

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

October 2011 Vol. 9 No. 10

This issue highlights how businesses profit from or fight against the various forms of human trafficking.

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## Good Business? Bad Business?

### Amazon.com

Do customers know why it's so cheap to order books through *Amazon.com* and why they arrive so fast? Perhaps because employees at an *Amazon.com* warehouse in Pennsylvania are literally working in a sweatshop.

One employee said conditions were so bad that it was like 'working in a convection oven while blow-drying your hair.' He saw a co-worker pass out at the water fountain.

New details have emerged that working conditions are so horrendous inside a Breinigsville, PA warehouse that *Amazon* keeps an ambulance parked outside. Does *Amazon* prefer paying to carry sick, overheated workers out on stretchers rather than turn up the air-conditioning?

*Amazon's* alleged irresponsible methods include:

- Demanding work at such backbreaking speeds that employees suffer injuries and face constant threats of termination for being too slow.
- Forcing employees to stay in an unsafe working environment where the heat index can hit 114 degrees.
- Relying on temporary workers to drive down wages and make it hard for workers to collectively stand up for their rights.

*Amazon* is the world's biggest and most successful online retailer. In 2010 the company took in \$34 billion in profits. (<http://americanrightsatwork.org/blog/2011/09/22/amazon-sweatshop/>) (<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-allentown-ama-zon-complaints-20110917,0,7937001,full.story>)

### Human Bondage in the U.S. Heartland

People were shocked when federal prosecutors charged the owners of a motel in Oacoma, S.D., a town of fewer than 500, with keeping Philippine women in virtual slavery, forcing them to work 20-hour days under the threat of violence and taking back their paychecks after they had been endorsed to deposit in the motel owner's accounts.

Prosecutors said the enslaved women performed cleaning and front-desk duties at the motel and were expected to work second jobs at fast-food restaurants. Every aspect of their lives was controlled, including what they ate, where they lived, what they wore and to whom they spoke.

Human traffickers had crept unnoticed into the small community, located on the west bank of the Missouri River 80 miles southeast of Pierre, the state's capital. But people soon learned that Interstate 90, which goes by Oacoma, is part of the 'Midwest Pipeline,' the superhighway used to deliver trafficking victims to cities across the country. (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/27/human-bondage-hits-us-heartland/>)

### Marriott and New Technology

A new platform of Internet-based 'video-on-demand' will facilitate *Marriott's* exit from the traditional hotel video systems that included adult content in the menu selection. (For the full story, see: <http://travel.usatoday.com/hotels/post/2011/01/marriott-hotels-to-remove-porn-new-hotels/139423/1?csp=34>)



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## Awareness

# Brazil Connections:

## Steel Manufacturers

In Pará, Brazil, charcoal is produced illegally from massive deforestation with slave labor. It takes 48 burned trees to produce one ton of charcoal.

Charcoal is used to heat iron ore to produce pig iron, which is then purified under high temperatures to produce steel.

Appliances, cars, skyscrapers, hospital equipment, and armaments are made from this steel. Charcoal is the most expensive raw material in the production process for pig iron, so to lower this cost steelmakers take the cheaper route: they buy illegal deforestation charcoal and then pay the fines.

*Sister Dorothy Stang SNDdeN* fought these organized crimes of deforestation, slavery, and illegal charcoal production and paid with her life: <http://www.dorothystang.org>

View 'Forest Up in Smoke' at: [http://youtu.be/sKINP\\_ClJ2Y](http://youtu.be/sKINP_ClJ2Y)



Brazil's Amazon River & its deforestation. ([http://travel.mongabay.com/pix/peru/aerial-rainforest-Flight\\_1022\\_1553.html](http://travel.mongabay.com/pix/peru/aerial-rainforest-Flight_1022_1553.html))



## U.S. Companies and Sex Tourism

The Amazon River in Brazil is a particularly attractive area for fishing enthusiasts because it is a home to a hard-fighting species called the *peacock bass*. But now the U.S. Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation of sports fishing expeditions in the Amazon, that may have been used as covers for Americans to have sex with underage girls.

The investigation and a parallel lawsuit filed in federal court in Georgia — could provide a rare look at the business operations of the multibillion-dollar international sex tour industry, which has increasingly focused on Brazil. That lawsuit was filed on behalf of four Brazilian women, who claim they were coerced as minors to serve as prostitutes for Americans on Amazon fishing expeditions operated by an Atlanta-area businessman. The defendant, an Atlantic realtor, or his employees or customers recruited young girls at a social club along the Amazon to join them on a fishing boat, where the girls were coerced into sex acts and paid.

This is the first time that a federal law, the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act* (TVPA) of 2000, had been used to seek damages from someone accused of operating sex tours. "Brazil is taking over from Thailand as a premier sex tourism vacation spot", said an official of *Equality Now*, a NY advocacy organization that helped bring the lawsuit in Georgia because it was looking for precedent-setting cases involving child sex tourism overseas. The law firm, *King & Spalding*, is working on the case pro bono.

Several news reports in recent years have indicated that the defendant has been the subject of criminal investigations both in the U.S. and in Brazil over several years. But the current filing with the Georgia lawsuit was the first time investigations became public. The defendant's company, *Wet-A-Line Tours*, is no longer in operation.

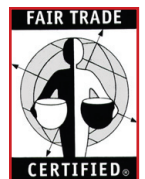
(<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/09/business/allegations-link-us-companies-to-brazilian-sex-tourism.html>)

## Fair Trade Towns

*Chicago Fair Trade* is a nonprofit organization made up of individuals, businesses, students and NGO's that are committed to raising awareness and support for *Fair Trade* within the Chicago community in order to make a larger impact on the empowerment of farmers in the developing world. They are committed to social justice and environmental sustainability, as well.

Thus in May 2011, having officially met all the criteria, Chicago became the largest *Fair Trade Town* in the U.S. and the second largest in the world. There are nearly 1,000 *Fair Trade Towns* throughout the world, including London, Rome, and Barcelona.

There are 21 *Fair Trade Towns* in the U.S., including Boston, San Francisco, Madison, Burlington and Milwaukee and 40 active campaigns striving to create additional *Fair Trade Towns* throughout the U.S..







## Awareness

### Poland: Conference on Trafficking in Europe

The Conference, organized by the group 'Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation' (RENATE), was attended by 75 women religious from 17 countries of Europe. It covered a wide range of topics: hands-on experiences of running shelters for survivors of trafficking in Albania and Poland; workshops on law and trafficking; lobbying; women's rights for freedom; Catholic social teaching; addressing the question of demand for purchased sex; and a workshop on the prophetic role of women religious in countering this world-wide crime.

It is believed that up to 20% of children in Europe have already received electronic messages that fall within the category of cybergrooming, sexting or cyberbullying. A plea was made to help children and their parents fight this crime. "Children are groomed to remove their clothes and pose with erotic gestures before the webcam," a social worker from a Berlin-based Catholic charity 'In Via' told the audience. "In Germany, as a result of 'happy slapping' captured on a mobile phone camera and posted on the Internet, several children had to leave their small town. In July, three children ended their lives by suicide after meeting in a Suicide Forum on the Internet."

The website [www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org) was designed to help fight these new phenomena.

(Right) Panel of presenters at the Renate Conference.

### Jordan: Abuse Continues

Classic factory managers have been raping scores of young women among the 30,000 guest workers from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. To date there are four named serial rapists at the Classic factory. In September 2011 Sanal Kumar, the corrupt owner of the Jordan sweatshop, blamed U.S. unions and the State of Israel for his factories' problems.

In light of the Jordanian government's flawed investigation and denial of a problem, the *Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights* has no choice but to advise concerned consumers not to purchase *Wal-Mart*, *Hanes*, *Target* and *Sears* clothing made in Jordan.

The *Institute* is asking the U.S. Government to initiate an independent investigation at *Classic*. Under the *U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement*, through which *Classic* received \$20 million in tariff breaks in 2010, the American people are essentially subsidizing rape at *Classic*.

Over 146,800 concerned consumers have already signed the *Institute's* petition on *Change.org* asking retailers to take action at *Classic*. *Kohl's*, *Macy's* and *Lands End* have pulled their orders from the *Classic* sweatshop. (<http://www.globallabourrights.org/admin/documents/files/110914-IGLHR-Press-Kit-Yet-Another-Victim-Comes-Forward-at-Classic.pdf>)



### Ireland: 'Turn Off the Red Light'

'Turn Off The Red Light' is a campaign, organized by an alliance of civil organizations, to end prostitution and sex



trafficking in Ireland. Research shows there is no clear line between those who are trafficked and those who "consent" to become involved in the sex industry. Many of the women involved in Ireland's sex industry, mostly migrants, have had no real choice: poverty, deception and gross exploitation mark many of their stories.

Organizers of the campaign believe that the best way to combat this sexual exploitation is to tackle the demand for prostitution by criminalizing the purchase of sex.

Soccer players from the SARI (*Sport Against Racism Ireland*) Soccer-fest showed their solidarity and their support for the 'Turn Off the Red Light' campaign. The Soccer-fest is the largest intercultural amateur football festival in Europe. The soccer players are drawn from the football club of the *African Diaspora Youth* organization, *Insaka-Ireland*. The players participated in the event to show their commitment to fight for human rights and dignity of all people, and against all forms of exploitation.

The SARI soccer fest took place in September 2011, with over 4,000 sportsmen and anti-racist campaigners participating — one of the biggest anti-racism initiatives in Ireland. (<http://www.turnofftheredlight.ie/2011/09/sari-support-turn-off-the-red-light/>)



Photo by Steve de Paire of SARI



Awareness

More of the Same:

Craigslist.com - Backpage.com - Facebook.com

In late 2010 *Craigslist*, the popular online classified ad service, quietly removed the ‘adult services’ section in all its international sites, including those in Canada, Asia, Europe, South America and Africa. When *Craigslist* ended its adult services listings worldwide, *Backpage.com*, the online classified advertising site owned by *Village Voice Media Holdings*, became the major U.S. publisher of paid-sex ads. From its earliest days, the *Village Voice* has run adult classifieds. Today, those classifieds are hosted online at *Backpage.com*, which has seen a spike in traffic since *Craigslist* shut down its U.S. service in September 2010.

Seattle’s Mayor pulled the city’s advertising from *Seattle Weekly* accusing the *Weekly’s* owner, *Village Voice*, of “playing games with the numbers and underreporting” the prostitution of minors and sex trafficking, trades plied through adult ads, on the *Seattle Weekly* site. *Backpage.com* officials acknowledged that prostitution ads, including those advertising underage girls, regularly appear on the site. But,

the company says it has strict content policies aimed at preventing child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

In August 2011 more than 40 attorneys general across the country demanded that *Backpage.com* prove those claims with hard data. In a letter sent to Samuel Fifer, *Backpage.com’s* Chicago-based lawyer, the attorneys general call the site “a hub” for prostitution and human trafficking and argue that company efforts to restrict prostitution ads, particularly those soliciting sex with children, “have proven ineffective.” Washington’s Attorney General wants *Backpage.com* to shut down its “escorts” section, just as *Craigslist* did in September 2010. Meanwhile, even before the crack-down on *Craigslist’s* adult-services section, some women in prostitution were turning to *Facebook* -- 83% had a *Facebook* page.

([http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/local-news/2016066045\\_backpage01m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/local-news/2016066045_backpage01m.html))

([http://technology.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2011/02/07/6005090-is-facebook-the-new-craigslist-for-hookers](http://technology.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/02/07/6005090-is-facebook-the-new-craigslist-for-hookers))

NHTRC Statistics 1-888-3737-888

Year:	2008	2009	2010
Number of Calls	5,748	7,637	11,874
Calls for Gen. Info.	35%	31%	26%
Calls re. Crisis for Victims	2%	1%	2%
Training; Tech. Assistance	5%	6%	5%
Tips & Intelligence	18%	20%	15%
Unrelated Calls	27%	29%	40%
Calls for Referrals	13%	13%	12%
% of Calls from Known States:			
CA 15.6%; TX 13.4%; FL 7.7%; IL 5.2%; NY 5.1%; DC 3.4%; OH 3.0%; NJ 2.9%; WA 2.9%; VA 2.8%			

‘Using Communication Media as a Tool for Campaigns’

The *Handbook* with the above title is a practical step-by-step guide for creating public service announcements and videos to educate others about issues of human trafficking. The guide uses two in-flight videos as case studies that warn passengers about the implications of child sex tourism.

*Austria Airlines* uses a film on long flights to India and South Africa entitled, ‘*The abuse of children is not a peccadillo*’.



Image from Austrian film.

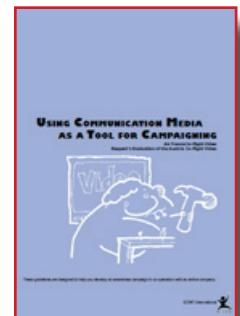
Eighty-seven percent of viewers approved of a message such as this, although some mistook it for an advertisement for a vacation at the start and thereby ignored its fuller message. The video can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYR-XsIhnvo>

*Air France* broadcasts a video entitled, ‘*A Child Is Not a Souvenir*’, on long-haul flights to the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. Based on the available seating on these flights the message reaches a potential 87,908 million passengers a year. The 46-second film (number 12 in the list of videos) is at this site: [http://wn.com/Child\\_Sex\\_Tourism\\_In\\_Flight\\_Video](http://wn.com/Child_Sex_Tourism_In_Flight_Video)

The *Handbook* may be found at: <http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/CST/CSTLessonsLearnedAirFrance-Fre.pdf>

The Polaris Project comments, “The data displayed in this report is based on limited criteria from calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline. It is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking on a state or national level. These statistics may be subject to change.”

(<http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/hotline-statistics>)







## Awareness

### 2012 London Olympics: Investors Raise Concerns

Major sporting or cultural events tend to bring in an influx of visitors and these periods have been linked with increases in trafficking, prostitution and sexual assault. A global coalition of Christian faith-based institutional investors have mobilized to assure that hotels and leisure groups are doing something to prevent that from happening. The prime movers in the 2012 London Olympic initiative are *Christian Brothers Investment Services*, a US fund manager that specializes in investing the money of Catholic institutions. It has \$3.6bn under management and does a fair amount of corporate activism.

The project is also backed by the *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility*, a broader US Christian coalition that speaks for investors with about \$100bn and the *Church Investors Group* in the U.K., which encompasses the investments of the Church of England and Church of Ireland, with about £12bn.

At the heart of their concerns is the issue of human trafficking, which often takes place for the purposes of prostitution. London 2012 isn't the first time that Christian investors have campaigned on this issue. At the World Cup Soccer games in South Africa and at the U.S. Super Bowl, *Christian Brothers* and the *Interfaith Center* sent shareholder letters to targeted tourist industries, asking them to detail their policies for avoiding association with this kind of thing. To date, hotel chains *Hyatt*, *Accor*, *Carlson* and *NH Hotels* have introduced training programs for staff. *Accor*, *Carlson*,

*Hilton*, *Wyndam* and *NH* signed on to 'The Code', an industry code of practice on countering sex trafficking. However, other hotel groups, such as *InterContinental* and *Best Western* did not take any action.

At a meeting in Paris in September, Christian investor groups from around the world agreed to work more closely together. The London campaign will be one of their first joint initiatives. The UK and Irish churches have agreed to begin writing to UK-listed hotel groups - along similar lines to the previous South African and US campaigns.

Source: Mary DeLorey, Catholic Relief Services' Strategic Issues Advisor for Latin America and Caribbean Region



*"ICCR members have long challenged corporations to be leaders in the struggle to eradicate modern day slavery. We agree with Amb. Luis Cde Baca (U.S. State Dept. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons) who said, 'It will take private-sector corporations collaborating with countries across regions to trace the supply chain of cheap goods and figure out where trafficking exists and how to fight it.'"*

Rev. David M. Schilling, ICCR Dir. of Human Rights & Resources

### Investors: Business Must Do Its Part to Make Modern Day Slavery History

Recognizing the broad influence of business on the global supply chain, an investor coalition representing over 90 organizations worldwide and led by the *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility* (ICCR) issued a statement in June 2011 asking 27 companies to take a leadership role in abolishing human trafficking and slavery. Delivery of the statement coincided with the release of the U.S. State Department's 10th *Trafficking in Persons Report*.

*"It is no longer acceptable for companies to avoid this issue: each must do its part to eradicate the threat of human trafficking and slavery within its spheres of influence,"* said Lauren Compere of Boston Common Asset Management. *"As investors, we view the material risks as a compelling business argument in favor of putting formal protections in place. But there is also a powerful moral call to action for the business community at large to use its voice to raise awareness about these egregious violations."*

The investor statement referenced the *California Transparency in Supply Chain Act of 2010* and the *Conflict Minerals Special Disclosures Provision of the Dodd-Frank Act* as clear indicators that anti-trafficking measures will soon be broadly mandated via legislation.

Sr. Kathleen Coll of Catholic Health East said, *"Many companies such as Carlson, Gap, HP, LexisNexis and Manpower have taken a preemptive approach that shows great leadership and help focus worldwide attention on this issue. We are asking market leaders in high risk sectors to proactively confront trafficking and slavery head on both in word and deed."*

Companies receiving the statement were considered market leaders in high risk categories with the ability to influence their respective sectors: apparel, retail, technology, agriculture, travel & tourism, and food & beverage.

*Pat Zerega and Susan Makos, Mercy Investment Services*



## Advocacy

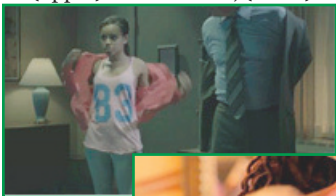
### 'Against Our Will' Campaign

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) has partnered with *mtvU* in a campaign entitled, 'Against Our Will'. It features public service announcements (PSAs) on *mtvU* to raise awareness about commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. The *Polaris Project* and *Free the Slaves* are assisting in the campaign.

This campaign is a platform to spotlight student actions, connect young people with ways to get involved, and galvanize the college audience's effort to stop human trafficking. GEMS executive director, Rachel Lloyd, said, "As an agency that has effectively worked with media to deglamorize the commercial sex industry, foster awareness of the issue, and give voice to survivor's experiences, this campaign will extend the message to millions of college students across the country."

Currently, there are more than 300 student organizations on campuses around the country taking action to stop human trafficking. The campaign website, featuring many PSAs and other information, is found at: <http://www.againstourwill.org/>

Below are images from two PSAs:  
(upper) 'Hotel Room'; (lower) 'Nail Salon'.



### Choice Hotels

The *Choice Hotel* franchise donated 250,000 points to *Polaris Project* through the *Choice Privileges Hotel Reward Program*. *Choice Hotels* has over 5,000 locations including the brands of *Comfort Inn*, *Clarion*, *Quality*, and *Econo Lodge*. *Polaris Project* uses the points to provide survivors of human trafficking with emergency hotel stays in the D.C. metropolitan area.

The hotel industry can have a profound effect on eradicating human trafficking as a partner in the recovery process for the survivors through in-kind donations.

### Manpower Inc.

In 2009 *Polaris Project* and *Manpower Inc.* formed a strategic alliance to fight human trafficking and forced labor. *Manpower Inc.*, the world's largest non-government labor agency and employer, offers a range of assessments, trainings, and job search assistance services to qualified candidates, among them survivors of human trafficking as identified by the *Polaris Project*.

*Manpower Inc.* thus helps survivors of forced labor recover and re-integrate into the community through greater access to sustainable, non-exploitative employment and training alternatives. Corporate actors have many opportunities to fight human trafficking and slavery by active vigilance against being enablers.

### ECPAT: Assisting Companies to Learn How to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation

Currently, the corporate travel and hospitality industries are facing an unprecedented talent gap, with many jobs being filled by the migrant labor pool — a resource, which has historically been subject to maltreatment and abuse. In addition, the widespread problem of children being sexually exploited by people traveling away from home is also being acknowledged by the travel industry.

In 2009 *Ending Child Prostitution and Trafficking* (ECPAT) partnered with the *Association of Corporate Travel Executives* (ACTE) to address the corporate responsibility for preventing child sex tourism. *Beyond Green: Are Your CSR Efforts Going Far Enough?* covered topics about the issue of child sexual exploitation, its impact on business, and the measures each company can take to comply with global standards.

"Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not just about reducing carbon emissions. As the leading educator for the global business travel industry, ACTE has a responsibility to inform and educate travel management professionals about issues such as the sexual exploitation of children," stated the ACTE Executive Director. "Partnering with organizations like ECPAT allowed us to offer valuable information about what companies and travelers can do to ensure they are not unknowingly contributing to this pernicious problem."

CSR has been a part of ACTE's education curriculum since 2004. At all major ACTE conferences, CSR sessions are included ranging from green and environmental issues to social and human rights issues. ACTE works with the *International Office for Migration* (IOM) to broaden the ACTE memberships' understanding of the issues that cause and surround human trafficking, especially of women and children, and to offer solutions on how to promote and increase more responsible business practices. Other organizations that advocate on behalf of immigration issues include *Starbucks*, *Chevron*, and *Dow Chemical*. (<http://www.acte.org/content/CSR>)



## Action

### ‘Forever 21’: A Role in Forced Child Labor

The government of Uzbekistan continues to remove millions of children across the country from school and force them to pick cotton during the harvest season. While over 70 of the world’s largest apparel brands and retailers have developed policies related to Uzbek cotton, *Forever 21* has remained silent.

While *Forever 21* says that it “enters into a comprehensive agreement with each of [its] suppliers and vendors under which they promise to utilize legally qualified workers,” this company has not publicly addressed the unique state-sponsored practice of forced child labor in Uzbekistan nor has it provided any information about how it ensures that its suppliers do not use Uzbek cotton tainted by these egregious human rights abuses.

#### **Your actions make a difference!**

Your e-mail actions targeting *Abercrombie & Fitch*, *Gymboree*, *the Gap*, *Levi’s*, *Carter’s* and *the Children’s Place* have led these companies to announce policies prohibiting the use of Uzbek cotton. The campaign was begun by the *International Labor Rights Forum*. Signatures to date: 5,800+

Take action at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-forever-21-to-stop-forced-child-labor-in-cotton>

### Networking for Local Solutions

- Educate others about trafficking.
- Bring in corporate and business leaders to influence the business environment.
- Work with government agencies, city and county officials to identify hidden trafficking activities ensure community participation and support.
- Work with non-government organizations to garner resources and expertise.
- Work with state and federal legislators to make traffickers responsible for their crime.
- Work within the agricultural community to educate about trafficking in the agriculture industry and eliminate safe havens for traffickers.
- Work with the trucking and transportation industry to take the ‘traffic’ out of trafficking.
- Work with the medical community to identify and assist victims.
- Work with counselors, child protective services and educators to assist child victims.

### ECPAT Toolkits

ECPAT is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world. ECPAT prepares educational materials to assist in educating about the human trafficking of children.

Some of their toolkits include:

- *Trafficking in America Activist Toolkit*
- *Trafficking in America Lesson Plan*
- *Child Sex Tourism Activist Toolkit*

One can obtain educational toolkits on these topics at the website:

<http://ecpatusa.org/take-action/spread-the-word/>

## Consumers Fight Porn on TV

*NBC* and *Playboy* claim they’re all about women’s rights. Yet the first episode of *‘The Playboy Club’* filled the scenes with a “women-are-objects” attitude. *Playboy* has pushed this ideal for almost 60 years. The *Playboy* of the 1960s is not the *Playboy* of today. The brand of *Playboy* has become much more exploitative and *NBC* is now endorsing it.

Some say pornography is not harmful, or that it is only harmful to the viewer. On the contrary, sound research suggests pornography leads to addiction, broken marriages, exploitation of women and is a gateway into child pornography and sex trafficking. Allowing *‘The Playboy Club’* into the homes of millions is the first step in exposing them to these horrific harms.

A high number of advertisements that ran during the commercial breaks were aimed specifically at women and portrayed “happy” families spending time together – *GE*, *Hellman’s Mayo*, *Campbell’s Soup*, and the *UPS Store* just to name a few. Were women and families really watching this show? What impact does this ideology have on children? What impact does this have on how men will treat the women in their lives? How is this attitude affecting women?

Thousands of consumers did contact *NBC*’s most common advertisers. Of those five companies, only one (*Ford*) ran ads on the first episode of *‘The Playboy Club’*. The other four (*Proctor & Gamble*, *AT&T*, *Verizon* and *L’Oreal USA*) heard consumers and refused to finance the continued exploitation of women. Additionally, *‘The Playboy Club’* received extremely low ratings.

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### Did you know?

Current federal laws, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, prohibit distribution of hard-core obscene pornography on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, on hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, through the mail, and by common carrier?

These laws, however, are not currently being enforced by the *U.S. Department of Justice*.

Source: *Morality In Media*





## Action

### Success by Episode Three

cont. from pg. 7

As of Oct. 1st NBC has quietly announced that they have **"CLOSED THE CLUB"** after just three episodes. *"The Playboy Club"* series will no longer air. They've realized it does not pay to exploit women and promote *Playboy's* philosophy, i.e., that women are to be used, abused and discarded.

Companies advertising on the show received over 20,000 e-mails from: <http://www.CloseTheClubOnNBC.com>. Key advertisers of the show dropped like flies each week because consumers made their voices loud and clear. Other groups also spoke out against the show, including, *The Parent's Television Council* and leading feminists like

Gloria Steinem and Dr. Gail Dines.



The 'War on Illegal Pornography Coalition' (116 national and state groups) is advocating with many members of the U.S. Congress to help get our existing federal obscenity laws enforced.

The Coalition launched an effort to ask presidential candidates to enforce the laws should they win. The effort will also help them to understand the extent of harms facing Americans because of pornography.

From October 31-November 6, there will be a national awareness effort to help individuals cope with the consequences of pornography in their lives.

Dawn Hawkins, Exec. Dir.,  
Morality In Media

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline**  
**National Human Trafficking**  
**Resource Center**  
**1.888.3737.888**  
**(in 170 languages)**

### The '10 Campaign' and Chocolate

Sept. 19, 2010 marked the 10-year anniversary of the signing of the *Harbin-Engel Protocol* – an agreement by the U.S.'s largest chocolate companies, including Hershey's, commitment to put an end to forced child labor on cocoa farms in West Africa by 2005. The *Protocol* pledged to develop and implement voluntary standards to certify cocoa produced without the "worst forms of child labor," (defined according to the *International Labor Organization's Convention 182*).

Ten years later, no progress has been made. Therefore, *Global Exchange*, *Green America* and the *International Labor Rights Forum* (ILRF) released a report targeting Hershey's. The report is entitled, *'Time to Raise the Bar, Hershey!'* and details how hundreds of thousands of children are still forced to work under abusive conditions for long hours on cocoa farms in West Africa, while others are victims of trafficking and forced labor – all for a Hershey bar.

*Green America* and *ILRF* placed *Letters to the Editor* in papers across the country telling *Hershey* to 'raise the bar' for responsible cocoa sourcing by committing to increasing its purchasing of *Fair Trade Certified* cocoa.

Meanwhile, some of *Hershey's* competitors, including *Mars* and *Nestle*, have committed to start sourcing cocoa that is independently certified to comply with labor rights standards. The documentary, *'The Dark Side of Chocolate'*, is an excellent resource on the issue. Take action at:

<http://www.10campaign.com>

### Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

#### **Amazon.com Campaign**

**Write: CEO, Jeff Bezos**

<http://act.americanrightsatwork.org/o/4022/t/o/blast>

#### **Classic Sweatshop Campaign**

<http://www.globallabourrights.org/campaigns?id=0036>

<http://www.globallabourrights.org/alerts?id=0359>

#### **RENATE Conference papers**

<http://www.reante-europe.net>

#### **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)**

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

#### **Rescue & Restore' Materials**

The *ATIP (Anti-Trafficking in Persons) Division* has a new form on its website for ordering *Rescue & Restore* materials. All materials are provided free of charge to addresses in the U.S.

There is also an updated version of the DVD, *'Look Beneath the Surface.'* It features revised *Health and Human Services* footage, information on human trafficking, and on how to identify and assist victims. The video can also be accessed via the following links:

**English:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqyzW84I3Dc> (13:20);

**Spanish:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzfwOM\\_9np8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzfwOM_9np8) (15:07).

To order the DVD and the materials, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/form.htm>

**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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