

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

January 2009 Vol. 7 No. 1

This issue highlights current news and summaries of recent reports.

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Trafficking Bill Becomes Law

The *William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (H.R. 7311, also named the *Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008*) was passed unanimously by both Senate and the House of Representatives on Dec. 10, 2008.

It was signed into law by Pres. George W. Bush on Dec. 23, 2008, becoming Public Law No. 110-457 on Dec. 24th.

Internationally, the TVPRA focuses on the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* as a diplomatic tool to encourage foreign governments to increase efforts to end modern slavery and the use of child soldiers.

In the USA, the Law aims to enhance penalties for traffickers and better protect victims on U.S. soil – whether foreign nationals or U.S. citizens.

Among many dimensions, the TVPRA sets new standards for how children will be treated in custody, the kind of mental health and other services they will receive, and the conditions under which they can be sent home.

In July, 2008 the *President's Inter-agency Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, put out the eight departments listing of achievements for 2001-2008. The Report may be found at: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/o8/107412.htm>

U.S. to Grant Visas to Trafficking Victims

On Dec. 8, 2008 the *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services* (USCIS) published an interim final rule that permits those with T-visas (immigrants who were victims of human trafficking) and U-visas (victims of crimes who suffered mental or physical abuses) to acquire green cards.

The two non-immigrant classifications were the result of the approval of the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act* in October 2000.

The rules limit the adjustment of status for T-visa holders to 5,000 people, although it covers only the main visa applicant, not their families who are also permitted to change their immigration status together with the main visa holder.

The USCIS took almost six years to draft regulations because the change in migration status of T and U visa holders involved complex, difficult legal and policy issues.

Immigration advocates hailed the release of the long overdue regulations. According to an immigration lawyer human trafficking victims will be helped out of uncertainty and be able to move on with their lives.

After the rules are published in the *Federal Register*, they become final in 30 days. (<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7013341711>)



Awareness

U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Wins TIP Award

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) chose Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne, U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, as the recipient of the 2008 Paul Wellstone Anti-Slavery Ambassador of the Year award. Amb. Wayne worked to raise awareness of TIP among government officials, journalists, non-governmental organizations, and academics. He brought the issue to the highest levels of the Government of Argentina, including numerous discussions with Argentina's President and the Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

From advocating for tougher anti-TIP legislation in Argentina's Congress to intervening for the safety of anti-TIP activists, Ambassador Wayne has exhibited a deep commitment to fighting and, ultimately, abolishing all forms of trafficking in persons.

The award was named after the late Senator Paul Wellstone, who had passionately defended human rights and justice around the world. He had supported the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and played a vital role in the creation of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Amb. Mark P. Lagon, Director of the U.S. State Department's TIP Office presented the award. Lagon is slated to become the Executive Director of the Polaris Project in February 2009. (For more information visit: www.state.gov/g/tip and www.polarisproject.org)

Recommendations Sent to President Obama

Humanity United formed the Action Group, a U.S.-based, non-partisan group of organizations dedicated to abolishing modern-day slavery and human trafficking. The Action Group submitted a transition report to the incoming Presidential administration entitled: "Recommendations for Fighting Human Trafficking in the U.S. and Abroad." Among the recommendations were these: **Expand Public-Private Partnerships to work on anti-Trafficking projects both domestically and internationally.**

The business community, in collaboration with workers' organizations, has an important role to play in addressing human trafficking. To that end, President Obama should convene international and domestic sector leaders representing business and workers' organizations to address trafficking in corporate supply chains. Greater attention and resources need to be provided to the critical efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Consider ways that the U.S. might learn from, and build on, the example of Brazil's National Plan for the Eradication of Slave Labor in combating trafficking in supply chains.

Federal enforcement activity, extensive supply chain research, and corporate education and engagement stem slave labor. Those using forced labor are subject to civil sanction and oversight. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has played a key role in shaping this initiative. (For details on what Brazil did, see *Combating Forced Labor: A Handbook for Employers & Business*, Bk 7 pgs. 1-4 at: http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/News/lang--en/WCMS_099621/index.htm)

By Executive action ensure that the provision of services for victims of trafficking is de-linked from cooperation with law enforcement.

Now a TVPA provision requires victims of trafficking to cooperate with law enforcement in order to be eligible for needed protection services. Victims should be entitled to protection services solely because they are victims of trafficking. *Victims of trafficking should receive comprehensive and appropriate services.*

Housing is among the most urgent and consistently needed services for survivors of human trafficking. President Obama should direct that federal agencies with custody of trafficking victims to place them in appropriate housing options

where their special needs can be addressed. Increased funding for human trafficking shelters should not impact funding for domestic violence or other shelters.

Pres. Obama should strengthen protection of domestic workers employed by diplomats.

This can be accomplished by directing relevant Executive Branch departments and other entities to work with NGOs and others to develop and institute a system that includes checks and information sessions for the domestic workers to ensure they are aware of their rights and have access to appropriate resources.

(<http://www.humanityunited.org/>)





Awareness

Labor Rights Violated

As human rights advocates around the world celebrated the 60th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) on Dec. 10, 2008, the *International Labor Rights Forum* (ILRF) released “*Working for Scrooge: 5 Worst Companies for the Right to Associate*” – a list of the five worst multinational corporations for union organizing. Among other rights related to workers, the UDHR states that “*everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests*” (Article 23, Section 4). The US-based companies on ILRF’s list use intimidation and even violence to violate their workers’ internationally recognized right to organize.

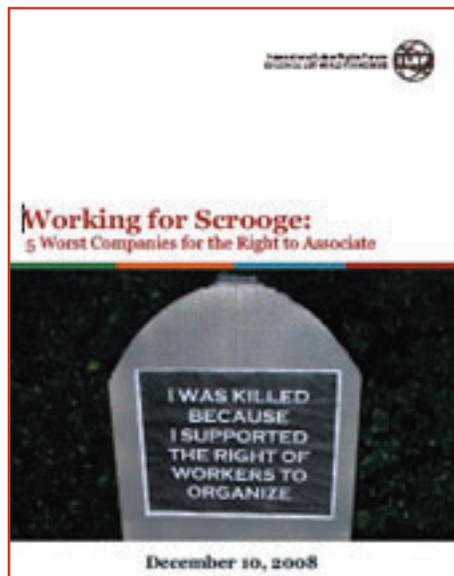
Despite the labor rights protections in the UDHR, UN and ILO declarations and national labor laws, workers continue to see their rights trampled on a daily basis. In fact, in its recently released survey of violations of trade union rights, the *International Trade Union Confederation* reports at least 91 unionists were killed globally as a result of their organizing efforts in 2007.

The companies on the 2008 list included: **Nestlé** (with violations in the Philippines, Colombia, Peru, Russia and Pakistan), **Dole** (with violations in the Philippines, Costa Rica and Colombia), **Del Monte** (with violations in Guatemala and the Philippines), **Russell** (which is owned by **Fruit of the Loom** and has violated worker rights in Honduras and Uzbekistan) and **Wal-Mart** (with violations in the U.S. and Canada and elsewhere). (<http://vcr.csrwire.com/node/12472>)

You can send an e-mail to the five companies via this link:

<http://www.laborrights.org/end-violence-against-trade-unions/resources/1871>

The ILRF report features each of the five companies. There is background information and examples of the violations. Finally there are suggested ways to take action. (www.laborrights.org/files/WorkingForScrooge.pdf)



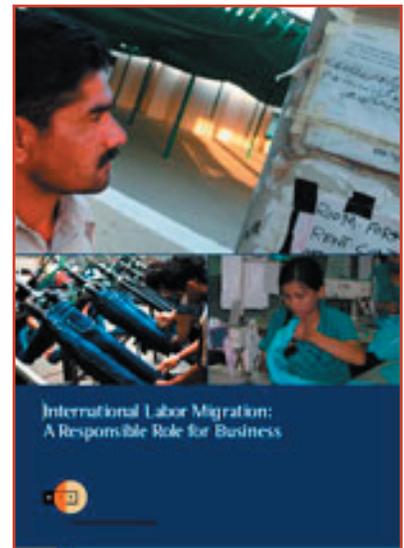
International Labor Migration

In the globalized economy the issue of international labor migration in supply chains is one of the most critical – yet largely unexplored – issues for all businesses operating globally.

Labor migrants now represent roughly 190 million people, or about 3 percent of the world population. They are an increasingly vital part of the global workforce. Despite immense attention to general working conditions in global value chains, little specific attention has been given to this large and vulnerable segment of the workforce.

Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) sees an important opportunity to increase visibility about where migrant workers come from, how they are recruited, the terms of their employment, the rights they are afforded in the countries where they work, and ultimately, steps companies should take to protect the migrant workers present in their supply chains.

This report launches a two-year BSR initiative, funded by the *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*, to ensure that migrant workers in global supply chains – particularly those migrating from one emerging economy to another – are treated with dignity and respect. (<http://vcr.csrwire.com/node/12171>)





Advocacy

"Trafficking and prostitution can only exist in an atmosphere of public, professional and academic indifference. Those concerned with human rights must address the social invisibility of prostitution, the massive denial regarding its harms, its normalization as an inevitable social evil, and the failure to educate students in the mental health and public health professions." Melissa Farley, PhD

Prostitution Research and Education
(<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/faq/00175.html>)

Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has available a *Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*.

Goals of the Toolkit

- Prevent and combat trafficking,
- Protect and assist its victims, and
- Promote international cooperation.

Target Audience

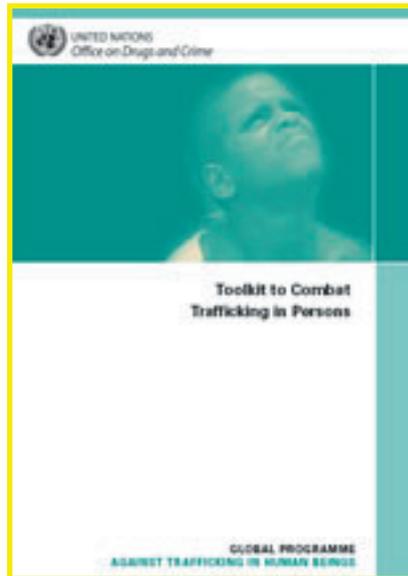
Polymakers, law enforcers, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers, and members of civil society.

The Chapters

1. International Legal Framework
2. Problem Assessment and Strategy Development
3. Legislative Framework
4. International Criminal Justice Cooperation
5. Law Enforcement and Prosecution
6. Victim Identification
7. Immigration Status of Victims and their Return and Repatriation
8. Victim Protection and Assistance
9. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons
10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The 123 Tools Offer

- Guidance in the form of legislative information, extracts of principles & guidelines, recommendations, directives, checklists, forms, etc.
 - Recommended resources such as training materials, websites, legislative guides, online conventions, analysis and published reports produced by anti-trafficking IGO, NGO and government partners around the world.
 - Promising practices of anti-trafficking interventions from around the world.
- You may find the Toolkit at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/electronic-toolkit-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons---index.html>



Silence Is Acceptance

On November 25-28, 2008 the *Third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents* was held in Rio de Janeiro. The goal was to set up global protection policies to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

A guiding principle was that silence on this abuse is a form of acceptance. One may view the 18 photos in the Photo Essay from UNICEF at: <http://www.unicef.org/photoessays/46469.html>

'End Demand'

Shared Hope International has a new 45-minute documentary, featuring investigative footage of the dark and hidden world of sex traffickers, pimps and buyers. *DEMAND* exposes the men who buy commercial sex, the vulnerable women and children sold as commodities, and the facilitators of the sale within the marketplace of exploitation. It is available in English, Spanish, Japanese or Dutch.

One may obtain the full version or a shortened 16-minute version at: <http://www.sharedhope.org/what/end-demand3.asp>

The Internet and Human Trafficking

Craigslist directors have made new efforts to coordinate with the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* and the CT Attorney General in order to crack down on how their services have been exploited by traffickers in 40 states. Yet, the work that is needed to address how the Internet is used as a conduit for human trafficking is far from complete.

The sex industry continues to make use of the Internet through such means as the yellow pages online, 'mail order bride' websites, e-mail solicitations of bogus jobs, and nearly ubiquitous and increasingly dehumanizing forms of pornography that exploit both children and adults.

On February 20-21, 2009 in the Bay area of California, the *End Internet Trafficking Coalition* will hold its first in-person national meeting entitled, "*Global Disconnects: The Internet & Human Trafficking.*"



Action

Using Online Social Networking to Conduct Outreach

One way to spread awareness about human trafficking is through online social networking web sites such as *Meetup* (www.meetup.com) and *Facebook* (www.facebook.com), which allow an organizer to create groups focused on a cause or issue.

Meetup is free to join and allows members to search by issue for a listing of groups that have in-person meetings in their local areas. The organizer of a *Meetup* group pays a monthly fee (between \$12 and \$19 per month) to maintain the group, a fee which can be shared by the members. The benefit of *Meetup* is that it facilitates like-minded, cause-oriented individuals to connect, share information, invite other Internet users, meet in person regularly and work on public awareness outreach activities.

Facebook is a free online social networking Web site that anyone can join simply by signing up using their e-mail address. Each user has a profile and can create groups to focus on specific causes, such as a group of anti-trafficking advocates in a particular area. Users can make the group "invitation only," allowing them to maintain oversight and approval on group membership. Group members can post anti-trafficking resources, links, and videos relevant for their group. Members can also share recent news clips on trafficking, disseminate in-person meeting information, and encourage other Facebook members to join the fight against human trafficking by updating their profile and spreading the word.

Erik Voss, executive director of the *International Center of Atlanta* and a member of the *Georgia Rescue & Restore coalition*, started an anti-human trafficking *Meetup* group for the Atlanta area in 2007. Voss also organized a *Facebook* group for those in the Atlanta area that want to share information on combating human trafficking. The group, which is called the *Atlanta Stop Human Trafficking Discussion Meeting*, has successfully recruited many new members, with 61 joining in just two weeks.

If your group has used these or other social networking sites for public awareness or recruitment regarding anti-human trafficking efforts, please e-mail your social networking activity examples to: trafficking@acf.hhs.gov

SNJM Members Take Action

The *Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary* (SNJM & sponsors of the *Stop Trafficking* newsletter) reported on their efforts in anti-human trafficking.

Socially Responsible Investing

The *Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment* (NWCRI) in Seattle and *Justice, Organizers, Leadership, Treasurers* (JOLT) in California have been working with corporations on human trafficking in the tourism industry, chocolate fields and the forests of Brazil. SNJMs are involved in both of these groups.

SNJMs cont.

For more information: <http://www.ipjc.org/programs/nwcric.htm>

Stop the Demand Campaign

UNANIMA International has a *Stop the Demand* campaign to counter human trafficking through efforts to stop the purchase of women and children.

For more information: <http://www.unanima-international.org/Stop%20the%20demand%20web%20English/index.htm>

SNJM sisters and associates in Brazil, Peru, Lesotho, South Africa, are using the *UNANIMA* materials.

Workshops on *Stop the Demand* were presented in Costa Rica and Chile by SNJM members.

Anti-trafficking workshops have been presented in schools, parishes and to youth and seminarian groups in Lesotho and South Africa.

The Manitoba SNJM Justice and Peace Committee asked eight men to review the *Stop the Demand* materials in order to identify any barriers for men in the materials and to make suggestions on how to get men on board in this campaign.

As part of a local Montreal coalition, SNJMs launched the *Stop the Demand* campaign and made presentations on the topic in SNJM communities.

Anti-trafficking workshops, which included information on the *Stop the Demand* Campaign, were held in Portland, Seattle, Spokane, New York, Oakland and Los Gatos, CA.

The Ontario Justice Committee and the Spokane Anti-trafficking Committee provided information to local service providers and medical clinics.

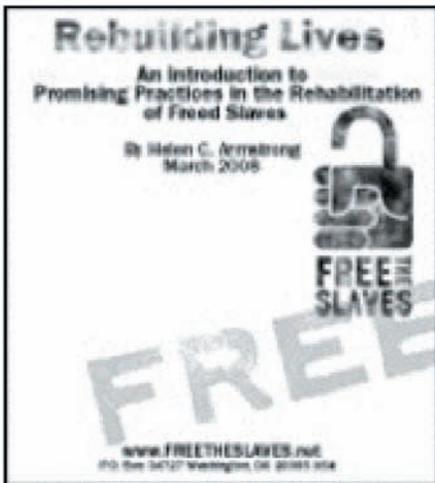
The Manitoba Justice and Peace Committee is sponsoring the creation of a CD of original songs about anti-trafficking. Many composers submitted songs and several have already been chosen for the recording. One of the purposes of this project was to get both men and women working together to *Stop the Demand*.



Action

Rebuilding Lives

Rebuilding Lives: An Introduction to Promising Practices in the Rehabilitation of Freed Slaves is a manual of practical suggestions for all aspects of helping trafficking survivors to recover. It is written as a simple tool for frontline anti-slavery workers, who want to start new programs for freed slaves, improve their existing work, or show funders the types of assistance that are needed.



The manual, which costs \$10.00, was written for *Free the Slaves* by Helen Armstrong, drawing on the experience of rehabilitation programs around the world. 60 pages.
(<http://freetheslaves.madebysurvivors.com/Rebuilding-Lives-p/fts11.htm>)

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

A Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking: Children, Women, and Men

The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI, Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, stand in support of human rights by opposing human trafficking (children, women and men) for the purpose of sexual exploitation and any other form of slavery.

We will educate ourselves and others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of this abuse, wherever we are missioned and throughout the world.

Through our *Office of Global Mission, Justice and Peace* and our other justice efforts, and in collaboration with other religious congregations, advocacy groups, and nongovernmental organizations, we will advocate for policies and programs that address the prevention of the trafficking of children, women and men.

Online Outreach Training

Health & Human Services (HHS) conducted a free, online WebEx training in November 2008. Anna Rodriguez, CEO and founder of the *Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking*, presented on "Victim Identification and Immediate Services."

The recorded audio/video session is available until Feb. 17, 2009 at: <https://ketchum.webex.com/ketchum/onstage/g.php?AT=VR&RecordingID=28653807&recordKey=55974C690C0854610280FF7830AC35AD79F395D22AB5491BA7E1AE4E52F4CE2D>

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

TVRA 2008

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill-text.xpd?bill=h110-7311>
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h7311ih.txt.pdf

End Internet Trafficking Coalition

<http://eitcoalition.org/home.htm>

'USA Learns': Website for Immigrants Learning English

The *U.S. Department of Education* launched U.S.A. Learns on Nov. 7, 2008. The Web site, which is located at www.USALearns.org, offers the following features:

- An easily accessible Internet learning tool;
- Simple directions;
- Free instructional materials for teaching basic English skills and helping adults improve their English proficiency; and
- Learning modules that can be used outside a traditional classroom.

To view a fact sheet on U.S.A. Learns, visit: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/factsh/usa-learns-fs_0811.pdf

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/stoptraffic/index.html>

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