

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2013 Vol. 11 No. 12

This issue highlights efforts to stem sexual exploitation in the U.S. and globally.

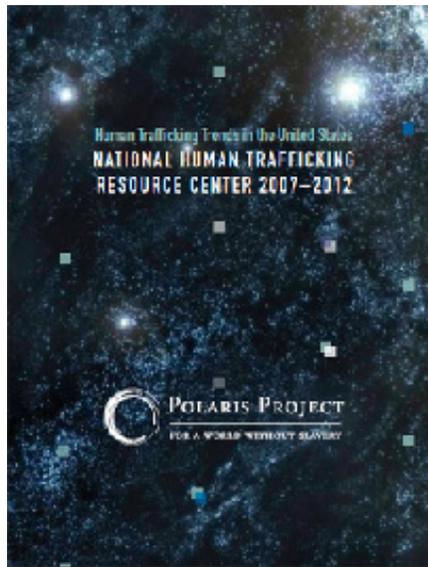
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Human Trafficking Trends in the U.S.

In a report entitled, *'Human Trafficking Trends in the U.S.: National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) 2007-2012'*, the Polaris Project summarized activity during five years of the hotline's operation.



Human trafficking cases have been reported in every state and U.S. territory, showing this crime is rampant.

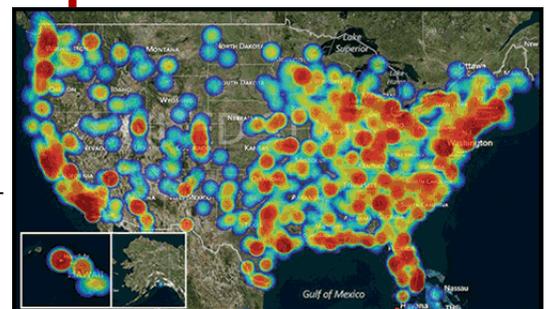
Between December 2007 and December 2012, the NHTRC answered 65,557 calls (including 1,488 from individual survivors), 1,735 online tip forms, and 5,251 emails — totaling more than 72,000 interactions. The 259% increase in calls between 2008 and 2012 was largely due to increased awareness of human trafficking and of the hotline number itself. Nationally, callers were most likely to learn about the NHTRC hotline through an Internet search and the U.S. Department of State's *'Know Your*

Rights' pamphlet. Locally, mandatory posting laws, promotion by local and state governments, trainings, and targeted campaigns proved particularly effective in increasing call volume.

The hotline received reports of 9,298 unique cases of human trafficking. Of these cases, 64% involved sex trafficking, 22% involved labor trafficking, nearly 3% involved both sex and labor trafficking, and 12% were unspecified. The NHTRC also responded to an additional 4,167 reports of exploitative labor practices that put individuals at high risk for labor trafficking. More than 2,800 cases were referred to law enforcement.

The NHTRC provided 11,101 unique service referrals to assist survivors. The NHTRC has mapped out and connected with 3,000 stakeholders, including service providers, local and federal law enforcement, government agencies, task forces, coalitions, and advocates.

Through these connections, the NHTRC hotline specialists facilitated swift and coordinated responses to



Location of potential HT cases.

Top 10 states with most reports of potential HT cases: CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, DC, VA, OH, NC, GA

Report cont. on pg. 2



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Report *cont. from pg. 1*

trafficking throughout the country. These responses included the extraction of a victim in crisis or the coordination of shelter, transportation, case management, and legal assistance.

Of the 5,932 cases of sex trafficking pimp-controlled sex trafficking was the most commonly referenced form of sex trafficking, occurring in places such as in hotels, motels, commercial-front brothels, residential brothels, on streets, at truck stops, and often online. While more than 85% of sex trafficking cases involved women and girls, cases also included male and transgender victims.

The 2,027 labor trafficking cases had significantly higher percentages of male and foreign national victims compared to sex trafficking cases. 40% of labor trafficking cases involved men and 60% involved women. In addition, 66% referenced foreign nationals, and 20% referenced U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPR).

Cases of labor trafficking were most commonly found in domestic work, with significant concentrations appearing in the Northeast as well as in southern Florida and southern California. Victims of labor trafficking were also found in traveling sales crews and among the nation's migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Callers frequently described traffickers targeting vulnerable individuals and using lies, false promises, debt bondage, and other forms of control and manipulation to keep their victims trapped.

Children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, and minors have been reported in nearly every form of sex and labor trafficking. Of the 9,298 po-

tential human trafficking cases reported to the NHTRC, 29% or 2,668 cases, involved at least one child victim of human trafficking. Furthermore, 74% of child trafficking cases involved sex trafficking, and the majority of those involved pimp-controlled prostitution. Child victims were also exploited in the pornography industry, escort services, commercial-front brothels, and residential brothels. Minors were found in traveling sales crews, peddling rings, domestic work, begging rings, and in the agriculture industry. The NHTRC also found a significant portion of trafficked minors had interacted with the child welfare system in some capacity while in their trafficking situation.

Boys Are Sexually Exploited

The long-existing commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the U.S. began to gain attention after the enactment of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)* and its reauthorizations in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013. During this period, nearly all the attention of state and local governments, law enforcement, and service providers has been focused on sexually exploited adolescent girls.

In order to examine why commercial sexual exploitation of boys (CSEB) receives much less attention and to question the widespread popular assumptions that boys are willing participants or even exploiters and not victims, ECPAT-USA carried out a study to examine available information about CSEB, their participation in com-

mercial sex, and services available to them. The research explored several questions relating to the existence and circumstances of CSEB: Do they exist? What are their backgrounds? Who are their exploiters? At what age are they exploited? What are their needs and what services are available to meet those needs?

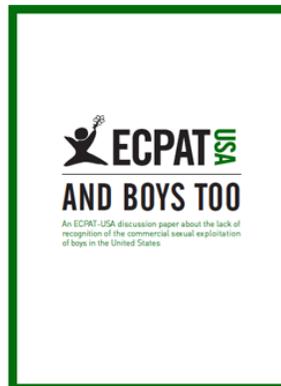
Early sexual abuse in the home increased the likelihood of later sexual victimization on the streets indirectly by increasing the amount of time at risk, deviant peer affiliations, participating in deviant subsistence strategies, and engaging in survival sex. These findings suggest that exposure to dysfunctional and disorganized homes place youth on trajectories for early independence. Subsequent street life and participation in high-risk behaviors increase their probability of sexual victimization. (*Report pg. 6*)

Contributing factors as to why CSEB boys and young men are not getting identified or served include:

- The unwillingness of boys to self-identify as sexually exploited due to shame and stigma about being gay or being perceived as gay by family and community.
- A lack of screening and intake by law enforcement and social services agencies rooted in the belief that boys are not victims of CSE.
- Limited outreach by anti-trafficking organizations to areas, venues and tracks known for male prostitution.
- Oversimplification of the reality that boys are not generally pimped hides their needs and misinforms potential services. (*Report pg. 5*)

Reasons for social service agencies' unwillingness or inability to serve boys include:

- Programs are already filled or over capacity with girls;
- Boys are not identified and/or referred by law enforcement, other social service organizations, public and/or agency outreach, nor do they self-refer;





Awareness

Abolitionist Groups Express Alarm Over UN Reports

In 2012 with the backing of the United Nations (UN) two reports, *HIV and the Law: Risks, Rights and Health* (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/hiv-and-the-law--risks--rights--health/>) and *Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific* (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/sex-work-and-the-law-in-asia-and-the-pacific/>), were released. These reports urged countries to decriminalize all aspects of the commercial sex industry, including brothel-keeping, pimping and the purchase of sex, in order to reduce HIV/AIDS and promote the human rights of people in prostitution.

The reports recommended revising and narrowing the definition found in the main international instrument addressing trafficking, the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (the *Palermo Protocol*). These reports are viewed by many as official UN policy.

Nearly 100 anti-trafficking organizations worldwide, many of which are survivor-led, were gravely concerned about the two reports. Representatives from these many organizations emphasized that promoting the human rights of people in prostitution – including their right to health, safety and freedom from violence and exploitation – and protecting them from HIV are imperative. However these abolitionists point out the recommendations from these UN reports are in direct opposition to efforts and policies that have been and are widely supported throughout the UN.

The recommendations largely ignore the experiences and views of many survivors of prostitution and sex trafficking, are in direct opposition to

international human rights standards, and also go against mounting evidence that decriminalization and legalization do not protect the human rights of people in prostitution or improve their situation.

Trying to prevent HIV, while simultaneously jeopardizing efforts to prevent and address sex trafficking and promote gender equality, is not acceptable. Organizations urged *UN Women* to clarify its positions on the issues in the reports.

UN WOMEN Respond

In early October 2013 *UN Women* released a clarification of its stance on prostitution and sex trafficking. Entitled *Note on Sex Work, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking*, it reads:

- The views of UN Women on the subject are grounded in the relevant human rights principles and provisions, intergovernmental normative frameworks and the best available scientific and epidemiological evidence. UN Women is attentive to the important input of civil society across the wide spectrum of opinion that pertains to the subject.
- The issues of sex work, sexual exploitation and trafficking are complex issues which have significant legal, social and health consequences. Due to such complexity, it is important that we do not conflate these three issues which deserve to be considered in their own right. We cannot consider sex work the same way we consider trafficking or sexual exploitation which are human rights abuses and crimes.
- The conflation of consensual sex work and sex trafficking leads to inappropriate responses that fail to assist sex workers and victims of trafficking in realizing their rights. Furthermore, failing to distinguish between these groups infringes on sex workers' right to health and self-determi-

nation and can impede efforts to prevent and prosecute trafficking.

- Sex workers are right holders like all other women and men and should be recognized as such.
- We understand the concerns of different sections of civil society that in many cases sex work is not always a choice and we acknowledge that it is often bound up with poverty, vulnerability and discrimination and can lead to violence against women.
- We recognize the importance of simultaneously addressing structural and root causes for women to engage in sex work, including poverty and discrimination.
- It is important that we recognize the rights of sex workers by striving to ensure safety in and through the workplace, so that they can be free from exploitation, violence and coercion.
- We recognize the right of all sex workers



- to choose their work or leave it and to have access to other employment opportunities. We encourage and applaud efforts to provide sex workers with economic alternatives to sex work.
- Sex workers are particularly vulnerable to the HIV infection and this vulnerability is increased by attitudes of stigma and discrimination in many countries, where those engaging in sex work are marginalized and often face abuse and violence.
- UNAIDS, of which UN Women is a co-sponsor, supports the decriminalization of sex work in order to ensure the access to all services, including HIV care and treatment, to sex workers. UN Women also supports the regulation of sex work in order to protect sex workers from abuse and violence.
- Where any form of coercion, violence and exploitation is involved in sex work, this



Awareness

UN Women *cont. from pg. 3*

should be subject to criminal law. Sex workers should be able to bring cases of such exploitation, coercion and violence to the police, and to be provided with protection and redress.

- We strongly condemn and work toward the prevention and elimination of any form of coercion, violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons in any shape or form. Trafficking is a human rights violation and there should be no compromise in efforts to address it.

Further Concerns

After reviewing the *UN Women's Note*, anti-prostitution advocates highlighted issues of concern inherent in the *Note*, including:

- *UN Women* is charged with promoting gender equality. However, the *Note* lacks any gender analysis of the clearly gendered issues of prostitution, sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. It does not acknowledge that prostitution stems from and perpetuates gender inequality.
- The *Note* fails to reference relevant human rights instruments, including the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* ("Palermo Protocol"), and the *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* ("1949 Convention"). These instruments both acknowledge the link between prostitution and sex trafficking, and along with *Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee*, call for a focus on demand.
- While we agree people in prostitution must be decriminalized, the *Note* calls for full decriminalization or regulation of the entire prostitution industry. This will only entrench gen-

der inequality and violence, legitimizing the industry by regulating it.

Anti-prostitution groups again urged UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNDP:

- To clarify their position on the decriminalization of pimps, brothel owners and buyers.
- To consult, involve and reflect the views of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, as well as a wider and more diverse range of groups working on the issue of prostitution and sex trafficking in all future development of policies and programs on issues that affect people in the commercial sex industry.

(http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6208/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=15392)

A further statement by UN Women was issued Oct. 30th:

"UN Women has received a number of messages in recent days in relation to our 'Note on Sex Work, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking'. We want to clarify that UN Women has not issued any official statement on 'sex work'. We have sent an email to some NGOs who have written to UN Women raising their concerns on the issue of criminalizing or decriminalizing the 'sex industry'.

"The Note was a technical clarification in response to specific queries that were put to us and does not comprehensively represent UN Women's formal position on these complex issues.

"UN Women fully understands that there are no simple answers to the human, legal, social and health issues raised by sex work, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Any form of violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons in any shape or form must be condemned in the strongest terms, prevented and eliminated. UN Women strongly believes that any response must have the protection and

Cont. col. 3

"When people tell me that women choose this life, I can't help but laugh. Do they know how many women like me have tried to escape, but have been beaten black and blue when they are caught?

To the men who buy us, we are like meat. To everybody else in society, we simply do not exist." – Ayesha, India, survivor

"One prostitute declares herself free and the slavery of others becomes respectable and acceptable?" – Maud Olivier, French lawmaker

promotion of women's human rights at the center.

"UN Women will continue to engage in discussions with all stakeholders, including Member States, civil society partners and the UN system. We are committed to working with partners to find the best approaches to this complex issue with a view to safeguarding and promoting women's human rights and women's empowerment." (<http://www.kvinnofronten.nu/eng/pdf/UnWomens-answer.pdf>)

Anti-prostitution advocates commented that the Oct. 30th statement was a positive development. However, since UN Women may now be developing their formal position, it is critical they hear from organizations about the very negative impact on women and girls around the world that policies in the *UN Women's Note* might cause. For more information and to take action, go to:

http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/sex_trafficking_action511

To express your concern regarding the *UN Women's Note* e-mail UN Women Headquarters in New York at: civil.society@unwomen.org

France Focuses Efforts On Demand

On November 29, 2013, members of the French Parliament voted in support of a version of the Swedish law on prostitution that criminalizes the purchase of sex with a fine of €1500 (\$2040 US). The fine is doubled for a second offense. The French Parliament also repealed criminalization of people selling sex, and proposed setting aside €20 million for programs helping women to exit prostitution. The proposed law will be voted on by the National Assembly and then put to a vote in the French Senate.

This vote is part of a global trend that challenges buying sex, which causes harm, and understands that those in prostitution need social and economic support to escape. In France, 90% of those in prostitution are very poor, pimped or trafficked. A 2011 study by researchers from Germany's Goettingen and Heidelberg universities and the London School of Economics, which assessed data from 150 countries, concluded that legalizing prostitution led to increased trafficking. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25118755>)



Advocacy

'NOT A CHOICE, NOT A JOB: Exposing the Myths about Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade'

A generation ago, most people did not know how ubiquitous and grave human trafficking was. Now many people agree the \$35.7 billion business is an appalling violation of human rights. But when confronted with prostitution, many people experience an odd disconnect because prostitution is shrouded in myths, among them the claims that “prostitution is inevitable,” and “prostitution is a job or service like any other.”

In *'Not a Choice, Not a Job'*, Janice Raymond challenges both the myths and their perpetrators. Raymond demonstrates prostitution is not sex but sexual exploitation, and legalizing and decriminalizing the system of prostitution—as opposed to the prostituted women—promotes sex trafficking, expands the sex industry, and invites organized crime. Raymond exposes how legalized prostitution in specifically the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, and Nevada worsens crime and endangers women.

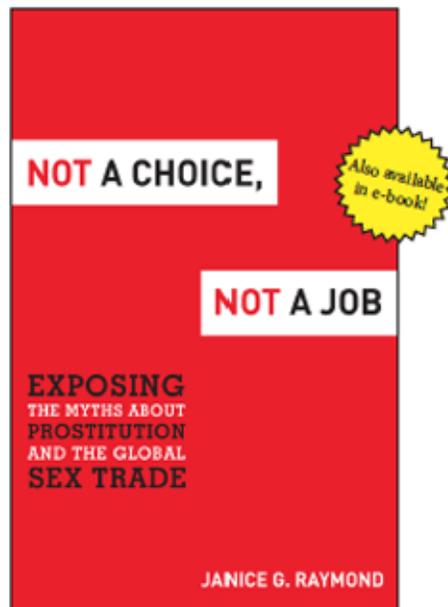
In contrast, she reveals, when governments work to prevent the demand for prostitution by prosecuting pimps, brothels, and prostitution users—as in Norway, Sweden and Iceland—trafficking does not increase, women are better protected, and fewer men buy sex. Raymond expands the boundaries of scholarship in women's studies, making this book indispensable to human rights advocates around the world.

Janice G. Raymond, professor emerita of women's studies and medical ethics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has been a leader in the campaign to have prostitution

recognized as violence against women. From 1994 to 2007, Raymond served as the co-executive director of the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* (CATW), a nongovernmental organization in consultative status with the *United Nations Economic and Social Council*.

The book sells for \$29.95 and can be ordered by visiting <http://www.potomacbooksinc.com> or calling 1-800-775-2518

Use source code NCNJ13 when ordering to receive the 20% discount price.



“After many years as a government minister and activist in Sweden, I read this book with great enthusiasm. . . . Janice Raymond gives us new arguments, better knowledge, and further hope that another world is possible.”
Margareta Winberg, former Deputy Prime Minister, Sweden

Boys *cont. from pg. 2*

- They rarely receive referrals for or calls from boys and do not see a significant need.
- They feel ill-prepared and need more training regarding CSE boys.
- Boys and young men are not generally pimped; therefore, entering prostitution through different pathways, they may have different needs.
- The agency has a gender-specific curriculum focused on girls. (*Report pg. 10*)

CSE boys are surrounded by a culture that is both heterocentric and homophobic. It is a culture that portrays girls/women as vulnerable, weak and victims; it portrays boys/men as strong, powerful and perpetrators.

The presumption is that the majority of CSE boys are bisexual, gay or transgendered. But evidence shows that the majority, though actually heterosexual, do not acknowledge their status. This results not only in the likelihood of skewed statistics but also in the adamant denial of exploitation by boys themselves and their refusal to seek help. Rooted in a culture that amplifies feelings of shame and self-loathing, fear is very common to CSE boys and often leads to their re-identifying themselves as “hustlers” to give the illusion of control and power. This is much like some exploited girls who claim that selling sex gives them power, embracing terms for themselves that minimize their vulnerabilities. (*Report pg. 11*)

ECPAT-USA proposed a number of recommendations, including: raising awareness about the scope of CSEB; and expanding research about which boys are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and how to meet their needs.



Action

Webcam Child Sex Tourism (WCST)

Perverts are directing porn films, live, with girls as young as age six on the other side of the world. So far they've gotten away with it, leaving the girls struggling to recover from the horror, but if enough of us act today, we can stop this new abuse of the Internet.

An estimated 750,000 pedophiles are online, but only six men have so far been convicted of paying young people to perform sex acts in front of webcams. Incredible investigative research has lifted the lid on this emerging vile practice, and shown the devastating psychological trauma it inflicts on young minds.

In two months' time, researchers assigned by *Terre des Hommes Netherlands* were able to identify more than 1,000 adults worldwide committing WCST. Helped by a fictitious Filipino character, *10-year old Sweetie*, researchers went undercover and were contacted by adults in public chat rooms. These men and women were clearly looking for children they wanted to pay for online sex. The ease with which the perpetrators got in touch with young victims online affirms the belief that WCST is rapidly expanding. *Terre des Hommes Netherlands* was shocked by the research results and urges the international community to take immediate action. WCST must not become a new industry!

Research and media attention won't be enough to stop this phenomenon. Citizens must call on police and child protection authorities to crack down on all webcam predators. People trying this must know they may be caught. Stand with the young victims, to prevent more of them.

Apart from activities to prevent sexual exploitation of children and to offer help to victims, *Avaaz* aims to gather 1,000,000 signatures on a petition to stop WCST. (*Avaaz* is a global web movement to bring people-powered politics to decision-making everywhere.)

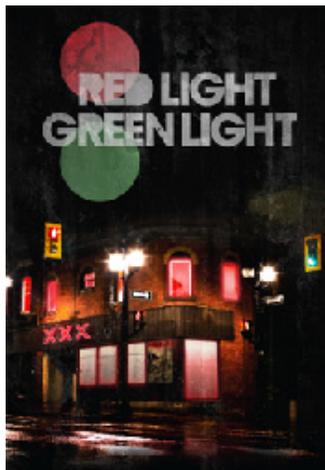
To sign the petition, go to this link: <http://avaaz.org/en/wcst/>

'Red Light Green Light'

Though governments are getting better at prosecuting traffickers and providing aftercare to victims, it is time to begin asking what lies at the root of this abuse. As nations around the globe attempt to fight sex trafficking, many consider legalizing prostitution as a way to get at that root.

Two filmmakers traveled across 10 countries to explore the issue, attempting to answer the question, "How can we prevent sexual exploitation before it happens in the first place?"

To learn more about the Canadian film 'Red Light Green Light' go to: <http://redlightgreenlightfilm.com/>



Webinar: Cyber Crimes Current Trends, Security Options, & Strategies for Keeping Families Safe

This interactive, three-part webinar included a comprehensive overview of the internet crimes that threaten our youth everyday and how to navigate the world of technology safely. The webinar was sponsored by the Center for Missing and Abducted Children's Organizations (CMACO).

Part 1, held in October, covered 'Current Trends and Issues' including:

- Identifying internet predators and unsafe apps and websites
- Relevant crimes and laws
- Chat rooms, "sexting," malware, "sextortion" and other technology dangers

Part 2, held in November, covered 'Cyber Security Options' including:

- What security exists for social networking sites, cell phone photos, and location-based services
- Available security measures
- How "geotagging" technology works.

Part 3 of the Series, scheduled for Dec. 17, 2013 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m. PST), will focus on 'Safety Strategies for Families'. Participants will gain insight that can be shared with families on ways to prevent and report potential crimes including:

- Reporting suspicious and unsafe sites
- Setting up and monitoring accounts
- Prevalence of cyber bullying and what can be done to prevent it

To register for this free webinar, go to: <http://cmaco.org/event/cyber-crimes-webinar-series-part-3/>

The presenter for Part 3 is Tracy Webb, a Senior Trial Attorney in charge of the Cyber Crime and Child Abuse Prosecution Division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. She is a career prosecutor who has spent the majority of her career prosecuting child abuse cases including physical and sexual exploitation and technologically facilitated crimes against children.



Action

Thank You!

Stop Trafficking wishes to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project during 2013:

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

NHTRC Report

<http://www.polarisproject.org/traffickingtrends>.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Report

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Confronting-Commercial-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Sex-Trafficking-of-Minors-in-the-United-States.aspx>

Canada - HT Awareness Kit

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/trafficking-starter-kit>

Demand

<http://www.whiteribbon.ca/what-you-can-do/>

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
 National Human Trafficking
 Resource Center
 1.888.3737.888
 or text HELP or INFO to
 BeFree (233733).**

Corporate Stance on Modern Slavery

We, the *Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross and Associates*, believe in the sanctity of every human life and are committed to upholding the dignity of every human person. Therefore, we denounce all forms of modern slavery, including human trafficking, and pledge to work for their elimination. (Approved by Sisters June 10 and by Associates September 14, 2013.)



Webinar *cont. from pg. 6*

Webb is currently an active member of the Federal Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Force and co-chair of the Los Angeles County Cyber Crime Task Force.

For a full listing of her background, go to: <http://www.cmaco.org/events/>

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 past issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: srjeanschafer@aol.com

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