

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

June 2009 Vol. 7 No. 6

This issue highlights books and films that feature human trafficking themes.

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'The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men who Buy it'

Investigative journalist Victor Malarek's new book, released in April 2009, is a follow-up to *The Natashas*, his exposé on the world's most sordid trade. (See pg. 2) To date, most research on the subject has focused on the various issues that propel these women into the trade, but little has been investigated or written about those who trigger the demand—the "Johns."

The Johns lays bare the other side of the crisis — the men who fuel the demand. Malarek unmask the kind of men and organizations that foster and drive the global sex trade. *The Johns* is a chilling look into a dark corner of

the world that these men have created at the expense of the estimated 10 million women and children ensnared in the \$20 billion global sex trade.

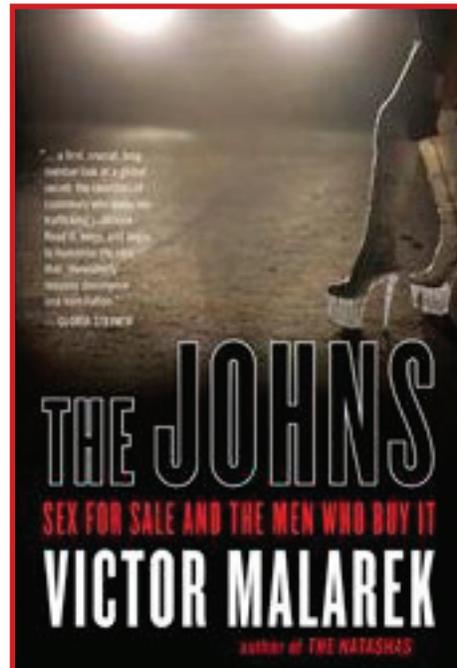
Malarek argues that too many average guys see sex-for-hire as "boys being boys." Malarek, himself Canadian, believes one in nine Canadian males frequent prostitutes.

Without men's involvement, there would be no demand. There would be no supply. It would not be profitable for pimps and criminals to stay in this business if men weren't prowling the side streets in search of purchased sex. Male sex buyers are willing to close their eyes and shell out \$50 or \$100 for a few minutes of physical pleasure while deepening the misery of countless women and children, 96% of whom want to get out of prostitution.

The stark reality is that little will be done to stop this insanity until men start taking responsibility for their actions, until men realize that they are the problem, and that this global sex-slave calamity exists solely because of their insatiable demand and duplicitous behaviour. Yet invisible in most discussions, reports, and research are the men who use and abuse these women. They are the ultimate consumers of prostituted women. They are the crucial missing link.

(<http://niagarafallsreview.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1520588>)

(<http://www.keyporter.com/BookDetail.aspx?ISBN=1554701570>)



"A lot of people have their heads buried in the sand. We don't like to think of these women as real human beings. Our society dismisses it all as a victimless crime and a trade as old as time. It's not simply the oldest profession. It's oppression and one of the biggest human rights disasters on the planet." Victor Malarek

Stop Trafficking does not endorse any particular book or film.



Awareness

‘Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery’

According to the author Siddharth Kara — a lawyer, former investment banker and business executive — sex slaves represent only 4% of the total slaves in the world today, yet they generate almost 40% of the profits enjoyed by all slave owners.

He traveled extensively searching out information about global sex trafficking. But his book is unique in that Kara surrounds his narrative with proposals for action based on his economic analysis of sex trafficking. These proposals are displayed in a series of tables that compare the economics of trafficking across a range of sex trade locations.

In India, a bungalow brothel makes an average of \$12,926 on each slave annually, a profit margin of 72%. On the street in a western European city, where the acquisition costs are higher, the estimated profits of \$76,180 represent an even bigger 75% margin.

Hence sex trafficking is more profitable for criminals than drug trafficking. It carries many of the same overhead costs, such as bribing local policemen and border guards, but far lower risks of getting caught.

Kara argues that there is a limit on the prices that can be charged in the sex trade, where overall prices have historically been declining, in part due to the impact of trafficked labor. So if penalties, including fines and prison terms, were increased, the economic lure of the trade would diminish.

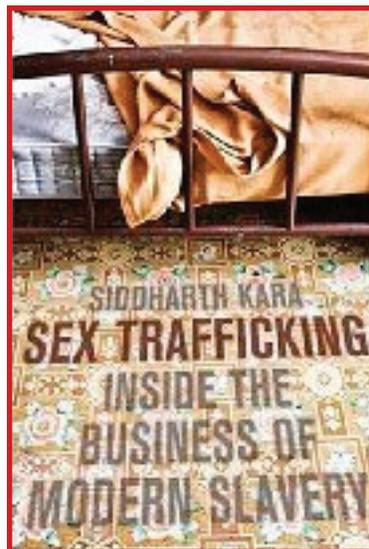
Conviction rates and penalties could be increased by setting up an international inspectorate with the power to

assist local police forces and to monitor judicial prosecutions, similar to the United Nations weapons inspections.

Locally there could be “community vigilance committees” or surveillance networks that would monitor local sex trade for evidence of trafficking. These groups would be ready to provide freed victims with assistance in rebuilding their lives. The U.S. has already established “Rescue and Restore coalitions” to monitor signs of forced trafficking.

Since Kara identifies ‘demand’ as the motor that drives the sex trade, he argues it should be a crime to pay for sex trade services — as both Sweden and Norway have done — rather than criminalize prostitution and brothels, as in the US and UK.

(<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/339boee8-e8db-11dd-a4d0-0000779fd2ac.html>)



“Understanding that the exploiters of sex slaves can generate tens of thousands of dollars in profits per slave per year, via the unconscionable exploitation of these individuals, tells us everything we need to know as to why these crimes are thriving.” Siddharth Kara

‘The Natashas’

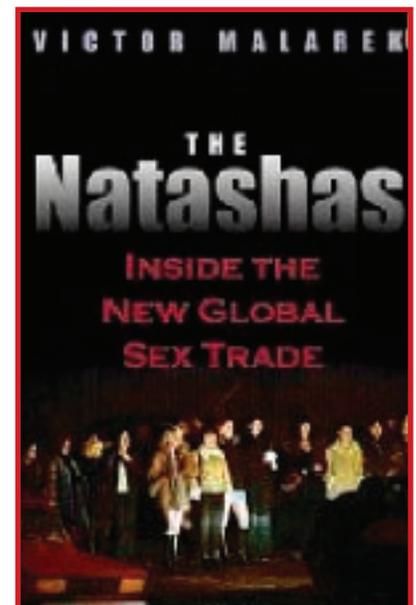
On the black market, they’re the second most profitable commodity, after illegal weapons. The only difference — these goods are human, yet wholly expendable to their handlers. They are women and girls from all over the Eastern bloc. Their sinister networks of organized crime have become entrenched in the aftermath of the collapse of Communist regimes.

In Israel, they’re called *Natashas*, whether Russian, Bosnian, Czech or Ukrainian, no matter what their real names may be. They’re lured into vans and onto airplanes with promises of jobs as waitresses, models, nannies, dishwashers, maids, and dancers.

But when they arrive at their destinations, they are stripped of their identification, and their nightmare begins. They are sold into prostitution and kept enslaved; those who resist are beaten, raped, and sometimes killed as examples. They often have nowhere to turn; in many cases, the men who should be rescuing them — from immigration officials to police officers and international peacekeepers — are among their aggressors.

The Natashas was written by Victor Malarek and published in 2003.

(<http://www.amazon.com/Natashas-Inside-New-Global-Trade/dp/1559707356>)

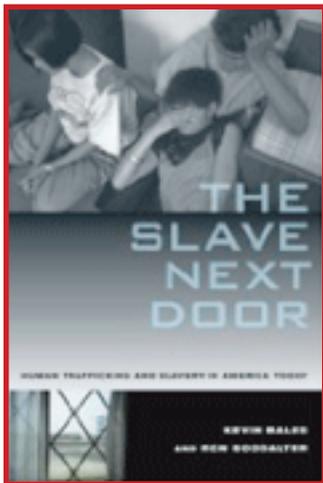




Awareness

3 **‘The Slave Next Door:
Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today’**

Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter expose the disturbing phenomenon of human trafficking and slavery that exists in the United States. In *The Slave Next Door* we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. We also meet unexpected slaveholders, such as a 27-year old middle-class Texas housewife, currently serving a life sentence for offenses including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices—from slaves, slaveholders, and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and others—this book is a call to action, telling private citizens what to do to bring an end to this horrific crime.



The book, which is essential reading for anyone interested in human rights, covers every major policy and practice related to slavery and trafficking. One controversial issue is the “per capita” funding stream for agencies providing service to trafficking victims. It requires them to seek out clients and evaluate whether each will qualify for funding according to the government contract. As the authors note, not only does this requirement put the organization’s staff at risk in the field, it puts enormous pressure on them to redirect limited service time to outreach activities in order to obtain sufficient client numbers to cover operating costs.

Police officers, who should be taking on the task
Slave cont. col. 3

**‘Stop the Traffik:
People Shouldn’t be Bought and Sold’**

The anti-trafficking organization *Stop the Traffik* has compiled the book to help tell the story of the exploitative trade that is human trafficking. By participating in the project, the *United Nation’s Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking* (UN.GIFT) demonstrated its strong partnership with the NGO and its dedication to raising awareness of the issue.

Written by Steve Chalke, founder and chair of *Stop the Traffik* and the UN.GIFT *Special Advisor on Community Action against Human Trafficking*, *Stop the Traffik* is full of useful tips and ideas designed to encourage individuals to get involved in the global fight against human trafficking.

It is meant to help young people, students, teachers and professionals understand and engage with this global issue in a practical and useful way. Using real-life stories, facts and background information, the easy-to-read book opens the door on this often hidden crime and its victims.

To order the book or for more information visit: <http://www.stophetraffik.org/>

Slave cont.

of identifying potential victims, are woefully under-trained and continue to mistake “victim” with “illegal immigrant” or “criminal.” Combined with well-meaning, but often ineffective anti-trafficking legislation, these administrative hurdles to ending human trafficking become nearly impossible to surmount. (<http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11035.php>; <http://www.fpif.org/fpiftxt/6123>)

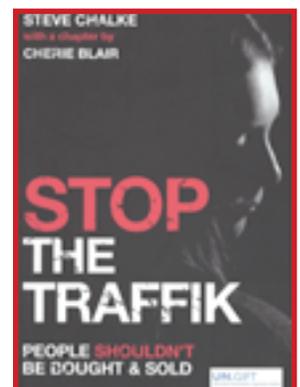
**‘Gangs and Girls:
Understanding Juvenile
Prostitution’**

Why would a young girl enter into a life where she will be brutalized, powerless and in constant danger? According to authors Michel Dorais and Patrice Corriveau, the girls do it for love.

Gangs have perfected a recruitment strategy known as “lovebombing,” in which pimps pretend first to be adoring boyfriends, showering the girls with lavish gifts, constant attention and endless praise. The chosen girl is “easily impressed by a sweet talker who promises love, the good life, or a non-stop party.”

Once smitten, the girl is then introduced into the sex trade, through manipulation or deception, and through dehumanizing initiation rites. Often, the girls are removed from their home towns, isolated and trapped, holding on to a warped conception of love.

‘Gangs and Girls’ cont. pg. 4





Awareness

‘Gangs and Girls’ *cont. from pg. 3*

The authors state that the recruits cross class lines — there is no “*typical profile*.” Yet they group the recruits into four categories: submissives, emotionally dependent on their boyfriends; sex slaves, forced into the trade against their will; independents, looking for freedom and glamour; and daredevils, seeking out thrills and adventures.

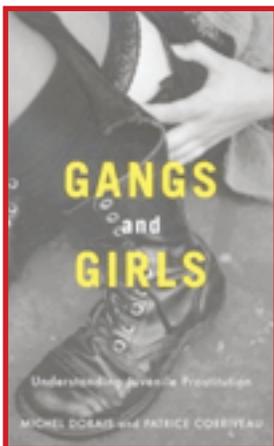
In this reductive categorizing, the authors fail to acknowledge the complex and contradictory desires that may influence a young girl’s choices just as much as a dose of “*lovebombing*”. Readers looking to understand the motivations of teenage girls might be better served by first-person accounts such as Evelyn Lau’s memoir “*Runaway*” or Heather O’Neill’s novel “*Lullabies for Little Criminals*”.

Gangs and Girls is stronger when it comes to issues surrounding prevention and public policy. The authors offer a perceptive analysis of the reasons our criminal justice system has failed, and continues to fail, the young girls most in need of help. They call for “*more empathy*,” particularly from judges who often “*refuse to acknowledge the girls’ status as trauma survivors*.” Their critique of the justice system should be mandatory reading for prosecutors and defense lawyers, and might, if heeded, bring about more effective prosecutions of pimps and gang leaders.

The authors offer solutions and strategies aimed at getting girls away from the alluring and abusive hold of gang life. Their 10 suggested approaches — while brief — stand out as the most groundbreaking aspect of this book. For one, the authors look beyond the conventional response of therapies and lockdowns and call for more intelligent, innovative treatment. If employed by social workers, police officers, teachers and parents, their suggestions might radically change the way young girls are treated by authority figures, replacing punishment and indifference with a more respectful, humane kind of engagement.

Such intervention, the authors plead, is necessary if we want to help “*young women to rebuild and reconsider their lives*.”

(McGill-Queen’s University Press, 164 pages, \$19.95)
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RT-GAM.20090310.wbkgirlsandgangs/BNSStory/globebooks/home>



‘The Shanghai Hotel’

The film is the story of Yin Yin, who illegally buys her way to the USA from communist China, hoping to make a better life for herself and her family. Falsely promised a job in the tech industry in New York City, Yin Yin’s dreams are shattered when she is told that she must pay off additional debts by working as a prostitute.

The rundown, decrepit building in which Yin Yin and other women from Thailand, Korea and China reside is called the *Shanghai Hotel*. Yin Yin is isolated and locked in a room alone.

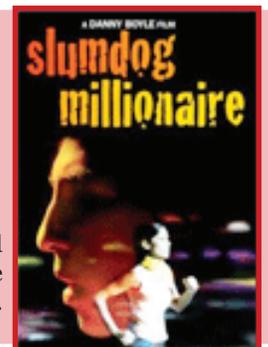


The windows are painted black so no one can see in or out. One window is covered with black tape. Yin Yin lifts the tape and notices a bike messenger giving food and blankets to the homeless people across the street from the Shanghai Hotel. She decides to try and communicate with him. She gets his attention and passes him a note. The note tells of her horrible situation, but pleads with him not to tell anyone for fear of what repercussions the gang members might take on her family in China. She ends the note by saying all she really needs is “*a friend*”.

The film explores the elements of human trafficking and the hardships that Yin Yin faces during her time at the Shanghai Hotel. (<http://www.fancast.com/movies/The-Shanghai-Hotel/43073/about>)

“As the film ‘*Slumdog Millionaire*’ earned deserved acclaim, viewers should appreciate the depth of its reality. People are enslaved in India, on every continent, and on a significant scale right here in the United States. There are prostituted minors, forced migrant laborers, and even prosecuted cases of Mexican children coerced into begging here. All are human trafficking victims under the law.”

Mark P. Lagon, Executive Director of Polaris Project and former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.





Awareness

'Anonymously Yours'

Now and then a new documentary comes out whose impact is so powerful, illuminating and memorable that it is deemed an instant classic and an essential educational tool.

"Anonymously Yours" is such a film.

Clandestinely shot in the uncharted world of Myanmar, this 2003 60-minute film chronicles the merchandising of women commonplace in a land afflicted with staggering poverty and widespread corruption.

Four Burmese women's strikingly different life experiences come together to reveal an institution that enslaves them and millions more worldwide in the fastest growing industry on earth: human sales.

After risking her life and footage in Myanmar, filmmaker Gayle Ferraro returned to bring the sobering tales of Southeast Asian prostitutes to Western audiences. Often traveling to restricted areas to meet their subjects, the film crew devised a strategy for disguising the true nature of their visits.

"Our whole disguise was tacky tourists. We tried to be as obnoxious as possible everywhere we went to cover for ourselves." Despite their precautions, Burmese officials detained Ferraro's group twice — each time paralyzing the filmmaking team with fear. *"I literally had no feelings I was so afraid,"* Ferraro said of one close call, *"I could barely think or talk."* But she continued to film.

With each interview, Ferraro gained a deeper understanding of the victims of the Myanmar sex trade and the social structures that supported it. *"It's big business,"* she said of sex trafficking in Southeast Asia, offering an example to illustrate her point: *"On this fishing coast that's shared between Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand there's six major brothels with at least 100 rooms in them. That's 600 rooms. The turnover is maybe a guy every hour, half-hour, around the clock... even if they're paying a dollar per, and they're not, that's \$2,500 an hour times 24."* And brothels are just one of several sources of revenue for sex traffickers. *"There's hotels which are synonymous with brothels, there's tea shops — every tea shop, restaurant, everything has a brothel in the back. You cannot operate any other way."* (http://www.berkeleymedia.com/catalog/berkeleymedia/films/anthropology_world_cultures/asian_pacific_studies/anonymously_yours)

'Say I Do'

This film chronicles the stories of three "mail-order brides" from the Philippines now living in North America. In order to escape lives of poverty and to support their families, these women uprooted themselves to marry men they did not know. Upon arriving in their new land, they found themselves isolated in remote regions.

One woman arrived in a small town in the dead of winter to find herself living in a camper with no running water. She soon discovered that her husband was a violent man. (<http://www.filmakers.com/index.php?a=filmDetail&filmID=1234>)

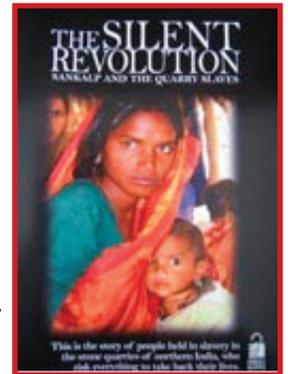


'The Silent Revolution'

This 18-minute documentary, produced by *Free the Slaves*, tells the story of people held in slavery in the stone quarries of northern India.

The *'Silent Revolution'* follows a group of stone-breakers as they challenge the slaveholders, are burned out of their homes by the slaveholder's thugs, are imprisoned and finally win the right to run their own quarry and start a new village.

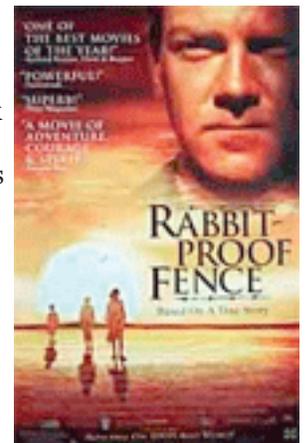
The film shows how people in slavery can create their own path of freedom, with support from grassroots organizations.



(<http://www.freetheslaves.net/Page.aspx?pid=319>)

'Rabbit Proof Fence'

This is the true story of Molly Craig, a young black Australian girl who leads her younger sister and cousin in an escape from an official government camp, set up as part of



an official government policy to train them as domestic workers and integrate them into white society.

With grit and determination Molly guides the girls on an epic journey, one step ahead of the authorities, over 1,500 miles of Australia's outback in search of the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. These girls are part of what is now referred to as the *'Stolen Generations.'* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0252444/plotsummary>)



Awareness

6 'Invisible Children: Rough Cut'

The 2006 film began as an African adventure, after three young Americans found themselves stranded in Northern Uganda. They discovered children being kidnapped nightly from their homes and subsequently forced to fight as child soldiers.

The film is dedicated to exposing this tragic story. Even now Ugandan children as young as eight are methodically kidnapped from their homes by a rebel group called the "Lord's Resistance Army" (LRA). The abducted children are then desensitized to the horror of brutal violence and killing, as they themselves are turned into vicious fighters. Some escape and hide in constant fear for their lives. Most remain captive and grow to maturity with no education other than life "in the bush" and fighting in a guerilla war.

Of the many ramifications that a 20-year-long war causes, the film highlights what the community refers to as "night commuters." Nightly thousands of children "commute" out of fear from villages to nearby towns in order to avoid LRA abductions. They sleep in public places, vulnerable, and without supervision.

As the three filmmakers left Northern Uganda, they were appalled by what they had seen, yet in awe of the resilience and hope they found in these children. They created the documentary and began showing it anywhere they could.

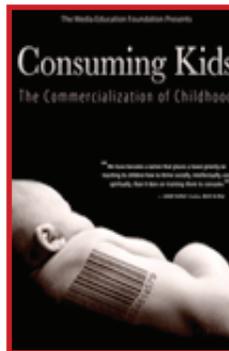
After audiences viewed the movie, people asked, "What can we do?" A nonprofit was birthed. Currently Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI) has introduced legislation to address the suffering (see pg. 8).

The 120-minute film may be purchased for \$15 + \$5.99 for shipping from the film site: <http://www.invisiblechildren.com/home.php>



'Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood'

This film exposes the often shocking practices of the multibillion-dollar youth marketing industry, showing how marketers have used the latest advances in psychology, anthropology, and neuroscience to transform American children into one of the most powerful and profitable consumer demographics in the world. The film has been earning widespread praise from critics, health care professionals, and children's advocates from around the country. (www.commercialfreechildhood.org)



"The identities, values, and future of young people are held hostage to a world shaped by the poisonous culture of consumption and commodification."
Henry Giroux, author of *Stealing Innocence: Corporate Culture's War on Children*

'Child Camel Jockeys: Modern Day Slavery'

This is the Emmy and duPont award winning documentary by HBO about the plight of thousands of children working as camel jockeys in the Middle East. Since the documentary was aired in 2004 public outrage led both Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to agree in 2005 to ban the use of children as camel jockeys. (<http://www.ansarburney.org/videolinks/video-hbo1.html>)

Now hundreds of Bangladeshi children taken from their homes and forced to become racing camel jockeys in UAE will be compensated by the Persian Gulf nation, which distributed nearly \$1.44 million for the 879 Bangladeshi children, who worked as camel jockeys. Each child will receive between \$1,000 to \$10,000 -- depending on their injuries and sufferings -- for their education, treatment and rehousing.

Hundreds of boys under 15 were lured or trafficked into the Gulf states to ride bareback on camels in traditional desert races. Most of them were repatriated after a 2005 agreement between the UAE and UNICEF.

The children -- some as young as four and five years old -- mostly came from impoverished families, and faced economic hardships and health problems after returning home, according to local rights groups. They were often seriously injured in falls during racing or were underfed to keep their weights down.

The UAE banned the use of child jockeys in 1993, following campaigns by human rights groups. But the law was openly flouted until authorities reached an agreement in 2005 with UNICEF to help repatriate and rehabilitate child jockeys, who were mostly taken from poorer Muslim nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sudan. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/bangladesh/5278605/Former-camel-jockeys-compensated-by-UAE.html>)



Advocacy

Project to Help Counter Human Trafficking

There is currently no exhaustive catalog, index or list of all organizations, ministries and movements working against trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation across the United States. A mapping of prevention programs, legal intervention programs, social services, collaborative initiatives, research, and advocacy programs by organizations would aid in the development of more collaboration and cooperation among involved parties, thus providing a critical step in addressing modern day slavery.

The hoped-for outcomes of the project are:

- A directory of services to victims of human trafficking and/or sexual exploitation in the United States.
- A database of research highlighting the most at-risk communities.
- A list of recommendations aimed to cover gap areas in services.
- Dissemination of findings
- Collaboration among stakeholders to implement recommendations.

Chab Dai (literally “*joining hands*” in Khmer) was founded in 2005 in Cambodia. Chab Dai is now a coalition of more than 40 Christian organizations in Cambodia that work with victims of or those at risk of being abused or exploited. Chab Dai also has offices in the US and UK.

For more information contact: usoffice@chabdai.org



Continuing Corporate Commitment

The *Social Justice Committee* of the *Sisters of Christian Charity, Eastern Province*, held a day-long conference on human trafficking as an expression of their corporate commitment. Clare Nolan RGS, with international experience on advocacy and policy issues as former representative for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at the United Nations, addressed the issue of human trafficking and facilitated exploring actions with the 150 attendees.

Ideas for action included early education for gender relationships, secondary education engagement of males in campaigns to end violence against women, education of parish groups about the reality of trafficking. A suggestion was to examine behaviors towards female employees, who often carry unnoticed social vulnerability. Prayer groups would be in supportive communication with those doing more active work. Other suggestions included linking to existing networks, learning about legal advocacy and exploring the possibility of housing women who have been victims of trafficking. The SCC corporate statement is available at: <http://www.sceast.org/SocialJustice/HumanTrafficking.html>

Corporate Stance

We, the *United States Governance Circle of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception*, in our effort to reverence all creation, and to embrace all people, especially the marginalized, stand in solidarity with those caught in the snare of human trafficking.

We commit ourselves to uphold the dignity and human rights of those exploited by supporting: Advocacy; Empowerment; and Sponsorship.

Suzanne Fondini, mfc

Servants of Mary Counter Human Trafficking

The Servants of Mary took a corporate stance in October, 2007. Since then their *Committee Against Human Trafficking* spearheaded the Servites' efforts to keep members informed on a regular basis. They have met with staff members at *Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center* (Heartland Alliance) in Chicago, IL and with the director of *Breaking Free*, a service organization for women rescued from prostitution in St. Paul, MN.

They receive updates from the *Action Network to End Sexual Exploitation* (ANESEM) in Minnesota. They have attended state conferences and attended legislative hearings in MN.

In La Crosse, WI they collaborated with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) in promoting the *Code of Conduct*. Members and friends:

- Sent letters to Hilton Hotels to ask them to sign the Code of Conduct.
- Wrote to urge legislators to pass the 2008 Authorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, signed into law by President Bush Dec. 24, 2008.
- Wrote to WI legislators to pass a state law in WI against human trafficking signed by Gov. Doyle March 19, 2008.

The Secular Servites, in Ladysmith, WI shared information from *Stop Trafficking* with people around Ladysmith. The Servants of Mary are sponsors of the newsletter.



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

Action

Be a Voice Against Child Sex Tourism

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) International has been working to end the abhorrent practice of commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism since 1991. Children around the world are falling prey to sex tourists who travel within their own country or overseas for sexual adventures. ECPAT-USA estimates that about a quarter of the men, who abuse children when they travel abroad, are from the U.S. Children are then sold and trafficked to meet the demand from these sexual exploiters.

Among ECPAT International's successes to address this issue, has been the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* (www.thecode.org), now signed by more than 900 companies around the world.

In addition to promoting the Code of Conduct, ECPAT-USA now has a new project called **The TassaTag Project**, a high profile luggage tag project. This Project has three goals:

- to enhance a financial enterprise for high-risk women in Thailand who make the luggage tags by hand.
- to raise awareness about how we can protect children from sexual exploitation;
- to raise funds to continue our fight against child prostitution and trafficking that feeds child sex tourism.

A *TassaTag* is a 4"x6", bright hand-woven cotton luggage tag that helps you spot your luggage more easily while reclaiming children's lives. It is practical, environmentally sensitive and fair trade.

With a *TassaTag* you, the traveler, will be part of the ECPAT-USA Project by increasing the recognition of the *TassaTag* logo as a symbol against the sexual slavery and trafficking of children, raising awareness of this major illegal trade around the world, and supporting the Tourism Industry's efforts to protect children.

With a *TassaTag* you support *The Regina Center* in Nongkhai, Thailand, which provides education and income generating skills and opportunities for women. The project enables women to stay in their villages and keep their children in school, which are two major strategies in reducing sex trafficking. The *Regina Center* is one of the producing partners of *Handcrafting Justice*, a member of the *Fair Trade Federation*.



To purchase the color of your choice, go to: www.tassatag.org
or call 925- 451-0028.

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Human Trafficking 101: The presenters kit (a trilogy)

'Human Trafficking'
'Cargo: Innocence Lost' &
'Svetlana's Journey'

The DVD may be purchased for \$149.99 from <http://www.istoptrafficking.com>
This price allows one to show the video publicly.

Consuming Kids

www.commercialfreechildhood.org

Copyright Law

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Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009
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