

Helpful websites and agencies:

- UNANIMA International
www.unanima-international.org
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
www.catwinternational.org
- U.S. Department of State: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
www.state.gov/g/tip/
- U.S. Department of Justice: Trafficking in Persons Information
www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm
- Combating Human Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery
www.polarisproject.org
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
www.ecpat.net
- Stop Trafficking!
<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeans/schafersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>
- Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
Hotline: 888-373-7888



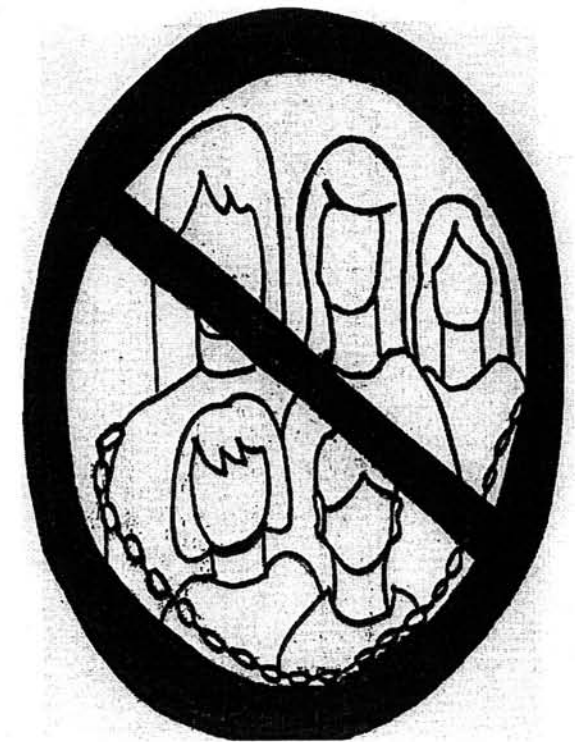
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Missionary Sisters of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Stella Maris Province

**C O R P O R A T E
S T A N C E**

**STOP the Trafficking of
Women and Children**



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Stella Maris Province Corporate Stance
STOP the Trafficking of Women and Children
October 24, 2005

The Stella Maris Province of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stands in solidarity with the victims of human trafficking within the territories of our province and around the globe. Just as we welcome the immigrant in our midst, we condemn the use of violence, abduction, fraud, deception, coercion, or debt bondage to transport women and children from their homes for prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor, and/or real or virtual slavery. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, number 2414, "It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights that would reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit." We recognize that the marginalized status of women and children in our global society makes them vulnerable to sexual and financial exploitation.

We pledge to educate ourselves and others regarding the prevalence, causes, and solutions to the worldwide trafficking of women and children. We promise not only to aid the victims, but also to work together with our friends throughout the world, with UNANIMA and other NGOs, with other religious congregations and advocacy groups, to prevent trafficking, to eliminate its root causes, to identify it when we see it, and to provide alternatives to women and children who have already been or are in danger of being trafficked.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

I. Personally:

- Continue to educate yourself (newspapers, TV programs, videos, web sites, books, articles, workshops)
- Pray for the children and women who are being trafficked
- Inform others of the issue of trafficking; colleagues, family, friends, students, work with other groups, etc.
- Purchase items made by victims of trafficking at www.polarisproject.org
- Work on eliminating the demand for prostitution and sweatshop labor
- Speak up!

II. Get involved in legislative action in your state:

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| 1) Legislative actions that need to be taken: | 2) States that have begun looking into legislation: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminalization statutes• State Commission/Task Force on Trafficking• Regulation of Bride Trafficking• Sex Tourism | Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Texas |

PLAN OF ACTION:

If you live in one of the above states, contact your State Attorney General and ask what has been done and how you can be involved. If you live in a state where nothing has been started, call your State Attorney General and ask him/her to begin a commission/task force on trafficking.