

GLOBAL EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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'What's Behind the Things we Buy': A Consumer Responsibility

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Migrant workers are responsible for manufacturing many of the everyday products found in shops around the world. But at what price?

In a bid to ensure that in the clamour for cheap goods, business doesn't end up profiting from the labour of trafficked and exploited migrants, IOM has teamed up with international advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi in Geneva to make the consumer question the true story behind this week's super tomato offer at the local supermarket, or the very cheap pair of jeans for sale at the boutique down the road.

By urging consumers to "Buy Responsibly", the campaign is encouraging consumers, particularly in developed countries, to play a greater and more proactive role in ending the demand for exploited migrant labour, which is fuelled by the consumer appetite for cheap goods and business' demand for greater profit margins.

Until now, global efforts to prevent trafficking and reduce the incidence of forced labour have largely focused on raising awareness among prospective migrants in developing countries about the risks of irregular migration and human trafficking, with comparatively little work done to tackle the equally-critical issue of demand in developed countries.

Despite the best efforts of the many actors involved in countering human trafficking, indications are that it is at least as widespread today as it was ten years ago.

The "Buy Responsibly" campaign, with the fantastic support of Saatchi & Saatchi in Geneva, represents the start of a new effort by IOM, which aims to make greater inroads in countering human trafficking and ending migrant exploitation.

The hope is that the Buy Responsibly campaign will kick-start a change in consumer behaviour that will have far-reaching consequences in the global battle to address these major issues.

The ground has already been prepared to some extent. For years, consumer support for 'fair trade' has moved from a fringe concern to a mainstream interest with more and more supermarkets advertising and selling fair trade products.

Tapping into that consumer interest in ensuring a fairer deal for producers in the developing world to put an end to human trafficking and the exploitation of migrant workers is a natural further step (continues on page 2).

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT
THE VIEWS OF IOM



‘What’s Behind the Things We Buy’: A Consumer Responsibility

The campaign is being launched with a television spot for broadcasters to air with stations such as Euronews and RTL in Belgium already agreeing to run it pro bono. And with deliberate timing, a live-action version of the spot involving an inverted 5 metre high shopping trolley that imprisons people representing exploited migrant workers is to be erected at Place Schuman in Brussels on Monday 19 October 2009 to mark European Union anti-Trafficking Day. On the same day, the city of Brussels will host the opening of an EU ministerial conference on the region’s efforts to tackle human trafficking around the world.

In addition to the usual posters, banners, and flyers, the campaign centres around www.buyresponsibly.org. The website provides concerned consumers with facts and figures on ‘what’s behind the things we buy’ as well as practical tools to enable consumers to express their concerns about human trafficking and the exploitation of migrant labour. This includes a letter template in 5 languages to help consumers query the origins of specific products being sold by their local retail stores: where specific merchandise comes from, and whether the person who grew, picked, or built

the product in question works in good conditions and earns a fair wage.

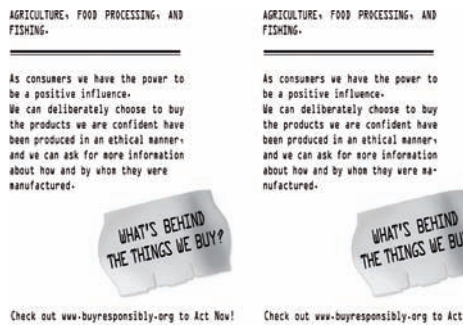
Although most store managers may not know a great deal about the origin of the merchandise on their shelves, the act of consumers’ seeking such information can set off a chain of events that can begin by encouraging retailers to gather such information to reassure their customers, and end by having a positive impact on an entire supply chain.

Several concrete and far-reaching steps can be taken to achieve an end to human trafficking and the exploitation of migrant labour. They include providing more legal channels for

labour migrants; stepping up efforts to regulate the informal sector in developed countries to ensure that more migrant workers are brought under the protection of labour laws; encouraging employers to take greater responsibility for human trafficking and migrant exploitation throughout their supply chains; and encouraging the creation of ethical employers’ associations that adhere to codes of conduct guaranteeing the rights of migrant workers. Equally important is raising awareness among consumers of products and services provided by trafficked and exploited migrant labour and this is where the IOM campaign hopes to make a difference.

Nevertheless, the onus isn’t just on consumers. It is ultimately in the interest of businesses to ensure their supply chains are free of trafficked and exploited migrant labour. If this can be acknowledged, this will make the biggest difference to **help end the demand for exploited and trafficked labour. There is no time to waste!**

To find out what you can do to help end the demand for exploited labour, please go to: www.buyresponsibly.org



EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This edition of the Global Eye on Human Trafficking is set to coincide with the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day as well as the EU Ministerial Conference “Towards Global EU Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.”

It may therefore come as a surprise that most of the articles are on human trafficking outside of Europe. There is an article on the Solidarity Center’s report human trafficking in the shrimp industry, and GAP has contributed a piece about their work in Asia. Another article looks at former victims of trafficking in India who are finding a new life as successful entrepreneurs.

We are also fortunate to have an interview with a representative of the upcoming

Spanish EU Presidency on the question of unaccompanied minors and their protection.

But if we are trying to highlight one issue in this edition of the Global Eye, it is that of the role the consumer plays in human trafficking. Do we really want to purchase everything at the lowest cost possible or are we ready to question why a product is so cheap and, eventually, to pay that little bit more to ensure that trafficked or exploited labour is not being used?

Some studies suggest that many consumers are willing to act in an ethical way. Perhaps what they need is easy access to information on the objects of their consumption. This is the aim of the new campaign “BuyResponsibly.org”

developed by Saatchi & Saatchi and IOM and which is being launched on EU Anti-Trafficking Day.

While the EU and its Member States turn their sights toward global action at the governmental level, it would be gratifying to see the European – and of course non-European – public take up the gauntlet too and consider how they can contribute toward the elimination of human trafficking.

We hope you will find this edition informative and welcome any feedback you may have. You can write to us at: GlobalEye@iom.int

The Editors

The True Cost of Shrimp: No Justice for Migrant Workers in Thailand's Shrimp Industry

by John A. Hosinski, Program Officer Global Outreach Department, Solidarity Center. www.solidaritycenter.org

Despite increased study and public scrutiny in recent years, very little has changed for the mostly Burmese migrant workers who travel to Thailand's seafood processing hubs in search of work. Police raids and first-hand reports of worker rights abuses, human trafficking and degraded working conditions continue to surface. Though Thailand has improved its anti-trafficking laws, its capacity for legal enforcement on the ground remains uneven or non-existent. The prevailing environment that encourages migrant worker abuse remains unaltered – migrants must navigate a web of unscrupulous labor agents and complicit employers in a legal environment that turns a blind eye to enforcement. This final point has become most notable as recent highly publicized legal cases have succeeded in getting some migrant worker victims a symbolic hearing, but without the convictions or criminal prosecutions needed to call abusive employers to task.

In 2008, the Solidarity Center published its second "Degradation of Work" report titled "The True Cost of Shrimp" focusing on workers' rights violations in the shrimp processing industry in both Thailand and Bangladesh. While research in Bangladesh focused on contract employment, women workers, and child labor, problems in the much larger Thai industry drew special attention to the role of migrant workers, mainly from nearby Burma.

Shrimp continues to be, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "the largest single commodity in value terms...of internationally-traded fishery products." The labor-intensive nature of shrimp processing and the specific number of individual complaints directed specifically at shrimp firms facilitated the report's focus. As the report notes, "orders are short-term, profits are tight, and downward pressure on costs is passed down to workers in the form of long hours, low pay, and lax health and safety standards." Yet the migrant worker abuses noted in the report are found in other forms of seafood processing, and are broadly the same abuses faced by thousands of migrants working in Thailand. These include unpaid wages, mandatory overtime work, unsafe and unhealthy workplaces, physical mistreatment of workers, sexual harassment, child labor, and abuses

that edge towards human trafficking – such as the removal of personal documents, coercion, debt bondage and forced labor.

Penetrating the Web of Labor brokers

The Solidarity Center-sponsored research and the research of other organizations, such as the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), have highlighted the key role of labor brokers in moving migrant workers into seafood jobs. A decades-long boom in inexpensive aquaculture techniques and a parallel rise in worldwide consumption have fueled a dramatic increase in labor demand. With cost pressure pushed down the global supply chain, local processors turn to agents for a supply of inexpensive workers. Research by a partner organization in the shrimp and seafood processing hub of Samut Sakhon has found that migrant labor smug-



gling is a well-developed industry. In addition to labor agents who direct workers to factories and boats, the network boasts a variety of job specializations including overseas money transfer agents, cross-border smugglers, health insurance/document agents, mediation (with the police) agents, loan sharks, and hospital-referral agents. A forthcoming Solidarity Center report on trafficking on Thai fishing boats notes that traveling with an agent improves the chances of a successful border crossing and placement in a job, but the high fees involved require either loans or an agreement to work off the debt. The paper quotes a 2007 UNIAP report on labor brokering noting that while some navigate the system successfully, "others find that the job awaiting them in Thailand is different from what they have been promised. In some cases, workers realize that they have in fact been "bought" by the employer.

Earlier this year, the Bangkok Post noted that little has changed for migrant workers in the Thai seafood industry since the Solidarity

Center's report. Migrant workers remain ignored in the policy arena while employers have few disincentives to exploit them. Workers in Samut Sakhon still note conditions such as 12 hour shifts, forced overtime work, low payment, and continuing complaints about harassment and extortion by employers, brokers, and corrupt authorities. While some industry groups in Thailand and the US requested more information, and others added migration status to their voluntary corporate standards, no effective change has been noted. A post-report inspection team tour of Samut Sakhon led to allegations of hasty temporary furloughs of illegal migrant workers. According to one shrimp peeler interviewed in 2009, the few inspection visits are always welcomed, because, "the owners turn the water and electricity back on."

While Thailand has passed tougher anti-trafficking laws, the political will to enforce these laws, and labor laws in general, is lost in the informal morass of labor smuggling and informal employment that has come to define work in Thailand's seafood industry. Meanwhile, stories of abuse and neglect continue to occur.

Failure to prosecute

In March 2008, a raid on a shrimp processing factory in Samut Sakhon led to a report of 300 Burmese migrants allegedly working in conditions "like a jail" according to one local activist. The Thai government moved 74 workers thought to have been trafficked to a shelter, but at the same time – according to the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report – detained a number of undocumented migrants from the factory who were "treated as criminals" despite having suffered under abusive working conditions. To date, no criminal charges have been filed against the company.

The 2008 raid followed two high-profile cases in 2006 that briefly raised international concerns about labor conditions in the seafood industry. The "Death Ships" case, where 39 members of a fishing fleet died when their boats were stranded at sea for three years, came to light in October 2006 when returned and surviving workers sued for back pay. The ensuing court case dragged out over a year.

After a public hearing, the survivors won a settlement of about \$150,000, or \$3900 each from the company. The settlement is on appeal and the workers still have not been paid.

A September 2006 raid at the Ranya Paew shrimp processing plant uncovered hundreds of workers trapped inside a factory, alleging extreme levels of abuse in addition to unsafe living and working conditions. Sixty-six workers were taken to a government shelter (22 were deported) where they successfully won a settlement from their former employer for roughly \$1600 each. While the factory owner was initially fined (~\$2100) for labor rights violations, a criminal investigation followed promptly. Three years later, however, no criminal charges have been filed in this case.

So, despite increased publicity of the plight of migrant workers in Thailand, the reality shows that without criminal investigation of

extreme workers' rights abuses such as trafficking, companies can simply continue their practice of delaying settlements and get back to 'business as usual.' The ability of corporate defendants to drag out cases over months and years effectively influences the system in their favor. Migrant workers have poor access to legal counsel and cannot afford to wait indefinitely in government shelters without income to support their families. Thus, the message to employers is clear: You may have to settle with the workers, but you won't be charged with a crime for even the worst abuses.

Will this broken record continue? A raid at a shrimp factory in Samut Sakhon on January 12, 2009 led to an initial report of 171 "arrested" migrant workers, including 19 children and 8 persons alleged to have been trafficked. Among the workers' allegations were: 19 hour shifts, 7-day work weeks, debt bondage, and wages of about 1000 baht (~\$30) per week, about 1/8 of the minimum wage. A few months later, the Solidarity Center received a report of another

raid on July 31 at another Samut Sakhon shrimp factory. Here, 52 migrant workers were brought to government shelters and the employers initially arrested. Workers alleged that they were not allowed to leave the worksite, paid low wages, and subjected to physical intimidation. Further legal action in both cases is in progress. Reports, studies, and media investigations will continue to raise awareness of the problems facing migrant workers in Thailand, especially in the seafood processing industry. Just a few weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Labor included the Thai shrimp industry in its 2009 report on products produced by child and forced labor. The continued failure to charge and fully prosecute wrongdoers denies justice to vulnerable migrants and constricts their ability to speak out publicly against the abuse.

¹ The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2008; FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome, 2009.

² UNIAP, "From Facilitation to Trafficking: Brokers and Agents in Samut Sakhon, Thailand," June 25, 2007, p. 3;

Unaccompanied Minors within the European Union



The Kingdom of Spain will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2010. Mr. Valentín Dueñas Jiménez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the EU, sat down with Anke Schuster from IOM Brussels to discuss the topic of unaccompanied minors within the European Union.

1. Why is the topic of the unaccompanied minors (UAMs) one of the top priorities for the Spanish Presidency?

In the last years, we have observed a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied minors (UAM) from outside the European Union arriving in different EU Member States irregularly. Their young age put them at a high risk of being exploited.

We have sound reasons to consider that the increase of minors being identified at the European ports is related to a higher efficiency of border control. The paradoxical effect of this higher efficiency is that trafficking networks are increasingly promoting the irregular entrance of unaccompanied minors as their repatriation is more difficult.

In the case of Spain, the number of UAMs has increased substantially in recent years. It's now not uncommon for groups of UAMs to arrive in fishing boats along the Spanish coast especially at the Canary Islands and Andalusia.

2. In your opinion, what are the biggest protection gaps/challenges for UAMs in Europe?

At the European level, we need to have a repatriation mechanism to countries of origin that takes the minor's best interest into consideration. We also need to have a better understanding of the scope of this problem through reliable statistics and the exchange of good practice between national services in charge of hosting UAMs to elaborate more efficient policies on the admission and protection afforded to unaccompanied minors within the territory.

Overall, we need to have a comprehensive approach that focuses on prevention and protection both in the countries of origin and destination, as well as an assisted repatriation of UAMs

How does the Spanish Presidency plan to address the protection gaps of UAMs in Europe, particularly those who have been trafficked?

Spain is convinced that the moment has come for the European Union to fundamentally re-examine this issue by revising and completing its existing legal and financial instruments.

To this end, Spain, during its Council Presidency in 2010, hopes to approve the action plan on unaccompanied minors elaborated during the last Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting, which took place on 21 September 2009.

Given the transnational character of migration of UAMs how can the EU work with third countries to ensure the best interest of the child?

The limited cooperation by countries of origin in identifying and localizing families and weak protection services afforded to vulnerable children

and families in these countries make even the most efficient policies very difficult to implement in practice.

With regards to prevention, it is necessary to fight against the trafficking networks, especially those that prey on minors. Furthermore, it is important to promote social and economic development in countries of origin through professional education.

With regards to protection, it is fundamental to raise awareness and promote the protection of minors in the countries of destination. Similar efforts are also needed to promote adequate protection to vulnerable children in countries of origin.

3. What lessons has Spain learned at the national level that will influence how it will handle the issue at the European level?

The issue of unaccompanied minors is definitely a problem shared with other Member States. The EU needs to be aware of the fact that as bilateral and EU readmission agreements facilitate the repatriation of adults, trafficking mafias will increasingly direct their attention towards UAMs as a new, lucrative and secure business. Spain is convinced that there is an added value in approaching this topic at a communitarian level.

Indeed, the presence of more than 5000 minors within the Union, gives added experience and insight on dealing with this issue.

In addition, in view of the upcoming Presidency, we consider it essential to associate and involve international organizations such as the IOM, UNICEF and other relevant international agencies in our work.

Human Trafficking in Mongolia and Potential Ways to Address the Problem

By Ganbayasgakh Geleg (Director of MGEC) translated by Enkhchimeg Sengee

In 1990, Mongolia shifted from Socialism to Democracy, and the state became open to the world. Mongolians became free to travel to other countries. Now, according to formal figures, approximately 130,000 Mongolians study, work, and live in foreign countries (according to informal statistics this number is more than 300,000).



The opening of the borders, unfortunately, has also had its negative consequences. In 1999, the first criminal case of trafficking involving two Mongolian nationals trafficked to the former Yugoslavia was registered by the Mongolian Embassy. According to the statistics of the Mongolian General Police, between 2002 and 2006, 15 criminal cases of trafficking in persons were registered but only two cases were adjudicated in the courts.

In 2008, evident improvements were made in the prosecution of human trafficking cases. Through the relentless efforts of NGOs, modifications were incorporated into Article 113 of the Mongolian Criminal Code – the Sale and Purchase of Humans – and the legal Interpretation from the Mongolian Supreme Court was developed. In the same year, Mongolia signed the UN Palermo Protocol. As a result of these reforms, six criminal cases of human trafficking have already been adjudicated since 2008. With assistance of lawyers and advocates of the Mongolian Gender Equality Center (MGEC), many of the victims involved in these cases received financial compensation, ranging from USD 5,800 awarded to one person and MNT 7.9 million (USD 5,524) awarded to a group of 33 victims.

In 2002, MGEC first began to focus on combating human trafficking when family members of the first Mongolian victims of trafficking to the Republic of Korea contacted the NGO. At that time, neither the Mongolian society nor officials at any level had an accurate understanding of trafficking in persons. MGEC staff faced major difficulties and criticism from Government officials in their efforts to protect victims' rights. MGEC was accused of 'protecting prostitutes', law enforcement didn't acknowledge the existence of human trafficking in Mongolia, and some even accused the NGO of profiteering.

From 2003-2006, MGEC assisted 25 victims of trafficking. Whilst between 2007 and 2009 (up to August), 236 trafficked persons have already been assisted by MGEC. As a result of cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) beginning in March 2007 and continuing to the present, MGEC has increased dissemination of information about the NGO and their services, and has expanded services to trafficked persons for the provision of multidisciplinary, integrated services, including *repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration*. Victims have been repatriated from the Republic of China, including mainland China and Macau SRA, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Republic of Korea. Victims, who have been trafficked within Mongolia, have also been identified; primarily underage girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.

However, identifying trafficked persons is still critical as victims are still fearful to appeal to legal authorities due to confidentiality issues, weak legal environment, lack of witness and victim protection during prosecution, and the length of the legal process, which can sometimes take up to two years. Additionally, professional and practical skills of officials in crime detection and investigation need to be improved.

In Mongolia, all identified victims who want support have received a wide range of assistance to help them get back to normal life. MGEC provides initial emergency assistance to victims of trafficking while concentrating on their longer term reintegration and rehabilitation in order to decrease the risks of

re-trafficking. The majority of victims identified are from poor or extremely poor families, some with no permanent home or living place and unemployed due to their low educational attainment. Many are lured by traffickers by their desire to earn enough money to purchase a flat by being hired in a well-paid job abroad.

To address the issue of sustainable accommodation, MGEC with the cooperation of IOM initiated the "Mongol Ger Approach" by providing victims and their families with traditional Mongolian housing. These traditional homes are inexpensive (*can be purchased and furnished for USD 1,500-2,000*) and can be put up on land provided to the victims by the State, allowing victims to realize their dream of owning their own home and in many cases, allowing victims to safely escape from abusive living environments. Clients who participated in this program stated that this program helped them in establishing a new beginning and was one of the most beneficial services they had received.



Some might think that the number of victims of trafficking in Mongolia is low. However, the number of victims assisted by MGEC has increased 10-fold in the last three years (2006-2009). If the total number of victims identified by law enforcement and NGOs is compared to the total Mongolian population of 2.7 million, one would definitely conclude that trafficking in persons within Mongolia and abroad is an evident and serious social problem. Therefore, for MGEC and other organizations', the vital task to address the problem is to establish a positive social and legal environment for trafficked persons.

Overcoming Trafficking in India: Entrepreneurs on the Road to Recovery

By P. Nagasayee Malathy, IOM Hyderabad, India

Trafficking in persons is a form of abusive and irregular migration for commercial sexual exploitation and other exploitative purposes such as begging, forced labour including domestic workers, organ transplant. In the past two decades it has reached alarming proportions on a global scale; especially within the South Asian Region. Across the region women, men, girls and boys are trafficked within their own countries or across international borders into what is essentially a clandestine slave trade.

The disparities of economic scales play an important role in the trafficking patterns of the country. In an effort to promote the economic rehabilitation for former victims of trafficking in India, a public private partnership (PPP) model was developed. Importantly, it brings together different stakeholders (NGOs, IOM, Technical Institutes, Corporate Partners, Government and Trafficking Survivors) with equal roles and responsibilities for the rehabilitation of former victims of trafficking.

The first PPP model was established in Hyderabad and brought together IOM, the LIGHT Foundation (the Corporate Social Responsibility wing of LANCO Infratech Limited; an Indian company in civil engineering) and GUIDE (an NGO focusing on women's empowerment and Trafficking and HIV and Aids) with the aim to identify former victims of trafficking and facilitate the selection of an economic activity for these beneficiaries to pursue.

At the end of the consultation process, the partnership group decided to set up two enterprises: the first entity, called EAZY CARRY, was set up to manufacture and personalize eco friendly shopping bags; and the second entity focuses on the running a mini-supermarket EAZY SHOP where groceries are sold along side other fast moving consumer goods. Within this partnership model, in consultation with the former victims themselves, LANCO provided the brand and logo promotion material for both activities. While IOM, together with LANCO, provided the financial resources to set up each enterprise.

Today, EAZY CARRY and EAZY SHOPPE are flourishing enterprises run and owned by former victims of trafficking with technical support from GUIDE NGO.



In August 2009, the two initiatives were registered under the MACS (Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act) Act allowing EAZY CARRY and EAZY SHOP to operate as legally recognized entities. The MACS act was passed in 1995 by Government of Andhra Pradesh to promote the voluntary formation of cooperative societies as accountable, competitive, self reliant business enterprises. Particular emphasis is also placed on the self reliant nature of business enterprises that are owned, managed and controlled by the economic and social betterment of its members. Hence, the victims of trafficking, with technical support from GUIDE NGO, were able to register their enterprises under the entity VASUDHA Mutually Aided Cooperative Society.

For EAZY CARRY and EASY SHOPPE, the MACS Act offered the opportunity to be recognised as general members of cooperative society without any reference to the trafficking experience or the labeling of the workers as victims of trafficking. This is considered as the step ahead in the mainstreaming of victims of trafficking back into society without being stigmatized.

Members of the MACS consider it a great privilege to be part of this project. One of the members' stated: "I never had any opportunity to visit a Bank. Now, I am signing cheques and the Bank Manager even greets me each

time I come in. Vasudha MACS has helped elevate my social status." Other members from the EAZY SHOPPE, in recognition of what Vasudha MACS has helped them achieve, also stated "the people who stigmatized us once are now visiting our Eazy shop and purchasing groceries and other household items from us. We feel proud to be part of the Vasudha MACS".

The chief functionary of GUIDE, Mr. B.V. Rao, adds in this context: "Hard work with unflinching determination never goes unrewarded. The survivors believed it, proved it and now declared it. We thank IOM and LANCO for the support in achieving this".

This is only the beginning. VASUDHA society still has a long way to go until it reaches its full economic sustainability. To that end, GUIDE will provide technical support for the coming years to train board members in functions such as social management and the conducting of general institutional meetings together with fundraising resources for economic activities necessary for future development and related activities. It is nevertheless clear that this initiative is set to go far.



For more information please contact:

P. Nagasayee Malathy – pnmalathy@iom.int and Ms. Kanchan SK, Programme Coordinator - E-mail : ksaikrishna@iom.int, IOM Hyderabad, India. Phone : +91-40-66106651.

Gap Inc.'s Approach against Human Trafficking

Overview by Lakshmi Bhatia, Director of Global Partnerships, Gap Inc. <http://www.gapinc.com/socialresponsibility/>

Gap Inc. is a leading global specialty retailer offering clothing, accessories and personal care products for men, women, children and babies under the Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, Piperlime and Athleta brand names operating more than 3,100 stores world wide. The company outsources its garment production to suppliers located throughout the world.

Gap started its internal social responsibility department in 1996, a time of epic shifts in child labor concerns. Its pro-active policies, on-site inspection of each prospective supplier, and ranking of suppliers by their social accountability compliance (along with Gap's product and quality criteria), were true innovations, emulated by few other branded apparel company.

"Acting in an ethical way is not only the right thing to do — it also unlocks new ways for us to do business better." Dan Henkle, SVP, Global Responsibility

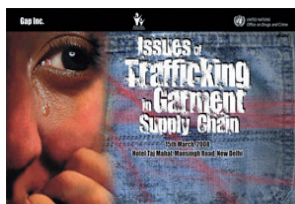
Gap's approach to social responsibility was put to the test in 2007 when Gap was informed by media about an allegation of child labor at a facility in India that was working on one product for Gap Kids.

An investigation was immediately launched by Gap. The company noted that a very small portion of a particular order placed with one of its vendors was apparently subcontracted to an unauthorized subcontractor, without the company's knowledge or approval in direct violation of the company's agreement with the vendor under its Code of Vendor Conduct.

Taking full responsibility for the incident, Gap cancelled the product order in question and ensured that the garment would never be sold, it then tied up with a child advocacy organization, BBA7, and the Indian government to ensure that the children found in the makeshift facility were cared for and reunited with their families; the embroidery subcontractor involved was immediately prohibited from any future Gap Inc. production.

With the aim of throwing light on the complexity of the issue of forced labour as well as the broader issue of trafficking in the supply chain, Gap Inc., in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNODC, organized a one day workshop to discuss the issue of 'trafficking in garment supply chain' on 15th March 2008.

Ms. Lakshmi Bhatia, Director Global Partnerships, Social Responsibility Gap Inc. in her welcome address mentioned that «Sharing some of the steps we are taking inside the company as well as in the industry will help enable greater transparency of how this sector operates and encourage others from the industry to collaborate in tackling the challenging issue of trafficking in the supply chain».



Over 120 representatives from the industry participated in this event. Brands agreed to provide support to vendors/con-

tractors in building their capacity to address the problem, and work with suppliers to facilitate the economic and social development of catchments areas from where labour requirements emerge. The constitution of a multi stakeholder 'Think Tank' with members representing the garment and textile industry, government, NGOs, and UN bodies was also set up by the government of India.

Gap also took other steps which included improved handwork supply chain tracking; Enhanced Monitoring through grants to local and global civil society organizations to develop a strategy and process for monitoring the working conditions under which handwork may be performed.

Gap Inc. has also engaged with the Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM), another

Indian-based NGO working on the rehabilitation and empowerment of trafficked and destitute women in the Mewat region of Haryana. This project is being co-ordinated by the Gap team in partnership with 'Impulse', a prominent buying house in India.

Though the project is only a few months old, the initial assessments has achieved important milestones. Most notably, this initiative has already increased the earnings of women workers in the region, well beyond minimum wage, and is helping to link them to the broader market in a significant way.

In its fight against trafficking, Gap Inc. has also joined hands with the 'End Human Trafficking Now' initiative undertaken by Suzanne Mubarak International Women's Peace Movement (SWIPM) <http://www.womenforpeaceinternational.org/en/index.aspx>. Gap Inc. is supporting the movement through various awareness raising initiatives and other supply chain activities.

Gap is also partnering with the Fashion Schools in India. Hundreds of students have now been sensitized to GAP- Pearl Academy of Fashion initiative: We Fight Human Trafficking. Several colleges around Delhi have also been contacted to spread the awareness around this issue. Gap's attempt is to ensure that the future entrants into the textile and garment sector are made aware of the issue of human trafficking in the supply chain and can therefore play a proactive role at fighting this scourge at various levels.

The scale and complexity of a global issue like human trafficking require a multi pronged approach at international, regional and local level. It is only by joining hands with all other like minded stakeholders from across various sectors that we can begin to make a serious dent on this issue which is unfortunately cited as being the third large industry in the world.

These are but a few steps we have taken on this journey within Gap, on what we believe are an increasingly critical issue that the entire world needs to urgently respond to.

Towards EU Global Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

To mark the third annual EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the Swedish Presidency of the European Union is hosting a Ministerial Conference entitled "Towards EU Global Action against Trafficking in Human Beings" on 19 and 20 October 2009 at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels, Belgium. The Conference plans to discuss and review global efforts designed to combat trafficking in human beings by enhancing coordination and cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination. The main purpose of the Conference is to achieve a political commitment on the next steps forward according to the lessons and best practices learnt.

The Conference will bring together a number of Ministers from EU Member States, Eastern and Southern EU Neighbourhood Countries,



Transatlantic Partners and from selected Asian, African and South American Countries. In an effort to bring all relevant stakeholders together to identify practices and recommendations on how to best prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, European Commissioners, representatives from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Frontex, Eurojust and Europol, as well as directors of Intergovernmental and Non Governmental Organizations will also participate in this Conference.

The two day event also aims to facilitate the elaboration of an Action Oriented Paper (AOP) on the

external dimension of EU justice and home affairs policies on trafficking in human beings. The AOP, scheduled to be adopted by the EU Council of Ministers in its last meeting under the Swedish Presidency, end of November 2009, will also include an integrated compendium of external actions as well as cooperation measures on countering trafficking in human beings and addressing the root causes of human trafficking in the countries of origin.

Conference materials can be found at IOM's Vienna website: <http://www.iomvienna.at/>

For more information on the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, please visit the Presidency's website: <http://www.se2009.eu/>

Publications

A Summary of Challenges on Addressing Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in the Agricultural Sector in the OSCE Region (OSCE)



The third Occasional Paper of the OSCE (Organization and Co-operation in Europe) focuses on agriculture, the second largest employment sector of

the OSCE region. The summary provides an analysis of the current challenges within this sector, aiming to assist the identification of structural issues and deficits of this sector that cause or exacerbates a worker's vulnerability. The report sheds light on a sector in which workers are commonly exploited, but are often out of sight.

The paper is available online at: http://www.osce.org/publications/cthb/2009/07/38709_1338_en.pdf

Shake Girl edited by Adam Johnson and Tom Kealey



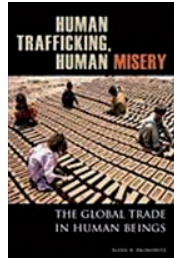
Shake girl is a graphic novel about violence against women in Cambodia produced by fourteen students of the Stanford Graphic Novel Project who wrote, illustrated, and designed the novel in six weeks time.

The creation of Shake Girl was based on a series of true events that have happened to real women among others researched and co-edited by Eric Pape, journalist of the Newsweek.

The novel is available online at: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/cwstudents/shakegirl/>

Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings by Alexis A. Aronowitz (ger Publishers)

The publication takes a global perspective in examining the "nefarious underworld" of human trafficking, revealing the nature and extent of the harm caused by this practice. Thereby the author draws from her own field experiences in various parts of the world. Taking a victims-oriented approach, the book examines the criminals and criminal



organizations that traffic and exploit their victims, moreover it focuses on the different groups of victims as well as the various forms of and markets for trafficking, such as exploitation in agriculture, construction, fishing, manu-

Available from Praeger Publishers online at: <http://www.praeger.com/catalog/C9481.aspx>

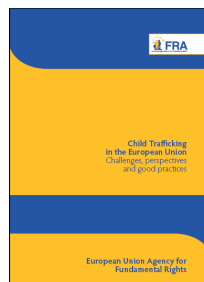
Training manual to fight trafficking in children for labour, sexual and other forms of exploitation (UN.GIFT)



This training manual – developed by ILO and UNICEF under the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) – seeks to aid governments, workers, employers, international, and non-governmental organizations that combat trafficking in children for labour, sexual and other exploitation.

The manual is available online at: http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/CP_Trg_Manual_Textbook_3.pdf

Child Trafficking in the European Union – Challenges, Perspectives and Good Practices (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights)



The report focuses on the substantial number of children that fall victim to trafficking for sexual exploitation or other purposes in the European Union (EU) every year. Regarding an extremely low numbers of convictions in child trafficking cases, the report finds overall that the EU must do more to address the issue. Therefore, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) calls for better legislation to combat child trafficking, particularly for the improvement of the protection and care for victims, in particular.

The report is available online at : http://bim.lbg.ac.at/files/sites/bim/Pub_Child_Trafficking_09_en.pdf.pdf

Events

La Strada International NGO platform meeting, November Berlin, Germany

On 9 and 10 November the 4th La Strada International (LSI) NGO platform meeting will take place in Berlin, Germany, organized together with the German hosting organization, Ban Ying. The main focus of this year's NGO platform is put on standards and agreements, set services and to look critically at the La Strada's position as a non-governmental organization. LSI will invite up to 30 European anti-trafficking NGO representatives, next to La Strada member organizations, as well as LSI advisory council members and representatives of international anti-trafficking (and related) networks and organizations.

To receive more information please contact Bobby Gerasimov at LSI, at bg@lastradainternational.org.

New Approaches Towards Human Trafficking in the EU: Raising Awareness and Developing Integrated Action.

On 18 November, in order to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive and integrated solutions to tackling human trafficking, the Centre for Parliamentary Studies will host the first event of a series of international conferences aimed at raising awareness of this 'hidden' crime. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

The event is available online at: <http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/9K18-PPE.php>

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17 Route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 19- Switzerland
Tel: +41/22 717 91 11

To subscribe please send an email to globaleye@iom.int