

# Stop Trafficking !

*Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter*



*Awareness*

*Advocacy*

*Action*

Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
- *Capacitar International, Inc.*

Vol. 1 No. 1 August 15, 2003

## Inaugural issue

This newsletter is offered as a forum for exchange of information among women's religious congregations and collaborating organizations about the issue of human trafficking. It is a forum to share how women religious and collaborating organizations bring healing and empowerment to victims of trafficking, and what actions are taken to help eliminate trafficking.

### What is trafficking in persons?

"Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."

*Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.*



S. Jean Schafer, SDS

### About the Sponsors

The **Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians)** and **Capacitar International, Inc.** have put their collaborative efforts together to help work against human trafficking and empower those, who have suffered under the abuse of its perpetrators.

#### Salvatorian Sisters:

The North American Province of the international Congregation chose as one of its main mission priorities the advocacy of trafficked victims. S. Jean Schafer, former international leader of the Congregation's 1300 members from 26 countries, and S. Sheila Novak, outgoing provincial leader, have re-located to California to collaborate with Capacitar, Inc. and other agencies involved in helping persons caught by human slave trade activity.

S. Jean launched the *Newsletter, Stop Trafficking*, as its editor and disseminator. She said, "I am convinced that women religious have tremendous potential in this cutting edge mission field. In the early days of American Cont. p. 3

#### Capacitar International:

Capacitar in Spanish means to empower, encourage, bring to life. Capacitar, Inc. is an international network of empowerment and solidarity based in California. The organization began in 1988 in Nicaragua where body-mind-spirit practices were taught to people suffering traumatic stress because of war, violence, poverty and natural disasters. Since then Capacitar has offered over 800 workshops to more than 30,000 people in 15 US States and in 20 countries, including Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Ireland and Northern Ireland, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

Capacitar's mission is to empower grassroots people by placing Cont. p. 3



## Awareness

*“Trafficking in human persons represents an increasingly prevalent human rights’ violation. It is time for our nation to take the necessary steps to end this abominable practice.”*

*Office of Migration and Refugee Services/  
US Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

## What is trafficking in persons?

“Trafficking in persons — also known as “human trafficking” — is a form of modern-day slavery. Traffickers often prey on individuals who are poor, frequently unemployed or underemployed, and who may lack access to social safety nets, predominantly women and children in certain countries. Victims are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, and then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions.

It is a high priority of the Department of Justice to pursue and prosecute human traffickers. Human trafficking frequently involves the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, a brutal crime the Department is committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting. Trafficking also often

involves exploitation of agricultural and sweat shop workers, as well as individuals working as domestic servants.

The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (VTVPA) supplements existing laws and establishes new tools and resources to combat trafficking in persons and to provide services and protections for victims.”

(Taken from [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov))

About 700,000 persons, primarily women and children, are trafficked annually within or across international borders.

Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the United States.

## Informative Web Sites to Access

Anti-Slavery International  
[www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

Captive Daughters  
[www.captivedaughters.org](http://www.captivedaughters.org)

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)  
[www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT-USA)  
[www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org)

The Protection Project  
[www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)

“Trafficking is a transnational criminal enterprise. It recognizes neither boundaries nor borders. Profits from trafficking feed into the coffers of organized crime. Trafficking is fueled by other criminal activities such as document fraud, money laundering and migrant smuggling. Because trafficking cases are expansive in reach, they are among the most important matters - as well as the most labor and time-intensive matters - undertaken by the Department of Justice.”

(Remarks of Attorney General John Ashcroft, 2/25/03)



# Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

## Advocacy

### Capacitar, Inc. cont.

in their hands simple wellness practices for healing so they can better work to transform the lives of their families, communities and societies. Capacitar works with people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds: indigenous, union leaders, couples, religious, children, youth, people struggling with addictions, prisoners, national federations of religious men and women, psychologists, medical professionals teachers, social workers, and staffs of centers of healing, spirituality and popular education. In 1995 Capacitar coordinated the Healing Tent for the NGO World Forum on Women in China in collaboration with the Chinese Medical and Traditional Medical Associations. Capacitar also coordinated the Healing Tents for the Feminist Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Patricia Mathes Cane, Ph.D. founder of Capacitar, and co-director with Joan Condon, M.A. said, "Collaboration for the empowerment of traumatized people is at the heart of our mission. Therefore, we are committed to find creative ways to network on behalf of trafficked women and children throughout the world. I have seen so many wonderful things happen to people using the ancient methods of healing we teach, that I am confident Capacitar will bring new hope to those working to combat human trafficking."

Capacitar uses a popular education

empowerment approach to healing that can complement medical treatment or psychotherapy. In many places where Capacitar works, grassroots people have few resources and little access to medical or therapeutic services. Capacitar's methods enable people to recognize the healing power and body wisdom they have within themselves and within their cultures. Capacitar practices include: Tai Chi, acupressure, Pal Dan Gum, Emotional Freedom Technique, Fingerholds for managing emotions, breathwork, visualization, ritual, Polarity, massage and work with charkas.

Capacitar programs include: trainings in Body-Mind-Spirit Practices, Multicultural Wellness Education, Trauma Healing, and Leadership Development. Trainings in self-care are offered in Africa for families and caregivers affected by HIV/AIDS. A program in Trauma Healing methods helps grassroots leaders in Colombia, Indonesia, East Timor and other areas of conflict. Capacitar for Kids, is being developed in two Catholic inner city schools K-8 to help children, parents and teachers deal with trauma and escalating violence in inner city Cincinnati, OH. Capacitar will also include in its trainings information on trafficking to promote awareness

### Salvatorians cont.

life, women religious were in the forefront of helping newcomers to this country. The USA became a great nation partially thanks to their courageous fight for the human rights of immigrants. In this new millennium our task is the same, speaking up for many of

North America's newcomers. I'm referring to the migrant workers, asylum seekers, and unfortunately, the victims of human slave trade. It is this latter scourge on our country that we want to address through this newsletter. Many people are not yet aware of the grave and growing problem of human trafficking. If one considers how many people women religious contact on a daily basis, we have the potential to do much to alert others to this terrible abuse of innocent women and children. Hence our Newsletter – to get the word out on what can be done to stop human trafficking and help its victims. I am very happy to have a part in this new mission field."

S. Sheila Novak shared that in the Salvatorian Sisters' General Chapter of 2001, the Order took up as its Mission Mandate for 2002 – 2006 the Declaration of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG). "Part of that statement," she said, "challenges us to work to overcome all forms of abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children, with particular attention to trafficking. People amass wealth selling women and children for these abusive purposes. I was amazed at our international meeting to experience how much in solidarity we felt about working on this global problem. As a provincial leader I have had the privilege to collaborate with many leaders of religious congregations here in the US. All of us are concerned about this growing problem. But often we express uncertainty about what to actually do. So this newsletter will mobilize us to share information and network on actions at many levels. As collaboration expands justice will be done."



## Action

### LCWR Resolution

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), “stand in support of human rights by opposing trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor, and will educate others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of this abuse in the US and the world.”



S. Sheila Novak, SDS

*“As a provincial leader I have had the privilege to collaborate with many leaders of religious congregations here in the US. All of us are concerned about this growing problem.”*

*Stop Trafficking* is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations and collaborating organizations working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: [jeansds2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jeansds2000@yahoo.com)

Editing and Layout:  
Jean Schafer, SDS

### Call for Specific Action

- “Deepen our understanding of the realities of trafficking and its integral relationship with poverty, male dominance, and the globalization of trade.
- Join with the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) as they call for specific days of international prayer, contemplation, fasting and common action to unite religious throughout the world.
- Encourage education in sponsored schools, colleges, and universities and in adult education ministries about trafficking, prostitution, and workplace slavery.
- If feasible, collaborate in applying for federal funds from the Department of Health and Human Services in implementation of HR 3244 to provide services to victims of trafficking.”

*LCWR and CMSM  
August 26, 2001*

[www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov)

Report trafficking crimes or get help by calling the toll-free hotline 1-888-428-7581 (voice and TTY).



(L to R) Pat Cane, Joan Condon and Rita Jovick, PBVM of Capacitar

*Because Capacitar is non-denominational, it respects the faith, religious beliefs and commitments of all peoples. Through its practices Capacitar endeavors to inspire the recognition of the sacredness of life, the goodness and sacred wisdom we carry within, and the commitment we have to create justice, non-violence and peace in our world.*

[www.capacitar.org](http://www.capacitar.org)

### Send In News!

We will regularly publish information regarding what is happening within congregations and collaborating organizations on the issue of human trafficking: awareness-raising, advocacy for victims, and action taken to counter trafficking.

We would like to feature the ministries of particular congregations, the efforts of LCWR Regions, and/or highlight collaborative work being done with agencies engaged in anti-trafficking.

Your contributions are welcome and appreciated!

*Salvatorian Sisters and  
Capacitar International Staff*