

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



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May 2007 Vol. 5 No. 5

This issue continues examination of bride trafficking and looks at domestic servitude as well.

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'Home:' Site of Violence for Women

Katerina:

Mail Order Bride

European Connections, a leading international marriage broker, matched Katerina, a young Siberian woman, with Frank Sheridan an American, who soon after her arrival in the U.S. kept her a virtual prisoner in his home. He took away her identification papers and cut all the phone lines to the house.

During one violent rage, he beat Katerina and dragged her around the house by her legs. When she told him she was leaving him and going back home to Russia, Frank stabbed himself and accused her of doing it. He then said he would post bail for her, if she promised to return to him and be a dutiful wife.

Katerina fled instead to a domestic violence shelter where she remained for nine months. She then endured more than two years of harassment and threats. While investigating Frank for aggravated stalking, the police discovered he was in Russia looking for a new bride. Later, when a sheriff's deputy came to his home to arrest him for another stalking-related crime, Frank shot the deputy in the face, chest, leg and back. The deputy returned fire, killing Frank. Katerina's nightmare was over.

Erma: Domestic Servant

In 1985 Jefferson and Elnora Calimlim, both medical doctors, recruited and brought a 19-year old woman from the Philippines to the U.S. to be their maid.

Over the next 19 years, until 2004 when federal agents removed Erma Martinez from the house, she was coerced, through fear and psychological harm, into being the doctors' domestic servant for as little as \$100 per month.

Although Erma was never beaten, the Calimlins used psychological coercion to instill a fear of serious harm in her. They threatened her with imprisonment if she disobeyed them, and confined her inside their home. They did not allow her to socialize, to communicate freely with the outside world, or to leave the house unsupervised. Erma was required to hide in her basement bedroom whenever non-family members were present in the house. The couple used fear and intimidation to make her believe she had no choice but to remain in their service.

In November 2006, the defendants, convicted by a Milwaukee federal jury of forced labor, were sentenced to serve four years in prison. The court also ordered them to pay the now 40-year old victim over \$900,000 in restitution. (From testimony by Grace Chung Becker, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Legal Options to Stop Human Trafficking, March 26, 2007.)



(Top) Home of the Calimlins (rt).

(Bottom) House in Philippines from which Erma (rt.) was recruited.



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Awareness

Domestic Abuse Rampant, Hidden

In late 2005 for the first time the *World Health Organization* (WHO) published a study on domestic violence. The study revealed that intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives - much more so than assault or rape by strangers or acquaintances. The study reported on the enormous toll physical and sexual violence by husbands and partners has on the health and well-being of women around the world and the extent to which partner violence is still largely hidden.

The study was based on interviews with more than 24 000 women from rural and urban areas in 10 countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The *Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women* study made recommendations and called for action by policy makers and the public health sector to address the human and health costs, including by integrating violence prevention into a range of social programs.

Dr. Charlotte Watts, from the *London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*, a member of the core research team, noted, "*Partner violence appears to have a similar impact on women's health and well-being regardless of where she lives, the prevalence of violence in her setting, or her cultural or economic background.*"

For policy makers, the greatest challenge is that abuse remains hidden in many countries. At least 20% of women reporting physical violence in the study had never told anyone before being interviewed. Despite the health consequences, very few women reported seeking help from formal services like health and police, or from individuals in positions of authority, preferring instead to reach out to friends, neighbors and family members. Those who did seek formal support tended to be the most severely abused.

http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html

Plight of Maids: a Global Suffering

Many domestic servants from developing countries are mistreated and abused by their employers, *Human Rights Watch* (HRW) reported in 2006, with children often forced into servitude. Cases cited by HRW include two Indonesian children working as maids, who were beaten to death, and a 13-year-old servant, who was repeatedly raped by her Indonesian employer.

Two cases in Asia in recent years have brought the plight of domestic servants into the public consciousness. A Singaporean employer was sentenced to 18 years in prison after he beat his 19-year-old Indonesian maid so severely that her stomach ruptured and she died.

In Malaysia there was a public outcry after newspapers carried graphic pictures of 19-year-old Nirmala Bonat. Her employer had allegedly poured boiling water on her, beat her and pressed a hot iron on her breasts and back.

But HRW found that, far from being isolated cases, the attacks were typical of the treatment many maids experienced - but many cases never make it to court.

The report detailed the case of a 15-year-old maid in Indonesia. When she failed to remove dirt trapped between the bathroom tiles, "*her employer poured a cleanser containing hydrochloric acid on her right hand and arm, resulting in discoloration of the skin, burns and permanent scarring.*"

A 10-year-old from Ghana, told HRW: "*My boss yelled at me and beat me with a stick, she broke my hand. She didn't take me to the hospital.*" The NGO providing shelter for her said the child's hand was paralyzed and might never heal.

A 13-year-old working as a maid in Indonesia, was repeatedly raped by her male employer. "*It was 4 am and I was sleeping,*" she told the investigators. "*He came into the room. I was forced to have sex with him. He threatened me. He said he would hit me if I told anyone. He told me that he would throw me out and my mother would get no money. It happened for three years. I was scared, but I wanted to support my mother.*"

A child from Togo was forced to work as a servant when she was three years old. She said: "*[My employer] told my mother she would put me in school, but she gave birth to twins. She said I had to help look after the children until they were old enough for school. I was only three years old, but I carried her babies and held them for her.*"

For thousands of women from poor countries, leaving to work as servants in a wealthier country is the only way they can support their families. There are approximately 300,000 migrant domestic workers in Malaysia, and 150,000 in Singapore, the vast majority of them women. Often their employers take away their passports to prevent them from leaving.

Thousands more work as servants in their own countries. A shockingly high percentage are children. In El Salvador, 20,000 women and girls between the ages of 14 and 19 work as maids, and in Indonesia the *International Labor Organization* estimates there are as many as 700,000 domestic servants under the age of 18.

Maids cont. pg. 3



Awareness

Maids *cont. from pg. 2*

They often work under atrocious conditions. The HRW report found several cases of women being forced to work 17 hours a day and being denied a day off for months on end. Many were never allowed to leave their employer's houses, and some were allowed only bread to eat.

The report found that in most countries domestic servants were denied the basic legal protection given to other workers and local law did not entitle them to a minimum wage, maximum working hours or days off.

Even in the United States, where they are entitled to a minimum wage, HRW found many migrants who were working as domestic servants were being paid less than half what they were entitled to by law.

- The *International Labor Organization* estimates more girls under 16 work in domestic service than other child labor.
- Half the estimated 200 million migrants are women. In the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka it is closer to 75 per cent.
- About 300,000 migrant domestic workers are in Malaysia, 150,000 in Singapore and 700,000 child workers are in Indonesia.
- The Sri Lankan embassy in Saudi Arabia receives up to 150 maids a month fleeing domestic abuse.
- In the past six years, at least 147 domestic workers have died in Singapore.
- Malaysian maids frequently work for less than 25 cents an hour

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/asia/article1201306.ece>

The Lure of Marriage: Danger

While in Italy, Caroline's new boyfriend promised to rescue her from prostitution and find her a "normal job" if she agreed to come to Britain with him. Once in Britain, however, he persuaded her that until he could find employment, she could make good money for them both by taking up sex work. After weeks of pressure, she relented and for nine months she continued working and turning over her earnings to the man who professed to love her, until she ultimately fled and agreed to testify against him." (Report, pg. 53)

The 130-page Report, *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking In Women and Adolescents: Findings From a European Study*, examines the impact of being trafficked on the overall health of 28 women during all stages of their experience. It provides a detailed analysis of what happens to trafficked victims and includes an excellent 8-page summary and list of recommendations.

Excerpts follow below and on pg. 4.

"The health risks, consequences, and barriers to services for trafficked women are similar to those experienced by other marginalized groups, including: migrant women; women experiencing sexual abuse, domestic violence, or torture; women sex workers; and exploited women laborers." (pg. 3)

Recruitment: trust and deception

"All but one respondent who accepted the offer of a trafficker were recruited by someone they knew, such as a friend, cousin, neighbor, boyfriend or fiancé, or by an individual recommended to them by someone they trusted. Four women were deceived by promises of love or marriage. One of the four was from Romania and three were from Albania, where a common *modus operandi* of traffickers is to lure young women away with proposals of love or marriage. Women wooed by a prospective lover explained that this man eventually sold them or became their pimp.

Ultimately, the betrayal by the person who trafficked them—and women's sense of self-blame for having believed them—cause many women to reproach themselves for their 'stupidity' or gullibility. The culpability women feel for this ruinous decision feeds into the trafficker's control. However contorted the logic, both the trafficker and the woman construe that by having agreed to depart (perhaps even knowing that elements of her immigration were illegal), she has, to a certain degree, been complicit in her own enslavement. Her shame at her 'error,' compounded by her humiliation at the violations in which she participates (willingly or unwillingly), further contributes to her entrapment." (pg. 32)

"For some women, the relationship with the individual who they eventually referred to as their pimp involved moments of kindness and generosity, making it all the more difficult for them to accept that they were being exploited or to turn against these men. Women report promises of marriage, and acts of generosity, such as gifts of jewelry and clothing (albeit, bought with the woman's earnings).

Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking

Members of two religious congregations, the *Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary* and of the *Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul*, informed *Stop Trafficking* that their members have unanimously voted to assume a corporate stance against all forms of human trafficking.



Advocacy

The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking In Women and Adolescents: Findings From a European Study

Excerpts from pgs. 4-5 of the Report.

Status of Health:

Physical health

- Women reported broken bones, contusions, pain, loss of consciousness, headaches, high fevers, gastrointestinal problems, undiagnosed pelvic pain, complications from abortions, dermatological problems (e.g., rashes, scabies, and lice), unhealthy weight loss, and dental and oral health problems.
- Women were deprived of food, human contact, valued activities and items, and held in solitary confinement.

Sexual and reproductive health

- All women reported having been sexually abused and coerced into involuntary sexual acts, including rape, forced anal and oral sex, forced unprotected sex, and gang rape.
- Only four of twenty women knew where to go for medical care in the destination country.
- Of twenty-two respondents, nearly one-quarter reported having had at least one unintended pregnancy and a subsequent termination of pregnancy in the destination country. For one woman, an illegal abortion resulted in near-fatal complications.
- Most women [in prostitution] reported having 10 to 25 clients per night, while some had as many as 40 to 50 per night.

Mental health

- Psychological control tactics used by traffickers to manipulate women and create dependency included, intimidation and threats, lies and deception, emotional manipulation, and the imposition of unsafe and unpredictable events. These tactics served to keep women intimidated, uncertain of their immediate and long-



- term future, and therefore obliged to obey the demands of the traffickers.
- The most common reported mental symptoms were: feeling easily tired; crying more than usual; experiencing frequent headaches, frequently feeling unhappy or sad; feeling as though they were not as good as other people or permanently damaged; and thoughts about committing suicide.

Substance abuse and misuse

- Women explained how traffickers forced or coerced them to use drugs or alcohol to encourage them to take on more clients, work longer hours, or perform acts they might otherwise find objectionable or too risky.
- Women related their use of alcohol to the trafficking situation – none of the women who reported drinking had consumed alcohol in their home country.

Social well-being

While in the trafficked situation women were isolated as a result of:

1. restricted movement, time, and activities;
2. absence of social support; and
3. linguistic cultural, and social barriers.

- None of the women reported feeling free to do as they liked. Some were physically confined, others were under regular surveillance.
 - The majority of women had little to no contact with family members.
- ##### Economic-related well-being
- Women were subjected to debt-bondage and other usurious financial arrangements that pushed them to take risks, withstand long hours, and serve more clients.
 - Twenty-two of thirty women reported keeping little (8) to none (14) of their earnings. Fifteen said they were unable to buy basic necessities. This severely limited their ability to maintain acceptable levels of hygiene, and to care for their physical and psychological health.

Legal security

- None of the women arranged their own travel documents or work permits. Few maintained possession of their identity papers.
- Women were commonly insecure about their immigration status and legal rights, which made them hesitant to use health or other formal services, and reluctant to seek outside help.

Occupational and environmental health

- Nearly all respondents worked seven days per week, described the working conditions as “bad” or “terrible,” and were forced to perform acts that were a danger to their health and for which they expressed a personal loathing.
- Half the respondents lived in the same place they worked. Two slept in the same bed in which they worked.

Health cont. pg. 5



Advocacy

Purple Rose Campaign

Up to 2.5 million young Filipinas, mainly from rural areas, seeking work as maids in cities continue to be vulnerable to physical abuse and sex trafficking, a local Filipino NGO reported. The number of sex trafficking victims has increased at an annual rate of 10 percent over the last six years.

Advocates are pushing for passage of the Kasambahay Bill, which recognizes the contribution of domestic helpers to Philippine society and guarantees their rights. While the government tries to uplift the lives of Filipino maids leaving for work abroad, many maids in Filipino homes continue to suffer.

The Philippines is the world's top exporter of women, up to 400,000 annually. While most are recruited as household or domestic workers, many also end up in the sex trade. Some seven billion dollars flow back to the Philippines annually -- one billion from the US alone. Meanwhile, an average of two overseas contract workers return dead to the Philippines daily. That statistic is also rising.

The *Purple Rose Campaign* is a global campaign to expose and fight sex trafficking of Filipino women and children. At the forefront of the Purple Rose Campaign is *GABRIELA*, a *National Alliance of Women's Organizations* founded in 1984 in the Philippines. Sex trafficking, in the form of mail-order-brides, was among the first issues that confronted *GABRIELA*.

The PURPLE ROSE CAMPAIGN is meant to raise awareness and provides a means by which everyone and anyone might express opposition against

the sex trade and forced labor, as well as a way to support people of the Philippines who seek to change their current situation.

WHY A PURPLE ROSE?



Roses, by their very nature, were never purple. Purple roses were crossbred, hybridized and made exotic by human will. The purple rose exists not for its own evolutionary purposes but for the pleasure and profit of others. Victims of trafficking are no different from the Purple Rose.

They are reduced to being mere objects of pleasure, sources of profit for others. Through poverty, commodification and enslavement by globalization, Filipina women and children have become Purple Roses.

Support the Purple Rose Campaign:

<http://www.gabnet.org>

To order pins (cost \$5. each) contact:
secgen@gabnet.org

Health *cont. from pg. 4*

General recommendations

(Excerpted from Report, pgs. 7-8)

1. Recognize trafficking as a health issue.
2. Recognize trafficked women's rights to health and health services as primary and fundamental elements of their legal and human rights.
3. States should adopt the UN Palermo Protocol. ...Specifically, States should increase the priority and funding accorded trafficked women's health and protection to a level commensurate with the severe harm caused by trafficking and take appropriate action to make gender and cultur-

ally appropriate provision for the physical, psychological and social recovery of female victims of trafficking, including medical, psychological and material assistance, appropriate housing, counseling, legal information, and employment and training opportunities.

4. Develop health-related prevention and intervention strategies.... Models should include gender- and culture-specific strategies developed for medical care, social service practices, health education, public awareness, and protocols and training for law enforcement response.
5. Increase awareness of health risks and consequences of trafficking among government, key policymakers, public health officials, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, and relevant nongovernmental and international organizations, and donors.
6. Fund, develop, and implement training and education programs for health care providers in relevant sectors that include: information on trafficking, physical, sexual, reproductive, social, and mental health consequences, and culturally competent treatment approaches.
7. Reduce the political, social, legal, and financial barriers that impede measures that promote the wellbeing of women at risk of being trafficked, and that hinder the provision of adequate health interventions for who are trafficked.
8. Fund and promote health outreach services to vulnerable migrant women in sectors known to employ trafficked women in destination countries, and ensure that care is offered in appropriate languages.
9. Fund the development of victim-sensitive procedures for use by law enforcement officials to identify, interview, and assist trafficked women.

The 2003 Report is available through the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Tel: +44 (0)207 927 2431

Website: www.lshtm.ac.uk



Action

6 Constitutionality of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act Upheld

In March 2007, in an important legal decision, a judge from the U.S. District Court for Atlanta, GA rejected an international marriage broker's claim that the 2005 *International Marriage Broker Regulation Act* (IMBRA) is unconstitutional. IMBRA is designed to provide greater protection for foreign women who marry men through what are commonly known as "mail order bride" agencies.

Layli Miller-Muro, the Executive Director of the Tahirih Justice Center noted, "This decision sends an important message to the international marriage broker ("IMB") industry, which has worked to resist and evade its regulation, that it can no longer keep foreign women from poorer countries ignorant of the violent histories of the men who use their services and the legal rights available to women living in the United States."

The lawsuit was brought by a leading international marriage broker, *European Connections* (EC - see also story of Katrina, pg 1.). EC alleged that the law's requirement that IMBs provide information to foreign women about their legal rights and the criminal backgrounds of their prospective American husbands infringed upon their constitutional rights.

In a detailed 40-page decision, the judge found that "The rates of domestic violence against immigrant women are much higher than those of the U.S. population" and that "IMBRA is highly likely to reduce domestic abuse – and may actually save lives." When considering EC's arguments that

the implementation of IMBRA would cost them money, the judge noted that "the Court is confronted with the classic 'blood-versus-money' analysis, and the safety of foreign women coming to the United States is clearly the more vital interest."

The lawsuit attempted to resist the regulation of the IMB industry, which derives its profits from pairing foreign women from poorer countries with American men. The requirements imposed by IMBRA seek to ensure that women who speak limited English, have no social ties in the U.S., and are unfamiliar with U.S. laws are given sufficient information to decide whether to enter into a relationship and know where to find help if the relationship turns abusive. IMBRA was passed in 2005 with wide bi-partisan support as a part of the *Violence Against Women Act*, after over a decade of examination by Congress of the special vulnerabilities of immigrant women to abuse and recent attention to concerns about abuse through the IMB industry.

Another lawsuit, brought in Ohio by a consortium of IMBs, made similar constitutional arguments and was dismissed in January 2007. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Tahirih Justice Center defended both cases. The lead attorney noted, "This is an important victory that decisively protects a historic law designed to protect extremely vulnerable foreign women coming to the United States from developing countries to marry American men through these agencies."

Forced Marriage Leads to Trafficking

In January 2007 Sigma Huda, the *Special Rapporteur* to the *UN Commission on Human Rights*, presented her 2006 thematic report on *forced marriage in the context of trafficking in persons*. She offered recommendations on ways to: prevent trafficking in persons through or for the purpose of forced marriages, discourage the demand for such marriages, protect and assist the victims, and establish legal and prosecutorial measures to combat forced marriages in the context of trafficking in persons.

Among the recommendations:

- That States amend their immigration legislation so that victims of forced marriages are not dependent upon their spouses for legal immigration status but can obtain residence permits independently of their continued relation to their husbands.
- That governments recognize forced marriage, especially in the context of trafficking in persons, as a condition giving rise to a claim of asylum based on gender-related violence and other forms of human rights violations, and ensure that the women and girls concerned are not deported.
- That States develop and conduct public awareness campaigns relating to the nature and harm of forced marriages in the context of trafficking in persons. Such campaigns could target the public, community leaders, teachers, health-care personnel and others, as well as women and girls vulnerable to forced marriages, and those who demand women and girls for the purpose of forced marriages.
- In order to deter those who provide the demand for women and girls under 18 years of age for forced marriages, that States put into place different preventive measures as well as legislation that criminalizes the demand for forced marriages, especially in the context of trafficking in persons, including the demand for so-called mail-order or Internet brides.

(See the UN's site for the full report.)



Action

Action for Immigration Reform

Sisters of Mercy and their Associates will lobby Members of Congress at their local district offices during the Memorial Day Recess, May 28 - June 1, 2007 to ask for support of *Comprehensive Immigration Reform* and urge legislators to pass a bill that President Bush can sign into law this year.

If you would like to schedule your own visit you may find your Members of Congress' district office at www.thomas.loc.gov. Ask Congress to pass immigration reform that reflects our nation's need for workers and the realities of families migrating for economic and physical survival. For more information email Kathy at kkelleher@sistersofmercy.org.

Appointment

In April Sister Jane Burke, SSND, former leader for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Baltimore, was named *National Manager of the Justice for Immigrants Campaign* for the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of the US Conf. of Catholic Bishops.

Support Agencies Helping Victims!

Help your NGO earn a penny every time you search the Internet! *How?*

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate.

You use it just as you would any search engine. It is powered by 'Yahoo!' so you will get good results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and indicate the charity you want to support.

With 500 people searching four times a day a charity would raise about \$7300 in a year! Be sure to spread the word to your favorite NGO working against human trafficking, so they benefit from your Internet searches!

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888**

Important Legislation to Follow & Support:

The web sites provides details.

- Funding for and vital revisions to the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act 2007* (TVPRA)

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-270>

- Create a *National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness*
- <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=hc110-102>

Positions Open USCCB Office of Migration & Refugee Services

- The *National Case Manager* serves as case management coordinator for professional assessment and placement recommendations for unaccompanied children in federal custody nation-wide.
- The *Children's Services Specialist* is responsible for overseeing and conducting child placements into refugee foster care programs and providing post-placement technical assistance for children in care.
- The *Capacity Development Specialist* is responsible for monitoring program compliance, program and capacity development, and training of foster care programs.

Minorities are encouraged to apply. Competitive starting salaries. Contact the USCCB office (address below) for qualification requirements.

How to Apply for the Above Positions:

Please submit a resumé, with a cover letter indicating the position for which you are interested, to:

Office of Human Resources
U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
or Fax: 202/541-3412.
Email: resumes@usccb.org

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

Health Risks Report
<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/traffickingfinal.pdf>

Tahirih Justice Center
<http://www.tahirih.org>

Huda's Report to UN Commission on Human Rights
action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/SRTraffickingReporttoUN2007-00011.doc

Sisters of Mercy Stance on Immigration
www.sistersofmercy.org
Institute Justice Office
justice@sistersofmercy.org

Important legislative action for NY residents:

www.stophumantraffickingny.org
To sign the online petition:
<http://www.thepetition-site.com/takeaction/666865222?tl=1175783267>

Charitable Search Engine
<http://www.goodsearch.com>

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:
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