

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

March 2009



UN Millennium Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2009

Each year, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8th. Hundreds of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Various organizations, governments and women's groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues.



The global theme for each year is completely up to each country and group. Keeping in mind our 2008-2009 focus of "Human Trafficking" we will use the theme selected by the United Nations: "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls."

CONFERENCE- "GLOBAL DISCONNECTS: THE INTERNET AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING"

As the internet has become more and more a part of everyday life, the conference presenters focused on two questions:

- How is the internet used as a tool for violence, for the trafficking and sexual exploitation of people, especially women and girls?
- How can it be a tool for social change to counter violence?

The internet is increasingly used to facilitate the trafficking of persons both within the U.S and globally. One of the examples given at the conference was "Craigslist" a popular website that posts housing, household items, etc. There is, however, a dark side. In the "Erotic" section, human traffickers have found Craigslist to be one of the most efficient, effective (and free!) ways to post children and women for sale. A campaign



has been organized by anti-human trafficking advocates to have this site implement stronger safeguards and monitoring procedures. Although Craigslist states via its feedback forum that it welcomes ideas for improvement, when confronted by anti-human trafficking advocates, the policy is to ignore or deny that it is a source of human trafficking and exploitation of children. Presenters at the conference expressed that Craigslist is one of the prime offenders, and shared shocking stories of trafficking taking place on this site. For more information regarding the 'Craigslist Campaign' and how you can join with other advocates go to <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org>

Opposition to internet trafficking is not opposition to the internet, but rather to its use as a conduit to trafficking human beings. One of the conference presenters, Laura Lederer, said it well: "Our role is to make the harm visible." You can find more information on the conference and the work of the End Trafficking Coalition at: www.eitcoalition.org



SAVE THE DATE June 20, 2009



Modern Day Slavery – Human Trafficking: An informational day to raise our awareness of human trafficking, and discuss ways to support survivors of human trafficking, sponsored by Sisters of the Holy Family and the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose.

WORLD WATER DAY – March 22

International Water Day is held annually as a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh water and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This year (2009), attention will be called to the waters that cross borders and link us together. With every country seeking to satisfy its water needs from limited water resources, some foresee a future filled with conflict. But history shows that cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response to trans-boundary water management issues. We all can make a difference as we share the responsibility for managing the world's trans-boundary water for current and future generations. What will be your response?

WHETHER WE LIVE UPSTREAM OR DOWNSTREAM,
WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT



HOPE FOR THE PLANET

What are your eco-friendly resolutions during Lent? How about getting unplugged? Unplug any electrical appliance you're not using to save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and some cash. "Energy vampires" that should be disconnected when not in use include phone chargers, computers, TVs, DVRs, hair dryers, and microwaves."

EARTH HOUR -MARCH 26

Lights Out: Hundred of thousand of people across the globe have already signed up to flip the switch for Earth Hour 2009. Last year's event was the largest voluntary power-down ever: More than 50 million people in 35 countries turned off their lights for 60 minutes. The campaign started in Sydney in 2007. That year the city's carbon consumption dropped by more than 10 percent during Earth Hour. If Sydney maintained that level of energy reduction year-round, it would be the equivalent of taking almost 50,000 cars off the road.



To pledge your participation sign up at www.earthhour.org and on March 26, go dark between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Host a screening of "Fighting Goliath".

This is an important film about grassroots opposition to the construction of 10 new Texas coal plants in 2007. This version of the film includes exclusive additional footage highlighting the involvement of faith communities. To borrow this DVD, contact: Sister Elaine at shfems@sbcglobal.net or 510-512-0089.

"Everything we are, have ever been, or hope to be is rooted in the moment when time and space began. . . . Because all life is part of this single cosmic event, all life is connected at its most basic level."

Judy Cannato.



EARTH DAY 2009 will mark the beginning of the "Green Generation Campaign." Watch for more information in our April 2009 ISSUES and ACTION.

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee