Stop Trafficking!
Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

February 2012 Vol. 10 No. 2
This issue highlights trends both in the victimization by traffickers and in the efforts to fight trafficking.

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UK: Child Trafficking

The United Kingdom’s Human Trafficking Center (UKHTC) and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Center published a report in late 2011 on trends in child trafficking in the UK. Two hundred and two children were identified as trafficked into and within the UK over the period Jan. 1, 2011 to Sept. 15, 2011, based on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism and to the Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (CTAIL).
- Eight children were younger than five years old, with the majority between 14-16 years of age.
- 67 children from 16 African countries were trafficked into the UK. This includes 29 victims from Nigeria, mostly girls trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Nigerian victims of trafficking often report that they met a western individual in

UK Trends cont. pg. 2

Europol: New Trends in Trafficking

During the Third European Commission’s Day Against Trafficking, held in Brussels in November 2011, the following new trends were reported:
- Smaller groups of traffickers work together. Because their tactics constantly change, law enforcement and legal agencies must respond quickly and with flexibility.
- The traffickers work more in rural areas and in private homes.
- Labor exploitation, largely hidden, is greater than sexual exploitation. Victims are controlled with debt bondage. Children are trafficked into forced begging and petty crimes.
- Traffickers use the Internet for recruitment and advertisement of ‘services’.
- Regional political instability provides opportunities for criminal groups.
- Human trafficking is used for welfare benefit fraud.
- High airfares lead to higher debt bondage. Therefore there is a shift to use sea and land travel.

Domestic Workers: A Hidden Population

Domestic labor comprises 3.6% of the global economy. Domestics make up 7.5% of the labor force. Recent ILO estimates, based on national surveys and/or census data from 117 countries, place the number of domestic workers at around 53 million. However, experts say that due to the fact that this kind of work is often hidden and

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Nigeria, who offered to facilitate their travel to the UK with the promise of employment, accommodation or education. Many of these victims are vulnerable and susceptible to grooming by an agent, often on account of poverty or a dysfunctional family life. Agents obtain forged passports or make fraudulent visa applications and arrange travel on behalf of the victim, sometimes accompanying them on the journey. Upon arrival in the UK, agents often remove travel documentation from the victim. Victims may be taken into local authority care, but go missing shortly after. In some cases, victims have been given SIM cards or address books so that exploiters can contact them after they are taken into care. Debt bondage and voodoo are often used as means of controlling and coercing victims into exploitation. Victims have reported that they have been forced to take part in witchcraft ceremonies prior to being trafficked from Nigeria. These victims are informed that they and their family will be cursed or harmed if they do not comply with the instructions of their exploiter or if they do not pay back a debt to their exploiter.

• 48 victims from Vietnam, mostly boys trafficked for the purposes of labor exploitation, including 21 boys for cannabis cultivation. Victims are generally vulnerable in Vietnam. A victim may report having been orphaned, living on the streets, or in a private fostering arrangement. In some victim reports, agents have promised victims work overseas. Some victims report being taken to China, from which they took a plane to Russia. Their journey to the UK continued via lorry, though in many victim accounts, the journey was punctuated with episodes of exploitation. Some victims reported being subject to labor exploitation in restaurants, being forced into domestic servitude and to work on cannabis farms in Russia and France. These circuitous routes and long history of traumatic exploitation disorientate victims and undermine their ability to recall the details of their route of entry to the UK. Victims reported being passed between agents at various stages of their journey, but were unable to recall these events in detail. Victims generally entered the UK clandestinely and were forced into working as ‘gardeners’ in private residences converted into cannabis farms. Some victims reported being locked in these residences and prevented from leaving. These victims were not paid for their work, and often claimed that they were coerced into working through violence. Victims also reported being sexually exploited while working on cannabis farms. However, the number of Vietnamese minors exploited in cannabis farms appears to have decreased slightly from previous assessments. It is likely that Vietnamese organized criminal groups find it increasingly difficult to operate in the UK cannabis market, as a result of continued law enforcement efforts to combat cannabis farms.

• 50 children from seven Eastern European countries were trafficked into the UK over this period. This includes 10 victims from Bulgaria, 23 from Romania and 12 from Slovakia, trafficked mostly for the purposes of benefit fraud and criminal exploitation. In the case of benefit fraud, exploiters traffic children into private fostering arrangements in order to claim benefits, or claim benefits under several fraudulent identities for a child, moving a child between addresses and under the care of various adults. Eight children from Eastern Europe were from the same family, as were four children from West Africa. In one case, a family was approached in a village and groomed for trafficking by a group of men, traveling from village to village, claiming that they could arrange travel documents, work, accommodation and transport to the UK. The family was trafficked by bus to London, and then onto another city in the UK. From there, control of the family passed to another group of men who forced them to work in a factory. They were not paid for their work, and were told that their wages would be confiscated to cover the costs of their accommodation and food. They were threatened with violence if they attempted to leave their accommodation or did not comply with instructions. This group of men also withheld their identity documents, claiming to arrange for benefits on their behalf. In another case, a Romanian gang trafficked a family to the UK, including a mother, son and daughter, taking advantage of the mother’s long term health condition by promising work and health care in the UK. Upon arrival, the mother was coerced into prostitution and both children were forced to shoplift on behalf of their exploiters.

• 22 victims from other regions were also identified. These were from Western Europe, South America and the Caribbean.

• Many victims of trafficking were subject to multiple forms of exploitation. For example, some victims of exploitation on a cannabis farm may also have been subject to sexual exploitation, and some victims of domestic servitude may also have been exploited for the purposes of perpetrating benefit fraud.

• In general, victims of criminal exploitation are coerced into committing crimes, including shoplifting and pick-pocketing, for the financial gain of their exploiter. All trafficking victims involved in this form of criminality were from Eastern European countries. Four victims of criminal
exploitation were also sexually exploited.

- 23 victims of trafficking were found in domestic servitude. Victims of domestic servitude are often kept away from school and health services, limiting possible interactions with professionals who are in a position to identify safeguarding concerns. This form of trafficking may be particularly hidden from view.

- 56 minors trafficked into the UK were subject to labor exploitation. This includes exploitation in agriculture, construction, hospitality, and in nail salons. Eight victims of criminal exploitation, 1 victim of domestic servitude and 8 victims of benefit fraud exploitation were also subject to labor exploitation.

- 53 trafficking victims were sexually exploited. Child sexual exploitation is a complex crime, in which perpetrators often act in networks, grooming victims to believe that they are in a genuine romantic relationship before sexually exploiting them. Some cases of sexual exploitation involve an element of trafficking, where victims are taken from their place of residence by perpetrators to another town or city within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Overall, sexual exploitation was the most prevalent form of exploitation in the dataset. All victims in the dataset were female,

- Most child trafficking victims were identified in London. This can be attributed to (i) travel links, as many victims will enter the UK via an international flight to a London airport and will be identified as a trafficking victim at the border controls; and (ii) many victims will be exploited in London. However, it is evident that child trafficking affects all regions of the UK.

The Report can be obtained at:

The Role of Drivers in Prostitution

As prostitution has shifted off the streets and into hotels and apartments, the drivers who transport prostitutes have emerged as some of the industry’s most powerful players. Sofia, who uses a pseudonym because she fears retribution from traffickers, said that when she was enslaved as a prostitute, her drivers organized her schedule, drove her to appointments and took half of her earnings before she turned over the remainder to her pimp.

“They are more important than the pimps because they’re the ones who decide everything,” Sofia said softly in Spanish. Her words were translated by a counselor and a lawyer from Sanctuary for Families, a NY nonprofit group that works with domestic violence victims. “I want all of them in jail, or back in their countries. I don’t want to see them working like this.”

In December 2011, Sofia testified, from behind a screen, before a joint hearing of the NY City Council’s Transportation and Women’s Issues Committees, on two pieces of proposed legislation that would penalize drivers who knowingly transport trafficking victims.

The first proposal, introduced by Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras, would raise the fines on drivers who knowingly transport trafficking victims, and would direct the Taxi and Limousine Commission to add training for all its drivers on the subject of sex trafficking.

The second bill, introduced by Councilman James Vacca and Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, seeks to punish those who operate unregistered cars as liveries, with misdemeanor charges, fines and possible prison time, noting that many of the drivers fail to register with the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Sofia estimates that she worked with 70 drivers, who brought her to 5,000 clients. Clients often found drivers’ phone numbers in advertisements placed in newspapers or on cards handed out on the street. When business was slow, her pimp would give her a list and have her call the drivers directly. Her drivers took more of her earnings if she did not finish her appointments within 15 minutes, she said. The drivers rarely spoke to her, except when they tried to recruit her away from her pimp. “They promised us a better life,” Sofia said. “I know a lot of girls who said they left the pimp they were working with. In the end they just worked for the driver.”

“How would have thought that black cars or livery cars were going to become a point in the issue of sex trafficking?” said the Council speaker, Christine C. Quinn.

Reporting of sex-trafficking cases seems to be growing more frequent. An attorney with the Anti-Trafficking Initiative of Sanctuary for Families, said that the number of victims it advised had jumped to 293 in the 12-month period that ended June 30, 2011, compared with 85 in the previous 12 months. (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/14/nyregion/council-to-seek-penalties-for-prostitutes-drivers.html?_r=2)
Gangs Now Promote Sex Trafficking

The MS-13 gang got its start among immigrants from El Salvador in the 1980s. Since then, the gang has built operations in 42 states, mostly in the West and Northeastern U.S., where members typically deal in drugs and weapons.

But in Fairfax County, VA, one of the wealthiest places in the country, authorities have brought five cases in 2011 that focus on gang members, who have pushed women, sometimes very young women, into prostitution. Often, the activity takes place at construction sites, in the parking lots of convenience stores and at gas stations. Usually, investigators say, gang members charge between $30 and $50 a visit, and the girls are forced into prostitution 10 to 15 times a day — easy money for MS-13 with virtually no costs, other than alcohol and drugs to control the girls.

Human trafficking is less risky for gang members. Extorting business owners or moving narcotics are much riskier. Also human victims usually have no way out. One victim was a 12-year-old runaway, who approached MS-13 gang members at a Halloween party. She was looking for a place to stay. Within hours, she was forced to work as a prostitute.

One member of the MS-13 gang was recently sentenced to life in prison for sex trafficking; another was sentenced to 24 years. VA authorities hope to bring many more charges in the future. (http://www.npr.org/2011/11/14/142300731/gangs-enter-new-territory-with-sex-trafficking)

Forced Marriages Dishonor Britain

Meena was forced into marriage with her 30-year-old cousin when she was 18 and planning to go to university. “I cried for five years, every day,” she says. “My father begged me when I refused to marry him, so in the end I caved in. My mother was terrified I would bring shame to the family.” Meena, now 23 and living in a refuge for women escaping domestic violence, tells me that, at the time, she did not think she was being coerced, and believed her parents had her best interests at heart.

If white British women were being forced to marry men they had never met, in a country they had never visited, there would be a national outcry. We would call it trafficking. But some justify the practice as ‘cultural’ when it involves Muslims and oppose making it a criminal offense.

(Julie Bindel, http://www.standpointmag.co.uk/node/4258/full)

Global Prostitution

The world’s oldest oppression is also an incredibly large one, stretching from San Francisco to Osaka, according to a French Fondation Scelles report.

There are 40 to 42 million prostitutes in the world, according to the report, 80% of whom are female and 75% between the ages of 13 and 25. The map below shows where they live, with each country color coded by the number of prostitutes per 1,000 people. Brighter colored countries represent a greater number of prostitutes. Countries for which Fondation Scelles did not have data are represented in green. The U.S. is bright orangy-red, with one million prostitutes, despite prostitution being illegal in every state but Nevada.

(Fondation Scelles also released a map (below) of sex tourism sites, showing Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Thailand acting as hubs for sex tourism, shown by stars. (http://www.businessinsider.com/there-are-42-million-prostitutes-in-the-world-and-heres-where-they-live-2012-1#ixzz1jobyr5GF)
Meeting Planning Firm Works to End Child Sex Trafficking

Nix Conference & Meeting Management is challenging meeting planners worldwide to help end child sex trafficking. Nix initiated a first-ever Meeting Planners Code of Conduct in January 2012 and encouraged industry peers and competitors to join them in addressing the issue at every hotel where they do business.

Nix is the first meeting planning company in the U.S. to sign a Meeting Planner’s Code of Conduct, which they developed in cooperation with ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking). They signed the new code on Jan. 11, 2012, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, during an awareness day event in St. Louis, MO.

Nix has an extensive reach in the hotel industry, researching more than 700 hotels and visiting more than 50 hotels both within the U.S. and internationally on behalf of their clients each year. As part of their commitment to end child sex trafficking, Nix recently added a clause to their standard Request for Proposal inquiring about hotel policies on human trafficking. “One hotel responded to our question on human trafficking policies by saying they have pedestrian crosswalks in front of their entrance,” said a Nix staffer. “Traffickers, unfortunately, depend on that kind of naivety to carry out their operations.”

Nix discusses child sex trafficking and exploitation in one-on-one meetings with hotel general managers, provides written materials, and encourages them to sign the ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for hotels.

Nix Conference & Meeting Management first learned about the issue of child sex trafficking in hotels in 2009 when a client, the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph, asked them to inquire about hotel policies on human trafficking while researching sites for a conference. “This was a request and an issue we had not heard about before,” said Jane Quinn. “As we researched it, we realized we could have a real impact on this crisis.”

In collaboration with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Nix successfully encouraged the Millennium Hotel St. Louis to sign the ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for hotels in July 2011. That experience inspired Nix to develop a similar code of conduct for their own niche in the industry — meeting and conference planners.

“The number of people in our industry who are aware of child sex trafficking is growing every day,” said Molly Hackett. “Our goal is to increase that awareness. We hope that one day soon, we’ll be able to provide our clients with a choice of hotels that are proactive on this issue.”

Meeting planners who adopt the Meeting Planner’s Code of Conduct agree to establish an internal social responsibility policy, implement an action plan with objectives and timeframes, and report annually.

Nix Conference & Meeting Management, based in St. Louis, has managed meetings, conferences and trade shows for associations, religious organizations, businesses and nonprofits on four continents and in 17 countries since 1985.

(“As meeting and conference planners, we are using our close ties with hotel general managers and other professional resources to raise awareness and help end child sex trafficking.” Molly Hackett of Nix.

“Child sex trafficking is widespread, occurring right now even at luxury hotels in the United States. Most hotel executives have no idea this exploitation of children exists at their properties. Once they become aware, however, they can establish policies and train staff to identify and take action against child sex trafficking.” Kimberly Ritter, Senior Account Manager and coordinator of Nix’s initiative to fight child sex trafficking.

“This is a wonderful and groundbreaking way to address the issue of child protection in tourism. Working with Nix in the conference and meeting management sector is going to open doors that we did not have the resources or connections to access in the past.” Michelle Guelbart, M.S.W., Private Sector Project Coordinator of ECPAT-USA.

Advocacy

IRS: Tax Break to Victims of Human Trafficking

People who have received restitution payments from those convicted of human trafficking do not need to include those payments in gross income for federal income tax purposes, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced in January 2012.

Notice 2012-12 advises taxpayers that such mandatory restitution payments are excluded from gross income. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 requires a defendant convicted of a human trafficking offense to make these payments to the victim to compensate for costs for medical services, physical and occupational therapy or rehabilitation, transportation, temporary housing, child care expenses, lost income, attorneys’ fees and other costs, and other losses the victim suffers as a proximate result of the offense.

Congress enacted the law over a decade ago “to combat trafficking of persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims.”

The criminal acts include holding a person to a condition of peonage; kidnapping or carrying away a person to sell the person into involuntary servitude or to be held as a slave; providing or obtaining a person’s services or labor by actual or threatened use of certain means including force, physical restraint, serious harm, and abuse of legal process; and sex trafficking of children or by force, fraud or coercion.

Under the law, a court must order restitution to a victim, directing a defendant to pay the full amount of the victim’s losses, which will be excluded from the victim’s gross income for federal income tax purposes.


A Survivor Speaks!

“There is nothing natural about the sex trade; it was and is never the ‘oldest profession’; it does not stop the spread of male violence outside of the prostituted class; it cannot be made into art; and most important the sex trade will never allow the prostituted class the right to have full humanity.”

“Stop making excuses for the sex trade; stop imagining it can ever be made safe and give the prostituted class a small piece of dignity; stop saying men need the prostituted or else they will go insane and rape and kill real women.”

“Just stop thinking — if you can find the tiny areas of less violence, less hate, and less degradation of women and girls — then we can keep the sex trade.” Rebecca Mott, Founding member of ‘Survivors Connect’, an online international network of trafficking and prostitution survivors. (http://www.survivorsconnect.groupsite.com/blog)

California Trucking Association Opt to Combat Human Trafficking

Members of the California Trucking Association will join a nationwide effort to ‘put the brakes’ on human trafficking, the group’s president announced during the annual CTA conference in La Quinta, CA in January 2012.

“At the California Trucking Association, we say that ‘safety is our priority,’ and that priority drives our members to combat the evils of human trafficking,” said CTA Chief Executive Officer Michael Campbell. “Truckers are the heart and soul of our nation, so the choice to join forces with Truckers Against Trafficking was a natural one for our members.”

Kendis Paris, national director of Truckers Against Trafficking, said having the state’s largest trucking association involved in the anti-trafficking campaign will “make a substantial difference.”

“Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation’s highways,” Paris said. “We’re very excited ... and believe the California trucking industry will do much to put a dent in domestic sex trafficking.”

CTA will distribute informational DVDs for its member companies to use during training, orientation and safety seminars, according to the organization. Wallet-size cards will also be provided to members with information about how to recognize trafficking and what to do when it’s suspected. (http://www.thevillagenews.com/story/61306/)

For more information about Truckers Against Trafficking, contact Kendis Paris, National Director of Truckers Against Trafficking (720) 202-1037 or: tat.truckers@gmail.com

http://caltrux.org/node/1169
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unregistered, the total number of
domestic workers could be as high as
100 million. In developing countries,
they make up at least 4 to 12% of wage
employment. Around 83% of these
workers are women or girls and many
are migrant workers.

Some of the largest flows of over-
seas migrant domestic workers in the
world originate in Asian countries
such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, the
Philippines and Sri Lanka. Some of
their major destinations are also in the
region, including Hong Kong (China),
Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Mi-
grant domestic workers face additional
challenges associated with working
in a different culture and language,
including racial, gender and class
discrimination, temporary worker
status and compromised legal protec-
tion. The ILO estimates that about 60
per cent of domestic workers in Asia
are excluded from national labor laws.
Almost 99% have no legal safeguards
against excessively long hours, 88%
are not entitled to a statutory mini-
mum wage. These gaps partly explain
why domestic workers are highly
vulnerable to poor working conditions,
abuse and violence.

Case studies among live-in domestic
workers in Cambodia, China, India,
Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand
have revealed excessively long work-
ing hours (11-18 hours daily, no weekly
rest day, on-call 24 hours). At the same
time they are among the lowest paid
workers. The 2010 Philippine Labor
Force Survey found one in five worked
11 hours or more per day, and 33%
worked 9-10 hours, for an average real
hourly wage of Php 10.80 (US $0.25).

Labor Rights for
Domestic Workers

A new UN Convention for Domestic
Workers was ratified by the Inter-
national Labor Organization (ILO)
in June 2011, stressing the domestic
worker’s human rights. While the new
Convention covers all domestic work-
ers, it provides special measures to
protect those workers who, because of
their young age or nationality or live-
in status, may be exposed to additional
risks relative to their peers.
By definition, a domestic worker per-
forms work in and for a household(s)
in an employment relationship. A per-
son who performs domestic work only
occasionally and not as an occupation
is not considered a domestic worker.
“History is being made.”

The Convention is an international
treaty that is binding on Member
States that ratify it. The new ILO stan-
dards set out that domestic workers
around the world who care for families
and households must have the same
basic labor rights as those available

to other workers: reasonable hours
of work, weekly rest of at least 24
consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind
payment, clear information on terms
and conditions of employment, as well
as respect for fundamental principles
and rights at work including freedom
of association and the right to col-
lective bargaining. According to ILO
proceedings, the new Convention will
come into force after two countries
have ratified it.

“This is a truly major achievement,”
said Manuela Tomei, Director of the
ILO’s Conditions of Work and Employ-
ment Program, adding that the new
standards make clear that “domestic
workers are neither servants nor
‘members of the family’, but workers.
And after today they can no longer
be considered second-class workers.”
(http://www.ilo.org/Search3/search.do?search
What=domestic+worker&locale=en_US)
Hyatt Hotels Train Staff on ‘Indicators of Human Trafficking’

In January 2012, Hyatt’s Vice President for Corporate Responsibility wrote to the women religious who had petitioned for Hyatt Hotels to be proactive in the fight against human trafficking.

An excerpt from that letter follows: “In addition to these steps, Hyatt is collaborating with Polaris Project on a global human trafficking training program for our hotels. This training is designed to provide both managers and line staff with an understanding of human trafficking, its intersection with the hotel industry and the tools to recognize and report potential situations or victims. An additional module is being created for our hotel security teams to ensure appropriate coordination with local law enforcement, if a potential trafficking situation is suspected. The training is organized as follows:

i. Overview of human trafficking (the issue, profiles of victims and traffickers);
ii. Indicators of human trafficking;
iii. Indicators specific to job functions most likely to encounter a potential trafficking situation (front of house, housekeeping/room service, bar/restaurant)

Write to comment on the efforts of Hyatt to fight human trafficking.

Contact: Brigitta Witt, Hyatt Vice Pres. for Corporate Responsibility
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Help Stop Child Labor

Ask Macy’s to sign the ‘Golden Rule for Responsible Gold’!

Go to: http://www.change.org/petitions/macy-sign-the-golden-rules-for-responsible-gold

From Peru to the Democratic Republic of Congo, gold mining is having devastating impacts on workers, communities, and the environment. Communities in Peru are fighting to protect their water supplies from gold mining pollution; families in the Democratic Republic of Congo live in fear that tomorrow may be the day their child could be pulled into the mines for work.

One gold ring produces over 20 tons of waste during production. Thus, gold mining threatens clean water, and the communities that depend on it. In addition, gold mining often occurs under terrible conditions, including the use of child labor and forced labor.

Macy’s, one of the largest gold retailers in the U.S., could help transform irresponsible gold mining by signing onto the ‘Golden Rules’ for clean gold. In fact, Macy’s is one of the largest jewelry retailers in the world that has not yet said ‘No!’ to dirty gold. Macy’s has a responsibility to their customers and communities to make sure the gold they are selling is clean and responsibly mined.

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

For more information or to register, call 914-631-8872 or email mheyser1@fordham.edu

The True Price of a Low Cost: Labor Trafficking and Consumerism’

On March 24, 2012 Fordham University in the Bronx, NY will host an educational day. Presenters are members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers from Florida, who struggle for justice for tomato pickers.

Panel presentations on Fair Trade/ Catholic Social Teaching; Sweatshops; Large Companies and the Supply Chains follow. Participants will interact in sectionals and create practical actions to address this issue.

The event costs $20.00 and is sponsored by: NY-CRC-STOP, LifeWay Network, and Fordham University.

For more information or to register, call 914-631-8872 or email mheyser1@fordham.edu