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Ending Violence Against Women and Children MAY 2010 BULLETIN

We hope you all had a wonderful and meaningful Mother's Day! We had planned on getting this bulletin out before Mother's Day but some unforeseen issues prevented that from happening. Nonetheless, every day throughout the year is a celebration of Mothers all over the world and we wish you a very happy (belated) Mother's Day and hope that each and every one of you are pampered each and every single day!

"Coming Soon"

To a website near you . . . !

A plethora of information on Modern-Day Slavery

2010 began with a bang for the fight against human trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.

In January, President Obama declared the entire month as "Human Trafficking Prevention Month".

In February an unprecedented event took place where 600 churches and ministries around the world sang, proclaimed, prayed and acted in opposition to human trafficking.

In March, 200 advocates ascended upon Capitol Hill to support legislation that would block imported goods if they are produced under exploitation.

While this year has been off to a stellar start, we still have a very long way to go.

Indeed, the new year has been full of ideas, invigoration and . . . as it always goes, a fair share of challenges. Some big, some small and some, while seemingly insurmountable, have proven to require

**Say NO -
UNiTE to
End Violence
Against
Women**

**Support
IVAWA**

The International Violence against Women Act (IVAWA)*, a landmark legislation on ending violence against women, has been introduced in the United States Congress. The bill, if passed, will impact millions of women and girls worldwide by including solutions to address violence against

a little extra "gear" to climb those mountains.

But, as Marvin Gaye and Tammy Terrell told us, "Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough, ain't no river wide enough to keep me from gettin' to you" . . . a website!

My Co-Chair has been extremely gracious and patient in waiting for me to complete my website dedicated to Modern Day Slavery and I am forever grateful to her. Amidst familial crises, technical issues and all out computer failures, the dream is still alive and well, but derailed for just a bit longer.

I wanted to give you this update as I am hoping the site will be ready to go live within a few weeks, at which time we will send out a special update so that you can take a look and, hopefully, get inspired to not only learn more about the modern day slave trade, but to find creative ways to get involved!

If you would like to get more involved with the fight against Modern Day Slavery or our task force, please contact us at endingviolence@fawco.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tonya Teichert

Ending Violence Against Women and Children Task Force Co-Chair

Honor your Mom and Support ECPAT-USA's Work to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation.

Even though the "official" Mother's Day has passed, you can still celebrate and honor your mother, and mothers all over the world, by supporting those community and grass roots organizations that work to provide better lives for women and children throughout the world.

This year, the focus was on the efforts of ECPAT-USA to protect children from sexual exploitation around the world.

ECPAT was initially organized as the Campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism by a group of NGO workers and other concerned individuals in Asia. However, by 1996, the rapid international growth of commercial sexual exploitation of children demanded a much different response.

Subsequently, ECPAT widened its scope to form a network of

women and girls in US foreign assistance programmes.

This is your chance to have a say- Sign the IVAWA petition and urge the US Congress to pass this bill; let your friends and networks know that they can help by adding their names here.

[SayNoToViolence!](#)

The IVAWA would translate into increased US investment in local women's groups and programmes that promote women's access to economic opportunity and education, address violence against women and girls in humanitarian situations, improve legal accountability and aim at changing public attitudes towards the issue. Listen to the voices of women on the ground about why IVAWA matters to them.

UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador and Say NO Spokesperson, Nicole Kidman applauded the efforts that have gone into the drafting of IVAWA and emphasized, "The IVAWA, when passed, will be a beacon, lighting the way forward in other countries. I urge you to say NO to violence against women by supporting the IVAWA. Partners of Say NO have given us new tools and ways that each of you can

organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world.

So, since women and children are the primary victims of this vicious cycle, what better organization to support Mother's Day? Here are three simple ways you can make a significant difference:

- **Tag a Bag to End Child Sex tourism.** Be a part of ECPAT-USA's TassaTag Project with your TassaTag...a big, bright, beautiful, fair trade over sized luggage tag ...that helps you see your luggage more easily and be a visible voice against this atrocity to our children. Tassatags are the perfect gift to yourself and for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation and Bon Voyage this summer. Together we can all make a difference. Visit [Tassatag](#) to buy.
- Give **The Body Shop's** special edition of Soft Hands, Kind Heart Hand Cream. At least \$6 from each purchase goes directly to ECPAT USA as part of The Body Shop 'Stop Sex Trafficking of Children & Young People' campaign, which helps provide protection and care to children and young people trafficked or at risk. This global campaign aims to inspire long term change, to stop the unimaginable abuse which affects millions of children and young people around the world. Visit [The Body Shop](#) or visit your local The Body Shop store to purchase.
- **Make a donation**, in honor of your mother, to help a young victim of human trafficking visit her mother. They have been separated for twelve years. Read the sad but ultimately uplifting story about [Sara](#) on their Facebook "Causes" page. Donate through the Cause or by sending a check to "ECPAT-USA", 157 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11215. Write "Sara's Story" on the memo line of the check.

Regardless of how you celebrated your Mother on her special day, please remember that even a small gesture can still make a huge difference in the lives of so many others.

Hope You Had a Very Happy Mother's Day!!

**The World Cup Should Be About
The Game . . . NOT the Girls!**

have a say - sign the IVAWA petition today."

For more ideas on how you can support the IVAWA, check out the resources offered by Women Thrive Worldwide, Amnesty International USA and the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

AODVC News

AODVC and FAWCO are continuing to collaborate on the Global Campaign to Empower Americans Abused Abroad. Training and informational sessions were held in Shanghai on April 29 and May 2, and in Beijing on May 8. Sessions are also being planned for India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Korea later this year.

AODVC is also doing it's annual fund-raising drive - Minutes for Moms - every donation helps!!

[Click here for more information.](#)

On Capitol Hill, AODVC has been hard at work and now has 3 congresspeople and 1 senator sponsoring a bill to include Americans overseas in the re-authorization of VAWA (the Violence Against Women Act) as well as

An international network of women's religious orders has launched a worldwide awareness campaign aimed at preventing human trafficking during the June 11-July 11 World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa.

The campaign titled, "2010 Should Be About the Game," has been targeting fans, religious leaders, potential victims of trafficking and the general public -- warning them about the risks and urging them to spread the word.

Using the 2010 World Cup to exploit vulnerable women, children and men for slave labor, the sex industry or the drug trade is "an outright perversion of the spirit and ethical dimension of sport as well as of the idea and dignity of the human person," said Salesian Sister Bernadette Sangma.

Sister Sangma, who coordinates the anti-trafficking project of the International Union of Superiors General, and others spoke at a Vatican news conference May 6.

A similar anti-trafficking campaign coordinated by the superiors general and the International Organization for Migration was highly successful during the 2006 World Cup in Germany, said Stefano Volpicelli, a migration office official who has been working with the sisters.

Fewer than 10 cases of human trafficking were discovered in the run-up to and during the month-long games in 2006, he said.

The campaign was successful, he said, because intense media attention to the problem led German authorities to take proper precautions, including tightening border controls and increasing police presence and inspections on the local level. [Read the entire article here.](#)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS OKAYS FEMALE CIRCUMCISION?

Group Backs Ritual 'Nick' as Female Circumcision Option Then Retracts

[Female genital cutting or mutilation, also](#)



getting materials into the American citizens services section of the Embassies for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking organizations serving Americans overseas.

Finally, we are pleased to share the news that AODVC recently received the National Crime Victim Service Award for extraordinary efforts in direct service to crime victims. In just a few short years, this small, grass-roots effort has turned into an organization that is now recognized world wide as the leading entity serving abused Americans and their children overseas.

[known as "female circumcision"](#) is a long-standing practice of many cultures that has had devastating affects on the lives of millions of young girls worldwide.



Those who have been forced to endure this ritualistic "rite of passage" into womanhood are left scarred, both physically and emotionally, for the rest of their lives.

While we may think that this is something that happens "somewhere else" it has been occurring in the US for many years, primarily within African and Asian sub-cultures. Mostly performed in basements and backrooms, the conditions are unclean, and a little girl is forcibly held down by family members and has her genitals mutilated all to keep her 'pure' for her future husband.

Female Genital Cutting - not even a "nick"

In an effort to reduce the physical and psychological damage this practice causes, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently suggested a ritual "nick" as an alternative to circumcision, though has since [rescinded](#) this suggestion in the face of overwhelming international criticism.

Though a 1996 US law clearly bans the practice of female genital cutting, the bioethics committee of the AAP, in their review of a [1998 policy](#) condemning female genital mutilation , suggested that American doctors be given permission to perform a ceremonial pinprick or "nick" on girls from these cultures if it would keep their families from sending them overseas for the full circumcision.

This committee said that some pediatricians had suggested that current federal law, which "makes criminal any nonmedical procedure performed on the genitals" of a girl in the United States, has had the unintended consequence of driving some families to take their daughters to other countries to undergo mutilation.

However, multiple organizations, such as [Intact America](#) and [Equality Now](#) were verbal in their criticism of this revised policy, and the AAP listened.

"We retracted the policy because it is important that the world health community understands the AAP is totally opposed to all forms of female genital cutting, both here in the U.S. and anywhere else in the world. We're saying don't do it. Do everything that you can to support that family in this tough time, but don't be pulled into the procedure," said AAP President Judith S. Palfrey.

"I cried and told them how grateful I am," said Soraya Mire, a Somali filmmaker and survivor of female genital cutting. "Thank you for understanding us survivors and hearing our voices."

For more information on this story, please see the following articles from the [L.A. Times](#), [Psychology Today](#) and [CNN](#).

For us, this story raises multiple questions ...

What is the balance between respecting other cultures' and religions' practices and protecting individuals?

What are the best ways to enact lasting change in policies such as female genital mutilation that are devastating to women around the globe?

Should we even be condoning the widespread practice of male circumcision, required by Jewish and Muslim religions and practiced for 'hygiene' reasons' in the U.S.?

Please share your reactions and thoughts about this with us at endingviolence@fawco.org.

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www.fawco.org

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