

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

August 2008 Vol. 6 No. 8

This issue highlights the U.S. government's reported activity against human trafficking.

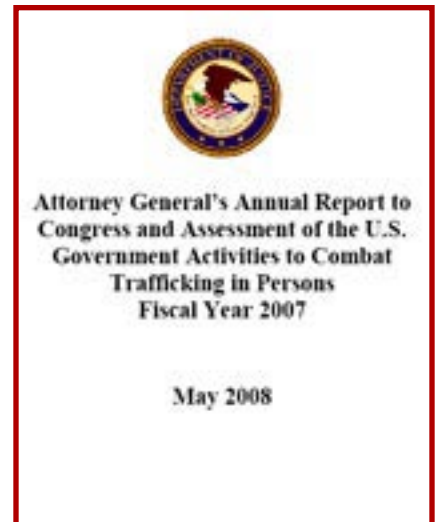
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U.S. Government's Efforts to Counter Human Trafficking in the U.S.A. during 2007

The Attorney General's Report describes the benefits and services given to trafficking victims in the U.S. by the *Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Homeland Security, State, Labor, the Legal Services Corporation*, and through the *Department of Defense*.

In addressing the concern of how the U.S. government could improve benefits and services to victims, the report emphasizes there is a need to better identify victims. Therefore the government *"has made it a priority to initiate outreach into vulnerable communities and to raise public awareness of potential indicators of human trafficking. ... (through) focusing on particular work sectors or first responders, for example, in pertinent industries, the faith-based community, the education community, the public health sector, and the travel industry."* (Specific examples follow in the Report pgs. 16-18)

The report describes immigration benefits for victims and discusses the *'Continued Presence'* and *'T-Visa'* status. It has an extensive report on investigations, prosecutions and sentences for traffickers and examines what can be done to better estimate the number of victims and prosecute trafficking crimes. It lists international grants and training, outreach, and public awareness programs at the national and international level. In addition to assessing U.S. government activities in 2007, the report makes recommendations for action in 2008. (See Recommendations, pg. 2)



Cases (For the full list, see Report pgs. 64-71)	Penalties
California - Sex trafficking U.S. minor girls and taking them across state lines for prostitution.	Mandatory life sentence (in appeal).
Connecticut - Escort service front for prostitution of U.S. women and girls; also sold them into bail bondage.	Nine defendants sentenced from 1 to 13 years; 10th defendant faces a life sentence.
Texas - Central American women smuggled in and forced to work in cantinas; threatened their families.	Eight defendants; one received 7 years in prison and \$1.1 million restitution to the victims.
Georgia - Lured U.S. women/girls as models into commercial sex.	Sentenced to 15 years in prison.
Tennessee - Mexican woman/girl forced to work in brothel; money laundering	Eight defendants sentenced from 7 months to 5 years; two defendants are fugitives.



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Recommendations (Report 2008, pg. 61):

“To effectively rescue victims and alleviate the problem of human trafficking both in the United States and abroad, the U.S. Government recognizes that it should take the following additional actions:

- Create a pathway to citizenship for qualified T visa holders through publication of a regulation for the adjustment of status for T visa holders.
- Ensure that U.S. citizen victims are as vigorously identified, protected, and assisted as foreign nationals, including sufficient case management.
- Increase inter-agency efforts to combat trafficking for labor exploitation, in addition to sex trafficking.
- Ensure that law enforcement agents and service grantees, subcontractors, and partners collaborate expeditiously to identify victims, provide care, and secure immigration relief.
- Develop educational materials on U.S. trafficking in persons for dissemination through education and community-based entities.
- Continue to expand inter-agency coordination of TIP efforts including international funding.
- Ensure child victims of severe forms of human trafficking (both foreign and U.S. citizen) are provided access to services and benefits regardless of their ability to assist law enforcement.
- Expand media campaigns.”

Public Awareness

In an effort to raise public awareness about the plight of human trafficking victims in the United States, *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* (ICE) has launched an outdoor advertising campaign featuring billboards and transit shelter signs, bearing the slogan “*Hidden in Plain Sight*,” in seven major cities across the country: San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, Chicago, Baltimore and New York City. Additional outdoor displays are planned for Houston, Miami and Washington, D.C.

ICE urges anyone who suspects someone is being held against their will, to contact the ICE tip line anonymously at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

You can also view or download the ICE video public service announcement at: [www.ice.gov](http://www.nowpublic.com/world/ice-mounts-outdoor-ad-campaign-raise-awareness-about-human-trafficking). (<http://www.nowpublic.com/world/ice-mounts-outdoor-ad-campaign-raise-awareness-about-human-trafficking>)

Department of Health & Human Services

Web Training Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services hosts a series of online WebEx training sessions on a variety of topics related to human trafficking.

The August 14 session was on “*Serving Victims in High-Profile Media Cases*” and addressed the following:

- Recommended approaches when communicating to media about the issue of human trafficking;
- How to protect your client during high-profile cases;
- Typical types of requests that national and local media have when doing stories on human trafficking; and
- Case studies and lessons learned from past media experiences.

The July 31 session, “*Coordinated Community Response: Assisting Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation*” can be viewed until Oct. 31st at:

<https://ketchum.webex.com/ketchum/onstage/g.php?AT=VR&RecordingID=26398882&recordKey=48C4304B1ED3F2DBAD27DEC84DF6CBC159506ED3533961A777BD08363A2C2ED6>

Programs Serving

Human Trafficking Victims

- *Case Management and the Victim of Human Trafficking: A Critical Service For Client Success*, June 2008. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/CaseMgmt/ib.htm>)
- *Treating the Hidden Wounds: Trauma Treatment and Mental Health Recovery for Victims of Human Trafficking*, March 2008. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/Treating/ib.htm>)
- *Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking: Inherent Challenges and Promising Strategies from the Field*, January 2008. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/IdentVict/ib.htm>)
- *Finding a Path to Recovery: Residential Facilities for Minor Victims of Domestic Sex Trafficking*, September 2007. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/ResFac/ib.htm>)



Awareness

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Complexities in Aiding Rescued 'Victims'

In September 2007, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested two men and a woman from Togo, who smuggled 14 girls and young women from West Africa, forced them to work without pay at hair-braiding salons in the Newark area, and kept them in line with threats and beatings. The salons were among dozens, if not hundreds, advertising African hair-braiding and catering largely to African-American women among whom the long, intricate braids have become fashionable. A session for a person with long hair can last up to seven hours and cost \$100, depending on the type of braid and length of hair. Many salons hire women from Africa, where the skill is passed down from mothers to their young daughters.

Prosecutors said the women were driven to work each day in a van and toiled six days a week, braiding hair for no pay, and ordered to return home immediately after work. The suspects took their passports and other ID, would beat and threaten them if they did not return home immediately after work, asked for money or disobeyed.

Now, four of the alleged victims say they weren't exploited at all. Rather, they described the three people charged in the case as benevolent parent figures who rescued them from misery in their African village, where drinking water was hauled from a stream each day and their parents struggled to feed their families.

They say they long to return to the hair salons -- even if they weren't paid for their long hours performing intri-

cate hair weaves. "What we're doing for her, it's like (a form of) thanksgiving," said the 21-year-old. "If we don't get paid money, it's no problem." "They are the only three people we know in this country," said the 18-year-old, referring to the jailed suspects. "I feel like my father and my mommy are in jail." Now, they say, their parents in Africa are blaming them for the downfall of the three jailed suspects, who had been sending money to the workers' families before the salons were shut. The women may not have received paychecks, but they say a large network of relatives and villagers were benefiting from the money.

Prosecutors and social workers cast doubt on the women's statements, noting such victims remain vulnerable long after they are pulled from abusive situations. They also fear the women may have been coerced to protect the suspects, or have developed a psychological attachment to them.

"They don't think of themselves as victims, but our law defines them as such," said Andrea Bertone, executive director of Humantrafficking.org, an anti-trafficking organization in Washington, D.C. "It makes it difficult for prosecutors emotionally, but our laws are very clear: You can't bring them here to work and keep them in these conditions."

No estimates for adults are available, but the U.S. State Department says anti-trafficking workers in Togo rescued approximately 4,000 victims of child trafficking between 2002 and 2006. Children were trafficked to Central Africa, France, Germany and the Middle East to work as domestic servants, produce porters, farm workers or roadside sellers.

(http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/in_smuggling_case_victims_defe.html)



From the ICE video.
"You can help me by calling
1-866-DHS-2ICE (1-866-347-2423).
Please report it."



Awareness

4 U.S. Justice Department: Cause of Delay in Passage of Trafficking Bill?

Excerpted from John R. Miller's OP-ED piece to the *NY Times*, July 11, 2008. (John Miller is now a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Formerly he was the State Department Ambassador and director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.)

"President Bush has won support abroad and bipartisan praise at home for his efforts to combat human trafficking, the slavery of our time. But now that work is imperiled by his own *Department of Justice* (DOJ). At the U.N. in 2003, Mr. Bush denounced the sex trafficking of women and girls around the world. A little more than two years later, he signed into law a bill that included a broad array of measures to reduce the domestic demand for sex trafficking.

Sex slavery is not the only modern incarnation of this ancient institution — factory slavery, farm slavery and domestic servitude are still with us — but it is the largest category of slavery in the U.S. ..(Pres. Bush) wants the fight to end modern slavery to be one of his legacies as president.

From 2002 to 2006, I led the *U.S. State Department's* efforts to monitor and combat human trafficking. I felt my job was to nurture a 21st-century abolitionist movement with the U.S. at the lead. At times, my work was disparaged by some embassies and regional bureaus that didn't want their host countries to be criticized. I didn't win every battle, but the White House always made it clear that the president supported my work and thought it was important.

Imagine my surprise, then, when the DOJ started a campaign against a new bill that would strengthen the government's anti-human trafficking efforts. In a 13-page letter last year, the department blasted almost every provision in the new bill that would reasonably expand American anti-slavery efforts.

Should the *State Department's* annual report on trafficking, which grades governments on how well they are combating modern slavery, consider whether governments put traffickers in jail? The DOJ says no. Should the *Homeland Security* and *Health and Human Services Departments* streamline their efforts to help foreign trafficking victims get visas and care? No. Should the *Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, State* and *Justice Departments* pool their data on human trafficking to help devise strategies to prevent it? Amazingly, no.

In its letter, the DOJ even opposes authorizing the president to create new awards for the international groups that are leading the struggle for abolition. It also doesn't want the *State Department* to be required to give the names of American anti-trafficking phone lines to visa applicants at American consulates overseas. It doesn't want a citizen task force to help develop an information pamphlet for victims.

Some objections like these are, regrettably, to be expected in a Washington turf battle. But the DOJ is consistent — it opposes changes to expand its own efforts to combat human trafficking, too.

Should the department prosecute the American sex tourists who create demand for adult human-trafficking victims in foreign countries? No. Should Congress make clear that there should be increased penalties for Americans who sexually abuse children abroad? No way. Should we give our courts jurisdiction over Americans who traffic human beings abroad? Certainly not. Should the attorney general include information in his annual report on his department's efforts to enforce anti-trafficking laws against federal contractors and employees? No. Too "burdensome," says the *Justice Department*.

The department strongly objects to a provision that would make it easier to prosecute pimps, the chief slaveholders in the U.S.. The DOJ opposes taking away from pimps the defense that they did not know a child's age. And it opposes easing the requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion in order to prosecute a pimp for human trafficking.

How did President Bush's *Justice Department* come to these positions? In conversations, DOJ employees emphasize the threats of diversion of federal resources and intrusion on state and local rights.

But it is hard to believe these are the reasons. After all, the DOJ knows that it will prosecute only the biggest pimps just as it goes after only the biggest drug dealers. It knows that pimping has long been recognized as an interstate activity with a federal role. And the *Justice Department* knows that the states have had very limited success when trying to convict traffickers.

A culture clash, I suspect, is the real reason for the DOJ's opposition. This isn't the usual culture clash of right and left, religious and secular. In this case, the feminist, religious and secular groups that help sex-trafficking survivors are on one side. And on the other are the DOJ's lawyers (most of them male), the *Erotic Service Providers Union* and the *American Civil Liberties Union* — this side believes that vast numbers of women engage in prostitution as a "profession," by choice.

As one *Justice Department* lawyer put it at a meeting I attended, there is "hard pimping and soft pimping." The department's letter hints at this view. Adult prostitutes who are transported across state lines, in violation of the *Mann Act*, should not receive grants under the *Victims of Crime Act* of 1984 because they "do not meet the legal definition of 'victim,'" the letter states.

Both sides agree there is a small group of expensive call girls — the kind paraded in recent political scandals — who may choose to engage in prostitution. But that's where agreement ends. Those who work with trafficking victims and those who have interviewed survivors believe that most prostitutes are poor, young, abused, harassed, raped, beaten and under the control of pimps against their will.

Put me on the side of those who have worked with the victims. I have talked with survivors all over the world, including the U.S., and I share the view that these women and girls — the average age of entry into prostitution is 14 — are not participating in the "oldest profession" but in the oldest form of abuse. They are slaves.

It is hard to believe that the *Justice Dept.'s* perspective reflects the man at the top of the Bush administration. Yet the unusual anti-slavery coalition that President Bush helped to forge now finds itself battling the president's own *Justice Department*.

The department lost the battle in the House, which passed the new anti-human
Miller cont. pg. 7



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“Victims of crimes such as modern-day slavery should not have to fear deportation for reporting their abuse and cooperating with law enforcement. An 8-year delay in issuing regulations is inexplicable, given the bipartisan consensus that these people deserve legal protection.” John Conyers (D-MI)

Concern Over Visa Status

Text of a July 10, 2008 letter to the Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(<http://lofgren.house.gov/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1926>):

“We write to inquire about the status of the *Department of Homeland Security* (DHS) regulations for the adjustment of status of T and U nonimmigrants. Congress has been waiting for almost eight years, since the beginning of this Administration, for the issuance of these regulations.

In 2000, as a part of the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000* (VTVPA), Congress created the T and U visas for immigrant victims of trafficking and other serious crimes who assist U.S. law enforcement agencies. When regulations implementing these provisions had not been issued more than five years after the enactment of VTVPA, Congress mandated the issuance of these regulations within 180 days of the enactment of the *Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005* (VAWA 2005). VAWA 2005 became law on January 5, 2006, so the regulations should have been issued on or before July 5, 2006. Despite the enactment of VTVPA eight years ago, and an explicit Congressional mandate to issue the implementing regulations more than two years ago, DHS has yet to issue the T and U adjustment regulations.

The failure to issue this rule has had concrete, detrimental impact on the lives of crime victims and their families. (Ed. Included was a collection of examples of T and U visa holders who were harmed by the inability to adjust their status.)

According to a May 9, 2008 White House memo, “*regulations to be finalized in this Administration should be proposed no later than June 1, 2008, and final regulations should be issued no later than November 1, 2008.*” In light of this memo, and the passage of the June deadline for proposed regulations, we are very concerned that your Department will not be successful in issuing the T and U adjustment regulations before the end of this Administration, despite a wait of almost eight years.

Given the extraordinary delay of these regulations for this particularly vulnerable class, we strongly encourage you to issue these regulations as soon as possible as an interim final rule with a concurrent opportunity for notice and comment, as was done with regulations on U nonimmigrant status in Sept. 2007.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter. We would greatly appreciate a response regarding this matter no later than July 15, 2008.”

(Signed) *John Conyers, Jr.* and *Zoe Lofgren*, Chair, Subcommittee on Chair, Committee on the Judiciary Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, & International Law

“Congress overwhelmingly passed the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Act in 2000 with a promise to survivors – cooperation in bringing your tormentors to justice would be rewarded, not punished. It is high time that the Administration delivers on that promise.*” Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Documentary Film: ‘Very Young Girls’

Very Young Girls takes us into the work of Rachel Lloyd, a former sexually exploited youth-turned-activist who started the New York City organization GEMS (*Girls Educational and Mentoring Services*). GEMS provides room and board, counseling, education and job placement, so young women can escape their pimps and find another way of life.

Very Young Girls is an intensely moving, disturbing yet eye-opening film. Some of the girls featured in the documentary started when they were as young as 12 years old and are at different stages of a transition out of prostitution. Through a series of home videos, we see a ‘pimp team’ pick up new underage recruits. It begins almost as a relationship, but with a man who is usually old enough to be their father and is often called ‘daddy’.

The girls are isolated from their normal life, and through mind games and intimidation, they are forced into the commercial world of child abuse. They are exposed to drug use and are rewarded with affection when they bring home cash. When money stops, they are physically punished or raped.

Society views teenagers involved in prostitution as criminals rather than victims. With no family or friends and nowhere to go (shelters won’t take anyone under 18 years of age), the girls are unable to escape their situations. Like many other forms of abuse (domestic, etc.), the teens become emotionally attached to their pimps and are often unable to escape.



Advocacy

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1-888-3737-888

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Update, July 2008

- The NHTRC received over 2,500 calls during the first half of 2008.
- Calls into the hotline have doubled since 2007.
- The NHTRC has received, on average, more than 400 calls each month with the highest call volume occurring Monday to Friday between 9am-9pm.
- The NHTRC receives approximately 85% of calls in English and 15% in Spanish. The NHTRC can access tele-interpreting services for another 170 languages.
- Since October 2007, the NHTRC gave 52 different trainings and presentations to disseminate information from the expanding NHTRC library of materials.
- There continue to be six general types of calls that come into the NHTRC.
 - o Calls regarding general information related to human trafficking;
 - o Calls providing tips or intelligence about potential trafficking situations;
 - o Calls requesting training or technical assistance;
 - o Calls requesting referrals for victims;
 - o Crisis calls from potential victims or others in crisis; and
 - o Calls from organizations representing related topics such as domestic violence, homelessness, labor exploitation, etc.

Rescue & Restore coalitions have played a key role in the growth of the NHTRC. Coalition members have helped provide information on the best ways to reach intermediaries in their area and service provider availability during business hours and/or after-hours. Local coalitions and the NHTRC have been working on specific protocols in certain cities that involve collaboration with 911, 211, 311, and other similar local services. These help coordinate response to victim needs between the local and national level.

Additionally, the NHTRC has built a solid national database of contacts prepared to respond to calls in any part of the country. As a result, when people call in to the NHTRC with tips about potential trafficking situations happening in their area, the call specialists are able to refer these tips to local contacts, who are in the best position to respond. The NHTRC has referred multiple tips and calls back to *Rescue & Restore* coalitions in cities such as Houston, Sacramento, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Nashville, Columbus, Cincinnati, San Francisco, St. Louis, Las Vegas, Newark, Phoenix, and Chicago, as well as numerous non-governmental service provider organizations and local, state and federal law enforcement entities throughout the country. This ensures national efforts through the NHTRC are coordinated with local efforts and calls are handled on a 24/7 basis.

The NHTRC has had success in calls that generate concrete responses from its on-the-ground partners, ultimately resulting in more victims receiving assistance. Some recent examples include the following:

- An investigator from a **local police department** called the NHTRC in preparation for a raid on a massage parlor. The investigator requested advice about interacting with potential trafficking victims and assistance with securing

an interpreter. Following the raid, the investigator called the NHTRC again to follow-up on the previous call and to receive additional technical assistance on conducting trafficking assessments, partnering with local NGOs, and connecting with anti-trafficking task forces around the country. According to the investigator, the information provided will contribute to a proposal on how NGOs can build relationships with law enforcement to respond to human trafficking cases. The NHTRC disseminated a collection of training materials specifically for law enforcement and provided ideas for the proposal.

- An **airline pilot** called the NHTRC to report what the pilot believed was a potential case of human trafficking. The pilot stated that during flights from Eastern Europe to New York City there were teenage girls who appeared to be coming to the U.S. as victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The NHTRC provided the pilot with the contact information for an anti-trafficking organization working in New York to call for 24/7 assistance if the girls were spotted again or a similar situation occurred. In addition, the NHTRC contacted this organization directly to inform them of the tip. The anti-trafficking organization brought in the local Assistant U.S. Attorney to help investigate the case.

- NHTRC received a phone call from a **teacher** who became concerned about the unexplained disappearances of several girls from her program. NHTRC staff worked with the caller to identify a potential human trafficking network and immediately referred the case to federal authorities. Within two weeks the children were successfully rescued in a nearby state after having been held in a brothel that was part of a larger human trafficking ring in multiple states. The children were referred to local social service organizations that could provide the necessary treatment to help them begin recovering from the trauma they endured at the hands of the traffickers.



Advocacy

Health and Human Services
Victim Service Network

NHTRC *cont. from pg. 6*

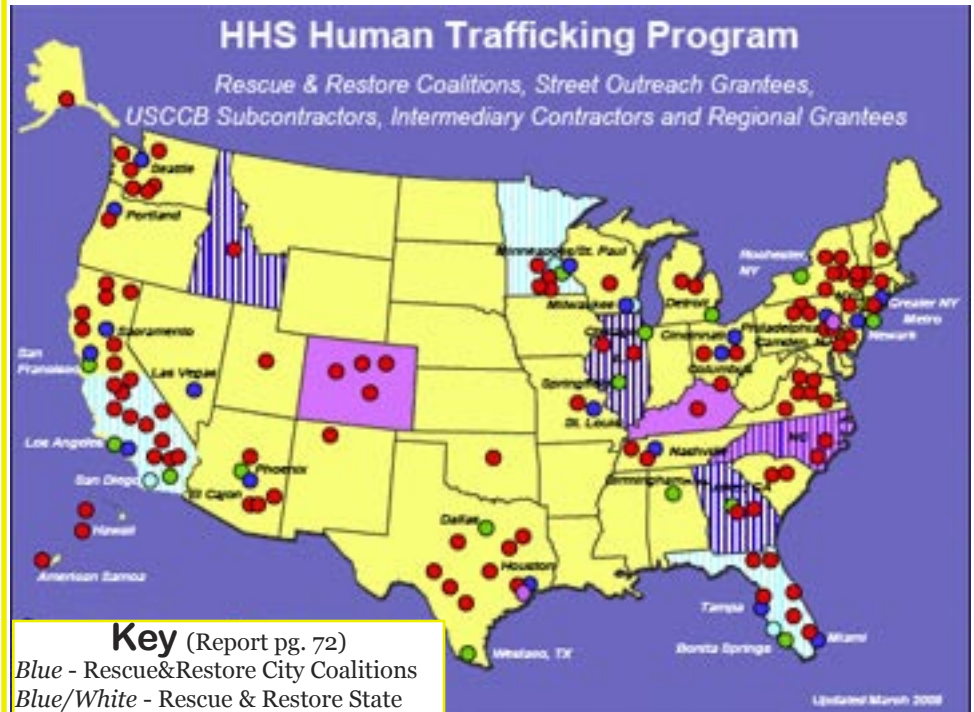
• An **employee of a large farm** in a rural area snuck away from work to a pay phone to call the NHTRC. The worker reported that he and 300 other employees were only paid half of their promised wages and were enduring emotional abuse and occasional physical abuse by the bosses. The employees had reason to believe that the employer was closely tied to a criminal organization and feared that they or their families would be targeted and possibly killed if they spoke up about the abuse or tried to leave. The worker also reported that the employees' documents had been confiscated and that those workers who were undocumented were treated even more poorly. The NHTRC referred the caller to a local NGO that specializes in labor trafficking of farmworkers and also reported the tip to local law enforcement. *(See pg. 9 for Tipline information.)*

Miller *cont. from pg. 4*

trafficking bill almost unanimously, by a vote of 405 to 2. Unfortunately, the DOJ seems to have more influence with the Senate, where the bill is stalled in the Judiciary Committee. And Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-DE) has introduced a bill that largely complies with the department's views.

The president may never have seen the *Justice Department's* letter. But Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-OH), two of the leaders of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, have been unable to arrange a meeting with the president to express their concerns to him.

President Bush should meet with them — and his own *Justice Department* — before he loses his legacy and his leadership on the abolition of modern slavery.”



Key (Report pg. 72)
 Blue - Rescue&Restore City Coalitions
 Blue/White - Rescue & Restore State Coalitions
 Green - Street Outreach Grantees
 Red - USCCB Subcontractors
 Turquoise - Intermediate Contractors
 Purple - Regional Grantees

Victim Certifications *(Report pg. 4)*

Fiscal Year	Minors	Adults	Total
2001	4	194	198
2002	18	81	99
2003	6	145	151
2004	16	147	163
2005	34	197	231
2006	20	214	234
2007	33	270	303
Total	131	1248	1379

Domestic Trafficking of Minors

Child prostitution, a growing problem across the U.S., is especially severe in tourist and convention cities. Atlanta GA has been identified by the FBI as one of 14 U.S. cities with the highest rates of child prostitution.

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/29/opinion/29tue2.html?ex=1217995200&en=d1c212125a84473c&ei=5070&emc=eta1>)



Action

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Working to End 'Human Trafficking Via the Internet'

The mission of the *End Internet Trafficking Coalition (EITC)* is to prevent sexual violence and human trafficking via the Internet. The EITC achieves this by providing a platform for links between nonprofit, governmental, law enforcement, faith-based, and student grassroots agencies and individuals to advocate an accessible worldwide web where children, youth, and adults are better protected from human trafficking in all its forms.

The goal of EITC is not to be antagonistic to the Internet, but rather to address the reality of how the Internet may be both a space for social change and community organizing and a site for exploitation.

Learn more about Internet trafficking by visiting the EITC website (www.eitcoalition.org) and by registering with the community forum (<https://www.eitcoalition.org/phpBB3/index.php>).

The forum is a space in which the Internet community may come together to discuss issues of how the Internet is utilized to facilitate human trafficking, share resources, and stay updated on the coalition's upcoming initiatives.

Events to look forward to include: online Internet trafficking training and a public forum to be held in San Francisco September 26-27, 2008. Check back periodically for more details and for other upcoming events.

The EITC initiative is currently sponsored and endorsed by: Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Melissa Farley of Prostitution Research Education, Doctor Donna M. Hughes of the Univ. of Rhode Island, National Organization of Women-CT, Project Free - NY Asian Women's Center, Salvation Army- PROMISE Initiative, Kate Reid from CRTEC, and Marisa Ugarte, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition.

If your organization is interested in endorsing this initiative, please contact: info@eitcoalition.org



Rescuing Children

In June 2008 the FBI, after a five-day nationwide sweep, arrested 389 people involved in trafficking children for prostitution. 'Operation Cross Country,' spanned 16 cities and recovered 21 children.

The sting was part of the five-year old 'Innocence Lost National Initiative' that has rescued 433 children and seized \$3 million in assets.

Caseworker's Toolkit

The *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB)* recently released a toolkit designed for caseworkers and other service providers helping children in federal custody, who are applying for *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)* visas.

1. *SIJS Flow Charts* - 5 flow charts mapping the SIJS process.
2. *SIJS Flow Chart Accompanying Information* - "Pop-up boxes" providing more detailed information about practice or legal issues.
3. *Clarifying Roles* - A description of the people and professionals affecting the outcome of children's SIJS cases.
4. *Key Government Players* - A description of federal and state level government entities interacting with SIJS-applicant children, including links to organizational charts and Web sites.
5. *Forms & Fees* - A summary of the typical SIJS application forms (I-360, I-485, and I-765) and accompanying fees and expenses.
6. *SIJS Q & A* - A question and answer dialogue on common inquiries about SIJS.
7. *Work Permit Q & A* - A question and answer dialogue on common inquiries about work authorization for children in immigration proceedings.
8. *Child Friendly Immigration Resources* - An annotated list of useful resources for helping children, their caseworkers, and attorneys, understand and explain legal matters of relevance to SIJS applicant children, particularly those in federal custody.
9. *BRYCS Child Welfare Resources* - A list of child welfare resources available from the Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS)

To obtain the above resources, go to: www.brycs.org/sijs
Address feedback about the Web site to Adrienne Young: ayoung@usccb.org



Action

Corporate Stance

Sisters of Christian Charity: Statement on Human Trafficking

On fire with the LOVE of Christ and impelled to carry Christ's LIGHT into the world by becoming living memories of Christ's LIFE, the Sisters of Christian Charity have heard the cries of a world plagued by destruction and broken relationships.

Conscious of our own dignity and giftedness as women, we strive to respond to situations in which the dignity of women is violated. Therefore, we commit ourselves – at local, national, and international levels – to awareness, advocacy, and action on behalf of victims of human trafficking.

Through collaboration and networking, we will strive to bring Christ's LIGHT into the darkness of those affected by this modern-day slavery, especially women and children.

School Sisters of St. Francis: Statement on Immigration

We School Sisters of St. Francis in the U.S. recognize the contributions of immigrants to our society and declare our support for comprehensive immigration reform so that immigrants will have a path to legal, permanent residence and citizenship, and as a way to keep families together.

We support the U.S. and Mexican Catholic Bishops in their pastoral letter on migration, "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope," as they call for comprehensive reform of the current immigration system.

(www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

We support immigrants by:

- opposing human trafficking of immigrants;
- becoming aware of employment issues raised by U.S. immigration policies;
- challenging the racism imbedded in U.S. border policies focused only on our southwest border;
- advocating on behalf of immigrant rights.

We commit ourselves to education and action, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, so that our efforts contribute to a welcoming society and full integration of immigrants to our country.

The School Sisters of St. Francis are an international congregation founded by immigrant women. School Sisters serving in the U.S. reach out to immigrants and others in health care, education, the arts, parish life and pastoral - social services. For more information visit www.sssf.org or e-mail info@sssf.org.

Child Prostitution: "If you see it in your city, if you hear about it, if you suspect it, report it." To do that, contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST or file a report at its CyberTipline: <http://www.cybertipline.org>



Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Attorney General's Report - FY 2007 (dated May 2008)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf>

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Toolkit

<http://www.brycs.org/sijs>

Issue Briefs - Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs serving human trafficking victims:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/HumanTrafficking/>

GEMS

<http://www.gems-girls.org/>

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

We hope readers continue to use the NHTRC, as well as recommend resources that would be helpful. To learn more about the resources available and how your organization or a group in your community can become involved, please contact the NHTRC at 1-888-3737-888 or via email at NHTRC@polarisproject.org.

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: jeansds2008@yahoo.com

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