

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

January 2010 Vol. 8 No. 1

This issue highlights issues that positively or negatively affect victims of human trafficking.

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For Practical Action
See pgs. 6-7

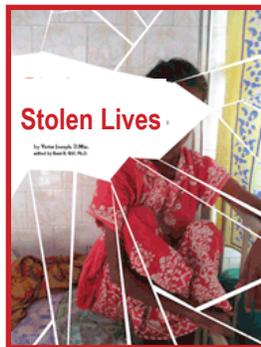
‘Stolen Lives’

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion-a-year business, with sex trafficking alone accounting for \$19 billion. Can the young women who escape from this brutal world find a way to get past their trauma?

In many cases, the answer is ‘yes’, according to a new 80-page report, *Stolen Lives: Dignity, Forgiveness, Hope, and Future-Mindedness for Victims of Sex Trafficking in India*.

With a John Templeton Foundation grant, human-rights activist Victor Joseph, a native of India, conducted interviews in Mumbai and New Delhi with 100 victims of sex trafficking between the ages of 14 and 22. When

Joseph, who worked for more than seven years at the *Office of Religious Freedom* at the U.S.



Dept. of State, first visited briefly with these young women five years ago, he concluded that they ‘had no future.’ But their stories stayed with him and ultimately he returned for more extensive conversations.

Stolen Lives cont. pg. 2



‘Strategies Against Human Trafficking’

Since the year 2000, 135 countries have ratified the U.N. ‘Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children’, and many adopted legal instruments to fight human trafficking. The U.S. ratified the Protocol in 2005.

Yet the scourge persists. Millions of people worldwide continue to be exploited for their labor, for sexual purposes, for their organs. Through its links to organized crime and corruption, human trafficking undermines the security of states. And, because it involves the exploitation of millions, it also violates fundamental human rights.

The Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has recently published a 154-page study entitled, *Strategies Against Human Trafficking: The Role of the Security Sector* (<http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/kms/index.cfm>). The study looks back at mistakes made and lessons learned, as well as forward at ways that counter-trafficking could be improved in the future.

The book examines key thematic areas, including trafficking and corruption, links with organized crime,

Strategies cont. pg. 2





Awareness

2 Stolen Lives *cont. from pg. 1*

Joseph was surprised by how often the women would say, “*We are trapped; we have been tortured; we have been through all of these things. But we want to live. And unless we forgive, we have no future.*” In spite of all the negative things that happened in their lives, many were able to keep a measure of optimism and to look ahead to the possibility of better days.

“The purpose of the 80-page study was to explore the nature of the trafficking problem from the victim’s perspective and to present some modest suggestions as to how that which has been stolen can be regained, to help in the creation of a sense of self-worth and power over one’s destiny. For some, this would mean acquiring a sense of self-determination, which they did not possess even before being trafficked. Specific portraits are provided to capture the feelings, the hurts, the struggles, and the dreams of the girls/women who were interviewed. In addition, there are



sections within each experience that provide key findings and identify areas for further research.

Two messages emerge from the moving interviews recounted in this publication. First, economic desperation creates vulnerability for young girls,

which cannot be ignored. Thus, anything which can be done to address unemployment and poverty will be of immense help...

Second, very often those trafficked were first the tragic victims of lies by unscrupulous ‘friends’ and strangers. Thus, it is imperative that much more be done to warn young people about the realities of sexual trafficking and the false promises which often lead to it.” (pg. 8)

The study examined how trafficked victims deal with anger, shame, healing, hope and future-mindedness, forgiveness and God. The study serves as a tool for NGOs, universities, governments, law enforcement and other agencies that wish not only to tackle this global issue, but also to help victims restore their ‘*stolen lives.*’ (http://www.templeton.org/templeton_report/20091021/)

‘Hidden in Plain Sight’

In November 2009 the U.S. *Immigration & Customs Enforcement* (ICE) agency launched a billboard campaign. ‘*Hidden in Plain Sight*’ is displayed on the ads with a toll-free number where people can report situations in which they believe people are being sexually exploited or forced to work against their will.

An ICE agent explained, “*It is difficult to identify victims, and it is difficult for them to tell their stories. We need the help of citizens.*” A Lutheran Social Services’ representative in Worcester, MA agreed, saying, “*Often victims get mistaken for undocumented immigrants, but it is very different because these people were abducted from their homes and forced into trafficking.*” Lutheran Social Services had recently helped trafficking victims from Africa and South America.

The 14 cities targeted are: Atlanta; Boston; Dallas; Detroit; Los Angeles; Miami; Philadelphia; Newark; New Orleans; New York; St. Paul, MN; San Antonio; San Francisco and Tampa, FL.

(http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/newark_other_cities_targeted_i.html)

Strategies *cont. from pg. 1*

and the overlap with other forms of migration. It then focuses on key security sector actors, analyzing their roles and providing policy recommendations for police, prosecutors and judges, peacekeepers, and migration management actors, among others. Finally, it explores the key issue of counter-trafficking cooperation and draws policy-relevant conclusions about how such cooperation can be improved. The book’s conclusions and recommendations are relevant for policymakers, security practitioners, researchers, and the general public.

In the *Foreword* Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the U.N. *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC), comments: “Security sector personnel are well placed to assist in the fight against human trafficking: by identifying victims; investigating networks; disrupting operations; and prosecuting traffickers. Moreover, trafficking, like many crimes, flourishes where the rule of law is weak, such as in post-conflict situations. Restoring security based on the rule of law reduces vulnerability to human trafficking and other types of organized crime.

Two points stand out. *First, policy and intervention depend on evidence.* Thus far, the fight against human trafficking has been handicapped by a lack of data. ...The picture remains impressionistic. Security sector professionals can provide the information needed to profile victims and identify traffickers.

The second major point highlighted in this study is the need for cooperation. This fight is a shared responsibility. It requires inter-agency cooperation among law enforcement personnel as well as trans-national cooperation. It also depends on effective joint work among a wide range of stakeholders, including criminal justice experts, the private sector, civil society, and concerned citizens.

‘*Strategies*’ ...contributes to a more strategic fight against a crime that shames us all.”



Awareness

Violence Against Women: U.N. Facts

This abuse is of pandemic proportions. Based on country data available, up to 70% of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime – the majority by husbands, intimate partners or someone they know.

Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today, violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development. It takes many forms and occurs in many places – domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps, during enslavement, or as a tactic of war.

Femicide – the murder of women because they are women

- In the United States, one-third of women murdered each year are killed by intimate partners.
- In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.
- In India, 22 women were killed each day in dowry-related murders in 2007.
- In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day.

Trafficking

- Women and girls comprise 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79%) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Harmful practices

- Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.1 million) and Sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million).

Sexual violence against women and girls

- An estimated 150 million girls under 18 suffered some form of sexual violence in 2002 alone.
- As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy which increases the likelihood of having a miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion.
- Up to 53% of women physically abused by their intimate partners are being kicked or punched in the abdomen.
- In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds.
- In Ecuador, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37% of cases.

Rape as a method of warfare

- Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were raped in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, at least 200,000 cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996, though the actual numbers are considered to be much higher.

Violence cont. col. 2

Violence *cont. from col. 1*

Cost of violence against women

- Domestic violence alone cost approximately US\$1.16 billion in Canada and US\$5.8 billion in the United States.
- In Australia, violence against women and children costs an estimated US\$11.38 billion per year.

Sexual Harassment

- Between 40 and 50% of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace.
- In the United States, 83% of girls aged 12 to 16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

(<http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>)

Unite to End Violence Against Women

In 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the campaign “UNITE to End Violence Against Women” to draw international attention at the highest level to the issue. “Say NO – UNITE” is designed to support social mobilization to drive actions and accountability on the part of countries and their peoples. Through UNITE, the UN is joining forces with individuals, civil society and governments to prevent and punish violence against women in order to put an end to violence against women in all its forms.





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Advocacy

Considering the Real Needs of Returning Victims

The *Strategic Information Response Network (SIREN)*, the UN's Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, put out a report in 2009 entitled, "*Re-thinking Reintegration: What Do Returning Victims Really Want & Need? Evidence from Thailand & the Philippines*"

Key points for a re-integration program include:

- Flexible and individualized support, with adult victims of trafficking having the right to make their own informed choices – a rights-based approach.
- Economic empowerment, with skills training having clear and direct links to the private sector – not just training for the sake of training.
- Safe and legal re-migration as an alternative livelihood strategy: re-integration does not necessarily mean going home; it is not a safe or realistic possibility for some returned victims.
- More pro-active outreach in hot-spot source areas and immigration checkpoints, to identify unofficial returned victims of trafficking who were not ever identified as victims of trafficking or offered services.
- Service providers ready to help, when returnees are ready to receive assistance. Returned victims might not require services immediately.

Common limitations in skills training and livelihood components of reintegration programs include:

1. Only offering a few traditional gender-stereotyped skills training activities, for example sewing or cooking classes, which are not market-oriented or able to secure urgently needed earnings. Vocational training programs in "traditional areas" can put returnees into saturated job markets, usually without the business and financial skills to compete against well-established businesses. Furthermore, after spending time abroad and being exposed to different lifestyles and cultures, many returnees find such traditional programs uninspiring.
2. Treating skills training as a goal instead of a step that leads to decent jobs and new livelihood opportunities. These are often not followed up by the necessary job placement schemes and services.
3. Treating skills training as occupational therapy to address psychosocial trauma, rather than a professional market-oriented activity whose objective is to help returnees get a decent job and their own income. Some may be too long (sometime several months) without providing proper stipends or respecting returnees' needs to earn money for themselves and their families while they are in a skills training course.
4. Not carefully considering the different individual aptitudes and ambitions among returnees. (http://www.no-trafficking.org/reports_docs/siren/GMS-07_re-thinking_reintegration.pdf)

Issues for Victim Shelters

The *Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP)* was established to contribute to the prevention of human trafficking in the Asia region by facilitating a more effective and coordinated approach to trafficking by the criminal justice systems of participating national governments (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines). ARTIP released a report in 2009 entitled, *Detention of Trafficked Persons in Shelters: A Legal and Policy Analysis*, by Dr Anne Gallagher and Elaine Pearson. The Report discusses the international legal position on victim detention, as well as policy arguments for victim detention. It then makes recommendations for change.

- The Report recommends that shelters be smaller, more community based and more empowering of survivors.
- Children and adults should not be housed in the same shelter.
- Shelter consent forms should be regularly reviewed and survivors informed of their rights, including the right to leave.
- Shelters should establish means for survivors to make their needs known and participate in decisions about how the shelter is run.
- Service providers and those in contact with survivors should have training in human rights.
- Each victim needs an individual risk assessment and security plan.
- Restrictions on movement should be justifiable relative to the risk assessment.
- Shelters should not be opened to outsiders without first considering the victims' right to privacy.

(www.artipproject.org/artip-tip-cjs/resources.html)



Advocacy

UN Website: Zero Tolerance Policy on Sexual Abuse

In keeping with its 'zero tolerance' policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by members of its multiple peacekeeping operations and special political missions, the U.N. made public in December 2009 its aggregated data on such misconduct over the past three years. It can be found at the UN's *Conduct and Discipline Unit* website under 'statistics.' (<http://cdu.unlb.org/>)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is steadfastly enforcing the policy proclaimed by his predecessor, Kofi Annan, in 2004. UN peacekeeping personnel in the *Democratic Republic of the Congo* (DRC), both civilian and military, had sexually exploited and abused victims, some of them abandoned orphans and often illiterate, with payments ranging from two eggs to \$5 per encounter.

The new website content complies with a General Assembly resolution requesting "the implementation of an effective outreach program to explain the policy of the United Nations against sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public on the outcome of all such cases involving peacekeeping personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven."

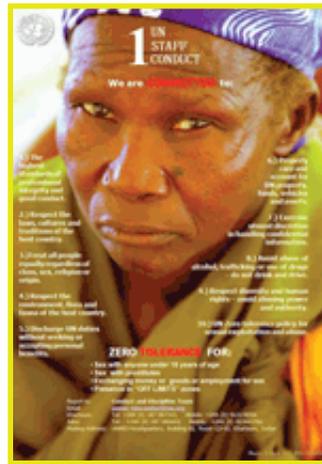
The Department of Field Support will continue to improve the content of the page and welcomes any feedback. (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33346>)

Texts of U.N. Posters:

"If I can have sex with a prostitute in my country, I can do the same in Haiti..."
WRONG! UN Rules don't allow you to buy sex with money, food or goods anywhere. In the UN, UN rules apply!

We are COMMITTED to:

1. The highest standards of professional integrity and good conduct.
2. Respect the laws, cultures and traditions of the host country.
3. Treat all people equally regardless of class, sex, religion or origin.
4. Respect the environment, flora and fauna of the host country.
5. Discharge UN duties without seeking or accepting personal benefits.
6. Properly care and account for UN property, funds, vehicles, and assets.
7. Exercise utmost discretion in handling confidential information.
8. Avoid abuse of alcohol, trafficking or use of drugs – do not drink and drive.
9. Respect diversity and human rights – avoid abusing power and authority.
10. UN Zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse.



ZERO TOLERANCE FOR:

- Sex with anyone under 18 years of age
- Sex with prostitutes
- Exchanging money or goods or employment for sex
- Presence in "OFF LIMITS" zones

Child Victims of Human Trafficking

The *Anti-trafficking in Persons Division* (ATIP) in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Service's *Office of Refugee Resettlement* (ORR) recently updated its fact sheet on child trafficking victims. The revised "*Child Victims of Human Trafficking*" fact sheet takes into account provisions of the *William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act* (TVPPRA) of 2008, clarifies the process for requesting eligibility for assistance from ORR for child victims of human trafficking, and discusses reporting requirements for Federal, State or local officials who discover a potential foreign child victim of trafficking.

ATIP recommends that service providers replace the older version of the fact sheet with this updated one to avoid confusion about how to request assistance for child victims. The updated fact sheet is available at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/child_victims.htm

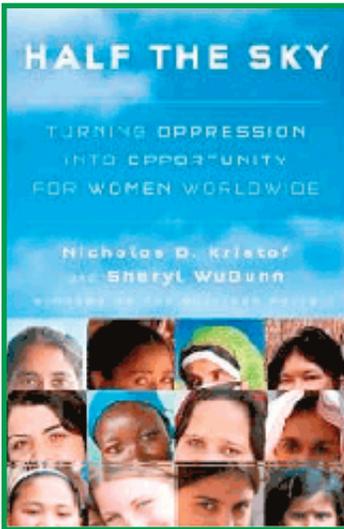
ATIP also modified its form titled "*Request for Assistance for Child Victims of Human Trafficking*." The revised form is available at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/ATIP_Request_Assistance_Child_Victims_Trafficking.pdf



Action

6 'Half the Sky'

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide'



is a group of essays and anecdotes in two parts. The first part is about the oppression of women in developing countries -- nothing less than slavery. The authors say such treatment calls for a moral and political movement that is focused and principled, a campaign against slavery. The second part looks at ways to create the mass movement to bring about the needed changes. (Susanna Hutcheson's review from: <http://www.amazon.com>)

This book examines our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn travel through Africa and Asia to interview extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth.

The authors show how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad. The Cambodian girl eventually escaped from her brothel and, with assistance from an aid group, built a thriving retail business that supports her family. The Ethiopian woman had her injuries repaired and in time became a surgeon.

Throughout much of the world, the greatest unexploited economic resource is the female half of the population. We are led to see that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential. Countries such as China have prospered precisely because they emancipated women and brought them into the formal economy. Unleashing that process globally is not only the right thing to do; it's also the best strategy for fighting poverty. Deeply felt, pragmatic, and inspirational, *'Half the Sky'* is essential reading for every global citizen. (Review from: <http://wereal.com/>)

(Illustrated. 294 pp. Alfred A. Knopf. \$27.95)

'The Gender Trap'

Amnesty International has recently published (in English, French and Spanish) *'The Gender Trap: Women, Violence and Poverty'*. (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT77/009/2009/en>)

Help Stop the 'Sexualization' of Childhood

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free-Childhood (CCFC) website follows these issues:

- The Commercialization of Childhood
- Media Violence
- Sexualization of Childhood
- Commercializing Play
- Marketing without Borders
- Body Image
- Materialistic Values and Family Stress
- School Commercialism
- Childhood Obesity
- Commercializing Babyhood

Nickelodeon, the children's media empire, is promoting sexualized and violent video games to children as young as preschoolers. *Nickelodeon* promotes, and links directly to, *Addictinggames.com* on Neopets, Nick.com and even on its Nick Jr. websites for preschoolers. Its popular gaming website, *Addictinggames.com*, features games such as *Sorority Panty Raid*, *Perry the Sneak* series, where gamers take the role of a peeping Tom trying to catch revealing glimpses of scantily clad and naked women, *Naughty Classroom* where gamers are asked, "Hot for teacher?...Here's your chance to fulfill your ultimate childhood fantasy. Naughty Classroom will leave you begging for more homework." and *Dark Cut 2* where gamers can witness people cutting themselves while drunk: "More macho surgery! No anesthetic. No antiseptics. Just rusty knives, corn whiskey, and lots of blood!"

The CCFC wants to pressure *Nickelodeon* to stop linking to *Addictinggames.com*. Help the CCFC to get *Nickelodeon* to promote links that do not teach boys to become sexual predators and girls to accept being sexualized victims.

Take action at: <http://www.commercialexploitation.org/actions/nicknaughtygames.html>

For more info, e-mail the CCFC at: cfc@jbcc.harvard.edu

"Human rights are women's rights, Women's rights are human rights."

Hillary Clinton, Beijing 1995

"Violence against women and girls will not be eradicated until all of us – men and boys – refuse to tolerate it." Ban Ki-moon, UN Sec. General



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

Action

Upcoming Events

'Human Trafficking: The Price We Pay Is Loss of Soul'

The Symposium will be held Feb. 27, 2010 (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) at Mount St. Mary's College, Doheny Campus in Los Angeles, CA 90007. The keynote speaker will be E. Benjamin Skinner, a reporter on international affairs and author of *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-To-Face With Modern Slavery*.

There will be interactive workshops about modern day slavery and its costs to children, families and community, relationships, the moral fabric of society, the economy, and the impact on the U.N. Millennium Development goals.

For information, contact Mary Genino at wap-jpic@rshm.org



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

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

UN Posters
<http://cdu.unlb.org>

**U.N. Commission for Social
Development (CSocD)**

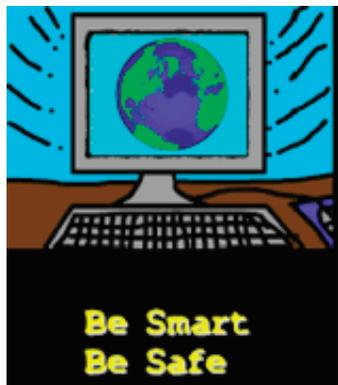
(Feb. 3-12, 2010 – CSocD is concerned with social justice, the promotion of people-centered development and ensuring access to basic needs for persons living in poverty.)

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/>

**U.N. Commission on the
Status of Women (CSW)**

(Mar. 1-12, 2010 – concerned with gender equality and the advancement of women, CSW will review progress since Beijing 1995)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>



'Abuse Perpetuated by Technology'

An Internet safety presentation to help parents, grandparents, students, and teachers understand the dangers lurking online and offer simple tools to help protect children in a wired world will be offered on April 24, 2010.

Sponsored by the Healing Violence Committee of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, the day-long presentation will take place at the Providence Spirituality Centre, 1200 Princess St.,

Kingston, Ontario, Canada and costs \$60.

Guest speakers are: Rob Nickel, a former 14-year veteran of the Ontario Provincial Police and expert in the field of Internet undercover investigations and Stephanie Morgan, a Kingston police detective representing the Ontario Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet. To register, call 614-542-8826 or e-mail: info@psck.org

Stop Violence Against Indigenous Women

Canada needs a plan to address the high rate of violence, poverty, poor health, and inadequate housing of Aboriginal women. According to government statistics, young *First Nations* women in Canada are five times more likely than other women to die as the result of violence. The *Sisters in Spirit* initiative of the *Native Women's Association of Canada* has documented over 520 cases of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered, most within the last 30 years. Sign the petition: <http://www.amnesty.ca/wakeupcanada/>

Victim Resources

In November 2009 the *Thai Community Development Center* in Los Angeles, CA presented an online training entitled, "*Leveraging Resources to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking*." The audio/video session may be viewed until February 19, 2010, at: <https://mman.webex.com/mman/ldr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=37849272&rKey=3c6e5d2f7e838627>

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://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com

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