

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

February 2009 Vol. 7 No. 2

This issue highlights the efforts of students to work against human trafficking.

Sponsors:

Sisters of the Divine Savior

Co-Sponsors:

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica
- Capacitar International, Inc.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice
- Daughters of Charity, East Central Prov.
- Daughters of Charity, Northeast Prov.
- Daughters of Charity, West Central Prov.
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of the West
- Daughters of Wisdom
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
- Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY
- Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
- Holy Union Sisters
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region 2
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato Prov.
- Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, USA Province
- Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, WI
- Sisters of Bon Secours USA
- Sisters of Charity of Halifax
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham NJ & Wilmette, IL
- Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of Notre Dame, California Prov.
- Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Prov.
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada
- Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother
- Sisters of St. Anne, U.S., Canada & Chile.
- Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs
- Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union USA

Students Active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement A Dream Coming True

Writing for a Stevens Point WI newspaper in December 2008, Joseph Quinnell recounted his story and his dilemma. *"The Thailand Project started as almost as a whim, but grew into an international cooperation that gained human rights for two stateless people and allowed hundreds of children in Southeast Asia the ability to dream of a better future. We need money to keep it going."*



(L to R Quinnell, two students from Thailand, Perri

During Quinnell's second year as an art student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) in 2005, two classes on the power of photography stirred in him. On a whim, he bought a digital camera and a round-trip ticket to Thailand. He researched the atrocities of child trafficking and prostitution and set off to document these crimes of humanity through photography and search for a glimmer of hope.

Quinnell cont. pg. 4

'Not For Sale' Campaign

Not For Sale is a campaign of individuals, musicians, artists, people of faith, businesses, schools, and sports teams united to inspire a new generation of abolitionists to fight the modern global slave trade.

The Campaign is based on Univ. of San Francisco Professor David Batstone's book *"Not For Sale: the Return of the Global Slave Trade and What We Can Do to Fight it"*. Confronting human trafficking can be emotionally and physically draining. However, the Campaign's ability to empower individuals to do their part makes it a leading social movement in combating this global injustice.

Batstone challenged his students to uncover where slavery might be occurring in their own area, providing them with skills to accomplish the assignment.



Through research, interviews, and investigation the students began to uncover high probability areas where trafficking

Not For Sale
cont. pg. 2



Awareness

Students & Artists Fight to End Human Slavery

Students & Artists Fighting to End Human Slavery is a grassroots initiative that works to build a network of artists, survivors, supporters, activists creatively engaging with the anti-trafficking movement.

Because human slavery impacts everyone in the U.S., SAFEHS seeks to empower the community to recognize its agency in promoting social change and abolishing human slavery through creative means.

SAFEHS offers a creative space in which the community may define what human slavery / human trafficking means and how everyone is impacted by this global phenomenon. Located in northern CA, SAFEHS collaborates nationally.

In 2008 SAFEHS organized “A Time Line of Films on Prostitution and Resources.” This interactive time line (http://www.safehs.com/films_prostitution.htm) is meant to illustrate the long history of cinematic representations of prostitution and was inspired by the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women’s* (CATW) action against HBO on April 24, 2008. CATW was protesting HBO’s reality series *Cathouse* set in a brothel. “HBO for some time now has been normalizing the demand for prostitution, which fuels sex trafficking. Its most recent example, ‘Cathouse’, distorts the reality of the sex industry by transforming pimps into businessmen, and by presenting the buying and selling of women as harmless and normal,” said Norma Ramos, Co-Executive Director of CATW. (<http://www.safehs.com/>)

Not For Sale cont. from pg. 1

might be occurring in San Francisco. By cross-referencing research and advertisements, craigslist.org, myred-book.com and newspaper information, certain businesses began to stand out more. A 24-hour stakeout was conducted to see who came and went from these businesses.

After a full semester of research the class felt that they had compiled enough evidence to present their findings about one particular massage parlor to the SF District Attorney’s office. Students from one year help train students coming in the next year so the research continues.

(Documentary about the students’ efforts to map slavery in San Francisco: <http://zipidee.com/profile.aspx?userid=c7a2aa00-d96a-4491-ab65-f1d36835b7ba>)

Students from across the country are using *Not for Sale Campaign* resources like *Slaverymap* (<http://www.slaverymap.org>) to highlight where human trafficking is occurring in their own areas. Students now conduct mapping from many schools including CA Lutheran Univ., Winona State Univ., Boston College, Gordon College, Kenesaw State Univ., College of Charleston SC, Syracuse University, Seattle Pacific Univ., USF, and more.

In addition the *Campaign* has expanded into a national student abolitionist network with students giving presentations on human trafficking, coordinating others’ efforts to map slavery in their own areas, and distributing resources containing the national hotline number (888 3737 888) to high probability locations.

Students also have an option to be connected with projects abroad that expose them to the realities of poverty and for which they can help raise funds to keep the projects going.

Kilian Moote of the *Not For Sale Campaign* shared, “The completion of *Veronica’s House*’ in Lima Peru is one of the highlights of my experience in the *Not For Sale Campaign*. I spent the summer working with the street

children in Lima, who are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

One of them, Veronica age 14, was forced onto the streets by poverty and was tricked into debt bondage by a pimp. Our team had been working with her but we didn’t have an emergency shelter on the streets of Lima for the children. Our team could only monitor her during the day but at night her pimp controlled her. A man, who forced Veronica to have sex, murdered her. The completion of *Veronica’s House*’ allows us to provide full-time care and services for an extended number of children on the streets and hopefully prevent what happened to Veronica.”

By embracing open-source technology like wiki-sites and social media the *Not for Sale Campaign* is redefining how individuals fight human trafficking. Whether it’s collecting over 75,000 signatures in little over a month or informing consumers what companies have slavery in their supply chain (www.free2work.org), *Not For Sale* members know that they make a difference and that slavery must end in our lifetime.



Slavery Map

Part of the *Not For Sale Campaign*, *Slavery Map* allows registered users of the web site (<http://www.slaverymap.org>) to document known cases of human trafficking. Readers visiting the site may click on the map to learn about those reported cases. To date 235 cases are recorded on the site.

Users are urged to report non-documented current cases to the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline: 888-3737-888*.



Awareness

Teens Work to End Sexual Exploitation

Minga (an Ecuadorean Quechua word that means *‘the coming together of a community to work for the betterment of all’*) is a youth-run nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the global child sex trade through education. Founded in 2006 by then 14-year old Katie Simon, the first *Minga* members learned about the child sex trade and began raising money through community yard sales in Newton, MA.

After raising their first \$6,500 they have become a fast-spreading movement of youth, adults, non-profit leaders, businesses, schools, families, and religious communities dedicated to ending the worst form of child exploitation, preventing further exploitation and rehabilitating victims of the child sex trade in Boston, Guatemala and the Philippines.

By working with educators, social workers, and youth service providers, *Minga* hopes to give children everywhere the opportunity to experience a happy childhood. *Minga* engages middle-, high-school, and college students in programs that:

- Empower them to get involved in the fight to end child exploitation.
- Prevent at-risk youth from entering into prostitution.
- Prevent our generation from becoming future abusers.

Minga currently partners with organizations in Thailand, the Philippines, Guatemala, Canada, and the United States. Among its various partner programs is *OneChild*, a youth-run nonprofit based out of Toronto. Beginning with a joint project in the Philippines with PREDA, *Minga* has since worked with *OneChild* to pressure American Airlines to air an in-flight video warning potential offenders that they can be punished for their exploitative actions abroad as if they had acted at home, as well as to raise general awareness. This joint campaign was based largely on *OneChild’s* successful campaign with Air Canada.

In another partnership with *The Home For Little Wanderers*, *Minga* seeks to educate the greater-Boston-area about the realities of prostitution and to prevent at-risk youth from running away into “*the life*” through the program, *My Life My Choice*.

Youth are invited to start their own *Minga Youth-For-Change Group* (MYFCG)! MYFCGs got started the first year of *Minga’s* existence, and have been expanding since. *Minga* hopes to get more youth to get involved in this completely youth-run organization. A packet explaining how to get started is on the *Minga* web site: <http://www.v3.mingagroup.org/>



The ‘Somaly Mam Foundation’

Two Air Force Academy graduates, *Nicholas Lumpp* and *Jared Greenberg*, while in Cambodia talked to young girls forced into prostitution.



N. Lumpp

“We asked them how they felt about what was going on, what they wanted to be when they grew up. They

couldn’t answer these questions,” said Lumpp. But when they spoke to girls, who had been rescued months before, they said, *“I want to be a doctor, I want to get a master’s degree.”*

Inspired, the two young men started the *Somaly Mam Foundation*, named after a former victim who has now saved more than four thousand women and children.

Somaly Mam — One of Time Magazine’s 2008 ‘Persons Who Mattered’

For a long time silence was survival for *Somaly Mam* — when she was raped in her Cambodian village at 12; forced to marry at 14; sold into a brothel in Phnom Penh at 16; raped, beaten and tortured more times than she could remember by clients and pimps until she escaped at about 21. The ages are approximate. She doesn’t know how old she is. (“Maybe 37. Maybe 38. Maybe younger.”)

Along the way she learned not to be silent, an achievement she cannot fully explain. Her hard-earned ability to speak out has helped her rescue 4,000 girls and women from brothels in the last decade. It helped her build one of the largest nongovernmental organizations in Cambodia, with 150 employees, sheltering 220 women and girls, with more in shelters in Vietnam and Laos.

Her autobiography, *“The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine,”* helps to raise money for the *Somaly Mam Foundation* (<http://www.somaly.org>).



4

Awareness

Quinnell *cont. from pg. 1*

In *Mae Sai*, a border town with Myanmar (formerly Burma) and the size of Stevens Point, Quinnell read news stories about the *Development Education Program for Daughters and Community* (DEPDC).

DEPDC is a nonprofit, community-based NGO. The school and shelter focus on working toward preventative solutions to the problems of human trafficking, child prostitution and other exploitative child-labor situations. DEPDC offers free informal education, vocational training and full-time accommodation for people ages 4 to 25.

During his first visit to the school, a DEPDC volunteer was giving a tour when a group of children suddenly ran past; laughter dancing within a cloud of dust. "Those children do not exist," the volunteer said. "What do you mean?" Quinnell asked. "They don't exist," she repeated. "They have no papers, no birth certificates ... They are illegal immigrants in every country. They are not allowed to attend grade school, high school, college or work legally. They have no future."

Through Quinnell's experiences and research, it was clear — statelessness was a significant root cause of child trafficking, prostitution and extreme poverty. (See UNESCO, pg. 5 for re-

search.) Back at school he formulated an idea, the *Thailand Project* (<http://www.uwsp.edu/special/thailandproject/index2.htm>); but he needed help. First, the University created a partnership between UWSP and DEPDC. Normally it takes two years to create a new international program. 'Arts for Humanity in Thailand' was created in less than two months, as UWSP administration and professors came together to cut through red tape. 'Arts for Humanity in Thailand' annually sends 15 socially conscious students and a professor from UWSP's College of Fine Arts and Communication

to Mae Sai, Thailand. Serving as DEPDC's exclusive fine arts resource, UWSP students prepare lessons and teach classes in dance, theater, music, art and communication to more than 300 children in kindergarten through high school.

Next Quinnell debuted at UWSP the *Thailand Project's "An Allowance of Dream"* — a traveling photog-

raphy exhibit. He also began to speak publicly of the *Thailand Project's* most ambitious goal — "*Higher Education as Humanitarian Aid*", which would provide a college education and secure basic human rights for stateless graduates from DEPDC, who have dedicated their lives to the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation. The *Thailand Project's* goal was to bring two students to UWSP every few years to earn their bachelor's degree so they could return to Thailand and help others. "In Thailand from being stateless to having a degree from abroad is a gigantic leap forward," Quinnell said.

The idea was welcomed by UWSP Chancellor Linda Bunnell, but with a huge logistical hurdle: How would a stateless person, who cannot pass through a checkpoint of their district, gain permission to exit Thailand, enter



Photo by Joseph Quinnell

Aor Saokhamnuan and her mother in front of their home in Mae Sai. Photo J. Quinnell

the U.S. and then re-enter Thailand after their studies are completed?

Back in Thailand, the head of the Thai visa division told Quinnell he would have to obtain permissions from three government agencies. "He didn't ever expect to see us again," Quinnell said. But Quinnell and his partner, Susan Perri, did everything the man asked. They got permission from the head of immigration, the provincial office and the ministry of the interior to allow stateless people to leave the country, an unprecedented concession. Armed with permission from an American university, the U.S. Embassy and the Thai government, Quinnell and Perri procured paperwork and passports for two young women — another first for stateless individuals.

The first two students, Fongtip Boonsri and Srinuan Saokhamnuan, arrived in Stevens Point on Aug. 24, 2008 and the next day were in orientation classes. "This is more than I ever expected," Boonsri said through an interpreter. "I wanted to study psychology and I actually can." The two realize the work ahead of them, not just in the classroom, but as ambassadors for Thailand and the project. They also know how important it is to get those degrees and go back to help the stateless children who weren't as lucky. "It's not a problem we can ignore," said Saokhamnuan, who wants to become a spokeswoman at the DEPDC school she attended in Thailand. "My first thoughts were, I would

Quinnell *cont. pg. 5*



Aor Saokhamnuan (green sweater) and Fongtip Boonsri (striped shirt) prepare to leave their friends at DEPDC.



Advocacy

Quinnell *cont. from pg. 4*

have to graduate and succeed so I can go back and work in Thailand."

Now the *Thailand Project* is in jeopardy because funds are running out. So in February 2009, Quinnell, Perri, a representative of DEPDC and UWSP Chancellor Bunnell will go to Austin, TX to present the project to the *Clinton Global Initiative* to try to secure an endowment that would sustain the project for years, as well as create a permanent university position to oversee it. A \$1 million endowment to the UWSP Foundation would generate enough interest every year to sustain the *Thailand Project* and even add more students in the future.

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008812160634>

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008812170700>

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008812170699>

Student Anti-Trafficking Toolkit

Vital Voices designed the *Toolkit* to help students on college and university campuses throughout the U.S. raise awareness about human trafficking. The *Toolkit* consists of the following:

- An informational flier on human trafficking;
- A trafficking victim flier to inform victims of their rights under the U.S. law; and
- A flier listing actions college students can take to raise awareness about trafficking.

(http://www.vitalvoices.org/files/docs/College_Toolkit.pdf)

UNESCO Findings

The Culture Unit of the *UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) identified 'lack of citizenship' as the major risk factor for highland girls and women in Thailand to be trafficked or, otherwise, exploited. Without legal status, ethnic minority people are considered 'illegal aliens' and subject to arrest, deportation, extortion and other forms of abuse and denied these basic human rights:

- The right to vote.
- The right to land ownership.
- The right to travel beyond their home districts or provinces. (Limits job opportunities)
- The right to obtain a certificate after finishing school. (Limits job and schooling opportunities)
- The right to access state welfare services such as medical care and treatment.

There are currently more than two million stateless people in Thailand alone. In response to these findings, UNESCO trains and supports NGOs to assist hill tribes people in meeting the Thai requirements for registration and citizenship. UNESCO cooperates with the *UN Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking of Women and Children* (UNIAP) and with a wide variety of Thai and hill tribe NGOs, universities, and Thai Government agencies.

(<http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/our-projects/protection-of-endangered-and-minority-cultures/trafficking-and-hiv-aids-project/projects/highland-citizenship-and-birth-registration-project/>)

Vital Voices Study

Vital Voices Global Partnership conducted a study, 'Stateless and Vulnerable to Human Trafficking in Thailand.' (June 2007) This report examined the legal obstacles to obtaining citizenship for tribal people in northern Thailand and their subsequent vulnerability to human trafficking.

(http://www.vitalvoices.org/desktopdefault.aspx?page_id=463)

FAIR Fund

FAIR Fund works internationally to engage youth, especially young women, in civil society in the areas of anti-human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and the development of youth capacity-building programs. *FAIR Fund* works directly with youth advisors and community-based organizations to design programs geared at engaging youth in civic activism. *FAIR Fund's* efforts center on preventing gender-based violence through community outreach, alternative life-skills development, and peer education. Its programs bring together community-based organizations, youth, women's and child rights advocates, governmental officials, and universities with the understanding that ending the sexual violence and exploitation of young people takes a holistic approach.

Headquartered in Washington D.C., *FAIR Fund* programs have provided technical and programmatic support to over 60 social service organizations in 13 countries throughout the U.S., the Balkans, the former Soviet Union, Central Asia, and eastern Africa. Partners receive capacity-building, programmatic collaboration, and financial support to develop sustainable solutions in two primary program areas 1) reducing gender violence in youth, including human trafficking and 2) increasing girls' leadership and civic empowerment.

A majority of its programs are centered in the Balkans region of Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, where young women often do not have access to the funding or programmatic support to actively reduce gender-based violence. In Bosnia alone, up to 40 percent of women suffer from regular violence in the home. And, in Russia, where up to 20,000 women a year are murdered by their partners, there are no laws prohibiting domestic violence.

Its campaigns include: *Campus Coalition Against Trafficking* (pg. 6); *Community Responses to Human Trafficking*; *Dru Campaign*; *Generation Aware*; *JewelGirls*; and *Project Prepare*. (<http://www.fairfund.org/>)



Advocacy

Campus Coalition Against Trafficking

The *Campus Coalition Against Trafficking* is a student grassroots movement to stop modern-day slavery. CCAT's main goal is to build the anti-trafficking movement by training emerging leaders, fostering youth empowerment, raising awareness about human trafficking and encouraging linkages among social justice issues.

Founded by *Fair Fund*, CCAT has a network of college groups across the U.S. The CCAT Web site provides helpful anti-trafficking resources. (http://ccatcoalition.web.aplus.net/?page_id=49)

Enough Is Enough

The *Enough Is Enough* (EIE) mission is to make the Internet safer for children and families. Statistics from their website:

- Every second, \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography, 28,258 Internet viewers are viewing pornography, 372 Internet users are typing adult search terms into search engines, and every 39 minutes, a new pornographic video is made in the U.S. (Internet Filter Review, 2006).

- Twelve percent of all websites are pornographic websites. There are 4.2 million pornographic websites, 420 million pornographic web pages, and 68 million daily pornographic search engine requests (or 25% of total search engine requests) (Internet Filter Review, 2006).

- 79% of youth unwanted exposure to pornography occurs in the home (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later, 2006). (<http://www.enough.org>)

Students Stopping the Trafficking of People (SSTOP)



SSTOP is a student organization at Georgetown University and was founded in April 2004 by a group of young women who were empowered to do something about the issue of human trafficking.

The purpose of SSTOP is to raise awareness, educate each other and other students, provide service to survivors of trafficking within the DC community, fundraise for elected organizations, and take this issue to the global level.

(<http://studentorgs.georgetown.edu/sstop/>)

Awareness Raising in Ecuador

S.T.O.P. (Stopping the Trafficking of Persons), a Dominican University student organization in River Forest IL, working in conjunction with the *American Bar Association* in Ecuador helped to bring Ecuador from a Tier 3 to a Tier 2 status in the *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*.

During a 10-week internship program the Dominican students trained Ecuadorian legal representatives and social workers on how to identify and help victims of trafficking, and worked with at-risk youth through the *Foundation for Our Youth* in Quito. The students organized several conferences for Ecuadorian high school and college students to educate them about human trafficking, sharing tips for identifying traffickers, the methods they use for ensnaring youth, and where youth could get help.

(www.dom.edu/events-news/media-releases/2007-06/article_0011.html)

"Hundreds of thousands of students who will be lawyers, doctors, legislators and policy makers should know something about the trafficking of persons."

Mohamed Mattar, Exec. Dir., *Protection Project*.

Educating Students

A 2007 survey done by the *Protection Project* at *Johns Hopkins University* found that human trafficking was included in courses taught at universities in the following areas of study: • Political Science; • Global Health; • Government; • History; • International Relations; • Globalization; • Women's Studies; • Organized Crime; • Social Work; • Anthropology; • Sociology; • Geography; • Business; • Slavery; • International Human Rights; • Global sex and Global Families; • Illicit International Markets; • Biotechnology and Social Policy; • Women as objects: Supermodels and Sex Workers; • Philosophical aspects of War and Peace; • Prostitution and Human Rights; • Civil Society and Human Rights; • National Security Issues; • International Studies; • Children at Risk; and • Transnationalism and Global Governance.



Action

Lagon Leaves the TIP Office

In January 2009 Ambassador Mark Lagon resigned from his position as Director of the *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* at the U.S. State Dept. He will take over as Executive Director of *Polaris Project*.

During his closing remarks, he made the following statement about the new administration, *"I am certain intense attention will be paid both to the sexual exploitation and forced labor sides of the 'human trade,' which victimizes millions of adults and children around the world.*

It should be no surprise it will be a continued focus. I saw as a Senate staffer the coalition that propelled the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000.

So too, bipartisan unity on the need to prioritize and fund U.S. Government programs to stamp out slavery has been rock-solid in my tenure. It only stands to grow.

Please help it to build and accelerate, so dehumanized victims become re-humanized survivors — until the day when slavery is no more."

Sincerely yours,
Amb. Mark P. Lagon

Florida Survey: Compiling Data to Help Undocumented Students

If you know of Florida high school students whose legal status in the US expired or who do not have legal paperwork, go to <http://education.fiu.edu/survey.htm> and fill out the survey. Forward it to these students who would benefit from the DREAM ACT.

The survey is strictly confidential and the data is being compiled by professor Glenda Musoba of *Florida International University* in order to learn the best way to provide aid to undocumented youth nationwide.

Juan Rodriguez, *Students Working for Equal Rights*

Call for Passage of the 'DREAM Act'

Many American students graduate from college and high school each year and face a roadblock to their dreams: they cannot drive, work legally, further their education, or pay taxes to contribute to the economy. Why? Because they were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents or lost legal status along the way. Wasted human potential, broken dreams, and a permanent underclass of youth is detrimental to our future. Former Rep. Sen. Orrin Hatch said: *"Although these children have built their lives here, they have no possibility of achieving and living the American dream. What a tremendous loss for them; what a tremendous loss to our society."*

The federal DREAM Act (*Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act*, Senate bill 2205), introduced by Sen. Richard Durban (D-IL) in October 2007, is a bipartisan bill that would permit undocumented students conditional legal status and eventual citizenship if they meet the following requirements:

- were brought to the U.S. before they turned 16,
- are below the age of 30,
- have lived here continuously for five years,
- graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED
- have good moral character with no criminal record
- and attend college or enlist in the military for at least two years.

Besides the injustice of punishing children for the alleged transgressions of their parents, throwing away the talent we have invested in from K-12 and accruing losses in human and financial capital, deporting talented students is bad public policy. The Social Security Administration reported that we need a net increase of 100,000 immigrants each year to ensure Social Security solvency. Passing the DREAM Act would help solve the Social Security crisis by creating a larger taxable base of educated Americans that are already in the U.S. It would also free some of the backlog that currently plagues the legal immigration system. The Dream Deferred website (<http://adreamdeferred.org/>) has a three minute video clip on why the Dream Act is so important.

During the campaign Barack Obama called it a top priority. Tell President Obama to pass the DREAM Act in 2009. Get involved at: DreamActivist.org or ADreamDeferred.org





Action

Educational Materials

In January 2009 the *Canadian Religious Conference* (CRC) launched an educational kit entitled, *Being a Global Village - Human Trafficking and the 2010 Olympics*. It is to be used with high school students or youth groups.

The purpose of the kit is to help re-frame public dialogue about trafficking in persons to focus on exploitation for profit. The goal is to raise awareness among high school students of the linkage between high profile sporting events and the increase of trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation.

The kit includes material for three sessions, including powerpoint presentation, the DVD *The Oldest Oppression* and suggestions for prayer.

Nancy Brown, SC Halifax

The kit may be purchased from the CRC National Office at:
<http://www.crc-canada.org>

Meetup Action Group

“Responding to the article in the January issue on using social networking, I’m one of the coordinators for the *Los Angeles Fight Human Trafficking Meetup*.

The *Polaris Project* founded this group when it had an LA office and we continue its work. We have over 150 members and usually have an average turnout of 12-15 at our monthly meetings. The *Meetup* has screened films, had guest speakers from local trafficking task forces and other agencies, hosted an awareness and fundraising garage sale and otherwise worked to provide resources for people interested in fighting modern slavery.”

Lisa Helene Donovan

If your group has used social networking sites for public awareness or recruitment regarding anti-human trafficking efforts, please e-mail your social networking activity examples to: trafficking@acf.hhs.gov

Benedictines Take Corporate Stance

*“Committed to ‘Peace,’ our Benedictine motto, and to the personal and social transformation of our culture of fear to a culture of love and right relationship, we, the **Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas**, denounce human trafficking. As followers of Christ, we affirm the dignity of each person. We invite all drawn to this cause to join us in continuing to extend compassion to the abused, to explore ways to eliminate human exploitation, and to raise awareness about this issue.”*

Recently, the Benedictines dedicated their February 5th - 6th *Guilfoil Justice Day* to the topic. *“Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery”* featured keynote speaker Patrice Colletti SDS of Milwaukee, co-founder of an anti-trafficking organization, as well as workshops that highlighted local responses to the issue. The Benedictines sponsor this annual prayer and education gathering in Leawood KS with support from other area religious organizations.

Joining in a coalition with many other religious women throughout the world, the Benedictines have agreed to educate themselves and others about human trafficking. The community is a sponsor of the *Stop Trafficking* newsletter. They also will be working to improve laws against this modern day slavery.

Gabrielle Kocour, OSB

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

The Not for Sale Campaign

<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org>

Slavery Map

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

Good student reference sites:

iAbolish

http://www.iabolish.org/fundraising_guide/

Free the Slaves

<http://www.freetheslaves.net/NET-COMMUNITY/Page.aspx>

United We Dream

<http://dreamactivist.org/about/>

YouthNoise

<http://www.youthnoise.com/>

Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com>

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

Stop Trafficking!

is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of

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

Editing and Layout:
Jean Schafer, SDS