

www.girlsrights.org

TRAFFICKING OF GIRLS

Trafficking of a girl is defined as the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring and/or receipt of a girl under eighteen years of age for the purposes of exploitation.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- UNICEF reports that worldwide over one million children enter the sex trade every year.
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimated that 700,000-2 million women and girls are transported across international borders annually.
- 98% of the victims of forced sexual exploitation are women and girls.
- 95% of trafficking victims experience physical or sexual violence during trafficking.
- Human trafficking is a \$ 31.6 billion business and is the fastest growing organized criminal activity in the world. 49% of profits are generated in industrial countries; 30.6% in Asia and the Pacific.
- Worldwide in 2006, only one in every 800 persons prosecuted for trafficking was convicted.

GOOD PRACTICES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING

- More than 1000 companies worldwide have signed The Code of Conduct for the Protection
 of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (the Code) which obligates
 signatories to train employees, examine company practices, raise awareness and report on
 measures taken to prevent and report incidents of child sexual exploitation.
 (www.thecode.org)
- The state of Maryland has placed signs with The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline number in women's restrooms throughout the state.
- Europe and USAID have supported awareness raising in "supply" countries through local and national radio, TV and poster campaigns; the inclusion of exploitation/trafficking materials in school curricula; supporting local and cross border theatre and folk productions featuring popular TV and cinema stars.
- Australia & UK (source countries) have databases of suspected/known pedophiles which police share with destination countries.
- The Coalition to Prevent Trafficking of Women (CATW)-Philippines has organized "camps" for 17-18 year old boys to discourage the demand for prostitution by changing attitudes.
- Japan Relief for Cambodia and American Assistance for Cambodia launched the Girl Be Ambitious Program, which provides \$10 a month to girls with perfect attendance in school where they receive vocational and empowerment training.

WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STOP TRAFFICKING?

Governments

- Adopt legislation in compliance with international obligations and enforce laws.
- Target prevention at vulnerable groups such as girls who are runaways, domestic workers, migrants, homeless, and those at risk from conflict or natural disasters.
- Increase girls' access to justice including legal and judicial services.
- Provide timely and age-sensitive response services including safety, health care, and psychological counseling that support girl survivors.
- Punish pimps and johns through jail sentences and fines. Publish offenders names.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking suggests that traffickers pay for survivors' restitution and compensation.
- Formulate comprehensive plans, partnering with corporate sponsors and NGOs, to prevent traffickers from using world sporting events as an opportunity to recruit and market girls for sexual exploitation.

Businesses

- Hotels, airlines, travel agencies, tour operators and others involved in the travel and tourism industry should sign the Code of Conduct (the Code).
- Use the model of Christian Brothers Investment Services, with assets of US\$ 2 trillion, which employs its shareholder clout to monitor corporate social responsibility of companies.

NGOs and individuals

- Express your moral outrage! Write, protest, and offer to make a presentation to raise awareness and action of businesses and other organizations.
- Insist that schools teach curricula for girls and boys that emphasizes respect for human rights and gender equality.
- Establish "safe space" centers for girls most vulnerable (examples are girls in poverty, domestic workers, out-of-school girls) for life skills and human rights education.
- Start reading/discussion groups using books like Kristof and WuDunn's "Half the Sky" or Rachael Lloyd's "Girls Like Us" as resource material. (see www.thepolarisproject.org for additional resources)
- Book conventions only in hotels that have signed the Code and when you travel be sure to inquire at your hotel if it has signed the Code and if not, why not?
- Challenge media representations that sexualize images of girls.

UN RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

- *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) 1989. 193 signatories
- Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 2000. 162 state parties
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. 2000. 154 state parties
- *ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*. 1999. 175/183 ILO member ratifications

