

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2009 Vol. 7 No. 12

This issue highlights the plight of indigenous children.

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Indigenous Children* Exploitation of the Voiceless

- Indigenous and tribal children are at special risk in relation to the worst forms of child labor, linked to extreme poverty, low levels of education and low literacy rates, poor health and high mortality.
- Racial discrimination and the resulting social exclusion result in cultural marginalization, increased poverty and worse exploitation.
- Education systems and services including curricula are often not relevant to indigenous children's needs, either in their structure or their content. Culturally appropriate measures, developed in consultation with the peoples concerned, are essential if education programs for indigenous and tribal peoples are to be effective and sustainable.
- Statistics at the national and international levels rarely reflect the special reality of indigenous and tribal children.

Combating child labor among indigenous children requires a rights-based approach in which the accessibility and quality of education are key elements. (ITP Guide, pg. 129. <http://pro169.org/>) See also: *Guidelines for Combating Child Labor among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, ILO 2007*. (Link on pg. 7)

The Worst Forms of Child Labor

1. Slavery and forced labor, including child trafficking and forced recruitment for armed conflict;
2. Using a child in prostitution or pornography;
3. Using a child in illicit activities like drug trafficking; and
4. Work likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
(http://www.pro169.org/res/materials/en/child_labour/Leaflet_Child_Labour_IPs.pdf)

Ugandan Girls

During the November 2009 U.N. special event, *Giving Voice to the Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking*, Charlotte Awino described how in 1996 she and 138 other girls were abducted from a boarding school. The rebels from the *Lords' Resistance Army*, had them march for three months into southern Sudan where

Ugandan Girls *cont. pg. 3*

Guatemalan Girls

Five members of an extended Guatemalan family were sentenced to federal prison in August 2009, all receiving 30- to 40-year sentences for their roles in an international sex trafficking ring that lured young Guatemalan women and girls to the Los Angeles area and into prostitution.

Guatemalan Girls *cont. pg. 3*

**For Practical Action
See pg. 6-7**

*By legal definition, children are any individuals younger than age 18.



Awareness

2 Exploitation of Indigenous Peoples

“Forced labor occurs when people are subjected to psychological or physical coercion in order to perform work, which they would not otherwise have freely chosen. Forced labor includes situations such as slavery, practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, or serfdom. *International Labor Organization* (ILO) research indicates that indigenous peoples in are at high risk of becoming victims of forced labor, as a result of longstanding discrimination.”

“In Latin America today, as centuries ago, the main victims of forced labor are indigenous peoples. In South Asia, bonded labor remains particularly severe among the Dalits and Adivasis. Women and girls from the hill tribes of the Mekong region of South-East Asia are known to be particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation.

In Central Africa, forced labor appears to be a particular problem for the Baka, Batwa and other so-called ‘pygmy’ peoples.”

“The ILO’s *Forced Labor Convention No. 29* from 1930 obliged ILO member states to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labor in all its forms within the shortest possible period. In 1957, this Convention was followed up by the *Abolition of Forced Labor Convention No 105*, which outlined specific purposes for which forced labor could never be imposed. Thus, forced labor may never be used for economic development or as means of political education, discrimination, labor discipline, or punishment for having participated in strikes.”

“It may seem needless or redundant to state that indigenous peoples should enjoy fundamental human rights but, unfortunately, their histories are often marked by genocide, ethnocide, discrimination, forced labor – and, in many cases, violations of their fundamental rights still continue. Current violations of fundamental rights can, for example, take the form of denial of citizenship, bonded labor and human trafficking or restricted access to education and health services. Often, women are more affected by such violations than men.”

(ITP Guide pg. 32)

Child Labor In Indigenous Communities

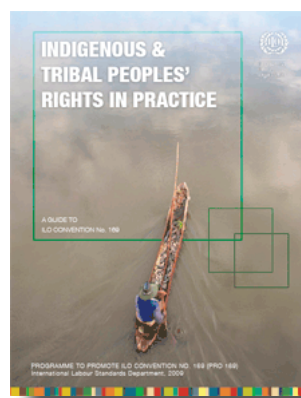
“There is a need to distinguish generally between acceptable child work and child labor. Most indigenous children have particular working roles reflecting elaborate cultural notions of childhood development distinguished by age-groups, gender, social status and often accompanied by rituals such as those marking entry into adulthood. Such light work that is not harmful but which contributes to children’s development and provides them with skills, attitudes and experience that make them useful and productive members of their community during their adult life can in no way be equated with harmful child labor.”

“Indigenous child labor prevails in rural areas, but is also on the rise in urban

settings. Children of female-headed households and orphans are the most vulnerable. Indigenous children work within the formal as well as the informal sector, but tend to be more numerous in the latter, where they usually work very long hours and are often paid in kind only. Indigenous children constitute a growing percentage of the migrant labor force working in plantations and other forms of commercial agriculture. In Guatemala, for example, exploitative child labor includes working in commerce agriculture, firework manufacturing and handicrafts.”

“Child labor affects boys and girls differently. Because of the widespread gender discrimination, including in some indigenous cultural practices, girls in the rural areas are less likely to go to school and many migrate instead to urban areas to work as domestic servants. This makes them less ‘visible’ and more vulnerable to exploitation, sexual abuse and violence. Some indigenous children combine school with work but the majority of child laborers have little or no schooling.”

“Although general efforts to eliminate child labor have increased, indigenous children are not benefiting as much as non-indigenous children. In fact, child labor among indigenous peoples has until recently received little attention from governments and international institutions as well as from indigenous peoples themselves. It largely remains an invisible issue, and no comprehensive data on the magnitude of the problem or the conditions and types of work in which indigenous children are engaged exist. However, a series of cases and examples drawn from all over the world indicate that indigenous children are disproportionately affected by high rates of child labor. Further, recent studies have shown that indigenous children are at particular risk for ending up in the worst forms of child labor. Combating child labor among indigenous children requires specific approaches, based on the special needs and rights of these peoples.” (ITP Guide pg. 157-9)



Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights In Practice, Guide to ILO Convention 169, 2009
(<http://pro169.org/>)



Awareness

U.N. Report on Children

Millions of children worldwide are subject to trafficking, sexual abuse or child labor. They lack parental care or documents needed to access schools and health care. They face violence in their homes, schools or communities. These findings are highlighted in a new U.N. report entitled, *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection*.



([http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309(1).pdf))

Upcoming U.N. Forum

The *Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* (PFII) is an advisory body to the U.N. *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

Its 9th Session, April 19-30, 2010, will focus on the special theme for the year, *“Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”*

For more information, go to: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/index.html

Ugandan Girls *cont. from pg. 1*

they were used as human shields during fighting against Ugandan soldiers.

“As usual, we girls suffered more,” she said. “We were distributed to rebel commanders as objects without rights and we were sexually abused. I was given to a man, who had 20 other abducted girls, and he was a brutal man. I had two children with him.”

Charlotte escaped eight years later in 2004 when the rebels went back to northern Uganda. She urged the U.N. to *“get back the children, who have been trafficked through war — some as young as six years old.”* She called for victims to be given counseling, health care and education, for countries to better protect their citizens during war, and for improved methods to track and trace missing people.

She also urged understanding for the plight of victims. *“One day I was at home. The next day I was among the rebels. Is everyone going to call us rebels or terrorists?”* (<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=4177> and http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2010124376_apunhumantrafficking.html)

Guatemalan Girls

cont. from pg. 1

Evidence showed that the defendants intimidated and controlled their victims by threatening to beat them and kill their loved ones in Guatemala if they tried to escape. Some defendants also used witch doctors to threaten the girls with a curse on them and on their families if they tried to escape.

At least two of the defendants further restrained the victims by locking them in at night and blocking windows and doors. The traffickers also imposed debts, verbal abuse and psychological manipulation to reinforce their control over the victims.

The scheme included strict controls over the victims’ work schedules and ominous comments about consequences that befell the families of other victims who attempted to escape. The traffickers kept tens of thousands of dollars from the acts of prostitution, while the victims received next to nothing.

(<http://losangeles.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrelo9/la081809.htm>)

Mexican Girls

Between 2006 to 2008, ten young, rural Mexican women and girls were tricked into prostitution. Poor and with limited education, they believed the Mexican nationals who brought them to the Atlanta, GA area, promising them better lives, legitimate employment and marriage. They were subsequently forced into prostitution through a scheme of strict controls and physical violence.

The traffickers were arrested and, if convicted, will receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison. (<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2009/July/09-crt-738.html>)

“U.S. federal laws protect all victims of such heinous crimes whether or not they are citizens. No victim should fear coming forward to report illegal activity and criminal abuse.” U.S. Attorney D. Nahmias, Northern Dist. of Georgia.



Advocacy

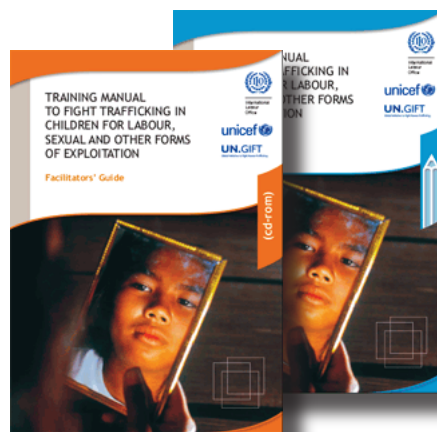
The ILO/UNICEF Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children

In September 2009 the *International Labor Organization* (ILO), the *U.N. Children's Fund* (UNICEF) and the *Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking* (UN.GIFT) launched the "Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labor, Sexual and Other Forms of Exploitation"

This training manual seeks to aid governments, workers, employers, international, and non-governmental organizations that combat trafficking in children at the policy and outreach levels.

It comprises textbooks for self-study, an exercise book with a menu of assignment options from which trainers may choose for tailor-made training courses, and a facilitators' guide.

A draft of the training manual was validated by a broad range of international agencies and then tested by the ILO in a number of regions. The ILO distributed 1,500 hard copies of the training manual in English, French



and Spanish to contacts across the globe. The United States Department of Labor helped to fund the project.

Given the dynamic and evolving nature of child trafficking (and its responses), ILO/UNICEF intend to update the manual regularly and would welcome any suggestions through: childtrafficking@ilo.org. (http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Traffickingofchildren/lang--en/WCMS_111537/index.htm)

The *U.N. Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking* estimated in 2008 that annual profits from trafficked, forced labor reached \$31.6 billion. Some experts say it is now the second-largest illicit business in the world after drugs.

"Child labor reaps a particularly heavy toll with 150 million youngsters aged between five and 14 in the work force." Joan Burke SNDdeN, NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC at the UN

Proactive Help to Vulnerable Children in Cambodia

The *Sao Sary Foundation* (SSF) in Cambodia provides a proactive approach to helping children and families solve their economic problems, which in turn, helps eliminate the occurrence of child trafficking.

SSF not only houses orphans and at-risk children, but also works with impoverished families throughout the community. They support families with initial start-up capital to begin entrepreneurial efforts in projects like grocery selling, vegetable gardening and other activities.

By creating economic independence throughout the community, SSF believes that families will no longer be forced to pay back loans with their children. Additionally, SSF provides full funding for educational costs of the children it supports.

Currently SSF supports over 50 at-risk children. It provides food, clothing, and shelter for these children, along with life-skills education, social and financial education. Children living at the SSF house have requisite study hours and must contribute to daily household duties in exchange for participating with SSF.

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Advocacy

Tourists Ignorant of Child Sex Trafficking Issues

In the summer of 2009 *End Child Prostitution and Trafficking* (ECPAT) conducted a survey of tourists in downtown Manhattan, New York, NY to gain an understanding about travelers' knowledge of *commercial sexual exploitation* of children (CSE - also known as *child sex tourism*) and to gauge their attitudes towards companies that have responsible tourism policies. The survey was conducted in English, German and Spanish.

A total of 355 survey forms were completed, with half the respondents women and half men. 68% of the respondents were between the ages of 18 and 45 years. 45% spent more than three weeks away from home each year. There were *two main conclusions* that were drawn from the results of the survey.

First, while more than 70% had never heard of the ***Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Travel and Tourism***, after it was explained to them, nearly 90% stated that they would prefer to patronize companies that have responsible tourism policies addressing CSE. More than 70% of survey participants answered that they were more likely to make travel arrangements with a company that had such policies. More than 75% of respondents stated that they would like travel and tourism companies to share information with them about these policies via websites, brochures and verbally at the hotels. Only 5% knew they had stayed at a hotel that had CSE policies in place.

The second conclusion was that many travelers are very uninformed about CSE. 22% didn't know if they had ever seen CSE taking place when traveling. Only about 38% of respondents knew that a person could be prosecuted for CSE both in the country where the exploitation took place as well as in the U.S. 80% said they would report incidences if they saw exploitation occurring. Finally, of those 15% who stated that they would not or might not report incidents of CSE if they noticed it, gave a variety of reasons, including a belief that it is legal.

ECPAT-USA will continue to survey travelers in New York and in other locations within the U.S. The results of the surveys will contribute to educational programming about CSE and be used to encourage more companies to sign the ***Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism***. Around the world, almost 1,000 companies and partner agencies have signed the *Code of Conduct*, but in the U.S., only four have done so (***Carlson Companies, the American Society of Travel Agents, ElaBrasil and Amazon Tours***). The poll indicates that it is time for the U.S. travel industry to take this issue more seriously, as their customers are clearly interested in patronizing responsible companies.

© ECPAT-USA, Inc. 2009 Written by Ann-Kathrin Naruga

http://www.ecpat-usa.org/EcpatUSA_PDF/Traveler_Survey_Report_oct_2009_final.pdf

"We need to eradicate discrimination and the unjust distribution of power that underlies trafficking, that grants impunity to traffickers, and that denies justice to victims."

Navi Pillay, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights

The *ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* and the *Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age* are the ILO's main instruments to combat child labor.

Reader's Comment:

"I went to Bali in Indonesia to attend a workshop on micro-enterprises in the agriculture sector. I saw how the foreign visitors exploit the local people for money (sexual exploitation, massage, beach baths, etc).

Those concerned should see that prosecutions are prominently advertised in those foreign countries, so visitors will have certain fear (of consequences for their exploitation)."

Jayakumar Arockiasamy, Exec. Director,
(mtdri2000@yahoo.co.in) Mother Theresa
Development Research Institute,
Tamil Nadu, South India



Action

January 11th — National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 11, 2010 marks the third time our nation will focus awareness on *Human Trafficking*. Human trafficking is 'modern day slavery' because it uses force, fraud, or coercion to make people do things they don't want to do. Men, women, and children are all affected by this crime; they are enslaved throughout the world for labor or commercial sex exploitation.

Millions of people are affected by human trafficking, although no one knows the exact number of its victims. No country is immune from human trafficking. Even in the United States, thousands of trafficked individuals live where we live. Do you know anyone who:

- is always accompanied by another controlling person?
- shows signs of physical or psychological abuse?
- is submissive or fearful of the people with whom they live or work?
- told you their identification papers were taken from them?
- said they are obliged to pay back a debt to their employer before receiving a regular salary?

If you are aware of a situation in which someone is being coerced against their will to work for the benefit of others, please call the *U.S. Department of Justice Human Trafficking Hotline* at 1-888-428-7581 or report your concerns to the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center's 24/7 Hotline* at 1.888.373.7888.

Use January 11th to help educate your family, friends and colleagues by distributing materials, as well as e-mailing, calling, blogging, twittering and conversation to increase knowledge about this still-invisible crime.

Stop Trafficking invites its readers to access and duplicate the six information sheets (<http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>). Distribute them in venues that you frequent, such as work places, coffee shops, bus stations, beauty parlors and barber shops, churches, schools, public libraries, etc.

Invite key people to set up displays that will help educate others about human trafficking and its global hold on innocent, impoverished and/or vulnerable women, men, teens, and young children. Let us all help to

STOP TRAFFICKING!

Legislation that Needs Citizen Support

The ***Children's Act for Responsible Employment*** (CARE Act), introduced Sept. 14, 2009 by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. This bill (HR 3564) will correct long-standing discrepancies in US child labor laws that allow children employed in commercial agriculture to work at far younger ages, for longer hours, and under more hazardous conditions than other working youth.

The ***Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act*** (DREAM Act), first introduced in 2001, is a bipartisan proposal (S 774; HR 1275), which would create a pathway to citizenship for thousands of young students who were brought to the United States years ago as children. To date it has 52 yes votes, but needs 60 to pass. It has to be reintroduced into the current Congressional session.

<http://dreamact.info/>
<http://www.dreamact2009.com/>

Senators Grassley and Baucus have introduced a ***Customs Reauthorization*** bill (S.1631), which extends the prohibition against the importation of goods made with convict, forced, or indentured labor to include goods made by means of coercion (i.e., an employer withholding the passport of a foreign worker to compel production of the good) or by one or more individuals who were being subjected to human trafficking, including children.

Write the Committee Members
(below):

Democrats

Max Baucus, MT	Charles E. Schumer, NY
John D. Rockefeller IV, WV	Debbie Stabenow, MI
Kent Conrad, ND	Maria Cantwell, WA
Jeff Bingaman, NM	Bill Nelson, FL
John F. Kerry, MA	Robert Menendez, NJ
Blanche L. Lincoln, AR	Thomas Carper, DE
Ron Wyden, OR	

Republicans

Chuck Grassley, IA	Mike Crapo, ID
Orrin G. Hatch, UT	Pat Roberts, KS
Olympia J. Snowe, ME	John Ensign, NV
Jon Kyl, AZ	Mike Enzi, WY
Jim Bunning, KY	John Cornyn, TX



Action

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

Thank You

We wish to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the *Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project* during 2009:

- Our **SPONSORS**, listed on pg. 1
 - *Robert & Nancy McCarthy*
Ocean City, MD
 - *Jim & Gerry Frank*
Hartford, WI
 - *Western Dominican Justice Promoters*
Oakland, CA
 - *Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration*
Clyde, MO
 - *Fr. Michael Newman SDS*
Chico, CA
 - *Divine Word Missionaries*
Techy, IL
 - *Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters*
Techy, IL
 - *Daughters of the Holy Spirit*
Putnam, CT
 - *Sisters of Providence*
St. Anne Community
Seattle WA
- *Sisters of Divine Providence Social Concerns Office*
Allison Park, PA
- *S. Cathy Olds OP*
Phoenix, AZ
- *Sisters of Mercy of the Americas West Midwest Community*
Omaha, NE
- *S. Denise Demulling SDS*
Milwaukee, WI
- *S. Clarice Steinfeldt SDS*
Milwaukee, WI
- *S. Molly Neville SNJM*
Los Gatos, CA
- *Peter & Betty Michelozzi*
Aptos, CA
- *Michael & Teresita Batala*
Salinas, CA
- *Judith Anton*
Aptos, CA

Taiwan Campaign

Currently, Taiwan is really at the critical point in safeguarding the rights of women and girls. Taiwanese women's groups (listed below) sincerely invite your help by sending petition letters to Taiwan President Ma and Premier Wu.

This campaign is very important to tell the government to stop legalizing prostitution because prostitution is a grave violence against women!

- Taiwan Garden of Hope Foundation
- Taiwan Anti-Sexual Exploitation Alliance
- Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation
- ECPAT-Taiwan
- Taiwan Women's Link

1. Obtain a copy of the sample letter at: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

2. To send the letter to Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, go to:

<http://www.president.gov.tw/en/>

- Click 'Contact Us'
- Click 'President's Email Box'
- Choose 'Write to the President'
- Paste your letter in the message box and send.

3. To send the letter to Taiwan's Premier Wu Den-yih, go to:

http://www.ey.gov.tw/sp.asp?xdURL=mail/mail_en.asp&ctNode=1389

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Guidelines for Combating Child Labor among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

http://www.ilo.org/indigenous/Resources/Guidelinesandmanuals/lang--en/docName--WCMS_091360/index.htm

Media Voices for Children *An Internet News Agency for Children's Rights*

<http://mediavoicesforchildren.org/>

Indigenous Children PowerPoint on Child Labor

<http://pro169.org/html/en/>

'The Devil's Miner'

Film on Child Labor

Duration: 82 minutes

Year of production: 2005

\$19.95 plus shipping

http://www.thedevilsminer.com/index_new.html

Search Federal Bills:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

CATW Support for Taiwan Campaign

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMu-PCNUI68>

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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