

## THEMES 2006 - 2007



# Trafficking

**In Women and Children**  
To fight against the demand for trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation.

# Water

To respect water, gift of Creation, for everyone.





## TRAFIC

*This year, we will be addressing the theme “trafficking of women” for the third consecutive year. This topic fits well with the spirit of the orientations of the General Chapters, which have invited the SSA’s to “open their heart to **liberate life** “. The theme will be considered under another aspect this year, that of the **demand**.*



*To date, our efforts have been concentrated on assistance to victims. It would be naive to think that the war has been won, far from it. However, awareness has been created worldwide to put in place means that will ensure, more and more, the security and the protection of victims both at the level of government authorities and social organizations. But another aspect, which enters into consideration in the action against human trafficking, is that of fighting against the demand. Can we do something in this sense or is it a lost cause? “The good news” as Derek Ellemenan, author of the Polaris Project site would say, “is that this struggle can be won”. There is a glimmer of hope that prompts us to pray and to consider this other aspect of trafficking in order to unite our efforts with so many other people and organizations such as Unanima and CATHII, who are working at eradicating this curse. To initiate our research, “Just News” looks at who are the traffickers and who are the clients.*

### Traffickers :



Traffickers are those who recruit, transport, receive and exploit victims. In order to do so, they often resort to force, threats or other mechanisms of control. They are sometimes found in decentralized criminal networks or professional criminal groups. Some operate internationally and others within their own countries.



The main factors that motivate the traffickers to get into this type of commerce are **high profits** and **low risks**. This combination

explains the expansion of human trafficking making it the fastest growing criminal industry in today’s world. Only the trafficking of weapons and drugs surpasses it. It is relatively easy for criminals to get into this industry. In fact, the capital required is not high and few skills are required to generate profits. In many cases, traffickers only need to exploit vulnerable persons, and also wish to exploit the huge demand that exists for this type of trafficking.

### Clients :

There are different strategies to change the equation “low risk, high benefit” which, in a way, constitutes the key to change the dynamic of the market in human trafficking. One of these strategies is the eradication of the demand that allows the industry to run.

But, who creates the demand? The demand is created by

- clients who buy the products and services ;
- persons of the human trafficking industry in the case of the sex industry.

Trafficking refers to forced-labour as well as sexual exploitation. That is, clients could both designate enterprises that sub-contract to clandestine workshops (sweatshops) and the persons who buy, or consume cheap merchandises produced by the work of persons who have been trafficked.

The **search for profit** is what creates the demand.



Some of these clients are well aware of the exploitative nature of their actions, but perhaps others may have omitted inquiring about the source of the products they buy... In the international context, a few countries gain from an increase of income tax revenues from the fruits of sexual tourism while others gain from revenues associated with the exploitation of victims of human trafficking within their own boundaries. The search for profit can lead to anything...

A strategy focussing on demand seems to be an essential component of a long-term systemic approach. This strategy consists of 2 aspects one of which is the sensitization the problem of human trafficking. For example, last spring, during the World Cup Soccer Game, the French Government Services for youth and sports reacted because they were worried about prostitution in Germany and the possible emergence of a network of human trafficking. They broadcasted a message on the French radio asking the supporters of the French team to be vigilant while in Germany.

Transmitting to others the information that we receive is surely within our range: but these two ways of sensitizing others only have one objective: to eradicate the demand.

The other aspect of this strategy consists of imposing court penalties. This solution is certainly not accessible to all, but it is important. Should we not remind our governments from time to time?

However, there is a strategy that we can have recourse to as often as we wish: prayer. Pray so that



- the clients will discover the grandeur of every human being and learn that they cannot be used as merchandise, and that these clients will become aware of the evil generated by their selfish actions;
- those who have the responsibility to legislate and to see that laws are respected will be made aware of the harmful consequences of a work that only considers profit making to the detriment of the grandeur of the human being.

***Is there not plenty of work  
for the SSA's  
who work  
in different ways  
at "liberating life" ...?***

To liberate life, is also to liberate creation! For many years now, the Congregation has been concerned about ecology and the protection of the environment. This year, we are invited to mobilize in order to protect water, our Sister!



## ***WATER***

- Why do we have to mobilize for water today?
- Because there is a WATER crisis!
- What is the crisis due to?
- A few say that it is because of the scarcity of water and overpopulation. Others say that it is due to poor distribution, waste, lack of respect for water in our capitalist and consumer society. Others believe that it is due to the privatization of water and supply services.
- Privatization of water ? Does this mean that we will now have to buy water? I thought water was a public good that belonged to everyone.
- You are right: every citizen has the inborn right to water as well as health and education. Access to a fundamental right that is so sacred is not a question of choice but a right. And to defend this right, we have to mobilize now. There is little time left because drinking water has become a rare commodity today.
- In fact, I read in the newspapers lately that almost 98% of the water on our planet earth is salt water, unfit for consumption. Less than 1% of drinking water remains available for use. (UNEP, Look at the worldwide environment). In other words, there is less than a teaspoon of drinking water fit for human consumption in a hundred liters of water.
- Recent estimates foresee that climate change will make up for 20% of the lack of water worldwide (UN report on Water Development in the World. ) Other factors leading to water shortage are:
  - a) the degradation of water power stations, rivers, humid zones and bays;
  - b) unequal distribution ;
  - c) conflicts between borders;
  - d) privatizations.
- In the article you gave me, it is said that between now and the year 2025, the lack of water will cause a global ANNUAL loss of 350 million tons of food production, that is more than the annual crop of wheat in the United States.  
(Taken from a document prepared by the Working Group of Promoters of JPIC' Rome, Italy - June 2003)
- Why not reflect together on one aspect or the other of these facts that threaten water ?

***How do we contribute to the  
"problem of water"  
in our milieu?***



???

Work has already been undertaken in all the provinces to take action to respect water.

March 22nd is World Water Day and the SSA of St. Joseph Province united with people throughout Canada and the world in publicly stating their concern over issues of safe water. Sister Sheila Moss wrote us :

“We are aware that :

- one on six people do not have access to clean water;
- every fourteen seconds someone dies from contaminated water;
- increasingly people are being asked to pay for the privilege of access to water;
- water as become a pivotal issue for social justice groups, environmental groups and civic society in general.”

In Victoria, several sisters joined in the walk from the parliament buildings to City Hall where talks were given on the theme.

In Kelowna, the local Kairos group, an ecumenical social justice network, organized a walk from the lake to City Hall where City Council was invited to sign a proclamation on water in the hope of bringing attention to this crucial issue. Kairos members carried signs and jars of water and were accompanied by the Raging Granies. At City Hall, Sister Sheila Moss acted as MC introducing the ritual and the city councillor who read the Water proclamation for the Kelowna District.



Sister Sheila Moss

**Deadline for articles  
for next bulletin :  
November 23.**

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