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BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

2018 - VOL 11, NUMBER 1

"We must not allow these women, men, and children to be treated as objects, to be deceived, raped, often sold and resold for various purposes, and in the end either killed or left devastated in mind and body, only to be finally thrown away or abandoned. It is shameful."

-- Pope Francis
December 12, 2013



Trafficking of People: What the World Community Is Doing About It. Will You Join Us?

By Rev. Thomas E. Brennan, S.D.B.

Trafficking in persons has been described as a crime that shames us all. It happens across the world, and sometimes even in our neighborhoods. However, many, if not most of us, are unaware that it is occurring.

Trafficking is not someone else's problem, it is a problem that affects all of us even though we may not see it happening. It shows itself in the sexual exploitation of others through prostitution and/or pornography, including online. It is evident in many products we regularly use and consume, many of which are produced by workers of every age who often work in inhuman conditions for incredibly long hours and are often not free to leave.

Faith-based organizations have often led the initiatives to combat trafficking in persons, working to free them from their exploiters and rebuild their lives. This has been done through direct interventions in rescuing victims of trafficking. It has also been done through aggressive advocacy to promote systemic change in societies. Many Catholic organizations have striven to create empowering environments that will prevent the trafficking of persons and to bring the criminal traffickers to justice.

At this time, the members of the Carmelite Family are asked to reflect on the scope of the problem and then commit themselves to joining in the efforts to form slave-free societies.

What is Trafficking?

One of the most comprehensive definitions of trafficking in persons follows.

Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion or abduction, of fraud,

of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the **purpose of exploitation**.

The United Nations estimates that 21 million people are trafficked at any given time and this generates \$32 billion in annual profits for criminals. The Global Slavery Index estimates that nearly 30 million people worldwide are living in slave-like conditions with many of these persons having been trafficked.

But it's the real human being, "a name, a face, a voice crying for help," that should move people into action, not the statistics.

The 4 P Approach to Addressing Trafficking:

Since trafficking in persons affects every sector of society, a multi-pronged and inclusive response is needed. Realizing this, many anti-trafficking initiatives speak of a 4 P approach to addressing trafficking:

Prevention of trafficking by promoting and sponsoring programs and grants to increase awareness of human trafficking.

Protection of victims of trafficking by creating a bill of rights for victims, including the right to medical care, shelter, restitution, civil remedy, residency status, work permit, access to information, etc.

Prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in persons by establishing the crimes of trafficking in persons and listing the punishments,

Partnerships of all stakeholders: society, business, academia, legal and legislative bodies.

International Law vs. Human Trafficking

While trafficking in persons was recognized as a serious violation of human rights for a long time, it was not until the beginning of the 21st Century that a consensus was reached by the world community about how to define and address the crime.

The main international instrument to combat trafficking in persons is *The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)*. This was supplemented by the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and Children (2003)*, often called the Palermo Protocol.

Additional International Conventions were added later to explicitly protect children: *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict*.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has also assisted in the protection of persons from trafficking and for holding those who engage in it accountable through Conventions on Forced Labor and the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Nordic Model for combating sexual exploitation

Demand for sexual services has been a stimulus for trafficking in persons. While some people are trafficked within country for prostitution, sex tourism has also been on the rise. Tragically, this has frequently been fueled by the sexual exploitation of children. In response to this, the Nordic Countries led the way in prosecuting individuals who travelled to "buy" sexual favors. The Nordic Model for counteracting sexual exploitation recognizes prostitution as a form of violence; makes the purchase of sex acts illegal; regards prostituted persons as victims rather than criminals; provides victims with help to get out of the business.

In Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Northern Ireland, this approach has been effective in reducing the demand for paid sexual services. And this in turn threatens the profits of those who traffic in human beings for personal gain.

France adopted the Nordic Model in April, 2016. With a decisive 64-12 vote in parliament, France asserted its determination to put an end to the exploitation of women and girls through prostitution.

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website (carmelitengo.org) or write to us by email (jremson@carmelitengo.org) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)

Resources for this Issue:

The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_against_Transnational_Organized_Crime

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and Children (2003)

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true>

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPACCRC.aspx>

St. Josephine Bakhit: Patron of Victims of Trafficking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwbOZGfjYQ4>

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-josephine-bakhita/>

The Carmelite NGO Facebook page. Please check it out and "like" us: www.facebook.org/TheCarmeliteNGO.



Activities of Agape Leona in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, Agape Leona is operating in three Parishes, which are St Agnes Chitungwiza, St Alois Hunyani, and St Joseph's Hatfield in the Archdiocese of Harare. It has also made some impact in some other parts of the country by sharing knowledge on human trafficking through flyers, posters and workshops. Agape is also networking with other organizations such as AFCAST (African Forum for Catholic Social Teaching) working group on human trafficking.

In different parishes, Agape Leona is giving support to the survivors of trafficking, orphans, HIV/AIDS victims and less privileged children. The support given is in the form of counseling, spiritual support (prayers), financial support for fees and medication, and material support such as food and clothing. In some schools Agape Leona helps children with feeding programmes, providing lunch each day to the less privileged children. The main objective is to continue with this project and also establish permanent soup kitchens which will provide food to a large number of vulnerable children.

Agape Leona has carried out research in order to find out the people who are in the most need. At the moment, about 50 children (5 to 18 years old) and 40 adults (19-40 years) who are survivors of trafficking, are being supported by Agape Leona. Besides providing material and spiritual support, Agape Leona organizes some workshops for all members of our Parishes in order to raise an awareness of human trafficking and the healthy ways of improving their livelihoods. Educating the society and the individuals is an important core value for Agape Leona. Its main focus is to educate in order to bring change in people's lives and change is achieved one person at a time.

Although addressing human trafficking is an important priority for Agape Leona, we also promote caring for the environment as we are urged to do in Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si*. And we are pleased to be able to work to assist people living with disabilities and others who may be vulnerable.

Agape wishes to expand to other Parishes in Zimbabwe in order to empower the less privileged people by providing life skills education which can help them to run self-reliance projects. Agape Leona could do more if funds were available. There is great need to build or to buy a house to operate from and as a shelter for victims of trafficking and also to offer life skills to the survivors. Agape sees itself growing and helping more people in Zimbabwe. We are grateful for volunteers and all those who have helped us in cash and kind to make this organization meet some of its objectives in my country.

Sr. Annah Theresa Nyadombo, Ph.D., is a Religious Sister of the Congregation of the Handmaids of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Zimbabwe. Currently she is working as the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference National Education Coordinator and Child Safeguarding Coordinator and Consultant. She has worked with the Carmelite NGO since 2007 and is a Commissioner in the Carmelite JPIC. Sr. Annah Theresa is a founder of Agape Leona Foundation in Zimbabwe.



St. Josephine Bakhita, Patron of Victims of Human Trafficking

Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Josephine Bakhita in the Jubilee Year 2000. Her journey to sainthood was a remarkable one. A former Sudanese slave, she endured beatings and brandings, but eventually she found freedom from enslavement. Upon her baptism into the Catholic Church, Bakhita took the name Josephine and later she became a member of the Daughters of Charity of Canossa in Italy. Known for her sanctity and common sense wisdom during her 50 years as a religious sister, Saint Josephine Bakhita died in 1947.

At Bakhita's canonization, the pope called the first saint from Sudan "a shining advocate of genuine emancipation" for women victimized in today's world. "The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance, but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights," the pope said.

Some have promoted Bakhita as a possible patron saint for the victims of human trafficking, the modern-day form of slavery that includes forced labor and many women and children of both sexes being forced into prostitution. The feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita, February 8, has been designated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as a day of prayer to raise awareness of, and to help end, the scourge of human trafficking.

from *Seek First the Kingdom*

Some UN Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Member States of the UN have continued to refine and strengthen their response to the trafficking of persons. Specialized Agencies, the International Migration Organization and the International Labour Organization, and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime have done significant research and continue to inform the Member States of progress in eliminating trafficking in persons and in addressing gaps in their responses. A brief notation of some major multinational efforts undertaken by the UN to combat trafficking is in order. This includes:

- + Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council (2002) presented Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking Report. This was followed up by the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- + The General Assembly established the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons to foster coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking.
- + Special Rapporteurs were requested and appointed in 2007 to address contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; and on violence against children.
- + Trafficking in persons was taken up at the World Summit of 2005.
- + General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons (61st and 63rd Sessions) began to address the multi-dimensional nature of the issue and the need to continue to clarify and coordinate the means to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combatting trafficking in persons while simultaneously protecting the victims of trafficking.
- + To promote the global fight on human trafficking, on the basis of international agreements reached at the UN, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) was initiated in 2007. UN.GIFT seeks to mobilize state and non-state actors to fight human trafficking.
- + The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) was formed under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- + The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was inaugurated in 2009.
- + As part of the Global Plan, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children was established. This Fund was designed to provide victims of trafficking in persons with humanitarian, legal, and financial assistance through the mobilization of governmental, intergovernmental and civil society organizations.
- + UNODC writes bi-annual Global Reports on Trafficking in Persons.
- + The U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons presents an annual report: The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.
- + Member States, designated July 30th as the World Day against trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually beginning in 2014.
- + Political Declaration: 19 September 2016 High-level Meeting to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The issue of trafficking in persons in the context of migrant and refugee populations was addressed. The Declaration will be finalized in September 2018.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Trafficking

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed upon by the Member States of the UN in 2015. They focus on the harmonious collaboration of people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership to ensure a sustainable future for all. Thanks in part to the hard work of anti-trafficking advocacy groups, the SDGs include human trafficking explicitly in the targets of three of the seventeen goals: 5, 8, and 16. The three trafficking-related targets and the SDG they are related to are:

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.2:

“Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”

Trafficking and exploitation are seen as a form of violence against women and gender discrimination. And while not explicitly named as connected to trafficking, other targets point to a vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking. These include eliminating harmful cultural practices such as child marriage, protecting and valuing unpaid care and domestic workers, and creating and implementing policies to promote gender equality at all levels of society.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Target 8.7:

“Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.”

This target stresses the link between trafficking of persons and forced labor. The ILO has found that 21 million people are presently existing in some condition of forced labor, trafficking and slavery around the world. Their research found that 68% of trafficked persons are exploited in the labor sector – in industries like agriculture, mining, fishing, construction, and domestic work.

The ILO has formed an 8.7 Coalition to address the issue of forced labor and modern day slavery. This can serve as a helpful partner in identifying and eliminating all forms of modern day slavery.

Other targets tackle providing decent work, just wages and the eradication of poverty all of which help in the prevention of trafficking. Desperate people are more vulnerable to exploitation and being trafficked, so public-private partnerships and social policies protecting workers must be coordinated to support vulnerable populations. Many cases of human trafficking began with an individual looking for decent work or the false hope proffered by a trafficker to provide an education or work for a child.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Target 16.2:

“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

Other targets in this goal including combatting organized crime, promoting the rule of law, and reducing all forms of violence are all connected to ending trafficking. The target focused on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration is especially important. When children lack a legal identity due to no official registration of their birth, they are often unable to access health care, education, and other social services. Nor can they prove their age. Traffickers can often exploit this vulnerability and force children work into dangerous work and force underage girls to marry.

NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons

Founded by a group of Catholic-inspired NGOs, the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP) was created in order to unite the efforts of civil society organizations in advocacy at the United Nations on behalf of people who have been trafficked. The members work to influence the discussions at the UN to make certain that the dignity and rights of the persons exploited by traffickers are protected and promoted. **The Carmelite NGO is a member organization of CSTIP.**

Members of the committee have written interventions addressing trafficking in persons for the Commissions on Social Development and on the Status of Women and during the processes involved in establishing the Sustainable Development Goals and on issues of migration and refugees since these groups of people on the move are vulnerable to being trafficked after they have set on their journey.

Knowing of the importance of effective practices to help demonstrate how societies address and eradicate trafficking, many NGOs offer side events, i.e., educational panels and dialogs, to highlight these efforts and to advocate for policy changes where necessary. Often, those who have been trafficked are included as panel members to give a face and voice to the people exploited by unscrupulous individuals who value profiting off the degradation and exploitation of others.

Additionally, the member organizations advocate at the UN and among their own networks to raise awareness of the issue of trafficking and to support efforts to assist those who have been freed from any form of modern day slavery that traffickers have utilized. Advocating for the purchase of slave-free produced items, purchasing items produced by people freed from trafficking and collaborating with other like-minded organizations in combating trafficking are also stressed.

GIFT Box USA was begun by a member of the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons. This initiative is a unique way to raise awareness of human trafficking and gather knowledge on the issue. Large walk-in street sculptures shaped like large gift boxes invite you inside with promises and offers, but once inside you are presented with a different reality, the stories of persons trafficked. The gift box highlights the deceptive offers of traffickers in people. The original GIFT Boxes were set up during the London Olympics, a joint project of STOP THE TRAFFIK and United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). One CSTIP member set up GIFT Box USA and another brought the concept to Haiti, and a number of cities and university campuses in New England.

CSTIP member organizations are united in their efforts to:

- + Raise public awareness about trafficking in human beings;
- + Fight the root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty and lack of job alternatives;
- + Advocate for migration and economic policies that reduce the vulnerability of people to trafficking;
- + Advocate for better anti-trafficking laws that more effectively protect victims and punish traffickers;
- + Cooperate with authorities, churches, and relevant civil society actors to challenge the phenomenon of human trafficking;
- + Help trafficking survivors start a new life.

Do you want to join us in this effort? We hope so.

Rev. Thomas E. Brennan, S.D.B has served as the Representative of the Salesians of Don Bosco at the UN since 2003. He is one of the founding members of CSTIP and has served on the executive committee of other NGO committees including Migration, HIV, and the Eradication of Poverty as well as the DPI/NGO Executive Committee.



Carmelite NGO House of Mercy: Kuba Raya, Kalimantan, Indonesia

Singkawang is a city located in the province of West Kalimantan, on the island of Borneo in Indonesia. It is located about 145 km north of Pontianak, the provincial capital. The population of Singkawang is about 200 thousand people, most (70%) of which are ethnic Chinese. The rest are Melayu, Dayak, Javanese, and other ethnicities. Singkawang is known as ‘amoy’ city. Amoy means young Chinese girls. Many of these Chinese girls marry with much older Chinese men from other Asian countries. Their parents let them marry those older men with an expectation that the girls will have better lives.

These older men usually use a ‘hunter’. Hunter refers to someone who will help the men find amoy. The hunters go from village to village to find amoy. They take their pictures and offer them to the men. Many of them are brought to Kubu Raya since the Kubu Raya area is very close to the international airport. Only with 6,000 American dollars, a man can marry an amoy. Two-thirds of the amount goes to the hunter, while the other is for transportation and accommodation. After the marriage the amoy is taken abroad. Some of them live happily with the husband, but many end up as domestic workers and sex slaves of the husband, many others fall further into the world of human trafficking.

Kubu Raya is located in a regency of West Kalimantan, Indonesia., not far from Singkawang. Kubu Raya is located on the Southern coastal part of Kalimantan. In the past, there were many logging companies, but now most of them are closed since there are not many trees anymore in Kalimantan. During its flourishing time, many people from remote places came to work in Kubu Raya. They started their families there. Due to the decline of the logging industry, many became jobless. Poverty is everywhere. Since there are not many job opportunities there, many of them who want to come out from poverty have to leave the area, either to Pontianak, other cities in Indonesia or abroad. Due to lack of knowledge and marketable skills, many of them, especially the girls, are trafficked.

Realizing this fact, the Indonesian Carmelite NGO started a social house in Kubu Raya. It has become a house for young people to explore and develop their skills. The house offers free English and Mandarin Chinese courses, cooking classes and art lessons (dancing, singing, and playing musical instruments). We believe that if they have better competence in English and Mandarin Chinese they will not be easily cheated by others especially when they are working abroad. We also expect that by joining the courses and lessons, the young people have better positions in bargaining for jobs. Dancing, singing and playing musical instruments can lead to alternative jobs for them, and are emotionally enriching, as well. The house also offers spiritual directions to young people, so that they may become morally mature.

Many young people either from Singkawang or from Kubu Raya come to this house. Some of them live temporarily in the house as a community. They work and fulfill their needs together. More than 100 girls have been served by our house since its opening in February of 2015.

Hariawan Adji, O. Carm., Ph.D., is an Indonesian Carmelite priest and currently serving as the secretary of the Carmelite NGO and chairman of the Indonesian Carmelite NGO. He is also a member of the JPIC board of the Carmelite Order.

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