

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

March 2008 Vol. 6 No. 3

This issue highlights various national and international campaigns to eliminate selling women and children for sexual exploitation.

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Abuse Through CraigsList

A Boston man and his niece were charged with plotting a child trafficking operation with teenagers as young as 13 by selling them on *Craigslist* to predators from Massachusetts to New York.

“These cases are just the tip of the iceberg.

In fact, law enforcement efforts to fight trafficking nationwide are consistently reporting a spike in online Craigslist ads, and how sex trafficking has ‘moved online’ lately.”

Katherine Chon Executive Director & Co-Founder Polaris Project

<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/children-for-sale-on-craigslist.html>

Craigslist Facts

- *Craigslist* exhibits local classified ads and forums for 450 cities worldwide — in all 50 US states and over 50 countries.
- More than 25 million people use *Craigslist* monthly, with more than 8 billion page views per month.
- *Craigslist* users self-publish more than 20 million new classified ads each month.
- Within the *Craigslist* classified ‘Service’ section is the ‘Erotic Services’ section. Numerous accounts of child prostitution have been cited in this section.
- Every 10 days there are 25,000 new ads posted in the ‘Erotic Services’ section. The frequency with which pimps and child sex traffickers post in this section makes it a common resource for police investigating potential child traffickers.
- *Craigslist* has a ‘prohibited or restricted items’ section, which contains a partial list of items the sale of which is not permitted on *Craigslist*. First on the list of these items is ‘obscene material or child pornography.’ In November 2005 a California woman attempted to pimp her 4 year old daughter by posting an ad in the ‘Erotic Services’ section of *Craigslist*. This ad went unnoticed by *Craigslist* personnel until police investigating the case contacted them.
- No registration is required to post on the *Craigslist* ‘Erotic Services’ site, so users may post ads anonymously. *Craigslist* is one of the most commonly used sites from which to solicit prostitution because it is free, anonymous and the Web site’s operators depend on viewers to monitor content.
- *Craigslist* explains that “posters whose posting are repeatedly flagged are subject to staff review and additional remedial measures.” However *Craigslist* has failed to set forth the methods or standards of review.
- *Craigslist* states via its feedback forum that it welcomes ideas for improvement.

Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta recently issued a letter to the owners of *Craigslist*, stating that *Craigslist* is a prime source of human trafficking and exploitation of children. The letter requested the cooperation of *Craigslist* founder, Craig Newmark, and president, James Buckmaster, to institute reforms of the website that would deter sex crimes against children. In response, a *Craigslist* spokeswoman told the Atlanta newspaper in an e-mail that she and CEO Jim Buckmaster were in Europe and “neither of us are aware of such a letter so it would not be possible to comment about this.” Company founder, Craig Newmark, who also received Franklin’s letter, no longer was involved in the company’s daily affairs and was traveling, the spokeswoman said. http://www.love146.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=25095



Awareness

Why a 'Craigslist Campaign'?

In January 2007 three people were arrested for posting advertisements on *Craigslist* for girls ranging in age from 14 to 16 years old to perform sex acts. These girls were forced to turn 10, 12 tricks a day resulting in tens of thousands of dollars for the pimps. (<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4928094>). *Craigslist* managers refused to comment or claimed lack of resources to effectively monitor postings.

In November 2007 Love146 invited the owner of *Craigslist* to instate "better monitoring of its 'Erotic Services' section in order to be proactive in preventing the sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes." Other organizations came forward in support of this campaign, such as the *Salvation Army*, *Polaris Project*, *The Loose Change to Loosen Chains Campaign*, the 'Not for Sale' Campaign, *Students and Artists Fighting to End Human Slavery*, and others.

Because *Craigslist* did not respond to the request, Love146 has started a campaign asking that persons refrain from using *Craigslist* "until *Craigslist* publicly declares a 2008 resolution to implement safeguards and monitoring procedures that will eradicate the sale of human beings on the erotic services section of the website." http://www.love146.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=7158

Love146 (formerly *Justice for Children International*, a non-profit founded in 2002) works toward the abolition of child sex trafficking and exploitation through prevention and aftercare. Love146 trains aftercare workers, multiplies safe homes, aids socioeconomic development programs in high risk communities and provides a voice for these victims of modern-day slavery.

'Not For Sale! Campaign'

"This is a campaign of students, entrepreneurs, artists, people of faith, athletes, law enforcement officers, politicians, social workers, skilled professionals, and all justice seekers, united to fight the global slave trade.

Not for Sale aims to educate and mobilize an international abolitionist movement. Inside the U.S. the campaign identifies trafficking rings and collaborates with local law enforcement and community groups to shut them down and provide support for the victims. Internationally, the campaign partners with poorly resourced abolitionist groups to enhance their capacity.

Every single person has a skill that they can give to free an individual living in bondage."

The founder of the campaign, David Batstone, is a professor of ethics at the University of San Francisco. He worked in El Salvador, helped found *Business 2.0* magazine and the social venture firm, *Right Reality*. Batstone traveled around the world investigating the slave trade before writing the book *'Not For Sale'* HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.

Not For Sale cont. pg. 6

Statement of Corporate Stance on Human Trafficking Conference of Benedictine Prioresses

"Committed to the Benedictine motto of PAX and to personal and social transformation of our culture of fear to a culture of love and right relationship, the membership of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses, a group of fifty-seven monasteries representing 2620 women religious, denounce the practice of human trafficking and commit to the work of bringing about the elimination of this evil practice. We invite all who are drawn to this cause to join with us by continuing to learn and to raise the awareness among family, friends and co-workers." February 5, 2008

S. Judith Ann Heble OSB, President, Conference of Benedictine Prioresses



Awareness

“We believe that the buying and selling of human persons, especially women and children for sexual exploitation is today’s most common form of slavery.” UNANIMA International



Campaign Logo

UNANIMA International ‘Demand’ Campaign

UNANIMA International is beginning a campaign to counter human trafficking through efforts to stop the demand for the purchase of women and children – an approach that has yet to receive the same attention as that given to protecting and reintegrating victims who have already been trafficked.

Human trafficking is driven by demand from buyers of sex (according to statistics, they are mostly men), which is fuelled by pornography and profit.

Sexual exploitation and prostitution are rooted in poverty and the structural inequalities between women and men, more particularly in discrimination against women. These oppressive acts are inherently violent and de-meaning of all persons.

UNANIMA International believes the following actions will help stop the demand:

- Affirming the dignity of all human beings especially women and children, who are most vulnerable.
- Eliminating factors that drive global trafficking and prostitution and are linked with organized crime, particularly the illicit use of the Internet.
- Removing the terms ‘*industry,*’ ‘*client,*’ ‘*tourism,*’ and ‘*work,*’ that mask and trivialize the dehumanizing reality that women and children suffer from pimps, profiteers and users.
- Publicizing comprehensive awareness campaigns linking demand with global trafficking, gender inequality, lack of decent work, and poverty (all are forms of sexual exploitation).
- Implementing effective laws that criminalize buyers of sex and seize the assets of profiteers.

On the UNANIMA International website (see pg. 8) one may view the various materials that are available during the Campaign.

The *Educational Campaign Packet* contains the Campaign’s vision statement, process and timeline. It answers frequently asked questions and shows how ‘*demand*’ is linked to prostitution, pornography and human trafficking.

It provides a facilitator guide, prayer and background resources, action steps and two PowerPoint presentations.

To order a Packet call: 212-370-0075
E-mail Catherine Ferguson, Coalition Coordinator at: fergcf@earthlink.net

or write:

UNANIMA International
211 East 43rd Street Room 107
New York, NY 10017-4744

Indicate which language (English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese) and the number of packets desired. Provide your name, address and send \$10.00/packet to cover mailing costs.

What Can I Do to ‘Stop the Demand’ for Trafficking in Women and Children?

- Use accurate language: e.g. ‘*perpetrators*’ or ‘*exploiters*’ for those who buy sex acts rather than ‘*clients*’ or ‘*buyers*’ and ‘*women exploited in prostitution*’ rather than ‘*sex workers*’;
- Promote the passage of anti-trafficking laws, which follow the Swedish model of punishing those who buy sex and the traffickers;
- Participate in awareness-raising groups, which make known the situation of human trafficking and ‘*demand*’ in your country or region;
- Pray daily for an end to the ‘*demand for human trafficking*’;
- Protest against the sexualization and commodification of women and children in media;
- Support efforts to eliminate pornography and the buying of sex on the Internet;
- Promote the UNANIMA International Campaign, ‘*Stop the Demand for Trafficking in Women and Children,*’ in your parish, school, club meetings, etc.



Advocacy

Criminalizing Customers: Success in Sweden

Sweden introduced the first law of its kind worldwide. The purchase and brokering of sexual services were criminalized, although the selling of sexual services remains legal. The law provides for up to six years in prison for pimps and up to 10 years for traffickers of prostitutes. The john could face up to six months in prison if the police caught the two in the act.

"The goal is to criminalize the demand side of the equation, the johns, rather than putting emotionally and physically imperiled women behind bars," said an inspector with the Stockholm police. Eighty percent of Swedes agrees with the ban. There are between 105 and 130 women -- both on the Internet and on the street in prostitution in Stockholm today, compared to Oslo, where there are 5,000.

Another benefit of the ban is that Sweden has few problems with human trafficking. According to the Swedish police, 400 to 600 foreign women are brought to Sweden annually to be prostitutes. In Finland, half the size of Sweden, that number is between 10,000 and 15,000 women. Illegal trafficking is facilitated in Finland by the country's proximity to Russia and the Baltic states, but now Helsinki is also considering introducing a law based on the Swedish model.

The ban on the purchase of sexual services is also intended to bring about a fundamental change in societal attitudes. Nowadays every schoolchild learns that purchasing sex for money is illegal. The next generation in Sweden will consider this to be much less ordinary than people do today.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,516030,00.html>

Criminalize Paying for Sex: Consideration in Ireland

Ruhama, an organization that supports those preyed on for prostitution and human trafficking, called on the Irish Government to learn from laws passed in Sweden nine years ago. The organization said politicians needed to examine Swedish rulings before passing the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Bill, which is due before the Oireachtas soon. Sweden criminalizes those who buy sex, not the victims of sexual exploitation.

A spokesperson from *Ruhama*, said campaigners still had concerns about the emerging legislation. *"We believe that Ireland needs to send out a clear message that the purchasing of women for sexual services is a crime. After drugs and arms, human trafficking is the third largest area of criminal activity in the world. Ireland needs to take a stand against organized crime; having the correct legislation in place is crucial to achieving this."*

(Posted Jan. 28, 2008)

http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5gMPPOlroQdkl_

Shun Sex Ads, Local UK Papers Told

The *Newspaper Society* updated its guidelines on which ads should be accepted on classified pages. It wanted its members to be especially aware of the link between organized prostitution and human trafficking.

The *Society* advised its members on how to spot ads that might be promoting sexual services, such as ads for massage parlors, which might actually be fronts for brothels.

The *Society*, which represents most local and regional United Kingdom papers, suggested they simply refuse such ads. It also suggested that payment be made by card or check so accounts could be traced, and that papers consult with police.

The updated guidance followed a meeting with Harriet Harman last year in her role as minister for women.

Ms. Harman, now Labor chairman and the leader of the House of Commons, was concerned that a growing number of young girls are being smuggled into the UK and forced into prostitution. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7238130.stm



Advocacy

5 Vienna Forum: Challenge to Political Will



On Feb. 13, 2008 the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* (CATW), *Equality Now*, *The European Women's Lobby*, and grassroots groups from around the world, all working to end trafficking in women and girls, jointly called on governments to use the Feb. 13-15, 2008 *Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking*, organized by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as a venue to generate significant political will and commit resources to ending the scourge of human trafficking.

"According to UNODC, a majority of individuals trafficked worldwide are women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to being sold in the sex industry as a result of deception, coercion and force due to poverty, the abuse of a position of vulnerability, gender-based violence and discrimination. (87% of reported victims of traffick-

ing have been trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation according to the UNODC report, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns*, 2006, graph 16, p. 33.)

In order to combat the trafficking in women, governments and the UN must address sex discrimination and put into place and adequately fund measures that ameliorate the socio-economic, political and legal conditions of women and girls. States must also exhibit the political will to develop effective tools to prosecute traffickers, protect trafficking victims, and fully address the demand for women and children for sexual exploitation. We urge the UNODC to ensure that the meeting in Vienna will present concrete plans to address all these issues." The statement was endorsed by 51 global organizations. <http://action.web.ca/home/catw/readingroom.shtml?x=113702>

UN Launches Campaign to 'End Violence Against Women'

On Feb. 25, 2008 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced a multi-year global *Campaign to End Violence Against Women*, bringing together the UN, governments and civil society, calling the issue one that 'cannot wait.'

"At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Through the practice of prenatal sex selection, countless others are denied the right even to exist," Mr. Ban said in his address at the opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Violence against women impedes economic and social growth, and thus the new campaign will run until 2015, the same target year as the internationally agreed aims known as the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs).

Noting that weapons of armed conflict today include rape, sexual violence and abduction of children to be conscripted as soldiers or sex slaves, the Secretary-General recounted his visits to war-torn areas and his conversations with survivors of violence.

"This is a campaign for them. It is a campaign for the women and girls who have the right to live free of violence, today and in the future," he said. *"It is a*



campaign to stop the untold cost that violence against women inflicts on all humankind."

Mr. Ban called on the cooperation of the world's youth, women's groups, men around the world, the private sector and Member States to help the new initiative succeed.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25741&Cr=women&Cr1=>



Action

‘Craig’sList Campaign’: What Can You Do?

1. PETITION: Sign the online petition to Craig’slist and post it on a *Craig’slist* forum, e-mail it to *Craig’slist* (go to “contact us” section of *Craig’slist* site), or mail it to *Craig’slist Inc.* World Headquarters at: 1381 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-2308, and/or fax it to *Craig’slist* at: (415) 504-6394.*
2. CREATE A COALITION: Design your own petition to *Craig’slist* asking its corporate officers to take the measures necessary to protect its site from being used as a vehicle for child sex trafficking. Send copies of the petition to 10 friends and ask them to send it to ten more, and so on.*
3. GET ON THE PHONE: You and your friends can call *Craig’slist* at (415) 566-6394 or Toll Free: 1-(800)-664-0633 and urge those in power to implement the safeguards necessary to protect its site from being used as a vehicle for child sex trafficking.*
4. MAKE A MOVIE: Create a *YouTube* video exposing the frequency in which *Craig’slist* is being used as a vehicle for the exploitation and sex trafficking of minors.
5. DO SOME PR: Organize a press conference, event or vigil at your school or place of worship, to educate people and raise awareness about the crisis of child sex trafficking. You can contact *Love146.org* for creative ideas, information pamphlets or speakers for the event.
6. BECOME AN EDUCATOR: After reviewing the *Love146.org* website and armed with an arsenal of information about the child sex trafficking

crisis, go on to a *Craig’slist* forum (one that may be very responsive is the parent’s forum) and get others interested in the issues. You can use the facts and statistics you have gathered to not only raise awareness but also educate people on what they can do to make a difference.

7. BECOME A PROACTIVE CITIZEN: If you are on *Craig’slist* and see a suspicious advertisement, contact your local law enforcement and tell them about it. Encourage them to investigate it.
8. MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS: While on *Craig’slist* if you see a suspicious advertisement, flag it by pressing the button on the screen. According to *Craig’slist’s* *Community Moderation* site, “if a post receives enough negative flags it will automatically be removed.” Ask your friends to flag the posting as well. Keep track of how many times you and your friends flagged a particular posting and keep a record of whether *Craig’slist* actually removes the advertisement and how long it takes for it to do so.*

*NB: After you take action, notify *Love146* by e-mail at: advocacy@love146.org or phone: (203)-772-4420 so they can log the work being done and the progress made.
*NB: Anyone under 18 years of age should consult with parents before taking action.
http://www.love146.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=25049

To help in the Craig’sList Campaign you may download a sample letter to send to Craig’slist owner.
http://www.love146.org/uploads/CL_Petition_1_2008.doc?tr=y&aid=3291770

‘Not For Sale’ Campaign *cont. from pg. 2*

The *Not For Sale* website references stories from Batstone’s book, as well as information about the Campaign’s online newsletter, *The Underground*, that connects people that are doing something to stop human trafficking and slavery.

There are actions that can be taken through the site’s links and merchandise to purchase, such as:

Coffee Sleeves

\$25.00 for 125 Coffee Sleeves

Take Action! Spread the word about the realities of human trafficking throughout your community. These Coffee Sleeves display the National Trafficking Hotline. Your distribution of these throughout your community will inform witnesses so they can make reports, and victims so they can find help and safety.

Free to Play Soccer Ball \$29.99

Be the first at your local park to sport this soccer ball made, not by children, but by adults, who are paid a living wage in Pakistan. Synthetic leather and a latex bladder give this size 5 ball from Fair Trade Sports great bounce and shape.

By paying the adults a fair wage, the children in the family are not forced to work, and are free to study and play.





Action

**Media Madness:
The Impact of Sex,
Violence and Commer-
cial Culture on Adults,
Children and Society:**
A summer Institute for Educators,
Students, Human Service Profes-
sionals, Activists and Parents
July 8-11, 2008,
Wheelock College, Boston.

For the 14th consecutive year, Wheelock College is offering a summer institute on the role that the media (television, magazines, advertising, pornography, video games and music videos) plays in shaping our gender identity, our intimate relationships, our children's lives, and ultimately our culture.

The institute is taught by Dr Gail Dines, author of *Pornography: The Production and Consumption of Inequality*, and Dr. Diane Levin, author of the forthcoming *So Sexy So Soon*

Participants in both tracks will learn:

- How media violence affects behavior and contributes to violence in society
- How media images perpetuate and legitimize sexism, racism, consumerism and economic inequality
- How political and economic forces shape the media
- How media affects children's ideas about sexual behavior and relationships with others
- How to critically deconstruct media images and develop media literacy skills
- How to become active in advocacy, community building and grass roots organizing

As a way to accommodate the needs of the participants, two days of the

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888**

institute will be split into the following tracks:

1. Fighting the porn culture: how to think about and organize against the increasing pornification of our society. Led by Dr. Gail Dines with guest lectures by members of 'Stop Porn Culture'.

2. Combating the hazards of media culture with children, families and the community. Led by Dr. Diane Levin.

Credit Hours

The institute is available as a 3-credit graduate course or a non-credit course. Scholarships are available.

For more information, please contact Gail Dines at: gdines@wheelock.edu (**put 'July Institute' in subject line**)

The 'Oldest Oppression'

Grade 11 students at St. Mary's Academy, Winnipeg, wrote *The Oldest Oppression*, an original theatre piece on human trafficking, in 2004 under the direction of their drama teacher.

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) Justice and Peace Network in Manitoba spear-headed the project, hoping the drama would further education and public consciousness in an effort to stop human trafficking.

Filmed by Jeremy Williamson and produced by the Justice and Peace Network, *The Oldest Oppression* is now being released on DVD and distributed to the SNJM Justice and Peace Network throughout the U.S. and in Lesotho, a tiny African kingdom.

The 45-minute DVD is available for \$10.00. To order, call 204-475-7673 or e-mail: snjmmb@mts.net

Students who performed
in the drama.

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

'Craigslist' Campaign

http://www.love146.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=25044

'Demand' Campaign

UNANIMA International
<http://www.unanima-international.org/english/index.htm>

'Not For Sale' Campaign

<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/>

See also:

Text of Complete

'Romanian' Campaign Letter
<http://www.anti-trafficking.info/Challenge.html>

Pornography: Driving the Demand in International Sex Trafficking

Edited by: David E. Guinn with
Julie DiCaro and published by
Captive Daughters Media
<http://www.captive daughters.org/book.html>

Stop Trafficking!

is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of

Stop Trafficking!

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptraffic/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address:

jeansds2008@yahoo.com

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