



**Trafficking in Women and Children**  
Information and Workshop Kit

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## **Acknowledgements**

# Foreword

Trafficking in women and children constitutes a grave violence against women and children, and is a breach of their fundamental human rights. Trafficking is increasing in many parts of the world. The members of the Working Group on Trafficking in Women and Children became aware of the problem through direct experience and through contacts with other religious who work with women and children who have been trafficked. We felt that there was an urgent need to mobilise religious worldwide in the areas of prevention, rehabilitation and political action. It is hoped that this material will help to raise the issue of trafficking with male and female religious congregations, church groups and networks of NGO's who collaborate with religious orders.

This kit provides an overview of some of the main issues regarding trafficking in women and children and outlines possible strategies for religious congregations to network together and with others to combat trafficking. It also offers

- an opportunity to bring this serious and urgent issue into the open
- specific information from official documents from the United Nations including a joint publication of UNIFEM, UNDP and SEAwatch<sup>1</sup>; reports and articles from various organisations who work in the field of trafficking
- resources for theological reflection
- workshop ideas at the end of each section and in a separate appendix

The working group hopes that this kit will serve as a catalyst for further study and action at local, national and global levels.

<sup>1</sup> UNIFEM East and South-East Asia, *Trafficking in Women and Children. Mekong Sub-Region*, 23 September 1998 (Accessed at <http://.unifem-eseasia.org/Resources/Traffick2.html>). UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), SEAwatch (South East Asia Watch).

## Who are Trafficked? What is Trafficking? Stories of Those Who are Trafficked

*The following stories have been told by women who have been trafficked, or by people who are working with them. As you read each story:*

- 1. Enter into the context as fully as you can.*
- 2. Ask yourself what kind of environment allows trafficking to happen?*
- 3. Having experienced each of these situations how would you define trafficking?*



### *(a) Hear From Lena*

You can't use my real name. Or even the name they gave me in China. I don't even know what my name should be. I am not the same person who left this village two years ago. My body came back but my soul is somewhere else.

No one recognises me anymore and everyone who comes to see me.... I think they come to stare

at me because I am dirty now. I am filthy inside and my soul is empty. I don't know if I can live this way. My mother comes to my room and says 'Lena, you were such a friendly person. I miss you the way you were'. and I say, 'Mama, I am different. Something died in me. I think it was happiness'.

I never thought this would happen to me. I was sixteen when they came to the village. They looked very nice and offered jobs to the girls here in China as cooks. The program looked very good. Three months of cooking school with all expenses paid. Then guaranteed work for one year in an expensive Chinese hotel. Nine other girls and I signed their contracts. They didn't give us time to read them or take them to our parents. I thought our parents would have to sign because we were still in school but they said it was no problem. They were in a hurry and we signed their papers before all the places were gone.

We were so excited when we got our tickets and visas to China and the nice people who came to the village escorted us to the plane. Our families thought we would make good money and be able to help at home. But then, everything was different. Our escorts on the flight treated us like we were criminals. In China they burned our passports. When Masha tried to fight them, they beat her and raped her in front of us. There was no cooking school or jobs. There was only a whore house. The first day in China they took us to a morgue to show us the bodies of two girls who had jumped out of the window to try and get away. They told us there was no way out until we had worked as prostitutes long enough to pay back our debts for tickets and expenses. But then they kept all the money.

I am home because our brothel was raided by police six months later and I was deported. You might think I am lucky but I am not. Someday they will come back for me and if I do not go, they will kill me and maybe my family.

Once they come to your village and you sign their paper your life is over. I wanted to be a teacher (<http://www.miramedinstitute.org/lena.html>).



### **(b) Hear about the Women of Nigeria<sup>2</sup>**

Nigerian women who are trafficked are very young, ranging in age from 16 to 22. Their educational standard is primary level or even lower. The majority of them are single although the presence of married women is increasing.

#### **Recruitment**

Women and girls who could be deceived or are interested in emigrating, are contacted and persuaded by the recruiter either in the suburbs, the shantytowns surrounding big cities or in the rural areas. This recruiter is usually an older woman, called a madam or Mama-Loa (meaning priestess). The participation of women recruiters is the first original element in the trafficking process from Nigeria. She will dominate the process as she exercises her cultural power as a form of non-physical coercion over the trafficked women. The role of women is important. Trafficked women will refer to the Mama-Loa during and after the migration process to Europe. Money will be sent back to her in order to pay back the debt with the organisation or to pass to the girl's family. Usually the recruiters offer potential victims possibilities for work and study in Europe, in many cases pretending that they are going to work as maids. In other cases it is well understood that it would mean some kind of sexual service. The traffickers ask the women for money for the organisation of the trip. Since they do not have the money available they have to sign a contract in which they promise to work in Europe as a maid. As a result of the debts they incur and the threats made to their families the women are compelled to prostitute themselves. Despite the fact that the system is based on deceit and coercion, more and more trafficked Nigerian women seem to be aware that they are entering prostitution. Over-

seas prostitution has become an option for poor Nigerian women.

#### **Ritual of Oaths**

The other characteristic peculiar to trafficking in Nigeria is that, during the process of recruiting, a strong link is established between the trafficked women and the traffickers, which is based on ritual "contracts" or oaths originating in Voodoo practices. These are conducted at public shrines in Benin City or other places where the women leave articles of clothing and other personal objects at the shrine. These bonds and the real fear of physical sanctions (rape, violence, beatings) contribute to holding the women in a condition of exploitation.

#### **Three Levels of Exploitation of Trafficked Women**

- The first level is represented by the organisation that centres on the Mama-Loa in Nigeria. It is composed of members who prepare and organise the migration of women and coerce them into prostitution by threatening their parents and families and by offering parents payment for their daughters. They collect a big part of the profits.
- The Nigerian Mama represents another level in the country of destination. The Mama collects the profits, pays the local protector and sends the bigger part to her colleague in Nigeria.
- The messengers transferring the money to the women's families in Nigeria represent a third level. The organisation's money is redirected into the criminal financial network, involving drugs, trafficking and money laundering.

#### **Success Abroad**

Success abroad also acts as a pull factor; the phenomenon of the so-called "Italos". This term

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<sup>2</sup> Marco A. Gramehna, *International Conference on New Frontiers of Crime: trafficking in Human Beings and New Forms of Slavery*. Verona: 22-23 October 1999.

refers to a special group of women who have returned to Nigeria after earning some money working as prostitutes in Italy. These women, who have a higher standard of living than the locals, act as an example to the local girls showing them the possible success they can have if they go abroad. Some of these Italos also serve as recruiters or as Mama-Loas themselves.



**(c) *Hear of a daughter sold for the price of a TV***

When Ngun Chai sold his 13 year old daughter into prostitution for the price of a TV set, he had one regret – that he did not get enough money for her.

La Chai discovered that her eldest daughter was not working in a nearby city as the agent, who had bought her daughter, had promised. Instead she was forced to sell her immature body in a Bangkok brothel to as many as eight men a day, many of them sex tourists from America, Britain and Australia. She wept.

But the tears were not for her daughter. “I should have asked for 10,000 baht (159 pounds)” she said, “not 5,000 baht (79 pounds). He (that agent) has robbed us.”

The Thais live in a thatched hut in Pa Tek village on the outskirts of Mae Sai, a bustling township situated on Thailand’s northernmost border with the military state of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

Tensions here run high between the rival armies and occasionally lead to the trading of bullets across the muddy waters of the Mae Sai river that separates the two countries. Yet the sporadic outbreak of hostilities has done nothing to hinder the two main trades in the town – drugs and daughters.

The United Nations Children’s Fund estimates that that one third of the sex workers in South-east

Asia are aged between 12 and 17. Many are bought and sold in Mae Sai (Scotland On Sunday, January 6, 2002).



**(d) *Hear about the girls from Albania***

In the tiny and poor village of Fushara in northern Albania, the girls are disappearing. Frane Bicaku’s teenage daughter Valentina, vanished from their home nearly a year ago. She hasn’t been heard of since.

Gjin Lieshi lost two daughters – one was 15 and the other 17. He says that they were taken by two men who promised to marry them. Instead the girls wound up as teenage prostitutes on the streets of Italy, smuggled there by the Albanian mafia. It happens almost every day in Albania, in just about every town and village. “They are kidnapped mostly” said Lydia Bici of the International Catholic Migration Commission. “The minors are kidnapped mostly from discos and bars and even from schools”. In some of the villages families have stopped sending their teenage girls to school fearing that they could be kidnapped and taken to a world they cannot imagine.

“A majority of the women who are trafficked are under 18 years old” says Sophie Mosko of Save The Children. “They’re demanded younger and younger in the sex trade because there’s less fear of AIDS”. There are now about 30,000 Albanian prostitutes walking the streets of Europe. In a country of only about 3 million people, that is almost one percent of the Albanian population. It is believed that most of these prostitutes were trafficked into Europe as children.

Two years ago 15 year old Mariana Lieshi was lured away from her home by a local shop owner who said that he wanted to take her to Italy to marry her. For three weeks her parents heard nothing. Then they received a horrifying letter in which Mariana told her parents she had first been driven to the northern Albania city of Skhoder,

where the man who had said that he wanted to marry her said that there would be no marriage. His true plan was to sell her as a prostitute. When she resisted he took out a knife and forced her to go with him. Like most of the future prostitutes smuggled out of Albania, Mariana was taken to the southern port city of Vlore, the epicentre of the country's smuggling industry. From there it is only approximately 70 miles across the Adriatic Sea, a journey the traffickers can cover in less than 2 hours in high speed boats. According to the Albanian police the boats carry more than 40 people at a time.

When they reach Italy the girls are sold to the pimp. Their value is then determined by their age, beauty and experience. "A young virgin-like girl by the time she gets to Italy could be worth as much as \$10,000" said Degan Ali of the International Organization for Migration. "She's a real investment". One former prostitute who was kidnapped at the age of 17 said that even though she made about \$500 a night her pimp took it all. One night he found money tucked in her underwear and having drugged her he beat her until she was unconscious.

With Mariana trapped in Italy, back in Albania tragedy was striking the Lieshi family once again. Mariana's 17 year old sister was also kidnapped and this time a third sister, Marta, told the police who did it. Shortly after that, her father says, Marta was brutally killed. Her dismembered body was found in a bag by the river. The killers have never been caught (ABCNEWS.com, May 21, 2002).



### **(e) *Hear Bertha's Story***

Berta comes from the small town of Sapele in the Delta state, bordering on Edo, where she lives with her sister. "Life is difficult in Sapele", she says. Anyone making a monthly income of 5,000 Naira (\$50) is considered wealthy. Berta is a hairdresser by trade but has yet to finish her apprenticeship.

That will take money - lots of it - so she was interested when a passing acquaintance named

Onome approached her and asked if she would like to work with his sister, who owned a hair-dressing shop in Germany. Berta would earn enough money to buy her apprenticeship (known as "freedom"). Berta asked her own sister, who advised her to take up the offer. Onome gave her a paper with an address in Ikeja, a suburb of Lagos, and told her to look out for a Volvo. She took a bus to Lagos and found the Volvo. Two other girls from Sapele accompanied her on the trip to Lagos.

They did not know the name of the driver, but he drove them to Ghana immediately, taking advantage of the free travel allowed under the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) agreement. They reached Accra at midnight and were introduced to "Mr. Shanti", who took the three young women under his wing. Mr. Shanti acquired a passport for Berta. She never saw it but thinks it was a real passport with her photo. They slept in Accra. Berta then continued on with Mr. Shanti to Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast, leaving the other two girls to continue later. Mr. Shanti told Berta to pose as his daughter as they began their journey by air to Europe. Inside the terminal at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, they were able to breeze through two immigration police checks that normally look with suspicion on any black face.

This was Berta's first travel abroad, and she still thought she was heading for Germany. They changed planes and headed for Milan. Only then did Berta realise that she was in the wrong country. "I said Milan is in Italy, not Germany". He replied that they needed to see someone but would then continue to Germany. It was a lie, of course. They took a train to Florence where Onome's sister met them. In the parlance of trafficking she is a "Madam" - a former prostitute who had paid off her own debt to the traffickers and graduated to a pimp. "Welcome to Italy!" she said. Berta replied stubbornly that she wanted to go to Germany. The "Big Woman", as Berta calls her Madam, was tough. She told Berta that she was expected to work as a prostitute on the streets. Berta was given skimpy clothes - hotpants and a revealing brassiere - and told to get to work. Berta refused. She was put up in the house of an acquaintance, and the standoff began.

It might have been funny had it not been so frightening. Here was this 23-year-old woman, alone in Europe for the first time without papers, fighting jetlag, without even proper clothes. No one had told her to dress for a European winter. There were about 20 Nigerian girls at the house, in varying states of emotion. "Some were terrified", says Berta. Others were excited and acted "like mad people". Did she talk to them? No. "I wasn't interested in what they were doing. I didn't want to know how much money they made".

For eight days, Onome's sister tried to force Berta into prostitution, and for eight days Berta stubbornly refused. Another girl who lived in the house and sold T-shirts, told Berta of a group in Florence that might help. She took Berta to the address and then left her. Free from the Madam, Berta stayed for a month with her good Samaritans and then returned to Lagos with a ticket paid for by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) with another young woman who we will call Sonia.

Even after her escape, Berta's adventure was not over. When they returned from Italy, Berta and Sonia were met at Lagos airport by Sister Regina, a Catholic nun, and Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi from the Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCN). The two women were waiting for Berta and Sonia in the Arrivals Lounge, when a contact from immigration warned them that other visitors were also waiting for the two girls. Sure enough, they saw Berta and Sonia being approached by a strange man and woman.

Sister Regina and Olateru-Olagbegi rushed up, introduced themselves, and challenged the newcomers, who were clearly from the trafficking ring. They then took the two girls into their care and drove them to a safe house in Lagos, followed by the traffickers. It was not until four o'clock in the morning that the traffickers finally withdrew. How the traffickers knew that Berta and Sonia were returning remains a mystery, but it was certainly unnerving for the two girls and for their rescuers. One of the girls, Sonia, was so terrified that she promptly disappeared, raising fears that she had been kidnapped or even killed (She later turned up unharmed).

For her part, Berta decided to return to her town of Sapele where she now lives openly. One of her first visitors was Onome, who had recruited her in the first place and whose fearsome sister had tried to press Berta into prostitution. By now the sister had phoned, and Onome wanted to know why Berta had returned. "I told him that I didn't like what they wanted me to do. They asked me to stand in the road". Berta and Onome now circle each other warily in Sapele. Onome must know that Berta can identify him and the trafficking ring. She could be a key witness in any prosecution. Berta is not yet ready for that. It would take months and expose her to all kinds of threats.

For the moment, she is trying to pick up where she left off. But she has told her story to a lawyer in Sapele, so that he knows who to confront if she is harassed. Onome and his sister are not quite off the hook.

## Workshop Questions

1. Having reflected on the stories of those who have been trafficked what were your feelings?
2. What did you learn about trafficking? Who's involved? What's going on? When? Where? How can this be happening?
3. Write your own definition of trafficking beginning with the phrase: Trafficking of women and children means ...
4. Share your definition with others and draw up a composite definition.
5. Now read the UN definition which follows and note the elements which you have already included in your definition and those which you have omitted.
6. What have you learnt through this comparison?

## What is Trafficking?

An accepted international definition of trafficking is found in the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime* which says:



- (a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of 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.**

**Exploitation shall include, at the minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;**

- (b) the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;**
- (c) the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;**
- (d) “Child” shall mean any person less than eighteen years of age.**

(Article 3)

Janice G. Raymond has identified some of the main points which emerge from the Protocol as follows<sup>3</sup>:

- There is an international consensus on the definition of trafficking together with an agreed upon set of prosecution, protection and prevention mechanisms on which to base national legislation against trafficking, and which can serve as a basis for harmonising the laws of various countries.

- The trafficked persons, especially women in prostitution and child labourers, are not viewed as criminals but as victims of a crime.

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<sup>3</sup> Janice G. Raymond, *Guide to the New UN Trafficking Protocol. Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, North Amherst, 2001, 4-5.

- All victims of trafficking in persons are protected and not just those who can prove force (Art. 3a and b).
- The definition ensures that the victim will not bear the burden of proof (Art. 3b).
- The consent of a victim of trafficking is irrelevant (Art. 3b).
- The definition provides a comprehensive coverage of criminal means by which trafficking takes place, including not only force, coercion, abduction, deception or abuse of power, but also less explicit means, such as abuse of a victim's vulnerability (Art. 3a).
- The exploitation of prostitution and trafficking cannot be separated. The Protocol acknowledges that much trafficking is for the purpose of prostitution and for other forms of sexual exploitation (Art. 3a).
- It is not necessary for a victim to cross a border. Women and children who are domestically trafficked for prostitution and forced labour within their own countries are also protected.
- The key element in the trafficking process is the exploitative purpose, rather than the movement across a border (Art. 3a).
- This Protocol is the first UN instrument to address the demand which results in women and children being trafficked, calling upon countries to take or strengthen legislative or other measures to discourage this demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of women and children (Art. 9.5).

## Workshop Questions

1. What did you feel when you read the UN definition on trafficking?
2. What kind of environment allows trafficking to happen?
3. The link between trafficking and prostitution has always been found to be significant; what are the resulting implications?
4. Why might those who are trafficked be treated as criminals? Who in fact are the real criminals?
5. Why do you think have civil and other authorities been so slow to act against those involved in trafficking?
6. What have you learnt through this comparison?

## The Nature of the Problem<sup>4</sup>

### Who are trafficked?

- women and children are the key target group, because of their marginalisation, limited economic resources and predominance in the “invisible” informal sector
- people from impoverished and low income households in rural areas and urban slums, especially women engaged in small farming, petty trading, vending, as labourers, scavengers and in other low status work and services
- ethnic minorities, indigenous people, hill tribes, refugees, and illegal migrants
- people with low levels of education, a few years of formal schooling, some primary school education, or illiterate
- young girls running away from home, or girls from families that expect their daughters to financially contribute to their support are easy targets for traffickers
- people who lack awareness of their legal rights, their exploited situation, and have no channel for seeking redress
- women and children of varying ages, ranging from babies to women in their seventies.

### Trafficked for what?

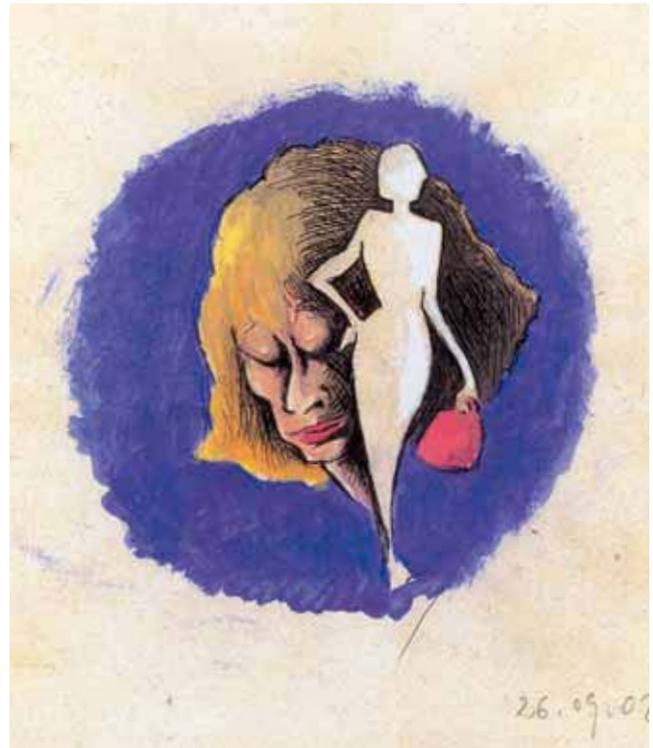
A wide range of purposes: a large percentage for prostitution; the entertainment industry; sweatshops; illegal adoption of children; organ transplants; forced marriages; mail-order brides; domestic work; forced labour e.g. in construction; drug trafficking; begging; other exploitative forms of work.

### Expectations?

Promise of higher incomes; to improve economic situation; support parents and families in villages; escape from conflict situations.

### Working environment:

Deplorable conditions; physical facilities are often below acceptable standards; conditions of



work and treatment often involve slavery-like practices and prison-like environments, long working hours, little rest or recreation; low wages or no wages; earnings are often unknown to workers and withheld by traffickers or employers; prolonged indebtedness to traffickers, employers, brothel owners, and lack of knowledge of debt terms; exposure to hazardous work; almost non-existent access to health and medical facilities; physical and sexual abuse is common.

### Harmful Effects To Women and Children (Both Short and Long Term):

- *health*: women and girls risk repeated pregnancy, maternal mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS
- *drug and other addictions*: associated physical and mental deterioration

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from UNIFEM East and South-East Asia, *Trafficking in Women and Children. Mekong Sub-Region.*

- *threat to emotional well-being*: constant fear of arrests, isolation, deprivation of family life and social support systems; humiliation and abuse result in serious emotional scars and many psychological consequences
- *threat to physical safety* by unscrupulous agents, police, customs officials, employers and others
- *apprehension by authorities*: detention, prosecution, forced deportation
- *difficulties in social integration* for those returning to their communities
- *economic slavery*: women have to pay the money which the traffickers demand for their travel and documentation.

## Workshop Questions

1. Is the trafficking of women and children seen as a human rights violation in your country or region?
2. What is the nature of the problem of trafficking in your country? Who is trafficked and why?
3. What is the relationship between trafficking and prostitution?
4. Other inter-governmental bodies and organisations have defined trafficking of women and children. Can you identify and critique these definitions?
5. Find out if your country has signed and ratified the UN Protocol on Trafficking in women and children.
  - If it has what new national legislation has been introduced and how has it been implemented?
  - If not why not? What can you do to change this?
6. What is being done to prevent trafficking in your country? Some propose the legalisation of prostitution as one of the solutions. Do you agree ?

## The Magnitude of the Problem

*This section describes the extent of the problem at an international level. The causes will be examined later in the YELLOW SECTION of this kit. When you have studied the yellow section, you will be invited to begin the investigation and analysis of trafficking in your country and region.*

Trafficking in persons affects virtually every country of the world today. The majority of victims are women and children who are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities after drugs and arms. Given the clandestine nature of trafficking, statistics are difficult to gather, but reliable estimates are available.

- Between 700,000 to two million persons are trafficked each year.

### South Asia

In Bangladesh a total of 25,000 are taken out of the country every year. In March 2001 it was reported that 10,000 to 15,000 of them are trafficked annually to India.<sup>6</sup> Another 4,500 are taken to Pakistan and the rest to Middle East countries.<sup>7</sup>



Of the 74 million South Asian women reported as missing, 20 million are said to be enslaved in brothels in India. Of these, 25% are known to be under 18 years of age. The Nepali and the Bangladeshi women are mainly in the metropolitan centres of Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata.<sup>8</sup> About 100,000 to 200,000 women and girls from Nepal have been trafficked to northern and central India, to other countries in South Asia and to the Middle East. Reports say that 5,000 to 7,000 Nepalese women and girls are trafficked annually to India.

Pakistan is one of the major countries of destination for women trafficked from Bangladesh. It is estimated that about 200,000 women ranging from 12-30 years have been trafficked in the last 10 years alone. The Afghan asylum seekers and refugees, especially women and children, have

- The largest number of victims come from Asia, with over 225,000 victims each year from South-East Asia and over 150,000 from South Asia.
- The former Soviet Union is said to have become the largest new source, with over 100,000 trafficked for prostitution and sexual exploitation.
- 75,000 or more are trafficked from Eastern Europe.<sup>5</sup>
- 200,000 to 500,000 women are trafficked from Latin America to the United States and Europe each year.
- Another 50,000 are said to be from the African continent.

The magnitude of the problem can be further grasped through examining the following estimates.

become an easy prey to the traffickers in Pakistan where it is said that over 200 to 400 migrants are abducted every month. ECPAT (Ending Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking) estimates that 20,000 children are involved in prostitution in Pakistan.<sup>9</sup>

Sri Lanka is one of the preferred destinations for sex tourism and has come to be known as 'the paedophile's paradise'. As many as 10,000 children between 6 and 14 are trafficked internally and enslaved in brothels in Sri Lanka.<sup>10</sup> Of the women taken out of the country 17,000 are in prostitution in Kuwait.<sup>11</sup> Caritas Sri Lanka re-

<sup>5</sup> Francis T. Miko and Grace Park, *Trafficking in Women and Children: The U.S. and International Response*, Congressional Research Service Report 98-649 C, May 10, 2000 (Accessed at <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic/crs0510.htm>, 16.07.02).

<sup>6</sup> "Landmark Judgement on Bangladeshi Women Trafficking to India", *AP World News*, May 9, 2001.

<sup>7</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report On Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women And Children. A Country-by-Country Report on a Contemporary Form of Slavery* (Accessed at <http://www.protectionproject.org/main1.htm>, 24.07.02).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> See "Landmark Judgement", *AP World News*, May 9, 2001.

<sup>11</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

ported that approximately 450,000 women migrated to West Asian countries in the mid 1990s.<sup>12</sup>

## South-East Asia

An estimated 30,000 Cambodian women have been trafficked into forced labour in neighbouring Asian countries especially Thailand, Malaysia and Taiwan.<sup>13</sup> There are about 50,000 to 55,000 sex workers



in Cambodia. Of them 40% are Vietnamese women and the greater majority of the remaining are women and girls who have been abducted from the rural areas.<sup>14</sup> The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children reported that nearly 20,000 children are in prostitution in Cambodia.<sup>15</sup>

The government of Lao PDR estimates that over 15,000 youth in Savannakhet province sought work in Thailand.<sup>16</sup>

20,000 to 30,000 women and girls from Myanmar have been trafficked primarily to brothels in Thailand. Between January and July 2001, more than 92,000 illegal Burmese immigrants were arrested and deported.<sup>17</sup>

According to Gabriella, a Filipino non-governmental organisation, there are approximately 600,000 women in prostitution in the Philippines. Around 50,000 to 60,000 children are involved in prostitution. Other reports say that 60 to 80 percent or six to eight out of every ten Filipino overseas workers are women who work as domestic helpers or entertainers. In the first ten months of 1998, 640,054 Filipinos left the country to work abroad, which is an increase of 3.5 percent on the previous year. Many are undocumented and it is difficult to estimate the number who are trafficked. There are an estimated 80,000 undocumented Filipino workers in South Korea aside from the 130,000 documented workers. In Japan, where Filipino women often end up as entertainers, 35,200 are illegal workers.<sup>18</sup>

UNICEF reports that in Indonesia between 40,000 and 70,000 children, mainly girls, are trapped in child prostitution networks. Indonesian women are trafficked to different parts of

the world. Some of the known figures are 58,000 migrants in Hong Kong and 4,600 more in prostitution in Malaysia.

Thailand is a country of origin, transit and destination. According to an International Labour Organization (ILO) 200,000 to 300,000 women are trafficked into Thailand each year. They are principally from Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao PDR, but also from other countries. Thai government reports on trafficking say that 60,000 children have been sold into prostitution. Another report estimates that 100,000 to 200,000 Thai women are in brothels and nightclubs in other countries.<sup>19</sup>

The reports about Vietnam say that since 1991 about 10,400 women have been sold to men in China as mail-order brides and many of those women have been forced into prostitution. The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (Asia Pacific) reports that the number is between 60,000 and 200,000 of whom 6.3% are under the age of 16 years.<sup>20</sup>

## Eastern Asia

In Japan, 90% of 150,000 women in prostitution are women trafficked from the different parts of the world.

In 2000, China officially cracked down on trafficking freeing 110,000 women and 13,000 children. There are a considerable number of women trafficked within



<sup>12</sup> A. Kathleen, *Some Observations from Sri Lanka*, Caritas Sri Lanka, October 1999 (Unpublished paper).

<sup>13</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

<sup>14</sup> Sofianni Subki, "Helping sex slaves", in *Asia Intelligence Wire*, July 18, 2002.

<sup>15</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

<sup>16</sup> UNIFEM East and South-East Asia, *Trafficking in Women and Children. Mekong Sub-region*, 23 September 1998 (Accessed at <http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/Resources/traffick2.html>, 30.07.02).

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Gabriella, "Stop Sex Trafficking of Filipino Women and Children!" June 1999 (Accessed at [http://members.tripod.com/~gabriela\\_p](http://members.tripod.com/~gabriela_p), 30.07.02).

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

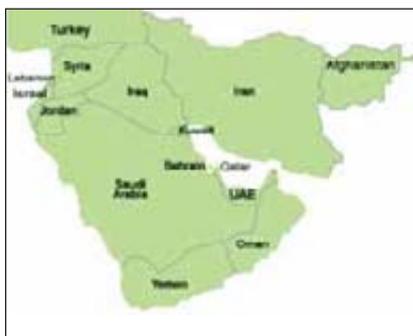
<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

China and sold as brides. It is estimated that around 50,000 women have been sold into unwanted marriages.

Among the figures available regarding trafficking in South Korea is the known case publicised by Kazakh commercial television which reported that about 2,000 women from Kazakhstan work in South Korea's sex industry. According to a report on April 2002, up to 6,000 Russian women entered the country between January 2000 and March 2002.<sup>21</sup> In January 2000, police arrested and charged members of a local network of South Korean employment agents and bar owners. In the same year the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) assisted the Peruvian trafficked women who were found in South Korea.

## Western Asia

The UAE has been a destination country for more than 500,000 people, the majority of women are from the former Soviet



Union since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

An estimated 2000-3000 women are taken to Israel every year. Although the exact numbers are not known, it is said that 10,000 women have been trafficked to Israel in the past ten years and that as many as 25,000 sexual transactions take place in the country every day.<sup>22</sup>

## Eastern Europe

The Moldova Intelligence and Security Service reported that more than 600,000 citizens of Moldova are working illegally outside the country. 70,000 to 80,000 of the emigrants are women and many are trapped into prostitution. It is said that around 50 to 60 women are being trafficked every day for sexual



exploitation.<sup>23</sup>

In 1999, La Strada, an NGO working on trafficking in women, reported that 420,000 women from the Ukraine have been sold into prostitution in the last decade.<sup>24</sup> Nearly 1,000 girls a month leave just from a single town in Ukraine to seek overseas employment. There are a growing number of mail order brides numbering almost 2,000 annually.<sup>25</sup>

In Poland, La Strada estimates that 1,200 to 10,000 Bulgarian women are in prostitution. In addition there are women trafficked from other countries of Eastern Europe and from the former Soviet Republic. It is said that in Poland around 15,000 women in prostitution are from abroad.<sup>26</sup> The report of the Human Rights Group says that 10,000 Bulgarian women are forced into prostitution. 70% of the women in prostitution in Dubai are from Bulgaria.

Over 2,000 Lithuanian women are trafficked annually to Western European countries.<sup>27</sup>

Between 175,000 and 500,000 young women are estimated to have been forced into prostitution in the Balkans.<sup>28</sup>

## Western Europe

All the countries of Western Europe receive trafficked women from all over the world. Reports say that 120,000 women are trafficked into Western Europe annually particularly from Central and Eastern Europe and the



<sup>21</sup> "Trapped in modern slavery: Sex trafficking turns Russian women into Korean pawns" *Ben Jhoty* (Accessed at [http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html\\_dir/2001/11/02/200111020003.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html_dir/2001/11/02/200111020003.asp), 30.07.02).

<sup>22</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

<sup>23</sup> Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, *Trafficking in Women: Moldova and Ukraine*, Minneapolis, December 2000, 26. (Accessed at <http://www.mnadvocates.org/Publications/Women%20Publications/TraffickingReport.pdf>)

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> "OCSE Examines Forced Prostitution", *Reuters/Central Europe Online*, April 27, 2001.

Russian federation. From Albania alone 30,000 are said to be on the streets of Europe.<sup>29</sup> The greater number of women trafficked from Africa, up to 50,000, are from Nigeria. The greatest percentage are on the streets of Europe, especially Italy where 30,000 of them are said to be in prostitution.<sup>30</sup> Other women and girls trafficked from Africa to Western Europe are from Ghana, Morocco, Benin, Tunisia. According to a UN spokesman as many as 75,000 women from Brazil have been trafficked into Europe especially to the United Kingdom by way of Portugal. In the Netherlands alone around 5,000 Colombian women are said to be forced into prostitution, whereas 50% of the total number of prostitutes in the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Utrecht are reported to be from the Dominican Republic.<sup>31</sup> An estimated 300,000 people work as prostitutes in Spain, many of whom are illegal immigrants.<sup>32</sup>

## Africa

It is reported that every year over 50,000 victims are trafficked from Africa. As mentioned previously Nigerian women constitute the biggest percentage (see Europe).



The Ghana Immigration Service estimated that 3,582 women were trafficked from the country between 1998 and 2000.<sup>33</sup>

In 1999, it was estimated that between 12,000 and 20,000 Ethiopian women were working in Lebanon as domestic workers in severely abusive conditions.<sup>34</sup>

The US government figures show that 14,000 women and children were abducted from Southern Sudan and sent to Western and Northern Sudan in recent years.<sup>35</sup>

The trafficking in children has become a widespread problem in some parts of Africa. In fact, UNICEF estimates that more than 200,000 children are trapped in cross-border smuggling in West and Central Africa.<sup>36</sup>

In Angola, it is said that there are 10,000 street children, many of whom are lured into prostitution.<sup>37</sup> In 2000, a study made by the Zambian government states that as many as 563,000 children between the ages of 5 to 17 were in-

involved in some form of domestic labour and prostitution within the country itself.<sup>38</sup>

Referring to the hundreds of children abducted in Uganda and Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army, Mary Robinson, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that a large number of the 6,000 missing children were made to serve as fighters, porters and sex slaves to rebels.<sup>39</sup>

In Guinea Equatoriale, an estimated 18,000 children between the ages of 10 and 14 have been trafficked from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Togo. Gambia is reported to have 49,000 children between 10 and 14 who are economically active.<sup>40</sup>

## Latin America

Some experts estimate that as many as 200,000 to 500,000 women are trafficked from Latin America to the United States and Europe each year.

In the Dominican Republic, an estimated 50,000 women are in prostitution serving 1.5 million sex



<sup>29</sup> "Albanian Girls Sold Into Sex Trade", *ABCNEWS.com*, May 21, 2001.

<sup>30</sup> TED case studies, *The Trafficking of Nigerian women into Italy*, January 2002 (Accessed at <http://www.american.edu/TED/italian-trafficking.htm#r1>, 30.07.02).

<sup>31</sup> The Protection Project, 2002 *Human Rights Report*.

<sup>32</sup> "Spanish region draws up pioneer legislation to regulate brothel prostitution", *AP World News*, Aug 2, 2002.

<sup>33</sup> "New IOM Figures on the Global Scale of Trafficking", *Trafficking in Migrants - Quarterly Bulletin*, April 2001 (Accessed at [http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/tm\\_23.pdf](http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/tm_23.pdf), 30.07.02).

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> The Protection Project, 2002 *Human Rights Report*.

<sup>36</sup> Fact Sheet on Human Trafficking (Accessed at [http://www.undcp.org/trafficking\\_fact\\_sheet.html](http://www.undcp.org/trafficking_fact_sheet.html))

<sup>37</sup> The Protection Project, 2002 *Human Rights Report*.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> "Hundreds of Children Will be Sold into Slavery in Africa" (Accessed at [http://ananova.com/news/story/sm\\_264656.html](http://ananova.com/news/story/sm_264656.html))

<sup>40</sup> The Protection Project, 2002 *Human Rights Report*.

tourists to the country annually.<sup>41</sup> According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), some 70,000 Dominican women are involved in the sex industry outside their country. Most of them are forced into prostitution by immigrant-smugglers. Traffickers, who recruit the women with false promises of jobs, smuggle them into nations such as Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Argentina, as well as nearby Caribbean countries.<sup>42</sup>

Brazil has an estimated 100,000 children who live and work on the streets, and many of them face sexual exploitation. Trafficking also occurs, with girls being sent from urban shanties to remote mining sites in the Amazon where the single men working there sexually exploit them.<sup>43</sup>

In Mexico, nearly 100 children and teenagers a month fall into the hands of child prostitution networks which are mafias or organised crime syndicates.<sup>44</sup>

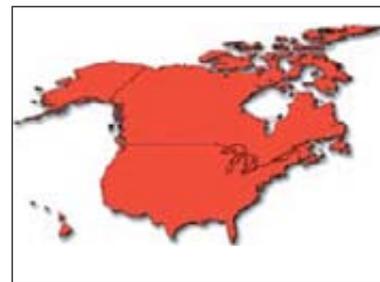
In Colombia, it is estimated that some ten women a day are trafficked and currently there are 500,000 women and children outside Colombia, who are victims of sexual exploitation and forced labour. As the internal conflict worsens, more and more women and children have become vulnerable to trafficking as they seek to leave their country to find better living conditions.<sup>45</sup>

Recent media reports say that in Costa Rica, in the city of San Jose alone, there are 3,000 girls and women in prostitution. It is one of the destinations for sexual tourists especially for thousands from North America.<sup>46</sup>

More than 40,000 children are involved in prostitution in Venezuela. Around 24,000 children

have been trafficked from Bolivia to Northern Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

## United States and Canada



The United States is one of the countries of destination of women

and children trafficked for sexual purposes from all over the world. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimates that 50,000 to 100,000 women are trafficked to the United States each year. In the past decade as many as 750,000 women have been trafficked into the United States.<sup>47</sup> According to UNICEF estimates, there are between 90,000 and 300,000 prostituted minors in the country.

The number of people smuggled into Canada annually is reported to be around 16,000. How-

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> "Trafficking in Women from the Dominican Republic for Sexual Exploitation", *International Organization for Migration*, June 1996. Also "DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-PROSTITUTION. IOM denounces forced prostitution of Dominican women", *EFE News Service*, 24th September 2002.

<sup>43</sup> Donna M. Hughes, *Factbook on Global Sexual Exploitation*.

<sup>44</sup> Elena Azola and Diego Cevallos, "Sterile at Age 12, AIDS at 14," *IPS*, 10 February 1998.

<sup>45</sup> See "New IOM Figures".

<sup>46</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.

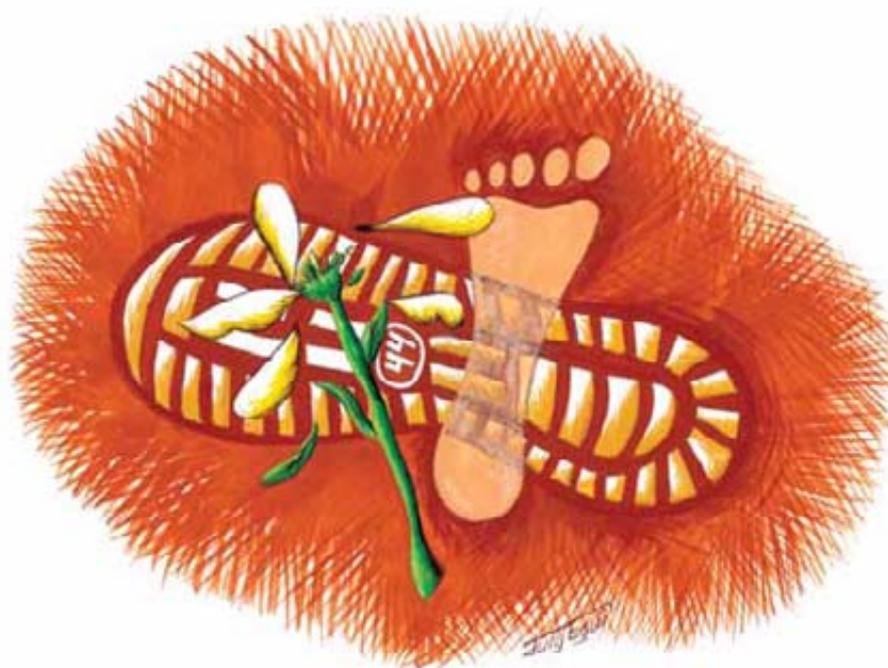
<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

## Workshop Questions

1. Having read this section "the Magnitude of the Problem" what are your reactions and feelings?
2. Are you aware of the level of trafficking of women and children that takes place in your country or region? Does trafficking take place at the domestic and/or international level?
3. Can you identify NGOs and other organisations who are working with women and children who are trafficked and who can help you to identify the extent of the problem?
4. What are the economic, social, political and cultural conditions in your country that contribute to the rise of trafficking for sexual exploitation?
5. Examine Appendix 1, noting the patterns of trafficking from, through or to your country or region. What surprises you about this pattern?

# The Causes of Trafficking



## The Causes

*Looking at both the supply and demand factors that foster the growth of trafficking can identify some of the causes of trafficking. Such causes can be further categorised into different aspects of life such as socio-cultural, economic and political.*

## Supply Side

### Socio-cultural

- **Illiteracy, and inadequate educational and employment** opportunities as well as lack of gender perspective in education.
- **Patriarchy**, which is the main cause for the discrimination of women and girl-children.
- **Erosion of traditional family values**, and the pursuit of consumerism encourages the sale of women and children.
- **Racial discrimination, racism and related intolerance** which makes the women from such communities more vulnerable to trafficking.
- **The media and new technologies** which through advertising and the commercialisation of sex, present women's bodies as objects solely for sexual pleasure.

## Demand Side

### Socio-cultural

- **Male attitudes** and perceptions of women in society, and women's unequal socio-economic status.
- **Pornography** and its role in the growth in demand for sex. This is coupled with an ever increasing use of the internet as its vehicle and as a means for traffickers to market women and children.
- **Patriarchy** resulting in the unequal power relations between men and women and in the discrimination of women.
- **Consumerist behaviour** with the commodification and commercialisation of sex leading to the consideration of women's bodies as commodities and objects of sexual pleasure.

## Economic

- **Economic disparities** within countries, and between countries and regions which is the primary cause for the growth in trafficking in women.
- **Feminisation of poverty** because women constitute 70% of the world's poor and they support their families through precarious employment in the growing informal sector.
- **Globalization** and its differential impact on women through economic restructuring and transition with cuts on social spending which affect women.
- **Economic liberalisation** which relaxes controls, opens borders between countries, facilitating population mobility and illegal migration.
- **A lucrative business** with high monetary returns because women are sold and resold a number of times. At the same time there are less dangers of being apprehended and this attracts crime syndicates.
- **Downfall of communist regimes in Eastern and Central Europe** and the difficulties in relation to an economy in transition.

## Political

- **Feminisation of International Migration** as women enter the labour market, together with the lack of regulation for labour migration which provides increased opportunities and channels for trafficking.
- **Civil and military conflicts** push people to flee their countries. Of the 25 million refugees in the world 80% are women and children. They become an easy prey in the hands of the traffickers.
- **The growth of transnational crime**, and the expansion of drug trafficking networks act as mechanisms for other forms of exploitation.
- **Weak law enforcement** mechanisms and measures to penalise offenders.
- **Corruption** by police, law enforcers, officials and peacemakers.

## Economic

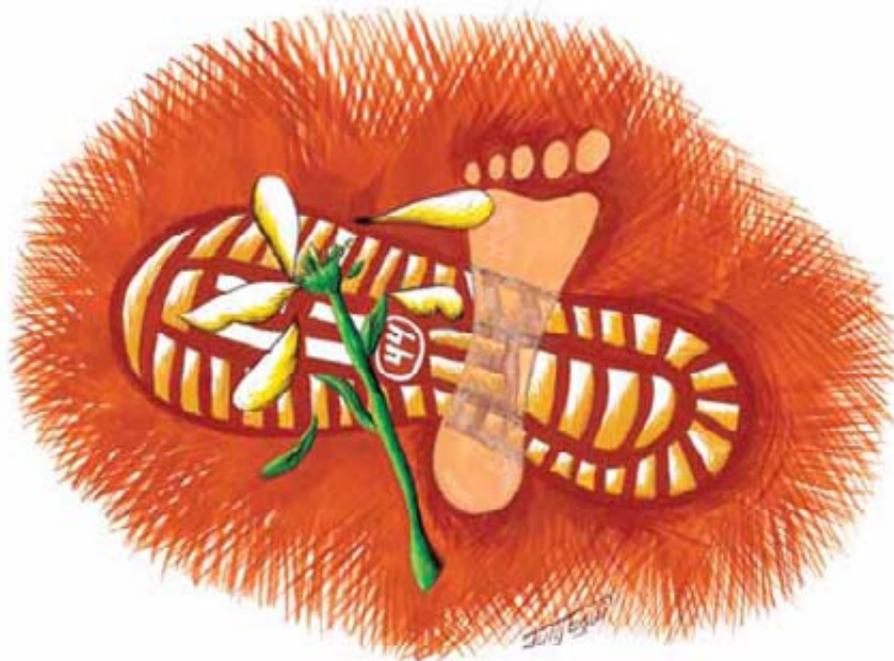
- **Demand by employers** for an unskilled and cheap labour market. Women's labour is usually in low status work in the domestic and entertainment spheres and in the informal sector.
- **An expanding commercial sex industry** and increased demand for sex. The variety of ways it merchandises women and children are: prostitution, sex trafficking, sex tourism, mail-order bride, strip clubs, topless bars and so on. The growth in the child sexual exploitation is due to male client preferences for younger women and girls because of the fear of HIV infection.
- **Development policies** promoting tourism, and patterns of development that depend on temporary migrant workers.

## Political

- **Military bases** both past and present have created an enormous prostitution infrastructure.
- **Unequal and exploitative political and economic relations** dictated by the North which results in the deterioration of conditions of life in the South.
- **Restrictive migration policies** which have decreased the possibilities for regular migration.
- **Sales of arms** and the increase of armed conflict within and between countries with the consequent increase of displaced people and refugees who fall victims to traffickers.
- **Weak law enforcement** mechanisms and measures to penalise offenders.

## Workshop Questions

1. From your experience what other causes need to be included on
  - (a) the supply side: socio-cultural, economic and political?
  - (b) the demand side: socio-cultural, economic and political?
2. Can you look at the causes already identified in the chart and detail how these causes impact on women and children?
3. To what extent is patriarchy one of the main causes which contributes to the trafficking of women and children?
4. Examine the effect of the media and the new technologies in relation to the commodification and commercialisation of women's bodies.



# Trafficking Mechanisms and Techniques

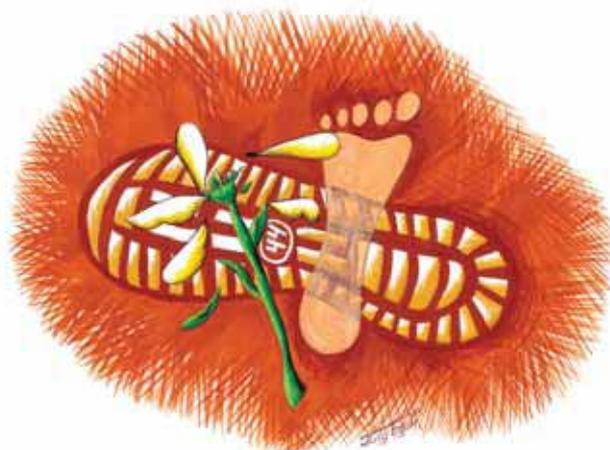
## Trafficking networks

- are widespread, complex, operate underground and are often out of the reach of the legal system
- are constantly changing and often follow migration patterns
- are difficult to identify - traffickers are adept at avoiding detection and escaping arrest
- are hidden- because those trafficked are illegal migrants, they remain silent and undiscovered for fear of reprisals from traffickers, and deportation
- have extensive complicity of corrupt State officials
- are facilitated by technological advances such as telephone, fax, internet, expanding the scope of international transactions and use new communications and information technologies through which they can easily buy, sell and exchange millions of images and videos
- are organised informal networks between mafias operating in countries of origin, transit and destination.

## Key agents

Many persons are involved in the trafficking business, from the initial recruitment and procurement of women and children, to their widespread movement across borders.

- agents in the trafficking networks
- tour operators and travel agencies (“front” businesses)
- employment agents
- foremen and trafficking gangs
- crime syndicates with bases in many countries
- bar madams, local women recruiters
- parents, relatives and friends



- school teachers
- villagers and village headmen
- “mamasans”, brothel owners
- pimps and procurers
- customers, clients, bars owners
- corrupt officials (e.g police, customs, immigration, peace keepers, border patrollers).

## Some trafficking techniques

- local contacts: traffickers enlist the help of local persons and villagers to identify vulnerable families. They make contacts with unsuspecting women and children around bus and train stations
- direct sale: women and children are sold to traffickers by parents or other family members
- deceit: unscrupulous agents deceive parents, lure women and girls with false promises of well-paid work in cities or marriages to rich partners
- debt bondage: economic incentives to parents and arrangements which bind children and young women into sex-slavery or other exploitative forms of labour, though details of these debt terms are ill defined

- kidnap: criminal gangs or middlemen kidnap women and children, force them to work against their will, and often sell them to brothels
- falsification of documents: false documents and passports make it difficult to identify and trace trafficked persons
- bribes: commonly paid to various officials or police to procure false documents, or at border crossings
- transportation: women and children are transported by foot, motorcycles, mini-buses and pick-up vans, and boats.

## Workshop Questions

- 1. From the stories and other information that you have gathered so far can you build up a profile of those who traffic women and children? Are you surprised by what you have learnt?**
- 2. What are the key factors underlying the practice of treating women and children as commodities?**
- 3. Why is trafficking considered to be a modern form of slavery?**
- 4. Are you aware of the mafia groups who network for the purpose of trafficking in your region of the world?**
- 5. In relation to the problem of trafficking what sources of corruption need to be exposed and how?**

## NOTES

# Theological Reflection

***Theological reflection has been described as:***

*“a process that brings together insights from experience, culture and our theological tradition and leads to thoughtful action as a result”<sup>49</sup>*

***The following reflections are offered as a means of exploring our theological tradition, where we find rich sources that:***

- *Promote the dignity of women*
- *Acknowledges human sexuality as a gift*
- *Condemn exploitation and slavery*
- *Call for mutual respect in the relationship between women and men*
- *Invite us to work for the liberation of those who are enslaved.*

***Process for reflecting on each of the following sections:***

1. Imagine yourself meeting a woman who has been trafficked ... sit with her, talk with her, find out how she feels ... then note your own feelings and thoughts ...
2. Then read and reflect on one of the sections which follow.
3. What are your reactions to what you have read and why?
4. What aspects of your Christian faith and life are being challenged?
5. Can you identify women theologians who are currently writing about women and violence and reflect on what they say?<sup>50</sup>
6. How are you personally being called to action?

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<sup>49</sup> School Sisters of Notre Dame, *Trafficking*, Shalom North America, March 2002, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> For example: Mary John Mananzan, Mary Grey, Elsa Tamez, Letty Russell, *Women Resisting Violence: Spirituality for Life*, Orbis Books, New York, 1996.

## a: Reflection at the funeral of Tina Motoc

(This reflection is written by Sr. Eugenia Bonetti MC, for Tina who was a 21 year old Romanian girl who had been trafficked into Italy and was found murdered on a road near Turin in February 2001).

Forgive me for daring to break through this moment of prayer, but I desire to beg and entrust you with a message before you return to your country to rest, after remaining in the city morgue for thirteen long months because of unending juridical investigations.

In this last salute I would like to speak in the name of many people present and absent. Together we would like to ask your forgiveness for our personal and collective responsibilities. That your young life that was so suddenly interrupted weighs terribly on our consciences and we need your forgiveness to find strength to continue the fight against all forms of slavery and exploitation.

- We ask forgiveness from your daughter Elisa whom you left in Romania a few months after her birth; we also ask the forgiveness of your mother and all the mothers who daily weep for the hundreds of daughters who came to Italy with the mirage of a life full of hope but who were struck down by a cruel and humiliating death like yours.
- Tina forgive the hypocrisy of our society of well-being and consumption, concerned with development and technological progress which has forgotten respect for the dignity and sacredness of each person.
- Forgive the connivance of our civil authorities that permit or tolerate this new form of slavery and do not want to defeat the racket and organisation of traffickers of human beings, allowing the destruction of thousands of young and defenceless people by shameful earnings.
- Forgive the law enforcement agents that did not protect and defend you because you were an illegal alien, without identity and consequently stripped of your dignity and liberty.
- Specially forgive those who every night looked for you, raped you and used you as an object of pleasure only to throw you back on the streets like waste, collaborating with your tyrants, increasing their earnings and paying a fee destined to sustain organised crime.
- Forgive the religious authorities that were not able to shout your sorrow loud enough and denounce the injustice of your exploitation and your reduction to slavery. During the Holy Year of the Great Jubilee you waited in vain for the chains to be broken for you and your street companions so that “the Lord’s Year of grace and mercy” (Luke 4:19) might be realised.
- Forgive the attitude of many Christians who judged and condemned you as the adulterer of the Gospel, because you “who soiled our streets”, were a nuisance to them and exposed our false sense of shame.



- I ask your pardon in the name of all of us women, because we left you alone on the streets to live your drama of solitude, anguish and fear through our indifference and silence.
- I ask your pardon Tina, even in the name of your killer who in a barbarous way mutilated your young body. But he is not the only one responsible for your death; in fact before you were struck, you were already dead. How many people killed the dreams and expectations of your twenty years of life? We are all guilty and co-responsible for your death and for this we invoke the mercy of God.

Now we want you to rest in the peace and love of God who is Father of all the marginalized, desperate, humiliated and despised by history. He is the one who “cast the mighty from their thrones and exalted the humble”. He is the one who “filled the hungry and sent the rich away empty.” (Luke 2: 52-53). May He now wipe away all your tears and give you the joy and peace of eternal life. May the comfort of our prayers, our solidarity and our participation in this great loss be with little Elisa and your family; may it increase our awareness and our commitment to defend and liberate the slaves of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

(Jesus, The Redeemer Parish, Turin March 23, 2002).

## b. The Old Testament and Oppression

According to Elsa Tamez there are 9 different words in the Old Testament which signify different kinds of “oppression”.<sup>51</sup> When reflecting on the situation of women and children who are trafficked, they can be seen to suffer most if not all of these various kinds of oppression, because trafficking is such “a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.” (John Paul II). As you read and pray the Old Testament references, bring to mind stories of women who have been exploited in this way.

**ANAH:** means “to oppress, exploit; humiliate, degrade; subdue (subject), dominate; afflict distress; force or violate a woman”. Gn. 15:13; Ex. 3: 7; 2 Sam. 13:12-14, Ps. 119:107.

**ASHAQ:** means “to oppress; obtain by violence or to extort”. Pr. 14, 31; 28:3; Ezk. 22: 7-12; Eccles. 5:8. Jr. 22;3.

**LAHATS:** means “to oppress; press, squeeze or crush; harass, drive back or corral”. Ex.3:9; Dt. 26:7; Is. 19: 20. Am. 6: 14.

**NAGASH:** means “to oppress, exploit, force, exert pressure”. Ex. 5:6; 10:14; Jb. 39:7.

**YANAH:** means “to oppress, exploit, dominate in a brutal way, suppress, put an end to, despoil, deceive and cheat”. Zp. 3: 1; Ezk. 22: 3; 22: 6; 22:25-26; 22:29.

**RATSATS:** means to “to mash, crush, and grind”. Jr. 22: 17; Jb. 20:19; Is. 36:6; Jg. 9:53; Ps. 74:14.

**DAKA:** means to “grind, pulverize or crush”. Ps. 72:4; 85:11; 94:5 ; Jr. 44:10; Is. 19:10; 57:1; Jb. 34:25.

**DAK:** means to “to wear out, oppress, trouble”, Ps. 9:9; 10: 12; 10: 17-18; 74.

**TOK:** means “oppression and tyranny”. Ps. 55:11; Pr. 29:13; Ps. 10:7; 55:11.

## c. Jesus and Women in Prostitution

Worthy of note are certain women, who are described as prostitutes in both the Old and New Testaments, but who are given favourable mention nonetheless. One of them was Rahab, who received and concealed the spies sent by Joshua to reconnoitre the promised land (Joshua 2: 1-21). Her kind gesture was to earn a reprieve for her and her family when the Israelites destroyed

<sup>51</sup> Elza Tamez, *Bible of the Oppressed*, Orbis Books, New York, 1982.

Jericho (Joshua 6 : 22-25). Then there was the good prostitute who offered to let her fellow prostitute have her child rather than have him cut in two as King Solomon had decreed (1King 3: 16-28). The prophet Hosea was ordered by God to "Go, marry a whore and get children with a whore" as a sign to the Israelite nation (Hosea 1: 2-9; 3: 1-3).

In the New Testament we encounter the Samaritan woman who has been married to five men before living with one who was not her husband (John 4:18). Jesus transformed her into the "apostle" of the Samaritan nation. There was the woman who was a sinner, who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and anointed them with ointment. Jesus said that she loved much because her many sins had been forgiven her. (Luke 7:36-50). Again there was the adulterous woman whom Jesus rescued from being stoned by the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus did not condemn her but told her nonetheless to "Go away and from this moment sin no more" (John 8: 1-11).

**(Taken from RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF THE NIGERIAN WOMAN – A Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria)**

## **d. Dignity of Woman: From Catholic Social Teaching and the Letters of John Paul II**

### **Lumen Gentium:**

The Second Vatican Council regretted that women's fundamental personal rights were not being universally respected:

Such is the case of a woman, who is denied the right and freedom to choose a husband, to embrace a state in life, or to acquire education or cultural benefits equal to those recognized for men (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium #29).

### **Mulieres Dignitatem:**

John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Dignity of Women, 1988) said that the Church...

...desired to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the "mystery of woman" and for every woman – for all that constitutes the eternal measure of her feminine dignity, for the "great works of God" which throughout human history have been accomplished in and through her (#31).

### **Letter to Women (1995):**

In a Letter to Women (1995), John Paul II said again:

Women's dignity has often been unacknowledged and their prerogative misrepresented; they have often been regulated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude. This has prevented women from truly being themselves and it has resulted in a spiritual impoverishment of humanity (#3).

### **International Conference on Trafficking: Letter from John Paul II**

In a recent letter to Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran on the occasion of the International Conference "Twenty-First Century Slavery – The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings." Pope John Paul II said the following:

The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. Already the Second Vatican Council had pointed to "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as instruments of gain rather than free and responsible persons", as "infamies" which "poison human society, debase their perpetrators" and constitute "a supreme dishonour to the Creator" (*Gaudium et Spes* #27). Such situations are an affront to fundamental values that are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person.

## PRAYER FOR AN END TO TRAFFICKING

○ God, our words cannot express  
what our minds can barely comprehend  
and our hearts feel  
when we hear of women and girls deceived  
and transported to unknown places  
for purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse  
because of human greed and profit  
at this time in our world.  
Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry  
that their dignity and rights are being  
transgressed through threats  
deception and force.  
We cry out against the degrading practice of  
trafficking and pray for it to end.  
Strengthen the fragile-spirited  
and broken-hearted  
Make real your promises  
to fill these our sisters with a love  
that is tender and good  
and send the exploiters away empty-handed.  
Give us the wisdom and courage  
to stand in solidarity with them  
that together we will find ways  
to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. <sup>52</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), *Trafficking Reflection Booklet*, Canadian Province, p. 10.

### Workshop Questions

- 1. How can we develop a spirituality of life and hope that can resist violence towards women and children?**
- 2. How can healing and wholeness happen for those who have been sold and traded like a commodity?**
- 3. How can women move from too narrow a focus on victimisation and violence to a new vision of strength and empowerment?**
- 4. How to confront the darkness of exploitation and slavery and invite those men and women engaged in trafficking to a new way of living?**
- 5. How to transform gender relationships so that women are treated with dignity?**

## e. Strategies for Religious Congregations and Their Collaborators

Trafficking in women and children is an issue of global proportions requiring urgent and concerted responses. A comprehensive approach is essential to address the political, economic, social, legal, and institutional dimensions of trafficking. A close networking of various actors and at different levels is crucial in order to combat trafficking.

*Here are some steps that you can take with others. As religious we have the possibilities to be involved in direct action with those who are trafficked, in preventative educational programmes, in rehabilitation programmes, in research and lobbying. When religious congregations collaborate together at a national level in workshops and in working groups they can more effectively pool their resources and expertise and become agents of change.*

### 1. Research, data collection, and dissemination of information

- collect data on trafficking as a basis for sound policy and programme formulation (research data should be disaggregated by gender and age)
- prepare a directory on national and sub-regional organisations working on trafficking
- disseminate data and information, in various national languages
- constitute an interdisciplinary research group
- link universities with persons working “on the ground”, organisations and individuals involved in the daily vicissitudes of those vulnerable to trafficking
- use a human rights framework to document human rights abuses in the trafficking of women and children.

### 2. Awareness raising and advocacy

- conduct awareness campaigns about trafficking at local, national and sub-regional level to mobilise diverse groups: from women and children at grassroots to policy makers, gov-

ernment and non-governmental organisations, religious congregations and ecclesial bodies

- raise awareness about collateral systems: escort agencies, tourism industry, systems of prostitution, military oriented prostitution and how they may be related to trafficking
- make strategic use of the media to provide national and international coverage of the issue, generate public opinion and pressure to stop trafficking
- strengthen advocacy efforts to reduce demand, and include a strong component of gender sensitisation on issues pertaining to women and girls
- encourage theological reflection and discussion, within churches and parishes, on the undoubted existence of ‘buyers’ of sexual services and the implications of this for the community of women and men in the church
- promote social intolerance of the human rights violation that is called prostitution
- integrate programmes about economic and gender justice into school curricula
- find out which organisations in your area are working on this issue and join with them
- ask your school, parish, social service to explore the issue and become more aware of how it can help.



### **3. Prevention**

- address the underlying causes of poverty, improve access to education and employment opportunities, in particular women's access to productive resources
- promote education particularly for men and boys, on trafficking in women and girls and its dehumanising effects
- offer ways of doing theological reflection on the dignity of women and womanhood and God's plan that men and women should live in mutual relationship

### **4. Protection, return and reintegration**

- physical, economic, legal, psychological and spiritual assistance for women who are victims of trafficking
- job training facilities and support for alternative means of livelihood
- programmes for rehabilitation and reintegration into the society
- assistance to the family of the victims.

### **5. Advocacy and lobbying of governments**

- ratify and implement International Conventions to promote and protect the rights of women and children who are trafficked
- review, improve and implement comprehensive legislation at national level
- review immigration laws with the aim of preventing trafficking
- accelerate training of law enforcement agencies and personnel, including gender-sensitisation
- strengthen law enforcement mechanisms and penalise offenders
- promote legal literacy and improve access to affordable legal assistance
- improve treatment of trafficked victims
- develop guidelines and strengthen multidisciplinary reintegration programmes (e.g. health care, counselling, education and training, social integration).

### **6. Networking**

- create effective networking between Congregations on the issue of trafficking
- build up networks with NGOs and other actors at local, national and international levels
- work in collaboration with other Churches and religions.

## **Workshop Questions**

- 1. What is the impact of the media and advertising on how we view women's bodies?**
  - 2. How can we challenge the normalising and the globalising of sex through the media?**
  - 3. How does society turn women into objects and commodities?**
  - 4. How to challenge the men, the clients who "buy" the women?**
- 
- 5. Where will you begin?**
  - 6. Which step(s) will you take now in keeping with your charism?**
  - 7. What is the Church's moral view? What about its preaching and teaching on this issue?**
  - 8. How will you form vibrant networks with members of other religious congregations and with others?**

## **f. The Declaration of the UISG**

**The following Declaration was ratified by the Union of International Superiors' General, who represent over 800 congregations of women religious with 1,000,000 members.**

**Declaration of Women Religious Leaders  
members of the International Union of Superiors' General  
participating at the UISG Plenary Session held in Rome May 6-10,  
and ratified by the Assembly of Delegates on May 13, 2001**

We, almost 800 women leaders of one million members  
of Catholic Religious Institutes throughout the world  
reflecting on the theme

**Women Religious: Many Cultures, One Heart:**

**Sent to be a living presence of the tenderness and mercy of God in our wounded world publicly  
declare our determination to work in solidarity with one another**

within our own religious communities and in the countries in which we are located

**to address insistently at every level  
the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children**

with particular attention to

**the trafficking of women**

which has become a lucrative multi-national business.

Drawing on our long tradition as educators we will continue

**to promote the education and formation of women**

within and outside our own organisations

by committing personnel and financial resources

to ensure the holistic development of women at every stage of life

empowering them to develop an inner strength

and appreciation of their God-given gifts to promote and enhance life.

As women committed to human rights

**we declare once more our solidarity with the poorest countries**

**and restate our resolution to work for the cancellation of the International Debt.**

As women opposed to the perpetuation of war and violence

**we express our commitment to the creation of a culture of peace**

and we call on heads of governments and multi-national companies

**to stop the sale and purchase of armaments.**

As women concerned about the preservation of Mother Earth

we will take action when and wherever possible

**to end the destructive behaviour that causes global warming and climate change**

**and threatens all forms of life on our planet.**

We pledge ourselves to implement these resolutions  
**through a system of networking**  
**among ourselves and with other existing organisations with similar concerns**  
**within Churches and in society.**

Attentive to the cries that arise with one voice from many cultures  
**we will respond as women disciples of Jesus Christ**  
**seeing the world with the eyes of the heart**  
and with the compassion of a loving God.

(UISG Plenary 2001)

## **Workshop Questions**

- 1. What initiatives have been taken by the Conference of Religious in your country in relation to trafficking?**
- 2. What specific initiatives have been promoted by your congregation and your collaborators?**
- 3. How can congregations of men and women collaborate in order to act with solidarity on behalf of those who are trafficked?**

## NOTES

## Appendix 1:

# Global Patterns of Supply and Demand

*The following pages analyse the movement of women and children who are trafficked across borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The traffickers are organised criminal gangs of men who prey on vulnerable women and children in the poorer countries of origin and meet the demands of men in the countries of destination.*

## Africa

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Ghana		Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Lebanon, Libya, USA <sup>33</sup> , France, Germany, Spain
Nigeria		Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands <sup>54</sup> , Germany, Spain, United Kingdom <sup>55</sup> , Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia
Ethiopia		Bahrain, Lebanon, United Kingdom, Canada, Djibouti <sup>56</sup>
Mali		Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait <sup>57</sup>
Benin		Lebanon, Libya, France, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo <sup>58</sup>
Burkina Faso		Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria
Benin, Togo, Cameroon		Gabon
Senegal		Gambia, Europe and North Africa * Gambian women and children are trafficked to Sweden and Senegal
Guinea		West African Countries
Kenya		Saudi Arabia * Kenya is a country of destination for women from Uganda, Pakistan, and India
Liberia		Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium
Sub-Saharan countries	Libya, Marocco	Spain, Western Europe
Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique		Malawi * Malawi women are trafficked to Europe and other African countries
Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia		South Africa <sup>59</sup>
Southern Sudan		Western and Northern Sudan <sup>60</sup>
Madagascar		France <sup>61</sup>
Guinea Equatoriale		Spain * Guinea is a country of destination for children from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Togo <sup>62</sup>

## South-East Asia

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Cambodia	Thailand is a transit country for women trafficked out of Cambodia	Internally from the rural areas to Phnom Penh and other cities  Externally to Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia
Thailand	Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea <sup>63</sup>	Internally from North/Northeast to Central and South Thailand  Externally to West Asia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, Macau, Malaysia, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland <sup>64</sup>
Indonesia	Indonesia is a transit country for women trafficked from Middle East (especially Iraq) and Central Asia to Australia	Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brunei Darussalam, Taiwan, the Netherlands <sup>65</sup>
The Philippines	Bahrain is a transit country for Filipino women trafficked to Kuwait. Whilst Indonesia and Malaysia to South Asia and eastern and Central Europe  Philippines is a transit country for trafficking between China and other countries	Australia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, South Asia, European countries, United States <sup>66</sup>  * Philippines is a destination for women trafficked from Bosnia, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia
Myanmar	Myanmar serves as a transit country for Chinese girls trafficked into Northern Thailand	Thailand, Pakistan, China
Vietnam		Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States <sup>67</sup>
Mekong region of Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Southern Yunan province of China		Cross-border <sup>68</sup>
Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, South China, Thailand		Hong Kong

## South and Central Asia

	Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
<b>South Asia</b>	Nepal		India, Hong Kong, <sup>69</sup> Thailand, Middle East
	Bangladesh		India, Pakistan, Middle East
	India	India is also a transit country for trafficking of women from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Middle East, Hong Kong, Thailand	Internally from remote parts of the country to Mumbai, New Delhi, Calcutta  Externally to Kuwait, Middle East
	Sri Lanka		Internal, India, Middle East, Italy, Australia
	Pakistan	Pakistan is also a transit country for many Afghan refugees who fall prey to the traffickers	United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Australia  * Pakistan is also a destination country for women trafficked from Russia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, Afghanistan
<b>Central Asia</b>	Kazakhstan		Greece, Israel, the Persian Gulf states (notably the United Arab Emirates), South Korea, Turkey
	Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan is also a country of transit for women trafficked from Central Asian countries Kazakhstan	Middle East, Russia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Turkey, China, Germany, India, Iran, Malaysia, Sweden, Qatar, Greece <sup>70</sup>
	Tajikistan	Russia is a transit country for women taken from Tajikistan to Eastern and Western Europe	Eastern and western Europe, Middle East, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates

## Western - Eastern Asia and Australia

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Azerbaijan, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, Former Soviet Union		Israel <sup>71</sup>
Ukraine, Eastern Europe, Philippines		Jordan
Southeast Asia, Latin America (mainly from Colombia and Brazil), and Eastern Europe, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Laos, China		Japan <sup>72</sup>
South Korea		United States, China, Hong Kong, Japan  * South Korea is a destination country for women trafficked from Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Russia <sup>73</sup>
China	There have been cases of trafficking from China to Italy through the Balkans because Chinese can easily get visa into Yugoslavia. Another trafficking route from China to Europe is sequentially through Russia, Ukraine, Hungary and Germany	Cambodia, Laos, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Italy, United Kingdom, Western Europe, United States, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Caribbean Islands  * China is a destination country for trafficking from Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Vietnam <sup>74</sup>
Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Turkey, Iraq, Zambia		Australia <sup>75</sup>

## Europe

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Belarus	Hungary	Bosnia Herzegovina <sup>76</sup> and other Balkan countries, Macedonia <sup>77</sup>
Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, Russia, Former Yugoslavia		<p><b>Western Europe:</b> Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Greece, Austria, England, Ireland</p> <p><b>Middle East:</b> Israel, Saudi Arabia</p> <p><b>Far East:</b> Japan, Thailand, United States, Canada</p> <p><b>Central Europe:</b> Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic<sup>78</sup></p>
Russian Federation	Finland, Sweden, Georgia,	<p>Finland, France, Belgium, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Pakistan, Japan, China, Thailand, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Australia, USA, Israel, UAE, Norway<sup>79</sup></p> <p>* Russia is a country of destination for women trafficked from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine</p>
Albania		Italy, Greece, Austria, France, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium <sup>80</sup>
Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia		Austria
Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Madagascar		France <sup>81</sup>
Russia, Estonia, Latvia		Finland
Albania, Bulgaria, China, Hungary, Liberia, Nigeria, Poland, Sudan, and Thailand, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Romania, Rwanda, the former Soviet republics, and Yugoslavia, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana. <sup>82</sup> Moldavia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan <sup>83</sup>		Belgium <sup>84</sup>

## Europe

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan	Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan all serve as transit countries for women trafficked from central Asia, Russia, Ukraine	Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and countries of Western Europe  * Georgian women are reported to be trafficked to cities in Greece, Turkey, United States, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Britain, Belgium, Cyprus, Switzerland <sup>85</sup>
China, the Czech Republic, eastern European countries, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Africa		Germany
Hungary		France, Germany, Italy and other Western European countries
Ukraine, Armenia, Russia		Egypt
Moldova		Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America
Brazil, Colombia, Algeria, the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Marocco, Peru	Portugal is also a transit country for women trafficked form Brazil into Europe especially to United Kingdom	Portugal
Romania		Serbia, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Macedonia, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Albania, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, Cambodia, Canada, South Africa <sup>86</sup>

## North South and Central America

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Dominican Republic		Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Italy, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Switzerland, Venezuela, and the West Indies <sup>87</sup>
Haiti, Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Colombia		Venezuela <sup>88</sup>  * Women from Venezuela are trafficked to Spain, Germany
Brazil		Argentina, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States <sup>89</sup>  * Many women and girls are abducted from the streets in Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia and trafficked to the mining centres of Amazonia <sup>90</sup>
Brazil, Dominican Rep, Bolivia, Paraguay, <sup>91</sup> Cuba, Peru <sup>92</sup>		Argentina
Argentina, Colombia, Peru		Spain <sup>93</sup>
Colombia	Colombia is a transit country for the neighbouring countries of Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and also for the African countries such as Burundi, the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania	Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela, Belgium, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, United States <sup>94</sup>
Russia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Philippines, Africa, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Middle East		Costa Rica <sup>95</sup>
Ecuador and other Central American Countries		Guatemala
Honduras		Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico, Canada

## North South and Central America

Countries of origin	Countries of transition	Countries of destination
Mexico	Mexico is a transit country for women trafficked from Latin America and Eastern Europe to United States	Japan
Paraguay		Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Italy <sup>96</sup>
Bolivia	Chile is also a transit country from the Far East to South American countries and some cities of the United States (Los Angeles, Houston)	Chile
South America Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, the Czech republic, Hungary, Romania		Canada <sup>97</sup>
Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, Ukraine; the Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, China, India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, Cameroon, Canada		United States <sup>98</sup>

### Workshop Questions

**Can you examine the patterns of trafficking from, through and to your country or region. Take a world map and using different coloured pens trace the routes of trafficking. What surprises you about these patterns?**

#### Appendix 1: Footnotes

<sup>53</sup> “New IOM Figures on the Global Scale of Trafficking”, *Trafficking in Migrants - Quarterly Bulletin*, April 2001 (Accessed at [http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/tm\\_23.pdf](http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/tm_23.pdf), 30.07.02).

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Chichi Aniagolu, “Nigerian Women and International Prostitution”, *The Guardian Online*, May 4, 2001 (Accessed at <http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/editorial2/en82043.html>, 29.05.01).

<sup>56</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report On Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women And Children. A Country-By-Country Report On A Contemporary Form Of Slavery* (Accessed at <http://www.protectionproject.org/main1.htm>, 24.07.02).

- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>63</sup> OWED JUSTICE, *Thai Women Trafficked into Debt Bondage in Japan, September 2000*, Human Rights Watch (Accessed at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/japan/6-sec-6-7-8.htm>, 12.07.02).
- <sup>64</sup> Janice G. Raymond et al., *A Comparative Study of Women Trafficked in the Migration Process. Patterns, Profiles and Health Consequences of Sexual Exploitation in Five Countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela and the United States)*, March 2002 (Accessed at (<http://action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/CATW%20Comparative%20Study%202002.pdf>, 16.07.02).
- <sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>66</sup> Congressional Research Service Report 98-649 C, *Trafficking in Women and Children: The US and International Response*, May 10, 2000 (Accessed at <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic/crs0510.htm>, 17.07.02); See also The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>67</sup> See “*New IOM Figures*”.
- <sup>68</sup> UNIFEM East and South-East Asia, *Trafficking in Women and Children. Mekong Sub-Region*, 23 September 1998 (Accessed at <http://.unifem-eseasia.org/Resources/Traffick2.html>, 28.03.02).
- <sup>69</sup> Congressional Research Service Report 98-649 C, *Trafficking in Women and Children*.
- <sup>70</sup> Kubat Otorbaev, “Kyrgystan: Sex Trade Flourishes”, *Institute for War and Peace*, No. 54, June 1, 2001.
- <sup>71</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>76</sup> IOM, *Trafficking in Migrants Quarterly Bulletin*, Autumn 2000.
- <sup>77</sup> “Trafficking in Women to Macedonia”, *IOM Press Briefing Notes*, Friday 23 March 2001 (Accessed at <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ukraine/trafmac.htm>, 16.07.02).
- <sup>78</sup> Congressional Research Service Report 98-649 C, *Trafficking in Women and Children*.
- <sup>79</sup> Donna Hughes, *Trafficking for Sexual exploitation: The Case of the Russian Federation*, 2002, IOM Migration Research Series, June 2002.
- <sup>80</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>82</sup> “Belgian police chief notes success in fighting human trafficking networks” *Asia Intelligence Wire*, July 26, 2002.
- <sup>83</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>84</sup> “Georgia: IOM Releases Study On Human Trafficking”, *IOM Release*, September 14, 2001.
- <sup>85</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>87</sup> Janice G. Raymond, *A Comparative Study*, 10.
- <sup>88</sup> Carmen Gentile, *US: Brazil traffics women for sex trade* (Accessed at <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=05062002-063558-8771r>, 13.07.02).
- <sup>89</sup> Janice G. Raymond, *A Comparative Study*, 10.
- <sup>90</sup> “U.S. State Department Trafficking Report Missing Key Data, Credits Uneven Efforts”, *HRW Press Release*, June 6, 2002 (Accessed at [http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/06/us-report0606.htm#Select Illustrations of the Report's Shortcomings](http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/06/us-report0606.htm#Select%20Illustrations%20of%20the%20Report's%20Shortcomings): 12.07.02).
- <sup>91</sup> The Protection Project, *2002 Human Rights Report*.
- <sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

## NOTES

## Appendix 2:

# International Standards

*There are international standards that provide a framework within which the countries can address the issue of cross border trafficking against women and children. Such provisions are to be found most especially in the various existing Conventions. When signed and ratified such instruments are binding at the juridical level. Besides, there are the Declarations and Programme of Action of major UN World Conferences that call for concerted action by governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and other actors to stop and prevent such crimes. The latter category of documents are not binding at a juridical level, but they exercise a political and ethical influence and therefore can be used at local, national and regional levels.*

## A. UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – 1948

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948. The articles that are applicable to the issue of trafficking in women and children are:

### **Article 4**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude, slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

### **Article 5**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## B. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

### **1. The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949**

(Entry into force: July 31 1951)

The Convention consolidates other international agreements concluded on this issue since 1904. The main objective of the Convention is to provide effective measures against all forms of trafficking in women and the exploitation of prostitution. For the first time in an international instrument, the Convention declares prostitution and the traffic in persons to be incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and to endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community.



### **2. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979**

(Entry into force: 3 September 1981)

The provision on trafficking in women goes as follows:

### **Article 6**

States parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.



## **3. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989**

(Entry into force: 2 September 1990)

The most relevant articles of the Convention concerning trafficking in children especially girls for sexual exploitation are:

### **Article 34**

States Parties undertake to protect the Child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;

The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials

### **Article 35**

States parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

### **Article 39**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflict. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.



## **4. ILO Conventions**

The following Conventions concerning migration provide useful guidance in the context of trafficking for sexual exploitation and other related issues.

- **C97 Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949**  
(Date of coming into force: 22:01:1952.)
- **C143 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975**  
(Date of coming into force: 09:12:1978.)
- **C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999: Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour**  
(Adopted on 17.10.1999 but has not yet come into force)

The definition of the term “Worst Forms of Child Labour” relates closely to trafficking in children for prostitution and pornography. The article goes as follows:

### **Article 3**

For the purposes of this Convention, the term “the worst forms of child labour” comprises:

- (a) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- (b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.



## **5. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Vienna 2000<sup>99</sup>**

(Adopted on 2 November 2000, but not yet come into force)

The Protocol offers an agreed definition on trafficking in persons and thus provide a common platform for legislation, strategies and actions to combat this fastest growing crime especially against women and children. The objectives of the Protocol go as follows:

### **Article 2**

The purposes of this Protocol are:

- (a) To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children;
- (b) To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights;
- (c) To promote co-operation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.

## **C. DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

### **1. The World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna 1993**

The relevant articles in the first part of the Declaration and Programme of Action are:

#### **Article 18 (# 2)**

Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated. This can be achieved by legal measures and through national action and international cooperation in such fields as economic and social development, education, safe maternity and health care, and social support.

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<sup>99</sup> The Annotated Guide to the Complete UN Protocol can be found in the website:  
[http://www.hrlawgroup.org/initiatives/trafficking\\_persons/](http://www.hrlawgroup.org/initiatives/trafficking_persons/)

### ***Article 21***

The World Conference on Human Rights, welcoming the early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by a large number of States and noting the recognition of the human rights of children in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children, urges universal ratification of the Convention by 1995 and its effective implementation by State parties through the adoption of all the necessary legislative, administrative and other measures and the allocation to the maximum extent of the available resources. In all actions concerning children, non-discrimination and the best interest of the child should be the primary considerations and the views of the child given due weight. National and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, in particular, the girl-child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, including through child pornography, child prostitution or sale of organs, children victims of diseases including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict, as well as children victims of famine and drought and other emergencies. International cooperation and solidarity should be promoted to support the implementation of the Convention and the rights of the child should be a priority in the United Nations system-wide action on human rights.

In the second part of the document and in Section B on “Equality, dignity and tolerance”, among the paragraphs on “The equal status and human rights of women”, there is an article that goes as follows:

### ***Article 38***

In particular, the World Conference on Human Rights stresses the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the General Assembly to adopt the draft declaration on violence against women and urges States to combat violence against women in accordance with its provisions. Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy, require a particularly effective response.

This is followed by another article in the part reserved for “The rights of the child”

### ***Article 48***

The World Conference on Human Rights urges all States, with the support of international cooperation, to address the acute problem of children under especially difficult circumstances. Exploitation and abuse of children should be actively combated, including by addressing their root causes. Effective measures are required against female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution, child pornography, as well as other forms of sexual abuse.



## **2. The International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994**

The fourth chapter of the document deals with “Gender Equality, Equity And Empowerment Of Women”. In two of the Sections, there is an article each focussing considerable attention on violence against women with a specific reference to trafficking in women. They are as follows:

## **Section A: Empowerment and Status of Women**

### **Article 4.9.**

Countries should take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women, adolescents and children. This implies both preventive actions and rehabilitation of victims. Countries should prohibit degrading practices, such as trafficking in women, adolescents and children and exploitation through prostitution, and pay special attention to protecting the rights and safety of those who suffer from these crimes and those in potentially exploitable situations, such as migrant women, women in domestic service and schoolgirls. In this regard, international safeguards and mechanisms for co-operation should be put in place to ensure that these measures are implemented

## **Section B: The Girl Child**

### **Article 4.23.**

Governments are urged to take the necessary measures to prevent infanticide, prenatal sex selection, trafficking in girl children and use of girls in prostitution and pornography. Again in the tenth chapter on “International Migration”, there is section under the title “Undocumented Migrants”. Among the objectives defined there is an article which goes as follows:

### **Article 10.16.**

To prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purposes of prostitution. This is followed by a recommendation to the governments in the following article:

### **Article 10.18.**

Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin should adopt effective sanctions against those who organise undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic in women, youth and children. Governments of countries of origin, where the activities of agents or other intermediaries in the migration process are legal, should regulate such activities in order to prevent abuses, especially exploitation, prostitution and coercive adoption.



## **3. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995**

The fourth critical area of concern “Violence Against Women” has an objective specifically reserved for trafficking in women for prostitution followed by the definition of actions to be taken by the different actors. The objective and the corresponding actions recommended are as follows:

### **Strategic objective D.3.**

Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

### **Actions to be taken**

130. By governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, regional and international organisations, as appropriate:

- (a) Consider the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

- (b) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;
- (c) Step up cooperation and concerted action by all the relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;
- (d) Allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and take measures to cooperate with nongovernmental organisations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;
- (e) Develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children.



#### **4. Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, New York 2000**

Besides a mention about trafficking in women in the articles regarding violence against women (art. 59, 96 a), there are articles entirely reserved for this issue.

In the section of the “Actions to be taken at national level by governments” the articles recommend the following:

##### **Article 70**

- (a) take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;
- (b) Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy consisting of, *inter alia*, legislative measures, prevention campaigns, exchange of information, assistance and protection for and reintegration of the victims and prosecution of all the offenders involved, including intermediaries;
- (c) Consider preventing, within the leading framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking, particularly women and girls, from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence, taking into account that they are victims of exploitation;
- (d) Consider setting up or strengthening a national co-ordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with participation of the civil society including NGOs, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;
- (e) provide protection and support to women and their respective families and develop and strengthen policies to support family security.

Another cluster of articles is to be found in Section D. “Actions to be taken at the national and international levels by governments, regional and international organisations, including the United Nations System, and international financial institutions and other actors as appropriate”.

#### **Article 97**

- (a) Intensify cooperation between states of origin, transit and destination to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
- (b) Support the ongoing negotiations on the draft protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children that supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- (c) As appropriate, pursue and support national, regional and international strategies to reduce the risk to women and girls, including those who are refugees and displaced, as well as women migrant workers, of becoming victims of trafficking; strengthen national legislation by further defining the crime of trafficking in all its elements and by reinforcing the punishment accordingly; enact social and economic policies and programmes, as well as information and awareness raising initiatives, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children; prosecute perpetrators of trafficking; provide measures to support, assist and protect trafficked persons in countries of origin and destination; and facilitate their return to and support their reintegration in countries of origin.



### **5. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Declaration and Programme of Action, Durban 2001**

The Programme of Action has numerous articles regarding the trafficking in women and children, underscoring in a special way the multiple discrimination of women belonging to communities that suffer on account of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

#### **Article 38**

- Recognizes** that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. States shall ensure that all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress;
- (b) To end impunity and prosecute those responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes, including crimes related to sexual and other gender-based violence against women and girls, as well as to ensure that persons in authority who are responsible for such crimes, including by committing, ordering, soliciting, inducing, aiding in, abetting, assisting or in any other way contributing to their commission or attempted commission, are identified, investigated, prosecuted and punished;

The third part of the Programme of Action on “Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national, regional and international levels” has the following articles:

#### **Article 63**

**Encourages** the business sector, in particular the tourist industry and Internet providers, to develop codes of conduct, with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and protecting the victims

of such traffic, especially those in prostitution, against gender-based and racial discrimination and promoting their rights, dignity and security;

#### **Article 64**

**Urges** States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, through comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies which include legislative measures, prevention campaigns and information exchange. It also urges States to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes designed to provide assistance to, protection for, healing, reintegration into society and rehabilitation of victims. States shall provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials who deal with victims of trafficking in this regard;

At the national level the recommendations are in the section entitled: “Legislative, judicial, regulatory, administrative and other measures to prevent and protect against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”.

#### **Article 69**

**Urges** States to enact and implement, as appropriate, laws against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and smuggling of migrants, taking into account practices that endanger human lives or lead to various kinds of servitude and exploitation, such as debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or labour exploitation; also encourages States to create, if they do not already exist, mechanisms to combat such practices and to allocate adequate resources to ensure law enforcement and the protection of the rights of victims, and to reinforce bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including with non-governmental organisations that assist victims, to combat this trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

### **Prosecution of perpetrators of racist acts**

#### **Article 88**

**Calls upon** States to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, and to condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while ensuring protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights;

In the part regarding the “Human rights education for public officials and professionals”, the article that concerns the trafficking in women states as follows:

#### **Article 139**

**Urges** States to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons. The training should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from the traffickers. The training should also take into account the need to consider human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues and it should encourage cooperation with non-governmental organisations, other relevant organisations and other elements of civil society;

In the fourth part on “Provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and other measures at the national, regional and international levels”, the article recommends the development of programmes for the societies in question and lists a number of areas including the trafficking in persons with a particular attention to women and children.

### **Article 158**

**Recognizes** that these historical injustices have undeniably contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparities, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries. Within the framework of a new partnership based on the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, the Conference recognizes the need to develop programmes for the social and economic development of these societies and the Diaspora, in the following areas:

Trafficking in persons, particularly women and children;

In the fifth part entitled “Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and follow-up”, there are two articles that recommend the removal of the root causes of trafficking and other measures for its prevention.

### **Article 174**

**Urges** States to take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to address root causes, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity, some of which may be associated with discriminatory practices that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, and which may give rise to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

### **Article 175**

**Encourages** States, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, so as to enable everyone, in particular women, to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

In the section that speaks about the “Regional/international cooperation” the article calls for the stipulation of agreements to face the problem of trafficking. It goes as follows:

### **Article 186**

**Encourages** States to conclude bilateral, sub regional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, as well as the smuggling of migrants;

Another section invites the United Nations to consider the declaration of a decade against trafficking in persons.

### **Article 201**

**Recommends** that the General Assembly consider declaring a United Nations year or decade against trafficking in persons, especially in women, youth and children, in order to protect their dignity and human rights;



## **6. United Nations Special Session on Children: “A World Fit for Children. Outcome document of the Special Session,” New York 2002**

Section A of the document, which defines “Goals, strategies and actions”, has a third part which is reserved for the “Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence”. It has a cluster of articles in which trafficking of children for sexual exploitation is specifically mentioned.

### **3. Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence**

#### ***Article 41***

Hundreds of millions of children are suffering and dying from war, violence, exploitation, neglect and all forms of abuse and discrimination. Around the world children live under especially difficult circumstances: permanently disabled or seriously injured by armed conflict; internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees; suffering from natural and man-made disasters, including such perils as exposure to radiation and dangerous chemicals; as children of migrant workers and other socially disadvantaged groups; as victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Trafficking, smuggling, physical and sexual exploitation and abduction, as well as the economic exploitation of children, even in its worst forms, are daily realities for children in all regions of the world, while domestic violence and sexual violence against women and children remain serious problems.

In several countries, there have been social and humanitarian impacts from economic sanctions on the civilian population, in particular women and children.

#### ***Article 42***

In some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women and children, including adolescents.

#### ***Article 43***

Children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Societies must eliminate all forms of violence against children. Accordingly, we resolve to:

- (a) Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence;
- (b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law;
- (c) Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation including paedophilia; trafficking, and abduction;
- (d) Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour that is contrary to accepted international standards;
- (e) Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances.

Among the strategies and actions recommended there is an entire section under the title “Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children”.

#### ***Article 40***

Take concerted national and international actions as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and paedophilia, and to combat existing markets.

#### ***Article 41***

Raise awareness of the illegality and harmful consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the Internet, and the trafficking of children.

**Article 42**

Enlist the support of the private sector, including the tourism industry and the media, for a campaign against sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

**Article 43**

Identify and address the underlying causes and the root factors, including external factors, leading to sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and implement preventive strategies against sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

**Article 44**

Ensure the safety, protection, and security of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and provide assistance and services to facilitate their recovery and social reintegration.

**Article 45**

Take necessary action, at all levels, as appropriate, to criminalize and penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, child prostitution, paedophilia, child pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking, the sale of children and their organs and engagement in forced child labour and any other form of exploitation, while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

**Article 46**

Monitor and share information regionally and internationally on the cross-border trafficking of children; strengthen the capacity of border and law enforcement officials to stop trafficking and provide or strengthen training for them to respect the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all those, particularly women and children who are victims of trafficking.

**Article 47**

Take necessary measures, including through enhanced cooperation between governments, inter-governmental organisations, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to combat the criminal use of information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of the sale of children, for child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents.

**D. PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
ROME - STATUTE 1998**

(Entered into force on July 1, 2002)

In the article that refers to “Crimes Against Humanity” there is a clause that defines sexual exploitation in the context of armed conflict as crimes against humanity. It goes as follows:

**Article 7: Crimes against humanity**

1. For the purpose of this Statute, “crime against humanity” means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

(g) Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;

And again in article 8 referring to “War Crimes” there is a clause that says:

**Article 8: War Crimes**

1. The Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of war crimes in particular when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.
2. For the purpose of this Statute, “war crimes” means: (xxii) Committing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, as defined in article 7, paragraph 2 (f), enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence also constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

## Workshop Questions

1. **Study the various UN Conventions and Protocols in relation to trafficking in women and children, in order to be able to question government officials about their ratification in your country.**
2. **Can you raise awareness about the rights of women and children? In particular can you study the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and make its contents widely known?**
3. **Which of the listed conventions/protocols have been signed and ratified by the government of your country? If not, then lobby your government to do so.**
4. **If your government has signed and ratified the conventions and protocols listed what legislation has resulted? What plans for action have been put in place? To what extent have these plans been implemented?**
5. **How can you and your group lobby your government at this time? What do you need to ask them to do to combat the trafficking of women and children? What is the most effective way to lobby on this issue?**

## Appendix: 3

# NETWORKS OF GROUPS WORKING AGAINST TRAFFICKING

### (a) Some Selected Organisations

#### **ECPAT International**

ECPAT International, 328 Phayathai Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400. Thailand.  
(Originally End Child Pornography in Asia Tourism). Now has a worldwide commitment to exposing trafficking and sexual abuse of children and coordinating campaigns to promote effective legal protection for minors across national frontiers. ECPAT produces an excellent newsletter.

Website: [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

#### **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)**

CATW is an NGO having Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The guiding principles of this organisation are the affirmation of the fundamental right of women to be free of sexual exploitation in all its forms and the right to sexual integrity and autonomy. The main objective of the organisation is to work with national and international policy-makers, women's rights and human rights advocates and the United Nations to end all forms of sexual exploitation.

#### **Human Rights Law Group. - Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons**

Annotated Guide, available at [http://www.hrlg.org/initiatives/trafficking\\_persons](http://www.hrlg.org/initiatives/trafficking_persons)

#### **La Strada**

La Strada is an international programme that operates in the Netherlands, Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Belarus and Ukraine from 1991. It regards traffic in women as a crucial human rights issue and therefore, as a violation of women's rights. Thus, it focuses on the prevention of trafficking in women, support of victims of trafficking in women, influencing legislation and disseminating information on the issue. It also aims at building networks to support the victims and at educating and sensitising women and girls against possible dangers of trafficking.

Website: [www.ecn.cz/lastrada/index.html](http://www.ecn.cz/lastrada/index.html)

#### **Captive Daughters**

This is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the prevention and ending of sex trafficking of children through education. The group was founded in early 1997 by a small group of women and men who became aware of the issue of trafficking while visiting Nepal. Repelled by the practice, they took action by forming Captive Daughters.

Website: [www.captivedaughters.org/Who\\_We\\_Are.html](http://www.captivedaughters.org/Who_We_Are.html)

#### **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**

The main objectives of this Coalition are: to assist trafficked persons to re-establish healthy and normal lives through coordination of direct service in the areas of health, mental health, job skills

training and educational services; to ensure the availability of trafficked persons for service as effective material witnesses in order to contribute to the prosecution of traffickers; to establish a safe and secure shelter for trafficked persons, and a resource center to provide ongoing training, information and research; to provide a model that can be used in other regions of the country, to work with international organisations, government agencies and non-governmental organisations in order to provide appropriate and safe repatriation and reintegration for trafficked persons returning to their countries of origin.

Website: [www.trafficked-women.org/main.html](http://www.trafficked-women.org/main.html)

### **Kvinnoforum's Trafficking Project**

The objectives of this project are: to raise awareness of trafficking in women and girls; to build a network nationally and regionally around the Baltic Sea across organisational, geographical and ideological borders; to develop strategies and specific activities to counteract trafficking and support the victims thereof.

Website: [www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/trafficking/](http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/trafficking/)

### **Foundation Against Trafficking In Women (STV)**

The Foundation was initiated in the early 80's in response to the then highly publicised issue of prostitution tourism. Women's organisations, development NGOs and various action groups, especially in the regions where mass tourism was becoming the alternative paradigm for development, were awakening to the fact that not only the natural resources but also the human resources, namely the young women, of their countries were being traded for foreign exchange.

Website: [www.bayswan.org/FoundTraf.html](http://www.bayswan.org/FoundTraf.html)

## **(b) Networks of Religious Congregations**

### **SOLWODI (Solidarity with Women in Distress)**

SOLWODI is part of the pastoral programme of the Church. It was founded at Mombasa in Kenya in 1985 by Sr. Lea Ackermann MSOLA. The services offered by SOLWODI are in the area of counselling and support, awareness raising and public education on the problem of trafficking in women for prostitution and projects for the re-integration of the victims through financial support, job training and job creation programmes.

Contact: Propstei sta. 2, 56154 Boppard. Germany. Tel +49 6741 2232 Fax. +49 6741 2310

### **Werkgroep Religieuzen Tegen Vrouwenhandel (WRTV) or Dutch Foundation of the Religious Against Trafficking in Women**

This was founded in 1991 by Sr. Michel Keesen. She took the initiative of forming a National Dutch Network of Women Religious Against Trafficking in Women. The main objective of the group is to work for the prevention of this evil, consciousness raising and shelter to the victims in the Netherlands. They have published leaflets highlighting the dangers of falling a victim to trafficking that are translated into around thirty languages and distributed in sixty countries.

Contact: PO Box 104 –NL 2120 AC Bennebroek, The Netherlands.

Email: [srtv@antenna.nl](mailto:srtv@antenna.nl)

### **COLWOD (Collaboration with Women in Distress)**

This organisation was founded by Sr. Constance Gemme MSOLA to cater for women in distress in Tamale, Ghana, West Africa. Some of the objectives of Colwod are as follows: to identify young girls and women who could become prey to promises made by traffickers or their agents; to create aware-

ness of the inhuman practice of trafficking in women and to offer support, assistance and counselling to women in cooperation with other groups.

Contact: P.O. Box 163, Tamale, Ghana, West Africa.

### **Good Shepherd Sisters**

The mission of the Congregation is that of reconciliation, and reaching out to people, especially women and girls who have experienced injustice, oppression and alienation due to life circumstances or unjust social structures. The Good Shepherd Sisters are committed to working against trafficking in women. They have set up an international network involving their own communities as well as other NGOs who work against trafficking and any other sexual exploitation of women. Good Shepherd Sisters are a non-governmental organisation with special consultative status at the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### **USMI (Unione Superiore Maggiori Italiane): - Mobilità Etnica - Settore “Tratta” - Italia**

USMI (The Union Of Italian Major Superiors – Women) has a special office dealing with “Trafficking in human beings” since 1995. The main tasks of such an office are: to network with private and government bodies, with association and volunteers, with Embassies and Consulates and with the police force in order to prosecute the traffickers and protect the victims. USMI educates and co-ordinates the services of 200 sisters who work full time in 80 shelter homes (refuge, first shelter, intermediate and autonomous home) for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. They also collaborate with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for voluntary repatriation of victims. They create awareness among religious congregations and Christian communities about the thousands of immigrant women and minors who are trafficked to Europe from developing countries for sex exploitation. USMI also co-operates with women religious of countries of origin in order to provide assistance and reintegration for the women who return home.

UNIONE SUPERIORI MAGGIORI D’ITALIA, Via Zanardelli, 32 – 00186 Roma,  
Tel.: 06-68.400.555, Fax: 06-68.80.19.35, Email:migrantes.usmi-n@pcn.net

### **Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW)**

This is a body set up in Benin City in 2001 by the Nigerian Conference of Women religious (NCWR). Its main aims are: to provide information for parishes, schools and villages in order to prevent the “exodus” of young people towards the “promised land”; to trace and protect families against possible extortion by traffickers; to receive and counsel victims who return home through a project financed by the Italian Government; to collaborate with local government authorities in order to assist girls who have been expelled from European countries as illegal aliens

Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women, Sr. Florence Nwaonuma, SSH, P.O. Box 35, Benin City - Edo State - Nigeria, Tel/Fax 00234 52 255763, E-mail: cosudow@infoweb.abs.net

### **Co-ordinamento Nazionale contro la “Tratta di donne e minori”**

This body was formed by representatives of several Catholic institutions – Caritas Italia, Migrantes, USMI, UISG, USG, CIMI, Gruppo Abele. They meet regularly to learn and become aware of the phenomenon of trafficking and to study new strategies of intervention. They take part in ministerial meetings at national and European level with the aim of submitting proposals to the authorities concerning proper solutions and adequate legislation. The group produces relevant study material and organises formation courses and seminars for religious and lay personnel. It has been active since 1995.

Coordinamento Nazionale contro la “Tratta di donne e minori”,  
c/o Caritas Italiana, Viale Baldelli, 41, 00146 Roma, Tel. 06-541921 Fax 06-5410300

**CNCA (Coordinamento Nazionale delle Comunità di Accoglienza - National Coordination of Shelter centres).**

This Italian network was started in 1998 and it functions at national level. It is composed of 197 members and 59 observing groups, all operating in various fields of social assistance. There are approximately 30 local groups operating against trafficking in women with special focus on the provision of social support and protection programmes for trafficked person, under Art. 18 of Gov. Decree no. 286/98.

Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza, c/o Associazione "On the Road",  
Via Aldo Moro, 88/90, 64014 Martinsicuro (Teramo)

**Coatnet**

Coatnet is an international network of Catholic organisations against trafficking in women. It aims to inform and arrange aid for victims of trafficking and for those people who are willing to help them. Coatnet also informs women, who to emigrate, of their legal rights in the host country.

Website: [www.coatnet.org/103.htm](http://www.coatnet.org/103.htm), Email: [martina.liebsch@caritas.de](mailto:martina.liebsch@caritas.de)

**(c) Websites**

**UNODCCP Report.**

**Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings. Update 1999 - 2002**

[http://www.odccp@odccp.org/trafficking\\_human\\_beings.html](http://www.odccp@odccp.org/trafficking_human_beings.html)

**Trafficking in Persons a Guide for Non-governmental Organisations (2002)**

This brochure from the U.S. Department of Justice is intended for non-governmental organisations, such as service providers and other community-based organisations, to use as a reference guide to help trafficking victims.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/infores/tip.htm>

**The United Nations video on the trafficking of people for forced labour**

The video has 30 and 60 second versions and is available in several languages. The purpose is to use it in a global TV campaign to raise awareness about trafficking.

[http://www.undcp.org/trafficking\\_tv\\_campaign\\_2002.html](http://www.undcp.org/trafficking_tv_campaign_2002.html)

**The Annotated Guide to the new UN Trafficking Protocol**

It is a tool to assist advocates in the development of a human rights framework for national anti-trafficking laws and policies.

[http://www.hrlawgroup.org/initiatives/trafficking\\_persons/](http://www.hrlawgroup.org/initiatives/trafficking_persons/)

**Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in the Mekong Sub-region**

<http://www.undp.org.vn/projects/ras98h01/index.htm>

**Report of the UN Secretary General on Trafficking in women and girls**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/trafficking.html>

**Task force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region**

<http://www.balticseataaskforce.dk/Trafficking/Trafficking.htm>

**Annotated Guide to Internet Resources on Trafficking in Women**

[http://www.yorku.ca/iwrp/trafficking\\_directory.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/iwrp/trafficking_directory.htm)

**Project for the Elimination of Trafficking in Women**

<http://www.imadr.org/project/petw/home.html>

**International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights: Trafficking in Women:  
“A Form of Slavery”**

<http://www.ihf-hr.org/appeals/000619.htm>

**Trafficking in Women: A Comprehensive European Strategy**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/news/8mars\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/8mars_en.htm)

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## Appendix 4:

# How To Organise A Workshop

## Goals of a 5 hour Workshop

- to introduce the magnitude of the problem of trafficking
- to examine the underlying causes
- to engage in theological reflection on the issue
- to identify ways in which participants can get involved in preventative or rehabilitative action

The following are only suggestions on how to organise the workshop. If you have your own ideas or other examples that fit the situation better please do not hesitate to use your own ideas.

The size of the group can vary, with the best size from 15 to 20 people. The group can be all women or a mix of women and men. For some of the exercises the facilitator may want the groups to be women-only and men-only. These same sex groups can then come back together into the larger group, when they have shared in the smaller group. Small groups generally help people to speak more freely.

## Outline for the Workshop

<b>1. Introductory Exercise:</b>	<b>30 mins</b>
<b>2. Exercise on the Extent of Trafficking</b>	<b>60 mins</b>
<b>3. Definition of trafficking</b>	<b>40 mins</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>20 mins</b>
<b>4. Group work</b>	<b>45 mins</b>
<b>5. Plenary</b>	<b>45 mins</b>
<b>6. Reflection/Prayer</b>	<b>30 mins</b>
<b>7. Conclusion/Evaluation</b>	<b>30 mins</b>

## 1. Introductory Exercise: (30 mins)

First welcome the participants and summarise the goals of the workshop. The group could sit in a circle. The facilitator starts by introducing herself/himself, **giving her/his name** and completing the phrase “**Trafficking to me means**”. Each person in the group is asked to present herself/himself in the same way.

## 2. Exercise on the Extent of Trafficking: A or B (60 mins)

**A:** Using the Blue Section of the Kit decide which of the following statements are True or False

- (a) Most women’s first contact with traffickers is with strangers
- (b) You can only claim to be trafficked when you have been taken away by force
- (c) If you consent to go with another person, you cannot claim to be a victim of trafficking
- (d) There is no consensus about the definition of trafficking
- (e) All victims of trafficking are protected and not just those who can prove force
- (f) Most trafficking is for the purpose of prostitution or other forms of sex exploitation
- (g) The key element in trafficking is movement across a border

**B:** Use appendix 1 and any other information which you may have, especially from the web, to do this exercise. Take a world map and using coloured pens trace the routes of trafficking as follows:

Red Pen: trafficking which originates from South America

Green Pen: trafficking which originates in Asia

Blue Pen: trafficking which originates in Africa

Black Pen: trafficking which originates in Europe

Yellow Pen: trafficking which originates in North America

Brown Pen: trafficking which originates in Australia

**Do this exercise individually and then break into small groups to discuss what one has learnt from doing the exercise.**

- **Did anything surprise you?**
- **Where was there agreement in what you discovered?**
- **Where was there disagreement? How did you resolve this?**
- **What questions have been raised for you? for the group?**

### **3. Definition on Trafficking (40 mins)**

Using the Blue Section each person should take a story (a) to (e) and read it reflectively at least twice. Having finished reading ask yourself the following questions (see page 8):

- What feelings were touched as you read the story?
- What did you learn about trafficking? Who are involved?
- Write your own definition of trafficking beginning with the phrase **Trafficking of women and children means .....**

Get into groups and share your reflection and your definition with others?

- **Did anything surprise you?**
- **Where was there agreement in what you discovered?**
- **Where was there disagreement? How did you resolve this?**
- **What questions have been raised for you? for the group?**

### **4. Group Work - Causes and Mechanisms (45 mins)**

Divide the group into two; one group should examine the Yellow Section (Causes) and the other group should consider the Yellow Section (Mechanisms) answering the following questions:

Yellow Section (Causes):

**What are the key factors underlying the practice of trafficking? Brainstorm and list all possible factors. Then choose the 5 most critical factors giving reasons for your choice.**

Yellow Section (Mechanisms):

**Can you name the different categories of persons who are engaged either directly or indirectly in trafficking in women and children. Decide on 3 groups which need to be specifically targeted?**

The outcome of the discussion can be presented in a creative way at the plenary session.

### **5. Plenary: (45 mins)**

Each small group should present its findings in a creative way – visual, drama, role play etc. Time for clarification and discussion can follow.

### **6. Reflection and Prayer: (30 mins)**

Using some of the resources in the kit take time to

- hear the suffering cries of those trafficked
- hear the Word of Life which condemns this evil and heals the broken hearted
- hear the challenge to make a personal commitment to action

### **7. Conclusion and Evaluation (30 mins)**

Each participant including the facilitators mentions one thing which they found striking and interesting in this workshop.

# Acknowledgements

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