

# MODERN SLAVERY

## THE SECRET WORLD OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

An educational resource for community groups, women's groups, faith-based groups, social justice groups, college and high school classes.



SEE THE DVD IN THE BACK COVER

# ABOUT THE NETWORK FOR PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE AND THIS PROJECT

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Network for Peace through Dialogue creates opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in constructive conversation in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect. During the 2011-2012 period human trafficking was one issue addressed in the Network's program titled "Dialogue-Not Argument."

Staff members at the Network felt inspired by a presentation made by Sr. Eugenia Bonetti in June, 2011 to spread the word on the horror of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women through this "Modern Slavery" package. It incorporates a 10-minute video of her presentation, background papers, and an outline for a learning session.

*We believe there is work to be done educationally, legally, practically, to stop this injustice.*

## **THEREFORE IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM TO:**

- » Educate and raise consciousness about sex trafficking
- » Provide resource information
- » Consider action steps to stop trafficking

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**CREDITS:** Great thanks to Sr. Eugenia Bonetti, CM, and staff members Kathleen Kanet, RSHM, Virginia Dorgan, RSHM, Peggy Ray, Kelly James, Katie Manning, Isabel Pierot and Emil Lendof. We are very grateful to Aki Gu of Mission Graphics for assistance in the production of this educational packet. We are also grateful for the support of the Institute Solidarity Fund of the Religiose del Sacro Cuore de Maria.

## ABOUT THE VIDEO

This video was taken at a presentation by Sr. Eugenia Bonetti at Marymount Manhattan College on June 8, 2011 on sex trafficking as a modern form of slavery. More than 70 local leaders in the counter trafficking field and other interested people attended. Student volunteer Katie Manning taped the talk and another student, Emil Lendof, edited her video. We are very proud of their work in presenting this compelling message.

## ABOUT SR. EUGENIA BONETTI, CM

Sr. Eugenia Bonetti is a Catholic nun, a Consolata Missionary, who has dedicated the years since 1993 to battling the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. This work began after she had returned to Italy from Africa. It was in Turin that she first became familiar with sex trafficking when an African woman, Maria, a victim of trafficking, implored Sister Eugenia to help her. Before Maria, Sister Eugenia would become frustrated whenever she saw women working as prostitutes on the streets of Turin. She believed (as many people do) that these women were on the streets by choice, but it was with Maria's guidance she learned that they had been brought to Italy, and forced against their will to work in the sex industry. It has become Sister Eugenia's life mission to combat human trafficking and give the women and children affected back their lives. As Sister Eugenia says in the video, Maria became her teacher.

Since 2000, she has headed the counter-trafficking office of the Union of Major Superiors of Italy (USMI) in Rome, spearheading a nationwide ministry of outreach, shelter and reintegration. Through this office the sisters run more than 100 shelters for trafficked women where these women find respect, love and healing. Sister Eugenia's outreach is global. Believing that those who wish to abolish this new form of slavery need to be as organized and collaborative as the traffickers themselves, she has traveled the world advocating and organizing for a coordinated and collaborative response. She has been very successful in doing so with religious congregations of women and men worldwide.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Named in 2007 one of the *Inside the Vatican's* "Top Ten" people, she was called a hero of faith in action. (*Inside the Vatican* is a monthly Catholic magazine published in Rome)

Presented in January 2007 the Counter-Trafficking Seminar for women religious of African countries in Nairobi, Kenya

Named in March 9, 2007 "Woman of Courage" by U.S. Embassy to the Holy See for Anti-Trafficking Work

Spearheaded in October 2007 the creation of the International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons (INRATIP) beginning with more than 30 women religious from 26 countries

Honored on April 25, 2010 by Closer Walk Ministries in Baton Rouge, LA as a person who is "on the streets nightly, rescuing women and children who have been imprisoned for human trafficking through organized crime."



## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

**The complex definition of trafficking in a Protocol adopted by the United Nations can be found in a footnote below. <sup>1</sup>**

Human trafficking constitutes a modern form of slavery which is as profitable and as brutal as the chattel slavery abolished in the 19th Century. Although trafficked persons coerced into commercial sexual activity constitute the majority of victims, others can be found working in grocery stores, nail salons and gardens. They are in domestic service. They are infants abducted for adoption or organ transplants.

Human trafficking is a vast international business in which the United States is often considered a destination country for people smuggled in from Eastern Europe, South America, South Asia, and Africa. And yet it is also a local problem. Human rights activist, Rachel Lloyd points to a growing number of American children forced into prostitution in her book *“Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale, an Activist Finds Her Calling and Heals Herself.”*

The Palermo Protocol adopted by the United Nations in 2000 focuses the global community’s attention on the scourge of human trafficking and the need for nations to work together to combat it. For the first time, there was a global consensus that all acts of trafficking in persons should be criminalized, including trafficking for forced labor, slavery, and slavery-like practices. The Protocol held that governmental responses should incorporate the “3P” paradigm: Prevention, Criminal Prosecution and Victim Protection.

The trade in persons with its intimidation, dominance, humiliation, isolation and threats, leaves a person penniless, fearful, angry, alone, with very low self-esteem and often diseased.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 3 of the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#) adopted by the United Nations in 2000 defines trafficking in persons as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”



## HOW MANY VICTIMS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT

Of course, the exact number of trafficked persons do not show up on official records. “A big part of the problem is that victims of human trafficking crimes often do not realize that they are being exploited. From dish washers to prostitutes, many believe they are working off debt.”<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of State Trade in Persons (TIP) Report for the year 2010 estimates that 12.3 million persons are trafficked globally, 80% of them women and children. The United Nations estimates that this business generates a total market value of \$32 billion, falling only behind the trade in arms and drugs in revenue. About \$10 billion is derived from the “sale” of individuals with the remainder representing the estimated profits from the activities produced by the victims.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *The Slave Next Door*, Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter, p. 51.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Perspectives* No. 3, p. 9.



## MODERN SLAVERY IS A GROWTH INDUSTRY

Since the 1990s there has been vast growth in the area of human trafficking. Siddharth Kara in *“Sex Trafficking — Inside the Business of Modern Slavery”* cites these reasons: Rampant poverty, bias against women, lawlessness, and military conflict. Additional factors are environmental disasters and ever-present greed and criminal activity. We focus here on poverty and gender bias.

### POVERTY

With the rise of globalization the rates of poverty, especially among women, have grown. This is in part because countries which have sought loans and financial assistance from organizations such as the IMF or the World Bank have had to undergo structural readjustment and repay their loans by selling goods beyond their borders. Thus those goods (sometimes agricultural products and sometimes precious minerals) are not available for the local population or for regional commerce, creating a food shortage and less material for entrepreneurial activity. The government, burdened by debt, cannot expand educational, social or health services to improve the conditions of the population. Therefore the society declines into greater poverty.

Increased poverty and a widespread bias against females make it apparent how women and children can become objects for sale.

### BIAS AGAINST WOMEN

All over the world women are seen as less important or of less innate value than their male counterparts. In most instances they receive less remuneration for the same task or job executed by a male, this being a great reminder to all women how far they have yet to go in their battle for equal rights. In many parts of the world the issue extends far beyond equal pay. Sons often receive more health care and better nutrition than daughters.

A female child is often viewed as a burden to the family and not a blessing. As a result, it is not uncommon that a couple finding out the sex of a child in utero will abort it if it is a girl, hoping that the next child will be a male.

Girls and women face many challenges to receiving equal, if any, education. When all children cannot be educated, the boys are educated before their sisters. Should a family only have

enough resources to send one child to school, they will pay for the education of a male child before paying for a female child. "...of the 115 million children around the world who are not in school, 61% are girls..."<sup>4</sup>

It is not uncommon that families unable to support all of their children will marry off their young daughters or sell them so as to relieve themselves of the financial burden of having to care for a female child.

Finally, men have power over women. As Siddharth Kara was interviewing women in a region of Nepal which has a high incidence of spousal abuse he asked them "...why the men treated them as they did..." They invariably responded "This is our culture...Men want women as slaves."<sup>5</sup>

### THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN THE WORDS OF SR. EUGENIA BONETTI<sup>6</sup>

"The face of poverty, marginalization, discrimination and exploitation in the world today is assumed by women. Women represent 80% of the people who live in conditions of absolute poverty and almost two-thirds of the 850 million illiterate adults in the world. More than half of those between 15 and 24 years of age are infected by the HIV/AIDS virus, mainly in developing countries.

"Yet, it is the woman who bears the weight of providing for large families in many countries. It is the woman who suffers because of famine and water scarcity, of armed conflicts and in tribal fights. It is the woman who suffers for lack of medicines and from the infection of AIDS. It is the woman who cannot always attend school and is eliminated from paid labour and responsible positions. It is still the woman who most frequently suffers violence at home. It is again the woman who is too often coerced or forced to leave her land in order to seek security and well-being, for herself and her family.

"Above all, it is the woman who suffers many kinds of violence—mainly sexual—and is often forced to use her body (the only property she has at times). She is forced to use her body as an object of pleasure and a gain for others. But the most humiliating poverty for a woman is that of being trafficked, of being sold and bought like a commodity. The trade in human beings, particularly of women and minors, has become a powerful global business. According to the latest reports, it produces an annual income of eight to twelve billions dollars, and falls only behind the trade of arms and drugs. No country is a stranger to this phenomenon. This market is mainly supported and nourished by the constant demand of the consumers seeking out and willing to pay for sex.

"Prostitution is not a new phenomenon, yet what is new is this global and complex trade in humans that exploits the extreme poverty and vulnerability of many women and minors who have emigrated. They have become the 21st century slaves. Tricked, enslaved and thrown onto the street pavement, or in night-clubs the "prostitute" is the living example of the unjust discrimination of women imposed by our consumer society. "

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<sup>4</sup> Kara, Siddharth. *Sex Trafficking Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*. Columbia University Press. 2009. p. 30.

<sup>5</sup> Kara, Siddharth. *Sex Trafficking Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*. Columbia University Press. 2009. p. 78.

<sup>6</sup> Bonetti, Sr. Eugenia, "The Prophetic Role of Women Religious in the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons" at the launching of the International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons (INRATIP). October, 2007.

# OUTLINE FOR A ONE-AND-A-HALF OR TWO-HOUR SESSION

## SESSION DESIGN:

This session is designed for a group of 15 – 30 participants. The session includes discussion in small and large groups. The small groups give everyone a chance to verbalize and reflect, internalize and personalize the issue. The large group gives everyone the opportunity to share the insights of the small groups.

In a smaller gathering you may choose to hold the session as a Living Room Dialogue. See description here: <http://www.networkforpeace.com/programs/living-room-dialogues.html>

## AGENDA

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Gathering the group (10 min)

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Introductions from each participant (15-30 min)

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Show the video (13 min)

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Questions for Discussion in small groups (20 minutes)

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Whole group (15 minutes)

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Wrap up (5-10 minutes)

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Concluding words (3 minutes)

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Total time 81 min – 101 min

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## PREPARING FOR THE SESSION

Prepare the room beforehand. Moveable chairs placed in a circle are preferable. Make sure the video is set up correctly and ready to be shown.

### Have ready:

Poster board or newsprint with questions for the small group discussion that all can see.  
Copies of handouts for the end of the session:

- Fact Sheet
- What Can I Do? Actions steps to End Sex Trafficking

You may find using a “talking stick”<sup>7</sup> helpful to insure each one has an opportunity to speak.

## DURING THE SESSION

Monitor the timing and the process of the session to ensure there is time for the conclusion.

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<sup>7</sup> To learn more about a “talking stick” look up this resource: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talking\\_stick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talking_stick)

# THE SESSION

## GATHERING THE GROUP (10 MIN)

Welcome, explain the purpose of the session and the process for the program

### Purpose:

- To educate and raise consciousness about human trafficking, with focus on sex trafficking of women
- To provide resource information
- To contemplate action steps to stop trafficking

### Process:

Review the agenda and name ending time

Present and review these elements of High Quality Dialogue:

- Express opinions honestly
- Listen attentively
- Show an effort to understand
- Show openness and a willingness to learn

Ask participants to be aware of them during the session.

Introduce and explain talking stick if used.

## INTRODUCTIONS FROM EACH PARTICIPANT (15-30 MIN)

Suggested questions: “Why did you come to this session?” or “What do you know of this topic already?”

(Ask participants to be brief)

## SHOW THE VIDEO (13 MIN)

### SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS (20 MINUTES)

Form the large group into small groups of 4-5 people. Counting off is the quickest and best way to make small groups. Read questions to them but have them available on chart or on handouts.

- What did you think about this video?
- Sr. Eugenia used to think the women on the street wanted to be there. What do you think?
- Do you know of any sex slavery in your local area?
- What actions might you take?

### WHOLE GROUP (15 MINUTES)

- What insights arose in your groups?
- What actions do you see possible to stop this?

### WRAP UP (5-10 MINUTES)

Invite each one to reflect on and to share, “What will I take away from this session?”

### CONCLUDING WORDS (3 MINUTES)

Give handouts, thank participants, talk about next steps if appropriate.

# WHAT CAN I DO?

## ACTION STEPS TO END SEX TRAFFICKING

- Talk about this issue with others
- Challenge acceptance of the sex industry
- Promote gender equality
- Work to end poverty
- Confront situations where you see women and children used as sex objects
- Recognize that sex trafficking often happens in the neighborhood of military bases
- Ask “Why?” when you hear or read about sex trafficking
- Hold a “living room dialogue” on the issue
- Use the term “prostituted woman” instead of “prostitute”
- Discuss the thought that every man needs sex to survive
- Discuss the idea that commercialized sex is about male power and not about sexuality
- Work to end patriarchy in its many manifestations
- Urge prosecution of the “johns”
- Work to prosecute the traffickers
- Write a letter to newspapers for public information
- Be a whistleblower
- Volunteer with groups working to end human trafficking
- Donate to organizations working to end this slavery
- Support anti-trafficking legislation
- Support the victim, aid the victim
- Help a girl as a mentor
- Work to end one specific issue i.e. sex tourism



# FACT SHEET

- The annual U.S. State Department's Trade in Persons (TIP) Report of 2010 issued in June 2011 speaks of 12.3 million trafficked persons, 80% women and children.
- According to the United Nations, trafficking in persons generates an annual income of \$32 billion and falls only behind the trade of arms and drugs.
- According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 500,000 women and minors are in circulation each year.
- According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2009 Report, the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls.
- According to the UNODC 2009 Report, in 30% of the countries which provided information on the gender of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers. In some parts of the world, women trafficking women is the norm.
- A 2001 report by the University of Pennsylvania estimated that about 293,000 American youth are currently at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Most of these children are either runaways or have been abandoned by their families and live on the streets.
- According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, women who are most vulnerable to being trafficked are those aged 10-35 and who are impoverished, uneducated or from indigenous, ethnic minority, rural or refugee groups. Such women often lack access to education and meaningful employment opportunities. Harmful cultural and customary practices also perpetuate discriminatory and violent practices that further diminish women's opportunities and lead to further marginalization and commodification.
- According to the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, U.S. military bases, especially in the South replicate the sexual rest and recreation (R&R) areas that proliferate near military bases abroad. This infrastructure of sex clubs, brothels and massage parlors has been recreated here, with inordinate numbers of Asian women especially trafficked and exploited in the sex industries surrounding the bases.
- According to the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, the majority of law enforcement agents reported that 76-100 % of the sex enterprises in the Northeast, Metro New York, the Southeast, and Metro San Francisco are controlled, financed, or backed by organized crime groups.

# RESOURCES

## GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**U. S. Department of State Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons:**

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

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) :**

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

**Interpol:** <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Trafficking-in-human-beings/Trafficking-in-human-beings>

**International Organization for Migration (IOM):** <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/counter-trafficking>

## INFORMATION AND WORKSHOP KIT:

*Trafficking in Women and Children*, a 65-page Anti-Trafficking Kit produced by the JPIC USG UISG Working group in seven languages.

The Kit makes a detailed presentation of the phenomenon of trafficking, its nature, magnitude, causes, mechanisms, techniques, global pattern of supply and demand. It has sections with the presentation of theological reflections, the international standards, networks of groups working against trafficking and suggestions for organizing workshops on the topic.

Available at [http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN\\_antitrafficking](http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_antitrafficking) (scroll down to #4)

## BOOKS:

Bales, Kevin. *The Slave Next Door, Human Trafficking and Slavery in American Today*. University of California Press. 2009.

Kara, Siddharth. *Sex Trafficking — Inside The Business of Modern Slavery*. Columbia University Press. 2009.

Lloyd, Rachel. *Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale, an Activist Finds Her Calling and Heals Herself*. Harper Collins. 2011.

Shelley, Louise. *Human Trafficking, A Global Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. 2010.

## MOVIES

**The Whistleblower (2010) R** Sent to Bosnia to train cops in the aftermath of that country's brutal civil war, American policewoman Kathryn Bolkovac (Rachel Weisz) uncovers evidence that U.N. peacekeepers are complicit in a flourishing sex-trafficking trade. But when she brings her allegations to light, she discovers that her foes are more powerful than the law. Based on a true story, this thriller from director Larysa Kondracki co-stars Monica Bellucci and David Strathairn.

**Trade (2007) R** Based on a *New York Times Magazine* story, this crime drama starring Kevin Kline delves into a sordid world of international sex trafficking that leads from Mexico City to a New Jersey stash house. In a bid to save kidnapped 13-year-old Adriana (Paulina Gaitan) before she's sold into sexual slavery, her desperate brother (Cesar Ramos) teams with a Texas cop (Kline).

**Born Into Brothels:** Calcutta's Red Light Kids (2004) **R** British filmmaker Zana Briski's Oscar-winning documentary is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in Calcutta's red-light district, where their mothers work as prostitutes to ensure their survival. Spurred by the kids' fascination with her camera, Briski

decides to teach them photography. As they begin to look at and record their world through new eyes, the kids awaken to their own talents and sense of worth.

**Very Young Girls (2007) NR** David Schisgall's startling documentary captures the heartbreaking stories of underage girls — many as **young** as 13 — who've been forced into prostitution in New York, exposing how pimps use isolation, violence and drugs to keep **girls** dependent. Many of the **girls** interviewed take part in GEMS, a shelter and mentoring program founded by activist Rachel Lloyd — once a prostitute herself — that helps them transition out of “the life.”

**The following websites give additional media sources.**

<http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/media/films.html>

<http://news.change.org/stories/10-human-trafficking-films-to-watch>

## ORGANIZATIONS

We list a few organizations here. For more trafficking organizations see our website:

<http://www.networkforpeace.com/resources/publication-archives.html>

### **ECPAT International**

*“Realisation of the right of all children to live free of child prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes.”*

[www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net) ECPAT-USA – [www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org)

### **Sanctuary for Families**

*“Sanctuary for Families provides domestic violence victims, sex trafficking victims, and their children with a range of comprehensive services.”*

[www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org)

### **Equality Now**

*“Equality Now believes that the most effective way to end sex trafficking is by addressing demand for prostitution.”*

[www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

### **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women**

*“The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-International (CATW) is a non-governmental organization that promotes women's human rights by working internationally to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms.”*

[www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

### **Polaris Project**

*“Named after the North Star that guided slaves towards freedom along the Underground Railroad, Polaris Project has been providing a comprehensive approach to combating Human trafficking and modern-day slavery since 2002.”*

[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

### **Media4Humanity**

*“Media 4 Humanity is a nonprofit organization of media professionals and students dedicated to eradicating child slavery and exploitation, starting in America. We run a national child trafficking awareness campaign and local literacy, sports, and self-esteem-building programs for at-risk children. We are currently working on a rescue initiative.”*

<http://media4humanity.org>

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR DISCUSSION

*What reflections about the nature, causes and complexity of sexual slavery are inspired by Sr. Eugenia's message?*

*How do you view women who have been bought for sexual purposes? What does it mean to have been prostituted?*

*Do you agree that those who have been sold or sell themselves for sex should be treated as criminals? Against whom is this crime committed? Who should be held legally responsible, the prostituted, the seller, the buyer of the sex act, the pimp or the trafficker? How do you explain your position?*

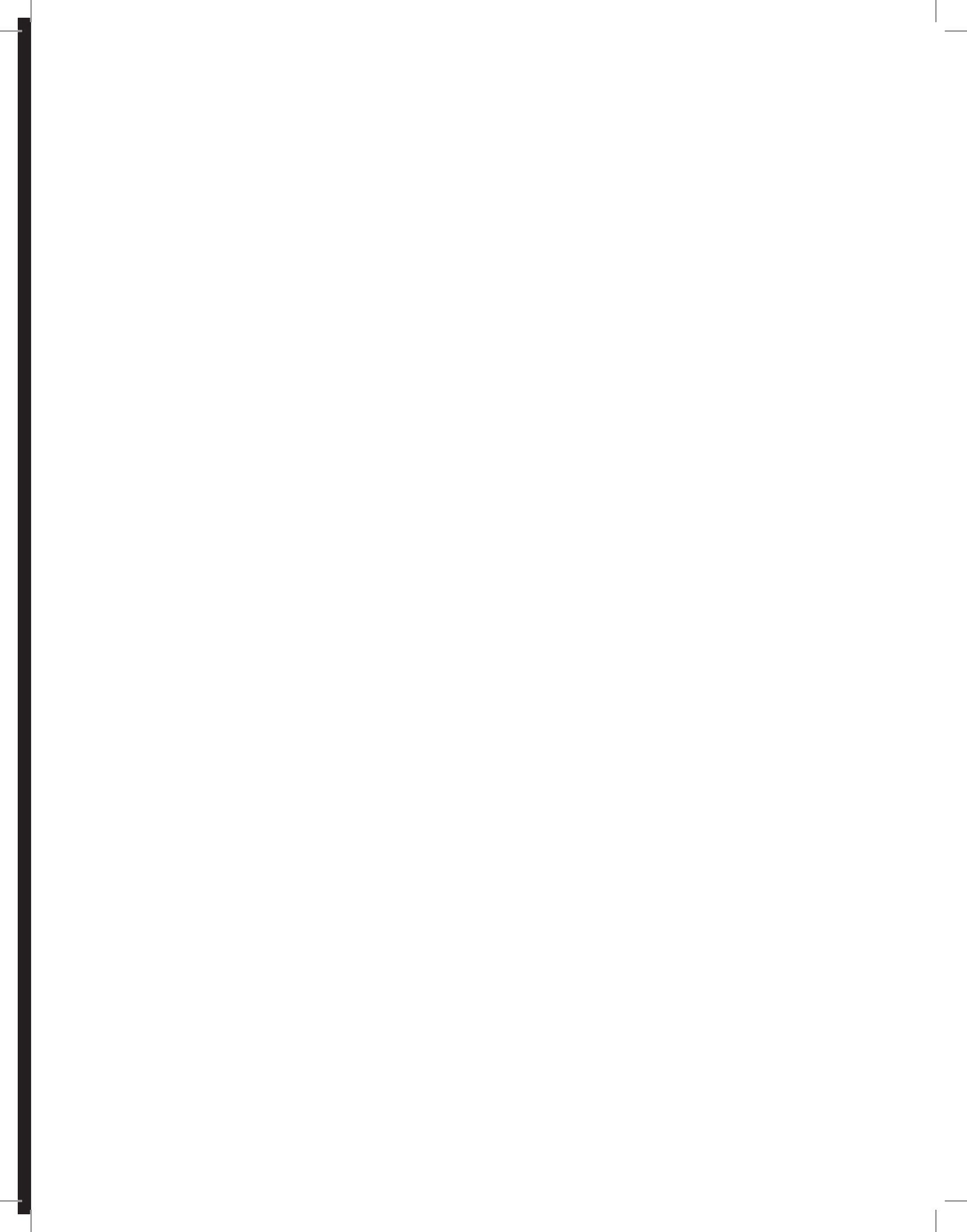
*Sex trafficking has been called modern slavery. Chattel slavery as practiced in the past has long been legally abolished on national and international levels. Are there laws and international agreements in place that might be applied toward ending sex trafficking? What national laws and international agreements might be applied toward this purpose?*

*How might more people be made aware of such strategic and legal possibilities? What can each of us do toward ending it?*

*How well do you think sex trafficking is becoming a significant concern of the international movement for the human rights of women? How might we interpret these crimes within the realm of gender justice?*

*What do we know of the "economics" of trafficking? Who profits? Who pays? What is the "commodity" or "product"? What economic circumstances enable traffickers to gain control over trafficked women? How might we place the problems in the realm of economic justice?*

We thank Betty Reardon for these questions. Betty Reardon is the founder of the International Institute on Peace Education.





Network for Peace  
through Dialogue

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