This issue highlights the corporate stance process of two congregations and the relationship between trafficking and women immigration workers.

**Work to Eliminate Human Trafficking: International Mission Focus of School Sisters of Notre Dame**


In 2000 the coordinator of International SHALOM, the J&P effort of the SSND’s, called for action against trafficking. The SHALOM group of S. Joan’s province prepared a packet of materials to guide the members through the “See-Judge-Act” process. Sisters also focused on learning about “Trafficking in Our Own Backyard” by being alert to articles on trafficking in their local newspapers.

S. Joan reported on the energetic, informative presentation by Laura Lederer to the SSND’s of the Baltimore Province. Laura was then Deputy Director of the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (OMCTP was established March 4, 2003). Founder of The Protection Project, she continues in the U.S. State Department as Senior Advisor in the Office for Global Affairs. OMCTP goals include 3 P’s: protection of the victim, prosecution of the perpetrators, and prevention of trafficking. Building a broad base of awareness about the complex issue of human trafficking is an important step in achieving these goals.

**Corporate Stand re. Trafficking in Women and Children**

Sisters, Associates of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Grounded in scripture, Catholic social teaching, and the enactments of past general chapters, the SNJM’s have begun a congregation-wide theological reflection process on human trafficking. Peggy Kennedy, SNJM General Councilor, explained, “In 1991 our general chapter mandated us to develop instruments and processes that would enable us to take public, corporate stances for systemic change. It was a natural step to embrace the call of the UISG and LCWR/CMSM statements on working against the scourge of trafficking. Because we know that women religious around the world are engaged in the same process with their social service and peace activities.”

Samples of materials from the SSND and SNJM reflection packets.
SSND’s Commitment cont.

goals. Laura included information about the relationship between trafficking and the presence of US military personnel in foreign countries.

SSND’s are committed to working locally, nationally and internationally in collaboration with their NGO representatives and with other congregations and organizations to further education and action. The SSND’s have already made their reflection packet available to several congregations.

S. Joan enthusiastically stated, “Being a congregation of 5000 members worldwide we have both personal insight into the global problem and will find creative ways to become part of the global solution.”

When an issue is deemed suitable, a committee appointed by leadership prepares materials so the provinces and sectors may study and discuss the issue and proposed stand. Within a designated time period, all members vote on the proposed corporate stand. If 70% assent, the position becomes an official stand of the entire congregation. Public press releases and concrete actions are then adopted at all levels.

Leadership approved the proposal against human trafficking presented by a group of members as the focus of a corporate stand process. The committee then prepared a packet of materials that guide the members in regular group reflections on the issue. The materials aid in study, information gathering, reflection and prayer, dialogue and potential action.

S. Peggy Kennedy commented, “It is obvious that no follower of the gospel would stand for human trafficking. So you may wonder why SNJM’s are engaged in a formal process of adopting a corporate stand?”

This proposal will be much more than a statement against trafficking. It will ask a commitment on the part of every member to educate herself and others to the issue in all the contexts in which we are present. It will require us to work with others to advocate for policies and programs that prevent trafficking and that give women and children viable alternatives for obtaining a livelihood. In other words, a corporate stand will affect our ministries and affect our resources in ways that will unfold as we continue.”

Eliza

Eliza is a 14-year-old Mexican girl. She was working cleaning hotel rooms when a man, Rogerio Cardena, approached Eliza’s parents, telling them about a well-paying job he could get for Eliza doing the same work north of the border in the United States.

Eliza was eager to go. Her parents were reluctant. But the smooth-talking man said Eliza would be “in good hands.”

Eliza was taken to Houston, Texas and from there to Orlando, Florida. It was then that Eliza was told she would have to work as a prostitute until she paid off the $2,200 debt for her passage out of Mexico.

(Part of SSND and SNJM packets, origin Reader’s Digest, April 2001)
This Guide consists of six booklets, which may be downloaded from the website of the International Labour Organization of Geneva (www.ilo.org).

Each booklet is structured to:
- **Enhance knowledge and understanding** by government officials, the social actors and individual migrants themselves of the concerns and challenges relating to the prevention of discrimination, exploitation and abuse of migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers, and the protection of their human rights.

- **Facilitate learning** from the experiences of actors in countries of origin, transit and destination by documenting a variety of approaches, strategies and practical examples for preventing and redressing discrimination, exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers, including those who have been trafficked. Where possible, the factors behind the success or failure of these strategies and approaches are also identified.

- **Indicate the normative framework** that could be used for addressing discrimination, exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers. Law and policy makers can refer to relevant international and regional standards and some national examples to adopt a rights-based approach and to formulate or review legislation.

- **Present guidelines, checklists and practical examples for action**, so that government agencies, workers’ and employers’ organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and other interested groups and migrants themselves have better knowledge and are equipped with practical tools on what might be possible or effective for assisting vulnerable women in the migration process. However, since circumstances vary from one country to another, the information is not intended to represent “best” or “good” practices that should be adopted in all situations or be used in any definitive manner.

- **Indicate the scope for, and the advantages of, cooperation and collaboration** between government agencies, law enforcement and judiciary sectors, workers’ and employers’ organizations, NGOs, CBOs, the media, research institutions and other interested groups in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Descriptions, taken from the website, of two booklets follow:

**Booklet 1 Introduction: Why the focus on women international migrant workers**
Highlights the vulnerability of women migrant workers to discrimination, exploitation and abuse in the different stages of the migration process. The labor market situations women migrant workers go into put them at greater risk to human rights violations, compared to male migrants and local women. To protect women migrant workers, it introduces a multidisciplinary and comprehensive framework addressing both demand and supply factors, and incorporating the promotion of human rights, gender equality, decent work and poverty reduction; and involving a wide range of social actors in legal and policy instruments and practical action at international, regional, national and community levels.

**Booklet 6 Trafficking of women and girls**
Focuses on a global problem of growing concern: trafficking in persons, especially women and girls. It identifies the supply-side and demand-side causes, describes the mechanics of trafficking and explains why women and girls are more vulnerable to becoming...
Protecting Migrant Women Workers cont.

It points out that trafficking in human beings is, first and foremost, a violation of human rights; it should not be dealt with merely from the perspective of fighting illegal migration nor protecting national interests. A wide range of actors need to tackle the entire cycle of trafficking through policy, action and cooperation at different levels for the prevention of trafficking, support for and protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.

Facts:
Child sex tourism is the act of traveling to another country to have sex with a minor (under the age of 18). Reports indicate that perhaps 25 percent of sex tourists are Americans. According to child advocacy groups, child sex tourism is a growing problem.

In Mexico, more than 16,000 children are victims of the child sex trade. Many of the sex tourists who travel to Mexico each year to exploit these children come from the United States and Canada.

Seminar and Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Child Sex Tourism
September 28, 2003
Nogales, AZ

Speakers:
Laura Aguilar has a Bachelor’s degree in Tourism from the University of Guadalajara, a Masters in Anthropology of Tourism from the University of Oviedo, Spain, and is a Doctoral Candidate there in the field of Social Anthropology of Tourism with research on commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride
Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 immigrant workers and their advocates began traveling from nine major US cities and will converge in Washington D.C. to speak for:
• legalization and a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers in the US;
• the right to re-unite families; and
• protection of worker rights on the job without regard to legal status.

If you know immigrant women, do you know their condition in the workplace? where they live?
ficking and other crimes will not feel safe in approaching law enforcement officials for the police clearance letters necessary for VAWA self-petitioning, for certification for helping with a criminal investigation or prosecution necessary for the U visa, or even for immediate emergency assistance if trapped in a potentially life-threatening domestic violence situation.

Already introduced in the House, a companion bill for the CLEAR Act is likely to be introduced in the Senate SOON. On September 18, 2003, the Senate Immigration Subcommittee will hold hearings on local police enforcement of immigration laws. They need to hear from us that the CLEAR Act would undermine the intent of the Violence Against Women Act and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act while greatly endangering the lives of immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault!

What You Can Do
Call Orrin Hatch, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Tel: (202) 224-5251; (Fax: (202) 224-6331)

Talking Points to Stress:
• Give your name and location.
• Ask him to oppose the CLEAR Act, which, if passed, would have disastrous consequences for immigrant survivors and witnesses of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other crimes.
• The CLEAR Act will further endanger already vulnerable immigrant women and their children, who will be afraid to report abuse and seek help for fear of the immigration consequences.
• Victims of domestic violence will not leave their abusers if they fear that they cannot seek help and protection from the police without the threat of being turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for deportation. They may also fear they will lose custody of their children to their abusive husbands if they are deported.
• In the past Congress has sought to encourage immigrant victims to report crimes without fear of deportation.

For instance, it created the U visa for victims of crimes to both encourage cooperation with the criminal justice system and provide humanitarian relief for victims of crimes.
• Congress also has repeatedly included help for noncitizen victims of domestic violence in laws it has passed to stop the epidemic of domestic violence in this country, namely the 1994 Violence Against Women Act and VAWA 2000 (the law that created the U visa for victims of crimes and the T visa for victims of human trafficking).
• The CLEAR Act will harm thousands of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes, whom the

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

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: jeansds2000@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS
Send In News!

We will regularly publish information regarding what is happening within congregations and collaborating organizations on the issue of human trafficking: awareness-raising, advocacy for victims, and action taken to counter trafficking.

We would like to feature the ministries of particular congregations, the efforts of LCWR Regions, and/or highlight collaborative work being done with agencies engaged in anti-trafficking.

Your contributions are welcome and appreciated!

Salvatorian Sisters and Capacitar International Staff

Action Alert cont.

members of Congress intended to help under these laws. Although this may be an unintentional result, it undermines Congress’ efforts to help immigrant victims of violence.

• Ask him to do all he can to defeat this dangerous legislation.
• Tell him his vocal opposition to the CLEAR Act is critically needed.
• THANK HIM for his commitment to helping domestic violence survivors gain safety, well being and the control of their own lives.

If you live in AL, AZ, CA, GA, ID, IL, IA, MA, NY, NC, OH, TX, VT, please call and e-mail your Senator who sits on the Senate Immigration Subcommittee. Senate Immigration Subcommittee allies also need our letters, using your organization’s letterhead stationery, to refer to during hearings and to create a favorable record that protects immigrants’ rights. Give examples of how this new legislation will harm immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Most Senate Immigration Subcommittee members have websites through which to send an e-mail. To find a Senator’s website, the address formula is: www.last name of the senator.senate.gov. (For example, Dianne Feinstein is www.feinstein.senate.gov; Orrin Hatch is www.hatch.senate.gov)

The Senate Immigration Subcommittee members are:

Republican Members
Saxby Chambliss, GA (Chairman) (202) 224-3521
Charles E. Grassley, IA (202) 224-3744
Jon Kyl, AZ (202) 224-4521; Fax: (202) 224-2207
Mike DeWine, OH (202) 224-2315; Fax: (202) 224-6519
Jeff Sessions, AL (202) 224-4124; Fax: (202) 224-3149
Larry Craig, ID (202) 224-2752; Fax: (202) 228-1067
John Cornyn, TX (202) 224-2934; Fax: (202) 228-285

Democratic Members
Edward M. Kennedy, MA (Ranking Democrat) (202) 224-4543; Fax: (202) 224-2417
Patrick J. Leahy, VT (202) 224-4242
Dianne Feinstein, CA (202) 224-3841
Charles Schumer, NY (202) 224-6542; Fax: (202) 228-3027
Richard J. Durbin, IL (202) 224-2152; Fax: (202) 228-0400
John Edwards, NC (202) 224-3154; Fax: (202) 228-1374

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

International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect www.ispcan.org

Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride www.iwfr.org

International Labour Organization www.ilo.org

Now Legal Defense www.nowldef.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund www.endabuse.org

National Immigration Project www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

Sweatshop Watch www.sweatshopwatch.org

Arizonans for the Protection of Children www.protectchild.org

Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Trafficking Site www.sdssisters.org/slavery