

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

*February 2006*



***“IF I HAD TO PINPOINT THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE I HAVE LEARNED IN MY LIFE, IT WOULD BE THAT LOVE IS THE MOST POWERFUL HEALING FORCE ON EARTH, AND IT IS AVAILABLE TO US ALL.”***

Coretta King

In February we celebrate events that remind us of our heritage and special people; for example:

- \* Valentine’s Day
- \* Black History and
- \* President’s Day

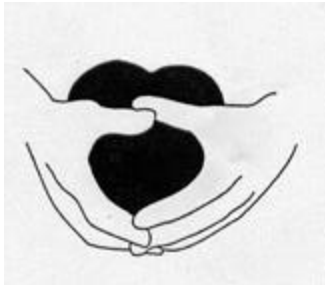
In February 2005, we addressed TRAFFICKING, the new slavery, the exploitive business of selling men, women and children into forced labor or prostitution. February 2006, we are addressing LOVE, and asking ourselves the question posed by singer, Tina Turner, in the song, “WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?” These words prompt us to find an answer to her question. St. Paul replies, “If I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but am without love, then I am nothing at all.” (1Corinthians13:3)

## A LOVE STORY

This story began as most similar cases do with a promise of legitimate employment outside the Ukraine that turned into a nightmare of forced prostitution for seven women. Unlike most similar cases, it ended relatively quickly with freedom, thanks to a flurry of love, communications and actions taken by their families and private voluntary organizations who urged governmental involvement. Active involvement, love, was the action that made the difference in these women’s lives.

The “love action” constantly asks and urges us to... “give the extra yard, give the extra effort, push yourself a little harder, strive to enrich your life and that of everyone you come in contact with.” Harvey Mackay

We, as community, have taken that extra step in our corporate stance to support and live the Earth Charter, (Annual Assembly, 2005), and are daily reminded that:



*“The Earth is a living organism with its own consciousness. By treating the Earth as a living organism we must follow the commandment to RESPECT AND PROTECT ALL LIFE. In doing so the Earth becomes strong and healthy and all species of life on the Earth also thrive.”* ([earthrespect.com](http://earthrespect.com))

So once again we should ask ourselves...

WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

EVERYTHING!!!

submitted by: The Social Concerns Committee