



GLOBAL
MINISTRIES
COUNCIL OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2008-9

Networking Newsletter I

Christian Mission
and
Human Trafficking

Class of 2008-9 Global Ministries Council of Theological Students

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Contributions from Members of the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students

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Trafficking in persons is a significant world-wide problem which disproportionately affects women and children, especially those from poor countries.

Trafficking is defined as the use of force, coercion, fraud or abduction to exploit a person for profit. Commercial sexual exploitation of children and women, domestic servitude, forced labor, prostitution and debt bondage are forms of human trafficking. Often called "modern day slavery," trafficking in persons is often unseen or unnoticed. More info on trafficking can be obtained at: www.PolarisProject.org.

The Wider Church Ministries/
Common Global Ministries Boards and
Justice & Witness Ministries Board of
Directors, UCC recently approved a
resolution on human trafficking to be
submitted to the UCC General Synod
27 in June, 2009. The text of the
resolution will soon be available at
www.ucc.org/synod.

Resources to help you explore this issue and your mission involvement

- The final report from an Ecumenical Conference on Trafficking "Multiple Perspectives to Addressing This Complex Issue" held September 29-October 1, 2008, is available: www.nccusa.org/traffickingconference/index.html
- [Anti-Trafficking Projects run by Global Ministries partners around the world - See Page 5](#)
- [Other Advocacy Organizations doing Anti-Trafficking Work - See Page 6](#)
- Within the United States, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Administration for Children and Families has resources available as part of its "Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking" www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
Campaign Toolkits and Brochures are available for health care providers, social service organizations, law enforcement officers - called "Look Beneath the Surface: Can you recognize victims of human trafficking ...?"
Call Hotline 1.888.373.7888 to obtain information and access supportive services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

By Karen Fisher, Hartford Seminary

The hidden nature of human trafficking presents a major challenge in identifying and aiding victims. Even if victims were more visible however, most of the general public would not recognize them due to a commonly held view that human trafficking does not exist within their own community. This is partly due to confusion as to who is a victim with the assumption that most victims are young, foreign born females who have been forced into prostitution. Trafficking, however is not just forced prostitution. Victims may also be in forced labor situations as domestic servants (nannies or maids); sweatshop workers; janitors; restaurant workers; migrant farm or fishery workers; hotel or tourist industry workers; and beggars. This misconception deflects attention from the evidence that men, women, and children of all ages, whether U.S. Citizens, legal residents or victims brought into the country illegally can and do fall prey to traffickers. However, all victims share common characteristics that make them vulnerable to traffickers. They often come from countries or communities with high rates of crime, poverty, and corruption and lack opportunities for education. They typically lack family and/or community support and may have a history of physical or sexual abuse. In addition, international victims brought into the country illegally are usually unaware of their rights as victims, do not understand the laws of the United States or the language spoken. Traffickers frequently use illegal entry as well as various techniques to instill fear in victims to keep them enslaved and to keep the crime hidden including debt bondage, isolation from the public, family members, ethnic or religious communities, confiscation of passports, visas, or other identification documents, threatening harm toward the victim and/or their families, threatening intervention by legal authorities, threatening the victim with shame by exposure and/or control of the victim's money.

Trafficking can also involve school-age children, particularly those not living with their parents. Sex traffickers target children because of their vulnerability and gullibility, as well as the market demand for young victims. The average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 14 years old and traffickers are known to recruit at schools and after-school programs. Signs that a child might be a victim of sex-trafficking include:

- Unexplained absences from school for a period of time
- An inability to attend school on a regular basis
- Chronically running away from home or making references to frequent travel to other cities
- Presence of bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, or fear
- Lack of control over her or his schedule or identification documents
- Hungry, malnourished or inappropriate dress based on weather conditions or surroundings

- Signs of drug addiction
- A sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (e.g. Has expensive items)
- Making references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a friend who is noticeably older (10+ years)
- Makes references to terminology of the commercial sex industry that are beyond age-specific norms
- Engages in promiscuous behavior and may be labeled "fast" by peers.

The most immediate and important need in ending human trafficking in the U.S. is identification of the victims. Though the hidden nature of the crime of human trafficking is a major obstacle in the identification of victims, there are segments of communities that have a greater potential to come in contact with them.

This is particularly true of front line health care providers such as dental and health clinic workers and emergency room personnel. However referrals can also come from domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, crisis hot lines, social workers, community- and faith- based organizations, religious/community leaders, school personnel, and business owners, as well as ordinary citizens. While these individuals are on the front line of potentially encountering victims, they often have little training or experience to look beneath the surface for clues that may be vital in providing assistance. In response, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched a major public awareness effort to combat human trafficking and help its victims.

HHS has initiated the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign to address the issue by developing tools to educate health care providers, social service organizations and the law enforcement community. They provide tips for identifying and helping trafficking victims, questions to assess whether a person is a victim and communicating with these victims.

These materials, in the forms of fact sheets, training and resource tools, educational brochures and posters, pocket assessment cards and a Rescue and Restore Campaign Website, a Trafficking and Referral Hot Line all seek to draw attention to the following red flags:

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of an inability to move or leave a job
- Bruises or other signs of battering
- Fear or depression
- Non-English speaking
- Recently brought to this country from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada, Africa or India
- Lack of a passport, immigration or identification documentation

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking,
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Anyone who may have encountered a victim of human trafficking or is seeking additional information is urged to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-800-373-7888 or emailing NHTRC@PolarisProject.org.

Sources:

Clawson, Heather J.; Dutch, Nicole. Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking: Inherent Challenges and Promising Strategies from the Field. Study of HHS Programs Serving Human Trafficking Victims. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services January 2008 .
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/>

Salvation Army. How to Identify victims of Human Trafficking. Challenges to Victim Identification. Quick Guide. Red Flags. Questions to Ask. http://salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn_2.nsf/
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Identifying and Interacting with Victims of Human Trafficking for Health Care Providers. December 12, 2008. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign_kits/tool_kit_health/identify_victims.html

U.S. Department of Education. Human Trafficking of Children in the United States. A Fact Sheet. August 6, 2007. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.html>

Commodification and the Body: A Comparison **By Emily Mitchell, Chicago Theological Seminary**

Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative and quickly growing enterprises in the world. While some find that a staggering statistic, this industry grows in the midst of a global economy that promotes mass consumption and commodification of human beings. Developed countries around the world consume at alarming rates (some statistic). In the midst of consumerism are industries like the fashion industry and media industries. Many companies rely on these industries to promote their products, often using sexual innuendo and other techniques to create a culture that accepts that human beings are consumable goods. Companies depict the use of women's bodies as tools by which they sell a product, or the body itself.

This creates a number of problems for those trying to combat human trafficking. In an environment that subliminally perpetuates the commodification of human beings, that uses men and women's bodies to sell other products, it is no wonder that such an industry is successful. Often in high fashion magazines and women modeling for escort services are depicted in nearly indistinguishable ways.

Both as consumers and as Christians, we have a duty to be responsible consumers in the community in which we live. It is nearly impossible to stop purchasing from companies that use this media tactic; nearly every company does it to some extent. However, consumers should be aware of and consider the kind of media that companies produce. It is important to ask questions. Why am I buying from this company? Do they use men and women in explicit or demeaning ways in their ads? If so, can I buy elsewhere? The answers to these questions will vary and are contextual. But as people of faith and members of a global market, all the choices we make on what we consume, how, and why impact our global community. Local, independent, or companies with an ethical commitment to justice are good ways to support our brothers and sisters who live far and near.

The ways in which marketing in the United States relates to human trafficking, and how that might relate to our own purchasing choices is an important issue to bring to churches. As the community in which the church resides is certainly filled with victims of human trafficking, our responsibility as people of faith is to be aware and to respond with the needs of the community. Educating church members will lead to greater awareness and sensitivity to these issues, and hopefully will lead to action in our communities.

Human Trafficking

By Megan Malick, Lancaster Theological Seminary

It's hard to read the newspaper or turn on the TV today without reading or hearing stories of human trafficking. Whether about child sex workers in Thailand, child slave labors in Mexico, or child soldiers in the Sudan, stories of abusive and unjust treatment of children break our hearts and sell newspapers. From this media, you could assume that the epidemic of human trafficking is quickly being remedied.

However, the United Nations suggests that international reports of human trafficking reveal that two million people are somehow under the control of traffickers. This statistic is of reported cases. The UN estimates that the actual number of trafficked persons to be ten million or more (*Looking Holistically at Human Trafficking* 38). And this statistic does not include the families affected by the loss of a mother, father, or child.

Although the sensational side of human trafficking appears in media, few people know that both the United States and the United Nations define human trafficking as modern day slavery. This definition includes sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion as well as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person of labor or service, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (*Trafficking in Persons Report* 6).

This comprehensive definition stresses that a survivor need not be transported across country or state lines to be considered a trafficked person.

In addition to defining human trafficking, the United States and many countries have passed legislation to address this human rights violation. Since human trafficking violates US law and UN protocol, trafficking in persons is an organized crime that is fluid in both time and space. For this reason, these organized crime rings are transnational and affect virtually every country around the world. And translating these laws into practice that can be enforced is a challenge.

Global Ministries, along with many other denominational bodies, have begun to speak-out about the atrocities of trafficking in persons. There are three key ways you can help address this human rights violation: prevention, protection, and prosecution. Through working together and with our partnerships, we can break the silence about the reality of human trafficking.

Works Cited

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Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2005. Washington DC: Department of State 2005 <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/61214.pdf>.

Advocacy Organizations doing Anti-Trafficking Work

Below are two very respectable groups that do responsible (non-ransom) anti-trafficking work, the first one advocacy, resettlement and structural change, and the second one legal and direct victim rescue work. Both have a somewhat religious vocation, the second slightly more evangelical. Both call on religious groups for support:

1. **International Rescue Committee**, www.theirc.org/what/irc_antitrafficking_initiative.html.

Its president George Rupp, was once professor at Harvard Divinity School.

2. **International Justice Mission**, www.ijm.org/. Its president Gary Haugen is remarkable, brilliant and fearless. I met him at the organizing conference of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which is a slightly related issue, but is very much worth supporting and which we are supporting members of: www.nrca.org/

Other groups:

AntiSlavery International, www.antislavery.org/

Campaign Against the Trafficking of Women, www.catwinternational.org/index.php

International Crisis Group, Gender and Conflict, www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4869&l=1

Another widespread and pernicious type of slavery is through sweatshop labor/servitude, esp. child labor. Some organizations working on this: See www.stopchildlabor.org/; Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org/doc/?t=children

Some **UN efforts** to control trafficking across borders:

See <http://giftasia.in/>

www.unicef-irc.org/cgi-bin/unicef/research/main.sql?file=scheda_projects.sql&key=107

www.unicef.org/protection/index_exploitation.html

US Government human trafficking offices:

See Health and Human Services, www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html

State Dept, www.state.gov/g/tip/ The State Dept also funds this resource initiative: www.humantrafficking.org/

Projects run by Global Ministries partners

In March 2008, Global Ministries staff person, Derek Duncan visited a Global Ministries partner in **South Korea, Durebang, or My Sister's Place**, that works primarily with Filipina women who are sex workers outside the US military bases there. They have been providing services and advocacy for the women for many years. While this industry, in this case, does not involve kidnapping or slavery, it does entail economic servitude. Such cases of deceptive and exploitative employment constitutes a large part of the trafficking industry. Information on Durebang can be found at www.durebang.org/htm/esubl-2.htm

[Human Trafficking Advocacy](http://globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy/Human-Trafficking-Advocacy.ppt) - <http://globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy/Human-Trafficking-Advocacy.ppt>

I Combating Human Trafficking: Responses and Strategies Presented by:LaMarco CableProgram

[Stories of Human Trafficking in India](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/stories-of-human-trafficking-in.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/stories-of-human-trafficking-in.html>

Description: India

[Church of North India: A Leader in Addressing the Tragedy of Human Trafficking](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/church-of-north-india-a-lead.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/church-of-north-india-a-lead.html>

[The Church of North India Works with Regional Media Groups on Gender Rights-Related Reporting](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/the-church-of-north-india-works.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/the-church-of-north-india-works.html>

[Church World Service - Cambodia](http://globalministries.org/sasia/partners/church-world-service-2.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/partners/church-world-service-2.html>

[After School Programs](http://globalministries.org/sasia/after-school-programs.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/after-school-programs.html>

[After School Programs in Laos](http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/after-school-programs-in-laos-1.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/after-school-programs-in-laos-1.html>

[Human Rights](http://globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy/human-rights/) - <http://globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy/human-rights/>

[Anti-Trafficking Rehabilitation Centre](http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/anti-trafficking.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/anti-trafficking.html>

[Myanmar](http://globalministries.org/sasia/countries/myanmar/) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/countries/myanmar/>

[Cambodia](http://globalministries.org/sasia/countries/cambodia/) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/countries/cambodia/>

[The Children's Development Centers in Laos](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/the-childrens-development.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/the-childrens-development.html>

[Basic Health Education Project](http://globalministries.org/news/lac/basic-health-education.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/lac/basic-health-education.html>

[Pray for Cambodia on Sunday August, 17, 2008](http://globalministries.org/prayer/17August08.html) - <http://globalministries.org/prayer/17August08.html>

[Southern Asia Special Projects](http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/projects/>

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[Argentina Holistic Health Project Report](http://globalministries.org/news/lac/argentina-holistic-health-proj.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/lac/argentina-holistic-health-proj.html>

[Pray for Japan on Sunday, May 10, 2008](http://globalministries.org/prayer/10may2008.html) - <http://globalministries.org/prayer/10may2008.html>

[Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh \(CCDB\) Update](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/christian-commission-for-develop.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/christian-commission-for-develop.html>

[Sili Manotham Hansana, Donkoi School, Laos](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/sili-manotham-hansana.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/sili-manotham-hansana.html>

[Hope for Keomany, Child Development Centers, Laos](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/hope-for-keomany-child-develo.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/hope-for-keomany-child-develo.html>

[Your Global Ministries Update: November 6, 2008](http://globalministries.org/news/gm-update/6nov2008.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/gm-update/6nov2008.html>

[Is There Hope for Keomany?](http://globalministries.org/sasia/overseasstaff/is-there-hope-for-keomany.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/overseasstaff/is-there-hope-for-keomany.html>

[An Inspiring Story of Donkoi Children Development Center - Sili Manotham Hansana](http://globalministries.org/sasia/overseasstaff/a-story-of-another-inspiring-you.html) - <http://globalministries.org/sasia/overseasstaff/a-story-of-another-inspiring-you.html>

[A Visit with Partners and Missionaries in Indonesia and Laos](http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/a-visit-with-partners-and-missio.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/a-visit-with-partners-and-missio.html>

[Update on the Philippines at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](http://globalministries.org/news/eap/report-on-the-philippin.html) - <http://globalministries.org/news/eap/report-on-the-philippin.html>

[Peace and Justice: Challenges for the Churches in Germany Today](http://globalministries.org/mee/partners/kirchengemeinschaft/peace-and-justice-challenges-fo.html) - <http://globalministries.org/mee/partners/kirchengemeinschaft/peace-and-justice-challenges-fo.html>

Global Ministries Council of Theological Students Roster – 2008-9

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