

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

February 2010 Vol. 8 No. 2

This issue highlights studies that indicate women and children continue to suffer under all forms of sexual exploitation.

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- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union USA

**For Practical Action
See pg. 7**

To Stop Human Trafficking We Must 'Stop the Demand'

Because of the often hidden and stigmatized nature of prostitution, it is very difficult to produce reliable and accurate estimates of the number of people who procure sex.

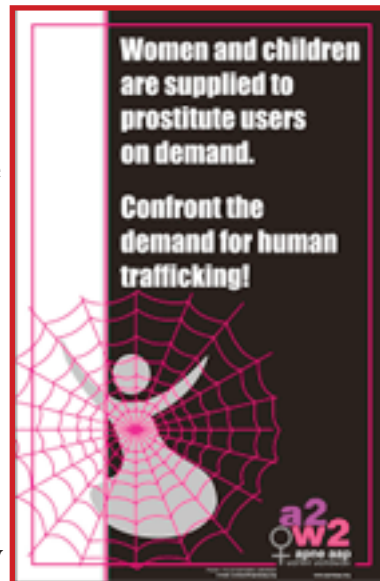
The sex market can be classified into sub-markets: the 'on-street' sex market and various indoor environments (working from home; escorts; brothels; and licensed saunas). The 'on-street' market appears to form a relatively small sector compared with indoor markets.

(*Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: a Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Published Research Literature*, Dr Aidan Wilcox, Kris Christmann, Michelle Rogerson & Philip Birch, Univ. of Huddersfield, UK December 2009.)

Gender-Based Violence

"Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence involving men and women, in which the female is usually the victim; and which is derived from unequal power relationships between men and women. Violence is directed specifically against a woman because she is a woman, or affects women disproportionately. It includes, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, and psychological harm... It includes that violence which is perpetuated or condoned by the state."

(Definition: *Violence against Girls and Women: A Public Health Priority*. UNFPA Gender Theme Group, Interactive Population Center 1998.)



Prostitution is ...
"the exchange of sex or sexual services for money or other material benefits; ... it can be defined as a social institution which 'allows certain powers of command over one person's body to be exercised by another'."

"One can frame prostitution through a range of concepts. At minimum it can be addressed as an issue rooted

in: morality; health; social problems; gender status; human rights; law and order (including national security); migration; labor/employment; capitalism and globalization. Within each of these framings particular understandings of risk, safety, violence and social (dis)order can be mobilized."

(*Shifting Sands: A Comparison of Prostitution Regimes Across Nine Countries*,

Liz Kelly, Maddy Coy & Rebecca Davenport, Child & Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU), London Metropolitan University. 2009. pg. 6-7)

Ed. Note: In various excerpts, the reader must refer to the cited study for reference to the original background research.



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Violence Against Women

“Research has shown that globally, at least one out of every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime—and usually the abuser is someone known to her. According to the *World Report on Violence and Health*, 40 to 70% of all women who are murdered are killed by a (male) intimate partner. Thus, women are more likely than men to experience violence inside the home. While men and other vulnerable groups or marginalized populations also experience GBV, the *Guide** focuses on violence against women as a key aspect of



Put out by USAID Health Policy Initiative & Religions for Peace.

Women are disproportionately affected by violence. This is the result of social and cultural norms that often subordinate women. For example, many laws and customary practices create and perpetuate women’s unequal status. This can be seen in women’s legal, social, and economic status, including norms such as polygamy, FGC, and inheritance rights. Societal attitudes also perpetuate GBV. Some of the societal attitudes that justify GBV include the idea that men have the right to control wives’ or partners’ behavior and can discipline them in many ways. Attitudes also include believing that there are just causes for violence. As a result, GBV survivors often are blamed for the violence they have experienced—both by men and by women themselves.” (pg.4)

(*Excerpted from the August 2009 document, “*A Call To Act: Engaging Religious Leaders and Communities In Addressing Gender-Based Violence and HIV*”. The publication explains the role of religious leaders particularly in Africa in promoting action to prevent gender-based violence against women.

http://www.stopvaw.org/guide_released_for_religious_communities_on_gender-based_violence_and_hiv_issues.html

gender-based violence.

There are a range of different forms of violence that fall under the category of GBV:

- Intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, psychological, economic);
- Sexual coercion;
- Childhood sexual abuse;
- Rape, including that occurring in conflict settings;
- Trafficking ;
- Harmful traditional practices, i.e. female genital cutting (FGC), dowry murder, honor killing, and early marriage.

‘Demand’ Is Exploitative

UNANIMA International, a nongovernmental organization of 18 congregations of Catholic women religious and with special consultative status with the United Nations, launched an international campaign - *STOP the Demand*.

“At the core of prostitution, pornography and human trafficking is sexual exploitation based on the differential between the power of the buyer and the vulnerability of the trafficked person. Because the linkages among them are so intrinsic, *UNANIMA International* argues that it is impossible to eliminate the demand for human trafficking without also ending the demand for prostitution and pornography. In this way, its campaign to *Stop the Demand* does strategize to eliminate all forms of demand for sexual exploitation.” (*Stop Human Trafficking; Stop the Demand* Catherine Ferguson snjm, Coordinator *UNANIMA International*, published in *CMSM Forum*, Winter 2009 http://www.cmsm.org/forum/forum_winter09_stopdemand.html)

Tackling Demand

In the December 2009 Report, *Tackling the Demand For Prostitution: A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Published Research Literature*, Dr Aidan Wilcox, Kris Christmann, Michelle Rogerson and Philip Birch, of the Univ. of Huddersfield, UK examined all relevant post-1990 English language studies conducted in a small number of selected countries: Australia, Finland, the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, North America, Sweden and the United Kingdom (UK). Of these 220 studies, 181 were selected. The findings highlight the characteristics and motivations of those who procure sex, the contexts in which they procure sex, and ‘*what works*’ in tackling the demand for prostitution.

“Motivations for paying for sex include: desiring sexual variety; dissatisfaction with existing relationships; sexual gratification; loneliness, shyness, mental/physical incapacities; having no other sexual outlet; being separated from a partner by travel; curiosity, risk or excitement; and to exercise control. Opportunity-related variables for purchasing sex included working away from home and recent arrival (within the past five years) in the geographical area.”

“The research indicates there is no one central reason why some men seek out prostitutes; rather there are complex and multi-faceted motivations underlying this behavior. The multiplicity of reasons for purchasing sex suggests that policy and practice need to address [many factors in order] to reduce the demand for prostitution. Wider factors, such as issues of

‘Tackling Demand’ *cont. pg. 3*



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Criminalize 'Demand' for Commercial Sex

'Tackling Demand'

cont. from pg. 2

masculinity and perceptions of women, risk taking and sexual compulsion, all need to be addressed. While the majority of men do not appear to visit prostitutes, the research suggests it does occur with sufficient frequency to be a normal sexual experience for a relatively large group of men." (pg. 6)

"There are a number of points for policy makers to consider when developing policy and practice:

- ...Given finite resources, policy makers need to decide whether to tackle all demand (including buying sex abroad); all domestic demand; or the demand for street prostitution only – this decision will have implications for the strategies adopted and resources in terms of policing and delivery of interventions.
- Consideration should be given to whether Internet sites that advertise, encourage and possibly normalize prostitution use should be restricted.
- In addition to any intervention on the demand side, there is a need to reduce the accessibility, number and visibility of street prostitutes (for example, by enforcing existing prostitution laws and restricting advertising).
- Interventions or campaigns aimed at men who use prostitutes should address, as far as is practical, their specific motivations. No single approach will be effective, and not all men will be amenable to change.
- Less committed, infrequent buyers are more likely to respond to demand reduction strategies, although it is likely that the proportion of overall demand they account for is small compared with habitual buyers.

Legalization/decriminalization of prostitution is a gift to pimps, traffickers and the sex industry. It promotes sex trafficking. Legalization/decriminalization of prostitution increases clandestine, illegal and street prostitution, as well as child prostitution. It increases the demand for prostitution. It encourages men to buy women for sex in a wider and more permissible range of socially acceptable settings. Legalization/decriminalization of prostitution does not protect the women in prostitution, nor their health, nor their 'free' choice. Women in systems of prostitution do not want the sex industry legalized or decriminalized.

"The legalization/decriminalization of prostitution makes things better... for governments... and of course, for the sex industry, both of which enjoy increased revenues. ...Suddenly, dirty money becomes clean. Illegal acts become legal. Overnight, pimps are transformed into legitimate businessmen and ordinary entrepreneurs, and men who would

not formerly consider buying a woman in prostitution think, 'Well, if it's legal, if it's decriminalized, now it must be O.K.'"

"Governments that legalize prostitution as 'sex work' will have a huge economic stake in the sex industry. Consequently, this will foster their increased dependence on the sex sector. If women in prostitution are counted as workers, then governments can abdicate responsibility for making decent and sustainable employment available to women."

"Instead ... laws should address the predation of men who buy women for the sex of prostitution. ... states could address the demand by penalizing the men who buy women for the sex of prostitution."

"Sweden has drafted legislation recognizing that without male demand, there would be no female supply. Thinking outside the repressive box of legalization, Sweden has acknowledged that prostitution is a form of male violence against women and children, and the purchase of sexual services is criminalized. The inseparability of prostitution and trafficking is recognized by the Swedish law." (*Ten Reasons for Not Legalizing Prostitution - And a Legal Response to the Demand for Prostitution* by Dr. Janice Raymond - published in Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress, Melissa Farley, Ed. - Binghamton: Haworth Press, 2003)

What do men think would be most effective in deterring them from buying sex?

The most selected options of the respondents were: being added to a sex offender register (89 %); having their picture on a billboard (86 %); having their picture in the paper (84 %); custodial penalty (79 %); having a letter sent to their family (77 %); greater criminal penalties (72 %); and high fines (69 %).

(Cited in 'Tackling Demand', pg. 12)

- Increasing the risk of arrest through intensive policing operations and/or the perceived risk of arrest through advertising campaigns could reduce demand for prostitution among men who fear discovery.
- To minimize displacement, all sectors of the prostitution market need to be tackled at the same time. Further research is also needed to quantify the scale and nature of displacement to devise new tactics to minimize it. ...
- Consider targeted awareness campaigns (for example, in red light districts) to clarify the legal status of prostitution and related activities and remove ignorance as a justification for soliciting. Any proposed change to the legislation (for example, criminalization) would need to be widely publicized."... (pg. 14-5)



Awareness

'Shifting Sands'

In the December 2009 Report, *'Shifting Sands: A Comparison of Prostitution Regimes Across Nine Countries'* researchers from the *Child & Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWA-SU)* of the London Metropolitan Univ. examined historical background and current prostitution policy within the nine countries of *Australia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa and Sweden* in order to offer policymakers information on current international approaches to prostitution and provide a review of demand for commercial sex. The title *'Shifting Sands'* was intended to draw attention to the variations in prostitution regimes over time and between countries.

The term *'regime'* used in the Report referred *"to laws and practices that shape prostitution... in distinctive ways". Laws and practices are insufficient however, since...historical contexts, political and philosophical underpinnings and existing evidence bases are all critical in shaping approaches. It is the combination of these five elements that comprise prostitution regimes"*. (pg. 5-6)

The study outlined the historical context, philosophical underpinnings, legal reforms and current status of the prostitution regimes in the nine countries. It then explored the knowledge base and presented a comparative analysis of the regimes with conclusions. (pg. 13)

The study looked at each regime's "evidence base across five themes: the extent and locations of sex industries; sex buyers; law enforcement; health and safety – including violence – issues; and support services. Each of

these themes is either itself a common policy goal (eg. increasing health and safety) or has a direct bearing on one (eg. the scale of the illegal industry attests to the success or failure of addressing the criminal associations with prostitution)". (pg. 34)

Despite difficulty in obtaining accurate statistics the authors offer "a few observations on the scale of prostitution: •Street sectors are relatively small. •Both legalized and unregulated regimes have considerably larger sex industries. •Sweden appears to have the smallest number of women selling sex even taking population into account. In regard to demand, in Spain a recent study found the highest prevalence of paying for sex across all developed countries, at one in four men. This level of demand is of note considering that the estimates of numbers of women selling sex in Spain are also the largest across all nine countries analyzed." (pg. 37)

"The levels of violence sustained by women in prostitution are now widely acknowledged as disproportionate and whilst setting has some influence on its scale and seriousness, there is no evidence to date that any setting renders prostitution 'safe'." (pg. 43)

"The relative lack of exit programs is in contrast to stated policy goals and needs to be considered in relation to the significant proportion of women who, when asked, say they want to leave." The authors stated, "Sweden is an exception with holistic services that focus on exit as a feature of local authority provision since the 1970s." (pg. 45)

A number of important insights included:

- "The knowledge base needed for evidence-based policy on prostitution is weak, and in all countries has critical gaps.

- There is widespread agreement across regimes that street-based prostitution can never be organized in ways that enhance health and safety, and thus should be discouraged.

- Evaluations of regimes that have

attempted to integrate prostitution into the formal economy note a number of barriers, some of which may prove insuperable. All recognize that selling sex is not *'a job like any other'*.

- Not only can none of the legalization or decriminalization regimes examined provide strong evidence that the law and policy has delivered the promised rights and material benefits to women who sell sex, — several admit failure in this respect...

- Violence persists, with no regime being able to demonstrate significantly enhanced levels of safety, and no combination of setting and regime *'safe'*.

- Criminalizing both sellers and buyers is not gender equality but compounds existing inequalities between women and men, which already structure the sex industry."... (pg. 52-3)

"That so few regimes can deliver the improvements in status, health and safety to women who sell sex suggests that some of these matters of concern are inherent in the structure and practices of prostitution."

..." A number of shared policy goals can be identified across the regimes, even if different routes were used to achieve them: • that there are criminal associations which need to be addressed; • street prostitution cannot be made *'safe'* and should not be normalized; • that the exploitation of prostitution by third parties should be prohibited.

...The case for legalization is weak and unsubstantiated. The rationale behind both the law in the Netherlands and Victoria, Australia was to "provide more control over criminal behavior and to ensure women were protected from violence and exploitation". Neither of these aims has been achieved, with organized crime and trafficking, flourishing in both localities, and the illegal layers of the industry continuing to accommodate women who are funding drug addiction." (pg. 61)

The authors conclude, "...There is now a policy flux, with increasing recognition that much heralded reforms have failed to deliver material benefits to [prostituted] women and/or had a range of unintended consequences." (pg. 62)



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A Model in Sweden

“Sweden was the first prostitution regime to decriminalize the sale of sex while criminalizing its purchase. ‘Sweden has gone from regulating women in prostitution to passing a unique law criminalizing the purchase of sexual services.’”

“The Swedish reforms were part of a wider law on men’s violence against women – ‘Kvinnofrid’ (women’s peace). This law had three policy goals: to promote women’s equality; to protect women from men’s violence; and to build public support for an approach to prostitution that locates it within violence against women. The long-term goal is stated clearly as abolishing prostitution.”

“Through *Kvinnofrid* selling sex across all contexts and settings in Sweden was decriminalized in favor of a welfare-oriented approach that offers support to women to exit prostitution. At the same time the purchase of sex is criminalized across all settings. Penalties range from a fine to imprisonment for up to six months. The law defines sexual services narrowly, and thus does not cover all of the sex industry.”

“A range of exploitation of prostitution offenses – including pimping and profiting – cover any person who promotes or improperly exploits ‘casual sexual relations for payment’ with a maximum penalty of four years imprisonment, increased to six years in cases of ‘gross’ or ‘aggravated’ procuring. Trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation was criminalized in July 2002 and further extended in 2004 to include internal trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Penalties range from two to 10 years’ imprisonment.”

“The Swedish prostitution regime is the only one of the nine [studied] to be unreservedly abolitionist in intent. It is the only regime that can claim to have implemented the section in the UN Palermo Protocol on addressing demand. It also appears that there is widespread public support for the reform: public opinion surveys report that the majority (80%) of Swedes support this approach.” (*Shifting Sands*, pg.30-32)

Working for Gender Equality

The *Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality* took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Mar. 30 – Apr. 3, 2009. Four hundred and thirty-nine international participants shared their work and experiences in challenging rigid gender norms and engaging men and boys in reducing violence against women and girls; promoting sexual and reproductive health; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; and fatherhood and caregiving. The Symposium produced the ‘Rio Declaration’ and ‘Call to Action’.

Rio Declaration

“We come from eighty countries. We are men and women, young and old, representing the world’s cultural and linguistic diversity, working side by side with respect and with the shared goals of social and gender justice. We are active in community organizations, faith-based and educational institutions; we are representatives of governments, NGOs and the United Nations.”

“What unites us is our outrage at the injustices that continue to plague the lives of women and girls, and the self-destructive demands we put on boys and men. But even more so, what brings us together is a powerful sense of hope, expectation, and the potential of men’s and boys’ capacity to change, to care, to cherish, to love passionately, and to work for social and gender justice. We know and affirm that men are capable of caring for their partners, themselves and their children.”

“We are outraged by the pandemic of violence women face at the hands of men, by the relegation of women to second-class status, and the continued domination by specific groups of men of our economies, of our politics, of our social and cultural institutions. We know that among women and men there are those who fare even worse because of social class, religion, language, physical differences, ancestry and sexual orientation. We also know that many men are victims of violence at the hands of other men.”...

“Gender identities are strongly influenced by current trends in the global political economy. The values of competition, consumption, aggressive accumulation and assertion of power reinforce practices of domination and violence. The dominant economic models have led to increasing economic vulnerability as livelihood opportunities have been lost on a large scale. While women have entered the workforce outside the home in large numbers in the past 20 years, men are still

Rio cont. pg. 6





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“Men’s and boys’ accountability and engagement for social transformation is essential to ensure violence-free lives for women and girls.”
(Rio Declaration)

‘In Her Tears’

Part I

In her tears, a hundred years of pain,
contained, collected, in deep closets.
Memories of fathers and step-fathers,
of men out-of-control, madness
unmanaged by those who should know better!

Why have men hurt women so?

Genghis, William, Napoleon, little boys
never tiring of war, dreaming of conquest.
Sometimes I am ashamed to be a man.

We are Vikings, forever at sea, untamed,
on power trips galore!
We pillage and plunder, no wonder
the universe is ever at war.

Part II

In her tears a thousand years of hurt
passed on through genes and genealogies,
Deep recesses of gender-related stuff,
hidden, waiting for hope’s bright promise.
Shame unbearable, villain’s rage, feeding
rampages of rape and violent relations.

Why have men hurt women so?

Serial killers, purse snatchers, sexual prowlers,
stuck in history’s stone age, petrified by men!
Sometimes I am ashamed to be a man.

We are mercenaries, on pleasure trips galore!
We pillage and plunder, no wonder
the universe is at war.

Part III

In her tears, a hundred years of hope,
for her sons to bear a fresh beginning.
Dreams of loving fathers, of history’s chains
broken,
of tender males and gentle men, of strength
and power of another kind.

Why can’t men love women so?
(John Forliti – Feb. 18, 1994)

Rio *cont. from pg. 5*

primarily defined by being breadwinners and providers. Many men who are not able to live up to this social expectation to be providers experience stress and mental health issues, including substance and alcohol use. Economic stress is also associated with men’s use of violence against women and children. We need a better understanding of these phenomena, and we need to advocate for the inclusion of these issues in international economic fora.”...

“Men’s use of sexual violence results from social norms that condone the exploitation of women and girls, boys and men. The objectification and commoditization of women and girls and boys and men normalizes violent and coercive sexual behaviors. Ending sexual violence and exploitation requires holistic strategies from the global to local level to engage men and boys in challenging attitudes that give men dominance, and treating all human beings with dignity and respect. We must also include in this discussion the use of the Internet in sexual exploitation and explore ways that men and boys can be engaged in questioning this new form of exploitation.”... (For the complete text, go to: http://www.menengage.org/symposium2009_rio.asp)

Rio ‘Call to Action’

“We call on governments, the UN, NGOs, individuals and the private sector to devote increased commitment and resources to engaging men and boys in questioning and overcoming inequitable and violent versions of masculinities and to recognize the positive role of men and boys – and their own personal stake – in overcoming gender injustices.”

1. “Individuals should take forward this call to action within their communities and be agents of change to promote gender justice. Individuals and groups need to hold and keep their governments and leaders accountable.”
2. “Community based organizations should continue their groundbreaking work to challenge the *status quo* of gender and other inequalities and actively model social change.”...
6. “The private sector should promote workplaces that are gender-equitable and free from violence and exploitation, and direct corporate social responsibility towards inclusive social change.”
7. “The role of media and entertainment industries in maintaining and reinforcing traditional and inequitable gender norms has to be addressed and confronted and alternatives must be supported.”
8. “Bilateral donors should redirect their resources towards the promotion of inclusive programming for gender justice and inclusive social justice, including changes to laws and policies, and develop synergies amongst donors.”... (For the complete text, go to: <http://www.menengage.org/symposium2009.asp>)



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

Action

Be an Activist in the Work of Anti-Human Trafficking

The *Change.org Community* has more than a million activists, who won dozens of campaigns over the past year, successfully pressuring multi-billion dollar companies to adopt more responsible and non-discriminatory practices, convincing federal departments to change outdated policies, and impacting legislative decisions on the local, state and national level.

Among the top ten successes of 2009, *Change.org* lists three that impact the work against human trafficking:

- *Department of Labor Releases Confidential Slave Labor Report*
In 2005, the *Department of Labor* (DOL) was mandated by Congress to issue a report on the countries and companies using slave and child labor across the world. DOL made the document confidential and resisted its release, fearing negative reaction from trading partners. More than 6,000 *Change.org* members along with the anti-slavery organization, *Polaris Project*, called on DOL to comply with Congress's intentions. Within a few weeks of the campaign DOL publicly released the full confidential list, providing a wealth of information now used by NGOs worldwide in the fight against slave labor.
- *Diners Club Ends Partnership with Mail-Order Bride Company*
The credit card company *Diners Club International* (owned by *Discover*) and *Vietnam Brides International*, were enabling card holders in Asia to buy women on credit. Mail-order brides are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. *Change.org's human trafficking community* rapidly responded by demanding that *Diners Club* end their policy of treating women as commodities to be bought and sold. After thousands of letters, hundreds of tweets and 48 hours, *Diners Club* responded to the campaign, apologized, and canceled their partnership with *Vietnam Brides International*.
- *'Choice Hotels' Commits to Preventative Human Trafficking Measures*
Five-year-old Shaniya Davis was sold for sex in a *Comfort Inn* in North Carolina shortly before her body was found on the side of the road. *Comfort Inn* is owned by the hotel conglomerate *Choice Hotels*, which has avoided signing a widely embraced Code of Conduct administered by the international organization ECPAT and funded by UNICEF to prevent child prostitution in the travel industry. *Change.org* got in touch with ECPAT and launched a campaign demanding that *Choice Hotels* embrace the Code. Thousands of *Change.org* activists sent messages to *Choice Hotels' CEO*. Although initially resistant, *Choice Hotels* eventually agreed to have a conversation with ECPAT and is now committed to taking further steps to ensure its hotels aren't again used for child prostitution.

Collectively, these *Change.org* campaigns demonstrate the Internet's incredible potential for translating the voices of millions of caring people into effective collective action. Whether it's starting your own campaign using our powerful new petition tool or joining breaking campaigns each week, your individual participation makes us all more effective.

(<http://blog.change.org/2009/12/28/top-10-victories-on-change-org-in-2009/>)

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

Apne Aap
<http://www.apneapap.org/>

'Shifting Sands' & 'Tackling the Demand'
<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimereduction052.htm>

UNANIMA International
<http://www.unanima-international.org/>

Change.org
<http://www.change.org/>

'Train the Trainer'

The *San Jose, CA Police Department Human Trafficking Task Force* will conduct a day-long conference on human trafficking. This free event will take place on March 15, 2010 in Pleasanton, CA. For details, contact: jennifer.dotzler@sanjoseca.gov

Help Prevent Child Prostitution

Tell Steve Joyce, CEO of *Choice Hotels*, to sign the *ECPAT Code of Conduct* and commit to preventing child sex tourism in *Choice Hotels*.

Go to: http://humantrafficking.change.org/actions/view/tell_choice_hotels_to_prevent_child_prostitution_in_their_hotels

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://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

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