

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

February, 2005



"To be a human being means to be endowed, as the U.S. Declaration of Independence says, with certain 'inalienable rights.'

*Freedom of speech, of religious expression, of association;
freedom from slavery, tyranny, oppression - these and
many others are our human birthright."*

(Peace Book, pg. 101)

February is *Black History* Month

"February 1st is
National Freedom Day.
The purpose of this
day is "to promote
good feelings, harmony
and equal opportunity"

Richard R. Wright

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and on February 1, 1865, he signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing - **SLAVERY**

With this Amendment slavery was no longer to exist.
The reality is **SLAVERY CONTINUES TODAY.**

Modern day slavery is known as TRAFFICKING.

Trafficking involves the transporting and/or trade of people - women, children, and men - for the purpose of placing them into slavery conditions.

It is estimated that 30 million people may be living in bondage. Currently, there are more slaves alive TODAY than all the people stolen from Africa in the time of the transatlantic slave trade says Kevin Bales, author of *Disposable People*.

WHY? WHY WOULD TRAFFICKING EXIST TODAY? MONEY is one reason. Employees are costly - It's a lot cheaper to steal labor than to pay or maintain employees. The trafficked person is and can be eliminated when no longer "cost effective." They are disposable.

A recent joint study by the Human Rights Center at UC Berkeley and Free the Slaves on trafficking in the United States found that California has one of the highest incidences of trafficking in the country. The U.S. Department of Justice informs us that women and children comprise the majority of trafficked victims. This report estimates that between 300,000 and 400,000 American children, as young as four years old, are victims of sexual exploitation. (US Department of Justice 2001 Report and the Victims of Trafficking Report).

“Human Trafficking has reached epic proportions, and is growing faster than any other criminal industry in the world.”
(Assemblywoman Sally J. Lieber, D-San Jose)

*Assemblywoman
Sally J. Lieber
introduced measure
AB22 to make
Human Trafficking,
sexual slavery and
forced labor, a
felony in California.*

Q. What can “WE” do?

A. Stay informed. Below are web sites that can keep you updated.

- * Purchase “Fair Trade” products that do not exploit poor farmers or enslave children for their labor.
- * Request these products if they are not available at your retailers.



THIS IS A START

Websites: www.humanrights@care2.com (keeps you updated on fair trade products and issues.)
www.stoptrafficking.org (anti-human trafficking newsletter)
www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic/ (provides links and fact sheets on human trafficking)
www.freetheslaves.net (free the slaves - slavery today)