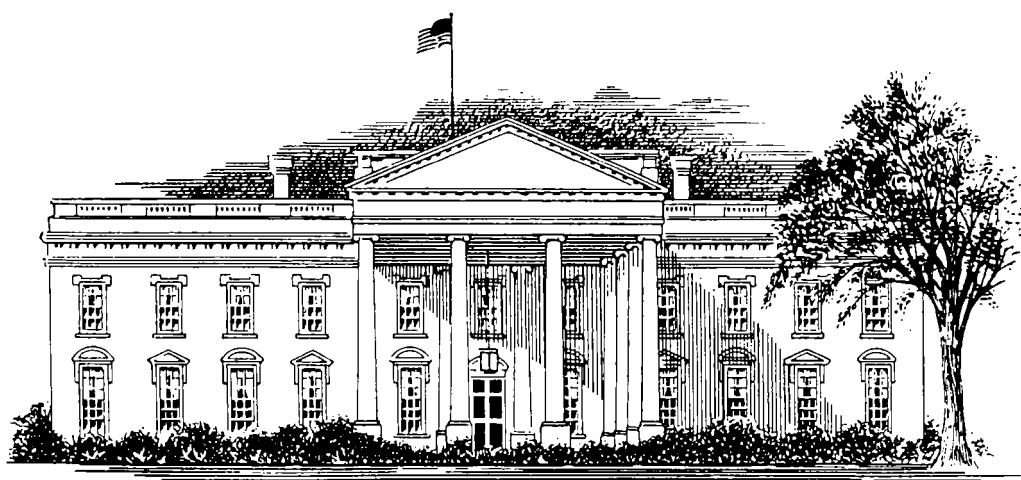


The President's Interagency Council on Women



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Trafficking in Women and Children

**Statement of Anita Botti
Deputy Director and Senior Advisor on Trafficking
Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues
U.S. Delegation to the
OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues**

October 30, 1998

One of the most egregious human rights violations of our time is trafficking in human beings worldwide, particularly among women and children, for purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. At its core, trafficking in women and children is a form of modern day slavery. It is about abduction, violence, and exploitation of human beings. It is reprehensible.

The United States Government defines trafficking in human beings, specifically women and children, to consist of all acts involving the recruitment, transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders, typically by deception, coercion, or force, and for the purposes of placing persons in situations of forced sexual exploitation or coerced labor.

At the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE in 1991, we committed ourselves to Aseek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibitions against such acts and other appropriate measures.@

Yet, seven years later, conservative estimates indicate that last year alone 700,000 women of all nationalities were trafficked worldwide; 100,000 of these originated in the former Soviet Union. The main OSCE countries of origin for trafficking are Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic States; other places of origin include Belarus and Moldova. Main countries of transit include Poland, Hungary, Romania, and the Czech Republic. The women are brought mainly to Western Europe, The United States, and Japan. Attracted by the huge market, enormous profits, and minimal risks, criminal groups of all levels of sophistication are involved in trafficking in women.

These criminal networks lure women by posting advertisements for jobs overseas involving prospects for money and travel. They are sent abroad using a variety of legitimate visas (supported by fraudulent documents) and then entrapped by their hosts, who take away their passports, let their visas expire, and force them into prostitution to work off their Adebts@ and regain their passports. The penalty for non-compliance is often harsh—including beatings, rape, confinement with minimal food or liberties, and occasionally death.

Victims often are reluctant to turn to local authorities for help because of an entrenched distrust of law enforcement officials and a fear of being jailed because they are in a country illegally.

Government attitudes in some countries sometimes inadvertently aggravate the problem by viewing these females as more of an illicit migration problem than as a human rights problem. Many governments are under tremendous pressure to limit migration, so they detain and deport women without further investigation. Corruption also prevents prosecution of traffickers; corrupt government or law enforcement officials sometimes benefit or profit from the trade.

We believe we must adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach focused on prevention, protection and assistance for victims, and prosecution of traffickers. An enforcement agenda that emphasizes crime and border enforcement must simultaneously protect victims.

What can the OSCE do to help combat this egregious problem?

President Clinton issued a directive last spring charging the U.S. Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that it is criminalized. In addition, the Attorney General is to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking and determine ways to ensure the provision of services for victims and witnesses, provide for their safe return, and consider temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status. This work is underway.

The United States also has set up a coordinating body for the fight against trafficking, under the leadership of Secretary Albright and the President's Interagency Council on Women.

We are actively expanding collaborative efforts with source, transit, and destination countries to combat this problem. In the OSCE region, we are working jointly with the European Union, the United Nations, Italy, states of the former Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine, and Finland to combat trafficking. With Ukraine, we are developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated strategy to combat trafficking. The United States and Italy have launched an initiative focusing on the protection of victims, cooperation with NGOs, training for law enforcement, and strengthening cooperation of our criminal justice systems. Recently, the United States and Finland agreed to collaborate on an initiative to assist in the prevention of trafficking and violence against women in the Baltic countries.

We also recognize the critical role played by nongovernmental organizations and we are committed to working together as we develop our policies and programs. We are building on the excellent work already being done by them.

To further enable the OSCE to assist in the fight against trafficking in women, the United States is offering to second to the ODIHR a legal expert to conduct an assessment of legislation in the OSCE region on trafficking and violence against women. We hope that the results of this assessment could serve as a basis to develop future OSCE programs to assist participating States in combating trafficking.

We have an ambitious agenda in front of us; we must work together and fully commit ourselves to combating trafficking in women and children. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Trafficking of Women and Children: The Future Direction of United States Policy

**Remarks by Stephen Warnath
Special Counsel and Senior Advisor on Trafficking
President's Interagency Council on Women**

**Presented at the U.S. - E.U. Transatlantic Seminar to Prevent Trafficking in Women
L'viv, Ukraine
July 10, 1998**

Good morning. I am delighted to be here with you today.

I am here to speak about the future direction of the United States in combating trafficking of women and children. In these few minutes I can provide only an overview of some of the activities that we are undertaking.

President Clinton set the course for the United States' present and future efforts to address this issue in his Presidential Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Children issued in March 1998. I want to highlight several of this document's central points which provide the framework which will guide our future actions.

First, with this directive, President Clinton elevated the fight against trafficking of women and children to a new level of priority for the United States government. The President, noting the growing global threat posed by trafficking, indicated that our response -- within the United States and in partnership with other countries -- needs to match the increased sophistication and scope of worldwide trafficking as a criminal and human rights violation.

Second, President Clinton adopted the three-pronged strategy of: 1) prevention; 2) protection and assistance for trafficking victims; and 3) prosecution and enforcement of traffickers. The future direction of the United States in combating trafficking will reflect this vision of a comprehensive and integrated approach.

Third, the directive establishes an interagency framework for addressing trafficking issues within the United States government. As all of you know, trafficking involves a wide range of issues, including: human and civil rights, crime, economics, migration, labor, and health. In addressing this issue it is important that government bureaucracies not attempt to narrowly pigeon-hole the issue of trafficking for that is a sure recipe for failure. Trafficking of women and children is not solely a migration issue, or a human rights issue, or a crime issue, or a labor issue, or a public health issue, or a women's issue. Combating this issue will require addressing all of these issues and more. Because the complex and interrelated nature of these issues requires the attention of experts from across a government, coordination is essential.

The President's Interagency Council on Women serves as the coordinating mechanism for the United States government's international and domestic response on this issue. As part of its coordinating role, the Council chairs a working group on trafficking composed of Executive Branch agencies including the Departments of Justice, State, Labor, and Health and Human Services.

Some background on the President's Interagency Council on Women may be helpful: President Clinton established the Council in 1995 to implement the Platform of Action adopted at the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is composed of high-level representatives of the Executive Branch agencies. Secretary of State Madeline Albright has chaired the Council since March 1997. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair. Both are strong supporters of the fight against trafficking in women and children.

Let me say more about the direction of the United States' implementation of the three-pronged strategy. Regarding the first element -- prevention -- the United States will participate in a broad web of projects to reinforce public awareness activities. This will include economic alternative programs in source countries, including job and skills training, and economic opportunity and small business development. As you heard yesterday, USAID will be supporting some of these types of projects in the Ukraine and these activities should be an important part of our work with other countries in the future.

In addition to public awareness and economic alternatives, prevention includes intervention and deterrence measures. Intervention involves recognizing a potential trafficking situation and being able to intervene appropriately to help the woman remove herself from the grasp of the traffickers and avail herself of protections and assistance that may be available to her. Professionals who are in a position to intervene include consular officials, border and other law enforcement personnel, and health care providers. We are developing and expanding our training material for to assist those who work in these types of roles to respond appropriately.

Law enforcement has an important role in prevention as well because of the deterrent effect produced by strong implementation of the laws against traffickers through

successful prosecutions and disrupting their criminal operations. Unfortunately, criminals now fear law enforcement less when trafficking women than when trafficking drugs or guns. Until this changes there will be little or no deterrence.

Quantifying the effectiveness of prevention is sometimes difficult because when prevention is successful the crime or human rights violation does not occur. But we are confident of prevention's role in reducing criminal activity. United States Attorney General Janet Reno, stating the Administration's policy that prevention is crucial to a comprehensive crime reduction strategy, has said: "I am convinced -- and my opinion is reinforced by police chiefs and other law enforcement personnel I talk to around the country -- that we cannot rely only on enforcement to solve our crime problem. Enforcement without prevention is short-sighted, makes enforcement harder and more costly, and ultimately will not work."

For the second element -- strengthening protections and assistance for victims -- we are presently assessing what is needed. Yesterday I listened with great interest to the support available to victims in several other countries -- notably Italy and Belgium. While we provide some protections -- Liz Jordan spoke yesterday about the important role of consular resources for example -- we recognize that there is more to do. Last week the Department of Justice sponsored a focus group with NGOs on this subject. The Department of Justice also is reviewing the role of immigration mechanisms such as temporary visas. At the same time, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has begun to look at how it might strengthen its role in assisting victims of trafficking. This includes addressing both trafficked women's need for health services and how health professionals who treat women who may have been trafficked recognize the situation and help steer them toward other assistance and support.

One of the avenues that we want to explore is the feasibility of building upon the good work already being done, especially by NGOs, for broader populations -- for example, shelters for abused women, and health and legal clinics in immigrant communities -- and adapting those to the particular needs of trafficked women. I would be interested in speaking further with the NGOs present at this seminar about how this might best be accomplished.

Cooperation between source and destination countries will strengthen some protection and assistance activities. For example, we will look to foster ways to work with source countries to assist a woman's reintegration into her home community. We will also review how the families of trafficked women may be protected if they are in danger from traffickers.

Regarding the law enforcement element of the three-pronged strategy, Tom Burrows of our Department of Justice reported to you yesterday about a number of activities including several recent prosecutions. I want to mention several additional enforcement steps that have been undertaken:

The Departments of Justice and Labor have joined forces to create a working group to review ways to more effectively prosecute trafficking cases. The Department of Labor is a valuable participant because its mandate includes protection of workers through investigation and enforcement against those who exploit them. We think that it is crucial to enlist the Department's expertise and resources in this fight when, for example, the trafficking is for the purpose of domestic servitude, sweatshops, or child labor exploitation.

Last week the Gore-Kuchma Law Enforcement Working Group met in Washington, D.C. to discuss possible joint activities including trafficking enforcement. Because of the transnational nature of trafficking we are taking steps to expand collaboration with law enforcement in other countries as well.

Trafficking of women and children is not a new problem -- it has occurred throughout history. What is new is the growing involvement of organized crime and the increasing sophistication of its methods. We can expect growing use of high technology, particularly computers and the Internet for recruitment and communications. Our law enforcement must be prepared to match this level of sophistication and respond appropriately.

There is a great need to improve data collection and information-sharing on such subjects as trafficking numbers and routes, country-specific causal factors of trafficking, and the criminal enterprises involved and their methods. One result of the underground nature of trafficking is that we know much less about it than we would like. Mr. Lebid of the Ukraine Ministry of Internal Affairs raised this matter yesterday during the enforcement panel. Improving data collection and information-sharing will help in at least two ways: First, obtaining baseline data will help us understand the nature and extent of the problem more precisely. That will help all of us plan sound strategies and utilize resources effectively. Second, appropriate data-sharing between those collecting the information and prosecutors is necessary to bring more criminal cases against traffickers.

In the United States, we are undertaking a number of steps. The Council is working actively with the intelligence community, and investigations and enforcement agencies within our government to reinforce the need for additional data targeted more specifically to trafficking -- not just smuggling of persons generally. We also are involved in an examination of how this information may be appropriately shared among the various components of United States intelligence and law enforcement and between the United States and our international law enforcement partners.

A couple of final points. First, the March 1998 Presidential Directive recognizes the crucial role played by NGOs. We are absolutely committed to working closely with NGOs as we develop our policies and initiatives.

Second, also pursuant to the directive, the Council plans to bring together representatives from source, transit and destination countries to highlight and address trafficking issues. We remain in the early stages of formulation, but I can share with you that in discussions with NGOs, various government officials and others we have heard that it would be helpful to convene a series of meetings in different regions of the world to facilitate government, NGOs and private sector cooperation in developing of regional strategies of prevention, protection and enforcement. We are reviewing this concept now and I would welcome your thoughts on this.

In closing, the United States looks forward to working in partnership with you on an increasingly expanding range of integrated activities to combat trafficking. As this seminar demonstrated, we have much we can learn from each other. At the same time, there is much that we can accomplish working together.

Thank you.

**Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton
Georgetown University, Eleanor Roosevelt Lectures
Washington, DC - December 4, 1998
(As Delivered)**

I am delighted to be here at this wonderful university. I want to thank my friend and your president, Father O'Donovan, for his introduction, for his leadership, for his many contributions. Not only here to this university but to the much broader American community as well.

I am delighted to be here with others, from whom you will hear as the program goes on. Dr. Glen Johnson from Val-Kill and Dr. Dorothy Brown and Dr. Sue Martin, Ambassador Betty King and Dr. McGrab and Dr. Milnik...and your own Dr. Jo Ann Moran Cruz and Tracy Roosevelt.

This is a very important first lecture and a very significant series that was undertaken by the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill at Ilyde Park in New York. I am very honored to be taking part in this extraordinary lecture series and I'm very pleased to be a part of something that preserves the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. That gives new generations of all of us, men and women, here in America and around the world, a real opportunity to know more about this extraordinary woman.

What I wish to discuss this afternoon is how Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy as a person, as a leader, as someone who in her own way makes human rights part of our everyday experience and vocabulary, how she can help today to continue to guide us in protecting the human rights of all people and, in particular, of children. I believe that this is an important piece of unfinished business in our century and one of the challenges of the new millennium. It is of course more than fitting to have this first conversation about human rights at this great university and community -- one which has always responded to the call of service, God, and humanity. It is the home, as Father O'Donovan just reminded us, of a student community that sends more than a thousand young people a year into Washington, DC schools and neighborhoods bringing math, and reading, and role modeling, and friendship, and a hug to some of our nation's most vulnerable children. It is the home of a brilliant faculty that has devoted their lives to their students, to scholarship, to service. Whether it's in the classroom or in some other activity, Georgetown continues to make an important mark on what we are as a people, how we define ourselves now and in the future. It is certainly the home of many distinguished alumni who have used the Jesuit ethos of service in this world, from Mark Gearan who sends Peace Corps volunteers to every corner of the Earth, to George Mitchell who helped bring peace to Northern Ireland, from my husband, to my Chief of Staff Melanne Verveer who is with me here today.

Now, as you might imagine, being somewhat in awe of this great university which has produced so many important people and that has made so many important contributions to our country, I thought I needed to discuss this speech with Eleanor Roosevelt. (laughter and applause) When I first told people some years ago that I sometimes hold imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt, there were some -- particularly, I must say, in the journalistic community --

who thought they finally had irrefutable evidence that I'd gone off the deep end. (laughter) Well, I only can commend to you this imaginary conversation technique -- whether it is with a parent, a grandparent or a beloved former teacher or a famous person -- it does help to get your ideas straight because you say, "What would my grandmother say about this?" Or, "what would Mrs. Jones, who desperately tried to prevent me from dangling participles, have to say about this?" So talking to Mrs. Roosevelt, even in my imagination, has proven to be a very great source of strength and inspiration. You can imagine some of the situations I find myself in when I say, "Oh my good gracious, what would Mrs. Roosevelt say?" (laughter)

As anyone can tell you, particularly my daughter, I am technologically challenged. But, I decided in preparation for this speech to try a more modern, more acceptable way of communicating. So, first I tried to email her at erooselvelt@heaven.com, but I think the server was down. I tried calling on her cell phone, but the circuits were busy. Then I tried paging her but was told she had traveled to another part of Heaven to work with a group of angels on strike, and that I would need a universal skype to get through to her.

So there I was last night, I got home from New York late, worried about what I was going to say, staring at some pages of print when I realized that her life has already given us the guidance we need on today's topic so many times over. Not just some inspirational words that we might hear in our minds, in our imaginary conversations such as, "The thing to remember is to do the thing you think you cannot do." But also in her example, in the path that she created, in the life that she lived. Wherever I go as First Lady, I am always reminded of one thing: that usually, Eleanor Roosevelt has been there before. I've been to farms in Iowa and factories in Michigan, welfare offices in New York, where Mrs. Roosevelt paid a visit more than half a century ago. When I went to Pakistan and India we discovered that Eleanor Roosevelt had been there in 1952, and had written a book about her experiences.

So I was particularly honored when I received the Eleanor Roosevelt Center Gold Medal at Val-Kill. A beautiful wooded retreat where she went to entertain friends and family to think and to write. As I walked through her home I tried to imagine again how she worked tirelessly there for what she believed in. And I was told a story that I've never forgotten. It was a day in the 1950s and she had a speech to give in New York. She was so sick that her throat was literally bleeding. Everyone wanted her to cancel, but she refused. She drove from Hyde Park to 125th Street in Harlem. And when she got out of the car, a young girl with her face beaming handed her a bouquet of flowers. Eleanor Roosevelt turned to the person with her and said, "You see, I had to come. She was expecting me."

Well, they were always expecting her and she always came. She came to give support and to give a voice to those without either. To the migrant workers who watched her march through fields that had been newly plowed and were thick with muck, they would just matter-of-factly greet her by saying, "Oh Mrs. Roosevelt, you've come to see us." As if it were the most natural thing in the world. To the Japanese - Americans during World War II and to African Americans every day during her long life, she would help support people who faced discrimination and challenges.

Another of my favorite stories is of an African American child, a first grader, whose mother worked in a laundry mat. His father was a mechanic who couldn't get good work. They lived in a tin shack without any foundation so every time it rained their house slid down the hill. This child wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt telling her that his house was literally falling down a hill. So she went to Kentucky, set up a meeting with the heads of the realty association and the banks, which led not only that child getting his house on much firmer footing, but also eventually to integrated housing in Lexington, Kentucky. The next year in the mail, he sent his second grade picture to Mrs. Roosevelt and she carried it with her to remind her of the boy she had never personally met. On the back, he had written his name with such care, erasing it many times so that it was just right, that it left an imprint on the front of the photo. He also included a letter, "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt," it said "Thank you for my house. I know you did it."

Without fanfare, she went anywhere and everywhere she thought her presence would make a difference. She wanted to see with her own eyes the everyday violations that rob individuals of their dignity and all of us of our humanity. And then she rolled up her sleeves and tried to do something about what she saw.

And that is the path she is asking us to walk today; to open our eyes and hearts, to use our minds and hands, and fulfill the promises of her greatest achievements of all, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It happened exactly 50 winters ago. As the Chair of the commission drafting the Universal Declaration of Human rights, Eleanor Roosevelt worked tirelessly from 1946 to 1948. Imagine how she must have felt on December 10, at 3:00 a.m. when the nations of the world agreed to create this new common standard for human dignity. We know how everyone else felt. The delegates stood and gave her a standing ovation.

Let me read a passage from that document: "The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief, freedom from fear and want have been proclaimed as the highest aspirations of the common people." The declaration, as we know, did not take place in a vacuum. As Father O'Donovan has already reminded us, it was a worldwide response to evil, and I use that word deliberately. Those who study Hitler's rise to power and the Holocaust know that the Nazis were able to pursue their crimes precisely because they were successful at constricting the circle of those were defined as fully humans. The proceeded step by step, through laws and propaganda -- Jews, the mentally ill, the infirm, gypsies, homosexuals - all of whom they identified as unworthy of life, as not human, as alien, other.

Throughout history, and even today, we have seen in many places and in many times this cold dark region of the human soul, this schizophrenia of the soul that permits one group to de-humanize another. And it was that all-too-human characteristic that the Declaration and Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to help us resist. In the half century since the declaration, this document has created an ideal that nations and individuals have reached towards, knowing that they will never quite achieve it, but knowing that we must never stop trying. Many countries have used the Declaration for their own constitutions. Courts of law look to it. It has laid the groundwork for the world's war crimes tribunals.

At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, it was the

strength and challenge of this Declaration that enabled us to say for the world to hear that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. It was the power of the Declaration that led in 1989 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am very proud that my husband signed that. And now I hope with all my heart that the United States will join with the Vatican and all the other nations of the world except Somalia and ratify the Convention once and for all. (applause) And this is why. In spite of our progress on human rights over the last half century, it is unconscionable that we still have not seen the circle of human dignity expanded to include all the children of our world. There are still too many excluded from the Declaration, too many whose suffering we fail to see, to hear, to feel, or to stop.

Now, any look back in the course of human history shows that every nation, every society, has its blind spots. Spots that somehow prevent us from understanding how the full circle of rights should include all of our fellow human beings. In our country it has taken us most of our 222 years -- most of them bloody, few of them easy -- to extend the benefits of citizenship to African Americans, to those without property, and to women. Eleanor Roosevelt was 35 years old before she was given the right to vote.

And we also know -- especially in this new global economy -- that no nation can move ahead when its children are left behind. Eleanor Roosevelt understood that. She knew that whether we treated children with respect would not only determine the quality of our lives, but also who we were as a nation and what kind of life it would be for the next generation. You could see it in the way she talked to children. I've seen so many pictures of her bending down from her tall frame and leaning her entire body over to hear a child, looking right into the eyes of that child, trying to understand that child's dream, trying to convey that she believed in that little boy or girl, and she always tried to give those children a voice.

The Declaration makes that clear. It reads, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." All human beings -- it did not say all men, or all members of certain races, regions or religions. It did not say all adults. It also did not make choices between children because, in fact, it says specifically, "All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection." Because human rights are not given to us by a parent or the government. They do not miraculously appear when we turn 18. No piece of paper can give them or take them away. We know that children should be treated with extra care -- not less. And every child should be viewed as endowed with all rights and dignity accorded to all human beings.

Now of course that's not always been the view of children. For millennia we viewed children as the property of their families, principally of their fathers. They were mostly used for work -- work outside and inside the house. Parents were given the right in every culture to abandon, ignore or sell their children. But over the centuries, we grew to understand that children were not just little adults, that they need the care, discipline and the love of a family. And we began to understand too -- as industrialization spread across the world -- that in order for children to be successful in the world that is being created, they needed education, they needed protection, they needed to grow slowly but surely into adulthood. We have to only go back to

the 19th century to see how different times were. In Dickens' Hard Times, poor children grow up in a town where the black soot from the factory virtually extinguishes the sun and the school is taught by a teacher appropriately named Choke M. Child. So in this century, we have begun to appreciate more that children are people, are individuals, and not property.

Now what does that mean to us? Well, clearly in our country, it has meant passing laws, and enforcing them to prevent children from being abused in labor; being abused by those who are closest to them -- their family; being given certain protections, whether they are caught up in the court system or the welfare system; being given the right of -- which sounds like an oxymoron -- compulsory education; being viewed in other words as people themselves who we must nurture into full citizenship. If you've ever worked with children, you can see in their eyes how so often we fail at that very fundamental task of respecting them. I've worked with abused and neglected children for more than 25 years. I've looked into the eyes of many poor children, many abandoned children, and I'm always amazed that there are some in our world who continue to dismiss the suffering of children, who believe that somehow children are so resilient that they will always bounce back, and it is not all of our responsibility to care for all of our children, and that we interfere with the rights of parents when we do something as simple as try to prevent children from being physically abused.

So we've changed attitudes, and we have seen great progress doing so here in our own country and around the world. There are others who say that human rights are a Western invention and that they come from a Judeo-Christian base and that they don't have universal application. But we also know differently. We can go back and trace the roots of the beliefs that were set forth in the Declaration. They were not invented 50 years ago. They are not the work of a single culture, whether it is Confucius who articulated them in ancient China, or Sophocles who wrote 2500 years ago about such rights and had Antigone declare there were ethical laws higher than the laws of kings. But whether it is the Golden Rule -- which appears in every possible religion in one form or another -- we know that at root we understand -- whether we admit it or not -- that we as human beings are vowed to each other in a mutual realm of respect, that we should nurture for our own sake, as well as for others.

Now what are these rights? Well, for children, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that every child is born with the right to be protected from abuse and abduction, violence and work that threatens his or her development. It says that every child has the right to worship freely and express opinions and aspirations, that every child has the right to health, to education, to life. These are the promises that Eleanor Roosevelt and every other champion of human rights held out for all people, but it has been up to us adults to make these promises real in the lives of children.

In many African villages, I'm told that neighbors greet each other not by saying hello, but by asking, "How are the children?" Well the answer is that today, 50 years after the Declaration, children are doing better around the world. They are more likely to live to see their 5th birthday and even their 75th. In health, nutrition, education, water supply and sanitation, three out of five countries are pretty much on track to reach the child survival goals set by the 1990 World Summit on Children. Over the last two decades, infant immunization rates rose from 5 percent

to 80 percent, saving more than 3 million lives a year.

Around the world, I have personally seen governments and non-governmental organizations come together to put the lives of children first. Just a few months ago, Yemen adopted a national strategy for girls' education, including eliminating school fees for girls. Last year in the United States, we extended health insurance to millions of children, and enacted the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which says that our first priority in the child welfare system is the health and well-being of children. There are many examples I could give you of the progress we have made -- certainly over 50 years, but even over 10 and the last 5 years. But still we have to ask, "How are the children?" And the honest answer is, which children? Where do they live? Who are their parents? How affluent are they? What kind of societies are they part of? Because, despite the advances, in many places around the world children are not doing very well at all. There are old foes like malnutrition and malaria and new foes like trafficking and child prostitutes and laborers. There is still a long distance for us to travel.

Over the last few weeks I randomly had pulled headlines from around the world. From Hong Kong, "Child Prostitutes Make Tearful Plea;" in Bangladesh, "The Plight of Street Children;" in Nairobi, "Poverty Blamed for Child Labor." Eleanor Roosevelt certainly would be the first to point out that a child's rights go far beyond simply responding to the images that we see on TV, or that reach us through the Internet or the newspaper. We have to ask ourselves, each of us, "What is it I can do? What is it I can ask others to do? How can I move my government, my church, my friends forward to do more for children?"

I think there are some very specific ways we can bear witness and things we can do to support those children whose lives are not much better today than they were 50 years ago, or who face new challenges -- like being kidnaped, or being forced into combat -- that we didn't even dream of 50 years ago. We have to understand that we can't just be satisfied by giving children help and nutrition for emergencies. We have to look at root causes. We have to support work by our own government, by our development agencies like USAID, by international organizations such as UNICEF. And it is particularly important that we do not forget the faces of the children here in our country, at this time of prosperity and peace. Americans have so many blessings, but there are even those among us who are being left out.

If we talk about human rights and freedoms we have to ask ourselves, "What does that mean to the 7 million children who still die every year of malnutrition?" What does it mean to the 585,000 women who still die of childbirth complications or the girls who are fed last and fed least because they are not valued as much as their brothers?

What meaning can it have for a child who does not have access to school or for one who is shut out at school? We know that education, especially for girls, is the single best investment any country can make. It is what will give children a better future, keep them out of the labor market before they're ready, and keep them off the streets. And yet, 140 million primary school age children are not in school -- 60 percent of that 140 million are girls. And I have seen first-hand the obstacles, the cultural and economic obstacles that stand in the way of sending girls to school. In a small village outside of Lahore, Pakistan I visited with mothers who had sent their

daughters to local primary school, and now they had daughters who had graduated who wanted to go on with their education, but there was no secondary school. I've met with families in Bangladesh, who in return for food and money permitted their daughters to go to school. It was a bribe, but it was a worthy bribe.

I've also visited places where child labor is the norm not the exception and, as Eleanor Roosevelt said when she championed the Child Labor Amendment in our own country so many years ago, "No civilization should be based on the labor of children." But that is happening every day -- even in this country because children are being forced into labor, sold into labor, and we are not doing enough about it. The types of labor children are subjected to in this new global economy have perhaps changed, but not the impact on the child. It is not a problem of the past. It should not be excused by saying that parents need money. And we should not close our eyes to the work of children that goes into beautiful carpets or comfortable running shoes because the fact remains that one quarter of the children in the developing world, 120 million, work full time. It's a very difficult problem because many of them are the sole support of their families often with widowed or abandoned mothers, with younger siblings, or they're helping to supplement the hard earned income of a father.

The new face of child labor also includes things that I don't think Eleanor Roosevelt even thought to worry about. Girls are being sold as part of an international trade in human beings from South Asia, to the Middle East, to Central America. It is estimated that there are 250,000 children in Haiti alone who are virtually enslaved as domestic servants. I heard about that on my recent trip to Haiti. How they are often given away, sold, separated from their families, sexually and physically abused, malnourished, and literally sometimes worked to death. There are girls that I've met in Northern Thailand, when I visited their village I could tell by looking at their parents' homes which ones had sold their daughters into prostitution. The homes were bigger, nicer, they sometimes even had an antenna or satellite on top. But the next day I visited with some of the daughters that had been sold into the brothels in Bangkok and other cities who, after they became infected with HIV, were thrown out onto the streets and found their way home. They were rejected by their families, and thanks to the good services of relief and religious organizations they were taken in. And I met those girls -- some of them as young as 12 -- dying from AIDS.

Eleanor Roosevelt worked hard to rescue European refugee children during World War II. But I don't know if she, or anyone, could have seen the horrific ways in which children are now being brutalized by war. Until relatively recently in human history, war was being fought out between soldiers. Some conscripts, some volunteers, but by in large adult men -- counting teenagers in their mid to late teens in some societies who were part of whatever the war effort was. In the last twenty or so years, that has increasingly not been the case. Who will speak today for the two million children that have been in conflicts in the last two decades, with six million seriously injured or permanently disabled, the one million left without parents or the twelve million left without homes? The primary victims of modern warfare are women, and children, and civilians -- people who are picked on as victims, who are kidnaped by perpetrators, who are forced into being refugees. Who will speak for those children who are being used as instruments of war? From the young girls systematically raped in Bosnia, to the quarter of a

million child soldiers around the world.

Who will speak for the three children I recently met in Uganda -- Janet Issac and Betty? Like many children in Northern Uganda, they have literally been stolen from their homes. The boys are used in battle as human shields. The girls are sent into slave labor, usually raped, and then given away as wives to rebel commanders. The children are often forced to kill other children who don't obey or try to escape. The rebels call themselves soldiers but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle.

I met the head of a boarding school, a nun, Sister Rachele. Her 139 female students had been the subject of a raid by the rebels who had crossed the Sudanese border, had taken the school, tied the girls up, beaten them, and then taken them all away into the dead of night. But this tiny little woman of God was determined to get them back. She went after them, she was armed usually only with her faith, but she was able to pull together some funds to ransom some of the children out. She served as a safe haven for those who could find their way back. Many have, but I was sad to talk with the mother of one of those students who has not been rescued. Her mother doesn't know if she's alive or dead. She only knows that she was taken as part of a war that she has no say in whatsoever.

We also know that we cannot fulfill the journey that the Declaration started us on when 100 million street children now live in the developing world alone. They are out of school, without homes or families. They're left to take care of themselves, they roam the streets in tattered clothing, they sell gum, and they beg and they dig through the trash for food. I've seen them in Bulgaria. Roma children -- one of the most discriminated against groups in Europe -- you might call them gypsies. Roma children, sometimes by their own parents, are put out on the street to beg. Or if there are too many children in the family some are just left there. Or if they want to go to school instead of turning tricks they are left there.

I also saw them in Brazil where three street children a day are killed, usually by police doing the bidding of merchants who are tired of having these children camped in front of their stores. In both Bulgaria and Brazil, I saw how caring people can make a difference. I visited a center run by a Bulgarian-American who has taken in children off the streets who are now going to school and learning, and thinking about a better future. But it's a small number of those that need to be helped. I visited a unique program in Brazil in Salvador de Bahia. A circus school where children were taken in and taught skills to entertain people who would come and see them perform. They would then have money so they could be housed, and given food, and educated -- children who once had no future, thinking they wouldn't have one. It's not only in warm places like Brazil -- I visited a center for street children in Mongolia where the children, because of the rapid changes in social life, because of problems adjusting to the new global economy, are either being pushed out or running away from homes that are in a great deal of stress and turmoil.

When we think about what is happening with these tens of millions of children around the world, we certainly cannot forget that there are still children here in Washington, DC and throughout America that need their rights protected as well. We should not, for example, condemn violence against children in Kosovo and turn away from it on the streets of

Washington. We cannot mourn the children of Mongolia and forget about homeless children here, or raise our voices about children out of school in Guatemala and close our mouths when young people here drop out. We have to do better by our own children as well. We've been making progress here and around the world.

I've been pleased that this administration, under the President, has put the protection of children on the front burner. For example, this year, we are increasing by tenfold our U.S. commitment to take children out of abusive workrooms and put them in classrooms all over the world. Since September, the Voice of America has been broadcasting monthly public service announcements asking parents if they've talked about their children's health today, focusing on child survival issues, talking hard talk in some places, like not feeding your girl children, or being exposed to HIV and AIDS. We join with Ukraine to combat trafficking of girls in and out of that country. And from Guatemala to Nepal, I've seen how small investments in educational scholarships for girls, or safe birthing kits, or Vitamin A, can lift up and transform lives. So there is much that we can point to that is heading in the right direction, but there is much more we have to do.

Another story from Eleanor Roosevelt. She once talked about receiving a letter from an African American boy who had taken a drink out of what was then considered the wrong water fountain, and he was beaten up for it. He sent her the cup he had used to get the water and explained what happened. She not only kept that cup, she carried it around with her as a reminder of all the work yet to be done. I wish we each had some little talisman that we could carry around with us, that would remind us everyday of the work still to be done. I hope we remember the children who are victims and weapons of war when Congress revisits our United Nations dues. It should be unacceptable to all Americans of any political persuasion that the richest and most powerful country in the world is the number one debtor to the United Nations. (applause)

I hope we remember the children toiling in glass and shoe factories as we work to fulfill the promises and one day ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I hope we continue to do all that we can to help promote democracy around the world to make sure that all parents have a voice that will be heard from the ballot box, and even the soap box, so they can speak out on behalf of the needs of their children. We know that we have to do more than pass, and even implement new laws. We have to teach people that they do have rights, and how to exercise them.

I was particularly pleased by an American-funded project I saw recently in Senegal. Where out in the villages they're learning about democracy, they're acting out skits. Someone stands up and expresses an opinion and then another stands up and they discuss it and take a vote on it. The rudiments of democracy. And in this skit are both men and women participating. As a result of that democracy skit one small village, after talking about issues that effected them -- health, the education of their children -- to put an end to female circumcision. That was a very brave decision. They convinced people in the village that it should be done, and they put it to a vote and they voted for it. And then, two men in their village went from their village to other villages and started talking to the people in the other villages and explaining that they had read

the Koran and there was nothing in it that talked about this. It was not good for their daughters, it sometimes led to them hemorrhaging and bleeding to death, and sometimes caused grave complications in childbirth. Slowly, village after village began to recognize that it was a fundamental right of a young girl to grow up whole, to have her health protected. And then, the next thing I knew I got a letter saying these villages had banded together and presented a petition to the President and that a law would be passed. Now that law will not end this cultural custom, but it will begin to change attitudes about it. More and more girls and women will say, "No, this is not necessary."

There are certain rights to health that we need to protect. First, think of what we could accomplish if we valued and respected every child, with particular emphasis on girl children, because they are still the most at risk in so many societies around the globe. If we are to put children's rights on the same level as adult's rights, then we have to think about what it is that we want for our own children. Those of us in this beautiful Gaston Hall, who try to keep our children healthy, who try to give them good educations that lead to a fine university education like this one here at Georgetown. We try to protect them from abuse and neglect and abandonment and desertion. We try not to put them to work in full time jobs before they are ready. So we have to think about what we want for ourselves, and in many countries where some of the worst violations of children's rights occur, those who are in power protect their own children and then look at others' children as being beyond the circle of human dignity.

So we have to complete that circle, and that falls to every generation. It fell to our parents who fought off depression and oppression. It fell to the generation that fought for civil rights and for human rights. And it falls to each of us, particularly the students who are here today. I like very much the article that Tracy Roosevelt recently wrote. She talked about the legacy that her great grandmother left all of us and that any young person could follow by standing up for the rights of others by standing against stereotyping of any person or group of people.

Now we might not have Eleanor Roosevelt's stature -- either in height or in life -- but each of us can contribute to a child's future. We can make sure that we are part of a society that values health care for everyone, a good education for everyone, the strength of families to give them the tools they need to raise their own children with future possibilities, to make sure we do everything we can to live free from abuse and violence and war, and to make it possible for every person and every child to speak freely and live up to their own God-given potential.

As we look forward to the next fifty years, we will face many challenges and opportunities. It was almost 50 years ago that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke about this. She spoke about democracy and human rights to a group of students, both high school and college students, in New York. As we listen to her those words still ring true today. She said, "Imagine it's you people gathered here in this room who are going to do a great deal of the thinking and the actual doing because a good many of us are not going to see the end of this period. You are going to live in a dangerous world for quite a while I guess, but it's going to be an interesting and adventurous one. I wish you courage to face yourselves and when you know what you really want to fight for, not in a war, but to fight for in order to gain a peace, then I wish for you

imagination and understanding. God bless you. May you win."

Those words are just as true for this generation of students as they were fifty years ago for the ones that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to. I go back to that first story, despite how sick she was, she showed up and took that bouquet of flowers from that young girl. "You see" she said, "I had to come, she was expecting me." Think about all of the children who are expecting us. Think about, as we go forward into Advent and celebrate this Christmas season, about a particular child who no one was expecting but grew up to give us a chance to think anew, to live again in ways that connect us more deeply and profoundly to one another. Eleanor Roosevelt can serve as an inspiration, and a reminder that although as President Kennedy said, "God's work on this Earth is our own," we know that we can never complete it. But we know that we can live richer lives if we try. To the children of America and the world, you see, we have to come, because they are expecting us to make good on the promises that were made to them fifty years ago. Thank you all very much. (applause)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to ensure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, thus enabling the United States to join 161 other countries in support of the Convention. This Convention is an effective tool that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this Convention will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of

violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to States, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities across the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking

in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat

trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

William T. Clinton



The President's Interagency Council on Women
**WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING TO FIGHT
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

- Trafficking of women and children is a growing global transnational crime and human rights problem. Because of the disturbing involvement of organized crime, President Clinton's International Crime Control Strategy highlights trafficking of women and children as an emerging organized crime issue deserving heightened attention by the United States. Trafficking is condemned by the United States and the international community as a violation of fundamental human rights.
- The problem of trafficking in women and children involves:
 - the recruitment, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons
 - within national or across international borders
 - through coercion, force or kidnapping, deception or fraud
 - to place persons in situations of forced labor or services --
such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, or debt
bondage -- or other forms of slavery-like practices.
- In short, the central feature that characterizes trafficking in women and children -- and differentiates it from smuggling of persons -- involves its movement of persons for the purpose of placing them in modern-day slavery or servitude.
- Trafficking is a global problem and must be addressed in countries of origin, transit, and destination to be effective. The United States is developing both domestic and international capacity to address trafficking.
- President Clinton, in his March 11, 1998 Executive Memorandum on *Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls*, directed the USG to increase its efforts - within the United States and in partnership with other countries - to match the increased sophistication and scope of worldwide trafficking as a criminal and human rights violation and to improve protections for its victims.
- In accordance with this directive, the United States has embarked on a three-part anti-trafficking strategy, consisting of:
 1. Prevention;
 2. Protection and assistance for trafficking victims; and
 3. Prosecution and enforcement against traffickers.

The elements of this strategy are interconnected. The USG will pursue each of these three areas aggressively, but in balance.

- The President's Interagency Council on Women, chaired by the Secretary of State, leads the development and coordination of the USG's domestic and international policy on this issue.
- The Council chairs an interagency working group that includes the Departments of Justice, State, Labor, Health and Human Services, as well as agencies such as USIA and USAID. In addition, the Attorney General created a Department of Justice Working Group to address this issue and, with the Department of Labor, created a joint Working Group on Worker Exploitation that will improve the Administration's response to trafficking cases and support the Council's work.
- This interagency approach reflects the multi-faceted nature of this problem and the need to reach out for expertise across the Administration.
- Domestically, the Administration seeks to institutionalize the treatment of this complex issue across its departments and agencies.
- Internationally, the Administration currently is working with the European Union, the Group of Eight, the United Nations, ASEAN, and the Governments of Israel, Italy, and Ukraine. The USG is pursuing international expansion of cooperative working arrangements to combat trafficking.
- The USG worked closely with Congressional sponsors and NGOs in support of a proposed concurrent resolution on trafficking that was introduced in the last Congressional session.

The United States is in the early stages of implementing its three-part strategy. What follows is a brief summary:

Prevention

- The United States and the European Union initiated and evaluated an information campaign, kicked-off in November 1997 by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, to combat trafficking in women and to warn potential victims of methods used by traffickers and its dangers. The United States sponsored a public awareness campaign in the Ukraine (implemented by IOM) while the European Union sponsored a parallel project in Poland (implemented by La Strada).

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- The U.S. is embarking on an ambitious effort to expand anti-trafficking prevention partnerships worldwide. We are identifying other countries in the NIS and in other regions of the world for expansion of public awareness projects. At the ASEAN conference, the Secretary of State indicated USG's desire to work with ASEAN countries on prevention projects.
 - In conjunction with public awareness efforts, the USG will place increasing emphasis on economic opportunity and social development programs for women in source countries to provide economic alternatives to the lure of leaving their home countries or communities to look for employment. For example, AID is sponsoring a consortium of NGOs in the Ukraine to provide job skills training, small business development skills and mentoring for women.
 - The Departments of State and Justice are considering methods to provide information to help prevent women from being exploited by traffickers for purposes of domestic servitude.

Protection and Assistance For Victims

- In the area of protection for victims, our objective is to develop protections against retribution by traffickers and increase the assistance available such as legal and medical support.
- We also want to work with source and destination countries on safe and supported reintegration for returning victims.
- The Department of Justice is preparing a report assessing protection and assistance needs, including making temporary/permanent residence status available to victims.
- The Department of Justice has hosted symposiums to learn more about the needs of trafficking victims.
- The USG is working with religious institutions and NGOs to consider how to adapt the existing support infrastructure available for broader populations -- for example, shelters for abused women, and health and legal clinics in immigrant communities -- to the particular needs of trafficked women.
- The Council has been discussing the potential role of the medical community with health policy officials at HHS and AID. This would include the particular needs of women who have been trafficked and the potential role of health professionals in developing the capacity to protect trafficking victims.

- An interagency group is preparing recommendations for an information campaign of sources of protection for trafficking and worker exploitation victims in the United States.
- The USG has begun development of training material for law enforcement and others who may come into contact with trafficked women and children so that they can intervene appropriately to protect victims from further harm.

Prosecution and Enforcement Against Traffickers

- The USG's objective is to improve our ability to bring cases against and sanction traffickers while providing protection and assistance for victims.
- The joint working group on worker exploitation, chaired by the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the Department of Labor's Solicitors office, is developing procedures to standardize and institutionalize procedures for investigations and prosecutions of cases involving exploitation, including trafficking cases.
- Trafficking-specific training is being improved for domestic and international law enforcement -- including border enforcement, consular anti-fraud and visa officials, and local police -- to recognize trafficking cases and to respond appropriately to help protect victims.
- The USG is sponsoring a protocol on trafficking of women and children to be associated with the UN Transnational Crime Convention. The protocol would require States to enact laws to sanction trafficking of women and children, provide victims with recourse to seek compensation and restitution from traffickers, and to enact or consider provision of appropriate protections for victims.
- We are reviewing how to address the significant role played by official corruption in facilitating trafficking around the world.
- The Department of Justice and the Council are reviewing possible legislation that would include comprehensively strengthening enforcement tools, as well as protection for victims.

Understanding the Issue

- **Data/Intelligence Collection and Sharing**

The USG is seeking to develop a more solid understanding of data specifically tailored to trafficking of women and children. This will assist understanding of the problem and support development of sound policies and programs.

- One mechanism for this is a Subgroup on Alien Smuggling and Trafficking of Women and Children that has begun work under the auspices of the NSC and as part of the President's International Crime Control Strategy Initiative.

- **Regional Conferences**

The Council will convene regional meetings of governmental and non-governmental representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and children and to develop regionally-tailored strategies for combating this egregious problem.

- **Tapping NGO Expertise**

The USG recognizes the expertise of NGOs on this issue. There have been many meetings between U.S. and international NGOs and U.S. officials from across the Executive Branch. The U.S. is committed to continuing and expanding this dialogue.

- **Research**

- The State Department is supporting a project under the auspices of Harvard University that seeks to develop a comprehensive database on U.S. and international legislation regarding commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking of women and children.



Close 1/25/99
3/26/99

The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

• Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

• Secretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past Chair

OUTLINE FOR INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Several pieces of legislation on trafficking of women and children have been introduced in Congress. These bills contain objectionable provisions and amendment is uncertain.

The following is an outline for important new legislation in this area based upon interagency work on the issue over the past year guided by the President's three-part strategy of prevention, protection for victims and prosecution and enforcement against traffickers.

I. Criminalizing Trafficking in all of its Forms

The Administration-supported bill should criminalize all trafficking for slavery-like purposes. Thus, the statutory definition of a trafficking offense should incorporate the following scope:

- all acts involved in the recruitment or abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons;
- within national or across international borders;
- through force, coercion, fraud or deception;
to place persons in situations of slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

II. Prevention Section of an Integrated and Comprehensive Bill

- Create and disseminate informational/educational material in countries of origin and to appropriate visa applicants to inform potential victims of the dangers and places to turn for assistance.
- Technical assistance for programs aimed at children and young adults to: 1) encourage staying in school (education and skills reduce risk of falling prey to traffickers over the long term) and 2) to teach about dangers of trafficking in schools.

- Economic opportunities development targeted to source communities with at-risk women to support long-term economic alternatives and economic status to reduce threat of falling prey to traffickers.

⇒ Assistance would encourage seed grants to NGOs in countries of origin to support economic programs involving activities, e.g. micro-credit, entrepreneurship and small business development, job skills and counseling, mentoring, computer skills training and access to computers, legal consultations, basic job search skills, basic life skills and referrals to government and other NGO career centers and employment listings.

- Establish reliable domestic and international statistics (see, e.g. hate crimes statistics act) to enact sound policies, target programs and measure progress.

III. Protection Section of an Integrated and Comprehensive Bill

1. Removal Issues

- Eligibility for temporary residence -- DOJ's "T-Visa" proposal.
- Temporary protection (i.e. 20 days or appropriate length?) from initiation of removal proceedings to ensure adequate trafficking assessment (for use in cases with greatest potential to be able to make a trafficking case and need to protect victims, e.g. raid of sweatshop or brothel in immigrant community).
- Self-petition for temporary stay to protect victim of domestic servitude.
- Provide stateless person protection.
- Mechanisms for monitoring health and safety of reintegrated victims.

2. Protection, Support & Assistance

- Eligibility for services such as medical treatment (for trauma, rape, sexual abuse, etc.), shelter (rather than jail), temporary work authorization or skills training, counseling and legal assistance.

- ⇒ Possibly provide eligibility under Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for T-Visa eligible women or certified by Secretary of HHS, Labor or State (or alternative mechanism to trigger provision of these services).
- ⇒ Is waiver of ineligibility of undocumented aliens for benefits needed?
- Hotline funding for HHS or DOJ (possible role for EEOC?) to sponsor 24hr hotline for trafficked victims (also available for general exploitation and domestic servitude cases)
 - ⇒ The Worker Exploitation Group is trying to design this now and DOS/DOJ Domestic Servitude Group wants to have hotline available -- perhaps piggy-back VAWA hotline or expand other existing hotline
- Place some specific responsibilities for trafficking victim programs in Office for Victims of Crime at DOJ
- Funding for direct protection projects to Departments of State, HHS and Justice.

3. Legal Protections

- Private right of action for victims plus right to recover (including punitive damages) from traffickers' assets.
- Eligibility for protective orders against traffickers.
- Victim's right to confidentiality during investigation, prosecution and trial.
- Witness protection eligibility
- Training for enforcement/judiciary
 - ⇒ E.g. border and other immigration officials, consular officials, prosecutors, judges, FBI, DOJ's community police program and local police in L.A. NYC etc. -- on role of enforcement personnel in protecting victims.

- ⇒ Community grants from DOJ's Office of Community Policing and Office for Victims of Crime for protection/enforcement projects (especially for coordinating with NGO activities)

E. Prosecution Section of an Integrated & Comprehensive Bill

1. Core proposals

- Criminalize the continuum of trafficking in humans in all of its forms (i.e. both sexual and non-sexual slavery-like situations, forced labor and services).
 - ⇒ Preferable to amend the criminal code in the vicinity of the involuntary servitude section, but not actually amend involuntary servitude which has been narrowly construed by the Supreme Court. Leave the Mann Act alone.
- Statutorily lower evidentiary threshold for showing coercion to permit satisfying element with non-physical factors.
 - ⇒ Currently involuntary servitude cases are difficult to prove because they require a showing of physical violence/force. This will make it easier to convict traffickers and protect its victims.
- Criminalize trafficking in minors
 - ⇒ This recognizes the consent issue involving minors by dropping the coercion/fraud requirement for young persons and children under a designated age, probably 18.
- Criminalize trade in humans (for labor or services)
 - ⇒ This recognizes a component charge of trafficking is the fundamental right of humans not to be sold -- drops coercion requirement involving buying and selling.
- Increase base penalty and include enhancements
 - ⇒ Slavery is 15 years -- trafficking for slavery-like practices, forced labor or services should be comparable.

⇒ Sentencing enhancements could include:

- death or serious injury
 - conspiracy
 - organize crime involvement or organized nature of activity
 - repeated activity
 - children
 - statutory rape within context of activities of this section
 - immigration violation by trafficker
 - sexual assault
 - victim contracted HIV/AIDS while engaged in forced sexual activity
 - violation of contract, fraudulent contract (e.g. domestic servitude)
public official/corruption or abuse of official position to facilitate enslavement
- Amend RICO, if necessary, to make trafficking a predicate offense.

2. "Second-tier proposals"

These proposals are worthwhile, some would argue significant, elements of a strengthened integrated prosecution package, by criminalizing activities that are closely related or contribute to trafficking activities. However, a package of core trafficking prosecution elements could go forward without them if a political or policy decision is made that these reach too far.

- Involvement of international organized criminal enterprises in sexual or other labor exploitation.
- Official corruption (e.g. consular official) facilitating trafficking.
- Facilitated international sex tourism (at a minimum involving sex tourism and children)

⇒ International travel for sex with a child is now a criminal violation -- this would expand current law by reaching facilitators who promote and profit from this activity.

- Criminalize sham debt or compounding debt to facilitate trafficking of coerced or exploited labor.
- Criminalize sham debt established by “purchase” of a human.

IV. Funding

- All existing trafficking proposals include funding authorizations. No agency has statutory responsibility for trafficking of women and children so tight budgets make it difficult for agencies to locate resources to support important projects. There needs to be new funding dedicated to this effort.
- At a minimum, funding needs to be available for DOS, HHS, DOJ, AID for comprehensive treatment of this issue.

V. Reporting

- Provide support for expanding scope of reporting on magnitude and nature of trafficking in Human Rights Reports by DOS/DRL.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 6, 1998

U.S.-ITALY INITIATIVE
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The United States and Italy recognize that criminal activities across national borders, in particular the growing problem of trafficking in women and children, poses a serious challenge to the international community. This is an international problem with national implications.

The disturbing growth of the involvement of international organized crime in trafficking in women and children for profit demands increasing attention and concern. Traffickers in women and children, much like narcotics traffickers, now operate boldly across international borders, using state-of-the-art means of communication and trade. In both the United States and Italy, there have been cases of trafficking in women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sweatshop labor and exploitative domestic servitude.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi are committed to taking the steps necessary to address this growing criminal enterprise. They agreed that new strategies are needed to eradicate trafficking, focusing on strengthening the human rights protection of trafficking victims; increasing prosecution of the crimes associated with trafficking; finding ways to help victims assist with the prosecution of traffickers; increasing public awareness of the problem; and coordinating the fight against trafficking with all of the countries involved, including those of origin, transit and destination.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi are determined that the United States and Italy will do their part by taking specific measures to combat trafficking in women and children. To this end, the United States and Italy recently established a U.S.-Italy Working Group on Trafficking in Women and Children. The group, which held its first meeting in Rome on April 14, has agreed to the following joint actions:

- Protection of the rights of victims of trafficking through: exchange of best practices with respect to assistance, protection and social integration of victims; common initiatives, including joint program strategies for victim outreach to be implemented separately in Italy and the United States; and protection of victims' families in source countries.
- Joint public information campaigns in source countries with the cooperation of their authorities and non-governmental organizations.
- The regular exchange of information, with the cooperation of the Italian National Antimafia Directorate, and within the limits of existing legal provisions in the two countries as regards confidentiality of investigations, on:
 - investigations;
 - successful investigative methods and procedures; and
 - statistical data and general analysis of trafficking.
- Training for law enforcement, immigration and border officers in source countries to identify patterns and methods of trafficking and prevent trafficking through effective investigation and prosecution.
- Development of witness protection procedures and victim services in source countries in cases of repatriation, including training for law enforcement and assistance to non-governmental organizations that provide victim services.
- Promotion of joint initiatives in multilateral fora to combat trafficking in addition to efforts under way at the United Nations to develop a Convention on organized crime.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi agreed that these joint actions would form an important element of our future bilateral law enforcement and political cooperation.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 6, 1998

JOINT STATEMENT

The United States and the Republic Of Italy:
A New Partnership for a New Century

The United States and Italy have built a strong, genuine and enduring relationship during more than fifty years of close cooperation. Today President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi assessed the new opportunities and challenges before both countries as this century comes to a close and a new millennium begins. They agreed on a common agenda to create an even closer partnership in the 21st century.

Transatlantic solidarity remains the indispensable cornerstone of the U.S.-Italian relationship and the basis for a Europe secure, prosperous and free. As Allies in NATO, participants in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and partners in the U.S.-EU New Transatlantic Agenda, the United States and Italy reaffirm their confidence in a new Europe and a strong, enduring transatlantic community. Our shared commitment to build a better future does not stop at Europe's borders, but extends to the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

As we move into the next century, the world will require increased international cooperation to meet common challenges, foster economic development and uphold democracy and human rights. In pursuing these goals, we reaffirm our strong support for the international institutions we worked to create more than fifty years ago. The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions must continue to play a key and reinforced role in tomorrow's increasingly interdependent world.

Joint leadership in political and economic areas is essential as we strive to enhance European security and address new challenges around the globe. We look forward to a historic NATO Summit in Washington in April 1999, which will celebrate NATO's fifty years as the most successful alliance in history, welcome three new members and prepare NATO for another fifty years of close transatlantic cooperation. We recognize that maintaining

our security will require vigorous efforts by the range of Euro-Atlantic institutions to promote stability in Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

An even stronger and more effective Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is a central part of our vision for a more democratic and stable Euro-Atlantic region. We will work closely within the OSCE to focus on ways to spread the security, democracy, freedom and prosperity enjoyed by Western Europe over the past fifty years to other areas of Europe in the coming years.

Europe is pursuing accelerated political and economic integration through the European Union, which the United States has consistently supported. Both the United States and Italy recognize the historic step just taken by Italy and other EU Members to create an Economic and Monetary Union. Italy and Europe can benefit from a successful EMU underpinned by sound macroeconomic and structural policies, which would also be in the best interests of the United States. Indeed, a successful EMU has the potential to benefit the entire transatlantic economic relationship, as will our shared determination to reduce barriers to trade and to work together in the WTO to promote multilateral trade liberalization. The EU, which demonstrates so clearly the vital link between democracy and prosperity, will become an even more dynamic entity and partner for the United States as it welcomes new members and projects increasing stability throughout the Continent.

We will strengthen our overall cooperation through these institutions and other mechanisms to enhance European security. We will consult closely on the most effective ways to prevent new conflicts and address threats to security that do arise, as we have done in Bosnia and Albania and are doing now in Kosovo. We agree that the situation in Kosovo is increasingly serious. The decisions taken by the Contact Group in Rome must be implemented. Absent dialogue, the conflict will only deepen and spill over, threatening regional security. We will continue raising the pressure on Belgrade if it continues to obstruct a political resolution. We will also continue efforts under way to promote stability in Southeastern Europe through the Southeast Europe Cooperation Initiative and other means.

We are committed to expanding the spectrum of our bilateral cooperation in the years ahead. We will increase already strong efforts to stem the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Our cooperation on law enforcement and judicial matters, particularly in the fight against organized

crime, terrorism, illegal arms trading, drug trafficking and alien smuggling, is exemplary. Our statement today on increased efforts to combat international trafficking in women and children launches our intensified cooperation in these areas. We will also increase our efforts to promote safety on the high seas through the International Maritime Organization.

We agreed to begin negotiations next month in Washington aimed at concluding an Open Skies and aviation agreement as soon as possible. We have also created a joint working group to enhance U.S.-Italian aerospace cooperation and take advantage of opportunities that will benefit both countries.

One of the strongest pillars of our science and technology relationship has been space cooperation. We welcome recent achievements in this area, including the successful launch of the Cassini mission to Saturn and agreements for cooperation on the International Space Station. We look forward to new initiatives in astronomy, planetary exploration, earth science, biomedical research and commercialization of space.

We also have made significant efforts to expand our long-standing collaboration in biomedical sciences and to jointly address global health concerns. Our respective institutes for health have recently committed to measures which will enhance opportunities for inter-institute collaborative projects in a range of fields, including HIV/AIDS, aging and cancer. We look forward to the implementation of these projects as well as to joint efforts in the fight against malaria, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Noting our shared objectives to protect the global climate and environment, we are proud of recent agreements to foster joint development of geothermal, biomass, solar and other applied technologies to reduce emissions, improve air and water quality and conserve scarce natural resources. Mindful of the recent declaration of the G-8 environment ministers at Leeds, we will together address the risks posed by climate change, enforce multilateral environmental agreements, protect marine diversity and reduce threats to the health of our children.

Together the United States and Italy, working with our partners in Europe and elsewhere, have the opportunity to shape a future that is more secure, peaceful, free, and brighter for all. We pledge to do all we can to make the most of this chance to build an enduring legacy of peace and prosperity for the 21st century.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to ensure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, thus enabling the United States to join 161 other countries in support of the Convention. This Convention is an effective tool that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this Convention will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of

violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to States, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities across the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

Trafficking The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking

in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

- I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.
- II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.
- III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.
- IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.
- V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.
- VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat

trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

William J. Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 6, 1998

U.S.-ITALY INITIATIVE
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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Trafficking of Women and Children: The Future Direction of United States Policy

**Remarks by Stephen Warnath
Special Counsel and Senior Advisor on Trafficking
President's Interagency Council on Women**

**Presented at the U.S. - E.U. Transatlantic Seminar to Prevent Trafficking in Women
L'viv, Ukraine
July 10, 1998**

Good morning. I am delighted to be here with you today.

I am here to speak about the future direction of the United States in combating trafficking of women and children. In these few minutes I can provide only an overview of some of the activities that we are undertaking.

President Clinton set the course for the United States' present and future efforts to address this issue in his Presidential Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Children issued in March 1998. I want to highlight several of this document's central points which provide the framework which will guide our future actions.

First, with this directive, President Clinton elevated the fight against trafficking of women and children to a new level of priority for the United States government. The President, noting the growing global threat posed by trafficking, indicated that our response -- within the United States and in partnership with other countries -- needs to match the increased sophistication and scope of worldwide trafficking as a criminal and human rights violation.

Second, President Clinton adopted the three-pronged strategy of: 1) prevention; 2) protection and assistance for trafficking victims; and 3) prosecution and enforcement of traffickers. The future direction of the United States in combating trafficking will reflect this vision of a comprehensive and integrated approach.

Third, the directive establishes an interagency framework for addressing trafficking issues within the United States government. As all of you know, trafficking involves a wide range of issues, including: human and civil rights, crime, economics, migration, labor, and health. In addressing this issue it is important that government bureaucracies not attempt to narrowly pigeon-hole the issue of trafficking for that is a sure recipe for failure. Trafficking of women and children is not solely a migration issue, or a human rights issue, or a crime issue, or a labor issue, or a public health issue, or a women's issue. Combating this issue will require addressing all of these issues and more. Because the complex and interrelated nature of these issues requires the attention of experts from across a government, coordination is essential.

The President's Interagency Council on Women serves as the coordinating mechanism for the United States government's international and domestic response on this issue. As part of its coordinating role, the Council chairs a working group on trafficking composed of Executive Branch agencies including the Departments of Justice, State, Labor, and Health and Human Services.

Some background on the President's Interagency Council on Women may be helpful: President Clinton established the Council in 1995 to implement the Platform of Action adopted at the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is composed of high-level representatives of the Executive Branch agencies. Secretary of State Madeline Albright has chaired the Council since March 1997. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair. Both are strong supporters of the fight against trafficking in women and children.

Let me say more about the direction of the United States' implementation of the three-pronged strategy. Regarding the first element -- prevention -- the United States will participate in a broad web of projects to reinforce public awareness activities. This will include economic alternative programs in source countries, including job and skills training, and economic opportunity and small business development. As you heard yesterday, USAID will be supporting some of these types of projects in the Ukraine and these activities should be an important part of our work with other countries in the future.

In addition to public awareness and economic alternatives, prevention includes intervention and deterrence measures. Intervention involves recognizing a potential trafficking situation and being able to intervene appropriately to help the woman remove herself from the grasp of the traffickers and avail herself of protections and assistance that may be available to her. Professionals who are in a position to intervene include consular officials, border and other law enforcement personnel, and health care providers. We are developing and expanding our training material for to assist those who work in these types of roles to respond appropriately.

Law enforcement has an important role in prevention as well because of the deterrent effect produced by strong implementation of the laws against traffickers through

successful prosecutions and disrupting their criminal operations. Unfortunately, criminals now fear law enforcement less when trafficking women than when trafficking drugs or guns. Until this changes there will be little or no deterrence.

Quantifying the effectiveness of prevention is sometimes difficult because when prevention is successful the crime or human rights violation does not occur. But we are confident of prevention's role in reducing criminal activity. United States Attorney General Janet Reno, stating the Administration's policy that prevention is crucial to a comprehensive crime reduction strategy, has said: "I am convinced -- and my opinion is reinforced by police chiefs and other law enforcement personnel I talk to around the country -- that we cannot rely only on enforcement to solve our crime problem. Enforcement without prevention is short-sighted, makes enforcement harder and more costly, and ultimately will not work."

For the second element -- strengthening protections and assistance for victims -- we are presently assessing what is needed. Yesterday I listened with great interest to the support available to victims in several other countries -- notably Italy and Belgium. While we provide some protections -- Liz Jordan spoke yesterday about the important role of consular resources for example -- we recognize that there is more to do. Last week the Department of Justice sponsored a focus group with NGOs on this subject. The Department of Justice also is reviewing the role of immigration mechanisms such as temporary visas. At the same time, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has begun to look at how it might strengthen its role in assisting victims of trafficking. This includes addressing both trafficked women's need for health services and how health professionals who treat women who may have been trafficked recognize the situation and help steer them toward other assistance and support.

One of the avenues that we want to explore is the feasibility of building upon the good work already being done, especially by NGOs, for broader populations -- for example, shelters for abused women, and health and legal clinics in immigrant communities -- and adapting those to the particular needs of trafficked women. I would be interested in speaking further with the NGOs present at this seminar about how this might best be accomplished.

Cooperation between source and destination countries will strengthen some protection and assistance activities. For example, we will look to foster ways to work with source countries to assist a woman's reintegration into her home community. We will also review how the families of trafficked women may be protected if they are in danger from traffickers.

Regarding the law enforcement element of the three-pronged strategy, Tom Burrows of our Department of Justice reported to you yesterday about a number of activities including several recent prosecutions. I want to mention several additional enforcement steps that have been undertaken:

The Departments of Justice and Labor have joined forces to create a working group to review ways to more effectively prosecute trafficking cases. The Department of Labor is a valuable participant because its mandate includes protection of workers through investigation and enforcement against those who exploit them. We think that it is crucial to enlist the Department's expertise and resources in this fight when, for example, the trafficking is for the purpose of domestic servitude, sweatshops, or child labor exploitation.

Last week the Gore-Kuchma Law Enforcement Working Group met in Washington, D.C. to discuss possible joint activities including trafficking enforcement. Because of the transnational nature of trafficking we are taking steps to expand collaboration with law enforcement in other countries as well.

Trafficking of women and children is not a new problem -- it has occurred throughout history. What is new is the growing involvement of organized crime and the increasing sophistication of its methods. We can expect growing use of high technology, particularly computers and the Internet for recruitment and communications. Our law enforcement must be prepared to match this level of sophistication and respond appropriately.

There is a great need to improve data collection and information-sharing on such subjects as trafficking numbers and routes, country-specific causal factors of trafficking, and the criminal enterprises involved and their methods. One result of the underground nature of trafficking is that we know much less about it than we would like. Mr. Lebid of the Ukraine Ministry of Internal Affairs raised this matter yesterday during the enforcement panel. Improving data collection and information-sharing will help in at least two ways: First, obtaining baseline data will help us understand the nature and extent of the problem more precisely. That will help all of us plan sound strategies and utilize resources effectively. Second, appropriate data-sharing between those collecting the information and prosecutors is necessary to bring more criminal cases against traffickers.

In the United States, we are undertaking a number of steps. The Council is working actively with the intelligence community, and investigations and enforcement agencies within our government to reinforce the need for additional data targeted more specifically to trafficking -- not just smuggling of persons generally. We also are involved in an examination of how this information may be appropriately shared among the various components of United States intelligence and law enforcement and between the United States and our international law enforcement partners.

A couple of final points. First, the March 1998 Presidential Directive recognizes the crucial role played by NGOs. We are absolutely committed to working closely with NGOs as we develop our policies and initiatives.

Second, also pursuant to the directive, the Council plans to bring together representatives from source, transit and destination countries to highlight and address trafficking issues. We remain in the early stages of formulation, but I can share with you that in discussions with NGOs, various government officials and others we have heard that it would be helpful to convene a series of meetings in different regions of the world to facilitate government, NGOs and private sector cooperation in developing of regional strategies of prevention, protection and enforcement. We are reviewing this concept now and I would welcome your thoughts on this.

In closing, the United States looks forward to working in partnership with you on an increasingly expanding range of integrated activities to combat trafficking. As this seminar demonstrated, we have much we can learn from each other. At the same time, there is much that we can accomplish working together.

Thank you.

Trafficking in Women and Children

Statement of Anita Botti

Deputy Director and Senior Advisor on Trafficking

Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues

U.S. Delegation to the

OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues

October 30, 1998

One of the most egregious human rights violations of our time is trafficking in human beings worldwide, particularly among women and children, for purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. At its core, trafficking in women and children is a form of modern day slavery. It is about abduction, violence, and exploitation of human beings. It is reprehensible.

The United States Government defines trafficking in human beings, specifically women and children, to consist of all acts involving the recruitment, transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders, typically by deception, coercion, or force, and for the purposes of placing persons in situations of forced sexual exploitation or coerced labor.

At the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE in 1991, we committed ourselves to Aseek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibitions against such acts and other appropriate measures.@

Yet, seven years later, conservative estimates indicate that last year alone 700,000 women of all nationalities were trafficked worldwide; 100,000 of these originated in the former Soviet Union. The main OSCE countries of origin for trafficking are Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic States; other places of origin include Belarus and Moldova. Main countries of transit include Poland, Hungary, Romania, and the Czech Republic. The women are brought mainly to Western Europe, The United States, and Japan. Attracted by the huge market, enormous profits, and minimal risks, criminal groups of all levels of sophistication are involved in trafficking in women.

These criminal networks lure women by posting advertisements for jobs overseas involving prospects for money and travel. They are sent abroad using a variety of legitimate visas (supported by fraudulent documents) and then entrapped by their hosts, who take away their passports, let their visas expire, and force them into prostitution to work off their Adebts@ and regain their passports. The penalty for non-compliance is often harsh—including beatings, rape, confinement with minimal food or liberties, and occasionally death.

Victims often are reluctant to turn to local authorities for help because of an entrenched distrust of law enforcement officials and a fear of being jailed because they are in a country illegally.

Government attitudes in some countries sometimes inadvertently aggravate the problem by viewing these females as more of an illicit migration problem than as a human rights problem. Many governments are under tremendous pressure to limit migration, so they detain and deport women without further investigation. Corruption also prevents prosecution of traffickers; corrupt government or law enforcement officials sometimes benefit or profit from the trade.

We believe we must adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach focused on prevention, protection and assistance for victims, and prosecution of traffickers. An enforcement agenda that emphasizes crime and border enforcement must simultaneously protect victims.

What can the OSCE do to help combat this egregious problem?

President Clinton issued a directive last spring charging the U.S. Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that it is criminalized. In addition, the Attorney General is to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking and determine ways to ensure the provision of services for victims and witnesses, provide for their safe return, and consider temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status. This work is underway.

The United States also has set up a coordinating body for the fight against trafficking, under the leadership of Secretary Albright and the President's Interagency Council on Women.

We are actively expanding collaborative efforts with source, transit, and destination countries to combat this problem. In the OSCE region, we are working jointly with the European Union, the United Nations, Italy, states of the former Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine, and Finland to combat trafficking. With Ukraine, we are developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated strategy to combat trafficking. The United States and Italy have launched an initiative focusing on the protection of victims, cooperation with NGOs, training for law enforcement, and strengthening cooperation of our criminal justice systems. Recently, the United States and Finland agreed to collaborate on an initiative to assist in the prevention of trafficking and violence against women in the Baltic countries.

We also recognize the critical role played by nongovernmental organizations and we are committed to working together as we develop our policies and programs. We are building on the excellent work already being done by them.

To further enable the OSCE to assist in the fight against trafficking in women, the United States is offering to second to the ODIHR a legal expert to conduct an assessment of legislation in the OSCE region on trafficking and violence against women. We hope that the results of this assessment could serve as a basis to develop future OSCE programs to assist participating States in combating trafficking.

We have an ambitious agenda in front of us; we must work together and fully commit ourselves to combating trafficking in women and children. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton
Georgetown University, Eleanor Roosevelt Lectures
Washington, DC - December 4, 1998
(As Delivered)

I am delighted to be here at this wonderful university. I want to thank my friend and your president, Father O'Donovan, for his introduction, for his leadership, for his many contributions. Not only here to this university but to the much broader American community as well.

I am delighted to be here with others, from whom you will hear as the program goes on. Dr. Glen Johnson from Val-Kill and Dr. Dorothy Brown and Dr. Sue Martin, Ambassador Betty King and Dr. McGrab and Dr. Milnik...and your own Dr. Jo Ann Moran Cruz and Tracy Roosevelt.

This is a very important first lecture and a very significant series that was undertaken by the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill at Hyde Park in New York. I am very honored to be taking part in this extraordinary lecture series and I'm very pleased to be a part of something that preserves the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. That gives new generations of all of us, men and women, here in America and around the world, a real opportunity to know more about this extraordinary woman.

What I wish to discuss this afternoon is how Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy as a person, as a leader, as someone who in her own way makes human rights part of our everyday experience and vocabulary, how she can help today to continue to guide us in protecting the human rights of all people and, in particular, of children. I believe that this is an important piece of unfinished business in our century and one of the challenges of the new millennium. It is of course more than fitting to have this first conversation about human rights at this great university and community -- one which has always responded to the call of service, God, and humanity. It is the home, as Father O'Donovan just reminded us, of a student community that sends more than a thousand young people a year into Washington, DC schools and neighborhoods bringing math, and reading, and role modeling, and friendship, and a hug to some of our nation's most vulnerable children. It is the home of a brilliant faculty that has devoted their lives to their students, to scholarship, to service. Whether it's in the classroom or in some other activity, Georgetown continues to make an important mark on what we are as a people, how we define ourselves now and in the future. It is certainly the home of many distinguished alumni who have used the Jesuit ethos of service in this world, from Mark Gearan who sends Peace Corps volunteers to every corner of the Earth, to George Mitchell who helped bring peace to Northern Ireland, from my husband, to my Chief of Staff Melanne Verveer who is with me here today.

Now, as you might imagine, being somewhat in awe of this great university which has produced so many important people and that has made so many important contributions to our country, I thought I needed to discuss this speech with Eleanor Roosevelt. (laughter and applause) When I first told people some years ago that I sometimes hold imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt, there were some -- particularly, I must say, in the journalistic community --

who thought they finally had irrefutable evidence that I'd gone off the deep end. (laughter) Well, I only can commend to you this imaginary conversation technique -- whether it is with a parent, a grandparent or a beloved former teacher or a famous person -- it does help to get your ideas straight because you say, "What would my grandmother say about this?" Or, "what would Mrs. Jones, who desperately tried to prevent me from dangling participles, have to say about this?" So talking to Mrs. Roosevelt, even in my imagination, has proven to be a very great source of strength and inspiration. You can imagine some of the situations I find myself in when I say, "Oh my good gracious, what would Mrs. Roosevelt say?" (laughter)

As anyone can tell you, particularly my daughter, I am technologically challenged. But, I decided in preparation for this speech to try a more modern, more acceptable way of communicating. So, first I tried to email her at erooselvelt@heaven.com, but I think the server was down. I tried calling on her cell phone, but the circuits were busy. Then I tried paging her but was told she had traveled to another part of Heaven to work with a group of angels on strike, and that I would need a universal skype to get through to her.

So there I was last night, I got home from New York late, worried about what I was going to say, staring at some pages of print when I realized that her life has already given us the guidance we need on today's topic so many times over. Not just some inspirational words that we might hear in our minds, in our imaginary conversations such as, "The thing to remember is to do the thing you think you cannot do." But also in her example, in the path that she created, in the life that she lived. Wherever I go as First Lady, I am always reminded of one thing: that usually, Eleanor Roosevelt has been there before. I've been to farms in Iowa and factories in Michigan, welfare offices in New York, where Mrs. Roosevelt paid a visit more than half a century ago. When I went to Pakistan and India we discovered that Eleanor Roosevelt had been there in 1952, and had written a book about her experiences.

So I was particularly honored when I received the Eleanor Roosevelt Center Gold Medal at Val-Kill. A beautiful wooded retreat where she went to entertain friends and family to think and to write. As I walked through her home I tried to imagine again how she worked tirelessly there for what she believed in. And I was told a story that I've never forgotten. It was a day in the 1950s and she had a speech to give in New York. She was so sick that her throat was literally bleeding. Everyone wanted her to cancel, but she refused. She drove from Hyde Park to 125th Street in Harlem. And when she got out of the car, a young girl with her face beaming handed her a bouquet of flowers. Eleanor Roosevelt turned to the person with her and said, "You see, I had to come. She was expecting me."

Well, they were always expecting her and she always came. She came to give support and to give a voice to those without either. To the migrant workers who watched her march through fields that had been newly plowed and were thick with muck, they would just matter-of-factly greet her by saying, "Oh Mrs. Roosevelt, you've come to see us." As if it were the most natural thing in the world. To the Japanese - Americans during World War II and to African Americans every day during her long life, she would help support people who faced discrimination and challenges.

Another of my favorite stories is of an African American child, a first grader, whose mother worked in a laundry mat. His father was a mechanic who couldn't get good work. They lived in a tin shack without any foundation so every time it rained their house slid down the hill. This child wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt telling her that his house was literally falling down a hill. So she went to Kentucky, set up a meeting with the heads of the realty association and the banks, which led not only that child getting his house on much firmer footing, but also eventually to integrated housing in Lexington, Kentucky. The next year in the mail, he sent his second grade picture to Mrs. Roosevelt and she carried it with her to remind her of the boy she had never personally met. On the back, he had written his name with such care, erasing it many times so that it was just right, that it left an imprint on the front of the photo. He also included a letter, "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt," it said "Thank you for my house. I know you did it."

Without fanfare, she went anywhere and everywhere she thought her presence would make a difference. She wanted to see with her own eyes the everyday violations that rob individuals of their dignity and all of us of our humanity. And then she rolled up her sleeves and tried to do something about what she saw.

And that is the path she is asking us to walk today; to open our eyes and hearts, to use our minds and hands, and fulfill the promises of her greatest achievements of all, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It happened exactly 50 winters ago. As the Chair of the commission drafting the Universal Declaration of Human rights, Eleanor Roosevelt worked tirelessly from 1946 to 1948. Imagine how she must have felt on December 10, at 3:00 a.m. when the nations of the world agreed to create this new common standard for human dignity. We know how everyone else felt. The delegates stood and gave her a standing ovation.

Let me read a passage from that document: "The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief, freedom from fear and want have been proclaimed as the highest aspirations of the common people." The declaration, as we know, did not take place in a vacuum. As Father O'Donovan has already reminded us, it was a worldwide response to evil, and I use that word deliberately. Those who study Hitler's rise to power and the Holocaust know that the Nazis were able to pursue their crimes precisely because they were successful at constricting the circle of those were defined as fully humans. The proceeded step by step, through laws and propaganda -- Jews, the mentally ill, the infirm, gypsies, homosexuals - all of whom they identified as unworthy of life, as not human, as alien, other.

Throughout history, and even today, we have seen in many places and in many times this cold dark region of the human soul, this schizophrenia of the soul that permits one group to de-humanize another. And it was that all-too-human characteristic that the Declaration and Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to help us resist. In the half century since the declaration, this document has created an ideal that nations and individuals have reached towards, knowing that they will never quite achieve it, but knowing that we must never stop trying. Many countries have used the Declaration for their own constitutions. Courts of law look to it. It has laid the groundwork for the world's war crimes tribunals.

At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, it was the

strength and challenge of this Declaration that enabled us to say for the world to hear that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. It was the power of the Declaration that led in 1989 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am very proud that my husband signed that. And now I hope with all my heart that the United States will join with the Vatican and all the other nations of the world except Somalia and ratify the Convention once and for all. (applause) And this is why. In spite of our progress on human rights over the last half century, it is unconscionable that we still have not seen the circle of human dignity expanded to include all the children of our world. There are still too many excluded from the Declaration, too many whose suffering we fail to see, to hear, to feel, or to stop.

Now, any look back in the course of human history shows that every nation, every society, has its blind spots. Spots that somehow prevent us from understanding how the full circle of rights should include all of our fellow human beings. In our country it has taken us most of our 222 years -- most of them bloody, few of them easy -- to extend the benefits of citizenship to African Americans, to those without property, and to women. Eleanor Roosevelt was 35 years old before she was given the right to vote.

And we also know -- especially in this new global economy -- that no nation can move ahead when its children are left behind. Eleanor Roosevelt understood that. She knew that whether we treated children with respect would not only determine the quality of our lives, but also who we were as a nation and what kind of life it would be for the next generation. You could see it in the way she talked to children. I've seen so many pictures of her bending down from her tall frame and leaning her entire body over to hear a child, looking right into the eyes of that child, trying to understand that child's dream, trying to convey that she believed in that little boy or girl, and she always tried to give those children a voice.

The Declaration makes that clear. It reads, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." All human beings -- it did not say all men, or all members of certain races, regions or religions. It did not say all adults. It also did not make choices between children because, in fact, it says specifically, "All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection." Because human rights are not given to us by a parent or the government. They do not miraculously appear when we turn 18. No piece of paper can give them or take them away. We know that children should be treated with extra care -- not less. And every child should be viewed as endowed with all rights and dignity accorded to all human beings.

Now of course that's not always been the view of children. For millennia we viewed children as the property of their families, principally of their fathers. They were mostly used for work -- work outside and inside the house. Parents were given the right in every culture to abandon, ignore or sell their children. But over the centuries, we grew to understand that children were not just little adults, that they need the care, discipline and the love of a family. And we began to understand too -- as industrialization spread across the world -- that in order for children to be successful in the world that is being created, they needed education, they needed protection, they needed to grow slowly but surely into adulthood. We have to only go back to

the 19th century to see how different times were. In Dickens' Hard Times, poor children grow up in a town where the black soot from the factory virtually extinguishes the sun and the school is taught by a teacher appropriately named Choke M. Child. So in this century, we have begun to appreciate more that children are people, are individuals, and not property.

Now what does that mean to us? Well, clearly in our country, it has meant passing laws, and enforcing them to prevent children from being abused in labor; being abused by those who are closest to them -- their family; being given certain protections, whether they are caught up in the court system or the welfare system; being given the right of -- which sounds like an oxymoron -- compulsory education; being viewed in other words as people themselves who we must nurture into full citizenship. If you've ever worked with children, you can see in their eyes how so often we fail at that very fundamental task of respecting them. I've worked with abused and neglected children for more than 25 years. I've looked into the eyes of many poor children, many abandoned children, and I'm always amazed that there are some in our world who continue to dismiss the suffering of children, who believe that somehow children are so resilient that they will always bounce back, and it is not all of our responsibility to care for all of our children, and that we interfere with the rights of parents when we do something as simple as try to prevent children from being physically abused.

So we've changed attitudes, and we have seen great progress doing so here in our own country and around the world. There are others who say that human rights are a Western invention and that they come from a Judeo-Christian base and that they don't have universal application. But we also know differently. We can go back and trace the roots of the beliefs that were set forth in the Declaration. They were not invented 50 years ago. They are not the work of a single culture, whether it is Confucius who articulated them in ancient China, or Sophocles who wrote 2500 years ago about such rights and had Antigone declare there were ethical laws higher than the laws of kings. But whether it is the Golden Rule -- which appears in every possible religion in one form or another -- we know that at root we understand -- whether we admit it or not -- that we as human beings are vowed to each other in a mutual realm of respect, that we should nurture for our own sake, as well as for others.

Now what are these rights? Well, for children, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that every child is born with the right to be protected from abuse and abduction, violence and work that threatens his or her development. It says that every child has the right to worship freely and express opinions and aspirations, that every child has the right to health, to education, to life. These are the promises that Eleanor Roosevelt and every other champion of human rights held out for all people, but it has been up to us adults to make these promises real in the lives of children.

In many African villages, I'm told that neighbors greet each other not by saying hello, but by asking, "How are the children?" Well the answer is that today, 50 years after the Declaration, children are doing better around the world. They are more likely to live to see their 5th birthday and even their 75th. In health, nutrition, education, water supply and sanitation, three out of five countries are pretty much on track to reach the child survival goals set by the 1990 World Summit on Children. Over the last two decades, infant immunization rates rose from 5 percent

to 80 percent, saving more than 3 million lives a year.

Around the world, I have personally seen governments and non-governmental organizations come together to put the lives of children first. Just a few months ago, Yemen adopted a national strategy for girls' education, including eliminating school fees for girls. Last year in the United States, we extended health insurance to millions of children, and enacted the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which says that our first priority in the child welfare system is the health and well-being of children. There are many examples I could give you of the progress we have made -- certainly over 50 years, but even over 10 and the last 5 years. But still we have to ask, "How are the children?" And the honest answer is, which children? Where do they live? Who are their parents? How affluent are they? What kind of societies are they part of? Because, despite the advances, in many places around the world children are not doing very well at all. There are old foes like malnutrition and malaria and new foes like trafficking and child prostitutes and laborers. There is still a long distance for us to travel.

Over the last few weeks I randomly had pulled headlines from around the world. From Hong Kong, "Child Prostitutes Make Tearful Plea," in Bangladesh, "The Plight of Street Children," in Nairobi, "Poverty Blamed for Child Labor." Eleanor Roosevelt certainly would be the first to point out that a child's rights go far beyond simply responding to the images that we see on TV, or that reach us through the Internet or the newspaper. We have to ask ourselves, each of us, "What is it I can do? What is it I can ask others to do? How can I move my government, my church, my friends forward to do more for children?"

I think there are some very specific ways we can bear witness and things we can do to support those children whose lives are not much better today than they were 50 years ago, or who face new challenges -- like being kidnaped, or being forced into combat -- that we didn't even dream of 50 years ago. We have to understand that we can't just be satisfied by giving children help and nutrition for emergencies. We have to look at root causes. We have to support work by our own government, by our development agencies like USAID, by international organizations such as UNICEF. And it is particularly important that we do not forget the faces of the children here in our country, at this time of prosperity and peace. Americans have so many blessings, but there are even those among us who are being left out.

If we talk about human rights and freedoms we have to ask ourselves, "What does that mean to the 7 million children who still die every year of malnutrition?" What does it mean to the 585,000 women who still die of childbirth complications or the girls who are fed last and fed least because they are not valued as much as their brothers?

What meaning can it have for a child who does not have access to school or for one who is shut out at school? We know that education, especially for girls, is the single best investment any country can make. It is what will give children a better future, keep them out of the labor market before they're ready, and keep them off the streets. And yet, 140 million primary school age children are not in school -- 60 percent of that 140 million are girls. And I have seen first-hand the obstacles, the cultural and economic obstacles that stand in the way of sending girls to school. In a small village outside of Lahore, Pakistan I visited with mothers who had sent their

daughters to local primary school, and now they had daughters who had graduated who wanted to go on with their education, but there was no secondary school. I've met with families in Bangladesh, who in return for food and money permitted their daughters to go to school. It was a bribe, but it was a worthy bribe.

I've also visited places where child labor is the norm not the exception and, as Eleanor Roosevelt said when she championed the Child Labor Amendment in our own country so many years ago, "No civilization should be based on the labor of children." But that is happening every day -- even in this country because children are being forced into labor, sold into labor, and we are not doing enough about it. The types of labor children are subjected to in this new global economy have perhaps changed, but not the impact on the child. It is not a problem of the past. It should not be excused by saying that parents need money. And we should not close our eyes to the work of children that goes into beautiful carpets or comfortable running shoes because the fact remains that one quarter of the children in the developing world, 120 million, work full time. It's a very difficult problem because many of them are the sole support of their families often with widowed or abandoned mothers, with younger siblings, or they're helping to supplement the hard earned income of a father.

The new face of child labor also includes things that I don't think Eleanor Roosevelt even thought to worry about. Girls are being sold as part of an international trade in human beings from South Asia, to the Middle East, to Central America. It is estimated that there are 250,000 children in Haiti alone who are virtually enslaved as domestic servants. I heard about that on my recent trip to Haiti. How they are often given away, sold, separated from their families, sexually and physically abused, malnourished, and literally sometimes worked to death. There are girls that I've met in Northern Thailand, when I visited their village I could tell by looking at their parents' homes which ones had sold their daughters into prostitution. The homes were bigger, nicer, they sometimes even had an antenna or satellite on top. But the next day I visited with some of the daughters that had been sold into the brothels in Bangkok and other cities who, after they became infected with HIV, were thrown out onto the streets and found their way home. They were rejected by their families, and thanks to the good services of relief and religious organizations they were taken in. And I met those girls -- some of them as young as 12 -- dying from AIDS.

Eleanor Roosevelt worked hard to rescue European refugee children during World War II. But I don't know if she, or anyone, could have seen the horrific ways in which children are now being brutalized by war. Until relatively recently in human history, war was being fought out between soldiers. Some conscripts, some volunteers, but by in large adult men -- counting teenagers in their mid to late teens in some societies who were part of whatever the war effort was. In the last twenty or so years, that has increasingly not been the case. Who will speak today for the two million children that have been in conflicts in the last two decades, with six million seriously injured or permanently disabled, the one million left without parents or the twelve million left without homes? The primary victims of modern warfare are women, and children, and civilians -- people who are picked on as victims, who are kidnaped by perpetrators, who are forced into being refugees. Who will speak for those children who are being used as instruments of war? From the young girls systematically raped in Bosnia, to the quarter of a

million child soldiers around the world.

Who will speak for the three children I recently met in Uganda -- Janet Issac and Betty? Like many children in Northern Uganda, they have literally been stolen from their homes. The boys are used in battle as human shields. The girls are sent into slave labor, usually raped, and then given away as wives to rebel commanders. The children are often forced to kill other children who don't obey or try to escape. The rebels call themselves soldiers but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle.

I met the head of a boarding school, a nun, Sister Rachele. Her 139 female students had been the subject of a raid by the rebels who had crossed the Sudanese border, had taken the school, tied the girls up, beaten them, and then taken them all away into the dead of night. But this tiny little woman of God was determined to get them back. She went after them, she was armed usually only with her faith, but she was able to pull together some funds to ransom some of the children out. She served as a safe haven for those who could find their way back. Many have, but I was sad to talk with the mother of one of those students who has not been rescued. Her mother doesn't know if she's alive or dead. She only knows that she was taken as part of a war that she has no say in whatsoever.

We also know that we cannot fulfill the journey that the Declaration started us on when 100 million street children now live in the developing world alone. They are out of school, without homes or families. They're left to take care of themselves, they roam the streets in tattered clothing, they sell gum, and they beg and they dig through the trash for food. I've seen them in Bulgaria. Roma children -- one of the most discriminated against groups in Europe -- you might call them gypsies. Roma children, sometimes by their own parents, are put out on the street to beg. Or if there are too many children in the family some are just left there. Or if they want to go to school instead of turning tricks they are left there.

I also saw them in Brazil where three street children a day are killed, usually by police doing the bidding of merchants who are tired of having these children camped in front of their stores. In both Bulgaria and Brazil, I saw how caring people can make a difference. I visited a center run by a Bulgarian-American who has taken in children off the streets who are now going to school and learning, and thinking about a better future. But it's a small number of those that need to be helped. I visited a unique program in Brazil in Salvador de Bahia. A circus school where children were taken in and taught skills to entertain people who would come and see them perform. They would then have money so they could be housed, and given food, and educated -- children who once had no future, thinking they wouldn't have one. It's not only in warm places like Brazil -- I visited a center for street children in Mongolia where the children, because of the rapid changes in social life, because of problems adjusting to the new global economy, are either being pushed out or running away from homes that are in a great deal of stress and turmoil.

When we think about what is happening with these tens of millions of children around the world, we certainly cannot forget that there are still children here in Washington, DC and throughout America that need their rights protected as well. We should not, for example, condemn violence against children in Kosovo and turn away from it on the streets of

Washington. We cannot mourn the children of Mongolia and forget about homeless children here, or raise our voices about children out of school in Guatemala and close our mouths when young people here drop out. We have to do better by our own children as well. We've been making progress here and around the world.

I've been pleased that this administration, under the President, has put the protection of children on the front burner. For example, this year, we are increasing by tenfold our U.S. commitment to take children out of abusive workrooms and put them in classrooms all over the world. Since September, the Voice of America has been broadcasting monthly public service announcements asking parents if they've talked about their children's health today, focusing on child survival issues, talking hard talk in some places, like not feeding your girl children, or being exposed to HIV and AIDS. We join with Ukraine to combat trafficking of girls in and out of that country. And from Guatemala to Nepal, I've seen how small investments in educational scholarships for girls, or safe birthing kits, or Vitamin A, can lift up and transform lives. So there is much that we can point to that is heading in the right direction, but there is much more we have to do.

Another story from Eleanor Roosevelt. She once talked about receiving a letter from an African American boy who had taken a drink out of what was then considered the wrong water fountain, and he was beaten up for it. He sent her the cup he had used to get the water and explained what happened. She not only kept that cup, she carried it around with her as a reminder of all the work yet to be done. I wish we each had some little talisman that we could carry around with us, that would remind us everyday of the work still to be done. I hope we remember the children who are victims and weapons of war when Congress revisits our United Nations dues. It should be unacceptable to all Americans of any political persuasion that the richest and most powerful country in the world is the number one debtor to the United Nations. (applause)

I hope we remember the children toiling in glass and shoe factories as we work to fulfill the promises and one day ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I hope we continue to do all that we can to help promote democracy around the world to make sure that all parents have a voice that will be heard from the ballot box, and even the soap box, so they can speak out on behalf of the needs of their children. We know that we have to do more than pass, and even implement new laws. We have to teach people that they do have rights, and how to exercise them.

I was particularly pleased by an American-funded project I saw recently in Senegal. Where out in the villages they're learning about democracy, they're acting out skits. Someone stands up and expresses an opinion and then another stands up and they discuss it and take a vote on it. The rudiments of democracy. And in this skit are both men and women participating. As a result of that democracy skit one small village, after talking about issues that effected them -- health, the education of their children -- to put an end to female circumcision. That was a very brave decision. They convinced people in the village that it should be done, and they put it to a vote and they voted for it. And then, two men in their village went from their village to other villages and started talking to the people in the other villages and explaining that they had read

the Koran and there was nothing in it that talked about this. It was not good for their daughters, it sometimes led to them hemorrhaging and bleeding to death, and sometimes caused grave complications in childbirth. Slowly, village after village began to recognize that it was a fundamental right of a young girl to grow up whole, to have her health protected. And then, the next thing I knew I got a letter saying these villages had banded together and presented a petition to the President and that a law would be passed. Now that law will not end this cultural custom, but it will begin to change attitudes about it. More and more girls and women will say, "No, this is not necessary."

There are certain rights to health that we need to protect. First, think of what we could accomplish if we valued and respected every child, with particular emphasis on girl children, because they are still the most at risk in so many societies around the globe. If we are to put children's rights on the same level as adult's rights, then we have to think about what it is that we want for our own children. Those of us in this beautiful Gaston Hall, who try to keep our children healthy, who try to give them good educations that lead to a fine university education like this one here at Georgetown. We try to protect them from abuse and neglect and abandonment and desertion. We try not to put them to work in full time jobs before they are ready. So we have to think about what we want for ourselves, and in many countries where some of the worst violations of children's rights occur, those who are in power protect their own children and then look at others' children as being beyond the circle of human dignity.

So we have to complete that circle, and that falls to every generation. It fell to our parents who fought off depression and oppression. It fell to the generation that fought for civil rights and for human rights. And it falls to each of us, particularly the students who are here today. I like very much the article that Tracy Roosevelt recently wrote. She talked about the legacy that her great grandmother left all of us and that any young person could follow by standing up for the rights of others by standing against stereotyping of any person or group of people.

Now we might not have Eleanor Roosevelt's stature -- either in height or in life -- but each of us can contribute to a child's future. We can make sure that we are part of a society that values health care for everyone, a good education for everyone, the strength of families to give them the tools they need to raise their own children with future possibilities, to make sure we do everything we can to live free from abuse and violence and war, and to make it possible for every person and every child to speak freely and live up to their own God-given potential.

As we look forward to the next fifty years, we will face many challenges and opportunities. It was almost 50 years ago that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke about this. She spoke about democracy and human rights to a group of students, both high school and college students, in New York. As we listen to her those words still ring true today. She said, "Imagine it's you people gathered here in this room who are going to do a great deal of the thinking and the actual doing because a good many of us are not going to see the end of this period. You are going to live in a dangerous world for quite a while I guess, but it's going to be an interesting and adventurous one. I wish you courage to face yourselves and when you know what you really want to fight for, not in a war, but to fight for in order to gain a peace, then I wish for you

imagination and understanding. God bless you. May you win."

Those words are just as true for this generation of students as they were fifty years ago for the ones that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to. I go back to that first story, despite how sick she was, she showed up and took that bouquet of flowers from that young girl. "You see" she said, "I had to come, she was expecting me." Think about all of the children who are expecting us. Think about, as we go forward into Advent and celebrate this Christmas season, about a particular child who no one was expecting but grew up to give us a chance to think anew, to live again in ways that connect us more deeply and profoundly to one another. Eleanor Roosevelt can serve as an inspiration, and a reminder that although as President Kennedy said, "God's work on this Earth is our own," we know that we can never complete it. But we know that we can live richer lives if we try. To the children of America and the world, you see, we have to come, because they are expecting us to make good on the promises that were made to them fifty years ago. Thank you all very much. (applause)



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Testimony

September 15, 1998

**Remarks before US Congressional Human Rights Caucus
By Gillian Caldwell, Esq.
Director, Witness**

My name is Gillian Caldwell, and I am the Director of WITNESS, a project of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. I am pleased to be here today to speak about an important Congressional initiative on the growing problem of trafficking in the United States and abroad, and I hope we can count on you for your support.

Let me first extend my thanks to Representative Slaughter, from my home state of New York, for sponsoring the introduction of this resolution in the House of Representatives. And let me also thank Hans Hoegrefe for his leadership at the Congressional Caucus for Human Rights, who organized this event for us today. And finally, let me thank all of you for coming.

As you know, H.Con. Res. 239 and S.Con.Res. 82 are the pending Congressional Resolutions addressing the problem of trafficking into the United States and abroad. The Resolutions were introduced by Representative Slaughter, and simultaneously by Senators Wellstone and Feinstein, on March 11 of this year. My colleagues and I were actively involved in the development of the Resolutions, and support them as a productive contribution toward addressing this complicated problem.

The amended Wellstone/Feinstein resolution was voted unanimously out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last July. We are confident that Senator Helms' office will move to calendar the resolution so that it will come for a vote on the full Senate floor before the Senate goes out of session in October. Given the broad co-sponsorship generated here in the House, we are optimistic about the Resolution's passage here as well.

One of the most substantial contributions of the resolution is to define the term itself. According to the resolution, trafficking consists of all acts involved in the recruitment or transportation of persons within or across borders, involving deception, coercion or force, abuse of authority, debt bondage or fraud, for the purpose of placing persons in situations of abuse or exploitation such as forced prostitution, sexual slavery, battering and extreme cruelty, sweatshop labor or exploitative domestic servitude.

The United Nations estimates that as many as four million people are trafficked around the world each year, resulting in profits to criminal syndicates of up to seven billion dollars annually. Many of the people are trafficked are women, who find themselves trapped in debt bondage contracts, or virtual slavery, working as prostitutes, domestic servants, or in sweatshops.

In recent years, the United States has witnessed increases in the numbers of men and women trafficked into the country -- for work in sweatshops, as in the El Monte case in California, for forced labor, as in the case of the Deaf Mexicans, and for prostitution, as in the recent cases in North Carolina and New York. In March of this year, Attorney General Janet Reno publicly identified trafficking as a problem here inside the United States. At WITNESS, we are currently conducting research and developing a documentary film on the connections between sweatshop labor and trafficking networks in New York City.

Currently, no comprehensive information on the extent and nature of trafficking into the US

exists. The Resolution makes a substantial contribution toward assessing the problem by requiring the Department of Justice to provide detailed information to Congress on cases brought under numerous statutes relevant to trafficking, including slavery, kidnaping, and involuntary servitude.

While the Administration has become increasingly vocal about the problem of trafficking in the last two years, and has established formal relationships to address the issue with countries such as Italy, Ukraine and Israel, the United States cannot provide genuine leadership on this grave human rights abuse until Congress speaks out, and recommends a response which will preserve and protect the human rights of the victims involved. Here in the United States, we still do not have laws which define the term, or address the problem.

The Global Survival Network, an organization which I co-directed until my departure in July of this year, recently completed a two-year investigation into criminal trafficking operations out of the former Soviet Union, and government efforts to curb them. Unfortunately, it became clear to us during our last several years of research and investigation that many governmental initiatives ostensibly designed to address the problem of trafficking cause more harm than good.

For example, in an effort to limit migration, many governments implement stricter immigration policies. But harsher regulations only increase a migrant woman's reliance on apparently legitimate agencies which -- for a price -- can help her circumnavigate border controls, and obtain false visas or passports. Moreover, increased scrutiny and prosecution of illegal migrants by receiving states make women hesitant to report abuse to authorities, because they know they will be treated as illegal migrants and summarily arrested, detained, and deported.

This resolution was designed with the collective wisdom of several foreign attempts to address this problem in mind. It is guided by some of the most productive European responses, and by the recommendations generated by the European Union, which has been engaged in a collective dialogue about this problem for the last decade.

In Belgium, for example, victims of trafficking are entitled to a 45-day "rest period" in which to consider whether or not to proceed with a case against the traffickers. If a woman decides to proceed with charges, she will be entitled to a temporary residence permit for three months, during which time she is entitled to social benefits if she is unable to find employment. If the trial continues beyond three months, she is entitled to a renewable six month residence permit.

In 1995, Belgian authorities financed the development of shelters in Brussels and Liege designed particularly for victims of trafficking. These shelters provide social, psychological, medical and legal support for their clients, which may include the filing of a petition for indefinite residency as a reward for evidence used in the prosecution of a trafficking operation.

In line with the most effective European models, the US resolution recommends offering victims a temporary stay of deportation, witness protection, relocation assistance, and asset forfeiture from trafficking networks. It also recommends the provision of services to victims, such as legal assistance in criminal, administrative, and civil proceedings as well as confidential health care.

In anticipation of the problem that services and legal recourse will be underutilized without associated efforts to educate potential victims, and the consular and law enforcement officials who may come into contact with them, the Resolution also enumerates recommended actions on behalf of relevant US agencies.

In fact, last month, Senator Wellstone offered an amendment to the FY 1999 Foreign Operations Bill which would make paragraph 5 of the Resolution's recommendations mandatory. The amendment states that

ID:

Witness Testimony on Trafficking of Women | Gillian Caldwell, Esq

"The Department of State, in consultation with the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women, and non governmental organizations shall ---

(A) develop curricula and conduct training for consular affairs officers on the prevalence and risks of trafficking, and the rights of victims;

(B) develop and disperse to visa seekers written materials describing the potential risks of trafficking including --

(i) information as to the rights of victims in the United States, including legal and civil rights in labor, marriage, and for crime victims under the Violence Against Women Act, and

(ii) the names of support and advocacy organizations in the United States."

In summary, this Resolution presents a detailed and workable definition of the problem of trafficking, and enumerates several recommended responses which will enable the government to address the problem while ensuring the human rights of the victims involved. We urge you to give it your fullest support, and to encourage your Colleagues who could not make it here today to join you in this historic and groundbreaking initiative.

Thank you very much for your attention. I welcome any questions you may have.

See Action Alert on Trafficking

HOME

ABOUT

COMMENTS BY ITALY ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOLS SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. We totally agree on the decision of having two separate instruments, one for illegal migration, and the other one for trafficking.

Illegal migration violates legislation on immigration, trafficking is a serious infringement of women's and children's human rights.

As a legal document, the protocol must cover all forms of criminal behavior, and include all kinds of possible victims. For this reason we agree it is necessary to use in the preamble or in art. 1 the formulation ~~trafficking in persons~~, but at the same time the whole document has to emphasize the most serious and modern criminal phenomenon of trafficking, that is trafficking in women and children.

3. The description of trafficking should include a number of illicit purposes, namely sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, extraction of organs.

However, we don't think the protocol should mention other illicit purposes such as child pornography or sexual tourism. One of the most important differences between smuggling and trafficking is the ~~condition of slavery of the victim~~. Therefore the Protocol should address only the most serious forms of criminal behavior, involving slavery-like practices.

4. We propose to use the words ~~trafficked persons~~, wherever it is possible, instead of ~~victims~~. The suggestion, made by NGOs, is helpful in order to avoid any emphasis on the condition of vulnerability and victimisation.

5. We would wish to strengthen the provisions aiming at recognizing and protecting trafficked persons' human rights, namely:

- appropriate and safe housing;
- training and employment opportunities;
- counseling aimed at establishing communication and trust with the victim;
- information about legal rights;
- right to access to healthcare and other essential services;
- witness protection for those who collaborate with justice, including change of identity if necessary;
- measures to ensure safe and voluntary repatriation;

We underline the importance of maintaining the provision relating to temporary or permanent residence permits, as in the U.S. draft protocol.

6. We would wish also to strengthen the provision on training of public officials, namely of law enforcement officials.

7. We would like to emphasize also the provisions aiming at improving the collaboration between governments, in particular law enforcement agencies, and NGOs.

- 28 . Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act of 1999 (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.1342.IH](#)]
29 . Officer Dale Claxton Bullet Resistant Police Protective Equipment Act of 1999 (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.726.IS](#)]
30 . Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.1211.IH](#)]
31 . Silk Road Strategy Act of 1999 (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.1152.IH](#)]
32 . Drug-Free Century Act (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.5.IS](#)]
33 . Silk Road Strategy Act of 1999 (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.579.IS](#)]
34 . Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Engrossed Senate Amendment)[[H.R.1141.EAS](#)]
35 . Promote Reliable On-Line Transactions to Encourage Commerce and Trade (PROTECT) Act of 1999 (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.798.IS](#)]
36 . Protect Children From Violence Act (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.538.IS](#)]
37 . Enhancement of Trade, Security, and Human Rights through Sanctions Reform Act (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.1244.IH](#)]
38 . Sanctions Policy Reform Act (Introduced in the Senate)[[S.757.IS](#)]
39 . 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Print)[[H.R.1141.PP](#)]
40 . Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2000 through 2009. (Placed on the Calendar in the Senate)[[S.CON.RES.20.PCS](#)]
41 . Resolved, That the resolution from the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 68) entitled 'Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government... (Engrossed Senate Amendment)[[H.CON.RES.68.EAS](#)]
42 . Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1999 (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.1150.IH](#)]
43 . Violence Against Women Act of 1999 (Introduced in the House)[[H.R.357.IH](#)]
44 . Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999 (Placed on the Calendar in the Senate)[[S.254.PCS](#)]
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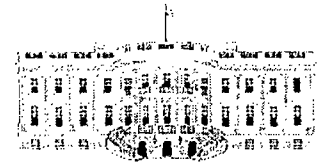
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Women In International Security,
and
The President's Interagency Council on Women
reception and screening of

"The Selling of Innocents"

Ruchira Gupta's Emmy Award winning film
documenting the trafficking of girls from Nepal to India.

A discussion with Ms. Gupta immediately following the screening will be moderated by:

Anita Botti

Deputy Director for International Women's Issues for the President's Interagency Council on
Women and Senior Advisor on Trafficking at the U.S. Department of State.

Tuesday, March 2nd, 1999

at

**The Brookings Institution
The Falk Auditorium**

Ruchira Gupta won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting for this documentary film in 1997. She is currently working with UNAIDS in Bangkok as a consultant on trafficking in South and Southeast Asia. She began her career in journalism in 1984 and has held a number of assignments, including Correspondent for the *Sunday Observer* and Special Correspondent for *Business India* and as the Commissioning Editor for South Asia with the BBC.

In her 14 years of experience, Ms. Gupta has helped raise awareness of child exploitation and women's issues and has developed and organized training workshops for sex workers to give them an understanding of sexually transmitted diseases and access to health care. She has been involved in fact-finding missions to probe human rights abuses against union workers in Madhya Pradesh. Ms. Gupta presented her work at the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference and the 1996 Stockholm Congress against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Her other documentaries include "Rape for Profit," "Killed Early," and "Children for Sale."

Anita Botti serves as the Deputy Director in the State Department's Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues, where she also serves as the Senior Advisor on trafficking in women and girls. Ms. Botti, in coordination with the President's Interagency Council on Women, has the primary role in coordinating major activities for a senior level interagency working group on trafficking in women and girls, and represents the United States in domestic and international fora dealing with this issue.

Ms. Botti has been with the Department of State since 1985, working in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. As Director of the U.S. Refugee Reception and Placement Program from 1992 to 1997, she directed oversight of cultural orientation and refugee resettlement for approximately 100,000 U.S. bound refugees annually. She has worked in Southeast Asia with the United Nations High Commissioner's staff to develop protection programs for unaccompanied refugee minors living in refugee camps.

Women In International Security is sponsoring Ms. Gupta's visit to the U.S. for meetings with journalists, government officials, and human rights organizations. Established in 1987, WIIS, based at the University of Maryland, is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the influence of women in the field of foreign and defense policy. For more information, please contact the WIIS office at (301) 405-7612 or visit our website at <http://www.puaf.umd.edu/WIIS>.