

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

March 2010



*We worry about what a child will be tomorrow,  
Yet we forget (s)he is someone today.*

Stacie Tauscher

President Herbert Hoover told us that “children are our most valuable national resource.” We can say the same for all children...they are the world’s most valuable resource. Yet, it is estimated that over one million children are trafficked globally through forced labor and/or sexual exploitation. John Paul II reminded us that human trafficking “constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. In particular, the sexual exploitation of women and children is a particularly repugnant aspect of this trade, and must be recognized as an intrinsic violation of human dignity and human rights.”

## Did you know....

- the sale and purchase of children for sex is the second largest industry in the U.S.
- in the Ivory Coast 70 percent of the cocoa beans are picked by children who are forced to work on cocoa plantations.
- the CIA estimates that 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the U.S. each year.
- children can work up to 18 hours a day hand stitching carpets.
- in Ghana families repent for sins by giving daughters as slaves to fetish priests.
- in India children trapped in debt bondage roll cigarettes 14 hours a day.
- ECPAT USA estimates that over 2 million children, as young as 6 years of age, are exploited in the sex trade around the world and as many as 25% of child sex tourists around the world may be U.S. citizens.
- in the United Arab Emirates Bangladeshi boys are transported and exploited as jockeys for camel racing.



*There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul  
than the way in which it treats its children.*

Nelson Mandela

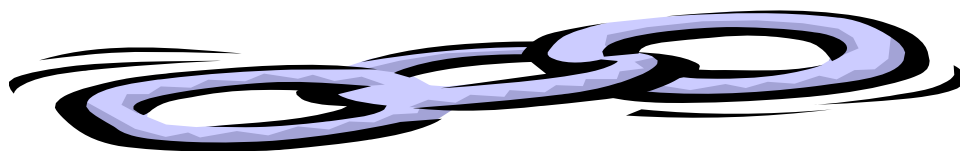


- children can be born a slave.
- children are trafficked to Thailand for forced labor as beggars.
- Kachin girls can be trafficking to China to become brides.
- in 2008, street children in Haiti, mostly boys and some as young as 6, could be sold for \$1.75.
- children are kidnapped and sold for adoption.
- it is estimated that 20,000 to 100,000 children are trafficked in the Philippines.
- children can be forced to work in the fishing industry, sweatshops, agriculture.
- about 1,000 American-born children are forced into the sex trade in Ohio every year.



## The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that children being trafficked in the U.S. includes:

- commercial sexual exploitation
  - agriculture, meat packing, factory work
  - construction, landscaping
  - domestic labor
  - restaurant, bar work
  - illegal drug trade
  - door to door sales, street peddling, begging
  - hair, nail and beauty salon
- 
- by family, acquaintances, pimps, johns, employers, smugglers and strangers
  - within the U.S. and across international borders
- 
- both female and male
  - American and foreign
  - under reported and identified
    - \* in agriculture and migrant children in domestic work
    - \* males in domestic sex trade



## U. S. Department of Labor

The U. S. Department of Labor reviewed information from 77 countries. Most common child labor or forced labor found in:

- agricultural goods: cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, coffee, rice and cocoa.
- manufacturing sector: bricks, garments, carpets, and footwear.
- mined and quarried goods: gold and coral.



The Department of Labor estimates 218 million children work worldwide, 126 million of whom are in hazardous forms of work. These figures do not include children in hidden and illicit forms of labor such as drug trafficking, prostitution and pornography.

The Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Force Labor, 2009:  
Link: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2009TVPRA.pdf>

### What are some things we can do.....

- continue to share with others information about human trafficking.
- purchase Fair Trade chocolate this Easter.
- give a gift of bunnies, chicks or bees through Heifer International.
- pray for the victims of human trafficking that the global community will find ways of rescuing and supporting them in their recovery.
- work toward legislative changes to stiffen the penalty for traffickers and having their assets go toward survivor services.
- read the monthly *Stop Trafficking!* newsletter.
- give a donation to an organization that works with survivors of human trafficking.
- join monthly with those in silent vigil for victims of human trafficking
- do one thing today for victims/survivors of human trafficking.



We call upon Catholics  
to seek ways to assist  
diocesan and local governments  
in helping survivors.  
Catholics can also help  
educate fellow Catholics and others  
about the human consequences of this crime.

U.S. Bishops

## Resources

### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml>

### Vatican Statements

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/letters/2002/documents/hf\\_jpii\\_let\\_20020515\\_tauran\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/letters/2002/documents/hf_jpii_let_20020515_tauran_en.html)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=11801>

### International Union of Superior Generals

[http://www.csjorange.org/ Under Justice Office/Resources](http://www.csjorange.org/UnderJusticeOffice/Resources)

*INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS  
WORKING AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN PERSONS*

### US State Department

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>

<http://fpc.state.gov/125001.htm>

### UD Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.html>

*Human Trafficking of Children in the United States A Fact Sheet for Schools*

Can be opened and saved as Word or PDF document

under “More Resources”

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once,  
but of stretching out to mend the part of the world  
that is within our reach...

Do not lose heart. We were meant for these times!

Clarissa Pinkola Estes



Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee