

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
- *Capacitar International, Inc.*

1 This issue highlights the relationship of pornography to human trafficking and how, by ignoring the demand for porn and prostitution, the oppression of women and children continues. Vol. 3 No. 4 April 15, 2005

Demand Dynamics Conference Held

Over 100 people gathered in Chicago in March 2005 to share research, look at cultural trends, and strategize over their shared concern: the growth of pornography, its relation to human trafficking, and its negative impact on global society.

The Conference, *Pornography: Driving the Demand in International Sex Trafficking*, was co-sponsored by *Captive Daughters* and the *International Human Rights Law Institute* of the *DePaul University's College of Law*.

Noted speakers included Catharine MacKinnon, Prof. of Law at the *University of Michigan*, Dr. Gail Dines, Prof. of Sociology at *Wheelock College* in Boston, Dr. Melissa Farley of *Prostitution Research and Education* in San Francisco, and Mr. Kenneth Franzblau of *Equality Now*. Dr. Chyng Sun of *New York University's Media Studies Department* shared a film trailer of the documentary she and colleagues are working on, tentatively entitled, *"Fantasies Matter: Pornography, Sexualities and Relationships."*

MacKinnon showed how porn is a supply-side phenomenon in human trafficking, since the more porn is viewed, the more it is desired. Porn uses sex to make money. Porn simultaneously fuels the demand-side of the trafficking equation: prostitution.

Prostitution uses money to perpetuate women's degradation and abuse. To suppress the demand (i.e. prostitution), the law and society must suppress the supply as well (i.e. porn).

Dines, author of *Pornography: The Production and Consumption of Inequality*, highlighted pornography as a systematic form of oppressing women through violence and degradation. *"Having a country steeped in pornographic imagery creates an atmosphere that legitimizes and condones violence against women. Pornography perpetuates two myths: that women want to be violated and that men are, by nature, violent. It is an eroticized form of domination and subordination. We are seeing the 'pornolizing' of our culture,"* she said.

Privatized Cruelty

Because settings for producing porn are private and often anonymous, there is an increased probability of violence. This is also a condition for increased trafficking.

Men watching violent porn become addicted to it and act out more aggressively. They are also more likely to believe that women enjoy violent sex.

Technology has changed pornography, clouding the barrier between the producer and consumer. It is possible to engage in pornographic activity in

Demand cont. pg. 3

Cable Companies, Porn and Politics

In February *Adelphia Communications Corp.*, the country's fifth-largest cable television provider, became the first to offer hard-core adult films on pay-per-view to its subscribers. Adelphia says it does not "promote" its adult programming and is simply catering to viewers' "varied interests." *"Porn is a very lucrative source of funds,"* said Dennis McAlpine, a media and entertainment industry analyst. *"The cable companies and the satellite companies are programming agnostics in the sense that they don't care what the programming is. It's what the viewers want to see."* Adelphia's programming decision is being applauded by the adult film industry.

While the corporations generate millions in profits from providing adult content, their political contributions are often given to those elected, in no small part, because of their stance on "moral values." According to the *Center for Responsive Politics*, Cable has given millions in political donations since 1998. The national *Republican Party Committees* are its biggest organizational recipient, with donations totaling \$851,000. President Bush is its biggest individual recipient with \$109,000 in donations. Adelphia has given \$166,000 to Republican

Cable cont. pg. 5



Violence Against Women and the Sexual Exploitation of Women: Statement by the NGO-CSW Caucus



Thank you, Madam Chair.
The NGO-CSW *Caucus on Violence Against and the Sexual Exploitation of Women* is comprised of the International Council of Women, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Equality Now, MAPP, CLEF, European Women's Lobby, the World Federation for Mental Health, and other NGOs including the UN-NGO Committee on Mental Health view the problems of trafficking in women and HIV/AIDS as that of male demand rooted in gender inequality. The demand for prostituted sex is the engine, which drives the worldwide crisis of trafficking in women and girls.

There is an increasing urgency to tackle the conditions that facilitate the sexual exploitation of women and girls including the increasing harm of economic globalization, patriarchy; the broadening reach of Internet pornography and its commodification of women and girls; systematic rape and sexual exploitation during military conflicts.

The caucus is in consensus that prostitution is itself a form of violence against women. Prostituted women and girls experience prostitution as trauma to their minds and bodies which often leads to depression, substance abuse, and disassociation. Women and girls in prostitution face the daily threat of serious bodily harm and disease, including the threat of HIV/AIDS.

Prostitution should not be recognized as a form of labor. Rather, it is a form of violence whose root cause is male demand for prostituted and other forms of commercialized sex and is rooted in gender inequality.

Poverty is an enabling factor in

producing victims for prostitution and trafficking as recognized in the Palermo Protocol in its attention to the "abuse of a situation of vulnerability" and its definition of exploitation.

In its work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals of gender equality, eradicating extreme poverty and combating HIV/AIDS, the caucus strongly urges Member States, the UN, and civil society to recognize prostitution as a form of violence against women and a form of exploitation to which consent of the victim is irrelevant.

We urge the delegates to the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women to reaffirm the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others as well as the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on trafficking and to demand its full implementation with all urgency.

To include in States-parties mandated reports to the CEDAW, relative to article 6 of this convention, an evaluation of the legal status of the prostitution of women, including efforts to penalize the demand, prosecute procurers and customers and to decriminalize women in prostitution.

- We call on all States-parties to reject the legalization or normalization of all forms of male sexual violence including systems of prostitution and call for the enforcement of laws that attempt to hold perpetrators accountable;
- We call on all States-parties to adopt immigration remedies, including asylum and lawful residence, and to extend legal, health, psychosocial and mental health

interventions, and job training for victims of trafficking and all forms of sexual violence and exploitation.

- We call on all States-parties to create economic programs for women at risk of being trafficked and/or sexually exploited and to raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking and prostitution; and to introduce educational programs targeting men and boys.
- We call on States Parties to address the early sexualization of girls, even babies, propagated through fashion, and the media including pornography and the Internet, as an emerging issue.
- We call upon the United Nations agencies dealing with HIV/AIDS such as UNAIDS and UNIFEM, as well as States Parties, and NGOs to target and challenge male sexual behavior in relation to the demand for prostituted sex and unequal sexual relations with women.

In closing, we welcome the initiatives of the UN in preventing the demand by UN peacekeepers and advisers for prostituted sex and we urge all governments to implement similar policies for their armed forces.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. Rachel Paul, March 10, 2005
http://www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-statement_violence.html



Awareness

Demand

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a hotel room and, by means of hidden cameras, create porn films that are then sold on the global markets without the woman's (or child's) knowledge.

Growing Exponentially

In 1983 there were 13,000 porn clips. Today 11,000 are produced each year. The pornography industry has made more money over the last few years than the film and music industries combined. Technology is driven by porn, since sex sells technology.

Extremely Lucrative

Porn has the highest profit margin of any media. Now 69% of cable TV-volume is porn; 4% is video movies; and only 2% is sports. Comcast makes more than \$50 million in porn annually.

According to the *Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation*, in the year 2000 the adult film industry included between 10,000 and 20,000 jobs and brought in \$4.1 billion to the San Fernando Valley area alone. Worldwide, the industry generated about \$20 billion. Hollywood earns \$9.5 billion annually, while pornography rakes in \$10 billion annually. (Also see article, pg. 1 column 3.)

More Explicit and More Violent

Films that feature only sex, without any plot, are growing in popularity.

Today's pornographic films require women to be penetrated in three orifices at once by three different men.

'Snuff' films feature women being murdered as part of the sexual thrill for the consumer. Some of these films have involved actual murders during

Prostitution: Paid Serial Rape that Fuels Trafficking

Over the last decade, certain UN agencies, various governments, and some NGOs have promoted the policy that prostitution is voluntary and sex trafficking is forced. Yet, the reality is that prostitution and sex trafficking are habitually co-dependent. In countries that prohibit trafficking but decriminalize the sex industry, prostitution, sex trafficking, the illegal sex sector and child prostitution all expand. As women's economic status improves they refuse to do prostitution.

Even the indulgent Dutch are closing down their main tolerance zones, originally promoted as places that would protect women in prostitution and control the influence of organized crime. In 2004, Amsterdam's mayor admitted that Amsterdam's infamous prostitution zone had become a haven for traffickers and unsafe for women.

To its victims, sexual exploitation is neither sex nor sexy. Many progressives, who state that globalized capitalism promotes gender, race and class inequality, have a strange reluctance to criticize the sex industry for doing exactly that. They are out of touch with the majority of women in prostitution, who want not "better working conditions" but a better life.

Prostitution is not "sex work;" it is violence against women. It exists because significant numbers of men are given social, moral and legal permission to buy women on demand. It exists because pimps and traffickers prey on women's poverty and inequality. It exists because it is a last ditch survival strategy, not a choice, for millions of the world's women. (Partial comments by Janice Raymond excerpted from <http://www.catholicsforchoice.org/conscience/>)

the filming. One film, a step-by-step guide on how to lure and rape a young girl, has been in the top 10% of the highest selling pornography films for the last three years.

What To Do?

The four arguments most frequently used to ridicule and discredit porn opponents are:

1. You are against free speech.
2. You are homophobic.
3. You are against sex.
4. You belong to the right wing.

Anti-porn advocates are working to develop effective rebuttals to those unfounded assertions.

People need to realize the "HARM" involved in using and promoting porn.

Current obscenity laws deal only with a morality about *what is said and shown*, not about the *harm being*

done by what happened and by how porn is used later. Porn promotes a culture that objectifies and commodifies women. Porn is a technology of recycling prostituted women. Porn images can be "sold" to millions of buyers, for years afterward, and over great distances. Porn is trafficking because it sells the images of abuse across borders and exploits those images without the consent of the victim. Women and children continue to be used and abused, since they are the persons behind those images.

S. Jean Schaffer



Advocacy

British Law To Target Men Who Fuel Sex Trade

Men who use prostitutes smuggled into Britain will face prosecution for exploiting victims of the international sex trade.

Harriet Harman, the solicitor general, has asked the Crown Prosecution Service to draw up ways of targeting those who pay to use women forcibly abducted or tricked into sex work.

The move marks a shift towards criminalizing men who pay for sex. They are not currently considered to have committed an offense, but it is illegal for women to solicit and for men to 'curb crawl' or to pimp women.

Recent changes have created the offense of sleeping with an underage prostitute - putting the onus on the man to prove he could not have known her true age.

Harman has held talks with Caroline Flint, the Home Office minister overseeing a review of prostitution law, about whether similar changes are needed to protect trafficked women. *"The only reason traffickers are making huge amounts of money coming*

here is because men are paying for sex with these girls. If they thought that if the girl didn't speak English or looked young they could be prosecuted, it might really have a deterrent effect,' said one senior minister.

Around 1,400 women are thought to be smuggled into Britain annually for prostitution: many are offered bar work, only to be beaten and coerced into sex work to repay crippling debts charged for their journey. Victims are often repeatedly raped by traffickers to 'break their spirits'. As illegal immigrants, most of these women are too frightened to go to police.

Trafficking became a criminal offense last year but ministers say the trade will not stop without tackling demand as well as supply.

The idea raises complex questions about whether women freely choose to sell sex, with some feminist campaigners arguing it is wrong to treat prostitutes as victims who need to be 'rescued'.

However, Natalia Dawkins, manager of the Poppy Project, which provides safe houses for trafficking victims, said punters should recognize their complicity in exploitation. *'Prostitution is violence against women, the same as domestic violence,' she said. 'We would like to see men buying sex criminalized for doing it.'*

While some research has suggested many trafficked women have some idea they are headed for sex work, Dawkins said most did not realize they would be trapped. *'We're quite sure some know it isn't going to be bar work but it is the exploitation, the violence, the level of brutality that goes with it that they don't expect.'*

'It's too easy to say "she knew what she was getting into". That completely removes the responsibility from the men that are facilitating her being there.'

Excerpted from

The Observer, Nov. 21, 2004

http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1356104,00.html

"We can succumb to resignation and base our actions against prostitution and trafficking in women on the idea that these practices are inescapable, necessary and something that always will exist and therefore should be accepted: because men need it, women 'choose' it, or because prostitution has always existed as the 'oldest profession in the world.'

Or, we can firmly reject the idea that some women and children, mainly girls, should be seen as commodities that can be bought and sold. Instead, we must have a vision, like we do in Sweden, that it will, in fact, be possible to eliminate prostitution and instead create a society based on gender equality, a society in which prostitution and trafficking in women is seen as incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and the equal rights of men and women."

Jens Orbak, Swedish Minister for Gender Equality,

49th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 1, 2005.



Action

5 End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005

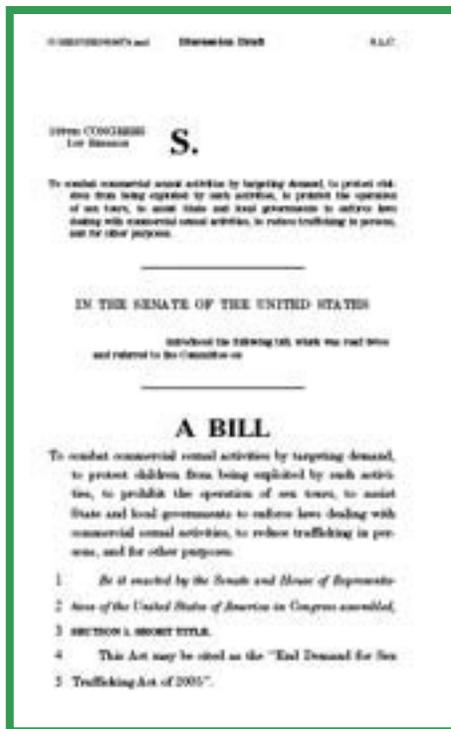
The U. S. Senate bill, formerly known as the *Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act*, has gone through various modifications. In particular, the bill's name has been changed to the *End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005*. Additionally, modifications have been made to the definitions section of the legislation. However, substantively the bill remains unchanged.

The bill's purpose is:

"To combat commercial sexual activities by targeting demand, to protect children from being exploited by such activities, to prohibit the operation of sex tours, to assist State and local governments to enforce laws dealing with commercial sexual activities, to reduce trafficking in persons, and for other purposes."

The bill's measures include:

- authorization of federal funds for grants to States and nongovernmental organizations to establish model law enforcement programs for the prosecution of purchasers, exploiters, and sex traffickers, as well as to assist victims;
- modifications to the Mann Act to strengthen prosecution and punishment of purchasers, exploiters, and sex traffickers;
- coordination of federal activities with the Senior Policy Operating Group created by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000;
- mandate for an annual report on



best practices to reduce demand for commercial sex acts to be completed by the Department of Justice, as well as comprehensive statistical review of commercial sex acts in the United States; and

- mandate for an annual conference conducted by the Department of Justice to announce and evaluate finding of the report.

It is anticipated that Senators Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and John Cornyn (R-TX) will introduce the bill by early April. Letters of support to the Senators involved would be highly advantageous.

Please consider formally supporting the bill. Should you write, please send a copy to Lisa Thompson (lisa_thompson@usn.salvationarmy.org) who monitors the bill's support for the *Abolition of Sexual Trafficking Coalition*, of which the Salvation Army is one member.

Letters of support may be sent to:

- James Ho of Senator Cornyn's office (James_ho@judiciary.senate.gov)
- Derek Lindblom of Senator Schummer's office (Derek_Lindblom@judiciary-dem.senate.gov).

Cable *cont. from pg. 1*

committees, \$17,000 to Rep. John Peterson, R-Pa., and \$12,000 to Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., one of the most conservative members of the Senate. Activists say Adelphia's decision -- and the rush of major American companies to profit from porn -- is hypocrisy fueled by billions in corporate profits.

Activist Donna R. Hughes, president of the anti-porn group *Enough Is Enough*, calls these corporations "white-collar pornographers."

Excerpted from ABC News 02.08.2005
<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0208-12.htm>



Action

Human Trafficking Conference Scheduled

During the April 19 – 21, 2005 Conference Kevin Bales, Ph.D., President of *Free the Slaves* and author of *Disposable People - New Slavery in the Global Economy*, will be a featured guest lecturer.

Human Trafficking, the new slavery, is one of the most flagrant forms of human rights violations in the world today. It is estimated that internationally between 800,000 and 900,000 persons, mostly women and children, are trafficked annually. Approximately 20,000 end up as slaves in the U.S.

Public Lectures:

April 19th 8:00 p.m.
Slavery in America Today

Taylor Little Theatre at Mercyhurst College

April 20th 1:30 p.m.

Slavery in America Today
Ford Chapel at Allegheny College

April 20th 7:30 p.m.

Throwaway People
Smith Chapel at Penn State Behrend

April 21st 12:30 p.m.

Economics of Disaster, the Tsunami & Human Trafficking

University Center at Edinboro University
A tax deductible, free-will offering will be col-



lected for *Free the Slaves* at each lecture.

Conference Presented by:

Allegheny College, Edinboro University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst College, Penn State Erie - The Behrend College, Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Erie Regional Community, Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

THE LINK BETWEEN PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Congress adopted a strong position against legalized prostitution in a December 2002 National Security Presidential Directive based on evidence that prostitution is inherently harmful and degrading, and that trafficking is pervasive, a form of modern day slavery. Prostitution is an inherent violation of human rights and a barrier to economic development—stifling the growth of modern day slavery by providing a legal outlet which facilitates its concealment and expansion.

Where prostitution is legalized or tolerated, there is a greater demand for human trafficking, because a ready supply of women is the number one reason why children trafficked into commercial sex slavery.

Of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually, 80 percent of victims are women, and up to 50 percent are children. Hundreds of thousands of these women and children are sold in prostitution each year.

Women and children need to escape prostitution
The real tragedy of women in prostitution does not end in the street, but in their lives, and their families.

Prostitution is inherently harmful
Sex activities are a health and danger to people in prostitution. Research in the sex industry has revealed that 40-75 percent of women in prostitution were raped. 70-81 percent were physically abused, and 43 percent saw their children be put into the street. In addition, the sex industry is a major source of revenue for organized crime, human rights violations, and violence against women. Support the U.S. Department of Justice.

(Left) This document is available at:
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38790.htm>

AgJOBS Bill Needs Support

AgJOBS may come for a vote in Congress shortly. Help farm workers by urging your Congress members to co-sponsor and vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

AgJOBS (S. 359/H.R. 884) would allow undocumented farm workers to earn the right to permanently stay in this country by continuing to work in agriculture. With broad bipartisan support, AgJOBS (S. 359/H.R. 884) is a comprehensive bill negotiated by the UFW and the agricultural industry. Last year, thanks to your help, there were 63 co-sponsors in the Senate. The bill reintroduced last month already has 43 Senate co-sponsors. Help reach the goal of more than 60 co-sponsors! Send the message that we will not let the AgJOBS vote be denied this year!

The first easy step is to sign the petition!

The people who put the food on our table are often faced with fear and intimidation because many employers use the threat of deportation to ensure their silence.

Undocumented farm workers share the values that many of you do: they want to provide for their families and to live without fear. They could earn the opportunity over time through AgJOBS. *Cont. pg. 7*

Toll-Free Hotline:
(Trafficking Information and Referral)
1.888.373.7888



Action

AgJOBS *cont. from pg. 6*

Send this letter TODAY urging your Congressmembers to enact AgJOBS.

Majority Leader
Your Congressperson
Your Senators

Stop the abuse and exploitation that undocumented farm workers endure.

I urge you to co-sponsor and vote for AgJOBS (S. 359/H. R. 884). This bill would allow undocumented farm workers to earn the right to permanently stay in this country by continuing to work in agriculture. With broad bipartisan support, AgJOBS (S. 359/H.R. 884) is a comprehensive bill negotiated by the UFW and the agricultural industry.

Farm workers do the hardest, most difficult jobs other workers won't do. Their sweat and sacrifice help feed this nation. Yet, they are faced with fear and intimidation because many employers use the threat of deportation to ensure their silence.

Undocumented farm workers share the values that Americans do—they want to provide for their families and to live without fear. They would earn this opportunity over time through AgJOBS.

Signed by:
[Your name]
[Your address]

Make Poverty History

is the theme of the April 10-16, 2005 *Global Week of Action*. A global coalition will use the week to raise consciousness about how the unjust trade laws keep peoples of the developing world living in poverty.

Please sign the petition at <http://www.april2005.org>

By doing so you will help challenge governments and world financial organizations to change the rules and practices that govern global trade so that they give priority to human rights, eradicate poverty, and protect the environment.

Fair Trade promotes sustainable communities and economic justice through fair systems of international trade.

Check to see if *Fair Trade* products are available at the stores where you shop. If they are, tell the manager, "Thank you."

Our economic decisions affect social change here and and influence human trafficking everywhere.

Cesar Chavez Day,

April 24, 2005, is a day to take some action for immigrants and the working poor in the U.S. Visit: www.ufw.org

Editor's Note:
If you know of good video/ book resources, please notify us so we can pass the word on to other readers.
Thank you!

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

U.S. Government Position on Prostitution
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38790.htm>

The Swedish Position Paper on Trafficking and Prostitution.
<http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/03/16/13/110ab985.pdf>

Sweden at CSW
www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/04/01/44/6c085af9.pdf

AgJOBS
<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/agjobspetition/ui853gra7b3ekm>

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/stoptrafficking/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address:
jeansds2000@yahoo.com

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