

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2008 Vol. 6 No. 12

This issue highlights opportunities to educate others in conjunction with January 11th.

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January 11th — National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 11, 2009 will be the second time our nation acts to raise awareness about Human Trafficking. The Senate resolution, passed on June 27, 2007, was originally proposed by *Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Barack Obama (D-IL), and Dick Lugar (R-IN)*.

Use this opportunity to honor the hopes of *President-Elect Barack Obama* concerning this human rights abuse. Educate your family, friends and colleagues by distributing materials, through e-mail, calling, blogging, and conversation to increase knowledge about this still-invisible crime.

Human trafficking is *'modern day slavery'* because it uses force, fraud, or coercion to make people do things they don't want to do. Men, women, and children are all affected by this crime; they are enslaved throughout the world for labor or commercial sex.

Millions of people are affected by human trafficking, although no one knows the exact number of its victims. No country is immune from human trafficking. Even in the United States, thousands of trafficked individuals live where we live. Do you know anyone who:

- is always accompanied by another person, who seems controlling;
- shows signs of physical or psychological abuse;
- is submissive or fearful of the people with whom they live or work;
- told you their identification papers were taken from them;
- says they are obliged to pay back a debt to their employer before receiving a regular salary?

If you are aware of a situation in which someone is being coerced against their will to work for the benefit of others, please call the *U.S. Department of Justice Human Trafficking Hotline* at 1-888-428-7581 or report your concerns to the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center's 24/7 Hotline* at 1.888.373.7888.

Stop Trafficking invites its readers to take time to duplicate any of the following pages and distribute them in venues that you frequent, such as work places, coffee shops, bus stations, beauty parlors and barber shops, churches, schools, public libraries, etc.

Invite key people to set up displays that will help educate others about human trafficking and its global hold on innocent, impoverished and/or vulnerable women, men, teens, and young children. Let us all help to

STOP TRAFFICKING!

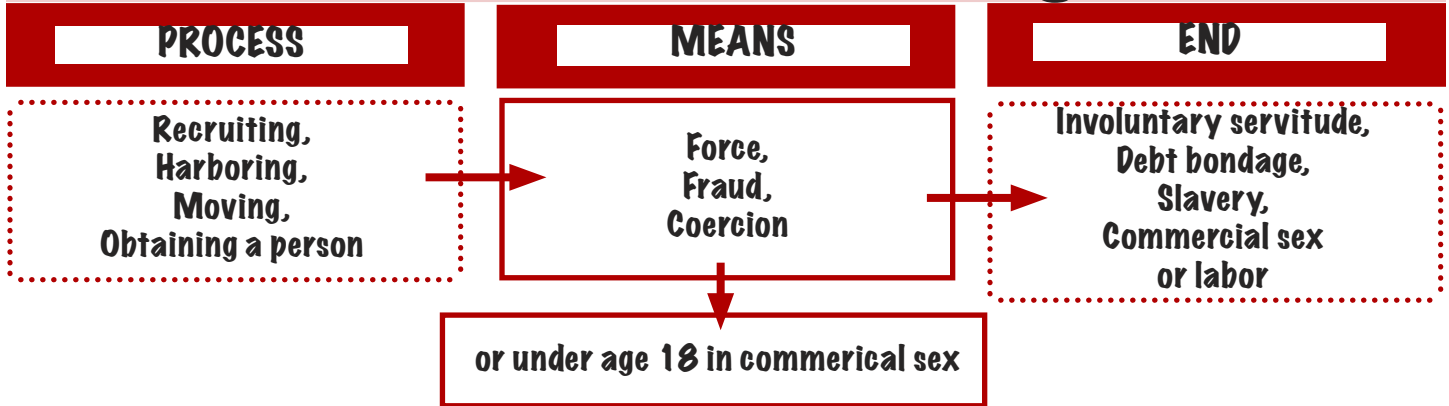


January 11th

National Awareness Day:

Human Trafficking — Modern Slavery

Key Elements in the Definition of Human Trafficking



A leading U.S.-based 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. Later her husband was killed in a fight with police.

Mail order brides can be at risk for bride trafficking. There are laws to protect them, but these women often have no knowledge of the U.S. laws and their rights.

Florencia Molina, enticed to Los Angeles by a woman from Mexico, was promised a job and free accommodations. "I came to the United States with lots of dreams, but when I got here, my dreams were stolen," said Molina, 33, whose three children stayed with her mother in Mexico until she could earn enough for their schooling.

She worked at a dressmaker's, sewing roughly 200 party dresses over 12 hours. Later, the shifts often stretched to 17 hours a day. Molina was locked into the shop at night — sleeping with a co-worker in a small storage room, without the option of showering or washing her clothes.

The shop manager paid Molina roughly \$100 a week, confiscated her identify documents, and told her she would be arrested if she went to the authorities.

Finally she got permission to go to church and there found a person who helped her get to the proper authorities.

"(Human trafficking) is not only thriving, but growing. Recent estimates of this illegal global trade are as high as \$32 billion, if both the sale of individuals and the value of their exploited labor or services are taken into account." (2008 Trafficking in Persons Report, TIP pg. 34)

"We remain committed to acting as a voice for the voiceless — an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and is worthy of our efforts.

You are (an important) partner in the growing, truly global coalition, heeding the call for abolition!"

**Ambassador Mark P. Lagon
2008 TIP Report**

Visit these web sites to learn more:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>

<http://www.ecpat.net/EI/index.asp>

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

<http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery/>



January 11th

National Awareness Day:

Human Trafficking — Modern Slavery

Slavery in the USA today?

Yes! Today the US government estimates that 14,000 people are trafficked annually into the U.S. through deception, fraud and coercion.

These people are promised good-paying jobs, but are then held against their will or are forced to work for little or no pay.

Those enslaved in the USA may be working in many venues. Indentured slaves can be found in sweatshops (clothing manufacturing), in commercial agriculture settings (fields, processing plants, canneries), in ordinary neighborhoods (maids, baby sitters), on construction sites, in restaurants and as custodial workers, or in the sex industry (under the guise of massage parlors, escort services, adult bookstores, modeling studios, or bars and strip clubs).

“When we hear ‘sex trafficking,’ as Americans we don’t usually think close to home — Americans trafficked by Americans.

I was 14 years old when I was forced into prostitution. Like many teens, finding my own identity and defying my parents was top on my list. So when a man I met showered me with attention and listened to my complaints 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. Little did I know, he was laying down the seeds of manipulation. After six months, I thought I loved him, so I ran away to be with him. We ended up in Cleveland, OH. He told me we were going to meet the rest of his family.

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

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.

Open your eyes to the violence and control pimps and sex traffickers exercise over their victims, who are mostly girls and young women. You are needed to help end this terrible crime against America’s youth! If you see something suspicious, call the toll-free 24/7 National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline 1.888.373.7888

Globally 27 million people are enslaved. That number is equivalent to the entire population of our neighbor, Canada.

- **Slaves may have made the bricks that were used to build the factory that assembled the TV you watch.**
- **Slaves in Latin America may have made the charcoal used to temper the steel that made the springs in your car and the blades in your lawnmower.**
- **Child slaves may have picked the coffee beans that were roasted to supply your morning cup of coffee.**
- **A young girl may have been sold into a brothel in Asia to be resold every night, earning \$10,000 for her owner but only misery, abuse and illness for herself.**
- **A 7-year old Pakistani boy may have been one who spent 10-14 hours per day chained to a rug-weaving loom to help make the carpet in your home.**



1 in 7 teenagers in the USA run away from home.



Living on the streets, 1 out of every 3 teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home. The longer they are gone, the more likely they are to engage in “survival sex.”



After three months away from home, 90 percent of children will turn to sex. (National Incidence Studies of Missing, Runaway and Throwaway Children)

NB: Youth involved in commercial sex are being trafficked according to the U.S. federal law against human trafficking.

Gildardo Ferreira, a native Mexican, responded to an ad for a restaurant job that promised \$2,100 a month, plus room and board, for washing trays.

He was picked up with a van having no windows and taken to the China Star Buffet in Muskegon, MI. There an employer put him in the basement lined with bunk beds.

“The house was so dirty,” Ferreira said. “We all had to share one small bathroom that was disgusting. I can’t put into words how horrible the conditions were.”

The workers were forced to work 14-hour days, washing pots using intolerably hot water. To prevent burns they had to buy their own gloves. After some weeks, Ferreira was abruptly awakened, informed he had been fired, and thrown out. When he demanded his wages, he was beaten and told to be quiet or worse would happen.



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Child Slavery Today



Logos used with permission.

Yes! Every year at least 1.2 million youngsters under 18 years of age are sold into some form of slave labor.

There are 211 million child laborers, between the ages of 5 and 14. Of these, 171 million work in risky conditions. About 120 million children work full time. (Fides, the News Agency for the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Jan. 2006.)



Coffee and cocoa beans should bring dignity to the pickers, as well as pleasure to the consumers.

In Africa a small child, Martha Wamboi, describes her life on a coffee plantation...

"I pick the raw berries, then I take them to the trough and dump them in. I get 10 shillings.

Then I pick another can. For a whole day I get 60 shillings (76¢)." (Video: Stolen Childhoods)

Coffee prices have reached a 30 year low for coffee farmers, yet multinationals record huge profits. By the time the coffee reaches U.S. supermarkets, the price has gone up 4000%! But who gets that extra money?

Not the coffee farmer nor the child picker!

If you buy a \$1.50 cup of coffee, those who harvested the coffee beans may get as little as 1¢. The distributors and coffee companies get the rest.

Some years ago Starbucks raised the average price of its coffees by 11¢ at its 4500 stores in North America. A 12 oz. latte rose to \$2.30 in CA, to \$3.00 in NY. A reporter, interviewing customers, found that most people had no problem paying the extra 11¢! Why not ask to put that money in the pocket of the farmer?

By your choosing to pay a few more cents for Fair Trade coffee, you are giving a living wage to those who labor to bring coffee to you. This removes the need for child trafficking and gives poor children some hope for a future.

ACTION: Find out which stores in your neighborhood carry Fair Trade coffee. Visit <http://www.crsfairtrade.org> to learn how to support small scale coffee growers.



Buying products showing the Fair Trade label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.

On the commodities exchange in New York, cocoa prices fluctuate dramatically, while the price tag of a chocolate bar stays nearly the same. North Americans and Europeans consume 80% of the cocoa supplied by the third world.

When you buy a 75¢ candy bar, 70¢ goes to the company, 5¢ to the farmer. M&M, the largest chocolate producer in the world, has annual profits of about \$16 billion per year. Yet M&M refuses to buy fair trade chocolate.

Fair Trade chocolate ensures a living wage to those who harvest cocoa and helps eliminate the need to resort to child trafficking. It gives children a chance to receive an education and create a life for themselves.

ACTION: Visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/cocoa> to find out where to obtain Fair Trade chocolate.

Drissa left his home in Mali and traveled over 300 miles to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in search of work, harvesting cocoa on plantations. On arrival he was sold to a plantation owner, taken to a remote plantation and forced to work from dawn until dusk with no pay.

The work was exhausting. If Drissa showed signs of tiredness he was beaten. At night, along with 17 other young men, he was locked in a small room with only a tin can as a toilet.

When Drissa was caught trying to escape, he was tied up and beaten until he couldn't walk.

(Anti-Slavery: www.antislavery.org)

*"Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations."
(Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General of the U.N.)*



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Today the balls and chains of slavery are often incognito. Take the case of Maria Suarez. She came to California from Mexico seeking a job that would support her parents back home. In her search, she met a person on the street, who brought her to the home of an elderly man to do housework. Once inside the house, she was confined there for years, exploited, beaten and used. A locked door and messages of intimidation enslaved her.

Worldwide, there are literally millions of women and children living as domestic servants — much like Maria. Their days may start at 4:00 AM and they work until midnight, 24/7.

Their 'balls and chains' include the threats of physical harm to their person or reprisals against their families.

Debbie, a 15 year old in a close-knit Air Force family from suburban Phoenix and a straight-A student, was kidnapped from the driveway of her home one evening.

Tied up, threatened and driven around Phoenix for hours, she was drugged and brought into a building where six men gang-raped her. She was beaten, fed dog biscuits and kept locked in a dog kennel. Her captors said they would pour acid on her 19 year old niece if she tried to escape.

They advertised her on Craigslist in a section entitled "Teen Love." Men began coming for "services" and her captors got all the money.

On a tip, police searched the house where Debbie was kept and found her tied up, gagged, and hidden in a drawer under the bed.

Debbie's family moved away from Phoenix, hoping Debbie would eventually heal.

FREEDOM AND



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Parent alert!

Just as we have had to educate small children about strangers, we must educate young teens about the dangers of trafficking and the methods and manipulations of sexual predators.

- Nationally 450,000 children run-away from home annually. One out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Become familiar with popular teen websites: Facebook, My Space, UTube and Craigslist. Discuss with teens how technology is being utilized by organized crime.
- The Internet leaves a detailed fingerprint. If you visit an illegal site or perform an illegal action online, you leave valuable electronic DNA on your computer. Teens need to be aware of this.
- To report suspicious behavior call the toll-free hotline (Trafficking information and referral.) 1-888-3737-888.

How Traffickers Work:

Sophisticated criminals earn the children's trust and then force them to participate in escort services, massage parlors, nude dancing, stripping, pornography and prostitution. They meet the basic needs of the children if they obey the controller's demands.

Traffickers may take children across state lines to avoid detection and to follow major sporting, cultural and recreational events.

Cars, vans, SUVs, limos and buses transport these young victims to cities that attract large numbers of transient males including conventioners and military personnel.

Escape is often impossible!

Teen Alert!

Watch out for the "balls and chains" of slavery!

- Know that malls are trolling places for traffickers looking for lone and vulnerable youth.
- Be alert to promises from strangers or "older friends"
 - with flashy cars and large amounts of cash;
 - who give you lots of attention;
 - who invite you to go away to a distant place far from your family;
 - who offer you a modeling career;
 - who promise good employment;
 - who take you on shopping sprees;
 - who offer a free place to stay.



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'Going Up River'

Remember the story of a group of villagers who noticed injured people floating down the river? Each day they did their best to rescue as many as possible, providing them with food and medical attention. After many months of doing this, of recruiting more helpers, someone got the idea to go up the river to see the cause for the injuries. With this discovery, the daily toll of rescue was no longer necessary.

The origin of the products that are a part of our daily lives are as invisible as the reality of the slavery that produces these products. Here we will 'go up the river' to take a look at forces creating the conditions for slavery.

Blue Jeans

This pair cost \$185.
www.neimanmarcus.com



In 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act became law. It sets a minimum wage, requires overtime pay after 40 hours a week, and prohibits child labor and industrial homework.

Yet today the U.S. Dept. of Labor says 50% of 22,000 registered garment contractors pay less than minimum wage, 67% do not pay overtime and 33% operate with serious health and safety violations. Workers who try to organize and protest poor working conditions are often fired.

These conditions define a 'sweatshop' according to the Stop Sweatshops Act (HR 1992, S367), a bill still in Congress. If enacted, this law would make both contractors and retailers liable for violations of minimum wage, overtime standards, child labor, or industrial homework.

Most sweatshop workers are women of Latina and Asian descent. Yet Caucasians, African Americans, and other ethnic groups are among the 100,000 people working 50+-hour weeks in over 4,000 factories in the Los Angeles garment industry alone. Paid by the piece rather than by the hour, they earn well below the minimum wage. Older, slower workers may earn as little as \$20 a day.

WHY SWEATSHOPS TODAY?

- Sweatshop workers, disadvantaged by cultural and language barriers, fear losing their jobs if they complain. Undocumented workers fear being discovered and deported.
- There are only 800 Dept. of Labor inspectors to check 6,000,000 U.S. work sites. Sweatshops can easily become mobile operations, making them even more difficult to regulate. "Just rent space, pay the electric bill, have a few sewing machines, and you're in business," said a UNITE (Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees) representative.

TO 'GO UP THE RIVER'

tracing the supply chain for products we buy, the many steps that deliver a product from a worker's hands to ours, is not easy!

To help you, use Co-op America's 'Guide to Ending Sweatshops' With knowledge you can help keep sweatshop labor out of our supply chain. Read tips on how to shift spending toward sweat-free companies, demand corporate responsibility from offenders, and advocate for fair labor conditions. You may download the Guide from: <http://www.coopamerica.org/programs/sweatshops/>

Favorite Chocolate Bar?



A \$1.00 chocolate bar is probably produced by M&M/Mars or Hershey Chocolate.

- Of the price of the candy bar, the producer gets 95¢, The cocoa farmer gets 5¢.
- Hershey's and M&M/Mars control 67% of the US chocolate market, generating \$13 billion in retail sales (2001).
- The Ivory Coast produces 43% of the world's cocoa. Research by the *International Institute of Tropical Agriculture* revealed 248,000 children between ages 9 to 12 work in hazardous conditions on West African cocoa farms. 67% of these children do not regularly attend school.
- Cocoa pickers are boys — underfed, locked in filthy sleeping quarters, forced to work 12 hours a day, hauling 50 pound bags of beans. These boys have never tasted chocolate. To see for yourself, go to: <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/>

Going up the River:

- Google 'Fair Trade Chocolate' to find places where you can purchase Fair Trade Chocolate.
- Use Fair Trade Chocolate for the next fund raiser at your school or parish.

Your Morning Cup of Coffee & the aroma of roasted coffee beans!

The largest percent of the cost of a can of coffee goes to the retailer. The retailer pays a percentage of the coffee price to the distributor, who in turn pays the coffee company, who pays the exporter, who pays the processor, and the middle man. The farmer, who grew and harvested the coffee beans, earns 1¢ when you buy a \$1.50 cup of coffee.

To eke out a living, the coffee farmer often uses children as cheap labor to harvest the coffee beans.



Going up the River:

Buy Fair Trade: www.justcoffee.org/

Local Stores carrying Fair Trade Coffee:

- Whole Foods
- Trader Joes
- Peets Coffee & Tea
- Starbucks (on request)



Action

Thank You

We wish to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the

Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project during 2008:

- Our SPONSORS, listed on pg. 1
- Mary Jo & Donald Layden Jr. Family Foundation Milwaukee, WI
- Sisters of St. Benedict Clyde, MO
- Fr. Michael Newman SDS Chico, CA
- SDS Western Region California, Arizona
- Lutheran Women's Missionary League Lockeford, CA
- Lay Salvatorians Huntsville, AL
- Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters Techny, IL
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary US/Ontario Province
- Loretto Women's Network St. Louis, MO
- S. Carmel Marie Silva OP Fremont, CA
- Fr. Tom Novak SDS Milwaukee, WI
- 8th Day Center of Justice Chicago, IL
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- Mary Smith Ithaca, NY
- S. Alice Bouchard OSU New Rochelle, NY
- S. Margaret Bosch SDS Milwaukee, WI

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

Progress Made During 2008

During 2008 the 'Not for Sale' Campaign, established by David Batstone, a University of San Francisco ethics professor, grew into a global network of abolitionists, involving colleges, high schools and faith organizations.

In February 2008 UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced a multi-year global 'Campaign to End Violence Against Women.' We must "stop the untold cost that violence against women inflicts on all humankind. Women and girls have the right to live free of violence, today and in the future," he said.

In March 2008 UNANIMA International began a campaign to counter human trafficking through efforts to 'stop the demand' for the purchase of women and children, rather than only focus on protecting and reintegrating victims already trafficked.

In July 2008 Burger King agreed to give Florida farmworkers a penny more per pound of picked tomatoes. That represents an annual raise of 71% for the farmworkers, who earned only \$10,000 a year under the old wage, and are among the most exploited workers in the U.S.

In July 2008 the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline announced that it was receiving more calls, more tips and was able to refer people to local authorities for help.

In September 2008 the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 3887/S. 3061) was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar (No. 946) under General Orders. The TVPRA offers additional protections for victims, takes steps to prevent the trafficking of children, and ensures that foreign labor recruiters do not engage in modern-day slavery.

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

'Red Hand Day Campaign: One Million Red Hands Against the Use of Child Soldiers'

Help present UN officials in New York with one million red hands on Red Hand Day, February 12, 2009, the anniversary of the day the treaty to ban child soldiers took effect.
<http://www.redhandday.org>

Write to government officials to help prevent trafficking at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

<http://www.schalifax.ca/sub/03global/01aabout.html>

E-Bay unveiled WorldofGood.com, an e-commerce marketplace that allows consumers to support artisan women in developing nations. The products, producers and sellers are verified by Trust Providers, like TransFair USA (Fair Trade Certified), Co-op America and Aid to Artisans.

In October 2008 Verizon, Sprint and Time Warner Cable agreed to purge their servers of Internet bulletin boards and Web sites nationwide that disseminate child pornography.

In October 2008 Senate bill S.2135 entitled, "To end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world" became Public Law No: 110-340.

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>

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