Stop Trafficking!

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter

December 2015 Vol. 13 No. 12
This issue highlights basic information about human trafficking that can be used to educate others during January’s National Anti Human Trafficking Month.

Sponsored by the: Sisters of the Divine Savior

Human Trafficking Facts

• Estimates consistently place the number of trafficking victims in the millions worldwide.
• Those most vulnerable to trafficking include women and children, poor and socially marginalized people, economic migrants, refugees, and victims of domestic violence and other abuse. Victims are disproportionately women.
• The two most reported types of slavery are sexual exploitation and forced labor. Traffickers buy, sell and otherwise exploit people. Human trafficking extends beyond prostitution. It also includes adults forced to work long hours under appalling conditions without pay, or children forced to beg on the streets or work in agriculture instead of attending school.

Victims Suffer:

Force: Physical assault (beating, burning, slapping, hitting, assault with a weapon, etc.); sexual assault/rape; physical confinement; isolation (physical and mental/emotional)

Fraud: False employment offers; lies, false promises about working conditions; withheld wages

Coercion: Threats to life, safety, to family members or others; threats involving immigration status or arrest; debt bondage (escalating or never-ending debt); withheld legal documents; living in a climate of fear. (http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_guides_human-trafficking-victim-advocates.pdf)

What Can Be Done to Assist Human Trafficking Victims?

States have enacted many specific laws to protect victims/survivors of human trafficking and prosecute their traffickers. Many agencies have formed coalitions that advocate on behalf of survivors and provide them services to bring them into safety and self-reliance.

As citizens become aware of the signs of victimization they can report these to local law enforcement or the national hotline (1-888-373-7888).

What Can I Do to Make a Difference?

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about modern day slavery at the global, national and local levels.

Use the following pages as handouts to share with others, urging them to also get involved in the fight against human trafficking.
**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 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.'

**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 disparity 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. (http://www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/slavery-and-human-trafficking)

**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.**

**Definition:**

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.

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.freetheslaves.net/  
- http://slaveryfootprint.org/
Shopping & Slavery

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Stop Trafficking! Newsletter www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

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.

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/

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 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.

The FT model requires rigorous protection of local ecosystems and ensures that farmers receive a harvest price, which will allow them to practice sustainable agriculture. FT encourages farmers to transition to organic agriculture because it is safer for farm workers, healthier for consumers and better for the environment. Ultimately, FT helps farming families become the best stewards of their land.

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.

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.

Visit these websites to learn more about consumer responsibility:
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http://www.fairtradefederation.org/
http://www.goodguide.com/
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Oldest Profession or Oppression?

What Doesn’t Work

Legalization and/or regulation of prostitution, such as in Germany, the Netherlands and Victoria Australia, led to:
• A dramatic increase in all facets of the sex industry,
• A dramatic increase in the involvement of organized crime in the sex industry,
• A dramatic increase in child prostitution,
• An explosion in the number of foreign women and girls trafficked into the region,
• Indications of an increase in violence against women.

What Works

In a century’s deep sea of clichés despairing that ‘prostitution will always be with us’, one country’s success stands out as a solitary beacon fighting the way. In just five years Sweden has dramatically reduced the number of its women in prostitution. In the capital city of Stockholm the number of women in street prostitution has been reduced by two thirds, and the number of johns has been reduced by 80%. There are other major Swedish cities where street prostitution has all but disappeared. Gone too, for the most part, are the renowned Swedish brothels and massage parlors which proliferated during the last three decades of the twentieth century when prostitution in Sweden was legal.

In addition, the number of foreign women now being trafficked into Sweden for sex is nil. The Swedish government estimates that in the last few years only 200 to 400 women and girls have been annually sex trafficked into Sweden, a figure that’s negligible compared to the 15,000 to 17,000 females yearly sex trafficked into neighboring Finland. No other country, nor any other social experiment, has come anywhere near Sweden’s promising results.

Today, not only do the Swedish people continue to overwhelmingly support their country’s approach to prostitution (80% of people in favor according to national opinion polls), but the country’s police and prosecutors have also come around to be among the legislation’s staunchest supporters. Sweden’s law enforcement has found that the prostitution legislation benefits them in dealing with all sex crimes, particularly in enabling them to virtually wipe out the organized crime element that plagues other countries where prostitution has been legalized or regulated.

“In Sweden prostitution is regarded as an aspect of male violence against women and children. It is officially acknowledged as a form of exploitation of women and children and constitutes a significant social problem... gender equality will remain unattainable so long as men buy, sell and exploit women and children by prostituting them.”

Misguided Support for Women Being Prostituted

In August 2015, Amnesty International voted to support pimps and sex buyers rather than people in prostitution – 90% of whom are not “voluntary sex workers” but people who ended up in prostitution as a last-ditch survival alternative and who urgently want to escape it.

The press have quoted factual errors and Amnesty leaders have lied or misspoken. Two-hundred and twenty scholars and researchers from Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, and Venezuela rejected Amnesty International’s policy of decriminalized pimping, sex-buying, and brothel keeping. Instead, based on what is known about prostitution, they support the Nordic model law on prostitution that was enacted in Sweden in 1999. That law criminalizes ONLY the prostituted, providing them with exit services and support. The Nordic law criminalizes sex buyers and pimps.

For the press release, petition and list of signers, go to:  www.prostitutionresearch.org

You can support many groups who advocate for prostituted women: abolitionist groups led by survivors of prostitution; groups offering services with an abolitionist perspective on prostitution; groups advocating abolitionist policy and research. Most prostituted women say the help they need includes EXIT SERVICES and ABOLITIONIST POLICIES.

For a complete listing of these groups and their weblinks, see: www.prostitutionresearch.org

IMPUNITY INTERNATIONAL
for PIMPS & SEX BUYERS

NO AMNESTY for WOMEN
The Sex Trafficking of Our American Youth

Why Are Kids Vulnerable?
Age is the primary factor of vulnerability. Pre-teen or adolescent girls are more susceptible to the calculated advances, deception, and manipulation tactics used by traffickers/pimps – no youth is exempt from falling prey to these tactics.

Runaway or homeless youth as well as those with a history of physical and sexual abuse may have an increased risk of being trafficked. (sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/)

‘Seduced: The Grooming of America’s Teenagers’

Apps, social media and online gaming allow ACCESS, GROOMING, RECRUITMENT and EXPLOITATION of our young people by total strangers. ‘Seduced’ is not just an Internet Safety program guide. It is a parent and grandparent empowerment tool to understand what happens when a child is handed a smart phone.

“Internet Crimes Against Children says that at any given time there are more than one million predators online. These predators may be seeking to lure your child. I highly recommend this book to enlighten you about how they access, groom, recruit and exploit kids!

Opal Singleton is a dedicated advocate in the fight to end child sex trafficking both domestically and abroad. With her vast knowledge of the subject, she has trained and educated thousands in this fight.” Susan Figueroa, April 2015

The ‘Boyfriend’
Many pimps often use a “lover-boy” technique to recruit girls from middle and high schools. A lover-boy will present himself as a boyfriend and woo the girl with gifts, promises of fulfilled dreams, protection, adventure – whatever she perceives she is lacking. After securing her love and loyalty, he will force her into prostitution.

A pimp is another name for a trafficker. A trafficker/pimp is any person who (using force, fraud or coercion) causes an adult or any minor to engage in commercial sex in order to profit from the exploitation of that individual.

Traffickers target locations youth frequent such as social media sites, schools, malls, parks, bus stops, shelters and group homes. Traffickers use social media sites to recruit teenagers. (sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/)

You may order ‘Seduced’ at: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00VGUGUZW/

To view a cyber safety program featuring 3rd-8th grade ‘islands’ that highlight various aspects of cyber security through age-appropriate games, videos, and other interactive features go to: https://sos.fbi.gov

Shared Hope International: Take Action against Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Write a letter to your local media editor or congressional representative to inform them about domestic minor trafficking. Let them know that victims of child sex trafficking exist in every state, even your own. Ask your legislators to commit to providing safe shelters for victims, and increased penalties for buyers and traffickers. The more phone calls, letters, and emails your legislator receives, the more action will occur.

Host or attend an awareness event in your community! How? Host an awareness event, sports competition, fundraiser, candlelight vigil, march, movie screening, dinner, walk, run, yoga or Zumba class with free materials and information provided by Shared Hope International. (http://www.sharedhope.org)

Fight for justice online! Use social media and blogs to spread the word to your online community of friends, family and neighbors. Participate and invite your friends to Shared Hope’s Facebook or Twitter accounts. Spread awareness by sharing videos, blogs, articles, pictures and other information via social media. Join the conversation on YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter or Facebook.

Become an Ambassador of Hope or Defender! Ambassadors of Hope go through an online or in-person training to become equipped to speak on behalf of Shared Hope International. Defenders are men who take a pledge and take action to fight against domestic minor sex trafficking and the commercial sex industry.
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Little Understood Forms of Human Trafficking

The Plight of Zubaida

Zubaida was brought here from overseas as part of an arranged marriage to an American man. She thought her life in the U.S. would be wonderful. It wasn’t.

Her in-laws, who lived with her and her new husband, beat and taunted her — particularly after each of her three miscarriages. And after her third miscarriage, Zubaida’s mother-in-law knocked her to the ground, where she lay bleeding. Zubaida’s husband finally took her to the hospital for medical attention, but immediately upon her discharge, he announced that she was no longer his wife. He took her to the airport and left her there.

Zubaida was barely strong enough to stand. She spoke very limited English. She did not have a penny with her. She stayed at the airport until her only relative in the U.S. learned where she was and rescued her.

-Unchained At Last helped Zubaida rebuild her life. The organization matched her with a volunteer psychotherapist, offered assistance to help her become financially independent — and found Zubaida a team of attorneys who represented her pro bono through her divorce proceeding and got her the financial settlement she deserved. (http://www.unchainedatlast.org/about-arranged-forced-marriage/zubaidas-story/)

Forced Marriage

A 2011 national survey found 3,000 cases of forced marriage in just a 2-year period. Thousands of women and girls in the U.S., and also men and boys, may be at risk each year. It’s happening in families of many different cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Victims may be forced into marriages here in the U.S. at a local courthouse or may be taken (tricked or forced) to another country for the ceremony. These young people face severe and lifelong consequences — including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse, medical and mental health problems, loss of education, and a loss of freedom to choose and make their own futures.

Professionals to whom victims reach out for help — including teachers, counselors, social workers, domestic violence advocates, police and child protection officers — may not believe what they’re told or appreciate the seriousness of the situation. They may not understand the problem or know how to help or feel they shouldn’t get involved in a “family” or “cultural” matter. Professionals may also face roadblocks or dead-ends as they try to help victims. Only 16% of national survey respondents felt their agencies were equipped to help individuals facing forced marriages.

Call on President Obama to create a national action plan to protect all individuals at risk and to support survivors of forced and child marriage. https://www.change.org/p/president-of-the-united-states-end-forced-marriage-in-the-united-states

Human Organ Trafficking

Organ trafficking and illicit transplant surgeries have infiltrated global medical practice. But despite the evidence of widespread criminal networks and several limited prosecutions in countries including India, Kosovo, Turkey, Israel, South Africa and the U.S., it is still not treated with the seriousness it demands.

Since the first report into the matter in 1990, there has been an alarming number of post-operative deaths of “transplant tour” recipients from botched surgeries, mismatched organs and high rates of fatal infections, including HIV and Hepatitis C contracted from sellers’ organs.

Living kidney sellers suffer from post-operative infections, weakness, depression, and some die from suicide, wasting, and kidney failure. Organs Watch documented five deaths among 38 kidney sellers recruited from small villages in Moldova alone.

Distressing stories lurk in the murky background of today’s business of commercialized organ transplantation, conducted in a competitive global field that involves some 50 nations. The World Health Organization estimates 10,000 black market operations happen each year. (http://theconversation.com/organ-trafficking-a-protected-crime-16178)

Prices of Organ Trafficking:
Average paid by kidney buyer $150,000
Average paid to seller of kidney $5,000
Kidney broker in the Philippines $1,500
Kidney broker in Yemen $60,000
Kidney traffickers in Turkey $10,000 profit
Kidney Transplant Operation, China $15,200
Kidney Transplant Operation, Europe $32,000
(For references, see: http://www.havocscope.com/black-market-prices/organs-kidneys/)
20 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking

After first learning about human trafficking, many people want to help in some way but do not know how.

Here are just a few ideas for your consideration.

1. **Learn the red flags** (http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm) that may indicate human trafficking so you can help identify a potential trafficking victim. Human trafficking awareness training is available for individuals, businesses, first responders, law enforcement, and federal employees. (http://www.state.gov/j/tip/training/index.htm)

2. In the U.S. **call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center** at 1-888-373-7888 (24/7) to get help and connect with a service provider in your area, report a tip with information on potential human trafficking activity; or learn more by requesting training, technical assistance, or resources. (https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/report-trafficking)

   Call federal law enforcement directly to report suspicious activity and get help from the Department of Homeland Security (https://www.ice.gov/webform/hsi-tip-form) at 1-866-347-2423 (24/7), or submit a tip online at www.ice.gov/tips, or from the U.S. Department of Justice at 1-888-428-7581 from 9:00am to 5:00pm (EST). Victims, including undocumented individuals, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.

3. **Be a conscientious consumer.** Discover your Slavery Footprint (http://www.slaveryfootprint.org), and check out the Department of Labor’s List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor. (http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/)

   Encourage companies, including your own, to take steps to investigate and eliminate slavery and human trafficking in their supply chains and to publish the information for consumer awareness.

4. **Incorporate human trafficking information** into your professional associations’ conferences, trainings, manuals, and other materials as relevant (See example: http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/).


6. **Meet with** and/or **write** local, state, and federal government representatives to tell them you care about combating human trafficking in your community, and ask what they are doing to address human trafficking in your area.


8. **Volunteer** to do victim outreach or offer your professional services to a local anti-trafficking organization.

9. **Donate funds or needed items** to an anti-trafficking organization in your area.

10. **Organize** a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to an anti-trafficking organization.

11. **Host** an awareness event to watch and discuss a recent human trafficking documentary. On a larger scale, host a human trafficking film festival.

12. **Encourage your local schools** to partner with students and include the issue of modern day slavery in their curriculum (http://www.fdfi.org/). As a parent, educator, or school administrator, be aware of how traffickers target school-aged children (http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.pdf).


14. **Write a letter to the editor** of your local paper about human trafficking in your community.

15. **Start or sign a human trafficking petition.** (https://www.change.org/petitions)

16. **Businesses:** Provide internships, job skills training, and/or jobs to trafficking survivors. Consumers: Purchase items made by trafficking survivors such as from Blingzy Jewelry Travel Rolls (http://blingzy.com), Jewel Girls (http://fairgirls.org/shop) or Made by Survivors (http://www.madebysurvivors.com/).

17. **Students:** Take action on your campus. (http://www.againstourwill.org/) Join or establish a university or secondary school club to raise awareness about human trafficking and initiate action throughout your local community. Consider doing one of your research papers on a topic concerning human trafficking. Professors: Request that human trafficking be an issue included in university curriculum. Increase scholarship about human trafficking by publishing an article, teaching a class, or hosting a symposium.

18. **Law Enforcement Officials:** Join or start a local human trafficking task force.

19. **Mental Health/Medical Providers:** Extend low-cost/free services to human trafficking victims helped by anti-trafficking organizations. Train your staff on how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims.

**THANK YOU!**

We wish to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the Salvatorian Sisters Anti Human Trafficking Project during 2015:

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**‘Two Little Girls’**

‘Two Little Girls’ (TLG) is a three minute animated film spearheading an anti sex-trafficking campaign in Eastern Europe, begun in January 2009 through 2015. The film follows the stories of two young women who are cruelly deceived by people they know and trust, and then trafficked against their will into prostitution. The aim of the campaign is to warn young women in Eastern Europe and other regions of the dangers of being persuaded to travel abroad with false promises of employment, only to find themselves sold into prostitution, enduring years of untold cruelty.

‘Two Little Girls’ can be seen on YouTube in 20 languages. Over 6,000 education specialists, teachers, NGO and government representatives, peer educators, and health professionals have so far been trained to use the TLG film and materials in their work.

The campaign reached countries outside of Eastern Europe including Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The number of young people reached through TLG workshops and events is estimated at more than 26,000. Through the wider dissemination of the campaign materials via partner NGOs, it is estimated that a further 190,000 young people will view and engage with the TLG film.

The film was screened by national and local TV stations in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Lithuania, Serbia and Ukraine reaching an audience of more than 12 million people. In all countries where the Two Little Girls campaign is active the project was received with gratitude and collaboration by many local organizations, including government ministers, educators and the media.

(http://www.twolittlegirls.org/)

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**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

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org

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