

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

June 2010 Vol. 8 No. 6

This issue highlights current events in which the demand behind human trafficking continues.

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## Human Trafficking Venues?



Johannesburg, South Africa

### Women Arrive at Hotels Ahead of Fans

Thousands of soccer fans have arrived in South Africa for the *June 11-July 11 World Cup* games. Since the country's borders are extremely porous, it would have been easy for traffickers to also bring in victims undetected.

A check of popular hotels some months before the start of the games showed an influx of women, mostly from Zimbabwe. One hotel general manager admitted, "*From the booked hotels around Johannesburg and Pretoria, we think there are prostitutes from as far away as China, Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, and Venezuela. The number may exceed 40,000.*"

A government official denied evidence of illegal prostitutes. Nevertheless, cross-border bus drivers said the bulk of their passengers during April were women. This was unusual since traditionally it is men who travel to South Africa for work. (<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/.../Prostitutes-flock-to-South-Africa-ahead-of-World-Cup-2010>)

### Ad Describes Role of 'Craigslist'

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



The ad, written by two victims and paid for by the *Rebecca Project for Human Rights*, was published May 19, 2010 in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and posted on *Huffington Post*.

For the text of their letter, see page 4.

**For Practical Action**  
See pg. 6



## Awareness

### South Africa Draws Women in Search of Work

A government report released in March 2010 said trafficked victims, including children, are brought from throughout Africa to work as street vendors, baby sitters and maids in South Africa's cities. Some worked in conditions very close to slavery, and many fell into prostitution out of desperation.

As the richest country in southern Africa, with long and porous borders to some of southern Africa's poorest countries, South Africa has long attracted millions of economic migrants from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The month-long World Soccer Cup draws an estimated half million people and generates \$3 billion in revenues.

The situation in Zimbabwe is so bad that women have divorced their husbands and gone to South Africa, hoping the World Cup would bring them fortune.

*"Marriages are breaking up with women choosing to stay alone in South Africa's hotels — but what are they going to do after the World Cup?"* said a spokesperson. (<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/.../Prostitutes-flock-to-South-Africa-ahead-of-World-Cup-2010>)

In one case young women, having been promised 'decent jobs', arrived in a small town on the trucking routes from the neighboring countries of Swaziland and Mozambique. Rather than 'decent jobs' however, they were forced to work as prostitutes.

After their arrest the woman officer who questioned them soon learned

more of their actual reality. They had been locked in their rooms when not working and often beaten or forced to take drugs. Their identity documents were taken from them, as were their earnings. The women were given little to eat beyond rice and cheap meat.

Eventually seven suspects were arrested and accused of recruiting women, and at least one 16-year-old, forcing them into prostitution and treating them like slaves.

The women had to be put in a witness protection program after one, who said she would testify against the traffickers, was found strangled to death.

(<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-04-17-human-trafficking-under-the-spotlight-in-sa>)

*"An exploitation-free World Cup will require resources and political will from the South African government and the international community alike."*

Amb. Luis CdeBaca,  
U. S. Office to Monitor and Combat  
Trafficking in Persons.

### South Africa Deliberates Over Its Human Trafficking Bill

South Africa's Parliamentary Justice Committee was briefed in March 2010 on the new 'Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking Bill', but requested further information on how it would be implemented.

The Bill creates new offenses, including trafficking in persons, debt bondage, possessing or destroying the travel documents of trafficking victims, using the services of trafficking victims, and facilitating human trafficking. Traffickers could face heavy fines or life imprisonment.

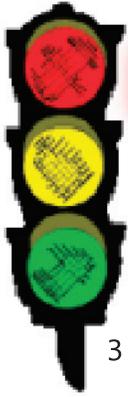
The Bill will give courts jurisdiction over cases involving offenses committed outside of the country, as well as require internet service providers to report internet addresses suspected of containing information that facilitates or promotes human trafficking. The law also provides multiple protections for victims, including prohibiting prosecution of trafficking victims.

The South African Justice Minister emphasized that the bill is not motivated by the World Cup and has *"been a work in progress since 2003,"* but noted that 2010 presents unique challenges because of the risk of increased trafficking during the World Cup. (<http://traffickingproject.blogspot.com/2010/03/south-africa-introduces-human.html>)

The Committee said while the prosecution of perpetrators may be covered by other existing laws, "the gap largely lies" in measures to prevent and combat trafficking, as well as protection and assistance of trafficking victims.

A Committee spokesperson said, *"We think that the bill is a step in the right direction. Trafficking in persons flourishes because it is extremely lucrative. As traffickers are rarely held accountable for their actions, there are relatively few risks attached."*

(<http://www.pretorianews.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=672&fArticleId=nw20100325124621859C791310>)



## Awareness

### MN Study: Teens Solicited on 'Craigslist'

In 2009 the Minneapolis-based *Advocates for Human Rights* (AHR) released a damning report, *'Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment'* for the State of Minnesota that showed how pimps and traffickers use Craigslist to solicit minors for sex.

In one of the cases cited by the Advocates, a "defendant operated a prostitution ring out of her house and posted advertisements on the website *Craigslist.org* to prostitute minor girls." In other cases, Minnesota law enforcement officers described arresting prostituted women after answering ads on Craigslist. A Coon Rapids, MN man, who attempted to cancel an escort service date he had arranged on Craigslist, was shot by the woman's pimp.

Following the report, AHR led a successful statewide coalition that convinced the Minnesota legislature to toughen state law, making victims safer by holding perpetrators accountable. The progressive law is now a model for others in the country, and AHR is providing trainings and outreach to ensure its implementation.

Acknowledging that Craigslist does a service in the exchange of legal goods and services the AHR spokesperson said Craigslist should, "stick with their good hat."

*The New York Times* reported that in 2010 Craigslist expects to make \$36 million dollars, a 22% increase in revenue. (<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/news/2010/05/05/taking-stand-principle-advocates-reject-craigslist-money>)

### High Response to 'Craigslist' Ads That Feature Teen Girls

Online solicitation is the leading source for the sexual exploitation of girls. *Women's Funding Network* in partnership with *'A Future. Not A Past.'* released results of a pilot study that measured the demand for adolescent girls prostituted in Georgia. The *Georgia Demand Study* — the first in a series of several being conducted across the nation — revealed Craigslist ads featuring adolescent females yield three times the transactions per ad than its closest competitor, *Backpage*.

"It's not the number or the raunchiness of the ads — it's the fact that more men respond to ads on Craigslist than to ads on other sites," stated the lead researcher for The Schapiro Group, an independent research firm conducting the studies.

The study involved placing ads on Craigslist and other sites that are being used by johns looking for commercial sex with adolescent girls. In covertly questioning the men who responded to the ads, 47% of the callers wanted to continue with the 'transaction,' despite three warnings about the girl's age.

"Make no mistake, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a profitable business. This is pure supply and demand," said Deborah Richardson, chief program officer of Women's Funding Network. "This data is vital to our movement's commitment to end the demand for the purchase of sex from young girls."

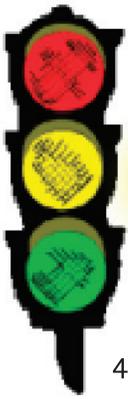
### The Georgia Pilot 'Demand' Study

The *Georgia Demand Study* complements an ongoing tracking study of all sources of prostituted adolescent girls in Georgia. According to a January 2010 fact sheet from the Governor's Office for Children and Families, an estimated 405 girls are prostituted each month in Georgia. The Internet is responsible for 76% of the transactions; 15% through escort services; 8% through street activity; and 1% through major hotels.

The *Georgia Demand Study* estimated 7,200 men knowingly or unknowingly pay for sex with adolescent females in Georgia each month. Annually, 28,000 men statewide knowingly or unknowingly pay for sex with adolescent females — nearly 10,000 of them doing so multiple times per year.

The largest concentration of men (42%) seeking to pay for sex with adolescent females was in the north metro Atlanta area. The study mapped percentages in other areas, as well.

The study gathered statistical information through a scientific survey of 218 men responding to posed Internet and yellow pages ads for paid sex with young females. Thirty-four percent of respondents were younger than 30; 44% ages 30-39; and 22% age 40 and older. (<http://afnap.org/content/craigslist-ads-featuring-adolescent-females-yield-many-transactions/>)



Advocacy

Girl Victims Write to Founder of 'Craigslist'

Dear Craig,

Although we have not met, we are certain you would not want what happened to us or to thousands of girls like us to ever happen again.

Craig, I am AK.

In 2009, I met a man twice my age who pretended to be my boyfriend, and my life as an average girl -- looking forward to college, doing my chores, and hanging out with my friends -- ended. This "boyfriend" soon revealed he was a pimp. He put my picture on Craigslist, and I was sold for sex by the hour at truck stops and cheap motels, 10 hours with 10 different men every night. This became my life.

Men answered the Craigslist advertisements and paid to rape me. The \$30,000 he pocketed each month was facilitated by Craigslist 300 times. I personally know of over 20 girls who were trafficked through Craigslist. Like me, they were taken from city to city, each time sold on a different Craigslist site -- Philadelphia, Dallas, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C. My phone would ring, and soon men would line up in the parking lot. One Craigslist caller viciously brutalized me, threatening to dump my body in a river. Miraculously, I survived.

Craig, I am MC.

I was first forced into prostitution when I was 11 years old by a 28-year-old man. I am not an exception. The man who trafficked me sold so many girls my age, his house was called "Daddy Day Care." All day, other girls and I sat with our laptops, posting pictures and answering ads on Craigslist. He made \$1,500 a night selling my body, dragging me to Los Angeles, Houston, Little Rock -- and one trip to Las Vegas in the trunk of a car.

I am 17 now, and my childhood memories aren't of my family, going to middle school, or dancing at the prom. They are of making my own arrangements on Craigslist to be sold for sex, and answering as many ads as possible for fear of beatings and ice water baths.

Craig, we write this letter so you will know from our personal experiences how Craigslist makes horrific acts like this so easy to carry out, and the men who arrange them very rich.

Craig, we know you oppose trafficking and exploitation. But right now, Craigslist is the choice of traffickers because it's so well known and there are rarely consequences to using it for these illegal acts. We've heard that the Adult Services section of Craigslist brings in \$36 million a year by charging for these ads. These profits are made at the expense of girls like us, who are lured, kidnapped, and forced to feed the increasing demand for child rape. New traffickers are putting up ads every day, because they know it's less risky and more profitable to sell girls on Craigslist than to deal drugs.

Please, Craig, close down the Adult Services section. Saving even one child is worth it. It could have been us.

Sincerely,

AK & MC — Survivors of Craigslist Sex Trafficking

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malika-saada-saar/craig-please-listen-to-us\\_b\\_582237.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malika-saada-saar/craig-please-listen-to-us_b_582237.html)

[craig-please-listen-to-us\\_b\\_582237.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malika-saada-saar/craig-please-listen-to-us_b_582237.html)

Craigslist's CEO Defends the Company

Jim Buckmaster listed several methods used by Craigslist — manually reviewing every adult services ad, alerting users to report suspected trafficking, and providing support for law enforcement sweeps and stings — as evidence that “of the thousands of venues” that offer adult services ads, his firm was the only one to take steps to combat prostitution.

“Facilitation of trafficking or exploitation is unacceptable, and we will continue to work tirelessly with law enforcement to ensure any such victim receives the assistance they deserve and those responsible are imprisoned,” Buckmaster asserted. “We'd like to do even more, and my door remains open to experts from advocacy groups and law enforcement with ideas on how we can improve.”

usa cities	united states	canada	asia	americas	europa	intl cities
atlanta	alabama	montana	alberta	bangladesh	argentina	australia
help pages	alaska	nebraska	brit columbia	china	belgium	america
login	arizona	nevada	manitoba	india	bulgaria	bangalore
blog	illinois	n hampshire	n brunswick	indonesia	caribbean	bangkok
clearance	california	new jersey	newfoundland & labrador	iran	chile	beijing
feedback	dallas	colorado	new mexico	israel	colombia	berlin
erotic items	detroit	connecticut	new york	italy	costa rica	barcelona
your safety	houston	delaware	n carolina	japan	denmark	berlin
best of	indiana	idaho	north dakota	qatar	ecuador	berlin
all boards	missouri	florida	ohio	saudi arabia	egypt	berlin
move	nebraska	georgia	oklahoma	switzerland	france	berlin
foundation	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin
system status	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin
terms of use	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin
privacy	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin
about	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin
feedback	missouri	illinois	oklahoma	kuwait	germany	berlin



## Advocacy

### Efforts to Prevent Trafficking at the Games

Due to an expected demand for sexual services during the World Cup, child and human rights organizations have worked to highlight the dangers of increased human trafficking.

The 'Talita Kum' (Aramaic for 'Get Up') network, 252 international orders of women religious, carried out an awareness campaign in South Africa and neighboring countries, as well as countries from which soccer fans come, and countries such as Thailand, from which exploited women are sent.

The campaign, titled '2010 Should Be About the Game,' targeted fans, religious leaders, potential victims of trafficking and the general public -- warning them about the risks and urging them to spread the word.

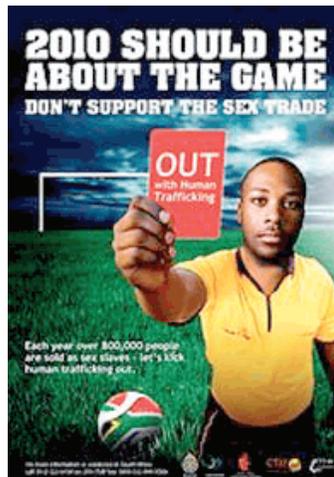
The network collaborated with the S. African Bishops' Conference and the S. African government, which set up a toll-free number for victims to call for help or for whistleblowers to report.

Using the 2010 World Cup to exploit vulnerable women, children and men for slave labor, the sex industry or the drug trade is "an outright perversion of the spirit and ethical dimension of sport as well as of the idea and dignity of the human person," said Salesian Sister Bernadette Sangma, coordinator of the anti-trafficking project of the *International Union of Superiors General*. (<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/.../Prostitutes-flock-to-South-Africa-ahead-of-World-Cup-2010>)

Human rights activists and church groups also urged hotels in South Africa to ensure that their places of business were not used for the sex trade.

The New York-based *Christian Brothers Investment Services* (CBIS) wrote an open letter to South African hotels and tourist operations stating they were in a unique position to take steps to stop the use of their hotels for human trafficking. The letter asked hotels to coordinate with police and anti-trafficking organizations, to educate staff in identifying potential victims and reporting incidents, and to inform guests of the penalties for human trafficking and the sexual abuse of children.

Some hotels signed the Christian Brothers' agreement, while others argued that what their customers do is a personal affair. (<http://www.verite.org/node/468>)



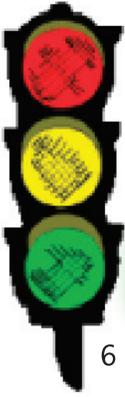
(Catholic News Service & Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference)

### Human Rights Group Declined Craigslist Foundation Grant

In May 2010 the *Advocates for Human Rights* (AHR) in Minnesota received an unsolicited grant of \$25,000 from the *Craigslist Charitable Fund*. The Fund was set up in 2008 with funding from Craigslist's revenues. The AHR did not accept the contribution, stating in part, "While The Advocates appreciates the recognition of its work, it cannot accept the funds because Craigslist generates a high percentage of its profits from adult ads. This market fuels the human sex trafficking industry. It is the exploitive behavior resulting from these ads that makes our efforts necessary. According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, Craigslist is currently considered 'one of the foremost venues for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the United States' by organizations working to end human trafficking."

In New York, the *National Organization for Women* (NOW) also rejected donations from Craigslist. NOW's executive director said, "It's pretty black and white. For those of us ... waging the war with traffickers, it's just logical that we wouldn't be accepting money from the many businesses that profit directly from women's suffering."

*The Advocates for Human Rights* is a non-governmental, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. Among its many activities The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations. The Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.



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

## Action

### Hotels Can Make a Difference

The *Christian Brothers Investment Services* (CBIS) has encouraged hotels to sign **The Code**, an industry-wide tool for facilitating the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourism sector ([www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)). Developed by ECPAT (*End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking*) Sweden in collaboration with the travel industry, The Code asks tourism service providers to adhere to a six-point pledge to help protect children from sexual exploitation by establishing corporate policies, training personnel, and annually reporting their findings and efforts to curtail human trafficking. Among the major hotel chains in South Africa that have signed The Code are *Accor* and *Carlson Companies*.

*"We sincerely hope that hotel operators will heed the call and realize the vital role they play in ending human trafficking, particularly in relation to major tourism events like the World Cup. We encourage all hotel owners and operators to sign The Code and continue to work to train their staff and educate guests on putting an end to human trafficking,"* said Carol Smolenski, Director of ECPAT USA. *"By knowing what to look for and how to respond, hotels and other tourism providers can serve as the front line in our fight against human injustice of all forms, all over the world."*

To date, CBIS received responses from Accor, Carlson, and Intercontinental hotels. Non-responders are: Best Western, Hyatt, Hilton, Starwood, and NH Hotels. The most substantive responses have been from Accor and Carlson.

In addition to urging hotel operators to work to end human trafficking through corporate policies and employee education, CBIS helped travelers to the 2010 World Cup participate in the fight against human trafficking by asking them to visit the CBIS SRI Action web site ([www.cbisonline.com/sriaction](http://www.cbisonline.com/sriaction)) and print copies of a letter to be delivered upon check-in to their hotel. The travelers' letter asks hotel managers and owners to take action and share information regarding their company's policies and practices to help put an end to human trafficking.

*"Just as human trafficking is present in nearly every country in the world, every person and corporation can take small steps to help put an end to it,"* said Rev. David Schilling, Director of Human Rights, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. (<http://www.cbisonline.com/page.asp?id=1034>)

### You Can Help.

When you stay at a hotel, provide them with your personalized copy of the letter found at: [www.cbisonline.com/sriaction](http://www.cbisonline.com/sriaction). Fill in your name and address and provide it at check-in. Where appropriate and your organization agrees, put the letter on letterhead stationery.

With this action, we will let hotels know of our concerns about human trafficking and encourage them to formulate a response, while sharing information about a common framework used by many members of the tourism industry. Together we can work to protect children and practice ethical business.

Please let CBIS know when you use this letter and if you receive a response. They'll track the number of letters distributed as well as responses received. Email them at: [SRIACTION@CBISONLINE.COM](mailto:SRIACTION@CBISONLINE.COM).

### Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

#### **Craigslist Information from:**

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/20/MN2K1DHDV9.DTL#ixzz0orM9REGf>

#### **Advocates for Human Rights**

<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org>

#### **The Rebecca Project for Human Rights**

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

#### **Women's Funding Network**

<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org>

#### **A Future. Not a Past.**

<http://www.AFNAP.org>

#### **The Schapiro Group**

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

### More Possibilities

For updates and to learn of additional actions you can take to improve the environmental and social performance of companies and help stop human trafficking, go to: <http://www.cbisonline.com/page.asp?id=1017>

**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>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: [jeansds2010@yahoo.com](mailto:jeansds2010@yahoo.com)

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