



Trafficking Watch

International Rescue Committee

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DOMESTIC SERVITUDE:

A GLOBAL TREND

In over 22 centers throughout Sri Lanka, women are attending courses designed to prepare them for work in Middle Eastern countries in the domestic service sector. Sponsored by the Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment, the 12-day sessions cover a broad array of topics ranging from desirable cleaning techniques to how to avoid being beaten by their employers. While visiting one such course in the town of Kegalla, New York Times Reporter Amy Waldman heard a teacher instruct a group of would-be housekeepers that they would likely be beaten if they did not clean correctly, and that the greatest skill they could develop is "tolerance".

Whether or not the women in the class realized it at the time, the level of abuse they may have to "tolerate" upon arrival to their destination country is potentially extreme. While an estimated 100,000 Sri Lankan women take similar jobs each year in surrounding countries, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, reports abound of exploitative working conditions including non-payment of wages and significant

physical injury. As Waldman writes,

"Hundreds of housemaids have become pregnant, often after rapes, producing children who, until Sri Lanka's constitution was recently amended, were stateless because their fathers were foreigners. More than 100 women come home dead each year, with most deaths labeled 'natural' by the host governments, although Sri Lankan officials concede they are powerless to investigate."

If women find themselves in an exploitative working situation, options for escape are limited. Those who are able to run away from their employers often lack sufficient financial or legal means of assistance, and do not always receive help from the Sri Lankan embassies. In one particularly dramatic case, 529 escaped maids had been held up at the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait for several months because they lacked the financial means to return home. Once their situation became known, the maids were finally airlifted back to Sri Lanka.



While stories such as this one no doubt spread throughout Sri Lankan communities, Waldman notes the presence of what she calls "a natural pact", in which many returning workers do not speak of their abuses, and those about to travel overseas for work do not ask the returning women about what they have endured. In part, this arrangement

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represents both the shame felt by women who have been victimized as well as the degree to which departing women are willing to attempt to make a better life for their families, regardless of the cost. In Kegalla, for example, poverty rates are high and jobs are limited, prompting many women to seek work abroad in the hopes that the money they send home will better everyone in the long run.

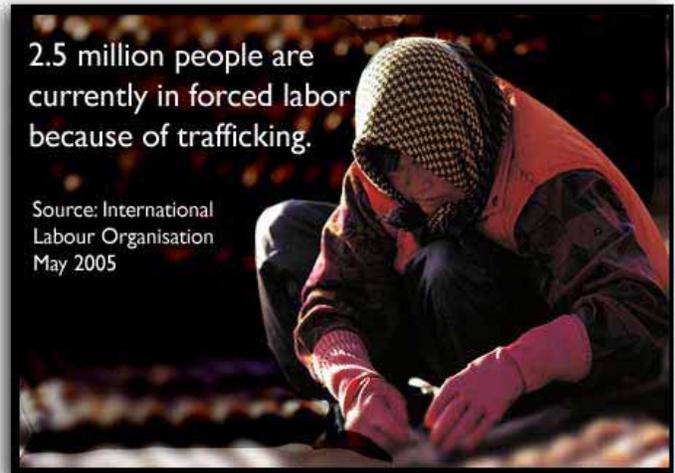
The trend of female workers taking overseas jobs as nannies and housekeepers is widespread. While many such jobs are legitimate employment opportunities, thousands of women each year agree to work in the domestic service sector only to find themselves victims of human trafficking. Domestic servitude is a prevalent form of labor trafficking and affects large numbers of victims throughout the world. While precise figures on the global prevalence of domestic servitude are not known, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that labor trafficking, of which domestic servitude is a part, constitutes 1/3 of the total cases of trafficking in persons.

In its 2005 report on forced labor, the ILO notes domestic servitude as a trend of concern. Citing its occurrence in various regions, the report highlights the hazardous conditions under which victims of domestic servitude are forced to live. Using Pakistan as an example, the report states, "*Domestic workers complain consistently of sexual harassment and physical violence. Living in the household, they are effectively on call 24 hours a day.*"

Domestic servitude represents a significant problem in the United States. A study by the Human Rights Center

at the University of California, Berkeley, has estimated that domestic servitude is the second most common form of human trafficking in the United States after sex trafficking. Despite its frequent occurrence, however, domestic servitude tends to receive less media attention than other forms of trafficking, particularly as compared to trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. While sex trafficking certainly warrants international attention, a growing consensus has emerged regarding the need to give equal attention to all forms of trafficking. The International Labor Organization states, "*...responses to trafficking need to move beyond the present focus on commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls towards a more holistic approach that includes the broader labor dimensions of human trafficking.*"

Domestic servitude may be a less recognized type of trafficking in the public sphere because domestic servitude cases typically involve only one victim at a time, making them particularly difficult to uncover and generating less press than cases involving large numbers of victims. Regardless of the degree of popular attention that domestic servitude receives, the issue is no less exploitative to the victims.



Victim Recruitment: A Focus on the United States

In the United States, victims typically enter the country on one of three non-immigrant visas: 1) the A-3 visa for those working for diplomats, ambassadors, consular officials and their families; 2) the G-5 visa for those working for officers of international organizations and their families; or 3) the B-1 visa for those working for U.S. citizens who live abroad but are visiting the United States for short periods of time. Each year, the United States government issues large numbers of these visas, particularly the A-3 and the G-5. During the 1990s, for example, the State Department issued over 30,000 A-3 and G-5 visas.

As is the case with other types of trafficking, there is frequently a strong correlation between poverty and domestic servitude. In many cases, traffickers target women with limited financial resources and promise them "good work" as nannies and housekeepers overseas. Although women may agree to work in the domestic service sector, upon arrival in the United States the terms of employment may change significantly,

bearing little resemblance to those of the original agreement.

In other cases, where third-party traffickers are not involved, private individuals hire workers, but become exploitative once their employees arrive. Reports of abuse are widespread against officials of international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Additionally, diplomats, ambassadors and other consular officers have also been cited with domestic worker abuse. These types of allegations became so prominent in 1996 that the State Department issued a memorandum to consular officials stating that it was "concerned to learn of problems which continue to arise in the working relationships between some members of the diplomatic and consular community and their personal household employees."

While domestic servitude was previously thought to be most prevalent among high ranking officials, such as those associated with consular offices or international organizations, this is no longer the case. Joy Zarembka, Executive Director of Break the Chain Campaign, has identified the trend of domestic servitude in the United States as becoming more and more widespread. In the past, the majority of domestic servitude cases were found in Washington, D.C. and New York and could be attributed primarily to foreign-born employers. An increasing number of cases, however, have been found in other regions of the country, including the mid-west, and have involved American perpetrators as well. Said Zarembka, "It's occurring a lot more frequently than we thought."



Trafficking is estimated to produce \$31 billion a year in illicit profits - half of it in industrialized countries. At a global level, this represents about \$13,000 per year for each trafficked forced laborer.

Source: International Labour Organisation
May 2005

Growth in the trend of domestic servitude can be attributed in part to the fact that workplace conditions for those entering the country on G-5, A-3, and B-1 visas are rarely, if ever, monitored. Once employees enter the country on one of these visas, they are largely on their own, subject to the treatment of their employers. This system is in stark contrast to the au pair program that brings nannies to the United States, providing protections for its workers. According to Zarembka, "In those programs there is an orientation session, contact numbers, and a list of community resources. There is also someone to contact if things go wrong." All of these elements, in addition to an independent monitoring system, are ones Zarembka would recommend implementing into the current G-5, A-3, and B-1 visa program in order to reduce instances of domestic worker abuse.

Typical Human Rights Violations

Regardless of the way in which victims end up in situations of domestic servitude, the conditions they face are arduous and often contain aspects of the following human rights violations:

Physical and Sexual Abuse

Both physical and sexual abuse are among the most commonly occurring human rights violations in these settings. Victims have frequently reported being beaten by their employers for supposed mistakes in their work. Employers may also use physical violence in order to intimidate their workers and to prevent them from attempting escape. Rape and sexual assault have also been widely reported. In some cases, men combine domestic servitude with servile marriages, forcing their "wives" to perform sexual labor in addition to her domestic chores.

Restriction of Movement

Often confined entirely to their employer's home, victims are cut off almost exclusively from the outside world. In some cases, they are permitted outside only if accompanied by one of their employers or another member of the family. In addition to restricting their workers' movement locally, employers frequently confiscate their employees' passports and other travel documents in order to prevent them from being able to leave the country.

Employers can also falsely instill fear about the "dangers of the United States" in workers, in order to further restrict their movement. In conducting interviews with former victims of domestic servitude, Human Rights Watch found this trend to be true, stating, "...whether or not the employers believed such warnings, domestic workers' social and cultural isolation likely inhibited them from objectively evaluating them, and several domestic workers told Human Rights Watch that the warnings made them fearful of venturing out alone in the evenings or even on their days off."

Risks to Health and Safety

As is the case with all types of human trafficking, domestic servitude takes a significant toll on the health of workers. Victims of domestic servitude are typically forced to work very long hours, often working from 6:00 am to midnight or later. Thus, there is little time for sleep, making the long hours particularly taxing. Also, employers rarely provide adequate medical insurance or access to health care. Some victims have reported either being prevented from going to the doctor at all, or

only being allowed to do so when their medical needs reached the point of warranting emergency care. Other victims have reported being forced to work even while sick. The working conditions themselves can be unsafe, as some women have cited illnesses resulting from exposure to harsh cleaning chemicals without adequate ventilation.

Wage and Hour Violations

According to State Department regulations, employers of those on special visas are required to adhere to state or federal minimum wage standards. In situations of domestic servitude, however, this is often not the case. Human Rights Watch conducted a study of domestic worker conditions and found that most worked an average of 14 hours a day, 6 days a week, with a median average salary of \$2.14/hour, far below the median federal minimum wage. In other cases, some victims are forced to work even longer hours with no days off, making the subsequent per-hour salary even less.

Lack of Personal Privacy

Domestic servitude also infringes upon victims' right to privacy. Forced to live and remain in the home of their employer, victims typically have very little time to themselves, feeling as if they are continually under supervision. It is not uncommon for several employers or other adults to keep after one worker, thereby increasing the degree to which victims are being monitored. In the most restrictive cases, employers keep close tabs on their employee's property and read their mail, go through their personal

belongings, and at times listen in on workers' telephone conversations, if they allow them to make phone calls at all.

Psychological Abuse

Perpetrators of domestic servitude typically engage in psychological abuse. Threats, insults and harsh language create a disempowering environment for domestic workers. Employers may threaten to deport victims or to harm their families if they do not follow orders or if they attempt to escape. Employers may also be excessively critical of their employees, always finding fault with their work. Victims have also reported instances of employers using food as a means of psychological coercion, forbidding victims from eating with the family, allowing workers to eat only leftovers, or severely restricting the type or amount of food that they consume. The cumulative effect of these tactics can create a feeling of inferiority on the part of victims. As Human Rights Watch notes, "Psychological abuse experienced by domestic workers in the cases reviewed by Human Rights Watch highlighted employers' superiority and workers' inferiority. The abuse reinforced employers' power, control, and domination over the domestic workers, making them less likely to resist or seek redress for the abusive employment conditions..."

Outreach and Intervention Strategies

Due to the extreme isolation within which victims of domestic servitude are forced to live, those wishing to escape face tremendous obstacles. Not only must they navigate language and cultural barriers in order to seek assistance, they also must face the difficult task of finding someone they can trust on the outside, all the while avoiding actions that would arouse their employer's suspicions. While finding a means of escape is a significant problem for all victims of trafficking, domestic workers have the added disadvantage of having no fellow victims with whom to collaborate. "Unlike trafficking that takes place in settings such as sweatshops and brothels, in these cases, victims have no one to go to for help," Zarembka said. "A singular domestic worker has to find a way out, and it's hard for us to find a way in."

In recognition of the isolation faced by victims of domestic servitude, organizations attempting to reach victims have adopted strategies such as creating public service announcements on ethnic radio stations. Break the Chain Campaign has employed this strategy and has found it to be effective. "Any time we do a radio show in another language, it is likely for us to hear about new cases," Zarembka said.

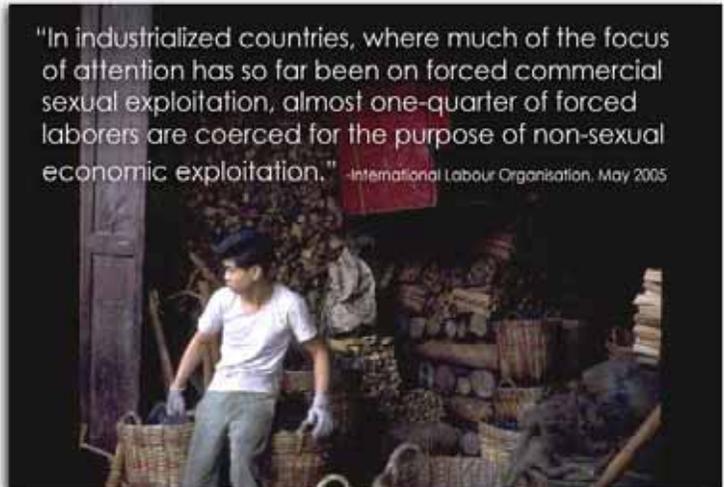
Finding a way to reach victims is further complicated by the fact that domestic servitude takes place within the context of a private home, making offenses less detectable and authorities potentially less apt to investigate. While the challenges of addressing human rights violations within the private sphere are well-recognized, successful

efforts at targeting other violations within the home suggest that the same approach can be applied to domestic servitude.

"As we've learned from incest and domestic violence, there are many things taking place within the home that are illegal and should be investigated," said Zarembka.

While the successful investigation and prosecution of domestic servitude cases involves broad based collaboration between law enforcement, social service providers, attorneys and government officials, the role of private citizens in identifying and reporting cases of domestic servitude cannot be underestimated. Therefore, public education represents one of the most crucial strategies for addressing this issue.

Given the very limited contact that victims have with the outside world, it is often neighbors, store employees, or members of religious congregations who report instances of abuse. In the case of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), an Los Angeles-based organization serving victims of human trafficking, this has certainly been true. Namju Cho, CAST Communications and Policy Director said, "Many of our domestic servitude clients were referred to us by Good Samaritans - neighbors who suspected that some-



thing was wrong and eventually helped them escape."

Break the Chain Campaign's Executive Director echoes this sentiment as well, stressing the way in which individuals can play a pivotal role in the fight against domestic servitude just by being aware of the issue, and talking to people they suspect could be victims. "I think it's really important for people to ask questions," Zarembka said. "If people see something that strikes them as a bit off, they should start up a very simple conversation that can lead to more information. Some of our biggest cases have started with a simple 'hello'."

Written by Debbie Landis

Sources: (1) Waldman, Amy. "Sri Lankan Maids Pay Dearly for Perilous Jobs Overseas". *The New York Times*. May 8, 2005. (2) International Labor Organization. "A global alliance against forced labor". *Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*. International Labor Conference, 93rd Session. 2005. Report I(B). (3) Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley. "Hidden Slaves: Forced Labor in the United States". September 2004. (4) Human Rights Watch. (2001). "Hidden in the Home: Abuse of Domestic Workers with Special Visas in the United States". Vol. 13, No. 2(G). (5) Phone Interview with Joy Zarembka, Executive Director, Break the Chain Campaign. (6) Email Correspondence with Namju Cho, CAST Communications and Policy Director.

NEWS BRIEFS

Coalition of Immokalee Workers and Taco Bell Reach Historic Accord for Farmworker Labor Rights

Immokalee, FL
March 2005

Taco Bell Corporation, a division of Yum! Brands, agreed to work with the Florida-based farm worker and anti-slavery organization, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to address wages and working conditions of farmworkers in the Florida tomato industry. In addition to agreeing to an increased penny per pound "pass-through" to workers for every pound of tomatoes purchased, joint efforts with the CIW will ensure better working conditions for those workers and include anti-slavery efforts. Formerly trafficked farmworkers who participated in a boycott campaign against Taco Bell are now involved in the implementation of the accord.

Yum! Brands' General Supplier Code of Conduct, signed by each produce supplier, requires not only that the suppliers comply with all existing laws and regulations, but also adds a strict prohibition against indentured servitude, as well as the right to unannounced inspections of suppliers' facilities, and enforcement consequences for any violations found. Yum! and CIW will be jointly involved in the resolution of any credible worker complaints against suppliers.

Finally, the agreement guarantees, for the first time, that Taco Bell's Florida tomato supply chain will be

100% transparent. Florida has been called "ground zero for modern-day slavery" because the nature of the tomato market has thus far successfully thwarted any efforts to trace tomatoes picked by forced labor to the corporations that bought and distributed them. That will no longer be the case for tomatoes bought by Taco Bell. The next time a slavery case arises in Florida's tomato fields, there will be a mechanism in place to ensure that Taco Bell does not purchase those tomatoes, even inadvertently.

For more information on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, visit its website: <http://www.ciw-online.org>.

More information on Taco Bell and its parent company, YUM Foods, can be found at <http://www.tacobell.com>.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Adopts Human Trafficking Resolution

New York, NY
March 2005

During its forty-ninth session, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution on Human Trafficking, entitled Eliminating Demand for Trafficked Women and Girls for all Forms of Exploitation. Introduced by the United States, the resolution was co-sponsored by 50 nations and represents the first UN resolution to specifically address the "demand" element of human trafficking. The adoption of this resolution coincided with the 10th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, and was released at a meeting entitled Ten Year Review and Appraisal, held from February 28 -

March 11 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Recognizing that women and girls comprise the majority of human trafficking victims, especially for commercial sexual exploitation, the resolution calls for states to address the root causes that make women and girls particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Additionally, the resolution highlights the need to bolster efforts aimed at deterring perpetrators, such as increased legislation and law enforcement initiatives, as well as public education.

The full text of the resolution is available at: http://www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/international/news/2005_03/csw_tip_res_adopted_031105.doc

Assemblywoman Proposes First Legislative Committee on Trafficking

Sacramento, CA
March 2005

Assemblywoman Sally Lieber from California has proposed the creation of a State Legislative Joint Committee on Human Trafficking. If approved, the committee would be the first of its kind in the nation, and would consist of five Assembly Members and five Senators. Lieber introduced the idea in the form of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 33, which was heard in the Assembly Rules Committee in late March. Deliberations on the Resolution are currently underway.

The resolution recognizes the broad scope of human trafficking throughout California, involving both labor and sex trafficking, and affecting both

domestic as well as international victims. In order to increase California's ability to combat human trafficking, the committee would submit a report to the State Legislature in September 2006, after conducting research in the following areas:

- The training of law enforcement agencies regarding trafficking;
- Education efforts on identifying trafficking victims;
- Coordination among programs serving victims of trafficking;
- The development of culturally appropriate services; and
- Improved data collection regarding victims' numbers and locations.

The full text of the Resolution is available at: http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/eap/united_states/news/2005_03/ca_acr_33_lieber.pdf

UNICEF Director Urges Countries to Enact Laws Aimed at Child Trafficking

Manila, Philippines
April 2005

While attending the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Manila, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy called upon states to enact increased legislation to address the issue of child trafficking. During the conference, Bellamy emphasized the key role parliamentarians can play in impacting what has become a global phenomenon of grave concern. She said, "*Parliamentarians have a choice. They can make decisions that ensure the protection of children, or they can make decisions that leave children vul-*

nerable to being exploited and abused. The first choice virtually guarantees strong national development; the second choice virtually guarantees the continuation of poverty."

In conjunction with her speech, and in cooperation with IPU Secretary General Anders Johnson, Bellamy released a joint UNICEF/IPU handbook for parliamentarians on child trafficking, aimed at assisting legislative officials in preventing child trafficking, assisting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators. Almost at the end of her ten-year tenure as the Executive Director of UNICEF, Bellamy remained hopeful about the prospect of making meaningful changes that will curb the rise of child trafficking throughout the world. Said Bellamy, "*... if my decade with UNICEF has taught me anything, it is that this massive suffering of children is completely within our power to curtail.*"

In addition to attending the IPU Conference, Bellamy visited a UNICEF-run shelter for child-trafficking victims in Manila. She also toured the city's seaport, considered to be a hub of human trafficking, in order to discuss anti-trafficking measures with ship officers, port police, and representatives from nongovernmental organizations.

The UNICEF/IPU Handbook is available at: http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/IPU_combattingchildtrafficking_GB.pdf

End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 Introduced

Washington, D.C.
April 2005

On April 28, 2005, a bi-partisan group of Senators and U.S. Representatives introduced a new piece of anti-trafficking legislation entitled, "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005". Sponsored by Senators John Cornyn and Arlen Specter along with Representatives Deborah Pryce, Carolyn Maloney, and Bobby Scott, the Act seeks to combat sex trafficking by curbing demand. Reducing demand has increasingly become a priority of some anti-trafficking advocates, and this Act has received support among nongovernmental organizations, government officials, and social service providers.

If approved, the Act would authorize federal funds in the amount of \$15 million per year, for fiscal years 2005-2007, in order to strengthen prosecution initiatives against perpetrators of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation as well as to support community education programs and victims' services. Among its other provisions, the Act would amend an existing law, the Mann Act of 1910, which makes it illegal to transport individuals across state lines for the purposes of prostitution or other criminal sexual acts. The Act would ensure that the Mann Act can be used to specifically target sex tourism. The proposed legislation also seeks to increase coordination among federal agencies and advocates for increased reporting mechanisms, including the release of an annual report by the United States Attorney General on best practices for reducing the demand for sexual exploitation. A vote is

expected on this bill by the end of the current legislative session.

Injured Moldovan Trafficking Victim Receives Free Medical Assistance in the United States

Plano, TX
April 2005

A woman from Moldova who became paralyzed after jumping from a sixth story window in order to escape from her trafficker will receive free medical assistance in the United States, due to the efforts of two Representatives: Deborah Pryce of Columbus, Ohio and Kay Granger of Fort Worth, Texas. The Congresswomen met the 19-year-old woman while visiting a crime victims' shelter in Moldova, which subsequently prompted them to raise money to provide her with assistance. Representative Granger said, "It was tragic that this girl had escaped a life of prostitution to be bedridden for the rest of her life. I was haunted by her story." After being medically transferred from Moldova, the woman will receive medical care at the Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Texas. She will be treated by Barton Sachs, a spinal surgeon who has high hopes for the outcomes of her treatment. "We are looking towards a goal of trying to get her walking again," he said.

Three Mexicans Plead Guilty in New York Human-Trafficking Case

New York, NY
April 2005

Three men pled guilty in New York District Court to human trafficking charges stemming from their involvement in a sex trafficking ring

that ran from 1991-2004. The defendants' scheme targeted Mexican girls from poor communities - they lured the girls to the United States with promises of work, but forced them into prostitution throughout the New York City area and subjected them to physical abuse. Victims were forced to engage in prostitution for a rate of \$25-\$35 per "John". Hotel managers and the defendants received 100% of this money.

Josue Flores Carreto, Gerardo Flores Carreto, and Daniel Perez Alonso worked in conjunction with several co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to lesser charges related to the case. United States Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf said, "The convictions announced show that prostitution is not a victimless crime and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to aggressively investigate and prosecute anyone who seeks to profit through human trafficking and exploitation." This prosecution represents one of the largest cases brought by the government since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. Authorities have been investigating this case since the summer of 2003, at which time the United States embassy in Mexico received complaints of alleged sex trafficking against the Carreto family.

UN/OSCE Release Third Report on Human Trafficking in the Balkans

Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro
April 2005

The United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have released their third report on human trafficking in the Balkans. Emphasizing the importance of prevention as a means

of combating trafficking in persons, the report covers Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, and the province of Kosovo. This final report completes the three-part series. The two prior reports focused on services for victims and the need for increased governmental anti-trafficking initiatives.

The report highlights an increase in the domestic trafficking of women and girls, as well as the increasingly diverse techniques traffickers use to target victims. Said UNICEF anti-trafficking representative Mary Black, "What we are seeing is only the tip of the iceberg. They are very clever in finding loopholes at getting to the victims." In an effort to bolster prevention measures, the report also focuses on the need to respond to the root causes of human trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment, and violence against women.

The full report is available at: <http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Trafficking.Report.2005.pdf>

FBI Assists Bulgarian Police with Human Trafficking Bust

Sofia, Bulgaria
April 2005

Agents from the FBI have partnered with Bulgarian police in order to bust a major criminal ring that has engaged in human trafficking and the forging of identity papers. The traffickers used false documents in order to transport victims to Western Europe. Their activities stretched across Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, and officials have been monitoring the ring's activities for over six months. Multiple arrests

have already been made, including twelve of the ring's primary leaders. Authorities are continuing to look for additional accomplices in this case.

Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking Dispersed at OSCE Conference in Vienna

Miami, FL
April 2005

At a conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), proponents of the Miami Declaration on Principles of Human Trafficking dispersed their document to government officials and affiliates of nongovernmental organizations. Recipients included representatives from over 55 countries, as well as agency representatives from various UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration, the European Parliament, and Interpol.

Created in February 2005, the Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking was drafted collaboratively by an interdisciplinary group of anti-trafficking experts, and was first presented at a Symposium at the St. Thomas University School of Law. Included in the provisions of the Declaration are immigration remedies, legal provisions for prosecution, and policies for victim protection and reintegration.

The full text of the Miami Declaration is available at: <http://www.diplomacy-monitor.com>

U.S. State Department Establishes Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center

Washington, D.C.
April 2005

The United States Department of State has established a new Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center (HTSC), in accordance with Section 7202 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The purpose of the center is to streamline U.S. Government initiatives aimed at addressing the different, but frequently intersecting, trends of human trafficking and smuggling. One of the center's primary goals is to facilitate greater coordination between officials from the law enforcement, intelligence, policy, and diplomatic arenas.

The Center's primary functions are outlined in the State Department's Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center Charter, which was first released in May 2004. They include:

- Facilitating the broad dissemination of all-source information;
- Preparing strategic assessments;
- Identifying issues for possible enhanced interagency coordination/attention; and
- Coordinating select initiatives and providing other support.

For more information on the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center, visit its website: <http://www.state.gov/g/inl/c14079.htm>. The full text of the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Center Charter is available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/inl/41444.htm>

Alabama Man Arrested on Child Trafficking Charges

Colombo, Brazil
May 2005

Brazilian police arrested an American man on charges of international child trafficking, and thus prevented him from handing off a Brazilian baby to a third party in the United States. Police became suspicious of James Bush, the 35-year-old Alabama native, after he tried to falsely register a 10-month-old Brazilian baby as his own. Upon arrival to the United States, Bush was to receive \$8,000 from an unknown accomplice in exchange for the child. "He was just waiting to be granted custody of the child and then he planned to leave," said federal officer Priscila Fanini. A nanny hired to care for the infant while Bush awaited clearance to leave the country first alerted authorities to the situation. If convicted, Bush faces two to five years in prison. After his arrest, Bush confessed to engaging in a similar scheme in 2003 when he left the country with another child who he had falsely registered as his own.

New York State Proposes New Anti-Trafficking Legislation

New York, NY
May 2005

New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced new anti-trafficking legislation, aimed at expanding the state's ability to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking. If approved, the legislation would take effect on January 1, 2006, and would create three new crimes: Human Trafficking in the First Degree, Human Trafficking in the Second Degree, and Promotion of

Human Trafficking. Felonies falling into the First Degree classification would involve the trafficking of minors, the trafficking of large numbers of individuals, the infliction of serious physical injury on victims, or would be used against individuals with previous convictions of a similar nature. Human Trafficking in the Second Degree would constitute all other acts of human trafficking, and the Promotion of Human Trafficking would be used to indict individuals who knowingly assist with or benefit from human trafficking operations. Viewing the proposed legislation as an important step in the state's fight against human trafficking, Spitzer said, "We can't allow the American dream to be turned into a nightmare of exploitation and abuse. This legislation will help empower law enforcement agencies across the state to combat this shocking problem." Democratic Assemblyman Joseph Lentol and Republican Senator Dale Volker introduced the measure in their respective houses. If the legislation passes, New York will join several other states, including Washington, Texas, Florida, and Missouri in enacting specific anti-trafficking laws.

RESOURCES

RECENT PRESS RELEASES

Secretary Rice Scheduled to Release 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report

On June 1, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to release the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report with a press conference to follow given by Ambassador John Miller, Senior

Advisor to the Secretary and Director of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

RESOURCE MANUAL

Civil Litigation on Behalf of Victims of Human Trafficking

Available online and in hard copy and CD formats

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles has released Civil Litigation on Behalf of Victims of Human Trafficking, co-authored by Kathleen Kim of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and Daniel Werner of the Workers' Rights Law Center of New York, Inc. This comprehensive legal manual is designed for advocates interested in learning how to seek civil relief for trafficking survivors. Topics include logistical factors to be considered in seeking civil action, procedures involved in filing a civil trafficking case, causes of action, and damages. The manual also includes sample pleadings used in civil cases brought on behalf of trafficked persons.

The authors of this publication intend to provide updates on legislation and cases involving civil remedies for trafficked persons. They would appreciate any additional information on cases from advocates and readers. Please contact the authors at kkim@lccr.com and dwerner@wnylc.com.

The guide can be accessed and downloaded at: http://www.workersrightsny.org/_private/TraffCivLit3-05.pdf

Click on the bookmarks tab to help navigate through the guide.

To order a hard copy or CD of *Civil Litigation on Behalf of Victims of Human Trafficking*, send an email to mfavis@lafla.org

RECENT PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS AND NEWSLETTERS

Trafficking in East Timor: A Look into the Newest Nation's Sex Industry

In October 2004, the Alola Foundation released locally the first public report on human trafficking in East Timor. The complete 72 page report has just now become available at: www.alolafoundation.org. For questions about the report itself, please contact Cathleen Caron, the trafficking assessment international consultant, at ccaron22@yahoo.com

For more information about the Alola Foundation's current anti-trafficking efforts in East Timor, please contact Alita Verdial, Projects Manager, at Alita@alolafoundation.org or Karen O'Sullivan, Advisor, at Karen@alolafoundation.org.

United States Department of State 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

Released February 2005- <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/index.htm>

A Global Alliance Against Forced Labour 2005: Global Report Under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

International Labour Conference

This report is the most comprehensive account of contemporary forced labor to date. It provides the first global and regional estimates by an international organization of forced labor in the world today, including the number of people affected and how many of them are victims of trafficking. It also quantifies the profits made by the criminals exploiting trafficked workers.

View full report at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/10_05_05_forcedlabour.pdf

Freedom Denied: Forced Labor in California

February 2005
Human Rights Center, University of California Berkeley

This report provides state legislators and policy makers with information about the practice of forced labor in California. It describes what is known about the scope of the problem, examines the gaps that remain in efforts to combat it, and highlights aspects that should be addressed by additional state legislation. It addresses the need to strengthen criminal sanctions, improve training of law enforcement on trafficking and forced labor identification, and clarify procedures through which victims can receive appropriate social services and other benefits.

To read the full report, visit: <http://www.hrcberkeley.org/download/freedomdenied.pdf>

Searching for Best Practices to Counter Human Trafficking in Africa: A Focus on Women and Children

March 2005

This report, commissioned by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, contributes to the ongoing discussions on the concept of Best Practices as applied in the campaign against human trafficking, with particular emphasis on women and children in Africa. Rather than provide exact answers to the questions of what constitutes "best" and how that can be assessed and identified in the campaign against human trafficking, the report offers some analytical tools that may be helpful to scrutinize the use of the concept.

To view the full report, visit: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001384/138447E.pdf>

HumanTrafficking.org

This Newsletter provides updates on additions to Humantrafficking.org. The Web site is updated weekly to reflect the most current events, publications, NGO and Government information, and best practices of the global anti-trafficking community, focusing on East Asia and the Pacific, and the United States.

To read the April newsletter, visit: <http://www.humantrafficking.org/newsletter/2005/april.html>

NYC Fight Human Trafficking Newsletter

The NYC Fight Human Trafficking Group (NYC FHTG) has new on-

line newsletter regarding trafficking issues. Its first edition includes an interview with Polaris Project Director, Derek Ellerman, a map on human trafficking into America, and minutes from a Johns Hopkins University presentation on global trafficking.

The newsletter is available at <http://www.changemakers.net/library/newsletters/nycnewsletter.cfm>

Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin

This edition features an article about the Justice Department's commitment to battling human trafficking. Available at: http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/antitaffnews_apr05.pdf

Vital Voices Trafficking Alert-March Edition

This issue includes information about the Third Annual Freedom Network (USA) Conference in Los Angeles, Changemakers Innovation Awards, and a Digital Video Conference on Victim Identification. <http://www.vitalvoices.org>

Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and UN Release Third Report on Human Trafficking in the Balkans

Full text available at: http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2005/04/13771_221_en.pdf

Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking

The Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking was drafted by intergovernmental, governmental, nongovernmental, and academic experts at the Interdisciplinary Symposium in Miami, Florida on February 10, 2005. The Declaration will be published in the inaugural issue of the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review, an issue dedicated to the fight against trafficking in persons. The document has been distributed to representatives of 55 governments and a number of representatives from institutions such as UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMIK, UNODC, OSCE, Council of Europe, European Parliament, IOM, Interpol, and Europol. To obtain a copy of the Declaration, visit: http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/eap/united_states/news/2005_04/miami_declaration.html or for more information, contact Roza Pati, LL.M., Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights, St. Thomas University School of Law at rpati@STU.EDU

TOOLKITS AND FACT SHEETS

Vital Voices - Khmer Toolkit

Vital Voices' Anti-Trafficking Awareness Toolkit is now available in Khmer. The Toolkit was designed for distribution primarily to professionals, such as local law enforcement, health care workers, social service providers, or faith-based organizations, who may encounter trafficking victims in the course of their work. Now available at: http://www.vital-voices.org/desktopdefault.aspx?page_id=37

Distinctions between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking

This Fact Sheet, published by the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center explains the differences between human smuggling and human trafficking. Because these are complex crimes, it is not always readily apparent when a human smuggling case crosses into the realm of a human trafficking crime. Understanding the basic principles outlined in this fact sheet will assist the reader in identifying the subtle differences between each of these crimes. To obtain the fact sheet, visit: http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/smuggling_trafficking_facts.pdf

STATE LEGISLATION

The passage of state-level legislation criminalizing trafficking and providing for the needs of trafficked persons has been at the top of many state agendas this year. Although the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act ("TVPA") criminalized trafficking at the federal level in 2000, and provided victims and their families with services and benefits, the U.S. Department of Justice and nongovernmental organizations have supported the development of state-level legislation to empower local and state officials to tackle the problem of trafficking at a local level. So far, a handful of states have passed legislation; many more states have pending bills. As these laws are adopted and are implemented, advocates and service providers for trafficked persons need to stay abreast of the changes in criminal codes and

services available to their clients. Trafficking Watch has undertaken a review of existing and pending state legislation in the U.S., and will be reviewing individual state legislative responses in coming issues.



On July 16, 2004—on the eve of the National Conference on Human Trafficking held in Tampa, Florida—Governor Jeb Bush signed into law a new measure criminalizing human trafficking under Florida statutes. The new law became effective on October 1, 2004.

Originally proposed by Senator Wasserman Schultz, the bill evolved from one that criminalized the sex trafficking of women and children to one that criminalizes the sex trafficking of adults and labor trafficking as well. The new law closely tracks the federal law (The Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 ("TVPA")). It defines human trafficking as "transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, or obtaining another person for transport." Like the federal law, it recognizes that modern day slavery can be induced not merely through physical force, but also through fraud and coercion.

The Florida law created several new offenses that Florida's state courts can prosecute. It is now a First Degree felony to cause a minor under one's custody or control to be engaged in prostitution or sex trafficking through force, fraud, or coer-

cion. It is likewise a First Degree felony if the sex trafficking involves a child under 14 or results in death.

The new law further makes it Second Degree Felony to knowingly recruit, entice, provide, or obtain an adult, knowing that force, fraud or coercion will be used to cause that person to engage in prostitution. It is also a Second Degree Felony to unlawfully obtain the labor or services of another by causing or threatening to cause bodily harm against that person or another, by restraining or threatening to restrain that person or another, or by withholding a person's governmental records, ID information, or personal property.

The new law also allows state prosecutors to prosecute traffickers under RICO ("Racketeer influenced and Corrupt Organizations") conspiracy laws. This will allow the State to impose enhanced sentences on human traffickers that have pursued trafficking as criminal syndicates.

The new law also gives state prosecutors the opportunity to convict human traffickers in Florida courts and brings the issue of human trafficking more directly into the view of state and local law enforcement. One significant difference between the state and federal law remains in the area of victim benefits. Florida does not offer comprehensive benefits to the victims as does the TVPA.



On March 14, 2005, Governor Janet Napolitano signed the Human Trafficking Violations Bill into law, making Arizona the fifth state in the U.S. to enact a state-wide anti-human trafficking law. This law becomes effective in August of 2005.

The law (Senate Bill 1372) creates three new felony provisions: Unlawfully Obtaining Labor or Services; Sex Trafficking; and Trafficking of Persons for Forced Labor or Services. The first provision criminalizes the obtaining of labor or services from a person by causing or threatening bodily injury, restraining or threatening to restrain the person, or withholding the person's identifying documents.

The second provision, Sex Trafficking, criminalizes recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person by any means with the intent to cause them to engage in prostitution by force, fraud or coercion. Although this statute tracks the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act ("TVPA") closely, by referencing prostitution, which only encompasses sexual conduct for a fee, it is slightly narrower than the federal definition which references any commercial sexual act. Sex trafficking is also listed as a dangerous crime against children if the victim is under the age of 15, strengthening existing anti-child prostitution laws.

The third provision, Trafficking of Persons for Forced Labor or Services, refers to transporting a person or enticing, recruiting, harboring, providing or obtaining the person for transport by deception, coercion or force, knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services. Again, although the text of the law is very similar to the federal law, this statute is narrower because of the requirement that the transport of the person be for trafficking purposes. If this provision were interpreted broadly, any transport of the victim would be enough under this statute.

The statute also criminalizes the conduct of any person who knowingly benefited, financially or otherwise, from violations of any of these sections. It also provides for restitution for victims up to the amount that they would have earned under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, or to the amount that the violator gained from the victim's labor or services. Both Sex Trafficking and Trafficking of Persons for Forced Labor or Services are second-degree felonies that could carry sentences up to life in prison. The statute also makes alien smuggling a state felony.

In sum, the Arizona law tracks the federal TVPA very closely in its provisions. Arizona has included all types of force, fraud or coercion in the means by which a person can be enslaved, and clearly follows federal law on the differences between alien smuggling and human trafficking. Victims whose traffickers are being prosecuted at the state level should also be eligible for federal benefits and services if they meet the state definition of trafficking.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Break the Chain Campaign

A plane ride conversation can inspire the creation of an organization. That's exactly how Break the Chain Campaign got its start. Back in 1997, Martha Honey's husband, Tony, sat next to a lawyer on a plane who proceeded to tell him about the abuse faced by maids and nannies living in Washington, D.C. Tony told Martha and Martha decided to write an exposé about the abuse. The article garnered so much attention that a public forum was held.

At this first forum, it became apparent that a loose network of churches, social service agencies, lawyers, safe houses, and "Good Samaritans" - a modern-day underground railroad of sorts - was attempting to aid abused and enslaved maids, nannies, and housekeepers. The forum prompted the idea of building a coalition of women's rights, labor, religious, human rights, and other advocates dedicated to fight for stronger protections for these vulnerable workers and the Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights was formed.

In 2003, the Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights changed its name to Break The Chain Campaign in order to capture its expand-

ing mandate which includes trafficked and enslaved persons in all labor industries and the sex industry. Due to the overwhelming need for direct services and advocacy, the Campaign continues to strive to serve its constituency within an 150 miles radius of Washington, D.C.

By building working relationships with over 80 local organizations, the Campaign has been able to serve over 150 clients and has coordinated public education events, media coverage, legal and training workshops, strategy meetings, and research on domestic workers. A roster of pro bono lawyers provide legal advice and research for the Campaign, while others handle individual civil and criminal cases involving domestic worker abuse, exploitation, slavery or trafficking. The Campaign's member organizations have steadily increased and now include diverse representation from women's groups, religious organizations, law firms, labor unions, and immigrant rights agencies. Due to its expertise on human trafficking and worker exploitation, the Campaign has been consulted by governmental policymakers from the Departments of Justice, Labor, State, the FBI, and a White House inter-agency task force on trafficking.

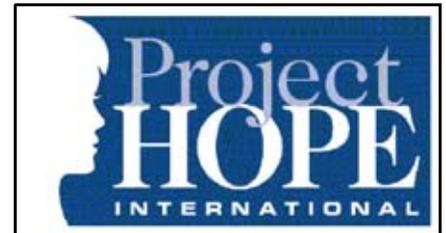
Today, the Campaign fills a unique need: no other organization in the D.C. area specializes in handling abuses of live-in domestic workers who come to the U.S. legally as well as trafficked and enslaved workers.

Break The Chain Campaign is dedicated to the empowerment and protection of enslaved and exploited migrant workers in the United States through direct service, research, advocacy, and public awareness cam-

paings. Their direct service work gives the Campaign practical experience, case data, and statistics that, in turn, inform the Campaign's advocacy work. The Campaign's approach is holistic, combining direct service, outreach, organizing, media work, training, and technical assistance with ongoing negotiations with the U.S. government, embassies, and international institutions on policy reform.

For more information about Break the Chain Campaign, visit: <http://www.ips-dc.org/campaign/index.htm>

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Project HOPE International (PHI) is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. dedicated to counter human trafficking and after-care service provision for all trafficked persons regardless of circumstance. PHI assists victims in Southeast Asia and the United States by providing services, building alliances, and advocating the end of human trafficking through mobilizing compassionate individuals and organizations.

PHI's work philosophy is heavily influenced by the words of Aboriginal activist and organizer, Lilla Watson: "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time... But if you

have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

Since 1999, PHI has worked closely with Thai and Cambodian grassroots anti-trafficking organizations that provide direct service to victims of trafficking in recovery, repatriation, and reintegration. Partners have received on-going assistance from PHI through its annual small grants program.

PHI aims to bridge gaps in anti-trafficking services and advocacy and to transmit applicable "best practices" to the relatively nascent movement in the United States.

In Washington, D.C., PHI is working to import an effective "transitional housing" model from Thailand to the D.C. area in coordination with NGOs sensitive to the special needs of trafficked persons in recovery. PHI is a founding member of the Washington Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition Headquarters - an emerging network of U.S. organizations in the D.C. area that coordinate strategy and resources in order to assist trafficked persons transitioning to recovery and reintegrating into society. This coalition includes Break the Chain Campaign, Ayuda, Inc., and BPSOS. Working together, PHI anticipates the groundbreaking of the first shelter on the east coast in May 2006.

PHI allocates tremendous energy to its outreach and education campaigns in order to increase awareness and to cultivate anti-trafficking activism among young leaders. In addition to 3 university PHI chapters, forty-three students have participated in PHI's annual summer study program in Thailand where they pro-

vided technical assistance to PHI partners to strengthen capacity and to promote a "lessons learned" project from anti-trafficking programs in the region. From these exchanges, 5 journal articles and publications of original research have been produced.

PHI has a longstanding relationship with the Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. PHI provides updates and clarifications on U.S. policy on trafficking, as well as reports on the current situation of anti-trafficking NGOs in Thailand.

This year, PHI is facilitating collaboration amongst Thai anti-trafficking NGOs, Thai government officials, and the Thai business sector to provide economic alternatives to women who have been trafficked and re-trafficked. PHI believes job creation and training to be key in reducing the staggering re-trafficking rates in the region.

In response to post-tsunami pressures linked to trafficking, PHI staff is currently working on the ground in Thailand with its partners, and continues to coordinate funds for critical projects aimed at reducing vulnerabilities created by the tsunami.

PHI's core staff is comprised of knowledgeable and compassionate individuals focused on ending the suffering caused by human trafficking. Currently, PHI has a staff of nine unpaid part-time professionals, one full-time salaried Executive Director and seven members of the Board of Directors. In addition, PHI benefits from pro-bono services from companies and organizations to satisfy particular project requirements. Fifteen unpaid interns, including gradu-

ate and undergraduate students working on degrees relevant to anti-trafficking, development, and international affairs, support the staff's work.

For more information, please contact:

Christina Arnold
Project HOPE International
4410 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
210, Washington, D.C. - 20008
202.330.2800 or 703.
Christina@phi-ngo.org
<http://www.phi-ngo.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2005

TRAININGS

Leadership in Victim Services

Sponsor: OVC TTAC
Burlington, VT
June 7 - June 9, 2005

Using case studies and examples, this workshop focuses on the qualities, attitudes, styles, and strategies of true leaders in victim services. *For more information, visit:* <http://www.ovcttac.org> or contact the OVC at (866)682-8822, email: ttac@ovcttac.org

Freedom Network Institute Training, Human Trafficking and Slavery: Basic Tools for an Effective Response

Sponsor: HHS Rescue and Restore Campaign

Host: Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking (ALERT)

Phoenix, AZ

June 27, 2005

International Rescue Committee
4750 N. Black Canyon Highway,
Third Floor

Tucson, AZ

June 28, 2005 (tentative)

Location TBA

The Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking and Rescue and Restore are proud to host a full-day introductory training on trafficking in persons by the Freedom Network Training Institute. This comprehensive training curriculum provides a solid foundation for participants in addressing issues of human trafficking and slavery in various contexts. This training is designed to facilitate active learning through real-life case scenarios, participatory exercises, and examples of "best practices" from experts working closely on trafficking and slavery. An additional training is being added for the same week in Tucson. *For more information, contact ALERT at trafficking-alert@yahoo.com.*

CONFERENCE

Unwilling, Unpaid, Unseen: Uncovering Human Trafficking in the Nation's Capital

Sponsors: Ayuda, Inc., Boat People SOS, and the Georgetown University Law

Center's Office of Public Interest and Community Service

June 9 -10, 2005

Georgetown University Law Center
Washington, D.C.

This free two-day conference is designed to increase your capacity as a service provider or anti-trafficking professional to serve victims of human trafficking (including forced labor and sexual exploitation) in the D.C. Metropolitan area. Objectives include: (1) deepening your understanding of human trafficking, (2) providing a broader perspective to place human trafficking in relation to overlapping issues, such as labor exploitation and domestic violence, and (3) providing opportunities for strengthening collaborations and collective problem solving for local area agencies. *For more information, call Megan Pierce (703) 647-6485.*

First National Conference of Forging Alliances-Building Leadership

Sponsor: The National Center for Victims of Crime

June 20-22, 2005

Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

The conference will feature more than 130 leading experts, 65 skill-building workshops, and countless opportunities to forge alliances and build leadership. Topics will include: human trafficking, victim confidentiality, high-tech stalking, and criminal profiling. *For more information, visit: <http://www.ncvc.org>*

MEETING

UNICEF Coordination Meeting

Sponsor: UNICEF Cambodia

No. 11, 75th Street, Sangkat Sra-schark (near the British Embassy)

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

June 7, 2005

1:30 to 5:00

UNICEF Cambodia will have its next coordination meeting on TSEC awareness raising and advocacy initiatives. The main agenda item will be to discuss monitoring and evaluation of awareness-raising activities as a group. *For more information: (855 23) 426-214 ext. 148 or email syeo@unicef.org*

JULY 2005

ONLINE COURSE

Advanced Topics in Sex Trafficking University of Rhode Island

Advanced Topics in Sex Trafficking (Women's Studies 490) is an online course that will focus on the sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children through trafficking, prostitution, and pornography. Topics covered will include: the organization and operation of criminal networks, official corruption, the role of the state in facilitating and combating sexual exploitation, health effects, perpetrator behavior, and policy debates. There will be particular focus on victim needs and services. Course materials include theoretical essays, research reports, expert testimonies, prevention education materials, protocols for services, and curricula for recovery programs.

Students will access and participate in the course through WebCT at the University of Rhode Island. The class

will be offered during the Fall semester (Sept. 7 - Dec. 9). Registration is open to non-URI students on July 6, 2005.

The instructor of the course is Dr. Donna M. Hughes, Professor and Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women's Studies (<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes>). For more information, email dhughes@uri.edu

TRAINING

Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime

Sponsor: OVC TTAC
San Diego, CA
July 26 - July 28, 2005

This workshop provides an interactive exploration of issues in providing culturally competent services to crime victims. Through a series of activities and case studies, the training explores the challenges and benefits of providing culturally competent care for victims and how services can be more effective when they are delivered within the most relevant and meaningful cultural, gender-specific, and age-appropriate context. Also included is a review of provider competencies (i.e., knowledge, skills, attitudes, interpersonal decision making) that are critical to effectively serving crime victims from diverse populations. Key topics include: cultural competence stereotyping, cross-cultural communication, language and interpreter bias, barriers to effective victim assistance, and envisioning a culturally competent victim service program. For more information, visit: <http://www.ovcttac.org>, call (866)682-8822, or email: ttac@ovcttac.org

CONFERENCE

Texas Crime Prevention Association 2005 Summer Conference

Sponsor: Texas Crime Prevention Association
San Antonio, TX
July 18 - 21, 2005

Tracks will include topics on Crime Prevention, Internet Safety, Computer Forensic, Family Violence, and Child Abuse. For more information: contact Laura Tobias at ltobias@stmarytx.edu

AUGUST 2005

CONFERENCE

The 31st Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference

August 7-12, 2005
Atlanta Hilton
255 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA

Co-hosted by the Georgia Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

NOVA's annual "family reunion" is for victim assistance and disaster professionals, survivors, grassroots groups lobbying for change, and others providing crisis intervention and support services. It is also for the victims' allies in many professions - justice, health and mental health, the spiritual community, education and research - from across North America and around the globe.

For more information, visit: <http://www.trynova.org/conference/2005/>

TRAFFICKING WATCH is a quarterly newsletter that reports primarily on news and developments relevant to human trafficking in the United States and also includes a compilation of resources drawn from diverse sectors and fields at the local, national, and international levels to promote the exchange of information, strategies, and good practices in order to effectively combat trafficking.

Managing Editors
Melynda Barnhart
Christine Petrie

Editor
Robbi Miller

Contributors
Melynda Barnhart
Leslye Boban
Terry Coonan
Kristy Gladfelter
Debbie Landis
Abigail Price

Design
Kristy Gladfelter

*Send comments, suggestions or announcements to: listserv@ftp.theIRC.org. To subscribe to Trafficking Watch, send an email to: listserv@ftp.theIRC.org In the **body** of the message type: Subscribe traffickingwatch-list
Firstname Lastname*

Trafficking Watch can be downloaded from the IRC website (<http://www.theIRC.org>)

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The International Rescue Committee serves refugees and communities victimized by oppression or violent conflict worldwide. Founded in 1933, the IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is expressed in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance, and advocacy.



International Rescue Committee
122 East 42nd St, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10168
Tel: 212-551-3000
Fax: 212-551-3181
<http://www.theIRC.org>