigarette smoking among adolescent girls.” (pg. 26)
- “The sexualization and objectification of women in the media appear to teach girls that as women, all they have to offer is their body and face, and that they should expend all their effort on physical appearance.” (pg. 28)
- “Exposure to sexist magazine ads featuring women as sexual objects produced a stronger acceptance of sex role stereotyping and of rape myths among male undergraduates.” (pg. 32)
- “Girls may be learning to prioritize certain rewards (male attention) over other rewards (academic accomplishment), thus limiting their future educational and occupational opportunities.” (pg. 33)
- “Parents and other family members can help girls interpret sexualizing cultural messages in ways that mitigate or prevent harm.” (pg. 38)
- “The Web has enormous potential to encourage girls to critique the culture, explore cultural messages, and develop agency. But the Web as a form of media must also be approached with a critical eye.” (pg. 40) (APA cont. pg. 5)

Woman Pleads Guilty to Forcing Juvenile Girls Into Prostitution In Memphis

Cristina Andres Perfecto of Nashville, TN pleaded guilty to two counts of commercial sex trafficking related to her role in a Memphis trafficking ring. Perfecto admitted that she recruited two Mexican girls to come to the U.S. under fraudulent pretenses. She admitted that she told the girls, who were 13 and 17 years of age at the time, that they would be employed at a restaurant in Nashville, knowing all along that the girls would be coerced to engage in prostitution in brothels in Memphis and Nashville.

Perfecto further admitted that co-defendant Juan Mendez then used physical force and threats against the victims and their families to force the victims to engage in prostitution. Perfecto also admitted that she instructed the girls on how to engage in commercial sexual acts. Perfecto faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for her crimes.

“The victims in this case were thrust into the brutal and demeaning world of human trafficking, fed lies, and treated as modern-day slaves,” said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Juan Mendez remains under indictment for two counts of child sex trafficking and one count of conspiracy to harbor an illegal alien. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of up to life in prison.

Nine other defendants in the same case pleaded guilty earlier in the month to crimes including child sex trafficking, conspiracy to launder money, enticing an individual to travel in interstate commerce to commit prostitution, and failure to file a factual statement about an alien.

Members of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of TN and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice are prosecut-

ing the case. The investigation is being conducted by ICE and the FBI. World Relief, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, and the YWCA have assisted the victims and witnesses. (Excerpted from U.S. Department of Justice Jan. 29, 2007. PRNewswire-USNewswire/)

ECPAT ‘Key Findings’

cont. from pg. 1

5. Further development of legislation

“Recent U.S. legislation has expanded criminal liability for those who profit from commercial sexual exploitation of children and extended territorial jurisdiction over offenders.

However, continued legislative initiatives are needed that focus on the protection of, and appropriate services for, child victims, including decriminalizing exploited minors by refraining from arresting them for prostitution and not using juvenile detention or the juvenile court delinquency process against child victims; reforming policies and practices within state child protective services agencies to address the needs of victims of commercial sexual exploitation; making state age of consent laws more consistent with federal legislation by raising the upper age for protection of child victims; developing and implementing right to residential shelter legislation for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; and reforming state laws and local law enforcement and prosecutor policies to facilitate the prosecution of all adult exploiters.” (From ECPAT-USA News, January 2007)



Awareness

4 Americans Trafficked by Americans

“When we hear the words ‘Sex Trafficking,’ as Americans we immediately think of women and children overseas who are being forced into the sex trade or who are brought into the U.S. for the purpose of sexual exploitation. We don’t usually think closer to home - *Americans trafficked by Americans*. But I want you to think about young women, and even girls, that you have seen late at night when you come home from work or a social event. Maybe you have seen them in the streets in short dresses and spike heels. You turn your heads to look away. We do not look at the faces of these young women and girls, who are forced to be out in the street. Maybe we think this is what they want to do or they wouldn’t be out there. Maybe it is easier than to face the harsh reality of child sexual abuse, physical and mental abuse, and the pimps that prey on the young women and girls.

To understand all aspects of sex trafficking in the United States, you have to open your mind and let go of what you have seen or heard on TV. You need to let go of the media’s portrayal of the ‘joys’ of street prostitution, and open your eyes to the violence and control the pimps and sex traffickers exercise over their victims, who are mostly girls and young women.

I was 14 years old when I was forced into prostitution. Like many teens at that age, finding my own identity and defying my parents were top on my list. So when a man came into my life and showered me with attention and listened to me when I complained about my parents, I did not think twice that he was ten years my senior. After all, he said I was mature for my age

and told me I understood him better than anyone his own age. Little did I know, he was laying down the seeds of manipulation. It did not matter what my parents said; to me they did not understand me and he was the only one that ‘got me.’ After six months, I thought I loved him, at least that is what he told me, so I did what I thought my heart was telling me and ran away to be with him. We ended up in Cleveland, OH. He told me we were going to meet the rest of the family.

I had no idea the ‘family’ meant myself and three other girls. After I was introduced to the ‘family,’ I was told what my role would be. I would go out to ‘work’ that night and bring him back the money. How else would we build our dream home? He assured me he would always love me no matter what, but he needed to know how much I loved him by making sure I would do anything for him.

ECPAT-USA states that the average age of entry into street prostitution is between 12 and 14 years old, though there have been cases of girls as young as 9 years old. The pimps who are trafficking young women and girls on the street have a great marketing tool: *the media*. You can turn on the TV now and see pimps glamorized in TV shows, music videos, and movies. Young people use ‘pimp’ in everyday conversation: ‘my ride is pimped out,’ ‘your clothes are pimping.’ They do not understand the reality behind the term.

What happened to me 15 years ago is still going on today and it is not getting any better - it is only getting worse. We see girls and young women every night being forced onto the streets, beaten, and raped to make

money for the pimps. I hope that next time you see them on the street, you will have more understanding of the reality of their situation.

What will you do?”



Tina Frundt, Street Outreach Co-ordinator for Polaris Project. Testimony before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives, April 29, 2005.

Presidential Nominee

On Feb. 7, 2007 President George W. Bush announced his intention to nominate Mark P. Lagon, of Virginia to be *Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking* with the rank of Ambassador at Large at the Department of State.

Dr. Lagon currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. Prior to this, he served as a Member of the Secretary of State’s Policy Planning Staff. He also served as a Senior Staff Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Dr. Lagon received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and his PhD from Georgetown University.

Name Change

The ‘NY Religious Congregations Against Human Trafficking’ has changed its name to the ‘New York Coalition of Religious Congregations – Stop Trafficking of Persons’ (NY-CRC-STOP). Joan Dawber SC



Advocacy

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APA Report cont. from pg. 3

Positive Alternatives and Approaches to Counteracting the Influence of Sexualization

“Girls, boys, and those who support them can work through a number of venues to counteract the influence of a sexualizing culture. Schools are beginning to recognize the importance of media literacy. When media literacy programs teach girls to critique and understand the salience of sexualizing images in the media, the hope is that they will be better protected from these images. Comprehensive sex education can also address the issue of sexualizing media, culture, and peers and counter their influence by teaching girls and boys the importance of autonomy and mutual respect in sexual relationships.

Furthermore, schools that provide athletic and other extracurricular opportunities that help girls develop a more empowering view of their bodies may also protect girls from the influence of sexualization. Parents and other adults, through co-viewing and discussion, can help young minds think critically about what they see. They can also influence youth through spiritual or moral education programs. Many Internet magazines, alternative magazines for girls, books, and films developed by feminist and women’s organizations encourage girls to form their own alternative perspectives to the sexualizing influences in the culture. Girls of color have, in the past, shown a resistance to damaging mainstream images, and studying the roots of such resistance may lead to new practices and approaches for

combating the effects of sexualization. Girls themselves can protest these sexualizing images just as the girls who protested A&F T-shirts did (See pg. 8). Support for these kinds of efforts can come from girls’ groups, schools, families, religious institutions, and especially from girls themselves.” (pg. 42)

Advancing the Rights of Girls

Whether it is domestic violence, incest, rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking, forced labor, or harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, the result is the same: a girl is prevented from exercising her human rights, her dignity is violated and her health and well-being as well as her future are placed in jeopardy.

The title to the UNICEF Report, *The State of the World’s Children 2007: Women and Children - The Double Dividend of Gender Equality*, says it all: if we invest in women, we are also investing in children, especially the girl child. And if we invest in the girl child, we are investing in the mother and citizen of tomorrow. Investing in women and girls is one of the best investments a government can make.

(Statement at the UN Commission on the Status of Women by Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Feb. 26, 2007 <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=937>)

Need for Child Advocate at UN



Some 225 million boys and girls younger than 18 are forced to have sex against their will, according to World Health Organization estimates. Almost 2 million children are used in prostitution or pornography, the report indicated.

In October 2006 the UN released a detailed global report on the nature and extent of violence against children, with clear recommendations for prevention and response. Many UN agencies and 136 governments contributed to the Report. *World Vision* (www.worldvision.org), a child-focused Christian relief and development organization working in nearly 100 countries, called on the UN to appoint a special representative who would fight for the protection of abused children globally. (<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/477686/116076775466.htm>)

‘Making Sex Work: A Failed Experiment with Legalised Prostitution’

This book, by *Mary Lucille Sullivan*, gives an insight into the sex industry and a society where women and children have become just another consumer item. Read the book and ask: *Could I do this job? How would I feel if my friend, sister, or daughter chose this ‘career’?*

In 1984, the State of Victoria legalized prostitution and Western Australia is currently considering following suit. Sullivan looks at the evidence of Victoria’s experience, and asks whether the concept of sex work as *‘a job like any other’* matches the reality. Discussing the practicalities of brothels as regular businesses, the author unearths astounding facts about both the legal and illegal sectors. Covering issues such as violence, organised crime, women’s health, and mainstream businesses’ involvement in the sex trade, *Making Sex Work* is a compelling read.

To order: Independent Publishers Group, Order Department, 814 North Franklin St. Chicago, IL 60610. (1-800-888-4741 or Frontdesk@ipgbook.com).



Advocacy

Justice Department Launches Slavery Prosecution Unit

U.S. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, announced on Feb. 1, 2007 that the U.S. Department of Justice will increase efforts to combat slavery. The goal of the Human Trafficking Prosecution (HTP) Unit is to develop new ways to fight slavery and to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions.

“With the creation of the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, we will expand and enhance our ability to fight this crime by working together with federal, state and local investigators and NGOs, to tackle the enormous challenges posed by the evil of human trafficking. We will continue to develop new ways to help victims and to bring their captors to justice,” Gonzales announced.

Senate Child-Porn Bill Targets Internet Service Providers

Anti-pornography activists are endorsing bipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate on Feb. 9, 2007 that proposes to crack down on Internet service providers (ISPs) that do not report child pornography to authorities. To date the U.S. Department of Justice has never issued guidelines for ISPs.

The *Securing Adolescents From Exploitation Online Act* of 2007, or **SAFE Act**, would require ISPs to report child porn to the *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children* (NCMEC) or face higher fines and criminal penalties. The bill is sponsored by Sens. Charles Schumer, D-NY and John McCain, R-AZ. A companion bill will be introduced soon in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Steve Chabot, R-OH and Nick Lampson, D-TX.

“Some ISPs have used that as an excuse for not expending the staff or the energy or the money to comply with the law,” explained Daniel Weiss,

senior analyst for media and sexuality at Focus on the Family Action. *“It’s a legitimate point to make that when you are dealing with material that’s illegal to possess, even sending the evidence of that crime to authorities would in itself be a crime. This legislation establishes the protocols necessary to legally report criminal acts.”*

Bob Peters, president of *Morality in Media*, said he is pleased that the bill would also require the Justice Department to provide Congress with statistics on how many child-porn prosecutions and investigations it launches. *“The more prosecutions there are, the more the risk goes up for people who are into this perversion,”* Peters said. *“Over time, that acts as a deterrent and will hopefully put more people in jail for engaging in what is a burgeoning form of obscenity.”*

Schumer said the legislation will bolster law enforcement efforts. *“While we can’t see everything that happens on the Internet,”* he said, *“we can*

‘Girl Delegates’ at the UN

The *School Sisters of Notre Dame* (SSND) and the *Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur* (SNDdeN) sponsored ‘*Girl Delegates*’ during the 51st session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* (CSW, Feb. 26-Mar. 9) at the UN in NY. SSND delegates included 17 adults and eight students from Germany, Peru, Ghana and the US. SNDdeN delegates came from Peru and the US.

The CSW is considering *“the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child”* as its priority theme. The Working Group on Girls, the NGO Committee of UNICEF, is seeking girls’ comments and recommendations about what local organizations, governments, international agencies, and girls themselves can do to put an end to attitudes and practices that harm girls and limit their rights.

The joint written statement of the SSNDs and SNDdeNs argues that increasing girls’ access to quality education is one of the most important tools available to empower girls within the family and society. As that happens, they not only increase their own agency but improve the well-being of their families and help to transform their communities. *(For more information about CSW: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm>)*

work hard to build the next best thing – a system to report the illegal activity that is discovered.”

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International) estimates child pornography in the U.S. to be a \$3 billion-a-year business. The U.S. generates more than half of all Internet child-porn images.

McCain said 39 percent of those arrested for child pornography had images of children age 6 and under; 19 percent had images of children age 3 and under. *“These acts are heinous crimes against the most innocent members of our society,”* he said. *“We will do whatever we can do ensure purveyors of child pornography are caught and jailed.”*



Action

Action Alert for Immigration Reform

It is expected that the U.S. Senate will consider comprehensive immigration legislation in late March/early April, 2007 with the U.S. House of Representatives taking up a bill during the summer months. During February and March, it will be important to communicate with legislators about what elements are required in a comprehensive immigration bill. U.S. immigration reform should include the following elements:

1. An earned legalization program for undocumented immigrants, regardless of nationality, which includes a path to citizenship;
2. A future worker program (i.e. "temporary" worker program), which includes protections for both U.S. and foreign-born workers with an option for a path to citizenship;
3. Family-based immigration reform, which reduces family backlogs and waiting times for family reunification;
4. The restoration of due process protections for immigrants; and
5. Policies which address the root causes of migration.

Please take action at www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html

Educate Travel Agencies

When planning your next vacation, work trip, or conference, patronize a travel company that has signed the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* (www.thecode.org), a voluntary code that gets the travel industry involved in using its own resources against child sex tourism.

If you use a company that has not signed, ask them why not.

For a full list of companies that have signed the Code of Conduct see: <http://www.epatusa.org/SignatoriesCOCCondensedend2006.doc>

YouTube has the latest
Air France in-flight video
against child sex tourism.

Watch it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo8qbxUhGfI>

Corporate Stance

The following proposal passed at the Provincial Chapter of the *Salvatorian Priests and Brothers*: The members of the **Society of the Divine Savior** will

- take a corporate and public stance against the human trafficking of women, children and men;
- pledge to do what we can with our structures and ministries to bring healing and justice to these victims;
- join the many other communities of religious men and women who have already taken a public corporate stance on this important issue.

John Gorman SDS & Robert Nugent SDS, Members of the SAVE taskforce, Feb. 2007



Human Trafficking and the Media

There has been an increasing number of mainstream media featuring the issue of human trafficking: films such as *'Sold'* and *'Amazing Grace'*, TV programs like CNN's *'Invisible Chains: Sex, Work and Slavery'* and the Lifetime Channel movie *'Human Trafficking'*, and books such as *'Not For Sale.'* This increase mirrors the growth of the anti-trafficking movement - as people and organizations drive the issue of human trafficking into the U.S. mainstream awareness.

Each time someone is exposed to a story on human trafficking it is an opportunity to tell a story of survival, to educate and inform, and to alert the public to the Rescue & Restore campaign. Moreover, even if a storyline or situation is portrayed in a manner that is sensationalized or too 'Hollywood,' you can still use media to positive ends. Here are some examples of how:

- Hold a screening of a movie, TV program, or documentary that includes a trafficking storyline for coalition members, law enforcement, social service providers and the community at-large, with a discussion and 'Q & A' period following;
- Order and distribute *Rescue & Restore* materials around the community on the eve of a book or movie release that includes a trafficking storyline;
- Promote the multi-lingual, toll-free *National Human Trafficking Resource Center*, 1.888.3737.888, if responding to media stories on trafficking;
- Invite the author of a book on the issue of human trafficking to a signing;
- Consider making your own documentary or film, or position yourself as a consultant for productions;
- Order and share the HHS Trafficking Training DVD available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

In sum, the media is a powerful tool to harness to inform the public about the realities of human trafficking.

Vanessa Garza, Program Director at Rescue & Restore



Action

'Amazing Grace'

When more than 120 San Francisco Bay Area churches of varying denominations sang 'Amazing Grace' during their services in mid-February, they were commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in England as well as promoting the movie, 'Amazing Grace.'

Called 'Amazing Grace Sunday,' the Sunday sing-along is believed to have included a worldwide 'choir' of one million, including at least 5,800 congregations in the United States, according to a project manager for Bristol Bay Productions, which is distributing the film 'Amazing Grace.' The production company is also leading a petition drive urging Congress and leaders around the world to end modern slavery.

"Currently there are 27 million enslaved in the world," one promoter said. "As followers of Christ, this should matter to us. Slavery has not ended." From the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb. 19, 2007 pg. B3

Teens Take Action

"The goals of (social awareness) programs are typically to oppose objectification and sexualization, as well as to help girls identify and strengthen those characteristics that will result in less personal objectification and sexualization.

One recent example of activism is the work of a group of 13- to 16-year-old girls who protested Abercrombie and Fitch (A&F) T-shirts printed with objectifying slogans such as, "Who needs a brain when you have these?" Working with the *Women and Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania*, these girls began a "girlcott" of A&F that attracted national news attention; A&F eventually pulled these T-shirts from stores. *Youth With Vision*, a teen group in Kansas City, MO, conducted a study of slogans printed on T-shirts being sold in local stores. They held a press conference to feature their "Wall of Shame"—examples of T-shirts that were demeaning and characterized girls as sluts and as bad—and a much smaller "Wall of Fame," which showed the few examples of positive speech they had identified in their research. They were featured on the *Today Show* (May 11, 2006), where they talked about their activism and their desire for stores to provide better options." (pg. 41) *From APA Report.*

Workshops

'*React to the Hidden Crime of Trafficking: It's Time*' will be presented on March 27, 2007 at the Queensbury Hotel on Maple and Ridge Streets in Glens Falls, NY. The speaker is Nola Theiss, Executive Director and Founder of the Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership, Inc. (HTAP). Nola is the former Mayor of Sanibel, FL, with a Masters in Public Administration and degrees from Johns Hopkins Univ. and the Univ. of IL.

For a registration form (available after March 5, 2007): GlensFalls@ZontaDistrict2.org For further information contact: donnaipart@yahoo.com or: 518.793.8601

A *2-Day Cultural Training Institute* sponsored by the National MultiCultural April 28–29, 2007 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel 35 South 7th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402.

The *National MultiCultural Institute* (NMCI) has a web site (www.humantraffickingsearch.net) that is searchable by keyword, by country, and by theme in 14 languages, with 16,000 Web entries from around the world. It includes articles, research studies, an international map, a daily news service, brief videos, etc.

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

APA Report

<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html>

World Congresses

<http://www.csecworldcongress.org/en/index.htm>

ECPAT Reports

http://www.ecpat.net/eng/A4A_2005/PDF/Americas/Global_Monitoring_Report-USA.pdf
<http://ecpatusa.org/documents/MTRFinalReport.pdf>

UNICEF

<http://www.childtrafficking.org/>

International Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<http://www.icmec.org>

Support the SAFE Act

Write your representatives.
<http://www.governmentguide.com>
<http://www.senate.gov/>
<http://www.house.gov/>

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
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

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<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptraffic/index.html>

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jeansds2000@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout:
Jean Schafer, SDS