



STOP THE DEMAND FOR TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & CHILDREN

Action Action Action

What can we do to stop the demand for trafficking in women and children?

Discuss Gather a group around you to talk about factors that promote the demand for sexual exploitation and prostitution in your area. Develop and implement strategies that work to stop the demand.

Educate parents and teachers about the effects of pornography on children.

- Write letters to educate and raise awareness about the harmful advertising that uses women's 'perfect' bodies to sell products of all kinds: write to the agencies, newspapers, radio and TV stations, etc.

Campaign Join the campaign of ECPAT and the campaigns of those who are fighting Internet pornography.

- Protest to the newspapers and telephone directories that run ads for massage parlours, escort services, etc., that promote sexual exploitation.
- Hold your government accountable for promises made to the world's poor on the Millennium Development Goals 2015.

Network with others to reduce demand and stop the trafficking into regions for various sporting events: the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, the 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament in South Africa.

Advocate "Swedish model" legislation in your area (that criminalises the buying of sex).

To find out more:

refer to the resource list in the UNANIMA International educational packet for the **STOP THE DEMAND** campaign.

1. Robert Jensen, *The Paradox of Pornography*, ZNet Commentary, 23 February 2006.
2. Monica O'Conner, Grainne Healy, *The Links Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: A briefing handbook*, 2006.
3. Donna Hughes, *Best Practices to Address the Demand Side of Sex Trafficking*. p. 18, 2004.
4. Sigma Huda, *Report of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspect of trafficking in persons, especially women and children*, 2006.
5. Juan Manuel Garland and Verushka Villavicencio, "The Client Goes Unnoticed." Save the Children Sweden, Lima, Peru, March 2004, quoted in Hughes, *Best Practices*, p. 23.



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BACKGROUNDER 2

Connecting the dots:
the links between the demand for trafficking in women and children, prostitution and pornography



Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department

Human trafficking equals slavery

The buying and selling of women, men and children for sexual exploitation is today's most common form of slavery.

- Human trafficking generates an estimated \$9.5 billion yearly.
- Its profits fuel other criminal activities such as money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery and human smuggling. (Trafficking in persons report)

An international law against trafficking is the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. (Palermo Protocol)

It defines trafficking and is the first international document to talk about how essential it is to address demand when discussing the trafficking of women and children from a human rights perspective.

Governments and nongovernmental organisations care about the victims of trafficking. They work to prevent trafficking and to protect and

reintegrate victims. They criminalise traffickers, recruiters, pimps, and brothel owners, etc.

But rarely do they work to stop the men (and according to statistics, they are largely men) who buy sex, the prostitutes.

Men who exploit women and children in prostitution are invisible and even "protected" by culture and law.

As long as men seek pleasure in exploiting women and children by purchasing their bodies, trafficking will continue to be profitable. If there is no money to be made in trafficking, those who benefit from the sex industry will look for other ways to become rich. **If men stop buying sex, the source of profits will dry up. It's that simple.**

Stopping demand can effectively stop trafficking

Stopping or even reducing demand is not simple. This backgrounder makes the connections between what drives demand and allows it to flourish: pornography and prostitution.

Who are the 'demanders,' the prostitutes, the buyers of sex?

- nearly 90% are men.
- they can be any man: travellers, good family men, in good marriages and bad, professionals, young men who want to experience their sexual initiation, men from any class, sex addicts ...



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Pornography

Because there is no one accepted definition of pornography and it is difficult to identify clearly, it is complicated to enact laws against it.

In some countries, those profiting from the industry argue that censoring pornography infringes on the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Pornography is one way of trafficking women and children for sex.

So the industry creates the demand for women and children since real women and children are needed for the filming of sexual abuse. The pornographers then traffic these same people again by selling the materials.

Pornography also creates the demand for prostitution, another form of trafficking, through consumption.

Consuming pornography is buying sex. In viewing it, the buyer has an experience of using a woman, girl or boy as a purchased object and is stimulated to act out on other real women, girls and boys the specific acts that are sexualised and consumed in the pornography.

Researchers have shown that viewing child pornography actually increases the demand for exploiting children in prostitution.

Men who exploit women and children sexually tell their victims about pornographic films they have seen: "I've seen it all in the movies. You know you love it."

'Culturally acceptable' – gender inequalities

Today pornography has become more culturally acceptable in many Western countries at the same time that it has become more violent and degrading toward women.¹

International researchers have shown that pornography, facilitated in large measure by Internet technology, contributes to sex trafficking,² and in the United States, researchers have found that men who try to buy sex acts are twice as likely to have viewed pornography.³

Can we eliminate the demand for trafficking without addressing this trend?

Demand

What is demand? It is not just the direct demand for a trafficking victim's prostitution but rather any act that fosters exploitation, which in turn leads to trafficking.

These areas deserve special attention:

Demand is also what fosters or promotes exploitation. It need not necessarily directly seek the exploitation.

Demand does not need to lead to trafficking. It is enough that the exploitation fostered by the demand leads to trafficking. For example, the use of digitally created pornography in which no actual person is used to make the images, is still deemed to foster sexual exploitation.

Governments in countries where prostitution is legalised or decriminalised must fulfil special requirements if they have signed the Palermo Protocol to work against sex trafficking in all possible ways.



Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department

Prostitution

Prostitution and sex trafficking — abuse of power

Sigma Huda, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, in her 2006 report, strongly links prostitution and trafficking saying: "For the most part, prostitution as actually practised in the world does satisfy the elements of trafficking."⁴ Almost always the person exploited in this way experiences an abuse of power or an abuse of vulnerability.

Hallmarks of prostitution

Prostitution is characterised by threats, use of force and other forms of coercion, deception, the giving and receiving of payments or benefits to get the person being exploited to consent. In prostitution one person has control over the other.

Societal myths

Researchers in Peru identified some of the causes of child prostitution as the breakdown of the family, the prevalence of violence in the culture, and poverty, but they also stressed the important role played by demand:

"The underlying problem is not the lack of jobs, but the increasing demand by clients who seek this 'service.'"⁵

Societal myths often mask the harmful reality of buying of sex in prostitution.

- They are basically decent men looking for a bit of harmless fun.
- Prostitution protects good women against rape.
- Male biology is different from female biology and requires multiple women for satisfaction. Men have a right to sex.
- What's the matter with it? Men are giving these women the means to make a living. What else could these women do?
- Sex is just like any other form of work.

Catholic Social Teaching

The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.

The Second Vatican Council has 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" that "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 shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person. ... Attention needs to be paid to the deeper causes of the increased "demand" that fuels the market for human slavery and tolerates the human cost that results.

Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the 92nd World Day of Migrants wrote:

It becomes easy for the trafficker to offer his own 'services' to the victims who often do not even vaguely suspect what awaits them. Many times trafficked women and girls are exploited like slaves in their work, and not infrequently in the sex industry too.

The challenge for the Catholic church and any other institution will be how to translate its teachings against human trafficking into action. The churches have a special role to play both in respect to the victims and to the men who are demanding sex.

Education in the churches should

- warn potential victims
- help people understand that it is the men who want acts of prostitution who are creating the demand for sexual slavery
- teach that this demand violates human rights and is a crime against humanity.

"All human beings ... are clothed in the same personal dignity. For this reason they must be respected, and no reason can ever justify their being used at whim, as if they were objects."

Pope Benedict XVI, 1 Jan 2007