

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

March 2009 Vol. 7 No. 3

This issue highlights the U.N. Report on Trafficking as well as efforts by 'Stop Trafficking' sponsors to counter human slavery.

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UNODC: 'Global Report on Trafficking in Persons'

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recently released a *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Based on data gathered from 155 countries, it offers the U.N.'s first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it. The *Report* includes an overview of trafficking patterns, legal steps taken in response, and country-specific information on reported cases of human trafficking, victims, and prosecutions.

The Executive Director of UNODC, Antonio Maria Costa, highlighted the fact that while the number of convictions for human trafficking is increasing, two out of every five countries covered by the *UNODC Report* had not recorded a single conviction.

According to the *Report*, the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls. Surprisingly, in 30% of the countries, which provided information on the gender of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers.

The second most common form of human trafficking is forced labor (18%), although this may still be a misrepresentation because forced labor is less frequently detected and reported than is trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Worldwide, almost 20% of all trafficking victims are children. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong region, children are the majority (up to 100% in parts of West Africa).

To increase public awareness of human trafficking and rally the world to fight it, Mr. Costa appointed Academy Award-winning actress Mira Sorvino as a Goodwill Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking. "We know that Mira's commitment to the plight of trafficking victims will move people to take action against modern-day slavery," said Director Costa. (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/unodc-report-on-human-trafficking-exposes-modern-form-of-slavery-.html>)



Mira Sorvino, new Goodwill Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking, being congratulated by Exec. Director of UNODC, Antonio Maria Costa.



Awareness

UNODC Executive Director Costa's Preface in the Global Report on Human Trafficking

"The term *trafficking in persons* can be misleading: it places emphasis on the transaction aspects of a crime that is more accurately described as enslavement — exploitation of people, day after day — for years on end.

After much neglect and indifference, the world is waking up to the reality of a modern form of slavery. The public and the media are becoming aware that humans prey upon humans for money. Parliaments are passing appropriately severe laws. The judiciary is facing its anti-slavery responsibility, with more prosecutions and convictions. Civil society and (to a lesser extent) the private sector are mobilizing good-will and resources to assist victims.

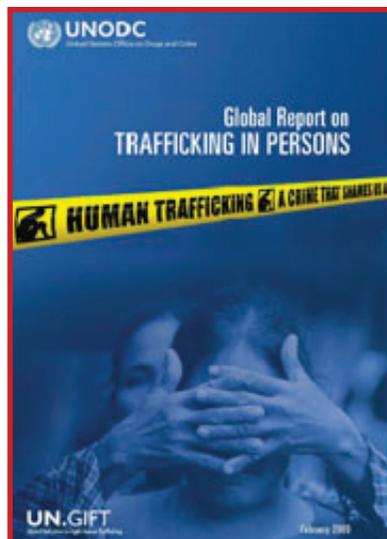
Hearing this wake-up call, politicians as well as ordinary people ask me *two* sets of questions. *First, they want to know how big the crime of human trafficking really is: how many victims are there? Who are the traffickers, what are their routes and their gains? What are the trends, namely is the problem getting ever more severe? Why and where?*

Second, people want to know what to do, individually and collectively. Why aren't governments and the United Nations, why aren't we all, doing more? Some people even mobilize personal resources to fight this crime: but for whom and how?

The first set of questions needs to be answered as a matter of priority. Only by understanding the depth, breadth and scope of the problem can we address the second issue, namely, how to counter it. So far we have not attained much knowledge and therefore initiatives have been inadequate and disjointed. Policy can be effective

if it is evidence-based, and so far the evidence has been scanty.

UNODC first attempted to identify human trafficking patterns in April 2006. This second report goes a step further, cataloguing and analyzing the world's response, based on criminal justice and victim assistance data from 155 countries. A few observations stand out, in lieu of conclusions.



First, over the past few years, the number of countries that have taken steps to implement the foremost international agreement in this area - the UN Protocol against Trafficking in Persons - has doubled. However, there are still many countries, particularly in Africa, that lack the necessary legal instruments.

Second, the number of convictions is increasing, but not proportionately to the growing awareness (and probably, size) of the problem. Most convictions still take place in only a few countries. While these countries may have human trafficking problems more serious than others, they are doing something

about them. On the other hand, as of 2007/08, two out of every five countries covered by this report had not recorded a single conviction. Either they are blind to the problem, or they are ill-equipped to deal with it. I urge governments and other stakeholders to call on UNODC expertise, including the recently published Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, to show their commitment.

Third, sexual exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (79%), followed by forced labour (18%). This may be the result of statistical bias. By and large the exploitation of women tends to be visible, in city centres, or along highways. Because it is more frequently reported, sexual exploitation has become the most documented type of trafficking, in aggregate statistics. In comparison, other forms of exploitation are under-reported: forced or bonded labour; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade, and warfare.

Fourth, a disproportionate number of women are involved in human trafficking, not only as victims (which we knew), but also as traffickers (first documented here). Female offenders have a more prominent role in present-day slavery than in most other forms of crime. This fact needs to be addressed, especially the cases where former victims have become perpetrators.

Fifth, most trafficking is national or regional, carried out by people whose nationality is the same as that of their victims. There are also notable cases of long-distance trafficking. Europe is

U.N. Report cont. pg. 3



Awareness

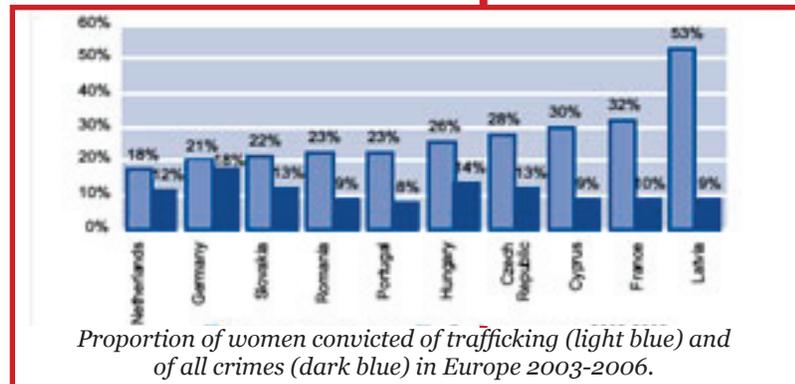
U.N. Report *cont. from pg. 2*

the destination for victims from the widest range of origins, while victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations. The Americas are prominent both as the origin and destination of victims in the human trade.

This report increases our partial understanding of the forces at play in modern slave markets. Yet internationally standardized data are still not available, a limitation that hampers the sharing of information between and among states, and with the UNODC. Aggregated statistics cannot be put together neither at geographic nor thematic levels.

As a consequence, we still lack a global understanding of the subject, and of how its components interact to make the whole. Think of illicit drugs, the most heavily documented subject at UNODC. Drug control policies take into account data concerning the entire value-added chain (production, consumption, trade, etc.) of all drugs (opium, cocaine, amphetamines, etc.) in all markets (Afghanistan, Colombia, U.S., E.U., Iran, etc.). Drug information is organized in multidimensional data bases, so that policies can target the whole, and any of its parts (from therapy of addicts, to seizures of drugs, to conversion of cultures).

Nothing of this sort is possible today in the domain of human trafficking. We do not have as yet the logical categories needed to establish multidimensional data bases. We should be, but we are not, able to segment today's slave markets into their components (demand, supply, trafficking, and related prices). We must, but cannot,



Proportion of women convicted of trafficking (light blue) and of all crimes (dark blue) in Europe 2003-2006.

catalogue (for lack of data) the different types of slavery: exploitation through child-begging in Europe is different from what goes on in a brothel, or on a street corner in Australia. Preventative measures must also be adapted to take into account that an Asian father sells his underage daughter under circumstances different from what forces an African teenager into a rag-tag army of killers, or what pushes an illegal immigrant into a sweatshop in the Americas. Measures to rescue victims and punish criminals must vary accordingly.

I plead with social scientists in academia, and especially in governments, to work more intensively with UNODC to generate the logical categories and the statistical information needed for evidence-based, anti-slavery policy. The crisis we face of fragmented knowledge and disjointed responses intensifies a crime that shames us all."

*Antonio Maria Costa, Exec. Director
U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime*

Faith Leaders Ask Pres. Obama to Lead on Immigration Reform

On February 11, 2009 a group of national faith leaders from diverse traditions held a press conference calling on President Obama and the new Congress to prioritize immigration reform in 2009. Those participating in

the press conference were: *U.S. Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL); Eileen Campbell, RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Bishop Minerva*

Carcaño, Desert Southwest Annual Conf. of the United Methodist Church; Rabbi David Saperstein, Dir., Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Rev. William G. Sinkford, Pres., Unitarian Universalist Association; and Jim Wallis, President, Sojourners.

The group announced a national campaign, beginning during the February 2009 Congressional recess, that would engage religious groups and congregations in more than one hundred coordinated prayer vigils on immigration around the nation.

The *Coalition* will also release a faith platform highlighting the moral foundation and principles for a new immigration reform, endorsed by more than 500 national, regional and local congregations, and faith leaders.

Religious organizations have direct contact with immigrant communities in their congregations and ministries, which allow them to witness firsthand the human consequences of our broken immigration system. For this reason, the faith community is part of a growing movement to bring the country together in support of immigration policies that are just and honor the dignity of all people.



Advocacy

Important Coalition Forming In San Francisco

Prostitution Research & Education is organizing a *Coalition Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation* in northern California, subsequent to the work that many groups did together to defeat Proposition K in San Francisco in November 2008. Prop K would have decriminalized prostitution, rendering it impossible for police to bring charges against pimps and buyers as well.

Prop K had support coming from New York, the UK and Australia, among others. But a grassroots coalition of Bay area groups managed to convince voters to defeat Prop K by a 58% majority. The coalition members included the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)*, *End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA)*, *Stand Against Global Exploitation (SAGE)*, *Safe House*, *Prostitution Research & Education*, *Soroptimists of El Cerrito*, *Students & Artists Against Human Slavery* and many others.

For information about Prop K, and to see the many people across the US who came out against it, go to: <http://www.noonk.net>

To contact Melissa Farley Ph.D., head of Prostitution Research & Education: 415-922-4555 or mfarley@prostitutionresearch.com

Montreal Conference: 'Slavery in the 21st Century'

The *Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom* will hold its fourth annual conference on human trafficking March 31- April 3, 2009 in Montreal.

Topics include: *The Jewish Response to Human Trafficking*; *Keeping Children Safe: The Internet and Beyond*; and a panel addressing 'Men and Women: Building a United Alliance Against Human Trafficking.'

Speakers on the Panel: Joseph Vess of *Men Can Stop Rape*; Norma Ramos of the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International*; Victor Malarek, investigative journalist and author of *The Natashas* and forthcoming book (April/May 2009), *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men who Buy It*; and Dominic Monchamp, a Montreal Detective Sgt. Investigations Supervisor.

Dr. Laura Lederer, formerly of the US State Department and newly appointed Vice President for Policy and Planning of Global Centurion, will also speak.

All programs are free and open to the public. A donation will be appreciated. Advance reservation is required at: human@templemontreal.ca

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: 'Human Trafficking'



"As Secretary of State I view these issues (human trafficking) as central to our foreign policy, not as adjunct or auxiliary or in any way lesser from all of the other issues that we have to confront. ...

I take very seriously the function of the State Department to lead the U.S. Government through the Office on Human Trafficking to do all that we can to end this modern form of slavery. We have sex slavery. We have wage slavery and it is primarily a slavery of girls and women."

(<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/hillary-clinton-on-women-in-foreign-policy/>)

MFIC Corporate Stance

"We, the *United States Governance Circle of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception*, in our effort to reverence all creation, and to embrace all people, especially the marginalized, stand in solidarity with those caught in the snare of Human Trafficking.

We commit ourselves to uphold the dignity and human rights of those exploited by supporting advocacy, empowerment and sponsorship."

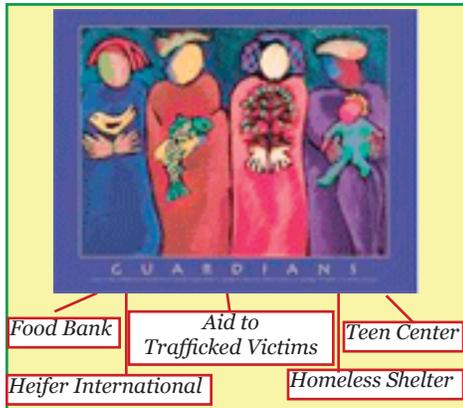


Action

'Stop Trafficking' Sponsors' Involvement in Anti-Trafficking Actions

Sisters of the Holy Family

• Marie Ann Brent in Valdez, Alaska wrote an article, included the topic in her homily and created a wall hanging using *The Guardians* (by Ann Altman, oil pastels, SCW© 1999.) so parishioners can see their responsibility regarding human trafficking.



- Diane Maguire collaborated with the Catholic Daughters to raise awareness by handing out rosaries and prayer cards to the parishes in Las Vegas.
- Darlene Peterson at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Brisbane, CA distributed tea candles with a handwritten reminder on a slip of paper stating, "Pray for the end to trafficking of humans." or "Remember those who are now victims of human trafficking." The handwritten reminder was preferred over typed script as it symbolized the hard labor that those trafficked suffer at the hands of their "owners." The tea candle and prayer reminder were wrapped in red cellophane, symbolic again of suffering, tied with a simple ribbon and distributed.
- Martin Moran in Fremont, CA brings a rosary prayer card to each

homebound person she visits, asking the person to pray daily for victims and for an end to human trafficking.

- We and the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose are sponsoring an informational day for the public on June 20, 2009 at the Sisters of the Holy Family Motherhouse.
- Our Motherhouse Liturgy Committee included an action related to human trafficking during Advent. Each week the committee provided materials and packets for people as they left the liturgy. Caritas Foster, SHF

Congregation of Notre Dame

Generally our work is in the context of Networks. With others, we have contacted public officials in Canada to sound the alarm against trafficking in conjunction with the coming Olympics. We have also collaborated in the efforts against human trafficking that have been organized by the Inter-institutional Commission of the National Immigration Forum of Honduras (FONAMIH).

In the United States our main emphasis is to advocate for state laws, which are effective. To that end we have participated in coalitions in New York and Connecticut. As a part of the NYSTOP Coalition, we have participated in an In-service Day for the Guidance Counselors of the Archdiocesan High Schools. There was a PowerPoint presentation and discussion with follow up materials, which included the UNANIMA International packet aimed at ending 'Demand'.

In Connecticut, we are active in the Collaborative Center for Justice,

which has worked with the task force that wrote and continues to evaluate state legislation on trafficking. We also took a class for local law enforcement officers specifically on enforcement of the new anti trafficking law. In addition we have written several letters to the editor of the New Haven newspaper. One was written in response to a proposal to legalize prostitution. We have participated in the early steps against trafficking organized in Rhode Island.

This year, the Congregation of Notre Dame of the Chardon Province have been raising awareness of the problem of human trafficking as we move towards taking a national corporate stance with the other three U.S. provinces. A formal corporate stance is a commitment on the part of all of us to support efforts and to make choices that will help to end modern slavery.

Sisters Nancy McDermott and Maureen Spillane are part of Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking, a group of concerned citizens advocating for prevention and abolition of human trafficking in the areas of Youngstown, Cleveland, and Toledo.

In the Chardon Province a Human Trafficking committee has been formed. Sisters Laura Wingert and Barbara Daugherty are co-chairs of this committee.

On March 9, 2009, Celia Williamson from the University of Toledo and founder of Second Chance in Toledo was a guest speaker on Human Trafficking at a public conference at Notre Dame Educational Center in Chardon.

Pat McCarthy CND



Action

Call President Obama

During his campaign President Obama spoke of the need for immigration reform. Call and express your concern that he live up to this promise. It is vital to contact the President during his first 100 days in office.

1. CALL THE WHITE HOUSE.

Explain in your own words: *"I am a US citizen. I ask the President to undertake comprehensive immigration reform. For the sake of immigrants among us and for the sake of our country, please begin **Comprehensive Immigration Reform** now."*

PHONE NUMBERS:

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

2. ASK others to do the same.

3. WRITE THE PRESIDENT

On the White House website, one reads: *"President Obama is committed to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. To send questions, comments, concerns, or well-wishes to the President or his staff, please use the form below."*

E-MAIL: Find and submit the simple form online at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

REGULAR POST:

The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20500

FAX: 202-456-2461

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

Sponsors *cont. from pg. 5*

Sisters of St. Anne (U.S., Canada & Chile)

The *Sisters of Saint Anne* (SSA) in July 2008 announced their corporate stand against human trafficking in a Letter to the Editor of the *Worcester (MA) Telegram*.

They are currently supporting the efforts of Senator Mark C. Montigny (MA-D) who has introduced legislation against human trafficking. Unfortunately Bill 97 is still in committee.

Constance Gemme, a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa, spoke to the Sisters of St. Anne and their Associates about her efforts to raise awareness about trafficking in Ghana and the U.S.

S. Catherine Ferguson SNJM, Director of UNANIMA International, spoke to the SSAs in the U.S. and Chile about the UNANIMA 'Demand' Campaign.

Some SSAs continue to attend workshops on human trafficking sponsored by LCWR Boston Unit, hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston (CSJ).

Carol Proietti SSA

Daughters of Wisdom

As a participant in the *NY Coalition of Religious Against Human Trafficking*, the *Daughters of Wisdom* (DW) have engaged one of our communities to be a safe house for victims of trafficking.

The DWs are collaborating with *Lifeway Solutions*, a provider, to prepare a memorandum of understanding and receive training. Two other congregations are also involved.

Ann Gray, DW

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

UN Report

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

Four minute HT video

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

The Guardians

<http://syracuseculturalworkers.com/poster-guardians>

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

A 'Not For Sale Campaign' will be held on March 18, 2009 in Kingston, Ontario. The guest speaker is *David Batstone*, Professor of Social Ethics, University of San Francisco and author of 'Not For Sale'.

The two-hour event is sponsored by the *Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul* and the *Canadian Religious Conference*.

Peggy Flanagan SP



Information:
www.providence.ca

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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