## Iraqi Women

Iraqi women “are the biggest losers” in this war, asserted the founding director of the Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq (OWFI). They end up with extreme lack of freedom, lack of social security, lack of opportunity, and increased sexual terror. The OWFI conducted extensive high-risk investigations into the prevalence and plight of Iraqi widows, women kidnapped and killed, and women trafficked into prostitution.

Fifteen percent of Iraq’s 1 to 2 million widows are seeking temporary marriages out of economic desperation and extreme insecurity as single mothers. By 2006, OWFI had observed an “epidemic rise” in the number of women prostituted in brothels, workplaces, and hideouts in Baghdad. Through covert investigation, they learned of the trafficking of women within all regions of Iraq for Iraqi men and for US military, as well as to nearby countries.

## American women

American women soldiers in Iraq were also losers. Nearly 200,000 served there, in as dangerous situations as men. Though barred from combat, they patrolled streets with machine guns, served as gunners on vehicles, dismantled explosives, drove trucks down bomb-ridden streets, and rescued the dead and injured in battle zones. These same women were concurrently, caught in a second, more damaging war — a private, preemptive one in the barracks. One female soldier said, “They basically assume because you are a girl in the Army, you’re obligated to have sex with them.”

Resisting sexual assault in the barracks spills over to the battlefield, according to many women veterans, in the form of relentless verbal sexual harassment, punitive high-risk assignments, and the morbid sense that one’s back is not being watched.

One-third of active duty women are sexually assaulted; nearly all report constant sexual harassment. Patricia Resick, a psychiatrist researching post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in women at the Boston Veterans Administration, stated, “sexual trauma is a more significant risk factor for PTSD than combat or the types of trauma that men generally experience. Sexual trauma, unlike combat trauma, is caused by people who are supposed to bond with you and protect you. That betrayal, by those you need to trust with your life, deepens the harm.”
Action to Prevent Trafficking During the Super Bowl

Members of the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility in Indiana and Michigan (CCRIM) are working together on an anti-human trafficking initiative with 220 hotels within a 50-mile radius of Indianapolis, site of the 2012 Super Bowl.

CCRIM is a member of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), whose mission is, through the lens of faith, to build a more just and sustainable world by integrating social values into investor actions. As local investors, the eleven CCRIM women’s religious congregations faxed the hotels on Jan. 5th to ask four questions:

1. Have they done any training with their employees to help them recognize possible incidents of human trafficking on their properties?
2. Did they have plans/protocols in place for employees to follow, should they suspect incidents of trafficking are occurring at their hotels? If so, what were these plans/protocols?
3. Were they familiar with local groups that address trafficking issues in Indianapolis? If not, could CCRIM provide them with a list of these contacts? (CCRIM includes the members of the Indianapolis Network to Assist Trafficked Persons (INATP), a very well organized group that includes the Attorney General’s office; Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Dept.; refugee assistance groups; safe houses; etc.)
4. Were they willing to provide basic information on human trafficking to their guests in their lobby and/or in guest rooms? If so, CCRIM would deliver these materials to the hotel managers in person prior to Super Bowl week.

Between Jan. 9-17 there will be a follow-up phone call from a CCRIM member to record the hotels’ responses to the questions. These will be shared with their corporate offices, with ICCR members who are leading dialogues on human trafficking issues/the Code (www.thecode.org) with these hotel chains, and with the local INATP group.

There will be follow-up information, urging those who have not signed the Code to consider doing that. Many hotels are franchises and could make the decision to sign the Code without approval from corporate management.

The eleven religious orders will send out a press release on January 11th to all local media in their respective cities and all Catholic papers, Catholic News Service, etc. in coordination with the congregational leaders through the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) Region VII.

In addition there will be education and prayer efforts between Jan. 12th and Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 5th. This is a worldwide effort. Women religious from Europe plan to adapt CCRIM materials in preparation for influencing the 2012 Summer Olympics in London and the 2012 Euro Football Championship in Ukraine and Poland. (See pg. 3)

(Source: Ann Oestreich IHM, Justice Coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and co-chair of CCRIM)

Wyndham Worldwide Signs ‘the Code’

Wyndham Worldwide, one of the world’s largest hospitality companies, became the latest major company to take a stand against the commercial sexual exploitation of children by signing the Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct (The Code) in November 2011. Wyndham encompasses well known hotel brands including Ramada and Days Inn. In the U.S., Wyndham now is a partner with ECPAT-USA to protect children, as are other major companies (Carlson Companies, owners of Radisson and other hotel brands; Delta Air Lines; Global Exchange, a responsible tour operator; and Hilton Worldwide-owned brands in Washington, DC & Seattle, WA.).

When companies sign the Code they agree to have a policy against sexual exploitation, to train their staff members to know what to look for and what to do if they suspect a problem, to tell their customers about the policy, to include a clause in contracts with suppliers, and to inform others about their child protection policy. ECPAT-USA assists in carrying out these steps. (http://www.wyndhamworldwide.com/media/press-releases/press-release?wwprdid=1120)

For further ‘Hotel Actions’, go to pg. 8

American Women

cont. from pg. 1

In late December 2011, the U.S. State Department released the National Action Plan (NAO) on Women, Peace and Security, championed by Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. The NAO brings the U.S. into compliance with the U.N. resolutions that call for integrating women as full partners in conflict resolution and peace building. Its purpose is to assure that U.S. diplomatic, defense, and development policies are gauged in part by their impact on women in countries where we engage diplomatically, militarily and economically. According to Patricia Hynes, one example of implementing the National Action Plan would be to “strengthen protection for women and girls in conflict situations, with greater focus on greater legal accountability for rape and sexual violence.” (Author: H. Patricia Hynes, retired Boston University Professor who now writes and speaks on issues of war and militarism with an emphasis on women, environment, and public health. http://www.common-dreams.org/view/2011/12/27-8)
Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

Awareness

‘Shared Hope International’ Grades U.S. on How States Protect Children

Currently, the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act outlines substantial protective provisions for victims of trafficking and criminal provisions for traffickers and buyers. Though these statutes provide a strong legal platform, many cases never reach federal prosecution. This means response to domestic minor sex trafficking must originate at the state level.

In December 2010, Shared Hope International (SHI) embarked on the national ‘Protected Innocence Initiative’ — a comprehensive strategy to promote zero tolerance for child sex trafficking.

On December 1, 2011 SHI released 51 individual state Report Cards (See pg. 4) that graded state laws as they relate to or impact domestic minor sex trafficking — the commercial sexual exploitation of American children. This research identified states with strong laws to protect children against sex trafficking and some of the weakest states that provide little to no legal deterrence.

The SHI goal was to provide activists across the nation with a powerful legislative tool to leverage their advocacy work at the local level. By thoroughly reviewing each state’s law, it is possible to identify the gaps of protection in state laws and provide recommendations for further legislative action.

State legislators need to hear from their constituents. Please take your state’s Report Card and recommendations to your state legislators and let them know you want stronger legislation to protect the children in your state.

Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Laws Inadequate

Even for those directly involved, anti-human trafficking remains a vague issue. While the vast majority of states have criminalized both labor and sex trafficking, less than half require law enforcement to complete training.

In states with anti-trafficking statutes, 44% of law enforcement personnel and 50% of prosecutors don’t know the legislation exists, according to a 2011 survey from the University of Chicago. Prosecutors who knew the laws were reluctant to use them because, “Sometimes it’s easier to prosecute it as something else.”

There’s always a little lag between when new laws are passed and prosecutions start to pile up, said Kathleen Kim, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, who studies human trafficking. For example, the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 revamped the definition of human trafficking to include a variety of coercion tactics, including psychological manipulation. But most of the cases filed since have continued to reflect the older laws, which required prosecutors to provide proof of bodily harm.

Federal, state and local law enforcement officials need to get up to speed on the broad definition of coercion. “Traffickers use ten different control tactics and we’re only catching them for one,” Kim said.

Euro 2012 Championship

An estimated two million tourists a year visit Ukraine with just one purpose in mind: sex. “Hotel managers play a key role. They ask the guests when they arrive if they’d like a woman and if they need something arranged. In the lobbies they have flyers for escort agencies. It’s a huge industry.”

An estimated 60,000 women are caught in the Ukrainian sex industry. Ukraine is the second largest ‘exporter’ (after Moldavia) of women to Western Europe, according to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry. In the last ten years, 400,000 Ukrainian women have been the victims of human trafficking, the ministry estimates.

The Euro 2012 Football Championship, to be played in Ukraine and Poland in June, will likely boost the already flourishing trade in women. “You can already book your own Euro 2012 hostess on the Internet. Pimps are already counting on extra profit,” said an NGO representative.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) launched an anti-trafficking awareness raising campaign ahead of the games in four Ukrainian cities.

The two-month campaign, launched in November 2011, will target trafficked persons, social groups vulnerable to trafficking in human beings and the Ukrainian public at large. It will be implemented in the form of outdoor public transport advertising to promote access to services offered by Ukrainian state institutions that offer assistance to victims of trafficking and provide information on the criminal nature of trafficking offences.

### Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

**Awareness**

#### The ‘Protected Innocence Challenge’
**U.S. States’ Report Cards**

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**KEY:**
1. Criminalization of Domestic Minor Trafficking
2. Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand
3. Criminal Provisions for Traffickers
4. Criminal Provisions for Facilitators
5. Proactive Provisions for Child Victims
6. Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

*“In our understanding of human trafficking, we are today about where we were with the problem of domestic violence about 40 years ago,— low levels of awareness, low levels of law enforcement response, almost no services for victims.”*

Rob McKenna, Washington Attorney General
Scams of Anti-Trafficking Conferences

Beware of online invitations to conferences regarding human trafficking and other human rights issues. Criminals are pretending to organize conferences in order to gain sensitive information and money from participants. Specifically there has been a "World Congress on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour" advertised on the Internet, which is in fact a scam.

The alleged conference claims to provide detailed information on human trafficking in order to raise awareness and combat the problem. The scammers name leading experts in the field as speakers. The bogus conference claims to have two phases, one in New York and the other in Senegal. Most likely the ploy is in order to maximize its pool of victims.

Experts from the Trafficking in Persons section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) caught the scam and have begun alerting the anti-trafficking community about the false invitations.

The "conference" is requesting participants send their names, addresses, passport numbers, and other sensitive information via email to the "registration desk."

While the conference gives a detailed explanation of guest speakers and activities, it is an elaborate scam. Before sharing any of your personal information online, verify the legitimacy of the conference or event, which is requesting such details. (http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/stories/november2011/trafficking-conference-scam.html)

Excerpt from the ‘Scam’ Website:
(Posted Nov, 9, 2011 at: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/yt-insightsforaudience/yYB2sePdz51/oUy5iEseXhkJ)
The world congress on human trafficking and forced labour is scheduled to take place from November 28th to 1st December in New York and from 5th to 8th December 2011 in Dakar Senegal. The congress is hosted by the Campaign against Sex Trafficking and sponsored by (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The William J. Clinton Foundation) and other benevolent donors worldwide.

Registration:
In order to attend the world congress on human trafficking and forced labour 2011, registration is compulsory. Interested participants should send the below information’s via email, to the Registration Desk.
E-mail: wchtfl_registration@aol.com & wchtfl_registration@mynet.com

- Names exactly as in passport
- Passport Number
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Country of Residence
- Country Dialing Code
- Occupation
- Marital Status
- Phone Contact
- Postal Address
- Who invited you?

Please note that the conference is not fully sponsored. Flight Tickets
Successful registered participants round trip air ticket which covers participant’s country of residents to the United States, from the United States to Dakar Senegal and back to participants Country of residents will be sponsored by our organization and benevolent donor sponsoring committee.

With the New Year 2012, there is a new posting. It reads in part, “The world congress on human trafficking and forced labour is scheduled to take place from 17th to 20th January 2012 in New York and from 23th to 26th January 2012 in Dakar Senegal. The congress is hosted by the Campaign against Sex Trafficking and sponsored by other benevolent donors worldwide.” (http://mercprogram.org/content/view/385/26/lang,ar/)

Blogger’s Comment

This particular kind of scam is more disturbing than the run-of-the mill Internet scams. UNGIFT claims the conference is a scam. If these claims are accurate, then this is evidence of a new level of sophistication and gall among human trafficking organizations, targeting the intellectual community, to exploit them. (http://globalaffairsblog.wordpress.com/2011/12/02/human-trafficking-conference-scams/)
Advocacy

Large Companies Must Pay Attention to Their Supply Chains

The California Transparency in Supply Chain Act, or SB 657, took effect on January 1, 2012. The first legislation of its kind in the U.S., SB 657 requires manufacturers and retailers doing business in California to disclose on their corporate websites their efforts to eliminate slavery and human trafficking from their direct supply chains. The requirements apply to companies that conduct business in California and have global gross receipts exceeding $100 million. It is expected to affect more than 3,000 companies worldwide.

Specifically, the Supply Chain Act requires companies to disclose the extent to which they assess and address risks of human trafficking in their supply chains, conduct audits of suppliers to evaluate compliance with company standards, train employees, certify that materials incorporated into the product comply with trafficking laws, and maintain internal accountability standards and procedures for employees or contractors failing to meeting company standards.

In anticipation, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), Christian Brothers Investments Services (CBIS), and Calvert Investments published a corporate guide to ensure effective compliance with the SB 657 — “Effective Supply Chain Accountability: Investor Guidance on Implementation of The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act and Beyond.” ICCR, CBIS and Calvert Investments, all of which are dedicated to socially responsible investing, developed this Guide based on their long-term corporate engagements on human rights and supply chain issues.


The Guide summarizes the law’s key requirements and presents the business case for compliance. It also makes recommendations for more robust human rights programs that will transcend the California law and withstand future legislation as well as the scrutiny of responsible investors and analysts globally. (http://www.iccr.org/news/press_releases/2011/pr_SB657_111711.php)

“We believe that additional legislation, at both the state and federal levels, addressing these egregious human rights violations in company supply chains is inevitable. The California Supply Chain Act may be the first law of its kind in the nation, but it will most certainly not be the last. As shareholders, ICCR members have worked with leading companies across many sectors on good practices around supply-chain transparency and accountability, and they are stronger and more resilient as a result. As responsible investors, we understand that exposing and eliminating these abuses is in everyone’s best interest.” David Schilling, Program Director for Human Rights at ICCR

“The California Transparency in Supply Chain Act will have a far-reaching impact in the business world and it is critical that companies understand exactly what is expected of them. The law may have California’s name in its title, but its effects will be felt far beyond the state. Most major retailers and manufacturers doing business in California will need to comply, regardless of where they are headquartered.” Julie Tanner, Assistant Director of Socially Responsible Investing at CBIS.
Films on Human Trafficking

“Not My Life”
Producers of ‘Not My Life’ worked for four years with hundreds of individuals in more than 20 countries to tell the tragic story of global human trafficking and modern slavery.

‘Not My Life’ features dignified and inspiring testimony from survivors; depictions of trafficking, exploitation, and slavery in all parts of the world including forced labor in Africa; street begging and garbage picking in India; sexual trafficking in the U.S. and Southeast Asia; and various forms of child enslavement and abuse in both North and South America. Glenn Close narrates the film.

One segment features ‘Angie’, a girl from Wichita, who after running away from home with two other girls, found herself under the control of a pimp in Oklahoma City. He threatened to beat or kill her and her companions if they didn’t return with enough money plied through sex with truckers and other men in a truck stop.

Eventually ‘Angie’ and other girls, mostly ages 12 to 17, were rescued and 15 pimps and traffickers were arrested in an FBI sting operation code-named ‘Stormy Nights’.

The depth and extent of the interviews conducted constitutes, among other things, an oral history of one of the most appalling crimes against humanity in the history of human civilization. (http://notmylife.org/)

‘The Price of Sex’
Befriending a handful of women from such countries as Romania and Moldavia, Mimi Chakarova, Bulgarian-born photographer-journalist-activist-film director, reveals in her documentary, “The Price of Sex”, how false promises of a brighter future can ensnare innocent victims in urban brothels far from home. Fearlessly researched and undeniably urgent, Chakarova puts herself and her project at risk by networking with pimps, johns, activists and authorities of questionable allegiance, she even goes undercover as a hooker for one risky evening in a Turkish nightclub. A reviewer criticized the narrative, but not the message that the film portrays. (http://www.variety.com/review/VE1117945597/)

‘Indoctrinated’
‘Indoctrinated: The Grooming of Our Children into Prostitution’ is a documentary film about child sex trafficking in San Diego County, CA. This film exposes the scope and destructive nature of child sex trafficking and uncovers the tactics used by pimps and gangs to recruit, groom, psychologically coerce and indoctrinate their victims into a life of sexual exploitation and violence — a life that no one would ever choose. This film should be seen by every parent, teen and educator. It was produced by Legacy Productions in association with the Action Network and the San Diego County Office of Education. (http://indoctrinated.eventbrite.com/)

Google.com Funds Anti-Trafficking Efforts

Google.com asserts philanthropy as a core value. During 2011 Google.com gave more than $100 million to various organizations around the world — including $40 million in grants to support four causes it considers particularly important: science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education; girls’ education; empowerment through technology; and fighting human trafficking and modern-day slavery. (http://www.google.com/landing/givesback/2011/)

Polaris Project (www.polarisproject.org), International Justice Mission (www.ijm.org), and Slavery Footprint (www.slaveryfootprint.org) received a $1.8 million three-year grant to implement a unified initiative focused on eradicating modern-day slavery. The initiative aims to achieve the following measurable outcomes:

• Improve legislation to protect human trafficking victims and hold traffickers accountable;
• Increase government funding for victims’ services and greater law enforcement capacity to fight human trafficking;
• Provide simple steps that Americans can take to help eradicate human trafficking; and
• Increase demand for “slave-free” products.

“Having a company like Google recognize the value of our work marks a major turning point for the anti-slavery movement. To date, the movement has relied heavily on anecdote and emotion. Google’s support allows us greater empiricism, making us all the more successful. We are proud that Google shares our vision that technology and data can be uniquely effective in creating a tipping point in the movement,” said Justin Dillon, founder and CEO of Slavery Footprint, the non-profit organization that provides tools to consumers with which to enter into productive engagement with corporations related to slavery within supply chains. (http://www.blog.polarisproject.org/2011/12/14/google-org-awards-multi-year-grant-to-joint-initiative-against-modern-day-slavery/)
SYMPOSIUM 2012
Human Trafficking: The Child Slave

Sandra Morgan, Director of the Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University will be keynote speaker. A representative from the U.S. State Department will address the different forms of child slavery that exist in the world today. There will be a panel of former child slaves, now adult survivors. The ‘Roadies’ will also present. They are storytellers, visionaries, humanitarians, artists, and entrepreneurs – all young adult volunteers, committed to educating and inspiring others to act alongside the non-profit ‘Invisible Children’ to end Africa’s 25-year conflict with the Lord’s Resistance Army.

The day will conclude with opportunities to explore ways to collectively work to eliminate modern day slavery.

The event will be held on March 10, 2012 (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) at Mount St. Mary’s College (Doheny Campus) in Los Angeles, CA. For information, contact: Mary Genino RSHM Wap-jpic@rshm.org

Thank You!

Stop Trafficking wishes to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project during 2011:

• Penny & Stephen Harrington
  Vista, CA
• C. Rose Miles SFCC
  Sisters for Christian Community
  Desert and Mountain Region, CA
• Mary Ellen Bennett OP
  Dominican Sisters of
  St. Catherine De Ricci
  Brookhaven, PA

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

Women In War
http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/field-newsletter/iraq-women-newsletter-050309.htm

‘Protected Innocence Initiative’
http://www.sharedhope.org/WhatWeDo/BringJustice/PolicyRecommendations/ProtectedInnocenceInitiative.aspx

U.S. Companies that Signed the Code
http://www.thecode.org/index.php?page=6_3#USA

Take Action With Hotels

Join the Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) and encourage hotels to take action to fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children. For instructions and a sample letter, go to: http://www.cbisonline.com/page.asp?id=1017

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1.888.3737.888

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

Use the following web address to access back issues of Stop Trafficking!
http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com

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