

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

May 2008 Vol. 6 No. 5

This issue highlights campaigns targeting the Olympic games because of the human abuses countries face while hosting the event.

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Olympic 'Games'

In the *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2007* two of these countries rank on the Tier 2 Watch List. Two others rank on Tier 1. Yet all four countries have a significant number of foreign people brought in for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.



2008 Beijing, China Aug. 8 - 24
2010 Vancouver, B.C. Canada Feb. 12 - 28
2012 London, England July 27 - Aug. 12
2014 Sochi, Russia Feb. 7 - 23
http://www.olympic.org/uk/index_uk.asp

Fans may be ignorant or turn a blind eye to what happens behind the scenes to innocent people during the games. Others use the occasion to make money at any cost. **But you can speak out for human rights.**
Express your concerns in time to make a difference!

2008: China Abusive Child Labor Ring Exposed

China broke up a child labor ring that forced children from poor, inland areas to work in booming coastal cities, acknowledging that severe labor abuses extended into the heart of its export economy. Authorities in areas near Hong Kong said they made several arrests and had already "rescued" more than 100 children from factories in one of the country's largest manufacturing centers for electronics and consumer goods sold around the world. The officials said they were investigating reports that hundreds of other rural children had been lured or forced into captive, almost slave-like, conditions for minimal pay.

The children, mostly between the ages of 13 and 15, were often tricked or kidnapped by employment agencies in an impoverished parts of China and sent to factory towns where they were sometimes forced to work 300 hours a month. The legal working age in China is 16.

The labor scandal is the latest embarrassment for China as it prepares to host the 2008 Olympic Games. For much of the past year, the country has been plagued by damaging reports about severe pollution, dangerous exports, riots in

Labor Abuse cont. pg. 2

2010: Vancouver B. C.

Preparations for the 2010 Winter Olympics are moving along: The Canadian Security Intelligence Service is getting ready for violence. The province of British Columbia is keeping to its tight construction schedule. And Vancouver's mayor is open to meeting the sexual needs of tourists attending the Games.

The notion that laws on prostitution should be altered, even temporarily, to accommodate the sexual desires of fans at large sporting events is not unique to British Columbia.

In South Africa, the former national police commissioner proposed liberalizing the country's prostitution laws for

Sexual Abuse cont. pg. 2

2012: London

The 2012 London Olympics may be a magnet for human traffickers bringing in prostitutes and illegal workers, the government reported, as it makes plans to combat gangs that imprison women and force them into the sex trade and push men into forced labor. "Hospitality, catering and construction workers will be required. Criminal elements are expected to exploit the situation by establishing themselves in London from now on."

London Plan cont. pg. 7



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Awareness

Sporting Events: Time to Expose the Link to 'Demand'

In the summer of 2007 members of a coalition of women demonstrated during the *Grand Prix* and *World Cup Soccer* events in Montreal to raise awareness about the link between sporting events and an increased demand for prostitution. Often, vulnerable women from poor countries are brought to Canada with the promise of a good job or marriage. Once here, their passports are taken and they are forced into prostitution. They are then at the mercy of their pimps.

The coalition collected signatures on a petition that would push the federal government to finance groups wanting to help young women escape from the bondage into which they are forced.

In December 2007 the coalition sent a packet of information to the Vancouver mayor urging him not to allow legalized brothels in anticipation of the Games. Members of the coalition included women from the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, laity from St. Monica's parish in Notre Dame de Grace, sisters from the Congregation of Notre Dame and Congregation of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the West End Clergy Association and human rights workers affiliated with the Comité d'action contre le trafic humain et international (CATHI).

CATHI has created ties with the Montreal police and groups working on behalf of domestic workers and shelters that help sexual assault victims. (<http://www.canada.com/montreal-gazette/news/story.html?id=98338692-855a-411e-b927-d097b2c3f25f>)

Sexual Abuse *from pg. 1*
the World Cup 2010, soccer's biggest event. The commissioner is reported to have said he wanted to follow Germany's "successful path".

Germany, host of the 2006 World Cup, campaigned against "forced" prostitution. The head of FIFA, soccer's world body, urged fans to use only "voluntary" prostitutes. Yet many foreign women were trafficked to Germany to service the thousands of fans at the soccer championship.

Already in South Africa, anti-trafficking activists say there are reports of street children being gathered up in readiness for the World Cup.

Sports events like Formula 1 racing, soccer championships or the Olympic Games are a magnet for human traffickers and their customers, writes University of Ottawa sociologist Richard Poulin. In a 2008 essay, Poulin criticized proposals to relax prostitution laws for sports events, whether in South Africa or Canada. (In Canada, paying for sex between consenting adults is legal. Other activities such as soliciting in a public place, being in a bawdy house or forcing a person to prostitute herself are not.)

With an estimated 90% of prostitutes forced into the sex trade, increasing the number of prostitutes is not a good idea. Research shows that the vast majority of prostitutes have been trafficked or been sexually victimized in their homes or suffer from drug addiction. (www.canada.com/montrealgazette/columnists/story.html?id=7a78a552-adf4-4fdc-8af8-687906935f2a)

Labor Abuse *from pg. 1*

Tibet and the ensuing disruptions to its Olympic torch relay by Tibet's sympathizers, among other groups. The abuses may also reflect the combined pressures of worker shortages, high inflation and a rising currency that have reduced profit margins of some Chinese factories and forced them to take illegal steps, including child labor, to remain competitive.

The child labor ring, which was first uncovered by a crusading newspaper, came less than a year after China was rocked by exposure of a similar problem in a less developed part of central China. In June, 2007 labor officials rescued hundreds of people, including children, from slave labor conditions in rural brick kilns. Many of those workers said they had been kidnapped. In August, 2007 Beijing revoked the license of a factory accused of using child labor to produce Olympic merchandise. Several other suppliers were also punished for labor law violations.

Factories that supply global companies, including Wal-Mart Stores, have been accused of using child labor and violating local labor laws. Big corporations have stepped up inspections of factories that produce goods for them. But suppliers have become adept at evading such scrutiny by providing fake wage and work schedule data that suggest they abide by labor laws. Recruiters and labor agencies often select and transport children, who are then "sold" to factories at virtual auctions. At some coastal factories, children were even lined up and selected based on their body type, wrote journalists, who investigated. They reported that children were paid about 42 cents an hour, far below the local minimum wage of about 64 cents an hour. By law, overtime pay is much higher. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/01/world/asia/01china.html>)



Awareness

Foreign Prostitution: Low in Vancouver in 2010

The Vancouver Public Safety Minister does not foresee many foreign women coming for prostitution during the 2010 Winter Olympics Games due to tight security. In February 2008 he said, *"We find that looking at the events themselves and at past events.... because there is so much focus on security and a higher level of scrutiny of people coming into the country — passports, visas — there's not a giant blip upwards in human trafficking related to a specific event."*

There will likely be more Canadian prostitutes in the area during the Olympics. *"We see it on the domestic side,"* he said. *"Just like you see crimes like pick pocketing and break-ins of automobiles go up, there are certain crimes that go up during those times."* But increased prostitution will also mean more arrests of pimps, he added. *"Organized crime groups will stake out their territory, and that does give an opportunity ... because the exploiters come out of the woodwork a bit and can be pursued."*

Meanwhile, the Justice Minister said the idea of setting up legal brothels in Vancouver to cater to Games visitors is a non-starter. *"The government has no intention of legalizing brothels in this country. We have no intention of legalizing the other aspects of prostitution. On the contrary,"* he said, *"the government is fighting in court in British Columbia and Ontario against constitutional challenges to existing prostitution laws."* (<http://www.topix.com/ca/vancouver-bc/2008/02/stockwell-day-talks-olympic-prostitution>)

Olympics Games: Forcible Removal of Two Million People Over 20 Years

More than 2 million people have been moved from their homes over the past 20 years, many of them forcibly, to clear space for the Olympic Games, a human rights group reported in June 2007.

Three quarters of the displaced people are in China, where the authorities cleared large swaths of residential districts ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games, according to a report by the Geneva-based *Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)*.

Although China denied the statistics, the COHRE report insists that its statistics are conservative, and do not include rural migrants living in the overcrowded central districts of Beijing, who the group says will be forced out.

There are other sporting events and big public occasions which have led to large-scale evictions and house-clearing, and their impact is reported in the COHRE report: *Mega-events, Olympic Games and Housing Rights*. For example, 1,000 shantytown homes were allegedly bulldozed to make room for the 2002 Miss World beauty pageant in Abuja, Nigeria. But the report makes clear the Olympics is the biggest steamroller of all.

According to COHRE, 720,000 people were forcibly evicted in the preparation for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul and 30,000 people were displaced in the gentrification and development for Atlanta in 1996.

In London, where the 2012 Olympics are scheduled, COHRE said 1,000 people faced the prospect of having to move. The impact would be felt disproportionately by the poor and minorities, the report said. A London Development Agency spokesperson said the report was *"littered with misleading information"*. Half the 1,000 people mentioned were students whose accommodation was being moved for reasons unrelated to the 2012 Olympics. *"The regeneration sparked by the Olympics will create up to 40,000 new homes,"* he said.

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/jun/06/sport.china>)

In October 2007, more than 1500 Indigenous people representing communities across this hemisphere held the Gathering of the Indigenous Peoples of America, on Yaqui territory in Vicam, Sonora, Mexico. They stated in their final declaration, *"We reject the 2010 Winter Olympics on sacred and stolen territory of Turtle Island—Vancouver, Canada."*

The effects of the 2010 Olympics will be far greater than the games themselves with the expansion of sport tourism on unceded indigenous lands and increased land tenure to corporations; increasing homelessness and gentrification of poor neighborhoods, and unprecedented destruction of mountains, old growth forests, streams, hunting and fishing grounds, and delicate ecosystems.

While the Olympic organizers operate with a budget of almost \$2 billion (costs for the Vancouver's Trade and Convention Center alone has reached almost \$900 million) and other costs to government surpassing an estimated \$6 billion, Vancouver is now home to North America's fastest growing homelessness crisis. Dozens of low-income hotels and apartment buildings are being converted to unaffordable condominiums. Over 126,000 people in 56,000 households in Greater Vancouver are at risk of homelessness according to the 2001 Canada census. As thousands of people are forced from their homes, they are then criminalized for being homeless. Indigenous people account for 30% of this homeless population, despite making up only 2% of the total population in the province.

(<http://www.no2010.com/>)



Awareness

Legalization is no answer to prostitution. There is no parallel to be drawn between it and the prohibition of alcohol. Prostituted women are not commodities. The only appropriate parallel is to slavery.

Legalization does nothing to restore dignity to the work of performing sex acts on strangers. If it did then the majority of women in legal brothels in Germany, the Netherlands and Australia would not be women from the poorest countries in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Far from eliminating illegal trafficking, it has either stabilized or increased since legalization.

According to Univ. of B.C. law professor Benjamin Perrin, *“The Olympics is not a time to test a social experiment like this that has already failed in other countries.”*

(<http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/columnists/story.html?id=aoed05d9-8027-4993-81b1-b7254d870ce4>)

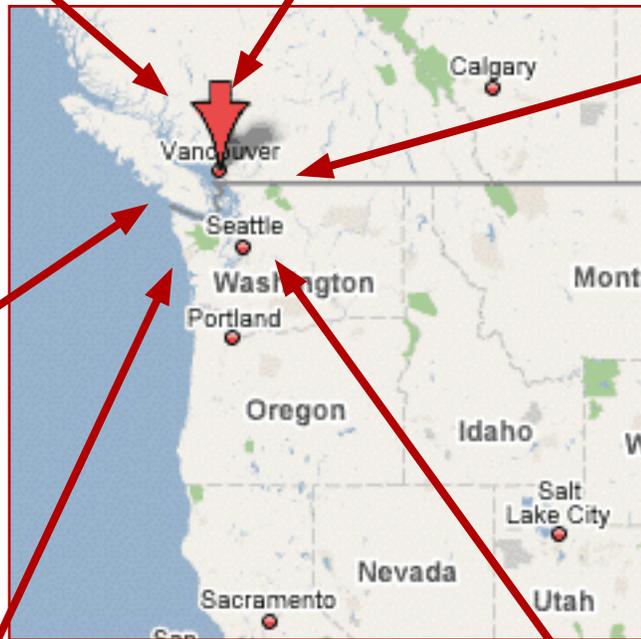
“A brothel can’t legitimize an industry that completely victimizes women. You can call it what you want, but prostitution is just a breath short of slavery.”

These women are not in it by choice. The police department would in no way support anything like a brothel.”

Tim Fanning, Vancouver police

“The majority of Vancouver’s prostitutes are native women, and many of them suffer from deep psychological trauma.”

Janine Benedet,
Assoc. Prof. of law,
University of B.C.



The proposal for a network of legal brothels “entrenches prostitution as legitimate, and therefore legitimates pimps and traffickers. I do not believe the public would agree that this is a good idea – to have some disposable women available for the Olympics.”

Daisy Kler,
Vancouver Rape Relief

The Calgary-based *‘The Future Group’* released a Report in November 2007, warning that Vancouver’s Olympics will be a target of human traffickers wanting to exploit prostitution. Entitled *‘Faster, Higher, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics’* urged the federal and provincial governments to deter traffickers from using the Olympic Games to profit from human misery.

“Two main ways that international sporting events may affect human trafficking in the host country: (1) contributing to a short-term increase in demand for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation in, and around, the locale of the event; and (2) facilitating entry of trafficked persons as ‘visitors’ before they are transited to other cities or countries and exploited there.” (Report, pg.9)

“Legal brothels in Vancouver would open the door to more human trafficking, as witnessed in places such as Germany, The Netherlands, Australia and Las Vegas. More human trafficking means more exploitation, enslavement and abuse of women.”

Peggy Sakow, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Montreal



Advocacy

‘Should Prostitution be Legalized Before the 2010 Olympics?’

The *Work Less Party* (<http://www.worklessparty.org/index>) conducted a Forum in March 2008 to provide Vancouver citizens the opportunity to voice their diverse points of view over the issue. The event is able to be seen on the Internet by webcast (see below). Underlying the discussion were considerations such as:

- How will a mega-event that will bring thousands of tourists to Vancouver affect the sex trade in the city?
- Will the recent implementation of a sex worker’s cooperative help or merely compound the problem and further exploit already marginalized women?
- Is there a solution to Vancouver’s sex trade?
- What about the trafficking of women?
- Can a policy that recognizes the multiple dimensions of the sex trade be found?

Speakers included: Susan Davis, BCEW (British Columbia Coalition of Experiential Women); Danielle Cormier, XPALSS (Ex-Prostitutes Against Legislated Sexual Servitude); Dave Dickson, Vancouver Police Dept, Sex Worker Liaison; Jackie Lynne, AWAN (Aboriginal Women’s Action Network); Lee Lakeman, Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres; and others not shown.

Go to: <http://www.workingtv.com/prostitution2010.html>

Then click on the icon for whichever media player you have on your computer (QuickTime video, Real Video, Window Media Player video, or mp3 audio). Some files will require time to download, depending on the type of Internet connection you have.



S. Davis



D. Cormier



J. Lynne



L. Lakeman



D. Dickson

**“This is a moment of hope.
We can actually say to men worldwide,
‘JUST STOP IT!’ ”**
Lee Lakeman

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY Take Corporate Stance

We, the *Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Family*, stand in support of human rights by firmly opposing trafficking of all persons, especially of women and children, for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

We commit ourselves to:

- Congregation-wide prayer for the end of this grave injustice;
- educate ourselves and others about the inherent violence involved in the buying, selling and transporting of human beings;
- work for systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that address the prevention of trafficking and give voice to those whose poverty makes them vulnerable to traffickers.

SDS Lay Associates Take Corporate Stance

In solidarity with the *Sisters of the Divine Savior* and the *Society of the Divine Savior*, the *Lay Salvatorians* formally voted to:

- take a corporate and public stance against the human trafficking of women, children and men;
- pledge to do what we can with our structures and ministries to bring healing and justice to these victims;
- join the many other communities of religious men and women, who have already taken a public corporate stance on this important issue.





Action

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2008 Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements

(The Institute is held at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia.)

Human Dignity and 2010 Olympics:

Challenging the Trafficking of Women, June 27-29, 2008

Participants will hear spiritual teachings and faith responses to trafficking of women and hear from women who have worked with women in the sex trade.

The objectives of this event are to:

- Examine the underlying structural dynamics that contribute to international and domestic trafficking of women;
- Discuss the acceleration of sexual and physical violence against Indigenous women and girls in the context of the Olympics and ongoing colonialism;
- Examine different strategies being proposed to address trafficking and the Olympics;
- Consider the contributions of spiritual teachings and faith responses to addressing trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women for the Olympics and tourism;
- Consider the implications of the range of voices on the issues of sexual exploitation, sex commerce and trafficking;
- Examine concrete approaches to improving the prevention and safety of women who are trafficked.

The format includes speakers, workshops to provide in depth analysis, panels, small group discussions, open space for strategies and a plenary session.

The Perfect Storm of Inequality: Sexism, Racism, and Economic Exploitation in Contemporary Pornography

Robert Jensen, August 12, 2008

Although the media reform movement is committed to a consistent progressive critique of racism, sexism, and commercialized mass media, the pornography industry has never been part of that movement's agenda. As pornography has become increasingly normalized and pop culture becomes increasingly pornographic, the movement against trafficking and sex tourism in the context of the Olympics is an appropriate context in which to take up the issue for both principled and strategic reasons. Pornography is a genre in which we see the worst aspects of patriarchy (relentless misogyny), white supremacy (overtly racist

Institute cont. col. 3

Institute cont. from col. 2

depictions), and corporate capitalism (the commodification of all aspects of our lives). As pornography's images of women grow more cruel and degrading, and more overtly racist, it becomes increasingly dangerous to leave this issue to right-wing religious forces and more imperative for progressives to understand a feminist critique. With racialized women the largest group that is trafficked, how could a critique of pornography become a vehicle to educate men to join in challenging the sexual exploitation of all women?

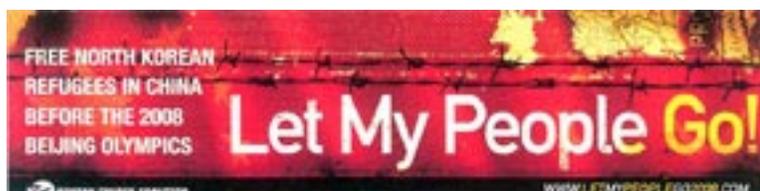
Robert Jensen, a professor of journalism at the University of Texas, Austin, will report on 20 years of research on the pornography industry and men's use of pornography. Drawing on hundreds of formal interviews and informal discussions with men, Jensen will explore strategies for reaching men through this issue in ways that can open doors to a larger discussion of sex and violence. Jensen is author of *Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*, 2007.

These free programs take place at *Simon Fraser University*, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby B.C. V5A 1S6 Canada. Refer to their website for further information: <http://www.interfaithjustice.org/>

“Let My People Go” Campaign

The Korean Church Coalition (KCC) launched a campaign *“Let My People Go”* in connection with the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It calls for the freedom for 300,000 North Korean refugees hiding in China.

Currently if the refugees are discovered by Chinese authorities they are deported back to the despotic regime of Kim Jong Il in North Korea. Many of these North Korean refugees fall victim to traffickers. (<http://www.iast.net/documents/CBTestmny.pdf>)





Action

Letter Campaign

As part of our solidarity with the ministry to victims of human trafficking, we are working to prevent trafficking connected to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Unfortunately, it has been customary for unscrupulous persons to foster the sex trade during the Olympics. They take advantage of the influx of international tourists and athletes.

We invite anyone to join us in writing to address the issue of trafficking at the 2010 Olympics in B.C. As you know, your letter could be just a few sentences!

Please download information and a sample letter at: <http://www.schalifax.ca/sub/o3gglobal/01aabout.html>

Those in the U.S. are asked to send letters to those listed in Canada and, if you wish, to:

Ambassador David H. Wilkins
(U.S. Ambassador to Canada)
P.O.B 866
Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5T1
Canada

Thank you! Joan O'Keefe SC

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

British Columbia Anti-Trafficking Website Launched

The *Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons* (OCTIP) opened under the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in July 2007 with a mandate to develop and coordinate B.C.'s response to human trafficking. OCTIP now has its own website (see col. 3).

As the first office of its kind in Canada, OCTIP has joined forces with key provincial ministries, federal departments, municipal governments, law enforcement agencies, community based and aboriginal organizations, in the development and delivery of an integrated and permanent response to human trafficking in B.C.

OCTIP reports to the Deputy Solicitor General and is jointly funded by two provincial ministries: the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General; and Children and Family Development. The goals of OCTIP:

- Reduce and prevent human trafficking
- Identify and protect trafficked persons
- Coordinate services for trafficked persons
- Contribute to national and international efforts, including prosecutions, to eliminate human trafficking.

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

Faster, Higher, Stronger
<http://www.thefuturegroup.org>

Let My People Go Campaign
<http://www.kccnk.org/letmypeoplego2008/>

OCTIP
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/index.htm>

LCWR Symposium

In April 2008 the Boston Unit of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) sponsored a symposium on human trafficking. The event was held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Brighton and drew close to 200 participants, including members of more than 16 religious congregations of women in the Boston area, health-care professionals, chaplains, educators and graduate students from area universities.

The goals of the day were to:

- raise awareness of global, U.S. and local anti-trafficking efforts.
- share Boston-area advocacy efforts to assist trafficking victims.
- assist participants in finding concrete action to continue the work of eradicating human trafficking. (<http://www.antitraf.net/home.php?mode=more&id=26&lang=en>)

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/srjeanschaferds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address:
jeansds2008@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout:
Jean Schafer, SDS

London Plan *from pg. 1*

The government has signed a European convention giving human trafficking victims 30 days to stay and recover from their ordeal before deciding whether to help police. The Home Office action plan calls for specialist trafficking teams to be set up at UK ports and airports. It is also planning to set up an advice line for police, immigration staff and social workers and a national system to identify victims more quickly. (http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/6483407.stm?ls)