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This issue highlights how decisions companies make promote or prevent human trafficking.

Canadian Company Offers Porn Via Cellphones

In January 2007 Telus, Canada’s second-largest telecommunications company, became the first North American wireless company to offer its own in-house pay-per-download pornography sales via cell phone. Telus made the explicit pictures and videos of full nude and partially nude men and women available to its cell phone customers across Canada for approximately $3 and $4 per download. No other wireless company in North America had attempted to cross that moral boundary and begin its own in-house pornography sales.

Telus research had found that 20% of search terms entered by subscribers on their mobile browsers were intended to find adult content; 13 of the top 25 sites were hard-core porn sites.

Foreign Logging Companies Force Women into Prostitution

Foreign logging companies are forcing young rural Papua New Guinea women to become sex workers.

Two NGOs, the Center for Environmental Law & Community Rights and the Australian Conservation Foundation, reported that foreign logging companies are involved in widespread human rights abuses.

The NGOs say the remoteness of much of the logging activity also puts the companies’ workers in danger, particularly women who work in these places.

“There are allegations that women are brought in from different parts of the country and basically used as sex workers against their will. Many of these people are forced to stay for six months, and then told, ‘OK, you go’ and a new girl comes.”

Tourism in Paraguay

Located on the border of Brazil and Argentina, Ciudad del Este (Paraguay) is a doorway for human trafficking.

A Regional IOM director said, “The border is very permeable. Unless you are carrying a package, you won’t be stopped. You can cross with a child and no one will ask a thing.”

The factors driving human trafficking are complex. International tourism is known to play an important part. The region is home to the largest waterfalls in the world, attracting hundreds of thousands of people annually.

“The Triple Frontera is the Bangkok of Latin America”, IOM explains. “After the Tsunami, many sex tourists started coming here instead of Asia.”

As many as 3,500 children are believed to be involved in, or at risk of, the cross-border trafficking trade in the Triple Frontera. Most are exploited locally, but some end up being trafficked through Argentina and then to Europe and the US.

If tour operators and hotel chains were to implement the Athens Ethical Principles (see pg. 5), it would dramatically reduce the number of trafficked children.

Internet companies that pledged a joint fight against porn are AOL, Yahoo, Microsoft, Earthlink and United Online.
The End of Child Labor: Within Reach

Global Report International Labor Organization (ILO)

181. Since 2000 the ILO has been trying to influence the debate on trafficking by stressing the labor dimension, after having focused in the early years on commercial sexual exploitation of girls and boys as an outcome of trafficking, with particular emphasis on the highly visible tourism sector. This also meant that attention was skewed towards a few countries popular with tourists and the international media.

182. Early programs from the mid-1990s tended to have a policy focus on the supply side of the phenomenon and on those countries, such as Nepal, that were seen as supply areas for commercial sexual exploitation. This is now being balanced by an emphasis on demand-side factors linked to the globalization paradigm, including labor market migration flows in particular. Starting in 2004, demand-side research has become a priority for a number of the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor’s (IPEC) subregional trafficking programs, in particular in the Mekong subregion, Europe and Central America. In 2005 the ILO established a task force on trafficking and now, across the ILO, there are 28 anti-trafficking projects, 17 of which are managed by IPEC. (pg. 41)

187. Linked to the issue of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation is an unconditional worst form of exploitation of children and manifests itself in a wide range of ways. Every year, more than 1 million children are forced into prostitution, trafficked and sold for sexual purposes or used in child pornography. Studies carried out by the ILO and under the auspices of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography show that commercial sexual exploitation remains a problem in developed as well as developing countries.

188. Formerly the center of attention in this area, the tourist industry has subsequently become part of the focus on trafficking and part of TBPs in many countries. (Time-Bound Programs - TBPs aimed at assisting countries in implementing the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999). Tourism has remained an important aspect of action in this area, and is ideally suited to a social dialogue approach. In recent years IPEC has worked with the World Tourism Organization to promote a sustainable form of tourism that protects children from prostitution and its accompanying violence and abuse. IPEC is promoting codes of conduct around the concept of “child-safe tourism” in Brazil, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Mexico and the United Republic of Tanzania. The social partners are an important part of the strategy. In the Philippines, IPEC has provided training materials to help the National Union of Workers in Hotels, Restaurant and Allied Industries (NUWHRAIN) to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector. In Thailand, the ILO Mekong Subregional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women is promoting ecotourism as a means of providing income generation for indigenous and tribal peoples vulnerable to trafficking.

189. As is so often the case in child labor, the challenge is to make inroads into the less regulated part of the industry, such as small enterprises. (pgs. 41-42)

Corporate social responsibility

307. During the 1990s, large business concerns throughout the world came under pressure to pay greater attention to the impact that their activities were having on the environment, on the human rights of their workforce, and on others affected directly or indirectly by their activities. The corporate social responsibility (CSR) movement is a response by employers to these concerns, in ways that often exceed the legal requirements to which they are subject. By the end of the decade, CSR had itself become an industry, providing advice to companies, particularly concerning their supply chains.

308. The trends in the 1990s were in the direction of corporate self-regulation and voluntary codes of conduct concentrated on particular sectors such as garments, sporting goods, footwear, toys, agricultural products, mining, etc. Other key social actors, such as trade unions and NGOs, have contributed to the pressure on companies to ensure that quality products are part of a quality process. The UN endorsed this trend with the Secretary-General’s voluntary initiative, the
America’s ‘Top Ten’

The 394 companies in the November 2006 Forbes’ listing of America’s Largest Private Companies all have at least $1 billion in annual revenue. Companies like Cargill and Advance Publications, Hertz, sporting goods retailer Sports Authority, department store chain ShopKo, and Travelport, which owns travel site Orbitz, are on the list, as are food and petroleum wholesalers, supermarkets and convenience stores, including Toys “R” Us, Linens ‘n Things and SunGard Data Systems. (http://www.forbes.com)

Your Role

When you buy from these companies or their subsidiaries, ask about their social responsibility standards and what specific actions they have taken against human trafficking.

America’s Largest Private Companies by State

(Source: http://www.forbes.com/2006/11/08/largest-private-companies-biz_06privates_cz_mn_1109map.html)

U.S. Top Ten
1. Koch Industries
2. Cargill
3. PricewaterhouseCoopers
4. Publix Super Markets
5. SemGroup
6. Mars
7. C&S Wholesale Grocers
8. Ernst & Young
9. Bechtel
10. Meijer

(https://www.forbes.com)

Businesses That Have Engaged in Innovative Practices to Combat Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

Air France, Carlson Companies, Eileen Fisher, Elite Rent-A-Car, Google Inc., Lifetime Television, Liz Claiborne Inc. and Microsoft are among a list of companies that have already taken steps to counter child sex tourism and related human trafficking activities. Find out more through Vital Voices or by visiting the companies’ web sites. (http://www.vitalvoices.org/desktopDefault.aspx?page_id=430)

Your Role

When you buy from these companies or their subsidiaries, thank them for their efforts against human trafficking. Ask them to do more!
Faith group-based stockholders are asking hotels, such as Hilton, Hyatt, Starwood and Choice, to take a principled position in helping eliminate child sex tourism. Hotels are asked to sign the ECPAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation, developed in conjunction with the travel industry and the World Tourism Organization.

The impetus behind this effort comes from the New York-based Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), who with Boston Common Asset Management, got the Marriott Hotels to revise their human rights policy with a new ‘protection of the rights of children’ clause. (See Stop Trafficking Dec. 2006 pg. 7).

The ICCR reviewed which faith groups hold stock in specific corporations. The Presbyterian Church (USA), for example, holds investments with the Hilton Hotels and is attempting to engage them on this issue. To date Hilton has not dialogue.

Companies per se are not responsible for the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, but they are in a position to do something to fight it. The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and several congregations of women religious are also involved in contacting hotel chains to pursue this issue.

Carol Smolenski, executive director of ECPAT-USA, said hotels play a critical role in fighting child exploitation because hotels are often the places where it occurs. She said this puts them “in a position to take a position” and to “address travelers.”

But most companies have been unwilling to completely sign on to the requirements of the code. “They don’t sign because (they believe) it makes them more vulnerable to a lawsuit if something happens on their premises,” she said. “Signing it makes them more responsible.”

Smolenski believes that signing the code would actually benefit a company in such a situation. “If something happened and you had signed, you’d be in a better place,” she said because the hotel would be seen to be a “good guy company” that is trying to address the problem.

Suppliers of tourism services who adopt the Code commit themselves to the following:

- To establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
- To introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- To provide information to travellers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages, etc.
- To provide information to local “key persons” at the destinations.
- To report annually More than 500 companies around the world, including US-based Carlson Companies, have signed the Code.

For a PDF document, which discusses trafficking, the tourism industry, examples of companies complying, and a list of companies that have signed the code see: http://www.thecode.org/
Companies Take on Ethical Challenges

Milwaukee-based Manpower Inc. was the first major corporation to sign the Athens’ Ethical Pledge. Procter & Gamble is also a signatory.

Manpower is a worldwide network of 4,400 offices in 72 countries and territories has 400,000 clients per year, including small and medium size enterprises in all industry sectors, as well as in the world’s largest multinational corporations.

“We strive to be socially responsible in every aspect of our business and we focus our resources primarily on where we can have the most impact - connecting disadvantaged people to jobs, job training and education,” said Jeffrey A. Joerres, Chairman & CEO of Manpower. “In our expanded program, we are extending these efforts to help disaster survivors, refugees and victims of human trafficking.”

The four pillars of the company’s social responsibility platform are: workforce development, disaster recovery, reaching out to refugees and combating human trafficking.

“As one of the world’s largest employers, we cannot sit idly by as millions of people - mainly women and children - are forced into modern-day slavery. We believe in this campaign against human trafficking and we encourage other companies to join us in standing up against the trafficking industry,” said Joerres.

The newer pillars include Manpower’s engagement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its ninemillion.org Campaign, which is focused on providing education to the world’s nine million refugee children, many of whom are living long term in refugee camps without adequate schooling in order to provide them with the skills they will need when they are eventually repatriated. In addition to Manpower, the com-

The Athens Ethical Principles’ pledge commits a company to declare a ‘zero tolerance’ policy for working with any entity, which benefits in any way from human trafficking. The commitment extends to the company’s clients, vendors and business partners.

The Seven Ethical Principles of the Athens Action Plan are:
1. Explicitly demonstrate the position of zero tolerance towards trafficking in human beings, especially women and children for sexual exploitation.
2. Contribute to prevention of trafficking in human beings including awareness-raising campaigns and education.
3. Develop a corporate strategy for anti-trafficking policy, which will permeate all our activities.
4. Ensure that our personnel fully comply with our anti-trafficking policy.
5. Encourage business partners, including suppliers, to apply ethical principles against human trafficking.
6. In an effort to increase enforcement it is necessary to call on governments to initiate a process of revision of laws and regulations that are directly or indirectly related to enhancing anti-trafficking policies.
7. Report and share information on best practices.

ILO Report cont. pg. 2

Global Compact, launched in 1999, (The Global Compact asks participating companies “to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labor standards, the environment and anti-corruption”) As of May 2005, the Global Compact had more than 2,000 companies and other stakeholders participating, with a growing involvement from developing countries, including Brazil, China and India.

309. Employers’ organizations played a key role in the development of sectoral alliances in the last four years, in particular follow-up to agreements with the sporting goods industry with the participation of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Some of these initiatives have taken the form of foundations, for example those concerning tobacco and cocoa, which bring the social partners together in the effort to rid industries of child labor. (pg. 68-9)

Note: June 12th is the World Day Against Child Labor.
IFC Handbook on Stakeholder Engagement


The IFC is the private sector arm of the World Bank Group and it attempts to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, helping to reduce poverty and improve people’s lives.

Airlines & Airports Active in Counter Trafficking Effort

Air France shows all passengers on long flights a film highlighting the campaign against child sex tourism. The film, made by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) shows the reality of sex tourism and penalties such tourists can expect. Showing these videos on international flights allows potential criminals who are flying to ‘exotic’ destinations for sex tourism a chance to view the risks of engaging in their illicit activities.

The Domodedovo International Airport in Moscow aids the Russian-based NGO, Angel Coalition, to combat trafficking from Russia. Domodedovo serves over 75 airlines with hundreds of weekly flights to countries identified by the Trafficking in Persons Report as major destination countries for women and children from Russia.

East Line, the airport operator, has committed to strategically placing counter-trafficking billboards along the road to the airport and to distribute Angel Coalition information booklets containing help-line information and useful tips for travelers on avoiding falling victim to professional traffickers.

McDonald’s Agrees to Support Farm Workers

More than 17,000 consumers urged McDonald’s to support fair wages for farm workers. Led by the FL-based Coalition of Immokalee Workers, McDonald’s and its suppliers finally agreed to pay a penny more per pound to workers harvesting its tomatoes and to implement a stronger code of conduct to protect these workers. This doubles the piece rate earnings, stagnant since the 1970s. The next target of the campaign is Burger King. (http://www.labornotes.org/node/798)
India May Ban Domestic Service Jobs Abroad

The Indian Minister for Women and Children said that the Indian government has decided to impose a ban on women under the age of 30 travelling to Gulf states, parts of Africa and southeast Asia, if they plan to become domestic maids. The fear is that they will be trafficked into forced prostitution. The plan is due to cover 17 countries. As many as 6 million Indians are working in the Gulf states alone.

Where women are allowed to travel to work as maids they will have to deposit their passports with the Indian consulate to avoid having them taken by traffickers.

Action to prevent the plight of domestic workers is important. Yet women should not be discriminated against by making travel harder for them, thereby pushing them into even more dangerous forms of migration.

(Excerpted: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=126&art_id=nw20070515092414612C289825)

Telus cont. from pg. 1

In late February Telus announced it was discontinuing sales of adult content to subscribers.

Archbishop Roussin said the communications industry needs to fully appreciate how serious pornographic addiction really is.

The proliferation of pornography, he explained, exacts a horrendous toll: on the people who view the materials and are thus encouraged in their sexual addiction; on children, women, and men who are increasingly being used to produce such materials; and on families whose loved ones suffer from a pornography addiction which is being fuelled by materials coming from the Internet.

The Telus controversy, the archbishop hoped, would serve to raise many people’s consciousness about the problem which, left unabated, could draw even more people into the downward spiral of this addiction.

“This is an extremely important and growing societal concern, and we need to reflect and study how we can find solutions,” he said.

He also praised Telus for taking a direction toward greater corporate and social responsibility. “The company has listened to the voices of its customers, and Canadians in general, who were quite clear that this was not something that serves the public in any beneficial way.”

Telus said customers who had disconnected over the pornography issue could re-establish their contracts without extra charges if they reconnected within 30 days.

(http://bcc.rcav.org/07-02-26/)

Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Handbook summarizes and systematizes 13 years of experience with over 40,000 victims. IOM recognizes that each victim is unique and requires and desires different assistance. Also the nature of trafficking differs around the world and is ever evolving, requiring changing responses.

Therefore the Handbook does not offer a single methodology for assisting victims of trafficking but provides guidance and advice necessary to effectively deliver a full range of assistance to victims of trafficking from the point of initial contact and screening up to the effective social reintegration of the individuals concerned.

(http://www.iom.int/jahia/page8.html)

Produced quarterly, Migration is a publication updating on IOM activities and policy issues. The December 2006 issue featured an article entitled, Engaging Business to Fight the Business of Human Trafficking. Migration is available in English, French and Spanish.

(http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/bypass/pid/8?entryId=12238)
Letter Writing Campaign

ECPAT estimates that 25% of the sex tourists abusing children around the world are Americans. But few US companies have signed the Code of Conduct. Companies need to hear from all Americans that this is not acceptable. These are things you can do:

1) Send letters to the CEOs of the four large US hotel companies asking them to sign the Code of Conduct. If you prefer, send an e-mail with your name and address to ECPAT-USA and they will send the letters on your behalf.
2) Patronize Code of Conduct companies when you travel, for leisure or business. You might also want to let them know that the reason you are patronizing them is because they have signed the Code of Conduct.
3) Encourage the company you work for to get involved. If the company has an in-house travel department, ask them to adopt an ethical policy on child sex tourism, such as the Code, and to book company travel only with companies that have signed the Code of Conduct. Some companies may be willing to train personnel and take other steps to follow the Code of Conduct.
4) Pass this information on to anyone else who would be willing to write letters.

NY Passes Anti-Trafficking Law

The New York Coalition of Religious Congregations – Stop Trafficking of Persons (NY-CRC STOP) was instrumental in getting the NY State Legislature to pass an anti-human trafficking bill, which the NY Governor was expected to sign into law in June.

Sex traffickers can be imprisoned for 3 to 25 years and labor traffickers from 3 to 7 years. Besides making “human trafficking” illegal, the law will provide social services to victims who would not otherwise be eligible because of their immigration status and will help prosecutors get help for all victims. Assistance will include emergency housing, drug-addiction screening and treatment, health- and mental-health care, job training, and language and translation services. Proponents believe it is one of the best anti-trafficking laws in the U.S.