Stop Trafficking!

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter

March 2014 Vol. 12 No. 3
This issue uses Women’s History Month as an occasion to highlight women taking steps to curb human trafficking.
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior

Women: Victims and Change Agents

March – U.S. Women’s History Month
This year for U.S. Women’s History Month the U.S. adopted the theme ‘Inspiring Change’.

Women’s History Month provides an opportunity to celebrate women’s progress here and abroad, but it is also a time to rededicate ourselves to the goals of women’s equality and human rights still under siege.

March 8th was International Women’s Day around the world. The U.N. theme was ‘Equality for Women is Progress for All’. It reflects the fact that specifically supporting women in emerging countries to become self-sufficient through micro-loans, education and basic health care is the best way to address poverty, as opposed to massive amounts of top-down international aid to often corrupt and male chauvinist governments.

(U.S. Women’s History Month)

Women: Victims and Change Agents

National Women’s History Project

The NWHP, founded in 1980, is an educational nonprofit organization. Its mission is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs. The 2014 theme is ‘Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment’.

One of the 2014 NWHP Honorees is Jaida Im, Advocate for Survivors of Human Trafficking.

In 2010 Jaida Im founded Freedom House, the first residential shelter for adult female survivors of human trafficking in Northern California. Im left her 20-year career as a health care pharmacologist to found the non-profit organization. Under her direction, the program offers holistic case management, counseling, educational resources, and job training for victims of abduction and enslavement. In fall 2013, Freedom House opened The Nest to serve girls ages 12-17. This new shelter provides a space to help girls to recapture their interrupted youth in a loving family setting. (http://www.nwhp.org/)

U.N. 58th Commission on the Status of Women
Representatives of Member States, United Nation entities, and Economic and Social Council-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend these sessions, held from March 10 to 21, 2014. See more at: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014
Campaign Against Pornography Continues

Morality in Media has published its 2014 ‘Dirty Dozen’ List. Why such a list? Common sense, anecdotal evidence and scientific research all demonstrate that pornography is a harmful, mind-altering drug. Our nation is suffering a pandemic of harm from pornography. Consequences include:

• Children and adults developing life-long addictions to pornography;
• On average, American children are seeing hardcore pornography at age 11 and often acting out what they see in porn;
• Four out of five 16-year-olds now regularly access pornography online and many are developing life-long social/sexual problems as a result;
• Violence against women, rape and other sex crimes are directly tied to the consumption of pornography;
• 56% of divorces cite Internet pornography as a factor in the breakup;
• There is increased demand for child pornography because many adult-porn users find they are no longer excited by adult images and move to child images;
• Pornography is a major factor creating and driving demand for prostituted and trafficked women and children;
• More and more young men are suffering from sexual dysfunction as a result from repeated and prolonged porn use.

In addition to the many proven harms of pornography, it is a violation of federal law to distribute obscene (hardcore adult pornography) material on the Internet, cable/satellite TV, hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, through the U.S. Mail, and by common carrier. Additionally, most states prohibit the distribution of obscene pornography. Despite pornography’s destructive force and the illegality of most pornography in the US, its availability is increasing.

Victories from the 2013 ‘Dirty Dozen List’:

- The Department of Defense stopped the sale of pornography in the Army and Air Force exchanges and all branches removed explicit content from public and work spaces;
- Comcast improved their parental settings for cable;
- Facebook took steps to improve efforts to block child pornography on its site;
- Google Play instituted policies that prohibit allowing pornographic apps in their app store (these need enforcement though).

Morality in Media asks consumers and citizens to publicly recognize the 2014 ‘Dirty Dozen’ as responsible parties in the spread of pornography and exploitation. Take action to promote change.

Attorney General Eric Holder

Mr. Holder refuses to enforce existing federal obscenity laws against hardcore adult pornography, despite the fact that these laws have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court and effectively enforced by previous attorneys general.

Verizon pushes porn into our homes through multiple channels. Not only do they provide hardcore pay-per-view movies through Fios, but they are also in the distribution business through Verizon smart phones, tablets and as an Internet Service Provider. Verizon could filter and block such content. They provide few options for those who do not want this material.

Facebook The world’s most popular social networking site has become a top place to trade pornography, child pornography and for sexual exploitation. Facebook’s guidelines prohibit such behavior, but Facebook is doing little to enforce them.

Google Google’s empire thrives on porn. Porn is shoved at kids today through YouTube, Google Play, Google Images and Google Ads. We urge Google to continue to improve their efforts to protect children and all who wish to be porn-free.

Sex Week Many of our nation’s top schools are succumbing to student pressure to welcome “sex week”

‘Dirty Dozen’ cont. pg. 3
celebrations that include hardcore pornography, as well as pornographic displays for public consumption on campuses. Some schools have included lectures on sex by naked instructors and demonstrations encouraging students to engage in violent, torture sex. Yale University was the first to initiate Sex Week.

Hilton This hotel chain, like Hyatt, Starwood and many other top hotel chains, provides hardcore pornography movie choices; and its porn channels are often the first thing advertised when you turn on the TV.

Tumblr. One can hardly go on this popular social media blogging site without being bombarded with porn. Users must only be 13 and the filters do not work.

American Library Association For years, the ALA has worked to encourage public libraries to keep computers unfiltered and allow patrons, including children, access to pornography.

The PlayStation 4 is the most popular game console used today, with over 4.2 million sales in 2013. Children under 18 are their main users. PlayStation’s livestreaming abilities are filling thousands of homes with live porn and hundreds of pornographic and sexually violent games are in the PlayStation Store.

Cosmopolitan This staple of the supermarket checkout line may be as pornographic as Playboy Magazine, but without the pictures. This publication has steadily declined from an inspirational women’s magazine into a full-on pornographic “how-to” sex guide, encouraging women to accept the pornified culture around them.

What’s worse is that they specifically market their smut to teen girls.

Barnes&Noble This Fortune 500 company, operator of 689 retail bookstores and a very active website, is a major supplier of adult pornography and child erotica. They also regularly put pornography near the children’s sections in their stores and provide free, unfiltered porn publications on their Nook e-reader.

Fifty Shades of Grey The bestselling book and future movie are normalizing rape and sexual torture of women. Oprah Winfrey Network, Broadway and other mainstream outlets have promoted this abusive lifestyle.

There are many other retailers that need to hear from consumers concerned about sexualized clothing lines.

Two examples:
http://www.redbubble.com/shop/porn+t-shirts
http://www.spreadshirt.com/porn+t-shirts
The 4th Annual Norma Hotaling Anti-Trafficking Awardees

To commemorate Norma Hotaling’s death in 2008, the Global Centurion Foundation (GCF) pays tribute to Norma’s legacy by recognizing individuals continuing her work. GCF, founded by Laura Lederer, is a non-profit organization fighting trafficking by focusing on demand.

Survivor-Centered Service Provider Award: Kathleen Mitchell, Founder, DIGNITY House
Kathleen embodies the spirit of resilience and hope for which Norma Hotaling stood. Growing up in conditions of extreme abuse and neglect, Kathleen met a man who told her she would never again have to live like that. These promises quickly became a nightmare as he forced her into prostitution and kept her there through physical and emotional abuse, taking every penny she earned. She was sent to prison for prostitution and pimping, and while there started DIGNITY House (“Developing Individual Growth and New Independence Through Yourself”) in 1989. Her first act was to lobby for special programs for sex trafficking victims in jail. Upon her release she helped trafficked women regain a sense of their own dignity. Since its inception in a Durango jail, it has expanded to include a series of life-saving programs, including a residential program for victims; an intensive recovery program of counseling, addiction recovery, education, life-skills building and job placement; a self-exploration program in conjunction with the City of Phoenix Prosecutor’s Office; an outreach program; and public events to raise awareness and generate greater public support in a wider effort to end sex trafficking. An early pioneer, Kathleen Mitchell established networks that serve as a model for providing material, emotional, and spiritual aid to victims of sex trafficking. Her decades of work are an example of how suffering can be transformed to hope and help for others.

Josephine Butler Abolitionist Award for Law and Policy Development: James Dold, Former Senior Policy Counsel, Polaris Project
Both in his personal life and in his work, James has been a fierce anti-trafficking advocate. Over the course of the last three years, James led efforts to pass 40 laws across 18 states that provided prosecutors the tools they need to protect victims of sex and labor trafficking, more effectively target traffickers and “johns,” and help victims of human trafficking rebuild their lives. Whether using his legal skills to draft legislation, or advocating the creation of bi-partisan legislative task forces and coalitions to advance new anti-trafficking laws, or working with local NGOs to address specific state and local trafficking issues, James’ contributions have been substantive and lasting. They include laws that: criminalize labor and sex trafficking; provide mechanisms for seizing the assets of traffickers, pimps, and johns; establish state-wide anti-trafficking task forces; mandate posting of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline in places where victims may see them; enact legal reforms that enable prosecutors to more successfully punish wrongdoers; aid victims in suing their abusers; help survivors vacate or expunge criminal records; and protect trafficked or exploited children from being charged or prosecuted as criminals, diverting them instead into services they need and deserve. James is a champion of systemic change to punish perpetrators and protect victims.

Innovative Demand Reduction Award: Melissa Farley, Founder, Prostitution Research & Education
Melissa Farley Ph.D. has been a practicing clinical psychologist for 45 years. She has written 24 peer-reviewed articles on sex trafficking. In 2011, Dr. Farley co-authored the first study comparing sex buyers to non-
Amsterdam to Raise Legal Age for Women in Prostitution

Amsterdam plans to raise the minimum age for prostitutes from 18 to 21 and force brothels to close during early morning hours.

At a press conference, Amsterdam’s mayor said the moves came from a decision to crack down on crime in the city’s famed Red Light District and protect sex workers — mostly women — from abuse.

Amsterdam is home to about 8,000 professional sex workers. The city estimates half of them operate behind windows with red velvet curtains and red lights. The mayor said under the new regime, all windows would be closed from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. The city intends to introduce the new measures by July. “We think the situation is so grave that we have to act,” the mayor told reporters.

He said young prostitutes were particularly vulnerable because they were often groomed by pimps who force them into service when they turn 18. He said the city’s first priority was to keep women from being pushed into prostitution and the second priority was to help those who wish to exit the profession. Other measures he plans to introduce include forcing all brothel owners to submit a business plan.

Prostitution was legalized in the Netherlands in 2000. It has been tolerated in Amsterdam since the 1600’s, when the spice trade made it one of the world’s wealthiest port cities. But the city has been tightening its rules since 2006 and shuttered a third of its brothel windows from 2007 to 2009.

The Dutch tolerance of prostitution has always been a subject of debate, and after it was legalized, city officials realized that move had not served to reduce abuses. A proposed new national law would create a database of registered prostitutes, but it has never been passed by Parliament.

Dutch officials are now studying Sweden’s prostitution laws as a possible model. Swedish law criminalizes only those who visit prostitutes and does not punish the prostitutes themselves.

(http://bigstory.ap.org/article/amsterdam-raise-legal-age-prostitutes)

Speaking Up Against Pornography

In January 2014 Canadians, including the Congregation of Notre Dame Sisters and their CND Associates, sent letters to the mayor of Montreal to applaud his willingness to ‘crack down on erotic massage parlors.’ Citizens of other localities did the same in order to raise the awareness and ask support of Canadian city leaders to the growing problem of trafficking, the exploitation of women and the dangers of pornography, especially among the young.

In early February, letters were sent to the editors of newspapers that publish ads which degrade the dignity of women, such as pages where ‘certain types’ of classified ads describe “exotic, erotic experiences” or “beautiful, oriental, gorgeous girls”. Newspaper pages displaying the offensive ads were enclosed with the letter to show both the readership and the protest.

S. Pierrette Boissé, CND Social Justice
Books

Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy by Kevin Bales
Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales
Good News about Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World by Gary A. Haugen
Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade and How We Can Fight It by David Batstone
Slave Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara
Terrify No More: Young Girls Held Captive and the Daring Undercover Operation to Win Their Freedom by Gary A. Haugen & Gregg Hunter
The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek
The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine by Somaly Mam
Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World by Zach Hunter
A Crime So Monstrous, Face-to-Face with Modern Day Slavery by E. Benjamin Skinner

Films

Tricked

Modern-day slavery is alive and well in the United States as thousands of victims are trafficked throughout the country to satisfy America’s $3 billion a year sex trafficking industry. Meet the pimps, the johns, the police, the parents and the victims of the America’s thriving sex trade in ‘Tricked’, a comprehensive documentary that uncovers America’s dirty secret. It’s an industry that is fueled by greed, fantasy and the commercial sexual exploitation of American children and girls.

Embedded with the Denver Vice squad, ‘Tricked’ follows Sgt. Dan Steele and his colleagues in their dogged pursuit of traffickers and devotion to rescuing victims. In Las Vegas, ground zero for escort services, Las Vegas Police detectives work to hit traffickers where it hurts them most, by seizing their financial assets. In New York, Chicago and Las Vegas, brash and unrepentant johns reveal the how, why, when and where of what they call “a hobby.”

From Sgt. Steele to the survivors, ‘Tricked’ weaves together dramatic, disparate, inter-dependent characters and provides an unflinching view of the world of sex trafficking, the almost incomprehensible and disturbing bonds between the traffickers and victims and the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by law enforcement nationwide. ‘Tricked’ premiered on December 13, 2013 in New York City. (http://www.TrickedFilm.com/)

‘Tales from the Organ Trade’

The documentary explores the controversial practice of black-market organ trafficking: from the street-level brokers who solicit kidney donors, to the rogue surgeons who perform the operations; from the impoverished donors willing to sacrifice a part of their bodies for a quick payday, to the desperate patients who face the agonizing choice of obeying the law or saving their lives. With unprecedented access to all the players, this 83-minute documentary explores the legal, moral and ethical issues involved in this complex life-and-death drama. More than a simple black-and-white story of exploitation, ‘Tales from the Organ Trade’ is a nuanced and complex film that challenges moral and ethical beliefs. It delves into a world where “villains” often save lives and the medical establishment, helpless to its own rules and bureaucracy, too often watches people die. In the best scenario, victims walk away content and safe, and buyers of organs (the recipients) return home with a new lease on life. From Manila to Istanbul, Colorado to Kosovo, Toronto to Tel Aviv, this film spotlights a compelling cast whom fate has brought together, where the gift of life meets the shadow of death. (http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/tales-from-the-organ-trade/)

Women, War & Peace

This is a five-part documentary series, which aired on public television in 2011. The five-part series reveals that women have become primary targets in today’s armed conflicts and are suffering unprecedented casualties;

“Few films reveal the horror of sex trafficking in the United States with such stark details as ‘Tricked’. This film exposes the reality of how pimps prey upon, abuse and victimize vulnerable women and girls in America’s towns and cities. Audiences will be shocked and outraged to see how sex traffickers operate openly in our own communities. ‘Tricked’ sends a loud and clear message that our legal system must devote its resources to supporting the victims of sex trafficking and stopping the real criminals – the sellers and purchasers of women and girls.” Bradley Myles, CEO, Polaris Project
Films cont. from pg. 6
yet, they are simultaneously emerging as necessary partners in brokering lasting peace and as leaders in forging new international laws governing conflict.
The episodes are:
War Redefined: Challenging the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men’s domain.
The War We Are Living: Afro-Colombian women fight to protect their gold-rich land.
Peace Unveiled: Afghan women won’t let their rights be traded away in talks with the Taliban.
Pray the Devil Back to Hell: by Nobel prize winner Leymah Gbowee
I Came to Testify: How 16 Bosnian women changed the rules of war.
All five episodes are available online at: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/

Other Films:
Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
http://www.newvideo.com/docurama/half-the-sky-turning-oppression-into-opportunity-for-women-worldwide/
Very Young Girls
Born Into Brothels
http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/bornintobrothels/
What I’ve Been Through Is Not
Who I Am
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mnrRT1J0lQ
Not My Life
http://notmylife.org/
The Selling of Innocents
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O41xK3nUjDg
Not Today
http://nottodaythefilm.com/
Trade of Innocents
http://tradeofinnocents.com/
The Dark Side of Chocolate
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vfb6hNeng
Nefarious
http://nefariousdocumentary.com/
(From: http://www.enditmovement.com/)

Lectures & Conferences
March 15, 2014
“Singers” in the Band
A Screening and Symposium on Military Sex Trafficking
11:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Location: Fordham Law School
140 West 62nd St. New York, NY 10023
Sponsored by the International Institute on Peace Education and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
“Singers in the Band” is a powerful documentary by Academy Award winning producer-director David Goodman who will present key excerpts from the film, providing background on how and why the film was made. The screening will be followed by a panel of peace and human rights experts to open a general, participatory discussion on civil society responses to address and eradicate this egregious violation of the human rights of women. To register contact:
dominique.gnwp@gmail.com
Further directions and details will be sent prior to the event.
https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2059507294/singers-in-the-band-

“I, for one, strongly believe it’s high time that this aspect of U.S. militarism be exposed.” Abigail Disney, Executive Producer

Illinois - March 29, 2014
Human Trafficking: What Can I/We Do?
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM $30 with lunch - Advanced Registration Required
Location: Catholic Theological Union 5416 S. Cornell Ave. Chicago, IL 60615
Sponsored by the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking
Conference Goals:
•Explore the concept of human trafficking while raising awareness of this new slavery.
•Discover the extent of human trafficking in Illinois and to examine the issues related to the survivors.
•Assist people in realizing they may unknowingly contribute to the demand for human trafficking.
•Discover what I/we can do to make a difference.
Speakers: Introduction to Human Trafficking and Insights from Survivors of Labor and Commercial Sex Exploitation
Panel of First Responders representing: FBI, Social Worker, Cook County Sheriff, and Medical Response
Panel addressing: What Can You Do? Housing, Education, Tourism Trade, Truckers Against Trafficking
For more information, contact S. Jean Okroi IBVM at: ibvmjmo@aol.com

Ohio - April 5, 2014
Responses of Professionals to the Pandemic of Human Trafficking
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. $60;
Students: $15 (incl. lunch)
Register by March 31st at:
www.hmhousing.org or contact the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking at 440-356-2254 or collaborative_initiative@yahoo.com
Location: Case Western Reserve Univ. Robbins Building 2210 Circle Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106
Sponsored by the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking
An interdisciplinary symposium for practitioners and students in nursing, medicine, social work, law, business, and law enforcement
Keynote Speakers:
Timothy Mulvey, U.S. Dept. of State
Steven M. Dettelbach, U.S. Attorney
Northern District of Ohio
Rachel Lloyd, Founder/CEO Girls Educational & Mentoring Services
June 4-6, 2014 Course on Human Trafficking: Laws, Data, Discourses, and Practices

The Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown Univ. in Washington D.C. offers this three-day course with Prof. Elzbieta M. Godziak as the lead lecturer.

Course description
The subject of human trafficking, or the use of force, fraud or coercion to transport persons across international borders or within countries to exploit them for labor or sex, has received renewed attention within the last two decades. In the U.S. human trafficking became a focus of activities in the late 1990s and culminated in the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) signed into law on October 16, 2000.

In this course students will assess the different legal frameworks used to combat human trafficking around the world and compare the different discourses used to discuss the trafficking phenomena in North America and in Europe. Students will also explore the characteristics and special needs of victims (adult and child victims, girls and boys, women and men), their life experiences, and their trafficking trajectories; discuss the methods of traffickers and their networks; debate the effectiveness of governmental anti-trafficking policies and the efficacy of rescue and restore programs; and identify research gaps. The course places special emphasis on evidence-based research and strategies. An interdisciplinary team of legal and social science scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners teach this course, which is offered as part of a Certificate in International Migration Studies and can be taken as a free-standing course or in conjunction with other courses in the certificate.

To learn more about the Spring 2014 schedule for the Certificate in International Migration Studies, download: http://khpublisher.gu-scs.com/kb_file/One-Pager_2014CCPE%20IMS.pdf

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

National Women’s History Project
http://www.nwhp.org/whm/

Dirty Dozen
http://www.pornharms.com/dirtydozen

Global Centurion Foundation
http://www.globalcenturion.org

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1.888.373.7888
or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

2013 Social Impact Report
Walden University in Minneapolis, MN studies social change agents and their key motivations, interests and levels of involvement. These people are grouped as:
•The Ultracommitted Change-Maker
•The Faith-Inspired Giver
•The Socially Conscious Consumer
•The Purposeful Participant
•The Casual Contributor
•The Social Change Spectator

Take the quiz to find out what type of agent you are. Go to: http://www.waldenu.edu/about/social-change/impact-report-2013

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 past issues of Stop Trafficking! http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm

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

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