

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2010 Vol. 8 No. 12

This issue highlights the plight of children suffering from human trafficking.

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Factors in Child Labor

Child labor is the result of, and a contributing factor to, entrenched poverty. It arises when parents have insufficient or inappropriate skills to find work and to support their family, and it inexorably results in the next generation of parents being in exactly the same situation. But poverty is not the only factor at play.

Child labor also happens when children's rights to childhood are neglected or denied them. It happens in some places because working at an early age and missing out on school is what is expected because *'it has always been like that.'*

Globally there are the traditional forms of child labor, such as in agriculture, which pose an age-old challenge to developing countries and rural situations, compounded by negative traditional practices and taboos. In more developed societies linked with urbanization, there are more contemporary forms such as children employed in fast food restaurants. The employer is obviously a key catalyst in the process of child protection.



Children in U.S. ag work. (http://vimeo.com_6610039)

Technology has also given rise to new forms of child labor, such as producing pornography on the Internet. The phenomenon of child labor and child trafficking is inevitably connected to demand and supply, with the girl child often the key victim. Children must have a role in mobilization against exploitation.

The linkage between child labor and child trafficking is made more complicated by the fact that many migration flows are composite flows — some are due to economic, social and cultural reasons, while others are due to political reasons.

Most countries already have laws and related policies on child labor and human trafficking. These need to be improved to comply with international standards. A variety of checks and balances need to be developed against malpractice. International/national cooperation must be maximized to counter child labor and related trafficking. (*See pg. 5 'Convention on the Rights of Children'*)

Asian Children

The *International Labour Organization* (ILO) estimates that the Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of child workers in the 5-14 age group — some 127 million, with 62 million engaged in work that is considered hazardous. At least 6.6 million children in Asia are victims of unconditional *'worst forms'* of child labor. A child trapped in child labor grows up to become an adult with poor prospects of securing decent work, of rising out of poverty, of giving his or her own family a good start in life or of contributing to the economic and social growth of the country. (www.stopdemand.org/afawcs0112878/ID=158/newsdetails.html)



Awareness

FBI in FL say 70% of the child prostitution or domestic minor trafficking victims encountered are runaways from foster care. (<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/article1125800.ece>)

India's Many Child Laborers

India has long been known for its golden thread of Zari. Besides gold and silver thread, embroidery materials are used in the different exportable Zari handicraft products. The comprehensive range of zari products includes garments, handicrafts, home furnishings like cushion covers, etc. These products are consumed in India and exported. Major importers are USA (20%), UK (17%) and Japan (10%). Other importers are Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland etc. (<http://indianzari.nic.in>)

According to a study conducted by the *National Human Rights Commission of India* in 2004, on an average, over 40,000 children were reported missing every year, of which 11,000 remained untraced. The *National Crime Records Bureau of India* reported 2445 cases of kidnapping and abduction of children in the year 2005, which could qualify as cases of child trafficking. Of these 1693 were of kidnapping and abduction for marriage, 501 for rape, 117 for prostitution, 58 for unlawful activity, 41 for adoption, 19 for begging, 9 for sale, 4 for slavery and 3 for selling body parts.



Zari workers (left) were forced to work for long hours and with no breaks. They had no time for play or other recreation. Meals were provided twice a day. If they did not work properly children were beaten badly. Children received stitches to the head after beatings. A child was beaten so badly his leg was broken. Another received an electric shock while working, but the

employer paid no heed. Children were not allowed to move outside of the dingy room where they were forced to work.

All the promises made by traffickers were false. Children were brought to Delhi with the promise that they would get a good salary, healthy food, and be allowed regular visits to their parents. But the children shared that they were confined in a closed room, spending most of their time in darkness.

Out of 44 children followed, 12 were re-trafficked, seven were living in shelters run by a local NGO, one was going to school, four were going to a *madrassa* (Islamic school), 12 were not in school but were taking lessons, four were working in agricultural labor and three were completely idle. (<http://www.eSocialSciences.com/data/articles/Document116122009400.4405023.pdf>)



Often children are openly transported for labor purposes. (UN photo)

Foster Kids in Britain

A 2010 study found that 55% of child trafficking victims in the U.K. who are identified and rescued eventually go missing. There is a serious guardianship crisis of trafficked children. One government-run home which lost 77 children in three years turned out to be a front for a trafficking ring. Afghan children trafficked to the U.K. have been returned to Afghanistan with no protection from being re-trafficked.

The U.K. *Centre for Exploitation and Online Protection* reviewed several local authorities who serve trafficked children and found that over half the children brought in go missing. There are a number of reasons child trafficking victims get lost: they are re-trafficked by the agency or someone else; they run away out of fear of the trafficker; they are deported; or they run back to the trafficker, especially in cases where the trafficker was a 'boyfriend' first. (http://humantrafficking.change.org/blog/view/whoops_report_uk_loses_half_of_rescued_trafficked_children)

Please sign the petition created by *ECPAT UK* and the *Body Shop* to ask the British government to create stronger guardianship guidelines and more comprehensive services for trafficked children.

Go to: http://www.thebodyshop.com/en/_ww/values-campaigns/uk/stop-trafficking-sign-uk-petition-Market.aspx

Kidnapping of Haitian Children

Since the earthquake more than 7,300 boys and girls have been smuggled out of Haiti to the Dominican Republic. Traffickers profit from the hunger and desperation of Haitian children and their families. In 2009, the figure was 950, according to one human rights group that monitors child trafficking at 10 border points. (<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/10/23/1888703/earthquake-survivors-are-being.html>)



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Awareness

The Hunt for China's Stolen Children

Parents are pressuring Chinese authorities to do more to investigate tens of thousands of missing children, snatched and sold every year. Many of China's missing boys are sold to childless couples who turn to criminal gangs to supply them a male heir, while the girls are trafficked to become prostitutes or brides in rural areas.

China's 'One Child' Policy has led to an alarming gender imbalance, with a major shortage of girls. Baby boys sell for as much as \$6,400, while girls are sometimes sold for just \$480, according to child welfare groups. Some end up working in brick kilns in the heartland, others as beggars in the booming cities of the east coast.

Scandals have also erupted over the sale of abducted children to orphanages for adoption abroad. (<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/parents-descend-on-beijing-to-hunt-for-chinas-stolen-children-2098822.html>)

Child Maid Murdered

A 12-year old Pakistani girl died in January 2010 in a Lahore hospital after her employer allegedly raped and tortured her. Her poor Catholic parents had been approached by a man, later discovered to be a child trafficking broker, who promised a better life for the young girl. She was sold to a lawyer, who subsequently withheld the child and any wages she earned from her parents. In January the lawyer showed up at their home with the lifeless body of the girl, saying that she 'had fallen down the stairs.' He offered them money for their silence.

Christians protested both the judge's decision and the autopsy report, which they argued was falsified. Witnesses, including the girl's family, affirmed that her body showed signs of torture and sexual abuse, with 16 incision wounds from both a sharp-edged weapon and a rusty blade, fractured ribs and right arm, a damaged skull and plucked-out nails.

Various human rights groups backed the Christian protest, claiming that the doctors, police, and justice system were collaborating to falsely acquit the employer, a former president of the Lahore Bar Association, a powerful group in that area. Any Christian lawyer who stepped up to defend the family received death threats.

A 28-year-old woman visited the victim's family, revealing that her son and daughter had also disappeared after the child broker promised to find them employment. Police arrested the broker and, through their interrogations, extracted enough information to rescue five children, including the woman's. These children told the police that they had been prohibited from seeing each other and talking to their parents on the phone. (<http://www.zenit.org/article-28386?l=english>)

Children Exploited in U.S. Farm Fields

In California, Texas and south Florida, young children still work beside their parents for up to 12 hours a day as migrant farmers.

One 13-year-old Mexican-American started picking olives and strawberries in California. He missed months of school that year, working from 6:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., with a 20-minute lunch break, six days a week, at less than the minimum wage.

In 2009 *Walmart* and the *Kroger* supermarket chain severed ties with one of the country's major blueberry growers after an ABC News investigation found children, including one as young as five-years-old, working in its fields.

The children were discovered at the *Adkin Blue Ribbon Packing Company*, in South Haven, Michigan, by graduate students working as fellows with the Carnegie Corporation in fruit and vegetable fields in MI, NJ and NC. The owner of the company was once featured on a Walmart billboard advertising his "locally produced and locally sold" blueberries.

Federal law prohibits, with few exceptions, the use of any child under the age of 12 on large agricultural operations. Yet, as migrant families try to scrap by on meager earnings, they often put their children to work with the tacit acquiescence of growers and their foremen. Zama Coursen-Neff, of *Human Rights Watch*, said, "There is child labor in agriculture in almost every state in the United States."

In North Carolina, Carnegie fellows recorded children working in tomato fields in the western part of the state. The nurse with a migrant health clinic program told the fellows she was concerned for the health of the young children given the widespread use of pesticides in the fields. "A lot of the chemicals that the kids are around cause respiratory illness, neurologic impairments, contact dermatitis, really severe rashes on their bodies." The nurse said her complaints to the U.S. Department of Labor office, several hours away in Raleigh, rarely resulted in any action. "They just don't seem to really care," she said.

Human Rights Watch investigators said the law needs to be broadened so that it is illegal for children who are 12 and 13 to work in agricultural settings.

"We don't let them work in factories. Only in agriculture are kids allowed to trade in their health and education." (<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/young-children-working-blueberry-fields-walmart-severs-ties/story?id=8951044>)



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Advocacy

'Fields of Peril' Child Labor in US Agriculture

Human Rights Watch released a 2010 report, *'Fields of Peril—Child Labor in U.S. Agriculture.'* It is based on more than 140 interviews, including 70 current and former child workers who worked in 14 states across the US.

Hundreds of thousands of children under age 18 are working in agriculture in the United States. Children as young as 12 are allowed to work on commercial farms and children as young as 7 or 8 may work with parental permission. For smaller farms, there is no minimum age.

The *Fair Labor Standards Act*, the law which regulates the types of jobs people under 18 can hold, allows children working in agriculture to work longer hours at younger ages than in any other industry. They die at four times the rate of other children. And they are significantly more vulnerable to extreme forms of exploitation, like human trafficking, because of the lack of legal protections available to them. A disproportionate number of those children are Hispanic.

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in the US. Child farmworkers suffer work-related fatalities at over four times the rate of other young workers. Yet children can do hazardous work in agriculture from which they would be banned in any other industry. The long hours and demands of farmwork result in child farmworkers dropping out of school at four times the rate of other children. Without a diploma, child workers are left with few options besides a lifetime of farmwork and the poverty that accompanies it.

The US spent over \$26 million in 2009 to eliminate child labor around the world — more than all other countries combined— yet US laws and practices concerning child farmworkers are in violation of or are inconsistent with international conventions on the rights of children. *International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, ratified by the US in 1999, prohibits children from engaging in dangerous or harmful work. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which the US is a signatory but not a party, seeks to protect children from economic exploitation, and also from work that is hazardous or otherwise harmful. Additionally, because farmworker children in the US are overwhelmingly Hispanic, the disparity in legal protections provided to agricultural workers compared to other workers in the US has a disparate impact that is discriminatory under international law. The failure of the US to enforce existing laws and regulations that purport to protect children working in agriculture further violate the international legal obligations of the US.



Take Action January 11th

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is commemorated annually on January 11th.

It is a perfect opportunity for talking to people about the issues, organizing public demonstrations, and getting more people involved in local efforts.

Information sheets are available on the *Stop Trafficking* web page to use as handouts or to post in key places: www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

'Fields of Peril' Recommendations:

US Congress should:

- Amend the *Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)*
- Halt exemptions to jurisdiction of the *Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)*.
- Remove barriers to the school enrollment, attendance, and achievement of child farmworkers and ensure that child farmworkers have access to and benefit from the same public education, including preschool, provided to other children.

US Department of Labor should:

- Dramatically raise *Wage & Hour Division* agricultural workplace inspections, targeting child labor and minimum wage violations.
- Increase civil money and criminal penalties to improve compliance with the law.
- Amend the list of jobs in agriculture deemed 'particularly hazardous' for children.

Environmental Protection Agency should:

- Impose a minimum age of 18 for all pesticide handlers.
- Impose more stringent 'restricted entry intervals' (REIs) for children into areas where pesticide application/use has occurred.



Advocacy

Evaluating 10 Years with the 'TVPA'

On Oct. 28, 2000 the *Trafficking Victim's Protection Act* (TVPA) became law in the U.S. It has been re-authorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008. Another re-authorization is expected in 2011.

On the tenth anniversary, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, UT, who chairs the *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, stated, "*The U.S. bishops remain committed to working with the U.S. government and the international community to battle human trafficking in all its forms, until one day it is eradicated from the globe.*"

The USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services, a key recipient of federal anti-trafficking money, put out an evaluative statement of its 10-year experience in anti-trafficking.

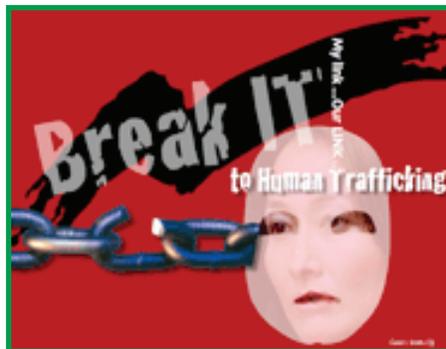
The Report "*Reflections: Health and Human Service's Service Mechanism for Foreign National Survivors*" is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/reflections-letter-20101024-KP.pdf>

'Convention on the Rights of the Child'

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), now in its 21st year, is an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, i.e. persons up to the age of 18 years. The 54 articles of the CRC establish in international law that States Parties must ensure that all children—without discrimination in any form—benefit from special protection measures and assistance. These articles include the rights to survival; development to the fullest potential; protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and full participation in family, cultural and social life. There is a moving photo essay about these rights at: <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history with 192 countries as State Parties. Only two countries have not ratified. Somalia cannot ratify because it has no recognized government. The U.S. has signed the *Convention*, but has not yet ratified. As with many other nations, the U.S. undertakes an extensive examination and scrutiny of treaties before proceeding to ratify. This examination, which includes an evaluation of the degree of compliance with existing law and practice in the country at state and federal levels, can take several years—or even longer if the treaty is portrayed as controversial or if the process is politicized. Also the U.S. Government typically considers only one human rights treaty at a time. Currently, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* is cited as the nation's top priority among human rights treaties.

(http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30229.html)



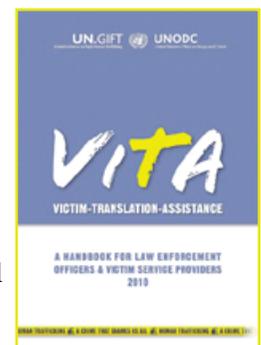
My Link - Our Link

On Jan. 22, 2011 at Mount St. Mary's College in downtown Los Angeles a symposium will explore "*My (Our) Links to Slavery.*" Keynote speakers are Ron Soodalter, co-author of *The Slave Next Door*' and Kay Buck, Executive director of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST). For information, contact Mary Genino at: Wap-jpic@rshm.org

Victim Translation Assistance Tool

Law enforcement officials and victim service providers are often the first point of contact for victims of human trafficking, who do not speak the language of the country they are in. In order to aid those helping the victims, UN.GIFT/UNODC, the *Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service* and the Austrian NGO LEFOE-IBF collaborated to create *VITA (Victim Translation Assistance)*. Human trafficking survivors contributed to the development of these messages.

VITA uses audio messages to allow law enforcement officials or service providers a level of basic assistance to victims of human trafficking. The tool uses key encounter messages to facilitate the identification of a trafficked person and to launch a criminal investigation. Thirty-five basic questions and messages have been recorded and translated into 40 languages, taking into account special questions for children. To download the VITA Handbook and audio messages onto your computer, go to: <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/tools/vita.html>





Action

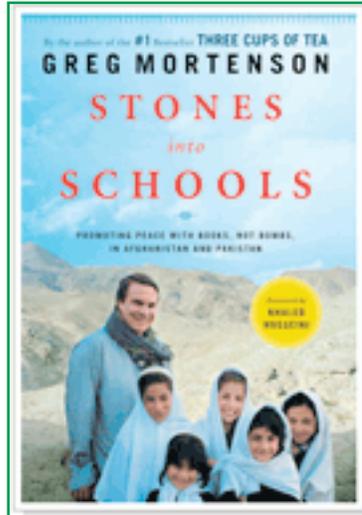
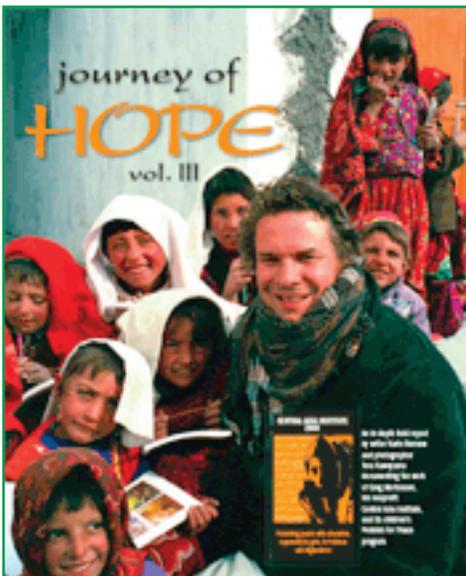
Reading to Inspire

'Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan' was released in 2009. Greg Mortenson picks up where 'Three Cups of Tea' left off in 2003, recounting his relentless, ongoing efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan; his extensive work in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan after a massive earthquake hit the region in 2005; and the unique ways he has built relationships with Islamic clerics, militia commanders, and tribal leaders even as he was dodging shootouts with feuding Afghan warlords and surviving an eight-day armed abduction by the Taliban.

He shares for the first time his broader vision to promote peace through education and literacy, as well as touching on military matters, Islam, and women—all woven together with the many rich personal stories of the people who have been involved in this remarkable two-decade humanitarian effort. (<https://www.ikat.org/gregs-books/>)

In March 2009 Greg Mortenson received Pakistan's highest award, the *Sitara Star of Pakistan*. It was given to recognize Mortenson's 16 years of work in Pakistan under the auspices of *Central Asia Institute* (CAI).

Since 1996, CAI's mission has been to promote education and literacy, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. As of 2009, CAI established 131 schools, educated more than 58,000 students, including 44,000 girls. Read more about Greg's work to overcome poverty through education in *Journey of Hope Vol. III* found at: <https://www.ikat.org/publications/2010JOH.pdf>



CARE: Act to End Child Labor in U.S. Agriculture

As Americans fight to get more fresh food into their diet, they may not realize some of that produce is picked by young children.

The *Children's Act for Responsible Employment (HR 3564 CARE Act)* would help reduce child labor in U.S. agriculture, so all food is picked fairly. It would apply the same minimum age and maximum working hour requirements to children working in agriculture that other working children enjoy. It would include raising the minimum age for hazardous work from 16, which it currently is for agriculture, to 18, which it is for everything else. It would also increase fines for child labor violations from \$11,000 to \$15,000.

One common argument against increasing protections for children working in agriculture is that stricter laws will mean children can't help their parents on small, local, family farms. But the CARE Act includes exceptions for children working on family farms, so small farmers would not lose the help of their limited workforce. The CARE Act would primarily affect children working on large commercial farms, who are often exposed to the longest hours, lowest wages, and most dangerous conditions.

As of November 2009 the CARE Act was referred to the *House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections*. Watch a video from *Human Rights Watch* about the CARE Act and child labor in U.S. agriculture (<http://www.hrw.org/en/video/2010/05/03/veggies-gone-wild>). Then ask Congress to move the CARE Act forward in support of child agricultural workers in the U.S. Go to: http://uspoverty.change.org/petitions/view/end_child_labor_in_us_agriculture_support_the_care_act



Five year old girl picking blueberries in Michigan.



Action

Thank You!

We wish to gratefully acknowledge those who provided generous monetary support for the *Salvatorian Sisters Anti-Human Trafficking Project* during 2010:

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Demand Fair Trade Cocoa

Rampant exploitation and slavery of workers in the cocoa industry continues. About 3.6 million children work on cocoa farms, largely in Ivory Coast and Ghana that produce about 60% of the world's chocolate. They earn little to no pay under horrific conditions. (http://humantrafficking.change.org/blog/view/new_evidence_of_trafficking_child_forced_labor_in_cocoa)

American companies, like *Mars* and *Cargill*, process 400,000 tons of cocoa each year and demand that prices stay low. Under Congress' watered-down 2001 *Harkin-Engel Protocol*, U.S. chocolate companies agreed to self-regulate to eliminate child slavery and develop certification systems for labor standards. They have largely failed to do so according to a 2009 Tulane University study. *Cargill* and other corporations have refused to accept higher price thresholds, working with the corrupt Ivory Coast government and thwarting local farmers' attempts to unionize. More corporate consolidation has only pressured farmers to keep costs low.

COCOA cont. next col.

Informative

Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Fields of Peril

<http://www.hrw.org/node/90126>

Interstate Labor Standards Association

<http://www.ilsa.net/laws.htm>

S 3962 DREAM Act (Development, Relief, & Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010)

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

HR 3564 CARE Act (Children's Act for Responsible Employment)

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

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking

Resource Center

1.888.3737.888

Cocoa cont.

Tell the CEOs of *Hersey's* and *Mars*, the world's largest chocolate manufacturers, and of *Cargill*, one of the top five global processors of cocoa beans, that you do not want 'blood' chocolate.

Sign the petition to demand companies adopt a new certification system verifying all of their cocoa is Fair Trade, harvested under safe conditions by farmers paid fair wages and no child labor. Go to: http://humantrafficking.change.org/petitions/view/tell_big_chocolate_ceos_we_want_fair_trade_cocoa

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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