

Why are The Sisters of Saint Joseph Concerned?

From their foundation in 17th century France, the Sisters of Saint Joseph have dedicated themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, particularly those which most benefit the dear neighbor.

As early as 1836, filled with zeal for mission, six Sisters of Saint Joseph traveled from France to St. Louis, Missouri, with the hope of responding to needs there. Soon the sisters opened a school for the daughters of freed slaves and a school for deaf children.

In 1847 four Sisters of Saint Joseph traveled from St. Louis to Philadelphia in order to staff St. John's Orphanage, a residence for boys. When the late 1800s saw an influx of new immigrants, the sisters wholeheartedly responded to the educational needs of the immigrant children in both urban and rural settings. From their earliest days in America the sisters were recognized as being "ready for any good work."

Throughout the years as other needs have emerged, the sisters have consistently and prayerfully tried to discern how they could meet the needs of their day in creative and courageous ways. Impelled by their mission of unity and reconciliation, the sisters minister in all levels of education, in various human services, and in diverse forms of spiritual and pastoral ministry.

Today, the growing awareness of human trafficking turns the eyes and hearts of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to look for ways to address and respond to this present-day slavery.

Helpful Information on Human Trafficking Available on the Web

U.S. Department of State Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>

UN Global Programmed Against Trafficking in Human Beings

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking_human_beings.html

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

<http://caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC.htm>

Information for Victims of Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labor

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/docs/victims.htm>

Model Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/other/19087pf.htm>

Trafficking in Persons: A Guide for Non-Governmental Organizations

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/traffbrochure.html>

Fact Sheet from National Institute on State Policy on Trafficking of Women and Girls

<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/report.cfm?ReportID=91>

International Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime

<http://www.vawnet.org/Intersections/OtherViolenceTypes/Trafficking/ciatraffic.pdf>

National and International Organizations Working to End Trafficking

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

<http://www.castla.org/>

Protection Project

<http://www.protectionproject.org>

Break the Chain Campaign

<http://www.ips-dc.org/campaign/#>



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Taking A Deeper Look



Photo ©DOL, Faces of Change

What is human trafficking?

Trafficking is the recruitment, retaining, transporting by any means, of any person for forced labor, slavery, servitude in any industry or site such as agriculture, prostitution, domestic service or marriage.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, widespread throughout the United States.

What is modern slavery?

Modern day slavery usually involves the use of physical, psychological and/or sexual violence by slave holders who earn the large profits from the labor of people seeking a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Where is trafficking found?

Trafficking is a world-wide problem that affects every continent and most countries. Trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of international crime.

Victims can be trafficked from anywhere in the world. Victims have come from, among other places, Africa, Asia, India, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Russia, and Canada.

**EVERY 10 MINUTES,
SOMEONE IS TRAFFICKED
INTO SLAVERY IN THE
UNITED STATES.**

Did you know that...

- Approximately 800,000 - 900,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders world wide.
- 2 million people are trafficked world wide annually.
- 27 million people are in slavery around the world.
- More than half of the victims brought into the United States are thought to be children. Victims are probably equally women and men.
- Girls between 13-18 years of age constitute the largest group of sexually exploited.
- Of those suffering from sexual exploitation 2% are men and boys, and 98% are women and girls.
- 400,000 children are domestically prostituted in the United States.
- More women and children are enslaved today than in 19th century America.
- Sex trafficking is one of the most profitable industries of organized crime.
- Victims often have unprotected sex with 10 to 20 abusers per day.

“Once a drug is sold it is gone, but a girl can be sold over and over before she collapses, has gone mad, committed suicide or died of disease,” said a British Columbian man convicted of trafficking.”

(Centering, Fall, 2004)



What can you do?!

1. Be aware of the referral hotline
1.888.3737.888
2. Continue to educate yourself (newspapers, TV programs, web sites, videos, books, articles, workshops).
3. Check www.csasisters.org for a presentation on trafficking and actions against trafficking.
4. Pray for the women, men and children who are trafficked.
5. Inform others of the issue of trafficking; e.g. colleagues, family, friends, students, etc. and work with other groups.
6. Get involved in legislative action in your state.
7. Ask newspapers and magazines to publish information on the situation and/or stories of women and children who are trafficked or at risk of being trafficked.
8. Ask TV stations to air videos which present the situation of trafficking or hold a film screening in your community.
9. Speak up!