

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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This issue highlights the ways in which businesses exploit workers and how other businesses are working to advance the rights and protection of workers around the world.

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Exploitation or Advocacy by American Businesses? 'Home Economics'

The report, *'Home Economics: The Invisible and Unregulated World of Domestic Work'*, by the *National Domestic Workers Alliance* documents serious and widespread mistreatment of domestic workers – nannies, housecleaners, and caregivers – in the U.S.

They are underpaid, in many cases less than the minimum wage, and often at levels too low to adequately care for their own families. They are almost universally excluded from coverage by labor laws and usually work without a contract or any kind of agreement, written or oral, with their employers. They often perform work that is physically punishing, involving heavy lifting, long hours, and exposure to potentially harmful cleaning products. They may be subject to physical and verbal abuse by their employers, even enduring, in the case of live-in immigrant workers, conditions indistinguishable from slavery.

Founded in 2007, the *National Domestic Workers Alliance* (NDWA) is the nation's leading voice for domestic workers, most of whom are immigrant women and women of color.

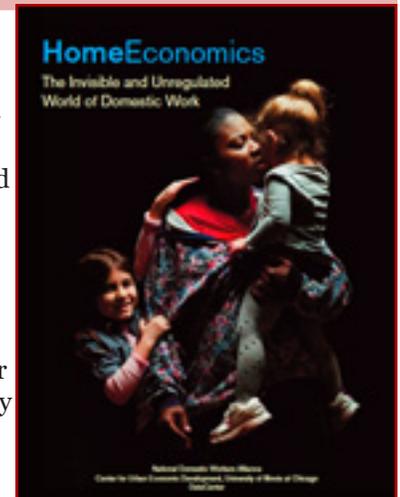
"The exclusion of domestic workers from labor regulations and standards is a holdover from slavery, the historic devaluation of black and brown labor, and the determination of employers, well into the 20th century, to maintain access to domestic labor on the cheap and without interference." (Report, pg. 5)

(<http://www.domesticworkers.org/homeeconomics/>)

Plight of Migrant Laborers

The National Institute of Justice within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice funded a study, *"Looking for a Hidden Population: Trafficking of Migrant Laborers in San Diego County."* The study, conducted by San Diego State Univ. does not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. government. The study found that about 31% of unauthorized Spanish-speaking workers (approx-

Migrants cont. pg. 5





Awareness

Contractors Ignore/ Fuel Slavery on U.S. Bases

In countries where the prevailing wage is less than \$2 a day, the promise of employment creates hope that a job overseas, no matter what the work entails, will be an opportunity to send money back to one's family. A wage of \$1,000 per month, below the poverty line in the U.S., is for millions of people an offer worth its risks.

Recruiters, backed by subcontractors, deliberately target such impoverished foreign nationals, who often take on additional debt to pay required, but illegal recruiting fees. The lure is for well-paid work in construction, retail, and hospitality in the Middle East. Too often such workers end up on U.S. military bases working for less than 25% the promised wages and in untenable working conditions.

The U.S. government awards contracts to provide labor and services for its missions to U.S. firms. These contracts include reimbursements for all costs and a profit for the firms. Upon award, the U.S. contractors then sub-contract with various other companies to recruit workers to source the required labor. It is the agents of these subcontractors, who use deceptive recruitment methods. Moreover, questionable living and working conditions occur on U.S. bases where worker rights are the responsibility of the employer under local labor laws. The system thus creates a few different, but quantifiable layers between the U.S. government and the abused worker.

Outsourcing basic services for U.S. military operations overseas benefits the U.S. government by reducing the number of U.S. military personnel needed to provide this labor in war zones – thus reducing the potential number of U.S. citizen casualties. The resulting demand for foreign workers also benefits U.S. contractors and their subcontractors, who are able to bring in hefty, unaccountable profits.

Media reports have revealed that, despite international conventions and U.S. laws that target cross-border human trafficking, workers still provide labor and services (laundry, food services, janitorial, etc.) to U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan under exploitative conditions.

“A large number of foreign workers are employed by fly-by-night subcontractors who are financed by the American taxpayer but who often operate outside the law,” stated a 2011 article in *The New Yorker*, *“Invisible Army: For Foreign Workers on U.S. Bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, War Can Be Hell”*.

A report by Yale Univ. detailed institutionalized patterns of abuse affecting many of the 70,000 *Third Country Nationals* (TCNs) working in U.S. taxpayer-funded missions. This cheap, efficient alternative for basic services on U.S. missions overseas has created and fostered unchecked incentives for nefarious third-party contractors. According to the Yale report, *“Many brokers target vulnerable workers in countries like Nepal, India, the Philippines, and Uganda; charge them illegal recruiting fees ... and often deceive them about the nature and conditions of the work and wages they will receive.”* Once on base, conditions can be extremely dangerous. External war-zone threats are exacerbated by intolerable living conditions. *“Many of them recount having been robbed of wages, injured without compensation, subjected to sexual assault, and*

held in conditions resembling indentured servitude by their subcontractor bosses,” the report stated.

Laws already exist that should, to a large extent, prevent such exploitation: U.S. FRAGO 06-188 is a Pentagon-issued directive ensuring that the U.S. Dept. of Defense eradicate trafficking in labor recruiting practices; the U.S. FAR Subpar 22.15 prohibits federal procurement officials from purchasing goods made with child labor.

In October 2012 at the *Clinton Global Initiative*, President Obama spoke about how his administration is fighting human trafficking. He singled out the plight of base workers and the nation's commitment to eradicating slavery by focusing on its own operations and supply chains. *“Now, finally, as one of the largest purchasers of goods and services in the world, the U.S. government will lead by example.*

We've already taken steps to make sure our contractors do not engage in forced labor.” Obama signed an executive order, *“Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts,”* for that purpose.

As part of the *National Defense Authorization Act*, the U.S. Congress also passed measures in December 2012 that it claimed would address the slavery present in its own supply chains, prohibiting the use of fraudulent recruitment practices to supply workers for government contracts, addressing specific tactics employed by recruiters, and increasing penalties for violations. Yet, just before passage of the law, Senators chose to remove provisions that criminalize those who profit most from such forced labor.

The result -- the U.S. Government, backed by massive military budgets, asserts the lofty goals of promoting democracy, freedom, human rights, and civilian security overseas, while tolerating and funding human trafficking on the very military bases that are supposed to model these ideals.

(Excerpted from an article by Samir Goswami of *Economic Enterprises for Humanitarian Development*: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/international-foreignlaw/blogs/internationalandforeignlawblog/archive/2012/12/13/we-still-don-t-punish-contractors-for-slavery-on-u-s-bases.aspx>)



Awareness

Lethal Fire: Bangladeshi Garment Factory

Between 1,500 and 2,000 Bangladeshi workers were forced to work overtime at the Tazreen Fashion Factory in Ashulia, Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2012. The ground floor warehouse contained boxes of fabric, yarn, spools of thread and sewing machines, all highly flammable. When a fire broke out in the warehouse and the fire alarm went off, supervisors barred workers from leaving the second, third and fourth floors by closing off a gate. Both the Bangladeshi police and firefighters have confirmed that the collapsible gates on each floor were padlocked to keep the workers from fleeing the fire. Firefighters had to use bolt cutters to cut the locks.

There were not enough fire extinguishers to control even a small fire, let alone the major flames that engulfed the workers. The few fire extinguishers did not work and there were no fire escapes to the outside.

Around 200 Bangladeshi workers, mostly women, were burned to death, trapped in the locked sweatshop. The factory fire was so devastating that neighboring houses were also destroyed.

The Government of Bangladesh suggested “sabotage” due to some evil plot to attack the Tazreen Fashion factory, as it had in 2010 when 29 people died in another garment factory fire.



Digging graves for the unidentified victims of the fire.

Bangladesh may surpass China within the next seven years as the largest apparel manufacturer in the world. By 2020, Bangladesh could have as many as 10.5 million garment workers, producing \$57 billion worth of garments a year. But workers have few rights and suffer gross negligence at the hands of employers, international buyers, and the Bangladeshi government.

- *Tazreen Fashion Ltd* had a permit to construct a three-story factory, but instead, the company built an illegal, nine-story building. Apparently no one in government challenged this.
- Senior sewing operators earn \$12.66 for a 48-hour workweek. Junior sewing operators earn \$10.69 per week. Helpers earn \$8.44 for 48 hours per week.
- It is not uncommon for supervisors to curse, slap, and even punch workers, including young women, for making a mistake at work or for taking too long in the bathrooms, which workers report are filthy.
- Overtime is strictly obligatory. Workers who object or cannot remain for obligatory overtime are terminated.
- Women are routinely denied their legal right to maternity leave and there is no daycare center.
- Workers who arrive late three times are immediately fired.
- Sick leave is not allowed.
- The standard work shift is 12 hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with one hour off for lunch. It is obligatory for the workers to toil three overtime hours each weekday besides the standard eight-hour work shift. Workers are cheated of legal overtime wages, because just one hour of daily overtime is paid correctly (at double time), while the other two hours are paid as straight time, a loss of 33% overtime wages.
- The *Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)* has never attempted to implement legal factory ordinances and worker rights. (http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/677/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=12022)

Eyewitness Account

“Around 6:45 p.m. we heard the fire alarm go off. We were terrified, but the supervisor told us that nothing had happened and it was a false alarm. He ordered us to keep working. Then we heard screaming from the lower floors, and in a minute, thick black smoke spread across our floor, engulfing the whole area. It was around 6:50 p.m. when the electricity went off. It was completely dark. We couldn’t see anything. It was hard to breathe as the air was thick with poisonous black fumes. I felt like I was suffocating. All the workers were screaming, crying and trying to escape. We thought that we were all going to die. Then I pressed the green button on my cell phone, which gave us a little light. I grabbed my sister’s hand and tried to go down the stairs. But the gate was locked. We ran back and smashed a window. We saw a bamboo ladder leaning on the wall of our building. I let my sister climb down and followed her. We were able to reach the roof of the third floor and from there we jumped to the ground. Both of us were hurt.”

“Many new workers, especially women, were trapped and burned alive. Some jumped through the broken windows or used bamboo ladders to escape. The workers who tried to get down on the stairs were suffocated and burned alive. With the electricity off and the dense black smoke, it was hard to find a way to get out because the gate was locked. We gave up hope for our lives. Now I can imagine what hell is like. If I had waited even a few more minutes, my sister and I would have died. Thank God, Who saved us. But we lost many of our co-workers.”



Advocacy

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The Risk of Forced Labor To Business — Is Business Ready to Face Up?

For far too long businesses have ignored the risk of forced labor in corporate supply chains -- a situation that reflects the failure not just of business, but of society at large to confront the inconvenient truth of modern day slavery. But at last we may be beginning to see a change.

In the late 20th century, truth seekers began pulling back the curtain on the involvement of some of today's most highly respected auto makers – *Volkswagen*, *Ford* and *GM* in the Third Reich's enslavement of millions of Jews and Polish people forced to produce in these munitions factories.

The first corporate-defended lawsuit under the *US Alien Tort Statute*, '*Doe vs Unocal*', ended in a settlement for the victims. Among the alleged crimes was forced labor of villagers in the construction of the Yadana gas pipeline by the Burmese military junta in providing security for the oil giants, *Unocal* and *Total*.

In 2006 it was discovered that slave labor in Brazil was being used to make the pig iron that ends up in *Ford*, *Nissan*, *GM* and *Toyota* cars, as well as *Whirlpool* and *Kohler* products. Most recently, *Ikea* made a public apology after it was discovered that in the mid-1980s, the Swedish furniture maker relied upon East German prison labor to "keep its prices low."

The *International Labor Organization* (ILO) officially recognized the problem back in 1930 with the enactment of the *Forced Labor Convention* (No 29) and again in 1957 with the *Abolition of Forced Labor Convention* (No. 105). Despite the gravity of the issue, the ILO remained alone among international institutions in calling attention to it. In 1998, with the passage of the *ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, the prohibition on forced labor was made one of the four core labor standards. In 2001, the ILO issued its first *Global Report* on the problem, drawing attention to not only its extent, but a newly understood dimension: *the crime of human trafficking*.

Forced labor is defined as any work or service that a person is forced to do against his or her will under threat of punishment. The ILO estimates that today as many as 21 million people are victims of forced labor.

U.K. risk analysis firm, *Maplecroft*, highlights the risk to business in its annual reports. In 2011 countries "vital" to the supply chains of multinationals: China, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and the Philippines were named "extreme risks" to business for their high incidence of forced labor.

Why has business paid so little attention? One reason is that supply chain audits rarely turn up the problem. Auditors tend to identify and address specific violations (delayed payment of wages, long hours, etc.) without seeing forced labor. Moreover, audits and standard geographic risk management tools are inadequate to address the global, cross-border nature of human trafficking that accompanies modern day slavery. The hidden nature of forced labor often takes place several steps down the value chain.

Such problems could be addressed with better monitoring tools. Yet, better monitoring brings increased chances of finding forced labor, a finding possibly too repugnant for the public to forgive. The delay in creating and using those

tools is no doubt in part linked with business fears of reputational damage stemming from what better monitoring might turn up.

Recent government actions in the U.S. on the issue appear to be finally changing the climate for business action. In 2012 the *California Transparency in Supply Chains Act* went into effect, mandating that companies that do business in CA post on their websites what policies and practices they have in place to address human trafficking in their supply chains. Following the passage of the Dodd-Frank provisions for reporting on conflict minerals, the Act represented a rare victory for human rights group in gaining a means to hold companies accountable.

In October 2012 President Obama announced an executive order that would strengthen prohibitions against human-trafficking related activities in federal contracts. Notably, the speech, in which Obama referred to human trafficking as nothing more than "modern slavery," was made before business executives attending the *Clinton Global Initiative Summit*.

While neither initiative goes far enough, each demonstrates the critical importance of government action in not only setting out mandatory requirements for socially responsible business, but in shining a spotlight on morally repugnant issues like forced labor and defining them as a problem to be reckoned with.

According to the *Institute for Human Rights and Business*, combating forced labor and human trafficking is one of top ten business and human rights issues for 2013.

And we've seen it coming. In 2010 the *The Whistleblower* debuted. It is a feature film about sex trafficking during the Bosnia peacekeeping mission, a devastating portrayal of institutionalized atrocities within the very body that is supposed to protect human rights. (It is said that this film was the spark that ignited the Obama Administration's resolve to eradicate forced labor in connection with government contracts.)

Business cont. pg. 5



Advocacy

Business *cont. from pg. 4*

For the past several years faith-based investors, Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) and *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility*, have used the opportunities of the *World Cup* and other large sporting events to encourage the hotel sector to take steps to prevent human trafficking, including pledging to follow a *Code of Conduct* developed by ECPAT.

In 2011 the organization, *Verite*, which has made forced labor and human trafficking a key focus of its work with companies, launched its “*fair hiring*” website and toolkit, “*to help direct the many stakeholder groups with the questions needed to ask and steps needed to take in order to eradicate forced labor and slavery in supply chains.*”

CNN launched its *Freedom Project* to shed light on the problem. That same year the *International Labor Rights Forum* launched its *Free2Work app*, which helps consumers evaluate the efforts of brands to address forced labor and child labor. That complemented the work of another newly launched initiative, the *Slavery Footprint*.

In November 2012, the newly elected president of the *American Bar Association*, Laurel Bellows, announced that human trafficking would be a major focus. She has created a task force on human trafficking, which among other activities will develop best practices for companies to eradicate human trafficking.

Alongside his executive order, Obama announced four business initiatives: the *Global Business Coalition Against Trafficking*; the *US Travel Association's* anti-trafficking toolkit; the *Goldman Sachs Foundation*-sponsored

research partnership with *Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health* and the *Advisory Council on Child Trafficking*, focused on prevention of child sex trafficking and treatment of survivors; and the *Made in a Free World* initiative, to help buyers and suppliers eliminate human trafficking in their supply chains.

And just before the close of 2012, *Virgin Group's* Richard Branson and Australia-based *Fortescue Metals' Andrew Forrest* launched a campaign in Yangon, Burma to urge leading global companies to join a voluntary initiative to eradicate forced labor.

At last, business – and society – appears ready to face the issue. Let's hope for the sake of vulnerable workers around the world that 2013 brings results. (Excerpted from: <http://www.csrwire.com/blog/posts/675-modern-day-slavery-and-human-trafficking-is-business-ready-to-face-up-to-it>)

Migrants *cont. from pg. 1*

mately 38,000) have “*experienced an incident that meets the legal definition of human trafficking.*” The researchers studied the six most common labor sectors in which migrant laborers usually find work. They found that construction, food processing, and janitorial/cleaning were “*the top three business sectors with trafficking violations and abusive labor practices.*” Construction had the highest rate of reported trafficking violations (35%) and abusive labor practices (63%), while agriculture, which employs most undocumented laborers in the northern part of San Diego County, had the lowest rate of both reported trafficking violations (16%) and abusive labor practices (27%). For a copy of the study, go to: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/240223.pdf> (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/nov/28/authorized-migrants-are-targets-labor-trafficking>)

Human Trafficking Position Statement of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Wichita, KS

We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, Gospel women committed to our charism of unifying inclusive love, are impelled to promote right relationships and denounce the slavery of human trafficking in all of its forms wherever it exists.

We are committed in collaboration with others to:

- Educate ourselves and others on the issues around human trafficking,
- Work to eliminate the root causes of trafficking within the system and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Assist victims in their escape from slavery in whatever ways we can,
- Support those who minister directly or indirectly with victims,
- Use our strength as consumers and investors to promote a society that addresses the incentives for human trafficking.
- Make our voices heard in legislative bodies to pass laws against trafficking.

Facts:

- 27 million people are caught in modern-day slavery across the world. Source: Kevin Bales of Free the Slaves.
- 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S. Source: U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: 2007.
- 1 million children are exploited by the global commercial sex trade, every year. Source: U.S. Department of State, The Facts About Child Sex Tourism: 2005.
- 80% of transnational victims are women and girls. Source: U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: 2007.
- \$32 billion of profit are generated by the human trafficking industry annually.
- \$15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries. Source: ILO, A global alliance against forced labor: 2005.

Suggested Actions:

- Learn about your local and state laws that deal with protecting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice,
- Share this information with your church community and ministry setting,
- Commit to praying regularly and fast one day each month for victims of trafficking and their perpetrators
- Distribute brochures and posters from the Rescue & Restore campaign located at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

(This statement supports the HT Statement of the US Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph)



6

Advocacy

Travel Industry Trains Employees to Recognize Human Trafficking

Nancy Rivard, president of *Airline Ambassadors*, recounted a recent incident on a major airline. A flight attendant noticed something odd -- a young American girl, who said she had never flown before, traveling by herself in first class from Chicago to Fort Lauderdale, FL. The girl said the seat was a gift from a man she 'met' online. The attendant checked the records and learned that someone with an unusual e-mail address bought the ticket. But she did not know what to do.

A few days later, the attendant contacted Ms. Rivard, who is also a flight attendant, saying, "I can't sleep at night because I am so worried about the girl." She had gone to the airline for help but no one knew what to do. "Stories like that are not uncommon," said Rivard, who contacted Homeland Security. The trafficker and girl were located and she was taken to safety. "Every day I talk to airline attendants who say, 'There was a girl on my flight who didn't look normal,'" Rivard said. "It's growing everywhere."

The travel industry — long an unwitting participant in human trafficking at hotels and on airplanes, trains and buses — lately has been increasing efforts to combat the problem, working with private advocacy groups and the federal government in long-term, coordinated initiatives that go beyond normal philanthropy.

The travel technology company, *Sabre Holdings*, has a 'Passport to Freedom' initiative, which trains its 10,000 employees in 60 countries how to identify and report potential trafficking incidents. *Sabre*, owner of *Travelocity*, plans to expand its outreach to businesses, travel agents and travelers who use its software and will eventually include informational links in all itineraries to raise awareness of the largely hidden problem.

In October 2012, the *Dept. of Homeland Security*, *Dept. of Transportation* and *Amtrak* stepped-up efforts against trafficking. Through a partnership, the *Dept. of Transportation* is in the process of training more than 55,000 employees and *Amtrak* will train 20,000 employees to counter the problem.

In 2004 ECPAT USA (*End Child Prostitution and Trafficking*) introduced the *Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct*, a voluntary set of guidelines for the travel and tourism industry. The *Carlson Company* was the first U.S.-based global travel and hospitality company to sign the



Code in 2004. *Carlson*, whose brands include *Radisson*, *Country Inns and Suites* and *T.G.I. Friday's*, had more than 80,000 hotel employees in 81 countries receive required training to deter trafficking of children. Front desk employees are encouraged to look for visual clues like signs of abuse or fear among potential victims; young people made up to look older; and clients who pay with cash, are reluctant to provide identification or have no luggage. Housekeeping staff might be alerted to criminal activity if there are an unusually large number of electronic devices in guest rooms or many condoms in the wastebasket. It is difficult to spot since trafficking victims can be hidden from hotel management through third-party suppliers of janitorial, housekeeping, landscaping or other services.

More recently the *Wyndham Worldwide Corporation*, *Delta Air Lines*, *Accor hotels*, *Hilton Worldwide*, the *Real Hospitality Group*, and *Sabre* have signed the *Code* as well. Stephen

Barth, a lawyer and professor of hospitality law at the University of Houston, said awareness of the problem had become widespread among the travel industry's major brands. "The goal now is to create more awareness among the 50,000 independent hotels scattered all over the U.S. and around the world."

But challenges remain, particularly among cheaper properties. "Franchisers don't actually operate the franchised hotels," which can result in variable compliance, he said. And at some properties, both franchised and independent, security might consist of only one person at the front desk. (Excerpted from <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/09/giving/the-travel-industry-takes-on-human-trafficking.html>)

NYC Cabbies Required to View Anti-Sex Trafficking Video

The *Taxi and Limousine Commission* (TLC) released an anti-sex trafficking video that is now mandatory viewing for all New York City cabbies. The video is designed to clarify the rules about treatment of passengers. Believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, the video explains that it is illegal to refuse a fare based upon a person's appearance or gender.

"Sex trafficking is a serious crime,"

Cabbies cont. pg. 7



Action

7

Coalition Critiques Canadian Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

The coalition of religious congregations of Quebec, *Comité d'Action Contre la Traite Humaine Interne et Internationale (CATHII)* recently critiqued the *Canadian National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking*, put forth in June 2012. (The Plan is available at: http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/le/_fl/cmbt-trffkng-eng.pdf)

The Plan has merit by identifying women and children as the main targets of traffickers. However, the federal government does not sufficiently address the needs of victims, particularly in terms of protection. The federal government action plan is organized around the four Palermo Protocol foci -- prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

Prevention

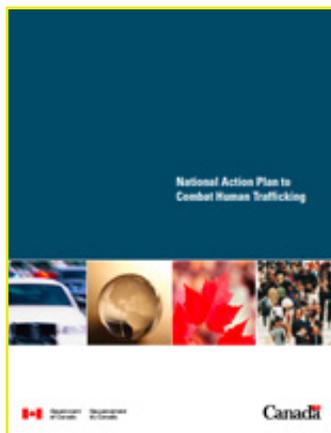
Prevention involves identifying and reporting the crime, using existing initiatives and awareness training of police, as well as involving frontline and judiciary agencies. The research component focuses on gathering data to better measure the "threat".

Protection

The protection of victims is through a temporary residence permit and health benefits for victims of cross-border trafficking. Measures are also intended to counter the "abuse" in the *Temporary Foreign Worker Program*. Unfortunately, these measures have largely restricted the entry of foreign workers under the pretext that they would be at risk of being exploited.

Prosecution

Investigations and prosecutions use up the majority of resources from the annual budget (5 of the 6 million dollars allotted). The funds provide



investigation, prosecution and data collection.

Partnership

The Plan does not indicate that the government wants to act on the root causes of human trafficking, such as poverty, discrimination, racism, inequality between women and men, nor to support communities leading initiatives in this direction. Cuts in funding have exacerbated this problem since many women's groups are better equipped to act directly on root causal problems. Civil society organizations have only a consultative role. The government seems to overlook the fact that the fight against human trafficking is primarily a human rights issue.

Recommendations

CATHII recommends that Canada be more proactive about the root causes of human trafficking: poverty, discrimination, racism and demand (job insecurity, sexual acts). The National Plan does not mention the Swedish model. This model offers a broad program to promote equality between men and women and to establish stable and

training for law enforcement, the establishment of investigative teams, & collaboration of inter-provinces

increased resources allocated to accessible programs, equally available to men and/or women, especially those related to family violence. It contains policies aimed to reduce demand. That means that the focus is on the actions of buyers, not sellers, and on laws that decriminalize the selling of sexual services. The prosecution for crime falls on the purchaser of one of these sexual services.

For issues related to forced labor, Canada should ratify the international conventions on labor migration. (<http://www.cathii.org/autrespublications.html>)

Cabbies *cont. from pg. 6*

Commissioner Yassky said. "Every taxi driver, every livery driver has got to be trained to make sure that they are not participating in sex trafficking. On one hand we want to make sure the taxi drivers don't become part of criminal activity. On the other hand it's not their job to be doing profiling of any kind and you don't want them discriminating against people without good reason," Yassky said.

All drivers are required to watch the video when getting or renewing a license. The video is the result of a NY bill, which targets drivers who assist sex traffickers by driving women to johns. The law now imposes a \$10,000 fine on drivers who are convicted of a felony related to sex trafficking. The cabbies would also lose their TLC licenses. (<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/01/03/nyc-cabbies-required-to-view-anti-sex-trafficking-video/>)



Action

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline:
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1-888-3737-888**

Nix Conference & Meeting Management Honored by FBI for Work Fighting Human Trafficking

Kimberly Ritter from *Nix Conference & Meeting Management*, was honored in December 2012 by the FBI for her efforts to protect children from sex trafficking. Dean C. Bryant, Special Agent of the FBI St. Louis Division, presented the 2012 Director's Community Leadership Award to Ritter in a surprise ceremony at the Millennium Hotel.



Each of the FBI's 56 field offices annually selects an individual or organization to receive this award, which honors efforts in combating crime, terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. In 2013 FBI Director Robert S. Mueller will present a plaque to Ritter and 55 other recipients at a national ceremony at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Violent crimes against children, including child prostitution, are among the top priorities for the FBI. Bryant said, "*Raising awareness goes a long way to preventing sex trafficking or any crime. By challenging their counterparts to raise awareness among the tourism industry, Ms. Ritter and Nix are creating a force multiplier that could eventually have a nationwide impact.*"

Ritter and the owners of Nix – Jane Quinn and Molly Hackett – have become experts on the topic, addressing the issue of child sex trafficking at conferences and in meetings with hotel general managers. They first became aware of the problem four years ago when the Sisters of St. Joseph asked Ritter whether the hotel she was booking on their behalf had a policy on human trafficking. "*This was a request and an issue we had not heard about before,*" said Quinn. "*As we researched it, we realized we could have a real impact on this crisis.*"

Earlier this year, Nix worked with ECPAT-USA (*End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking*) to initiate and sign the first-ever '*Meeting Planners Code of Conduct*'. Nix reaches out to industry peers and competitors, encouraging meeting planners to join them in addressing the issue at every hotel where they do business. Companies that adopt the *Code of Conduct* agree to establish an internal social responsibility policy, educate employees on ways to spot red flags, empower them to take action if they spot a potential incident of child sex trafficking, and report to ECPAT annually. Hackett said, "*We've fielded dozens of calls and emails on child sex trafficking from the media, law enforcement, the U.S. attorney's office, our own clients, hotel management, religious organizations and other meeting planners.*"

The *Millennium Hotel St. Louis* is committed to the fight against child sex trafficking, which occurs at hotels across the country. The Millennium was the first hotel in St. Louis to sign the *ECPAT International Code of Conduct*.

Nix Conference & Meeting Management, based in St. Louis, has managed meetings, conferences and trade shows for associations, religious organizations, businesses and nonprofits on four continents and in 17 countries since 1985.

(<http://www.nixassoc.com>) (<http://www.nixassoc.com/nix-honored-by-fbi/>)

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

Reducing Child Labor & Forced Labor

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs within the U.S. Dept. of Labor created a new online resource, "*Reducing Child Labor & Forced Labor: A Toolkit for Responsible Businesses.*" It is the first guide for business from the U.S. government & is available at this link:

<http://www.dol.gov/ChildLaborBusinessToolkit>

Photos to Witness Modern Slavery

http://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_kristine_glimpses_of_modern_day_slavery.html

Tell Garment Companies to Be Responsible!

How is it possible that *Wal-Mart, Sean Combs' ENYCE label, Sears, C&A, Walt Disney* and so many other international companies failed to see the obvious illegal sweatshop conditions at the Bangladeshi Tazreen factory over the last two and a half years?

If any representative had spoken to even one worker at the Tazreen factory, they would have learned the truth about conditions.

Please write *Wal-Mart, Walt Disney, Sears, Sean John and Target.*

Tell them they have an obligation to pay significant compensation to:

- families of the young workers who were trapped and burned to death;
- those who were seriously injured; &
- the over 1000 workers, who are now without work and unable to feed their families.

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 Schaffer, SDS*