

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

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Action

January 2015 Vol. 13 No. 1

This issue highlights trends and provides handouts to use for January 'Anti Human Trafficking Awareness' month events.

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## Human Trafficking Awareness Month



### Faith Leaders Call for End to Human Slavery

For the first time in history both Sunni and Shia religious leaders joined with the Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist faiths to publicly work together to eliminate slavery. They signed a 'Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery' on Dec. 2, 2014, the World Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Organized by the multi-faith Global Freedom Network, the assembled leaders asserted, "It is critical for faith leaders to lead society in demanding an end to modern slavery once and for all."

The leaders of world religions said it was a "human and moral imperative" to wipe out human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution and organ trafficking. It also committed the signatories to do all they could to free the estimated 35 million people enslaved across the world.

*"Modern slavery ... fails to*

*respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity."*  
*"We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored."*

(<http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/>)  
(<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/pope-francis-joins-other-faith-leaders-to-demand-an-end-to-human-trafficking/2014/12/02/>)



Use the following pages to spread awareness and get others involved.



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## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter [www.stopenslavement.org/index.html](http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html)

### Human Trafficking: An Overview

Human trafficking is a \$150-billion growth industry. Conservative estimates of the number of people trafficked into forced labor and prostitution affect 21 million people — primarily women and children — annually.

In 2000, as a result of increasing public concern, the international community agreed on the definition of human trafficking, which comes under the United Nation's 'Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime' and its 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children'.

#### Definition:

Trafficking in persons is 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.'

**The essence of human trafficking is in its force, fraud and/or coercion of vulnerable people. Disproportionately, trafficking affects poor women, children, and members of disadvantaged minority groups.**

Trafficking does not exist in isolation. It is linked to economic, political and social forces that increase the vulnerability and desperation of the poor, refugees and migrants, women and children. Trafficking is one of the most horrific results of economic and social disparities that increase the vulnerability of millions of people. Such inequality allows many within our societies to be considered mere disposable commodities.



#### Root Causes

In order to effectively combat trafficking long-term, we must understand and respond to the factors that first create an environment for trafficking and which then sustain and expand that environment.

#### Economics

Trafficking has been described as the 'dark underbelly of globalization.'

It is an end result of rapid global economic, technological and social change. Such rapid change has created or exacerbated people's vulnerability, as well as expanded the opportunities for predators to exploit that vulnerability.

Economic factors driving the increase and expansion of human trafficking include not only poverty itself, but also:

- Lack of employment options, which may have existed in the past;
- Increased economic disparity;
- Rapid and severe economic decline in some countries.

Additionally, greater vulnerability has been created by:

**Elimination of social safety nets** — many countries have been mandated to restructure their economies and minimize social spending in order to qualify for multilateral loans and international economic support.

**Fluidity of capital** — recent advances in information systems have made the profits from criminal activity, such as trafficking, easier to transfer and launder rapidly across the globe.

**Race to the bottom on labor standards/cost of production** — increased international competition to produce consumer goods at the lowest cost possible can, and has, exacerbated abusive labor practices, the most severe, that of forced labor and slavery-like practices.

**Corruption** — state corruption is a serious concern in many societies and is closely tied to the spread of trafficking. Corruption of state representatives responsible for public order and social welfare can be exacerbated by economic decline.

**Economic migration** — As economies are increasingly integrated and investment and employment quickly move from one part of the globe to another, workers generally do not have the legal freedom of movement to go where employment exists. Even as wealthier nations with aging populations and declining fertility rates increasingly rely on migrant labor, prohibitive immigration laws have been created, which make the act of migrating both difficult and dangerous. In the absence of safe and legal options for migration, large numbers of migrants can be left with little choice but to place themselves at the mercy of migrant smugglers and in the worst cases, unknowingly in the hands of traffickers. (Excerpted from: [http://crs.org/public-policy/in\\_depth.cfm](http://crs.org/public-policy/in_depth.cfm))

### Go to the following websites to learn more:

- <http://www.ungift.org>
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/>
- <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/index.htm>
- <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/>
- <http://www.freetheslaves.net/>
- <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>



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### Children and the Internet: Hyperlinks Leading into Human Trafficking

#### 'Spear Phishing'

The hacker knew every move his victim made. He controlled her computer webcam and microphone. He could see her in her bedroom, hear her conversations, knew every keystroke she made online. Then he threatened to expose her secrets unless she bowed to his demands.

It may sound like the plot for a scary teen movie, but it actually happened. And there wasn't just one victim; there were more than 200 — dozens of them adolescent girls.

Unlike many computer intrusions, where a hacker uses malicious software to steal identities or financial information, this case was primarily about spying and extortion — more aptly termed 'sextortion.' The hacker, a 31-year-old CA man used malicious code to infect and control the computers of his victims. Then he searched for explicit pictures from their computers, downloaded them, and used these images to extort more pictures and videos from them. After the hacker infected one computer, he used a popular social networking site—and a technique called 'spear phishing'—to spread the virus.

*"What's frightening about this case was how easily the victims' computers were compromised,"* said a Los Angeles FBI agent. *"It was a social engineering attack, where victims had no idea what happened until it was too late. And this guy was no computer genius. Anybody could do what he did just by watching an online video and following directions."*

In several instances, the hacker posed online as a young woman's friend or sister and sent messages with attachments asking if the victim wanted to see a scary video. Because the messages appeared to be from a trusted source, the victims usually didn't think twice about opening the attachment. When they did, the virus secretly installed itself and the hacker had total control over their computers — including all files and folders, webcams, and microphones.

Using similar 'spear phishing' methods the hacker spread the virus through the social network like wildfire. In all, there were 230 victims and more than 100 computers impacted.

(Excerpted: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/story-index/crimes-against-children>)

#### 'FBI-SOS'

This cyber safety program is available through an up-to-date website, featuring 3rd-8th grade 'islands' that highlight various aspects of cyber security through age-appropriate games, videos, and other interactive features.

FBI-SOS provides virtually everything needed for teachers to teach good cyber citizenship:

- A free, ready-made curriculum that meets state and federal Internet safety mandates;
- Age-appropriate content for each of the six grade levels;
- A printable teacher's guide that explains how teachers can sign up their classes and use the site; and
- Detailed rules and instructions for students.

People of all ages can explore the website, play the games, watch the videos, and learn about cyber safety. However, the exam can only be taken by 3rd- to 8th-grade students, whose classes have been registered by their teachers.

Note: the FBI does not collect student names, ages, or other identifying information through the website. Students are identified only by number when taking the exams. Their teachers alone know which number matches which student. Teachers need only provide their name, school, and e-mail address when signing up. The e-mail address verifies the teacher's identity for registration purposes.

*"FBI-SOS is a fun, free, and effective way to teach kids how to use the Internet safely and responsibly. We encourage teachers to check out the site and sign up their classes during the school year."*

Scott McMillion, Head of the FBI-SOS Unit  
FBI's Criminal Investigative Division

Visit the site at: <https://sos.fbi.gov>



#### 'Parents' Guide to Internet Safety'

Go to: <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide>

#### Resources for Child Safety Online:

- <http://www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety>
- <http://www.netismartz.org/Parents>
- <http://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/>
- <http://www.netismartz.org/ChildrenAsVictims>





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### Human Trafficking of Minors Through Social Media

#### Texas Man Found Victims Through Social Media

Social media can be dangerous for young people. In 2014, a Houston man was sentenced to 40 years in prison on child sex trafficking charges after identifying and contacting young girls through social media platforms and then luring them into prostitution.

Back in 2012, 20-year-old Tevon Harris—aka “Da Kidd” or “King Kidd”—didn’t have a legitimate job. He lived on and off with his mother but mostly moved from one motel room to the next. He was very good at manipulating people. He trolled social media websites looking for vulnerable young girls he could sexually exploit. Online, he complimented them. He offered them modeling jobs. And he promised them lots of money.

Some agreed to meet with him, and he would go and pick them up. But what waited for them was not a glamorous modeling world, but a nightmarish world of motel rooms, forced sexual encounters—with Harris himself and then with paying customers—and other degrading and violent acts. Using photos he took or occasionally pilfered from the victims’ own social media pages, Harris advertised the girls’ services on various Internet websites.

Harris used violence and intimidation to keep the girls cooperative. He took their wallets and their cell phones, cutting off their communication with the outside world. In one instance, he deprived a victim of food for four days because he thought she wasn’t serving a client well enough. He also supplied her with marijuana and alcohol. Another victim was beaten with a towel rack torn from a motel room wall when Harris found her using a phone to call her mother for help. And he helped himself to all the money paid by customers.

Houston uniformed officers recovered one of Harris’ victims and subsequently notified the FBI’s *Child Exploitation Task Force*. The task force collected enough evidence to convince Harris to plead guilty. There was also enough evidence to prompt the judge to order that—after serving his 40-year sentence—Harris spend the rest of his life on supervised release. He’s also required to register as a sex offender. (<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/october/sex-trafficker-receives-40-year-sentence/sex-trafficker-receives-40-year-sentence>)

#### Be Prudent When Posting Images Online

You may unwittingly be letting others know where you live and work and your travel patterns and habits. These details can be revealed through bits of information embedded in images taken with smartphones and some digital cameras and then shared on public websites. The information, called metadata, often includes the times, dates, and geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) where images are taken. While the geospatial data can be helpful to plot image locations, it also opens the door for criminals, including burglars, stalkers, and predators.

Mobile phone users should check the settings on their phones (and any applicable mobile applications) to see if they are sharing location information. “It’s just a best-practice if you don’t want to give out your location. We simply want to make sure people know this is happening.” said an FBI agent. In many cases, the default setting is to share location information. ([http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/december/cyber\\_122211](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/december/cyber_122211))

#### Tips on How to Stay Safe Online:

- Only “friend” and connect to people online that you know personally.
- Set your social media security settings so that only confirmed friends and connections can see what you post.
- Never post a picture of yourself or write anything on social media sites—or in e-mails and text messages—that you wouldn’t want the world to see.
- Be wary of giving anyone you meet through social media your phone number, e-mail address, or home address. Use common sense.
- And most importantly, be aware that those you meet online may not be who they say they are.



#### Beware of ‘Sextortion’

At the beginning of summer break, a 15-year-old FL girl logged onto her computer and received a startling instant message. The sender, whom she didn’t know, said he had seen her photo online and that he wanted her to send him pictures—of her in the shower. When the girl didn’t comply, the sender showed he knew where she lived and threatened to hurt the girl’s sister if she didn’t agree to his demands.

Worried and hoping to avoid alarming her parents, the girl sent 10 black-and-white images. When her harasser said they weren’t good enough, she sent 10 more, nude and in color. Then he wanted more.

#### How Kids Can Help Prevent ‘Sextortion’

- Don’t take for granted that your computer’s anti-virus software is a guarantee against intrusions.
- Turn off your computer when you aren’t using it.
- Cover your webcam when not in use.
- Don’t open attachments without independently verifying that they were sent from someone you know.
- Be suspicious. If you receive a message with an attachment from your mother at 3 a.m., maybe the message is not really from your mother.
- If your computer has been compromised and you are receiving extortion threats, don’t be afraid to talk to your parents or to call law enforcement. ([http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/february/sextortion\\_021012/sextortion\\_021012](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/february/sextortion_021012/sextortion_021012))



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## Myths about Prostitution

Since prostituted women are often victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, it is important to understand the fallacies behind these myths. The European Women's Lobby has a pamphlet in which they refute the usual myths that are put forward as reasons prostitution will always be with us. Listed below are a few of the myths and facts.

For the complete document, go to: <http://www.womenlobby.org/news/ewl-news/article/18-myths-on-prostitution>

### Prostitution is the oldest profession

Let us change the perspective: pimping could indeed be considered the oldest profession in the world. In any case, just because something has existed for a long time does not mean that it should or cannot be changed. We do not say "murder has been around forever: we cannot do anything about it."

### "It is a job like any other."

Do you know any other job where people face a mortality rate 10 to 40 times above the average? Where 60 to 80% of "workers" experience regular physical and sexual abuse? If this is a job like any other, how come the overwhelming majority in it are migrant women? Does this mean that this so called "job" is only for the foreign women in your country? For the sake of gender equality, should we campaign to promote this job for men?

### "Prostitution is a choice"

Extensive research indicates that poverty, family loss, homelessness, drug addiction and a history of physical and sexual abuse combine to make young women vulnerable to entering prostitution. Moreover, the majority of women who enter prostitution first do so very young. It is not a valid choice.

### "Prostitution brings a lot of money"

To whom? According to Interpol in Europe, a pimp earns US \$122,250 per year per woman in prostitution. If it were such a good job, how come the majority of women in prostitution do not own a car, an apartment, or save money for the future? Moreover, debating on the amount of money earned is a dishonest strategy: whatever the amount, prostitution is about someone buying access to your body and sexuality. Human beings are priceless.

**"Only "sex workers" should talk about prostitution, because they know best."**

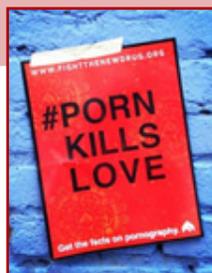
Should only women who have been victims of domestic violence be entitled to denounce intimate partner violence? Domestic violence is recognized as a structural form of violence against women, that affects us all, women and men, because it is about societal values. Prostitution also affects us all: it conveys norms and representations to young people; it is trivialized and even glamorized by the media and the culture industry. No wonder the insult 'whore' is so widespread! Millions of invisible persons are still in prostitution. It is time to listen to them.

### "Prostitution is useful, esp. for socially isolated and lonely men."

Sex buyers do not fit this stereotype. International research shows that the majority of sex buyers are men married or in a relationship, and are more likely to have a larger number of sexual partners than the rest of the male population. By justifying prostitution as a social institution, one would imply that some women are to be sacrificed for the "needs" of these men.

### "Demand will never disappear."

What a sad vision of men. According to this assumption, men are driven by their so-called sexual "irrepressible needs", not by their brain. It is all the more surprising to believe, as the majority of men are not sex buyers. Demand is justified by a certain vision of masculinity, related to virility or strength, all stereotypes about men conveyed in our unequal societies. Demand can be reduced by education, prevention and legislation. It is as simple as that. People who do not want to change society use fatalism.



### "Abolishing prostitution would lead to more rapes."

Actually, it is the other way round: studies have shown that men buy sex simply because it is possible. The normalization of prostitution fosters acts of violence against women, by sending the social signal that women are commodities. Nevada, where pimping has been decriminalized, sees the highest rate of rape compared to the other U.S. states. In a study on men, 54% of prostitute-users exhibited aggressive sexual behavior towards their partner(s).

### "We must combat trafficking. Prostitution has nothing to do with it."

Such claims contradict reality. If prostitution has nothing to do with sex trafficking, what exactly are women trafficked for? According to EU data, 62% of trafficking in the EU is for sexual exploitation. Trafficking is profit-driven and has a direct link with prostitution markets, where the demand fuels the supply. It is estimated that benefits from trafficking for sexual exploitation amount to US\$ 27.8 billion. Where does this money come from? From the buyers. This is why prostitution and trafficking are intrinsically linked.

## What Can You Do?

Check the following websites and spread the word on how PORN harms:

- 'Fight The New Drug' educates youth about the harmful effects of pornography. <http://www.fightthenewdrug.org/>
- 'Stop Porn Culture' activists and academics fighting the pornification of our society from a feminist perspective. <http://stoppornculture.org/>
- 'Porn Harms' is part of 'Morality In Media', which opposes pornography and indecency through public education and the application of the law. It runs several important campaigns. <http://pornharmsaction.com/>



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### Shopping & Slavery



“As Americans become increasingly concerned about the state of the world and look for opportunities to use their power in the marketplace to make a positive difference, Fair Trade USA (FT) seeks to provide an avenue for consumers to vote with their dollar. As FT educates and inspires more and more consumers, it hopes to be a force for change.

“FT believes the rise of the **Conscious Consumer** will cause a fundamental shift in the way companies do business and create a historic opportunity to reward companies that embrace sustainability.”

#### What is Fair Trade?

**Quality Products. Improving Lives. Protecting the Planet.**

“Fair Trade is a system of exchange that honors producers, communities, consumers, and the environment. It is a model for the global economy rooted in people-to-people connections, justice, and sustainability.

“Consumer purchases are a way to express concern about the plight of those who produce the products and foods we purchase, use and consume. Buying Fair Trade Products is a very concrete way to express solidarity with these people, who enrich us.”

“FT seeks to empower family farmers and workers around the world, while enriching the lives of those struggling in poverty. Rather than creating dependency on aid, it uses a market-based approach that empowers farmers to get a fair price for their harvest, helps workers create safe working conditions, provides a decent living wage and guarantees the right to organize. Through direct, equitable trade, farming and working families are able to eat better, keep their kids in school, improve health and housing, and invest in the future.

“FT aims to channel more of the opportunities and benefits of globalization to the underprivileged farming and working families who are often left behind.”



#### Fair Trade USA Values

**Empowerment:** We believe in empowerment and freedom of choice as means to a better world.

**Integrity:** We strive to always act ethically and value relationships built on honesty, mutual respect and trust.

**Sustainability:** We engage in sustainable solutions to global problems that affect the earth and its people.

**Innovation:** We transform the world through entrepreneurial creativity and lead by example.

**Excellence:** We believe that quality of life, work, and performance are critical to achieve our mission.

**Personal Development:** Strong organizations rely on strong individuals. We encourage and support each other to realize our fullest potential, and will thereby strengthen our internal community.

**Community:** We value our global and internal communities’ diversity of perspectives. We know each may hold a piece of the solution. We collaborate for mutual success.

**Fairness:** We work to create opportunities and extend the benefits of globalization to all people, everywhere.

**Impact:** We build positive solutions that achieve meaningful social and environmental change in the world.

“Protecting the environment goes hand-in-hand with protecting the future livelihoods of local communities. The Fair Trade model requires rigorous protection of local ecosystems and ensures that farmers receive a harvest price, which will allow them to practice sustainable agriculture. We encourage farmers to transition to organic agriculture because it is safer for farm workers, healthier for consumers and better for the environment. Ultimately, we help farming families become the best stewards of their land.”

Visit these websites to learn more about consumer responsibility:

- <http://www.fairtradeusa.org/>
- <http://www.fairtradefederation.org/>
- <http://www.goodguide.com/>
- <http://www.free2work.org/>

Fair Trade helps prevent the need of vulnerable people to emigrate from their homeland and thereby also prevents the risks of falling into labor trafficking.



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### Thank You!

Stop Trafficking wishes to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the *Salvatorian Sisters Anti Human Trafficking Project* during 2014:

*'Stop Trafficking' Co-Sponsors* listed on page 1

- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Geraldine and Jim Frank
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross
- S. Mary Sevilla CSJ
- Gloria & Ambrose Esser
- Mary Phil & Paul Gledhill

### February 8th: International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869 and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she was later brought to freedom through the help of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. Through their guidance, she learned about God and served him faithfully until her death in 1947.



In October 2000 Pope John Paul II canonized Bakhita, noting, *"in St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women*

*from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights."*

On the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, remember the millions of people, who have been victims of modern day slavery. Like St. Josephine Bakhita, may we stand firm in our resolve to create a slavery-free world. <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/upload/M7-266-Josephine-Bakhita-Prayer-Card.pdf>

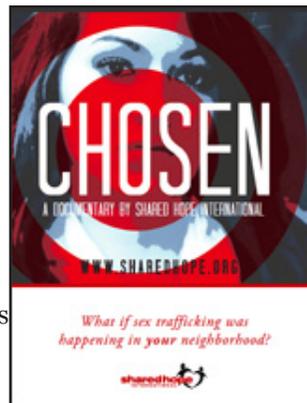
### 'Chosen' – The True Story of America's Trafficked Teens

*"It's impossible to protect all girls from guys like I was, because that's what we do. We eat, drink, and sleep, thinking of ways to trick young girls into doing what we want them to do."* Ex-Pimp

As traffickers narrow their target to lure younger and younger victims, America's youth find themselves engaged in a battle they never prepared for.

'Chosen' exposes the shocking true stories of two "All-American" teenage girls tricked into trafficking. Eighteen-

year-old Brianna was an honor-roll student, cheerleader and worked at a local café. Thirteen-year-old Lacy was an active member of her youth group, and a volunteer in her community. Both were manipulated. Both were exploited. Both were CHOSEN!



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

**Global Freedom Network**  
<http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/declaration/>

#### Anti Human Trafficking Resources

<http://aheartforjustice.com/organizations/>  
<http://aheartforjustice.com/books/>  
<http://aheartforjustice.com/films/>

'Chosen' is a sex trafficking prevention video and resource package for parents and youth. It reveals the warning signs and sometimes fatal consequences of sex trafficking, so as to equip teens to protect themselves and others from being trapped in the horrific and violent sex industry.

#### Disc One:

- Discussion questions specifically for men, women, and youth
- PowerPoint presentations to use before showing the film to introduce the issue of trafficking and the film and after the film to encourage discussion and comprehension
- Trafficking terminology guide to help viewers understand the language used by traffickers
- Suggested resources for additional learning and action opportunities
- Leader's guide to assist leaders with presentation preparation including helpful tips and suggestions
- Action ideas to help viewers turn their knowledge into action

#### Disc Two:

- 'Chosen' Trailer
- 'Chosen' Feature Film

Purchase the two discs (\$49.00) at:  
<http://sharedhope.org/chosen/>

**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!*

[www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm](http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm)

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: [jeansds@stopenslavement.org](mailto:jeansds@stopenslavement.org)  
Editing and Layout: *Jean Schaffer, SDS*