

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

May 2012 Vol. 10 No. 5

This issue highlights how the digital world lures youth into trafficking and new initiatives to prevent trafficking.

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- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
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Libraries and Pornography

- “Sex Offender Accused of Viewing Child Porn in Library”
- “Child Raped in Library Bathroom Again After Man Viewed Porn”
 - “Jeffco Libraries Allow Patron Caught by Mom and Child Using Porn and Masturbating to Stay”
- “Librarian Sues Saying Access to Porn Makes Library Hostile Environment”
- “Homeless Man Charged in Lewd Act Watching Porn on Library Computer”
- “NYC Officials Say ‘Checking Out’ Porn at City Libraries Protected by First Amendment”
- “Mom Says Child Was Exposed to Porn Twice at Library”
- “Library Need Not Supply Pornography, Court Rules”

These headlines reveal a growing problem. Around the U.S., men are viewing hardcore Internet pornography on public library computers.



Morality in Media (MIM) is conducting a campaign to try pressuring states to enact laws that protect children as they use their local libraries. Legislators in Arizona have put forth a bill to address this issue. HB 2712 would strengthen AZ laws governing public library policies by preventing minors from being exposed to pornography on any computer visible to a child. It would require public libraries to post their rules and policies in a conspicuous place and require public schools and public libraries to employ filtering technology to limit access to pornography.

Social science research suggests that children exposed to pornography and sex talk are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior and even sexual violence at younger ages. The argument behind the AZ bill is that taxpayer dollars should not subsidize public libraries to pay for computers that feed someone's use of pornography. Without restrictions on pornography, libraries are not safe environments for children and risk promoting porn addiction in children.

MIM is also attempting to assist local communities to get effective filters on library computers. Many libraries and schools have no, or ineffective, filters on their public computers. The Ameri-

Libraries cont. pg. 2



Awareness

Libraries *cont. from pg. 1*

can Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and American Library Association (ALA) argue against a library's responsibility to protect its patrons from unwanted exposure to hardcore and illegal pornography, citing that it is against free speech to stop people from viewing such material, even in front of children. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that obscenity is not 'protected speech.' Rather it is lawful to protect children from pornography by installing filters in public places. Despite efforts of the ACLU and ALA, public pressure can get schools and libraries to install filters and create 'no-porn' policies. In 2012 groups in CO, ID and FL successfully made this happen.

MIM is also working with airlines to establish policies regarding passengers viewing pornography in the close, confined public space of an airplane.

Eleven-Year-Old Boy Porn Addicted

A mother from the United Kingdom recounted how her 11-year-old boy's 'entire character' changed as a result of watching porn on his laptop computer in his own bedroom. His Internet history showed he had been watching 'vile, pedophilic images' presented in cartoon form.

Internet providers refuse to give parents an 'easy-to-use' block on extreme material on home computers, advocates charged. This makes such service providers 'complicit' in exposing children to violence and pornography. (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2132342/How-internet-porn-turned-beautiful-boy-hollow-self-hating-shell.html>)

'Google TV' - Adult Entertainment Channel

In November 2011 Google TV launched 'Vivid for Google TV', a porn channel from the adult film studio, Vivid Entertainment. The channel can be accessed by those with a set-top box running Google TV and a subscription to Vivid Entertainment's website.

Vivid Entertainment said the channel includes "award-winning adult movies, celebrity sex tapes, XXX parodies of popular superheroes, educational videos and other content so that our fans have a new way to enjoy Vivid movies in high quality HD and with other benefits that provide a very appealing, highly enjoyable, and user-friendly experience."

Google hoped that widening the selection of content on Google TV would help bring in more users. TV networks had refused to allow their content to be accessed, a reason for Google's failure to gain traction in the market. In an effort to generate more interest in its struggling product, Google also overhauled its Google TV interface to make it more user-friendly. Meanwhile, adult material is widely available through Google's search engine. The word 'porn' returned over 1,460,000,000 hits.

Google's green light for adult content is in stark contrast to Apple's approach to such matters. Apple blocks explicit content from its app store and Apple TV. The late Steve Jobs, in an e-mail exchange with a blogger, had said he wanted Apple services to be free from porn. "Freedom from programs that steal your private data. Freedom from programs that trash your battery. Freedom from porn. Yep, freedom," he wrote. (http://www.cb-snews.com/8301-501465_162-20005076-501465.html)

Cell Phone Dangers

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect of Los Angeles County presented information in February 2012 about Internet predators. The speaker, Tracy Webb from the LA City Attorney's Office and LA Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), explained 'geo-tagging' in which any photo taken with a digital camera and uploaded onto the Internet has all the property files with it, including longitude and latitude information, which can be copied and mapped. Thus where a photo was taken can be pinpointed to within 10 ft.

This is useful for law enforcement agencies and probation departments to aid in locating runaway children if they post pictures on their Facebook pages or other social media sites.

However parents, grandparents, children and teens need to understand clearly what could happen if pictures taken on a Blackberry, cell phone, or other digital devices get into the hands of predatory individuals through the Internet. Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2vARzVWxwY>

Webb demonstrated the following sites - popular with teens but also very dangerous:

- **Chatroulette** (especially bad because it is exactly what the name implies "chat-roulette") When one enters the site, it drops the visitor into random chat rooms, many of which are porn-riddled and serve as havens for predators searching for victims.
- **Foursquare** - reveals where one is geographically at all times.
- **TxtspooF** - one receives anonymous texts (perfect for predatory use).
- **CraigslisT** - the 'rants and raves' section is an actual chat room.
- **Limewire Gold Pro** - The biggest source of viruses and has child porn embedded. A few others include: **MyLife, Hi5, Tagged**

(Source: Teresa Rangel, Emergency Response Coordinator of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking)



Awareness

Schools: Recruitment Grounds for Sex Exploitation

Sex traffickers, who coerce kids into prostitution, are using schoolyards and playgrounds as recruiting offices. It is such a troubling problem that Brooklyn, NY prosecutors have started training educators on how to spot kids in peril on their schoolyards

Asst. District Attorney Lauren Hersh told the *New York Daily News*, "Many girls are forced to go to middle school playgrounds and recruit other young girls." (<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/schools-called-hotbeds-luring-young-sex-slaves-article-1.1053977>)

Louisiana Bill: Targets Pornographic Film Producers

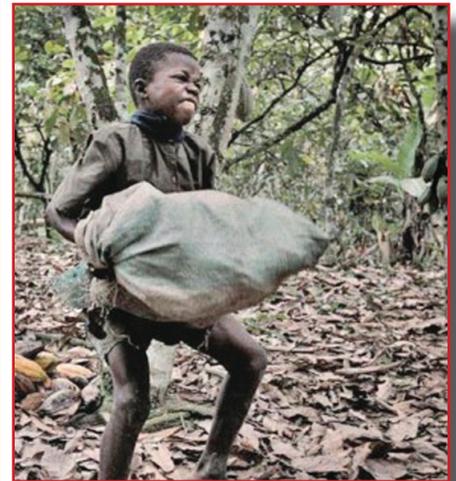
Despite criticism that Senate Bill 513 does not clearly define pornography, the Louisiana Senate Finance Committee gave unanimous approval to a heavily amended bill that would require the Dept. of Economic Development or the Office of Entertainment Industry Development to deny state tax breaks to film producers, if a film is pornographic. (http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/bill_denying_tax_credits_to_po.htm)

Labor Trafficking Scandals: Child Slaves

There are 400 million children living in conditions of slavery in the world today. Many of these children work, manufacturing goods which are then sold to Europe and the West. On April 16th, the occasion of the *World Day Against Child Labor*, international missionary organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) denounced child slavery.

The Vatican news agency *Fides* stated, "This slavery becomes indirectly part of our daily lives as the bananas we eat and the coffee we drink could have been produced by the sweat and toil of Latin American and African children. It could also be that Pakistani children have woven the rugs we walk on and the curtains on our windows."

In **India** and **Afghanistan** boys and girls work in the building industry. In **Brazil** child slaves produce the coal used to manufacture steel for cars and other mechanical parts. In **Myanmar** children are used to gather sugarcane and other agricultural products. In **China** they prepare explosives and fireworks. In **Sierra Leone** they are exploited for the extraction of diamonds from mines. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** thousands of children are forced into slavery for the extraction of cassiterite and coltan, minerals which are vital in the assembly of computers, mp3 players, cell phones and many other devices used in developed countries. In **Benin** and **Egypt** it is estimated that about a million children are forced to work in the cotton industry because they cost less and are more obedient than adults, as well as have the right height to slip in among the plants. In the **Ivory Coast**, approximately 12,000 children gather cocoa seeds, which are exported for chocolate production.



The date for the *World Day Against Child Labor* marked the death of **Iqbal Masih, a 12-year-old Christian Pakistani child**, who was killed on April 16, 1995 by the textile mafia in Pakistan because he had reported the exploitation that was going on. Iqbal had worked as a slave in the textile industry since the age of 4. When he turned 10, he managed to escape, testified about his experience and spoke to authorities, at universities in the U.S., and within the European Union.

Despite years of advocacy, implementation of international legislation, denunciations, and support programs set up to help children in precarious situations, slavery continues to spread.

Fides urges people everywhere "to make every effort to encourage civil authorities to fight against this injustice and give children the legal protection they deserve."

(<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/homepage/world-news/detail/articolo/schiavitudo-minorile-child-slavery-esclavitud-infantil-14356/>)



Awareness

U.S. States Struggle Over Accurate Data on Human Trafficking

Texas legislators and law enforcement officials face challenges in collecting statewide human trafficking data that could be used to drive investigations and policy decisions. No uniform reporting system exists to track the arrests and convictions associated with people forced into labor or commercial sex. The state agencies charged with measuring the scope of human trafficking struggle to receive accurate statistics from police departments and courts.

Part of the problem, authorities say, is that the numbers are shadowy. Human trafficking is often not reported by victims and hard for police to detect. Officers might arrest a man for sexual assault and much later in the investigation discover he was selling his victim for profit. The crime also is tough to label. Defendants could be facing only kidnapping charges in court, though they could have trafficked the victims they kidnapped.

State leaders have begun grappling with these issues and a law implemented in September 2011 requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Office of Court Administration to collect data on prostitution, compelling prostitution, and human trafficking offenses. Since then through Jan. 1, 2012 the state has reported five human trafficking charges, 1,579 prostitution charges and 118 compelling prostitution charges from the district and county attorneys' offices. But those numbers are too low to capture the extent of an international and domestic trade that has become more prolific with the use of the Internet and more expansive across Texas as Mexican cartels and Texas gangs have gotten involved.

Numbers collected by the Office of Court Administration from district and county clerks are similarly low and have been even tougher to compile, said Angela Garcia, judicial information manager for the state office.

Garcia said that there should be differences between the agencies' numbers because DPS acquires arrest data and the state office counts court cases, but that there also are discrepancies because some counties are not reporting correctly or not reporting at all. *"Our office is small, understaffed, lacks resources and has no (enforcement) hammer,"* Garcia said. It can withhold indigent defense funds — anywhere from \$545 to \$2.1 million — from courts that do not submit figures but can do nothing against those that send partially completed reports.

The only human trafficking cases reported in Travis County courts from Sept. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012 were for prostitution — nine at the district level and 76 at the county level. But in Austin alone, there were 181 prostitution arrests, including compelling or promotion of prostitution arrests, according to police records. There were no arrests for human trafficking, police said. The most alarming lapses in reporting are in large counties, such as Bexar and El Paso, that reported no trafficking cases, Garcia said.

One reason for the skewed court figures could be that when prosecutors file multi-count indictments, only the first count goes into the crime code, said Kirsta Leeburg Melton, assistant criminal district attorney in Bexar County. *"I know we have trafficking cases in Bexar,"* she said. *"I have prosecuted them."* But the reporting criteria also miss other charges, such as kidnapping, sexual assault and child pornography, that are related to human trafficking but not statistically counted, Melton said.

State, court and law enforcement officials came up against similar issues in the past when beginning to track acts of family violence. *"I think it will take us a legislative session or two to resolve these issues with human trafficking reports,"* Garcia said.

The federal government took steps toward more uniform trafficking reporting in 2008 with legislation, to be implemented in January 2013, that will require the FBI to collect human trafficking offense data and to make distinctions between assisting or promoting prostitution, purchasing prostitution, and prostitution.

Texas lawmakers and police officials said they want to develop solid data collection through a separate reporting system at the state level that can help policymakers decide where to funnel state funds and resources to fight human trafficking, allowing officers to track crime patterns and focus on response efforts.

But to quantify the growing trade, authorities, court officials and legislators said they will need to think across jurisdictions and expertise. *"This is not a law enforcement issue,"* DPS Director Steve McCraw said. *"It is a multidisciplinary issue."* (<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/state-lacking-data-on-human-trafficking-officials-say-2231768.html>)

A similar statistics struggle was reported in California recently as well. (<http://sfpublicpress.org/news/2012-02/bay-area-agencies-improvise-tactics-to-battle-trafficking>)



Advocacy

Illinois Agency Develops Sex Education Curriculum Targeting Teen Boys

“Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation” is a program that engages young men in high school in reducing and eliminating sexual exploitation and violence. The curriculum, developed by the *Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation* (CAASE), resulted from three years of research into various prevention education programs. During four 45-minute sessions, participants have a safe environment in which to discuss healthy relationships, violence prevention, and both social and personal responsibility. There are 13 exercises provided, with directions for each.

By the program’s conclusion, students will be able to explain sexual exploitation as a form of gender-based violence, discuss social perceptions of masculinity as described by peers and the media, and act as allies against sexual exploitation by identifying practical ways to end gender-based violence.

The breadth of the program allows for interdisciplinary instructions with a variety of classes including health, social studies, or language arts. Some schools have created small groups of young men with leadership potential to participate in the program during lunch hour round-tables. While the program is designed to engage young men, CAASE partners with *Rape Victim Advocates*, who provide a similar program for young women.

To ensure the success of the program, CAASE provides an experienced facilitator to work with the students and all requisite materials at no cost to schools. CAASE asks that the school provide a classroom with audio and DVD capabilities.

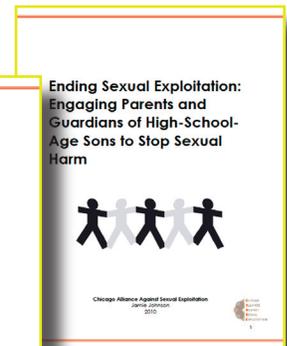
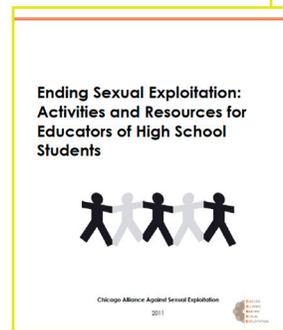
High school students at CAASE curriculum session.



“Ending Sexual Exploitation: Engaging Parents and Guardians of High-School-Age Sons to Stop Sexual Harm” is a resource created by CAASE for families, role models (i.e., parents, partners, stepparents, extended family members, etc.), and any other person who is involved in the lives of young men and is passionate about ending sexual exploitation.

The toolkit provides background information on issues surrounding sexual exploitation, tips on initiating conversations about the issues, and resources for parents and guardians. The toolkit includes the following resources:

- activities and practical ideas to help explore the issues surrounding sexual exploitation in a way that is relevant to the family;
- activities and advice on engaging a son in the fight against sexual exploitation;
- book and blog recommendations to address parenting concerns unique to raising young men;
- lists of family-centered organizations working to strengthen family connections and end violence and sexual exploitation.



CAASE states, “While we know that men perpetrate the majority of the rape, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation, we also know that the majority of men are not violent. It is these men that can play a key role in the solution to end gender-based violence: to make informed decisions in regards to sex trade patronage, to hold violent male peers and community members accountable for their actions, to help challenge our current culture of sexism, and to stand with women in saying that sexist and violent attitudes and behaviors will not be tolerated or supported. By refocusing anti-violence efforts toward male audiences, CAASE will help prevent the occurrence of future exploitive acts while increasing the community of young male anti-violence and anti-exploitation allies and activists.”

For more information contact Caleb Probst, Education Outreach Associate, at: caleb@caase.org



Action

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‘Hands that Heal’ Training Workshop

The *Hands that Heal* ‘Anti-Human Trafficking Training’ workshop is designed to provide attendees with the tools necessary to best serve trafficking survivors and prevent human trafficking from occurring. The manual used in the training is entitled, “*Hands That Heal: An International Curriculum to Train Caregivers of Trafficking Survivors.*” It was developed by the Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST) and is the collaborative effort of over forty professionals from varied cultural and vocational perspectives.

The conference will include the following themes:

- Introduction to Trafficking In Persons
- A Biblical Framework for a Christian Response to Human Trafficking
- Fair Trade
- Prevention, Raising Awareness & Mobilizing the Next Generation
- Combating Legalization of Prostitution
- Trafficking in Persons Community Assessment
- Combating the Demand for Commercial Sex
- Cultural Issues in Trafficking and Trauma
- Introduction to Aftercare
- The film ‘*Sex & Money*’

The **June 8-9, 2012** training will take place at:

Quality Inn Conference Center,
110 E 4th Ave., Spokane, WA 99202

To register go to:

<http://worldreliefspokane.org/hthtraining/>

For more information: HTHSpokane@wr.org

‘Groupon’ Furthers Exploitation & Torture of Women

Twice in 2012 *Groupon*, the popular coupon company, offered discounts on tours of *Kink*, the torture porn studio located in San Francisco. *Kink*, which sells porn videos and offers live online torture porn performances, advertises on its site that, “*Girls are also pulled in and out of cages, their tongues clamped, their bodies pinned, and their arms and legs strapped.*” The company claims to employ ‘*contraptions used in countries such as China for torture*’ as well as machines, water, metal, wood, electrodes, hooks, needles, and urination, all for the sexual persecution of women and ‘*young teenage girls.*’

Morality in Media called for a national boycott of *Groupon*. More than 10,000 e-mails have been sent to *Groupon* executives to date. *Groupon* defended *Kink*, saying, “*We thoroughly investigate the businesses we feature. For what it’s worth, Kink’s owner is actually a fixture in the local community and regularly donates to local youth charities. We feel that because this business is an active good community citizen, it is worth the experiment to run it.*”

Boycott ‘Groupon’

Sign the boycott of *Groupon* coupons and tell *Groupon* that abuse of women and girls is not acceptable.

- Call Matt Keeler, Director of Business Operations: 312-334-1562.
- Call Jim Sofranko, Vice Pres. of Business Development: 312-676-5773.
- Call Nick Cloffi, Vice Pres. of Sales & Operations Strategy: 312-783-2366.
- Call General Customer Feedback: 877-788-7858.

Educational Packet

Network for Peace through Dialogue, a non-profit in New York City, has developed a basic educational packet on human trafficking. It contains a DVD of a 13-minute presentation on the trafficking of women and girls by S. Eugenia Bonetti, a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report hero of 2004; an outline of a 2-hour educational session; human trafficking facts; suggestions for action; and a list of resources.

To receive a copy, go to:
http://www.networkforpeace.com/Resources/publications/modern_slavery_flyer_2.pdf

Network for Peace through Dialogue
240 E 93rd Street 3H
New York, NY 10128
(Tel.) 212-426-5818

Or e-mail Kathleen Kanet at: kkanet@networkforpeace.com



Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
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Resource Center
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Action

8 'Backpage.com' Campaign

Victim's Story

"At 15 years old I was drugged and forced into prostitution. Initially I had no idea what was going on or where I really was. Eventually, when I did, I was ashamed and afraid. I felt it was my fault because I had accepted the invitation to go 'hang out' with these men. I was angry but felt trapped. I wanted to die. When I was found, I was placed into state custody because I was considered to be so 'damaged.' My entire family was destroyed. I would never know what it meant to attend a high school, a prom, or even go on a simple date with a boy. I did not understand that I was a vulnerable child that had been taken advantage of.

My entire life stopped, and it is only within the last three years that I have begun to transition into a place of recovery. I am now a 31-year-old woman, with a child of my own. I attend a top-tier women's university and I am finally picking up the pieces and trying to discover what it means to be 'me.' Each day I deal with the scars of the abuse that I suffered over 15 years ago — yes, each and every day.

These same types of predators, who had me figured out, are the same types of predators that are using the Village Voice to exploit and change forever the lives of innocent young people today.

There is one thing that I do know: I will do anything in my power to stop any young person from enduring anything like the abuses I endured. The pain that I endured and that I carry with me goes beyond words, but I hope that I have been able to say enough on behalf of all of those who have suffered, are suffering, or may suffer, to encourage you to protect them."

Paula K.' Child sex trafficking survivor.

Background

According to AIM Group, a trade organization, *Backpage.com* has 70% of the market for prostitution ads. Owned by *Village Voice Media* (VVM), *Backpage.com* is the largest online site for child sex trafficking in the U.S.

On March 29, 2012 protesters delivered to VVM offices in New York 100 pairs of girls' shoes, representing the children bought and sold for sex on the classifieds website. Along with the shoes came more than 225,000 signatures on a petition on *Change.org* calling on VVM to stop allowing child sex traffickers and pimps to advertise on their site. Fifty-one State Attorneys General, faith leaders and 10 U.S. Senators have publicly called on

Village Voice to shut down their adult ads. But the ads are still running. VVM claims they cannot control what happens on their site.

Who exactly is *Village Voice Media*? Who stands to profit from *Backpage.com*? VVM is owned by a handful of US companies, including *Goldman Sachs* (who sold its shares when it was about to be exposed); *Alta Communications*, a Boston-based firm whose founder William Egan is also the owner of the *Boston Celtics*; and *Brynwood Partners*, which also owns famous brands like *Balance Bar*, *Pretzle Flipz*, and *Turtle*. If these companies realize the prestige of their brands is on the line, they will take action to stop child sex trafficking on *Backpage.com*.

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

'Morality in Media' Campaigns

<http://www.WarOnIllegalPornography.com>

<http://www.PornHarms.com>

<http://www.SafeLibraryProject.com>

DEMAND Abolition

<http://www.demandabolition.org/who-we-are/advisory-council/>

CNN Freedom Project

<http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/19/child-slavery-and-chocolate-all-too-easy-to-find/>

The Dark Side of Chocolate

<http://thedarksideofchocolate.org/>

Free2Work

(Looks at consumer goods in relation to child slaves.)

<http://www.free2work.org/>

Take Action!

Tell *Alta Communication* and *Brynwood Partners* to use their power and money so *Village Voice Media* closes the adult ad section of *Backpage.com*.

To sign the petition, go to:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/alta-communications-and-brynwood-partners-stop-financing-child-sex-trafficking>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com
Editing and Layout: *Jean Schafer, SDS*