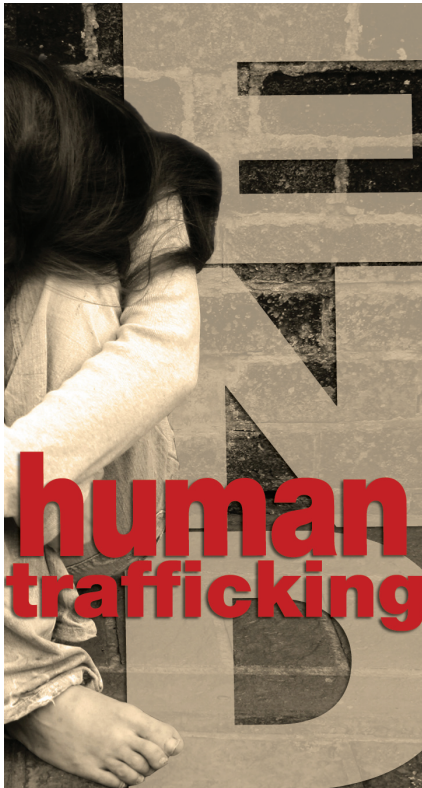


February 24, 2011

Dear Sisters,

Human trafficking is a crime that devastates its victims, strips away their dignity and security, and tears at the fabric of our global society.

Recognizing this, in 2001 the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), an international forum of Catholic women religious leaders, made a public commitment to address the abuse and exploitation of women and children insistently and at every level, "with particular attention to the trafficking of women which has become a lucrative multi-national business."



Our 2009 Chapter Call for Systemic Change impels us to work collaboratively to forge just political, economic and social structures in solidarity with impoverished and excluded persons. In response, the Congregation Justice Committee will lead our effort to work for an end to human trafficking by increasing awareness of this issue, networking with other congregations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and proposing action strategies to address this issue.

The attached educational piece answers basic questions about human trafficking: what it is; who is affected; where it happens; why it continues to exist; and how we can begin to address this issue in our countries.

Additional information on human trafficking is available on the congregation's Web site:

www.cscsisters.org/justice/issues/human_trafficking/Pages/default.aspx.

In peace,

Ann

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**Learn more about
human trafficking
worldwide!**

**Visit these Web sites
for good international
information.**

International Network of
Consecrated Life Against
Trafficking in Persons
(English, Portuguese, Spanish)
www.talithakum.info

Free the Slaves
www.freetheslaves.net

Watch a DVD on human
trafficking. Many good programs
are available from the Justice
Office's Resource Library.
[www.cscsisters.org/justice/
library/Pages/LibrarySearch.
aspx](http://www.cscsisters.org/justice/library/Pages/LibrarySearch.aspx)

What is human trafficking?

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking defines it in this way: "Human trafficking involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them."

U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, article 3, paragraph (a), 2000

Based on that definition, we see that human trafficking has three constituent elements:

**the
act**

What is done

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons

**the
means**

How it is done

Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim

**the
purpose**

Why it is done

Exploitation, which includes the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices, the removal of organs, and other types of exploitation

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html

Where does human trafficking occur?



Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

To view an interactive map showing the number of slaves and types of slavery prevalent in different areas of the world, go to www.freetheslaves.net/Page.aspx?pid=375.

You can also access stories of trafficked persons and the "Top Ten Facts about Modern Slavery" at this Web site.

Learn the facts about human trafficking in your country. Explore these Web sites:

Bangladesh	<i>Ain O Salish Kendra</i>	www.askbd.org/web/
India	<i>Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation</i>	www.atsecbihar.org/index.php
Ghana	<i>Partners in Community Development Programme</i>	www.pacodep.org/index.php
Uganda	<i>Friends of Orphans</i>	www.frouganda.org/
Brazil	<i>Ministério da Justiça: Tráfico de Pessoas</i>	http://portal.mj.gov.br/sindec/data/Pages/MJ16B51547PTBRIE.htm
Peru	<i>Organización de los Estados Americanos Sección Contra de la Trata de Personas – Perú</i>	www.oas.org/dsp/atipESP_country.asp
Mexico	<i>Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres</i>	www.inmujeres.gob.mx/
United States	<i>Polaris Project</i>	www.polarisproject.org/

Who are the victims of human trafficking?

According to the information collected by state authorities in 61 countries, women and girls make up almost 80 percent of human trafficking victims.

www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf (page 11)

