

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



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Action

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This issue highlights labor trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.

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California Contractor Accused: Hundreds of Thai Farm Workers Exploited

On Sept. 8, 2010 in front of a Los Angeles Buddhist temple, some 25 Thai farm workers lined up wearing sunglasses, baseball caps, and traditional Thai scarves to disguise themselves for fear of retaliation. One-by-one they told media assembled at a press conference organized by the *Thai Community Development Center* about their treatment at the hands of *Global Horizons Inc.* of Beverly Hills, CA.

One 42-year-old man told reporters that recruiters promised him a fulltime job for \$1,000 a month — 10 times more than he made as a rice farmer. The recruiters told him that *Global Horizons* could find him work picking apples in Washington and pineapples in Hawaii. He arrived in Seattle on July 4, 2004 to discover that he would have to pay \$18,000 to the recruiters. "I thought I would find freedom and jobs here," he said. "I thought the United States was a civilized nation, the highest in the world. I never imagined this kind of thing could happen here."

He told how he was housed in a wooden shack and threatened with violence and deportation if he tried to escape or to speak to any outsiders. In September 2005, he escaped one night by running through pineapple fields.

The Justice Department announced in September 2010 that a federal grand jury in Honolulu indicted Mordechai Orian, an Israeli national, and three colleagues of *Global Horizons Manpower Inc.* and two Thai labor recruiters for engaging in a conspiracy to commit forced labor and document servitude. If convicted, Orian and another defendant each face maximum sentences of 70 years in prison. Other defendants face lesser sentences.

The federal indictment alleges that the defendants conspired and devised a scheme
Contractor cont. pg. 2



Companies that contract with
Global Horizons
(See <http://www.gmpusa.com/>)



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Contractors

cont. from pg. 1

to obtain the labor of approximately 400 Thai nationals by enticing them to come to the U.S. between May 2004 and September 2005 to work on farms across the country under the U.S. federal agricultural guest worker program with false promises of lucrative jobs under the U.S. federal agricultural guest worker program. The defendants brought them to farms in Washington and Hawaii, arranging for the Thai workers to pay high recruitment fees between \$9,500 and \$21,000, which were financed by debts secured with the workers' family property and homes. Significant portions of these fees went to the defendants themselves. After arrival in the U.S., the defendants confiscated the Thai nationals' passports and failed to honor the employment contracts. The defendants maintained the Thai nationals' labor by threatening to send them back to Thailand, knowing they would face serious economic harm created by the debts. They would be facing debts they would never be able to pay off and would have to endure life without their homes or land, which were put up as collateral for their debts.

The immigrants worked at 13 to 14 farms on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the Big Island, tending to coffee, fruits and vegetables. Their employers included Aloun Farms on Oahu as well as Maui Pineapple Farm, which is no longer in business. But the farm workers were also sent to 12 other states as far away as Florida, Ohio and Kentucky, according to the FBI.

The indictment alleges that the defendants confined a group of Thai guest workers at Maui Pineapple Farm

and demanded an additional fee of \$3,750 to keep their jobs with *Global Horizons*. The company strung lines with bells in wooded areas close to the workers' housing to alert guards in case of attempted escapes. Those workers who refused to pay the additional fee were sent back home to Thailand with unpaid debts, subjecting them to the high risk of losing their family homes and land.

Global Horizons brought over 1,100 Thai farmworkers to the U.S. This number was based on the number of H2A visas issued by the U.S. Embassy in Thailand. The criminal indictment against *Global Horizons* names 400 workers. But there may be a second indictment adding another 500 workers, according to the executive director of the Los Angeles-based *Thai Community Development Center*.

Kaua'i Coffee stopped contracting with *Global Horizons* after they were unable to comply with certain state law requirements regarding insurance. *Kaua'i Coffee* continues to hire foreign workers to offset a shortage in manpower. In the last few years, however, the company has opted to hire Micronesians, because they have a different work status due to their nations' relationship with the U.S. *Kaua'i Coffee* hires them without using a contracting company.

The Honolulu Division of the FBI is investigating the *Global Horizons* case. Services to victims have been provided by the *Thai Community Development Center* in Los Angeles. The *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* (EEO) will be demanding \$3.5 million in compensation for unpaid services. According to lawyers in the case, Orian "deceived and evaded federal FBI agents for approximately 24 hours by providing sporadic misleading and conflicting information concerning his location, willingness to surrender in Dallas, and failing to report. He flew to Hawaii on another

flight to avoid contact with federal agents at the airport."

The attorney in the case provided the Hawaiian court with a copy of a 2003 report, "*Migrant Workers in Israel - A Contemporary Form of Slavery*," published by the *Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network* and the *International Federation for Human Rights*. It stated that Orian, an Israeli national, took \$3,000 from each of 19 Chinese workers for the 'privilege' of working in Israel for two years. "By the end of February Mr. Orian owed each of the workers between 2-3 months wages," the report concluded. "Instead of paying the workers, he sent ten armed guards to surprise the workers in their sleep, beat them and drive them to the airport, where they were forcibly deported."

Currently the charges, in the most recent five-count indictment, are accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The trial is expected to begin Nov. 3, 2010. (<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52841>; <http://www.kitv.com/r/24866750/detail.html>; <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/September/10-crt-999.html>; <http://www.globalissues.org/news/2010/09/15/6950>)

Temporary Worker Visas

The H-2A temporary agricultural program establishes a means for agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring nonimmigrant foreign workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature.

The H-2B visa is for short-term or seasonal workers in non-agricultural positions, such as landscape, cleaning, construction, hotel, and restaurant workers. Length of stay is 10 months. (<http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/>)



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Domestic Servitude

A woman came to the U.S. from her native Angola to become a domestic worker because of the promise of medical treatment for a long-term illness. Once in Virginia, she found herself working as a housebound slave, up to 20 hours per day. The medical attention she was promised never arrived. Her captors would not allow her to leave the house alone, even chaperoning her to the grocery store. Unable to speak English, she was trapped.

A driver working for her employer said, *"There were other women that were brought to work at the house; they were all treated very badly."*

Speaking anonymously out of fear her captors would find her, she said, *"I don't know what happened to them."*

She cried every day during her entrapment, sometimes searching the house for pills she could use to kill herself. Only a chance encounter with a woman at a store, who spoke her native language, and the intervention of a church group, led to her rescue. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/18/AR2010071801839.html>)

A woman from East Africa was tricked into working as a domestic slave. She took care of a 2-year-old, a baby and all of the family's meals -- cooking, cleaning, gardening, etc. *"I was responsible for everything, except only their body they washed by themselves. But I was responsible for everything,"* she said. She worked almost 100 hours a week. The couple paid her \$70 a month and insisted that she talk to no one.

Eventually she got away and contacted an immigration attorney. Charges were brought against her employers

and she was able to recover her proper wages. She has a new life. With a job in health care and her own apartment in Seattle, she was reunited with her daughters. Yet she does not use her name or give her home town, fearing the perpetrators will come after her or hurt her family back home. (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128873444&sc=17&f=1001>)

'Domestic Workers Bill of Rights'

In September 2010, NY Governor David Paterson signed the historic *'Domestic Workers Bill of Rights'* into law. The bill is the first of its kind to be passed in the U.S. and will provide protection within the workplace. The bill guarantees paid sick and vacation days, overtime pay, and one day of rest per week. Until now, these basic workplace rights that are afforded to traditional, full-time employees have been denied to domestic workers, who in turn work with little to no legal protection. Domestic workers are excluded from federal labor laws.

Among NY's 200,000 domestic workers, 93% are women and 95% are women of color, especially immigrants from the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Latin America. A study by *Domestic Workers United*, who lobbied for six years to get the legislation passed, found that 26% of domestic workers make less than minimum wage and live below the poverty line. 33% say they have been abused verbally or physically. 67% reported receiving overtime pay sporadically, if at all, and only 10% receive health insurance coverage from their employer.

Foreigners suffer most under such workplace conditions. Groups in California and Colorado are considering similar legislation.

(http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/brooklyn/2010/09/02/2010-09-02_finally_domestic_worker_rights_law.html)

Tennessee Labor Abuse Investigation

In August 2010 a Mexican guest-worker escaped from company housing in the dead of the night to report abuse by a Tennessee contractor. Hilario Razura, an H-2B landscaper, snuck past sleeping supervisors to escape from *Vanderbilt Landscaping, LLC* – a Tennessee contractor that received close to a million dollars in federal stimulus loans and over 2 million dollars in state contracts.

Razura explained to members of the *Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition* (TIRRC), to other rights groups, clergy, and the press how *Vanderbilt Landscaping* brought him and other workers to Tennessee on H-2B visas to mow grass on the highways. He told how the company confiscated the workers' passports to prevent them from running away. Workers were subjected to surveillance, isolation, brutal workplace conditions, and horrific housing conditions (for which they had to pay rent). Workers were forbidden to interact with the surrounding Tennessee community. *Vanderbilt Landscaping* personnel would carry guns on the worksite to terrify workers. When he and other workers joined the *Alliance of Guestworkers for Dignity*, and reported the company to federal authorities, they faced threats and retaliation. One organizer was forced on a bus back to Mexico for attempting to access his basic legal rights.

The human rights advocates demanded the return of Razura's passport. Under pressure, *Vanderbilt Landscaping* agreed. Local law enforcement authorities took a statement from Razura, went into the company offices, and emerged with a stack of other passports – proving that the company was holding them. TIRRC is supporting Razura's demand for an investigation by the *Department of Justice*, the *Department of Labor*, and the *Tennessee Department of Transportation* (TDOT). (<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HIKEHGo.html>)



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From 'Global Horizons' Website

"Global Horizons, Inc. was the first company to establish a new and improved labor-recruiting, labor-providing business model to meet the temporary and permanent needs of employers worldwide. ...

Born out of necessity and acting boldly, the newly-formed organization brought thousands of qualified workers into a strategic nation

(Israel), averting impending economic disaster. Recruiting quality workers from diverse places like Thailand, India, Nepal, Israel, as well as Eastern and Western Europe, Global Horizons brings those workers to any economy where domestic labor is in short supply because of the 'economic evolution' occurring in that particular country. This, of course, includes the United States of America.

Global Horizons, Inc. thinks globally and acts locally with a post-9/11-worldview, one which understands that economies cannot continue to grow and prosper without an ample, qualified and legal workforce. Too, it understands the aspirations of countless workers who dream of having better jobs in better places, but who wish to return to their country of native origin when they've completed the job. This fulfills both the economic and security needs of the host country."



Trader Joe's & Slave-Picked Produce

Despite Trader Joe's progressive reputation, the company refuses to take one critical progressive step and join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' (CIW) Campaign for Fair Food. Because of their refusal, its customers may be buying slave-picked produce at Trader Joe's stores.

Modern-day slavery is a reality for many farm workers in the U.S. In Florida, over 1,000 people have been identified as trafficked in fields and on farms, picking the food we eat every day. Farm workers have also been trapped in slavery or seriously abusive conditions in CA, WA, NC, MD, and other states with large agricultural industries. Because the laws governing agriculture are different than those regulating other industries in the U.S., many of these workers don't have the same legal protections that most workers do.

Trader Joe's has dealt with labor and transparency concerns in the past. Two years ago, a 17-year-old girl suffered a fatal heat stroke while picking grapes for Charles Shaw wine ('Two Buck Chuck') for which Trader Joe's is famous. TJ's has also gotten flack for selling unsustainable seafood and fish from places like Thailand and Bangladesh, where slavery in the fishing industry is common. Such policies are not good business for a company with a progressive, conscious customer base.

The CIW's Campaign for Fair Food harnesses the purchasing power of the food industry for the betterment of farm worker wages and working conditions. Over the past decade, CIW has used the campaign to get some of the largest food purchasers in the country to support fairer labor standards for farm workers in the U.S., including a zero tolerance policy for slavery and transparent supply chains. Current participants include Subway, McDonald's, and Whole Foods.

When you shop, ask Trader Joe's to join these companies by taking a stand against slavery and farm worker exploitation. (http://humantrafficking.change.org/petitions/view/ask_trader_joes_to_sell_slave-free_food)

Foreign Labor Shortages & U.S. Farms

In 2009, over 5,000 foreign workers entered the U.S. on H-2A visas, which allowed them to work on farms and in agricultural processing around the country. Even more came in through other means. They did not all end up on giant, corporate farms. Some were placed, through labor recruiters like the recently shutdown *Global Horizons Manpower*, on small and mid-size farms.

With almost 500 identified trafficking victims from farms in Hawaii, Washington, and other states, the Federal government is getting stricter about issuing H-2A visas. While the major human trafficking cases of late only involved a handful of farms, a crackdown in foreign farm labor will profoundly affect the industry as a whole from various dimensions.

One concern is to prevent of human trafficking or severe labor exploitation, such as that of *Global Horizons Manpower*. Another concern comes from legal migrant workers themselves, who travel to the U.S. for work and end up on



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Farmers *cont. from pg. 4*
farms where they are earn a decent wage and live in decent conditions. Most of the 5,000 workers on H-2A visas fall into this category. A crackdown could be detrimental to them and to the farms, which legally and ethically employ them.

A third concern is shared by American agricultural workers, who sometimes have trouble finding jobs with good pay when migrants are willing to work for less. American workers realize better wages and conditions for migrants will make those jobs more competitive.

Companies like *Global Horizons Manpower*, who hire migrant workers because they are easier to enslave and exploit than Americans, are obviously on the wrong side of the law. Groups that hire foreign and American labor and pay well are obviously in the clear.

But in between these two categories is a massive grey zone of agribusinesses with questionable hiring practices, shady payment systems, and a strong liking for hiring whoever they think will demand the least rights.

The Obama administration has added new protections to the H-2A visas, including raising wages and housing standards. But it is too early to tell if those changes will be enough to prevent foreign workers from being exploited by companies like *Global Horizons* or level the wage playing field for American and foreign workers. Until then, a crackdown to prevent trafficking may be the only way to ensure another 500 workers do not become slaves in the U.S.

(http://humantrafficking.change.org/blog/view/recent_trafficking_busts_mean_foreign_labor_shortage_for_us_farms)

Should Micro-Finance Profit From the Poor?

Microfinance, a preventative tactic in fighting human trafficking, has given millions of poor women the resources to open micro-businesses that help them overcome destitution and move toward a decent standard of living. This enterprise began in 1976 when Muhammad Yunus, an economist visiting desperately poor households in Bangladesh, took money from his pocket and gave it to some local women. The *Grameen Bank*, which now lends out some \$100 million a month to poor women, was born.

The borrowers of *Grameen Bank* are also its lenders. The women, who take out small loans for their tiny enterprises, are also owners of the Bank. Whatever interest they pay as lenders returns to them in the form of revenue. True to its billing as “banking for poor people,” *Grameen Bank*’s profit model enriches only the poor on both sides of the balance sheet.

Today microfinance is the subject of great interest to outside wealthy investors as well. As it goes mainstream, what is the best model to expand its reach? Should its mission be solely a social one, as with *Grameen Bank*? Should its mission be solely to maximize profits? Or should it have a double bottom line, equally social mission and profit seeking? These were questions posed at the 2010 meeting of the *Clinton Global Initiative: “Profiting from the Poor? A Discussion on Microfinance.”*

Debaters were: Muhammad Yunus, who won the Nobel Prize for his creation of microlending; Vikram Akula, Founder & Chairperson of SKS Microfinance Ltd.; and Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President and CEO of Women’s World Banking. Akula defended the

profit maximization model, while Iskenderian took the middle position.

Yunus set the terms of the debate, defining microfinance as “lending money to the poorest women for income generating activity, without collateral, so she can help herself out of poverty.” The others concurred, but both argued that getting wealthy investors involved in lending was more effective than the *Grameen Bank*’s model in expanding the scale of microcredit. Yunus’ model was not for profit and hence was less “inclusive.”

But Yunus countered. *Grameen Bank* was “swimming in an ocean of money,” with 80% of the people in Bangladesh having access to microfinance. Instead of profit, ownership was the crucial question. Microfinance banks could obtain banking licenses and their members could thereby be owners, as well as borrowers. “Instead of rushing to the capital markets, rush to the government to open a bank,” Yunus argued.

It raises a question: what kinds of changes on the policy and legislative levels are needed to enable poor people to have collective ownership over lending resources? If giving poor people loans is like ‘teaching them to fish’, then giving them control over financial resources would be ‘giving them a rod and reel.’

The difference ownership makes over the means of lending was starkly highlighted when a question on interest rates was posed to the panel. Akula argued that interest charges could go up without losing customers, but that it wasn’t necessary to go the whole distance to what the market could bear: as the borrower “moves up through prosperity, she buys more products and gets higher loans.” Then he named what SKS charges: 27% interest — down from 37% at the start. The questioner asked why the for-profit model of microlending charges such high interest rates in poor countries, while borrowers in rich countries pay interest rates in the single digits for most non-credit card loans.

Akula argued it was general practice to charge 15% over costs. Costs

Microfinance *cont. pg. 6*



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Microfinance *cont. from pg. 5*

to generate loans are higher in poor countries. (15% is a hefty profit rate — many companies do well with much lower rates.) Iskanderian of *Women's World Banking* said competition in microlending could drive down rates. But Yunus gave the clincher: in socially driven microlending, as at *Grameen Bank*, the borrowers pay lower rates (20% for business loans, 8% for housing loans and 5% for education loans) plus they get a return on the interest rates they pay, since they are owners.

The author's conclusion: microfinance doesn't need profit-seeking wealthy investors to fulfill its mission of lifting poor women out of poverty on a massive scale. It needs government policies that allow poor people to own the banks they borrow from.

(Excerpted from article by CSRwire Talkback Managing Editor, Francesca Rheannon <http://csrwiretalkback.tumblr.com/post/1195168318/scaling-the-microfinance-debate>)

Top Global Microfinance Nonprofit

ACCION International, a pioneer and leader in microfinance, has been ranked the No. 1 microfinance nonprofit globally by Philanthropedia, an organization devoted to improving and measuring nonprofit effectiveness. Philanthropedia surveyed 131 international microfinance experts, including foundation executives, researchers, nonprofit senior staff and government officials. These experts identified 12 top microfinance nonprofits and rated them on the basis of impact in the field. Of the 131, 57 agreed that ACCION had the most impact.

In their assessment, the experts cited the scalability and sustainabil-

ity of the 34 microfinance organizations with whom ACCION partners; ACCION's innovation in client protection, through its leadership role in the Smart Campaign for consumer protection; its commitment to serving excluded populations (evidenced by its new ventures in the Amazon, Inner Mongolia, Cameroon, and Bihar, India); and good governance.

Comments included:

- "They are good industry teachers, have good financial performance, are good in product development, and push the frontiers in microfinance."
- "They have a leading role in consumer protection."
- "They have successful and sustainable microfinance institutions and are growing and serving excluded populations in different environments."
- "They have impressive growth and sustainability." (http://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/30698-ACCION-Ranked-World-s-Most-Effective-Microfinance-Nonprofit-by-Philanthropedia)



ACCION International is a private, nonprofit organization with the mission of giving people financial tools — microenterprise loans, business training, etc. — to help them work their way out of poverty.

ACCION, founded in 1961, issued its first microloan in 1973 in Brazil. Over time, ACCION has helped build 62 microfinance institutions in 31 countries on four continents. Those institutions currently reach 4.9 million clients.

The *U.S. ACCION Network* is the largest microfinance network in the U.S. and has served over 24,000 clients with nearly \$277 million in loans since the inception of its pilot program in 1991. For more information, visit:

<http://www.accion.org>

'Blue Campaign' against Human Trafficking

The *Department of Homeland Security* (DHS) in July 2010 launched the 'Blue Campaign' — a DHS-wide initiative to combat human trafficking through enhanced public awareness, victim assistance programs, and law enforcement training and initiatives.

The *Blue Campaign's* name and symbol were chosen by the Department to evoke the 'thin blue line' of law enforcement, as well as the global anti-human trafficking symbols the 'Blue Blindfold', produced by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Center, and the 'Blue Heart', developed by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, to help raise international awareness about this issue.

"The battle against human trafficking is a shared responsibility involving the Department's federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, governments around the world and communities across the nation," said DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The Department has created several online resources to engage the public, including:

- A centralized web portal — located at www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking — for all DHS resources related to efforts to combat human trafficking;
- A civic engagement website hosted by www.ourborder.ning.com that highlights policy developments, initiatives and local events from around the country to better connect individuals and organizations that are interested in learning more about human trafficking, as well as other border security issues; and
- A centralized email resource for law enforcement, NGOs, and service providers to contact human trafficking experts with questions or concerns.

(ICEHumanTraffickingHelpDesk@dhs.gov)

(http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1270739792024.shtm)



Action

Films Exposing Labor Abuse Abroad

'Behind the Labels: Garment Workers on U.S. Saipan' (2001)



Lured by false promises and driven by desperation, thousands of Chinese and Filipina women pay high fees to work in garment factories on the pacific island of Saipan - the only U.S. territory exempt from labor and immigration laws. The clothing they sew, bearing the "Made in the USA" label, is shipped duty and quota-free to the U.S for sale by The GAP, J. Crew, Polo and other retailers. Powerful hidden camera footage, along with the garment workers' personal stories, offers a rare and unforgettable glimpse into indentured labor and the workings of the global sweatshop -- where 14 hour shifts, pay-less paydays and lock-downs are routine. (45 minutes) \$50.00 orders@witness.org 353 Broadway New York, NY 10013 Tel. (718) 783-2000 (<http://www.witness.org>)

'China Blue' (2005)

They live crowded together in cement factory dormitories where water has to be carried upstairs in buckets. Their meals and rent are deducted from their wages, which amount to less than a dollar a day. Most of the jeans they make in the factory are purchased by retailers in the U.S. and other countries. CHINA BLUE takes viewers inside a blue jeans factory in southern China, where teenage workers struggle to survive harsh working conditions. Providing perspectives from both the top and bottom levels of the factory's hierarchy, the film looks at complex issues of globalization from the human level.



CHINA BLUE, which was made without permission of Chinese authorities, offers an alarming report on the economic pressures applied by Western companies and the resulting human consequences, as the real profits are made—and kept—in first-world countries. The unexpected ending makes the connection between the exploited workers and U.S. consumers even clearer. (88 minutes) Send request to: chinablue@bullfrogfilms.com or call: (800) 543-3764. (<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chinablue/film.html>)

'The Price of Sugar' (2007)

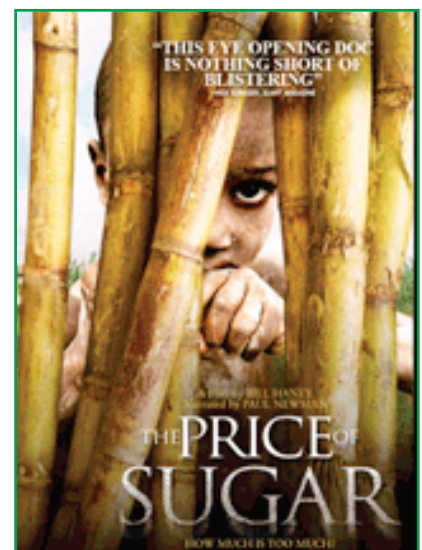
In the Dominican Republic, a tropical island-nation, tourists flock to pristine beaches unaware that a few miles away thousands of dispossessed Haitians have toiled under armed-guard on plantations harvesting sugarcane, much of which ends up in U.S. kitchens. They work grueling hours and frequently lack decent housing, clean water, electricity, education or healthcare.

Narrated by Paul Newman, "The Price of Sugar" follows Father Christopher Hartley, a charismatic Spanish priest, as he organizes some of this hemisphere's poorest people to fight for their basic human rights.



This film raises key questions about where the products we consume originate and at what human cost they are produced. (90 min).

Order through: Uncommon Productions (781-647-4470) or email: orders@uncommonproductions.com (<http://www.thepriceofsugar.com/>)





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**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888**

Creative Ways to Celebrate 2011 Human Trafficking Awareness Week

The Houston *Rescue and Restore Coalition* organized daily events during *Human Trafficking Awareness Week* in September. The week began with a press conference at City Hall co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office.

Other events included: speaker David Batstone, founder of the 'Not For Sale Campaign'; a 5K walk/run to remember those who ran for freedom in the Underground Railroad and those currently enslaved; communities of faith linked their worship events around the theme of modern day slavery; local restaurants contributed 20% of proceeds to the *Rescue and Restore Campaign*; trainings were conducted for health care professionals; holiday shopping guides were provided featuring slave-free products; a seminar on labor trafficking and how some consumerism fuels it; and a soccer tournament in which slave-free t-shirts and soccer balls were used along with educational booths throughout the venue.

Contributed by Margaret Bulmer CCVI

California Legislation Affects the Nation

One way to impact slavery is by reducing the market for slave-made goods all over the country and around the world. Because California is such a large economy, laws regulating products would affect major corporations all over the world, including those who produce some of the biggest supply chain slavery offenders, like consumer electronics, clothing, and food products. One example is SB657.

The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010 (SB 657) was signed into law on Sept. 30, 2010 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Starting Jan. 1, 2012, major apparel and manufacturing companies doing business in California must publicly disclose on their website the policies they have in place to ensure that their supply chains are free of slavery and trafficking, including the extent to which they use third-party verification, conduct independent unannounced audits, and maintain internal accountability for employees and contractors that fail to meet company standards.

NOTE: Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 1231, which would require contractors selling certain goods to CA to certify that these goods were not made with sweat or slave labor.

**Take the opportunity to ask your legislators
to strategize to address the demand for slave-made goods.**

Informative Web Sites:

Each site contains information related to human trafficking. *Stop Trafficking* features these for reader education and discretion, but does not thereby endorse the content of sites,

**U.S. Dept. of State
Visa Information**
<http://travel.state.gov/visa/>

**UN Global Initiative to Fight
Human Trafficking**
<http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/index.html>

**Responsible Sourcing
Network**
<http://www.sourcingnetwork.org>

**Social Accountability
International**
<http://www.sa-intl.org/>

**The Global Reporting
Initiative**
<http://www.globalreporting.org>

**Global e-Sustainability
Initiative**
<http://www.gesi.org/>

**Electronics Industry
Citizenship Coalition**
<http://www.eicc.info>

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>

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'Call+Response'

This 'rockumentary' film is a combination of nature, art, film and a new way of tackling human rights. The first third describes the film itself; the second third describes trafficking atrocities from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India; the final third is a call to action. Contemporary artists and prominent political and cultural figures contribute.

Screening Kits are available for home, school, faith or civic community, and institutional use. Kits include: 'CALL+RESPONSE' DVD; 'Be the Response' cards; the 'Slave Free' label; awareness tools; and access to exclusive content on the website: <http://www.callandresponse.com/>