

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action



January 2017 Vol. 15 No. 01
This issue explores the growing victimization of people, especially women and children, to the sex trade throughout North America..

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America, It Doesn't Stop! Sexual Exploitation--Prostitution--Sex Trafficking--Victimization of Women/Children



In Canada Despite New Laws

In the U.S. Involving More & More Children

In Mexico by Criminal Gangs

"We survivors of prostitution and trafficking declare that prostitution is violence against women. Women in prostitution do not wake up one day and "choose" to be prostitutes. It is chosen for us by poverty, past sexual abuse, the pimps who take advantage of our vulnerabilities, and the men who buy us for the sex of prostitution." (Manifesto, Joint CATW-EWL Press Conference, 2005)

"Prostitution is not a victimless crime; it is a brutal form of sexual violence". — Letter signed by 177 sex trafficking survivors (Equality Now, 2013)



Awareness

Human Trafficking Rampant in Canada

In July 2014, the government announced that the *Canada Border Services Agency* (CBSA) had removed 20 members of a massive human trafficking gang from Canada and deported them back to their native Hungary. The Domotor-Kolompar crime ring was arrested in 2010 when a victim escaped and told authorities about the atrocities he and 18 others were forced to endure. The case was the largest known human trafficking ring in Canadian history, exposing a problem in Canada that reached far beyond one Hungarian crime family.

In this case alone, there were 19 victims who had been recruited from Hungary and had their passports immediately confiscated. They were housed in the basements of homes located in busy suburban neighborhoods. The neighbors of the Domotor-Kolompar families had seen all of these victims coming and going from their houses and thought nothing of it. Contractors employed them. Banks gave them debit cards (which were immediately confiscated by their captors). After being threatened by the gang to do so, they convinced Canadian authorities to put them on social assistance. Every month they received government checks. No one had a clue as to what was going on until one victim managed to escape two years later.

According to Timea Nagy, a human trafficking survivor from Hungary who had been recruited by a similar gang in 1998: *"This case was only the tip of the iceberg. Human trafficking is alive and well in Canada."* Nagy founded the 'Walk With Me' organization in

2009 to help other trafficked workers stabilize and find safe houses after they were rescued. *"It's unbelievable. The problem is so bad in Canada and most people have no idea. It's like bed bugs: you don't see them at first, but if you use the proper lighting you will see that it is everywhere. Every single hotel, highway, some farmlands, every city in the country is experiencing human trafficking."*

Trafficked workers are coming from regions all over the world including the Philippines, China, Romania and Thailand. Public ignorance and lack of law are likely why Canada is a good breeding ground for this type of crime.

There is also a serious problem of domestic human trafficking, involving Canadians trafficking other Canadians. There are cases of human traffickers who had gone into group homes and recruited vulnerable 15-year-olds. *"This is not just a problem with people coming from other countries who can't speak English, it's happening to Canadians, too,"* Nagy said.

Another serious problem for authorities is that victims are often shackled by fear and are unwilling to come forward. Whether they have been recruited from other countries and can't speak the language, or are from right here in Canada, they often become totally controlled by their captors, which makes it difficult for them to escape and find help.

"The mindset that the [captors] put you in during the first two to three weeks will make it so you do not want to leave. You are scared for your family because they will threaten to kill them. You are fed one meal a day. You are beaten, emotionally abused, and eventually you become something like a zombie. You are enslaved in chains of fear and shame. They get you to a point where you no longer know who you are," Nagy said. Despite helping victims of this horrifying crime,

she wanted to let the public know that they need to continue to educate themselves and increase awareness of this problem. *"It really is everywhere. We all need to just open our eyes and understand what we are looking at."*

Unfortunately, due to lack of funding and awareness of the problem, the 'Walk with Me' organization closed its doors in August 2015.

(https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/human-trafficking-is-rampant-in-canada-943)

Aboriginal Abuse

Canada is facing an underreported crisis. Since 1980, more than 1100 indigenous women and girls have been murdered or gone missing. The brutal murder of a 15-year old rallied the nation to stand up to the violence. Learn more on UN 10-minute video from Dec. 2016.

(<http://webtv.un.org/news-features/watch/canada-a-history-of-violence/5254189818001>)

Will Laws Work in Canada?

In 2014 Canada passed the *'Protect Communities and Exploited Persons' Act*, which is close to the Swedish law. Unfortunately throughout many areas of Canada, there is a lack of law enforcement which makes the law ineffective and bodes that Canada could move in the direction of Germany.

To address this lack of implementation, a coalition of agencies, including REED (*Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity*) organized workshops with two expert European speakers, visiting cities in Canada, such as Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver, to increase public awareness, especially for law enforcement.

Sweden and Germany are polar opposites in their approaches to prostitution and human trafficking. In 1999, Sweden introduced its zero-tolerance policy for buyers of sex and became the first country in the world to criminalize the buying of sexual service. Since then, over one thousand men have been arrested for buying sexual services and the women have been given assistance to leave the sexual exploitation.



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Canadian Law *cont. from pg. 2*

In contrast, in 2002, Germany de-criminalized prostitution, causing that country to be labelled the “Bordello of Europe” where the sexual industry is out of control.

During the REED workshop detective and inspector, Simon Haggstrom, head of the Stockholm Police Prostitution Unit in Sweden, shared how his country has implemented their law with good success, arresting over 1,000 buyers of sexual services. With the implementation of the Swedish law, rape, domestic violence, prostitution and human trafficking have all declined. Although prostitution has not been eliminated, the percentage of men who buy sex has dropped. The majority of prostituted women are not locals, but come from Lithuania and Nigeria. Throughout the past year, no prostitute has been murdered in Sweden compared to Germany, where prostitution is legal and 70 prostituted women were killed by pimps or buyers. Buying sex in Sweden is now deemed shameful, with most men arrested pleading guilty and paying the fines rather than going to court. The fines vary according to each man’s income.

In contrast Dr. Ingeborg Kraus, psychologist and trauma expert, shared her experience of working in Germany. Since 2002, there are over 3000 red-light establishments in Germany, with 500 brothels in Berlin alone. Brothels are marketed as men’s ‘wellness centers’ where men gather for a meal, a hot tub and pay for sex. It is estimated that Germany has approximately 400,000 prostituted women who are catering to over one million men a day – generating a revenue stream worth 16 billion Euros a year. Ninety percent

are poor women from the poorest European countries, especially Bulgaria and Romania – clear evidence that sex trafficking has increased.

In December 2014, Dr Ingeborg Kraus started the ‘German Psycho-traumatologists’ *Manifesto against Prostitution*. Signed by prominent trauma experts, the *Manifesto* calls on the German government to repeal the 2002 law. It demands a new law that holds the buyers of sex responsible and asks for the criminalization of sex purchasers. This *Manifesto* states that prostitution is humiliating, degrading, an act of violence and the continuation of violence in the women’s life histories. (Contributed by Nancy Brown SC, Pastoral Counselor/Ombudsperson at Covenant House Vancouver)

Are Women People?

The proposed and updated *U.N. Convention Against Sexual Exploitation* (CASE) (See page 8) represents women collectively and individually, requiring protections, sanctions, and support programs for victims. And it is the least we should expect.

Conventions are international treaties. The proposed *Convention Against Sexual Exploitation* would not be the first United Nations convention to explicitly address women’s rights. The *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* was adopted as early as 1952 and was preceded by the convention on prostitution (1949). These were followed by several conventions and official U.N. declarations to protect women’s rights in marriage (1957) and to protect women and children in armed conflict (declaration of 1974).

And as women know very very well, adding women to codified rights is not the same as actually protecting and promoting those rights for women. That is why, with this long and elaborate history of women’s rights codified but largely ignored by the U.N., many of us held high hopes for the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms*

of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 and ratified by nation states beginning in 1980.

But as often happens when legislation turns to women, something is lost. The loss is first evident in the absence of moral outrage against violation of women. One of the effects of the long-term sexual colonization of women’s bodies, of the advocacy of this colonization by sexual liberals, and of its institutionalization by sex industries, is that many women can barely grasp their right to moral outrage against sexual dehumanization. When the U.N. turns to women, emphasis on human rights is narrowed and its commitments seem to fizzle.

[...] The losses women suffered in CEDAW, adopted in the midst of a global women’s movement which raised sexual violence and exploitation to issues of primary importance, are that in relation to sexual exploitation it did not cover or include violence against women; it simply reaffirmed the 1949 Convention on prostitution, a law that would have been useful had it been promulgated in 1890 but, by the 1980s, no longer addressed global sex industrialization and the normalization of prostitution. (Excerpted from, Kathleen Barry, *The Prostitution of Sexuality. The Global Exploitation of Women*. pp. 316 and 309-311. Barry co-founded CATW.)

Kathleen Barry has Ph.Ds in sociology and education from the University of California, Berkeley. She cofounded the United Nations NGO, the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* (CATW) in 1988. Barry’s first book, *Female Sexual Slavery* (1979), prompted international awareness of human sex trafficking and has been translated into six languages. Her follow-up book, *The Prostitution of Sexuality* (1995), makes an important contribution to political philosophy and feminist theory by discussing the idea of ‘consent’ in liberal modern American discourse, concluding that “every form of oppression is sustained” through apparent consent by the oppressed group or class to their exploitation. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Barry)



Awareness

Deadly Human Trafficking Business on Mexico-US Border

One single road cuts through Altar, Mexico – an hour south of Sasabe, Arizona. It looks like, but is not a sleepy outpost. Young, tough-looking foot soldiers of the drug cartels patrol the blocks on bikes. Men in pick-up trucks with fully tinted windows and no license plates drive menacingly up and down the one main road. No one gets in - or out - of Altar without the permission of the cartels.

After the U.S. tightened border security controls following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Altar was transformed into a hub for migrants seeking to enter the country illegally through remote desert routes. Local authorities and shop owners say up to 3,000 people once arrived here every day from all over the world in the hope of reaching their American dream. Today, however, the flow of people is reduced significantly. Yet everyone here agrees that dangers lurk at every corner for the few migrants who take the risk to travel through this town.

The drug cartels, locally referred to as *'la mafia'*, control an extensive network of human traffickers and informants. They extort for money, kidnap and kill migrants at will. The locals think they have infiltrated the local branches of the police and government structures. The ongoing conflict over trafficking routes between two rival factions of the Sinaloa cartel, *'Los Memos'* and *'Los Salazar'*, means that there is increased competition over

the migrants that do arrive.

To cross the Sasabe desert and go on to Arizona, migrants are told they must pay about \$4,500 to the coyote, who is appointed by the cartels. They are also forced to pay an additional \$700 in a separate *'tax'* to the criminal groups themselves. At the church-run shelter, there were rumors that the week before, two Honduran migrants were murdered after they took the fatal decision to embark on the journey north without paying.

Juan, a 38-year-old migrant from the south of Mexico, was left without any money after his long and perilous journey through the country. *"You can't trust anyone here,"* said Juan, who hopes to find work in the U.S. He is a widower and father of six children from the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, staying at a church-run shelter for migrants. The shelter offers a safe place to stay and a meal for migrants who have undertaken a difficult and dangerous journey. Now he was offered to cross the border as a drug mule, carrying a backpack filled with

at least 30kg of marijuana. But Juan is hesitant and well aware of the stories about how migrants are killed once the merchandise is delivered. *"I'm afraid. Every single day I try to come up with something else. But if I don't send any money home soon, my children will die of hunger,"* he said, his eyes filled with tears.



"When you know the kind of life you can have in the U.S., it's worth risking your life to obtain it," says a migrant from Honduras, a country plagued with gang violence. The 53-year old had already lived in the U.S. twice previously. He has two grown children who live in Washington DC. But, he was deported during his last stay there. This time, he plans to head to Atlanta, Georgia. He has spent a month and a half traversing Central America and Mexico. He recounts that on his journey, he has been robbed by criminals and has been extorted for money and his clothes by the police. When the blisters on his feet heal, he will once again try to cross the border. But without money, he may have to take the potentially fatal risk of a backpack stuffed with narcotics on his back. But he says he does not fear death. *"I've had a long life. If it's my turn to go, the time will be right."*

The number of those apprehended by the U.S. border patrol indicate that fewer and fewer migrants are risking the crossing than in previous years. According to U.S. Border Control data, from 1983 through 2006, more than one million migrants were detained trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. But the number has come down significantly in recent years, with only 337,117 apprehensions in 2015, the lowest since 1971. Marc Rosenblum, deputy director





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Mexican Gangs *cont. from pg. 4* of the U.S. immigration program at the *Migration Policy Institute*, attributed this decrease to the stricter border security policies in the U.S.

This decrease is having a significant effect on the small town that depends on the commerce of migrants. *"Pretty much all the stores geared towards the migrants have had to close. The same thing goes for the hotels and flophouses. Almost 60% of Altar are without work,"* said the newly appointed mayor, a member of Mexico's governing party, the *Institutional Revolutionary Party*. He rejected the notion that Altar is dangerous and that drug cartels still pose a problem here. *"Extortions, kidnappings and killings of migrants are not an issue anymore. It's something that belongs to the past,"* he said.

The local Catholic priest and a well-known activist for migrant rights, laughed at the denial presented by the mayor. He thinks the mayor is downplaying the influence of the criminal networks because he is involved in them. As a part of his routine, the priest travels around the villages surrounding Altar to conduct weddings, baptisms and religious services for 'la mafia' and their loved ones. *"I do this for my own security,"* says the priest. *"Although they sell drugs and kill people at will, they're still concerned about being in the good graces of God."* Human trafficking accounts for an increasing part of the income for the cartels. It is a safer way of making money, according to the priest. *"The sentences are shorter, and no matter what, the migrants will always pay."* (<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/01/deadly-human-trafficking-business-mexico-border-160117073423022.html>)

Human Trafficking Flourishes in U.S. Cities

Tulare County, CA Social Media Ploy

In 2016 law enforcement in **Tulare County, CA** announced the results of 'Operation Baby Face' with multiple arrests for sexual exploitation for monetary gain. More than 70 deputies served 15 search and arrest warrants. Fifteen men were arrested.

Juvenile Crimes detectives filed more than 75 search warrants with various social media sites, cell phone numbers and combed through 50,000 pages of messages to identify victims, including 23 juveniles, ages 14-17, and 29 adults, ages 18-37.

The leader of the trafficking organization portrayed himself as a young woman. He befriended the victims on Facebook, groomed them for sexual exploitation, and lured them into prostitution through a fraudulent social media page, using images of a young woman stolen from an unrelated real person in another state.

He coached the victims to tell their parents they were going to a friend's house or they were going out to play *Pokémon Go* to lure them. It appears parents were completely unaware. (<http://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/human-trafficking-bust-in-tulare-co>)

Oregon Sex Trafficking Operation

Four people face charges as suspected sex traffickers in **Bend, OR**. During the investigation, police contacted a 19-year-old victim, trafficked into prostitution since she was 13. Bend Police worked with the *Deschutes County Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Response Team* to get resources for the woman and help get her out of human trafficking. (<http://kbnd.com/kbnd-news/local-news-feed/267775>)

Florida Woman Prostituted Teenage Girl

A 14-year-old girl told deputies why she was having sexual encounters with men for money. She ran away from home in early October and needed a place to stay. A 33-year old woman rented a motel room for the teen. In return, the girl agreed to engage in prostitution. The woman took photographs of the victim wearing only panties and a tank top and posted the photos on *backpage.com* for the purpose of promoting prostitution.

Men who responded to the ads paid \$180 each to have sexual relations with the girl. The trafficker would then collect more than half the money for herself. Deputies corroborated the victim's allegations and arrested the woman. The girl was placed in the care of the **Florida Department of Children and Families**. (<http://www.tbreporter.com/crime/woman-prostituted-teenage-girl-pinellas-deputies/>)



Human trafficking is a growing problem in North Carolina

More than 3,000 calls have been made from **North Carolina** to a national hotline in the last ten years, leading to more than 700 criminal cases against alleged human traffickers. In 2016 alone, 140 cases of trafficking were under investigation. (<http://www.wral.com/prosecutor-human-trafficking-a-growing-problem-in-nc/16321148/>)

U.S. Trafficking *cont. pg. 6*



Awareness

U.S. Trafficking *cont. from pg. 5*

Restaurant Chain Under Investigation

A chain of **Indianapolis, IN** restaurants was at the center of a human trafficking investigation by federal, state and local task force officers in summer 2016. Investigators found five to six young undocumented immigrants working at each restaurant. Most of the immigrants were teenage girls. They were reportedly forced to work for no pay but allowed to keep the tips from customers at the restaurants. They allegedly suffered physical and mental abuse as well. After weeks or months in one location they would be transported to **New York** to endure the same abuse and illegal labor practices.

During the raids at seven different locations around the state investigators confiscated thousands of dollars in cash, a tremendous amount of paperwork and documents, and in most cases found digital video recorders which may document alleged abuse. (<http://www.wthr.com/article/human-trafficking-concerns-prompted-teppanyaki-grill-rai>)

Colorado Springs: Site of Human Trafficking

The chairperson of the *Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado* said traffickers use Interstate 25 and Interstate 70 to transport sex workers to **Colorado**. Many victims are runaways, domestic violence victims, throwaways, undocumented people, who are coerced into prostitution. (<http://gazette.com/colorado-springs-detective-describes-realities-of-human-trafficking-in-region/article/1573722>)

Special Education Teacher Charged with Prostitution and Trafficking

A 23-year old special education teacher was placed on administrative leave after being arrested on charges of human trafficking and prostitution.

Police investigators had learned that a 16-year-old girl was advertising prostitution on the Internet. An undercover officer contacted the girl and set up a meeting at a **Baltimore County** motel. There they learned the special education teacher was her pimp. (<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/may/24/police-human-trafficking-charge-for-baltimore-city/>)

Interstate 65 Is a Route for Human Traffickers

Interstate 65, which stretches 261 miles across **Indiana**, is a route for items and people exchanged on the black market, including victims sold into prostitution and deposited in Lafayette due to the city's proximity to **Indianapolis** and **Chicago**. This illegal activity is typically hidden from the public eye, facilitated through secret websites and carried out at hotels near the interstate.

(<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/crime/2016/05/27/interstate-65-route-human-traffickers/84901346/>)



Few in Maine Aware of Human Trafficking in Their State

According to the *Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network*, there are 200 to 300 cases of human sex trafficking in **Maine** annually. But many in law enforcement, health care and society in general know little about the issue. Most have no idea that human trafficking even occurs in Maine. "*Fewer than half of all law enforcement officers in Maine believe that their departments are prepared to address [human trafficking] cases involving minors,*" the *Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network* reported in April 2016.

(<https://bangordailynews.com/2016/04/17/opinion/contributors/the-modern-day-slavery-that-happens-in-maine-and-few-of-us-notice/?ref=moreInopinion>)

Arkansas Woman Sentenced for Sex Trafficking of Children

The woman was sentenced to 12 years in prison and five years of supervised release. The charge came from an investigation that began after two female minors ran away from their foster home in November 2014. They lived in various hotels, first in **Jonesboro** and later in **North Little Rock, AK** with the woman and her own two children. She would leave the girls, ages 15 and 17, in charge of her two children while she visited other places to meet men.

She would give the men her number so they could later contact her to meet for sex. She would then let them choose with which girl they wanted to have sex. The men would come to the hotel and pick up the girl they chose. She began charging \$20, but increased to \$50 and sometimes charged \$100. (<http://www.ksla.com/story/32066401/wynne-woman-sentenced-in-human-trafficking-case>)

U.S. Trafficking *cont. pg. 7*



Awareness

U.S. Trafficking

cont. from pg. 6

Montana Lawmakers Need the Public's Help

Law enforcement want people to know about the *National Human Trafficking Hotline*: 888-373-7888. That number was dialed 74 times during 2014 in **Montana**. There were 13 trafficking cases during 2015 in Montana. *"It's happening here and we're trying to respond to this in a proactive manner and educate the public, because this is a community issue, not just a law enforcement issue,"* said a detective with the Missoula Police Department.

(<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/lawmakers-look-to-educate-public-during-human-trafficking-conference/39723346>)

Michigan Ranks #2 in the U.S. for Sex Trafficking

Michigan is one of the top spots in the U.S. for human trafficking. It ranks No. 2 in the country for human trafficking in the sex trade. No. 1 is **Nevada**. Two factors make Michigan a primary spot: close proximity to Canada and its waterways. These help make the exploitation of vulnerable persons in MI a lucrative business. (<http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/opinion/columnists/2016/01/20/human-trafficking-real-problem-michigan/79055920/>)

Milwaukee: The Harvard of Pimp Schools

Victims, particularly runaways, are targeted at schools, malls, bus stations and on social media. The pimp realizes that these children have emotional needs. The victim is then tricked by being offered gifts, a place to stay or

a romantic relationship. Lastly the victim is traumatized by the pimp's use of manipulation and control using violence, drugs or threats. This trauma leads the victim to feel powerless.

According to unluckythirteen.org, a website created by the *Milwaukee Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF)*, 78% of youth bought and sold by human traffickers are African American. Also, 79% of pimping occurs in **Milwaukee**. Pimps prey on victims as young as 12 years old; a history of physical and sexual abuse is often common among victims.

The founder of 'We Got This,' a project that helps boys, said, *"Boys who are abused get angry because of being violated with homosexual trafficking; in turn they then become abusive. They do not want to be seen as gay. The boys deal with bullying and getting beat up by their peers or having peers coerce them into performing sexual acts. This is not just an urban problem, it's a major problem in our entire state. The commercial sex industry is destroying our society."* The chairperson of the MHTTF said **Milwaukee** is the 'Harvard of pimp schools' and **Wisconsin** is a hub of human trafficking. (<http://milwaukeecourieronline.com/index.php/2016/09/03/community-brainstorming-meeting-brings-awareness-to-milwauees-growing-sex-trafficking-problem/>)

Texas Legislature Looks at Link Between Human Trafficking & Foster Care

While not every child in foster care falls victim to modern day slavery, the head of *Children at Risk* said the majority of the domestic human trafficking victims in **Texas** came from the foster care system. Much of the problem is due to the woefully underfunded *Child Protective Services*, lacking the time or ability to investigate all claims of abuse.

He was also critical of child sex victims being placed in the same group homes as other kids. *"Children who have been sexualized are coming into the system and they're sexualizing other kids,"* he explained. *"There needs to be 24-hour awake supervision in these homes."*

(<http://woai.iheart.com/articles/local-news-119078/legislature-to-explore-human-traffickingfoster-care-15081973/>)

Oakland Police & Sexual Misconduct Scandal

Police investigated allegations that officers were having sexual contact with a self-described teenage 'sex worker' for nearly a year. She told authorities she first met an **Oakland, CA** officer along a stretch of International Boulevard notorious for the sex trafficking of underage girls. In a televised interview, she claimed to have slept with more than a dozen city police officers. Some of the sexual interactions happened when she was underage, she said. She also claimed she had sex with some officers in exchange for information about planned prostitution raids.

The eleven officers were found guilty of administrative charges of attempted sexual assault, engaging in lewd conduct, assisting in the crime of prostitution and accessing law enforcement databases for personal gain.

(<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-oakland-police-scandal-update-20160907-snap-story.html>)

KY Woman Arrested for Forcing Children to Sell Cookies

The 32-year old **Kentucky** woman was arrested after being accused of making nine juveniles, whose ages range from 9 to 16, sell peppermint thin cookies 'using fraud and coercion.' The children sold the cookies to local residents to support a non-existent organization. The woman personally profited from the cookie sales. (<http://time.com/4508580/kentucky-human-trafficking-cookies/>)



Advocacy

Convention Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE - Draft - Oct. 2016)

Part 1: General Provisions

Article 1: Definition of Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is a practice by which person (s) achieve sexual gratification, or financial gain, or advancement, through the abuse of a person's sexuality by abrogating that person's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being.

Article 2: Sexual exploitation takes the form of, but is not limited to:

- b) ^(sic) The denial of life through female infanticide and the murder of women by reason of their gender, including wife and widow murder.
- c) Subjection to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment through the following: battering, pornography, prostitution, genital mutilation, female seclusion, dowry and bride price, forced sterilization and forced child-bearing, surrogacy, restricting the reproductive freedom of women, the use of women's reproductivity for third parties (the use of women's reproductivity for the purpose of sexual or commercial exploitation), sexual harassment, rape, incest, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.
- d) Subjection to sexual abuse and or torture whether perpetrated by State or non-State actors, overt or covert, including sadistic, mutilating practices.
- e) Temporary marriage, child marriages, or marriage of convenience for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- f) Sex predetermination.

Article 3: The following shall apply throughout this Convention:

- a) Rape is sexual intercourse/sexual assault of any part of the body of a female of any age, by any means.



- b) Sexual harassment is the imposition of any unwelcome sexual acts, gestures, speech or materials.
- c) Prostitution is the use of a woman's body as a commodity to be bought, sold, rented, exchanged, not always for money, and includes casual prostitution, street prostitution, prostitution sanctioned by socio-cultural practices, brothels, military prostitution, development prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and mail-order-bride markets.
- d) Everything that is herein said about the sexual exploitation of women applies to men and boys in situations of sexual exploitation.

Part II: Sexual Exploitation

Article 4: States Parties condemn sexual exploitation of women and children in all of its forms and agree to formulate policies and practices affecting society to insure freedom from sexual exploitation by protecting control of one's body, sexual integrity, and sexual autonomy.

- a) States Parties recognize that some groups of women are rendered particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitations, such as minority and indigenous women, women subjected to racial discrimination, rural women and women in the migrating process, ethnically and socially marginalized women, mothers with children under the age of 18, women workers particularly in free trade zones, women in the sex entertainment industry,

female children, elderly women, women with disabilities that are physical and mental, including learning disabilities and mental limitations (those who are intellectually challenged), and disabilities caused by substance abuse.

- b) States Parties recognize that women are rendered particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation in the following situations: armed conflict, natural catastrophe, poverty, incarceration, including that of political prisoners and females in immigration and juvenile detention centers, institutional care, certain family contexts, including that of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, forced and child marriages, homelessness, and refugee status.

Article 5: States Parties shall punish perpetrators of sexual exploitation and redress the harm done to victims by developing penal, civil, labor and administrative sanctions. Victims shall be provided with assistance to prosecute their perpetrators. In the formulation and/or application of statutory, common, and customary law:

- a) A woman's prior history in prostitution and pornography cannot be used against her in any legal action.
- b) "Honor" shall not be used to justify or defend against any sexual exploitation or violence against women.
- c) It is an aggravating circumstance and not a defense of sexual exploitation that the perpetrator is the spouse or partner, father, other relative, care-giver, educator, or employer of the victim.
- d) A woman's status as an illegal immigrant or stateless person shall not be used against her.



Advocacy

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CASE Draft *cont. from pg. 8*

Article 6: States Parties reject any policy or law that legitimates prostitution of any person, female or male, adult or child; that legalizes or regulates prostitution in any way including as a profession, occupation, or as entertainment; and agree to adopt appropriate legislation that recognizes prostitution as an acute form of sexual exploitation, including the following:

- c) ^(sic) Punishment of any person who procures, entices, or leads away by any means for the purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person; exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person; keeps or manages, or knowingly finances or takes part in the financing of a brothel; knowingly rents or lets a building or other place for the purpose of the prostitution of others.
- d) Penalization of the customers, recognizing them as perpetrators to be criminalized while rejecting any form of penalization of the person engaged in prostitution.
- e) Where criminal sanctions exist against victims of sexual exploitation, States Parties shall repeal such sanctions.
- f) Rejection of policies that include the mandatory registration of those in prostitution, mandatory counseling, and/or mandatory health checks, recognizing that such measures are not in the interest of the prostituted but of the sustainability of the industry, and serve to inscribe human rights violation into laws.
- g) Holding liable the producers, sellers, and distributors of pornography, recognizing that the pornography industry enlarges the demand for,

promotes, and is actively engaged in the exploitation of women.

Part III: Global Situations of Sexual Exploitation

Article 7: States Parties agree:

- g) ^(sic) To recognize the production, distribution, and consumption of pornography as commercial sexual exploitation and as a violation of the human rights of women and children.
- h) To reject State economic development policies and practices which channel women into conditions of sexual exploitation.
- i) To insure that State policies and practices provide for the full economic development of women through their integration in dignified paid labor at a decent standard of living from which they have been deprived.
- j) To adopt legislative and other measures to prohibit sex tourism and to penalize those who organize tourism for the purpose of sexual exploitation, penalizing the organization of it as a practice of procuring and promoting prostitution. Such measures shall be adopted and implemented in both the countries from which the customers come and the countries to which they go.
- k) To provide educational programs to change harmful traditional or religious practices, social and cultural patterns that promote the sexual exploitation of women.

Article 8: States Parties agree:

- a) To adopt measures to prevent and prohibit the trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, in particular, prostitution and pornography.
- b) To enact such regulations as are necessary for the protection of immigrant and emigrant women and children, both at the place of arrival and departure, and while in route.

- c) To arrange for appropriate publicity warning the public of the dangers of the traffic in women and children.
- d) To ensure supervision of railway stations, airports, seaports and en route, and of other public places, in order to prevent international traffic in women and children for the purpose of prostitution.
- e) To ensure that the appropriate authorities are informed of the arrival of persons who appear, prima facie, to be principals and accomplices in or victims of such traffic.

Article 9: States Parties recognize that there are certain types of work in the immigration process, such as domestic labor and entertainment, that are conducive to sexual exploitation and may lead to prostitution and pornography and shall take all appropriate measures to provide adequate protection to such victims of sexual exploitation including;

- a) Refuge, refugee status and protection, and repatriation of those who desire to be repatriated, whether victims of sexual exploitation have entered a country legally or illegally.
- b) Protection to insure that valid written contracts of employment are entered into, monitoring of the provisions of the contract, and protection of the migrant workers from sexual exploitation and abuse in the host country.
- c) The right to retain one's own passport and travel documents so that no person can be sold into prostitution by any other person.
- d) The right to shelter, medical care, counselling, rehabilitative care, protective care, and other support services
- e) The right of migrant women to be protected under existing labor laws of the recipient countries.

The draft goes on to describe what States would/should do to prevent sexual exploitation of its inhabitants. (<https://abolishprostitutionnow.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/case-revised-october-2016.pdf>)



Action

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Consumer Power Matters

Fighting the Porn Industry

The Los Angeles porn industry was practically moving to Houston, TX for one week in August 2016. Top porn stars and producers from Los Angeles, as well as their fans from all over the country, were convening at a *Hilton Hotel* in the upscale Galleria area. It was all going to look so legitimate, so mainstream, as though a gathering of porn users is just like a VFW convention. “*Not so fast,*” executives from the *National Center on Sexual Exploitation* (NCOSE) said to Hilton Worldwide’s executives. “*Do you know what you’re getting into? Porn conventions always bring sex trafficking and prostitution to the hotel and to the area of such events. Nudity and sex acts will be in the open in YOUR hotel.*” Hilton canceled the event!

But the ‘XXX’ Porn Convention organizers did not give up. It took them days to find a hotel that might take the event; they finally announced they would relocate to a *Holiday Inn*.

So NCOSE contacted *Holiday Inn*’s parent company—*InterContinental Hotels Group*—and said, “*Not so fast...*” *Holiday Inn* canceled the event! As a last resort, the event had to be crammed into a seedy strip club. The message to the community was clear: pornography conventions are not legitimate or mainstream.

NCOSE is on the watch for next year’s convention and is working with the major hotels to change their brand standard on these events completely.

This victory demonstrates one major point. Consumer voices have power and it is power we never had before. These hotels were willing to lose big money to be on our side because we’ve

succeeded in making the issue of “*sexual exploitation*” too hot to handle for most corporations. Just the words “*sexual exploitation*” scares them. Why shouldn’t it?

Thank you to all of you who have helped to change the perception of pornography and of sexual exploitation. With consumer help, dignity is sustained and culture will change.

Say ‘Thank You!’

Write to hotel executives to thank them for taking a stance against perpetuating the exploitation of women.

Christopher J. Nassetta, Pres. & CEO
Kristin Campbell, Exec. VP &
General Counsel

Hilton Worldwide Headquarters

7930 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102
Tel: 703-883-1000

Richard Solomons, CEO
InterContinental Hotels Group

3 Ravinia Drive
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30346-2149
+44 (0) 1895 512456
Richard.Solomons@ihg.com

Defending Women Who Are Exploited

A brave woman named Linda, who endured years of beatings and rape at the hands of her boyfriend Milton, finally had the courage to make the dangerous journey to the United States, where our laws protect women like her. But when she arrived, she was jailed and could have been deported, despite having a valid claim for asylum. The laws alone were not enough if Linda could not access the protections they offer.

The *Tahirih Justice Center* provided Linda with free legal representation, and pursued her case to the highest immigration court, where she won on appeal. In addition, her case shows that women and girls who have experienced violence can access the legal protections to which they are entitled.

Since 2014, an increasing number of survivors of human trafficking, domestic abuse and sexual violence have been turned away or jailed when they seek protections that U.S. law offers them.

Tahirih works to uphold U.S. and international standards for a fair legal process to determine whether a woman or child claiming to have been harmed qualifies for protection. Tahirih has shared its recommendations with lawmakers who can make a difference and will continue to do so in 2017.

Say ‘Thank You!’

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NYC Taxis Help Sell Exploitation

Yellow taxis, an integral part of New York City (NYC), are worldwide symbols of the metropolis itself. Stand on any New York street and a sea of yellow cabs drive by, many with taxi topper ads on their roofs promoting events and products from Broadway

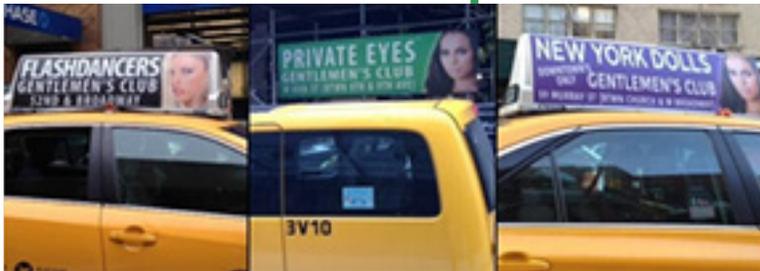
Taxies cont. pg. 11



11

Action

Taxes *cont. from pg. 10*



shows to luxury apparel. One in five of these ads promote strip clubs. Daily, 8.5 million New Yorkers, commuters and tourists, who double Manhattan's population daily, absorb publicity for *Flash Dancers*, *New York Dolls* and *Private Eyes*, three major strip clubs owned by the same proprietors.

While legal in the U.S., strip clubs have clear links to commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking, as pimps and traffickers provide these places with a ready supply of vulnerable women and girls. Investigations into trafficking and prostitution in NYC have recognized these connections, including when four New York strip clubs were named in a federal organized crime case that found trafficking in these sex establishments. The relationship between prostitution and strip clubs is also clear to sex buyers. One Yelp reviewer commented that *Flash Dancers* is "basically an Eastern European brothel." Hundreds of interviews with sex buyers show men know they can find minor girls in strip clubs.

Survivors of the sex trade testify that strip clubs and lap dance parlors act as launching pads to commercial sexual exploitation. Vednita Carter, founder and president of the survivor-led group *Breaking Free*, states that "stripping is a gateway into prostitution; it's the place where the training begins." Ms. Carter calls on the public

to demystify stripping as glamorous, harmless and empowering. Rather, it has links to trafficking, pornography and organized crime.

More than 13,000 NYC taxis make over 400,000 trips throughout the city daily; around 600,000 people a day opt for a cab. The *Taxi and Limousine Commission* (TLC) licenses and regulates NYC medallion taxicabs and other for-hire vehicles. The TLC also decides City policy regarding these vehicles and their drivers. Recognizing that taxi drivers can encounter situations of trafficking on the job, the TLC instituted a sex trafficking awareness and prevention program for all of its licensed drivers in 2012. Ironically, while the TLC calls on its drivers to recognize signs of sex trafficking, it allows strip club ads to promote the sexual exploitation of women and girls on taxi rooftops.

The TLC's influence on New York's taxi landscape is extensive, including its ability to decide whether ads on taxis violate community standards. Since strip clubs are a proven part of the multi-billion dollar exploitative global sex trade, the TLC needs to recognize that publicizing them on yellow cabs runs contrary to the principles of human rights that NYC holds dear. NYC values its taxis and prides itself in ensuring equality for all women. This goal cannot be attained when the denigration, dehumanization and degradation of women are promoted on NYC yellow taxis every day. (Taina Bien-Aimé, Exec. Dir. CATW; http://www.huffingtonpost.com/taina-bienaimé/nyc-yellow-cabs-and-strip_b_13636776.html)

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text 'Help' at: BeFree
(233733)

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

Information on Canada
<http://thetraffickedhuman.org/>
<http://www.walk-with-me.org/video-library.html>

Information on Mexico
<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/human-trafficking-drug-cartels-mexico>

Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence
<https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol1/iss1/1/>

What Do Men Say?
<http://www.catwinternational.org/Media/Videos/12>

Say 'NO, Thank You!'

Please join the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* as we urge the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission to remove taxi topper ads promoting strip clubs from the City's yellow cabs. Tell TLC Chair Meera Joshi that the City of New York values the human rights principles of equality and dignity for all, and that it will not tolerate publicity on its taxis for establishments linked to commercial sexual exploitation, violence against women and human trafficking.

To sign the petition, go to:
<http://catwinternational.org/Home/Article/685-yellow-cabs-and-strip-clubs-new-york-sells-inequality>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>

To contribute information, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org

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