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THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

EXTRA SERIES 17

Proceedings of the Seminar on

Trafficking with a Special Focus on Children

Casina Pio IV, Vatican City, 27 April 2015

Trafficking with a Special Focus on Children



THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
VATICAN CITY



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OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

I would like to welcome you all to the Casina Pio IV, headquarters of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. My special greeting goes to Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden and to Ambassador Lars-Hjalmar Wide and I would also like to thank Cardinal Peter Turkson, who is here to represent the Holy See. Today we also have the honour of the presence of the two Presidents of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Margaret Archer, and of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Professor Werner Arber.

We are well aware of Her Majesty's longstanding commitment – and that of her country – in the fight against human trafficking, in particular of children.

We are also following very closely the Swedish Model of legislation, which, for the first time, criminalizes the clients of prostitution. We are delighted with its vastly recognised success.

Pope Francis considers human trafficking, prostitution and forced labour as forms of modern slavery and crimes against humanity. In 2013 he sent me a brief note indicating that the Academy should focus its studies precisely on this topic. Since then, we have come a long way. Just last week we came back to the subject during our Plenary Session and I am sure that Margaret Archer will mention the recommendations and conclusions that came out of it. I therefore consider today's workshop as a decisive step in our commitment to Pope Francis and to all the world's people to eradicate these horrendous crimes. It is our intention to

understand every aspect of them in detail and to help find the best practices to combat them.

We consider Queen Silvia, the people who have come with her and the representatives of our Academies here today the most authoritative figures to teach us about these crimes. I thus declare the workshop open, in the hope that we will arrive at a decisive contribution for the service of humanity and thank Her Majesty for choosing this venue to spread the word about her work in this field.

✦ MARCELO SÁNCHEZ SORONDO

Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING – HOW TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS

HM QUEEN SILVIA OF SWEDEN

Eminences,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Let me first of all say how pleased I am to be here, invited by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. It is especially nice to be in the historic Casina Pio IV, in the midst of the splendid Vatican Gardens, on a beautiful spring day like today.

We are gathered to discuss one of His Holiness' priorities and one of the major challenges to our society, how to combat human trafficking. In particular, how to safeguard the rights of child victims of trafficking.

In his message on The World Day of Peace His Holiness said:

We ought to recognize that we are facing a global phenomenon which exceeds the competence of any community or country. In order to eliminate it, we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself.

We all need to make our contributions to these efforts.

When I founded World Childhood Foundation 16 years ago, it was with a strong feeling that I really wanted to do some-

thing for the most vulnerable children around the world. I shall confess that I, at the time, did not know exactly how my contribution would take form, what challenges it would entail, or how difficult it would be. I, as many others, thought that it would be fairly non-controversial to side with the most vulnerable children. I thought that to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation would be something everyone would want to subscribe to. I was wrong.

My first challenge had to do with child pornography. Today it seems quite obvious that no one should have the right sell or to download child pornographic material to their private computer. But in the early years of Childhood this was not so obvious. There were many protests in Sweden where people were of the opinion that a law that would prohibit possession of child pornography would also go against freedom of speech and would boarder on state censorship. In the debate that followed I was absolutely astonished that it was so easy to put adult's rights before that of the child. Especially as this so clearly involved children who were exposed to the worst form of exploitation.

And unfortunately this is not uncommon. Time and again we are given proof of how young children, and sometimes babies, are being used for sexual purposes. Be it child pornography or trafficking. And still – we are discussing children's rights. They should not have to be discussed – they should be clear and absolute. They should be indisputable.

Last year, the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated 25 years. A convention that has been signed by all countries in the world, except for two. It is safe to say that the whole world agrees to the principles of basic human rights for children. And yet, we are still fighting. Fighting for the right of children to not be beaten, fighting for the right of children to be listened to, fighting for the right of children to receive equal

education, regardless of gender. And most of all, fighting for the right of children to not be treated as possessions and commodities and protect them from child labour. We are still fighting. And today, more than quarter of a century later, we are discussing how to protect the rights of children who have been sold into sexual slavery and exploitation. I would have wished that this would not need to be discussed at all, but rather something of the past.

But reality is seldom what we wish for. It is estimated that some 1.2 million children are subject to commercial sex trade globally, but the numbers may be higher. It is estimated that approximately 21 million people are subject to trafficking each year and although this is not only for sexual purposes, we can assume that many of these are children 18 years of age and under. Some even suggest that 50% of that number consists of children. We shall of course see to the rights of all these people, but we must first and foremost make sure that the children, who are our responsibility, are being protected.

So how can this be done? First of all we must make sure that we break the vicious circle. While aiding and protecting the children who are already victims, we must simultaneously put many times more effort into ensuring that children are never being trafficked at all. That they simply are not viewed as a commodity. We have to make sure that children are never put on the market.

Today, 16 years after I founded World Childhood Foundation, this is where I see that Childhood can make the most difference: Through preventative work; through targeting groups where we know that children are at the most risk of being abused and exploited; through making sure that each and every child is given a loving, nurturing and happy Childhood. So we have to start from the very beginning. For every resource spent on assisting victims, we need to invest tenfold in preventative

work. We need to make sure that children are protected from the moment they are born, and we need to make sure that the adults around them are given the necessary tools and equipment to care and protect their children. We, who are here today, need to make sure that our voices are heard, because it is through us that the children can speak and be heard.

A very wise man once said: “The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.”

On The World Day of Peace in 2015 His Holiness expressed the similar thought that: “The globalization of indifference, which today burdens the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters, requires all of us to forge a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope and helping them to advance with courage amid the problems of our time and the new horizons which they disclose and which God places in our hands.”

Let’s not be silent!

Let’s give our voices to the most vulnerable children!

Let’s work together for a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity!

I thank you for your attention!

THE HOLY SEE AND THE EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING: THE ONGOING COMMITMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CARDINAL PETER K.A. TURKSON

President, Pontifical Council for Justice And Peace

It is my pleasure to address this Seminar on *Trafficking with a Special Focus on Children*, co-organised by the Embassy of Sweden to the Holy See and the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. I heartily thank them for this timely initiative that aims at identifying measures to be taken, both at the national and international levels, in order to enhance the rights of children, and especially to better protect them from the scourge of trafficking.

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.¹ The Holy See was one of the first entities to ratify this important agreement, and it is also a party to some of its Optional Protocols, namely the Optional Protocol on the *Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict*² and the Optional Protocol on the *Sale of Children*,

¹ The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989, and entered into force on 2 September 1990. The Holy See ratified this international agreement on 20 April 1990.

² The *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 May 2000 and entered into force on 12 February 2002. The Holy See ratified this Optional Protocol on 24 October 2001.

*Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*³

As we all know, children continue to be the victims of many forms of violence and enslavement, and are trafficked for a variety of purposes. This persists despite diverse international and national action plans and strategies and in spite of the agreement and protocols already mentioned and other relevant international agreements, such as the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*, and the *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*.

The ways in which children are horribly victimized include the sale of organs; recruitment for prostitution, pornography and the narcotics trade; forced begging; disguised forms of cross-border adoption; forced marriage; recruitment as soldiers; enslavement by terrorist groups; and forced labour, in both the formal and informal sectors, in domestic or agricultural workplaces or in the manufacturing and mining industries.

Many trafficked children are unaccompanied migrant minors, some of whom lose their lives in the migration process; while others, upon arriving at their destination after a gruelling journey marked by fear and insecurity, are detained in often inhumane conditions.

This demonstrates that international agreements and action plans, though necessary, are not able to put an end to the scourge of trafficking in children by themselves, if the international community fails to also address the root causes of this phenomenon.

³ The *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 May 2000 and entered into force on 18 January 2002. The Holy See ratified this Optional Protocol on 24 October 2001.

The first of the root causes, I think, is poverty and underdevelopment, especially when combined with a lack of access to education or scarce employment opportunities. In fact, not only do they provide a fertile ground where organised networks of traffickers can find potential victims, but they also push hopeless people into the pernicious path of criminality. It goes without saying that access to a quality education for all and the creation of decent work opportunities are, then, of crucial importance.

Secondly, at the source of trafficking in children, we often find armed conflicts and other situations of violence and terrorism. Children are trafficked to be recruited as soldiers or exploited, even sexually, by terrorist groups and other combatants. Thus, the Holy See has several times called upon the international community for vigorous diplomacy in order to put a final end to all armed conflicts, to all situations of violence and to terrorism.

Thirdly, I deplore the role played by corruption, as traffickers often require the complicity of intermediaries, be they law enforcement personnel, state officials, or civil and military institutions. In fact, trafficking in children as well as other forms of enslavement of children are still possible because we are living in a world “divided by greed looking for easy gain, wounded by the selfishness which threatens human life and the family”.⁴ The fight against corruption must be raised to the highest of priorities; as Pope Francis recently said: “corruption is a greater ill than sin. More than forgiven, this ill must be treated”.⁵

Finally, we must reverse the spread of the “throw away” culture, in which “human beings are themselves considered con-

⁴ Pope Francis, *Urbi et Orbi Message of Easter 2013*, 31 March 2013.

⁵ Pope Francis, *Address to the Delegates of the International Association of Penal Law*, 23 October 2014.

sumer goods to be used and then discarded”.⁶ Instead, we need to promote a culture of fraternity, in which the inherent dignity of each and every person, from conception to natural death, is respected and valued. Accordingly, to end trafficking of children, we must first achieve a conversion of hearts and minds. Trafficked children are victims of the demand for low-cost labour and products, even in opulent societies – the desires of customers for organs, drugs, child prostitutes and child pornography, and so on.

The Holy See calls repeatedly in various fora for effective action on the scourge of human trafficking and its root causes. For example, in the recent UN Security Council Open Debate on *Children in Armed Conflict*,⁷ it strongly condemned the increasing abduction and forcible recruitment of children by armed groups. And in his most recent *Message for the World Day of Peace*, entitled *No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters*,⁸ Pope Francis encouraged religious congregations, Catholic-inspired organizations and all people of good will – in accordance with their specific roles and responsibilities – to take a proactive part in a common engagement against trafficking.

I pray that the present Seminar contribute significantly to this effort.

Thank you for your kind attention.

⁶ Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 53.

⁷ Intervention of H.E. Archbishop Bernadito Auza, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, at the UN Security Council Open Debate on *Children in Armed Conflict*, New York, 25 March 2015, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/2015/documents/rc-seg-st-20150325_auza-unsct_it.html.

⁸ Pope Francis, *Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace 'No longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters'*, 1st January 2015, n. 5.

SWEDEN'S GOVERNMENT POLICIES
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING
AND PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

MINISTER ÅSA REGNÉR

*Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality,
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden*

Your Royal Highnesses,
Eminences and Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

First of all, thank you for the invitation by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and congratulations on such an important seminar, in beautiful surroundings. This seminar is a historic initiative. I am honoured to be part of this day. Together through dialogue we can really accomplish something for the way forward.

Today my thoughts are especially with the children and their families who lost their lives in the Mediterranean. We have now seen too many tragic events where migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children drown in the Mediterranean, as they attempt to make their way to Europe on unseaworthy vessels, operated by smuggling and trafficking networks.

Human trafficking is modern slavery indeed. The practice is a crime against humanity and a shameful wound which has no place in civil society, just as Pope Francis so explicitly stated.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by nearly every country in the world and is thereby a universal document. Sweden will strengthen children's rights by incorporating the Convention into our legislation. But much remains to be done before the Convention can be said to apply in practice worldwide. The rights of children are violated every day. The UN estimates that around 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking. Children are treated like narcotics and weapons, a commodity in the criminal underworld. Boys and girls are being sold and sadly the real figure is presumably far higher than the UN estimate.

According to Article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children – for any purpose or in any form. All children, girls and boys, have a right to be protected from human trafficking. The article is a safety net to ensure that no child is abducted or sold for any purpose. In addition, many countries have also ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The protocol demands the States Parties to take necessary measures to criminalise and prosecute every form of sale of children.

Ever since the First World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in Stockholm in 1996, work against trafficking has been high on the Swedish agenda.

I am here today to speak about the Swedish Government's policies to combat trafficking and protect children's rights. Since 1999 it has been prohibited to buy sexual services in Sweden. The criminalisation of sex purchases has had an effect on the demand for sexual services and has also served as a barrier to traffickers and buyers to establishing a market for selling women and girls for sexual purposes in Sweden.

We believe that the Government is ultimately responsible for creating the best conditions for children and guaranteeing the rights of the child. Protection from violence and abuse is an essential requirement for the safety, confidence and wellbeing of children, as well as for their personal development. Boys, girls, women and men also have the right to bodily integrity, information and sexuality education. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are central to Swedish policies against sexual exploitation. This is something that is not only important for the individual; the whole of society gains from this – not least economically.

A society with fewer assaults, fewer unwanted pregnancies, fewer physical and psychological complications has much to gain. Experience tells us that the strengthening of rights and equal opportunities of women combined with well-developed systems for child care and elderly care contributes to a high labour market participation of women, better economic conditions and a sustainable fertility rate.

The Government's aim is that Sweden should be one of the best countries in the world to grow up in. Sweden's Government is also a feminist Government. This means that a gender equality perspective is vital in our efforts to protect all children; we want to protect every girl and boy from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual assaults.

Sweden has had four action plans to protect children from trafficking since 1998. The overall objective for the current Action Plan is that no child should be a victim of trafficking, exploitation or sexual abuse. The plan is expected to lead to:

- increased awareness among government agencies, professionals, the general public and, of course, children themselves;
- increased effectiveness in the work of the Government and other relevant stakeholders to protect children from these violations; and

- enhanced contributions by Swedish authorities to international cooperation on protecting children.

The Government has given the Stockholm County Administrative Board the assignment to coordinate, on a national level, the work against human trafficking in Sweden. The Board has very successfully created a structure to combat trafficking and should coordinate the work with important stakeholders, such as municipalities, county councils and authorities, and disseminate knowledge and methods related to combating child trafficking and exploitation. Collaboration with hotels, taxis, restaurants and international exchange is also part of the assignment.

As an example, we arranged a national information campaign 'Bring your Travel Courage' (Resekurage) in collaboration with the Swedish Police and World Childhood Foundation to raise awareness of sexual exploitation in conjunction with tourism and travel. The aim is to get Swedes who travel abroad for their holidays to contact the police if they see anything they suspect to be child sex tourism. We have a responsibility to protect children from acts of sexual abuse or exploitation committed by persons who are resident in our country, regardless of where such acts take place.

The Action Plan also consists of measures such as distributing tailored information to children who have been victims of crime and training material to professionals, as well as co-action within the European Union and with other countries. Sweden is actively working to identify interested countries to make bilateral agreements of cooperation to combat child sex tourism.

Even if our country has come a long way we are not satisfied. The Government is preparing for a new Action Plan for the years 2016-2018. Our prevention work has to be even better. For instance, we know that most perpetrators are men and in general all buyers of sexual services are men. Our measures must therefore reflect what we know for a fact.

The Swedish Government's aim is to start a continuous dialogue on the highest level between stakeholders, policy-makers and experts among the world's countries. Our purpose is to continuously, whenever it is possible, put trafficking and the protection of our children on the international political agenda. Sweden will continue to strengthen children's rights and improve their living conditions through both bilateral and multilateral development cooperation.

Your Royal Highnesses, eminences and colleagues,

As single individuals it is difficult to achieve real change, but together it is possible to really take steps forward. Let's make this seminar the starting point of collaboration for our children.

Thank you.

POLICIES AND ACTION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ISSUES BEYOND CRIMINALIZATION

PROF. MARGARET ARCHER

President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Your Highness,
Eminences,
Excellencies,
Friends and Colleagues,

Since Pope Francis asked the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences to examine human trafficking in 2013, we have done this in various meetings; meetings with the police, meetings with youth, meetings with different religious leaders, because as with every social encyclical and all parts of Catholic social teaching, these are addressed to all people of good will. And this is what we need if we are to make any progress with the elimination of human trafficking, which was the subject of our Plenary meeting last week, in which what we sought to do was to carry the agenda further forward.

We take moral outrage at this practice for granted. Our aim is to do something beyond being outraged, something practical that can restore the damaged lives of trafficked human beings. And so we called our meeting: *Issues Beyond Criminalization*. Criminalisation – Cardinal Turkson put in exactly the same words as I used – is a necessary condition for the abolition of human trafficking, but it is not a sufficient condition for reme-

dying the consequences for the 20 million victims, a number which is obviously an underestimate, a number, however, that is growing, even according to official statistics. A number that is growing for one reason, which has already been mentioned. This is a one hundred and sixty billion dollar profit operation per year. It is almost exceeding the profitability of smuggling drugs. Hence the reaction in so many nations has been: 'Let's sign up to the Palermo Protocol, but let's work purely on the supply side. Let's work at reducing the numbers of traffickers and successful traffickings'.

Now that is indispensable, there is no argument about this, and it was very, very encouraging to see what Interpol and Europol were doing together to try and reduce the arrival of trafficked persons throughout the areas for which they are responsible. So our emphasis this week has been on looking at resettlement of trafficked people, rather than criminalizing the act of 'trafficking', important as that is. What we want to avoid is something that exists in every country, which in its own way ratifies the Palermo Protocol with a national law. And most of these, if you analyse them – and particularly if you analyse what is not said in them, like the most recent bill passed six weeks ago in the United Kingdom – there is no word about repatriation. This is a silence. It is a legal silence. But what it does is to give the powers of repatriation to the government and the state and the police authorities.

Now resettlement has problems. It must be voluntary, of course, because these people have paid enough already in terms of damage to their lives in coming to a particular destination which may even have been unknown to them. So instead of this semi-automatic repatriation, which is very dangerous, because insofar as there have been qualitative rather than quantitative studies, various organisations and international organisations have shown that approximately half of those who were trafficked were introduced

to their traffickers by friends and family. So we must not idealise being returned home. This is not necessarily being received into loving arms and indeed it might be quite dangerous and risky for various reasons, but one of which is that trafficked people have additional knowledge. They can name names. They might not be able to name the mastermind behind that particular trafficking route, but they can name the person who gave them their fake documentation etc. so we want provisions made for informed choice about return or remain. Where victims choose to remain in the country of destination, we want a highly-tuned sensitive resettlement programme, which involves so many things from medical care, trauma counselling, language learning, to those things that all of us take completely for granted – “How do you go shopping in this country?” – and this is where voluntary organisations who say, “Oh, but we’re not experts” can come in. No, they’re not experts, but it doesn’t matter. They can take somebody shopping, they can befriend them; there is a role for everybody in resettlement.

There are many difficult issues about trafficking; one is what happens when trafficked people grow older. If they were trafficked for forced labour, they become a less valuable worker in financial terms; if they were trafficked into the sex trade they become a less desirable commodity. And thank you so much that Sweden has led the way with this legislation, that Norway has followed with a similar form of legislation. Well, we heard an evaluation of it. They admit the methodology is not perfect, but in social sciences it never is perfect. But it did show that the demand by clients for using trafficked women as sex workers was diminishing. And this is extremely important, and the government of France is now debating on roughly similar lines, not identical, but it shows that your example has spread and is being extremely influential.

Now what I would like to end up on, is talking for a very short while on the difficulties of children in relation to resettlement.

ment and return and policies of good will towards those children who are completely innocent of the things that were done to them. So, on the one hand, we are talking about the direct trafficking of children themselves. Children who are taken to be used in a forced capacity, as beggars, as forced labourers, particularly in things like the textile industry where some of the machinery requires small people, little people, just as it did in the days of the Industrial Revolution, to use the machinery; as well as both Her Majesty and Minister Regnér mentioned, of course being used as objects, subjects, for pornography and perhaps in some cases, well, certainly in some cases, but we cannot give figures, not just pornography but paedophilia.

So there is a great unanswered question here. What becomes of these children as they mature, reach puberty, reach the age of twenty or so? Do they graduate into other forms of forced labour? We simply need the research here, and we don't have it. Secondly, trafficked children pose a huge dilemma for their mothers and usually for their fathers too. I'll just put it in three ways: if the children or child is left behind while one or both of the parents are trafficked, that child becomes an object of leverage on the trafficked parent or parents, "Obey, do what we tell you or – there is the blackmail – your child, children at home will pay for it, they will suffer". It is very difficult to know how to articulate a policy that could deal with those kinds of threats.

Secondly, suppose the child or children are brought with their mother and father, and arrive at some trafficked destination. They can be used in a different sense of blackmail, to reconcile the mothers and/or fathers to certain forms of servitude, often domestic servitude, and this came very much into prominence two or three months ago in Sicily in fruit picking and horticultural work, where initially the mothers who had their children with them said, "This isn't bad, it's OK. All I have to do is

pick fruit; yes, the hours are long, the pay is uncertain, but the children can play in the sun in an agricultural setting”. Then it became clear that, as the women – these were largely women – reconciled themselves to this type of forced labour, they were then having nightly visits from various male indigenous agricultural workers, overseers, and in fact they were trafficked into prostitution as well as into agricultural work. But the children were a form of leverage into this situation.

Then finally there can be the promise made at the country of origin: “Yes you are going to work in a shoe factory, fruit picking, construction or whatever it may be, and yes your child can come with you”. And this can be, it isn’t always by any means, but it can be one of the most hideous forms of trafficking, because these can be some of the children who are simply used as bodies from which organs, physical organs, are harvested. And so one of our recommendations which is ecumenical, it’s for those of good will, of faith or none, to try and spread a policy, voluntary again, where people, all citizens are encouraged to carry a voluntary organ donor card in case of a road accident or some other exigency that leaves them brain dead, let somebody else be the beneficiary of it.

So, in conclusion, thank you, Queen Silvia, for having brought us to recognise that the problem of trafficked children is one about which we are most ignorant: most ignorant about the damage done; medical damage, psychological damage, attitudinal damage, the therapies needed, and the time span that they will take; desperately ignorant about how realistic it is to try unite a trafficked child with a trafficked parent, mother or father. How do you bring two people who have been very differently traumatised, together? Where do you do it? How long does it take? What can you do that helps to make this traumatic journey of theirs as short as possible and frees them from pain as quickly as possible?

And finally, socially, how can we gradually integrate these, let's call them "united children with one or both parents", how can we include them into mainstream society? What can we do? This must be our ultimate ambition of all of us working in this area. What can we do to help them to realise their full human dignity?

Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING AND TO RESCUE AND RE-INTEGRATE THE VICTIMS

SISTER EUGENIA BONETTI

President of Slaves No More, Consolata Missionary Sister

Introduction and Presentation

My gratitude to the Ambassador of Sweden to the Holy See, Mr. Lars-Hjalmar Wide, for inviting me to attend this important seminar, that aims at highlighting the huge phenomenon of trafficking and exploitation of children in many different ways and in many parts of the world, Italy included. I am aware that children nowadays have become a special target for traffickers because they can very easily be enslaved and used mainly for cheap labour, begging, removal of organs, recruited as soldiers, but moreover trafficked for sexual exploitation and sexual tourism. I will therefore share the experience of many years of commitment in this ministry mainly in networking with other women religious dealing in Countries of origin, transit and destination. Nuns are mainly concerned about preventing the exodus of young people towards a “promised land” but, moreover, we are very much involved in rescuing victims from the streets and nightclubs to reintegrate them into society and in their family.

A special thanks goes to HM Queen Silvia of Sweden for Her presence that means Her great concern for the life of mil-

lions of children who are the present and future of mankind. Unfortunately they have been deprived of their youth, their joy, their dreams, their hope and desire for a world free of slavery and exploitation.

A new missionary ministry

Being a missionary and having worked in Africa for 24 years I am aware of the many problems and difficulties faced by young children, deprived of proper education because of poverty, large families and lack of opportunities for a bright future. They can easily fall prey to traffickers searching for victims to meet the demand of an opulent Western society where, with money, even a body of a child can be bought and used as a toy to satisfy the greed for power, possession and pleasure of millions of consumers.

Since 1993 when I started working in Turin on a Caritas drop-in-centre for migrant women I met and started rescuing hundreds of young girls from Nigeria and from Eastern European countries by offering them shelter and opportunities for a different life. Since then I encountered thousands of such very young girls, each one with a different story of humiliation and exploitation. It is in that big, industrialized city that I came to know the world of the night and of the street where at that time more than 3000 young women were living, working and often dying on the streets. The girls from Albania and Romania were very young and very confused, therefore it was difficult to rescue them because they were controlled by their pimps at sight. Nigerians instead were controlled by Nigerian women controlling them psychologically through voodoo rituals performed before travelling to Italy that had a great mental grip and fear on them. Moreover they had to stand along the roadside like statues of exotic ebony for long hours almost naked and in dehumanized conditions during the day but mainly during the night, facing

darkness and cold, mistreatment, violence and even homicide. They are sought by thousands of consumers of easy sex and judged and despised by well-off people that look upon them with indifference. Julie, an 18-year-old Nigerian girl, told me that in one night she had 13 clients. How can you rehabilitate a young girl with such an horrible experience?

Women rescuing trafficked women and children

In the year 2000, I moved to Rome to organize an office at the main quarters of the Italian Women Religious Conference to coordinate the service and ministry of several congregations that, with courage and vision for a new healing ministry, opened the “holy doors” of their convents to shelter hundreds of young victims rescued from the streets, helping them to heal the traumatic experienced of forced prostitution and start a new life.

At present, 250 sisters – belonging to 80 congregations – work in 110 projects in Italy, often in collaboration with Caritas, other public or private bodies, volunteers and associations. Several hundred victims, from various different countries, are at the moment present in our shelters.

Women religious are playing a critical and important role in the following ministries to trafficking victims which include:

- Outreach Units, as a first contact with the victims on the streets;
- Drop-in Centres, identifying solutions for women in search of help;
- Safe Communities or Shelters for programs of social reintegration [1];
- Restoring legal status through the acquisition of legal documents [2];
- Collaboration with Embassies to obtain necessary identification documents [3];

- Professional preparation through language, skills and job training;
- Psychological and spiritual aid to help survivors rediscover their cultural roots and faith, to regain their self-esteem and heal the wounds of their experience;
- Weekly visits to the Identification and Expulsion Centre in Rome: for more than a decade, 60 religious sisters from 27 different countries, belonging to 28 religious congregations, have offered a healing ministry of mercy and comfort through spiritual, religious and pastoral assistance, as well as psychological and moral support to women arrested on the streets because they have been found in Italy with no legal documents. I remember Rita, who was brought to Italy at the age of 15 by her three stepsisters, rescued by policemen from the streets and brought to the Center of Identification and Expulsion of Ponte Galeria because she had no proper documents. Being a minor we took her out and she gave us the account that in 15 months she had earned 55,000 euro for her stepsisters. How many times was she used and abused?
- Voluntary Repatriation and Financial Social Integration Project: The latest initiative is to assist in the repatriation of women – mainly women with children – who request to return to their home countries and rebuild their lives. Since September 2013, our network of nuns has assisted 13 women with several children born in Italy, and many others in Nigeria. To be able to operate efficiently for this unique project a new association, “Slaves no more”, was established in 2013. Women who want to return home in a dignify manner are offered a plane ticket and a specific budget for a personal and reintegration working project. This is done in connection and cooperation with the local Sisters since our greatest strength and key to success is “networking”, not in

competition but in communion with the same vision, aim and objectives.

A Call for Action: Joining the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings mainly to prevent trafficking and slavery of children as well as rescuing them and giving them back their stolen dignity and youth.

According to their different positions and specific roles we call upon:

- The Global Economic Complex to develop a strong economic system to offer women and children opportunities for a better life without being forced to be trafficked from poor countries mainly to sell their body;
- The States with proper legislation to suppress prostitution, punish trafficking in people and protect, legalize and reintegrate victim, mainly children;
- The Global Family to legally and strongly press for effective measures against demand, to rescue men and safeguard the family values of fidelity, love and unity;
- The Church with its Christian vision of sexuality and man-woman relationships to safeguard and promote the dignity of every woman created in God's image;
- The Schools by forming and informing to the right values based on mutual respect and dignity;
- The Media in projecting a complete, balanced and accurate image of women that restores them to their full human value, presenting them as subjects and not as mere objects to be bought and sold.

Conclusion

In accordance with the new demands of a world constantly changing and in search of justice, solidarity, dignity and respect for the rights of every person, especially the weak and the vulnerable, women and children, we are each called to offer our

contribution. Only by working together can we find success in our ministry to break the invisible global chain of human trafficking, and give new hope to broken and exploited women, men and children. Together, with all members of Christian communities and people of good will, we need to respond in a concrete and clear way to the question:

“Who is my neighbour?” The answer cannot but be, “Go and do the same!”

“We are all neighbours. We are all brothers and sisters and not slaves”

Thank you for your attention and your concern!

[1] There are 80 family houses run by nuns for programs of human, social and legal reintegration; many shelters also welcome mothers with children or pregnant women to protect them and safeguard the gift of a new life.

[2] Protection and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking has being implemented legally in Italy since July 25, 1998, through the application of a special residence permit given for social protection and reintegration under a Legislative Immigration Decree No. 286. With this legislation, Italy is a pioneer among European countries, having set up a special program to issue a residence permit aimed at recognizing and supporting victims of exploitation, as well as cracking down on trafficking and traffickers. Since Article 18 came into force in 1998 about 6,000 residence permits were obtained by women living in our shelters.

[3] Since the beginning of our collaboration with the sector Trade in Human Beings, more than 4,000 passports have been issued by the Nigerian Embassy to comply with the procedure of residence permits according to the Italian legislation.

THE DEVELOPING BRAIN: THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF EARLY STRESS¹

PROF. MARTIN INGVAR

Karolinska Institutet

Your Majesty,
Royal Highness,
Eminences,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentleman,

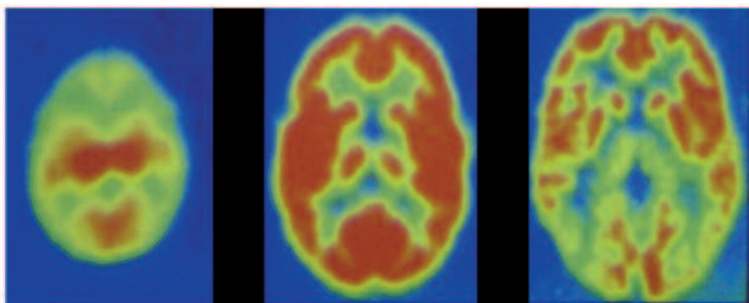
It is, of course, a great honour to be here to speak on this important subject. I will give a few pointers from neurobiology, the reason being that we often think about trauma as something happening at one time, but trauma has a long-term consequence, specifically in the young nervous system, in the young brain, and I will speak on this based on the model that WHO has adopted.

The idea of developing independence is part of being human, and they have used that model for different types of social measures and societal measures in order to have children mature. One of the things that have been clearly demonstrated on and on again is that social contagions that invoke stress in children actually push them out of the square of independence during the lifecycle. You do not get a proper job, you have more difficulties establishing yourself socially and economically, and

¹ Transcript not reviewed by author.

that is why, when you look at such a general model you realize that early childhood trauma and early childhood adverse events are something extremely important to look at.

A CHANGE IN A LIFE TIME



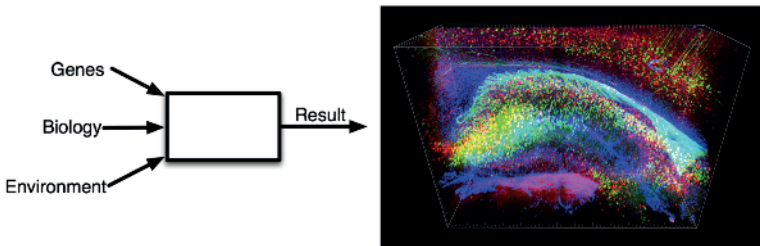
During the course of development there are many stages that are easy to identify. The first stage, the first picture to the left, is a two-to-three-month-old baby, and the only thing that is on is just the sensory systems looking at the world. When you mature and you come to the peak of life at the age of five to six years old, you realize that the metabolism is extremely high – everything goes on at the same time, and you really form your brain during those years – whereas when you grow up and become an adult at the age of twenty most of what you do is plan for the future, as you can see with the high metabolism up at front.

But we know that this scheme of development is part what the genes have given each baby, and it is also part the biological happenings during the early course of life and, of course, environment, and those three together are what really forms this wonderful symphony of brain development.

We know that if we do the right thing the brain develops in the right way. Here we did some studies some years ago, demonstrating the difference of being able to read and write, versus not

being able to read and write, so we can show how you actually develop the language system in the left hemisphere by reading and writing. To go even further up the cultural scale, this is the demonstration of how we can develop the cables and the neurons in the

INDIVIDUAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT



brain just from playing the violin intensely, demonstrating how cultural activities actually form the brain. But just as you can do that in a positive manner, you can go the other way with adverse events. We know that affective maturation requires a stable social context and the ability to form a stable social context for your children depends on your own experience as a child.

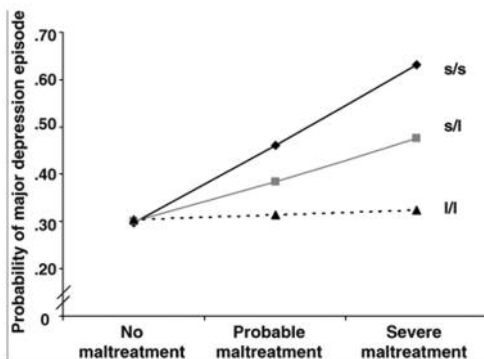
So what about these adverse events that we discussed here, for instance early trafficking? We know that it affects the stress system, and today we know that the stress system is a collected effect between the adrenals and the brain, and the ability to be in control is a protective measure, but if you remove the ability to be in control and you have strong demands then you get stress and if you have severe and long-standing stress on the brain you actually affect brain development. Since this is a pre-programmed maturation that goes from new birth at term until the adult – when we are born the brain weighs about half a kg, and when we are adult it is about 1.3 to 1.4 kg – during that time inflammation and stress hormones and other things that

are elicited by stress actually can have a very strong influence on brain development.

Recent data has demonstrated that if the adverse event happens in the early time between three and five years of age, when the main system is the one that is developing the fastest, and it happens to be a system that is forming memory and learning, children that are highly stressed during those times come out with a lower-than-expected IQ, whereas if you wait until the age of 9 and 10, it is the white matter that really develops at that time. If you go further on until puberty, imposed puberty, it is the frontal cortex and the frontal cortex is where we make all our plans and our ability to think about ourselves as full social individuals.

It turns out that children who have these types of stress events during those days, there are a number of psychiatric issues that come up as a result of that, including those with depression, the inability of actually expressing hope and things

5-HTT AND LIFE-STRESS



Results of regression analysis estimating the association between childhood maltreatment (between the ages of 3 and 11 years) and adult depression (ages 18 to 26), as a function of 5-HTT genotype. "Influence of Life Stress on Depression: Moderation by a Polymorphism in the 5-HTT Gene", *Science*, 18 July 2003, Vol. 301, No. 5631, 386-389.

that we normally do not attribute to a brain function but we can actually see the connection between the two.

But there is also a new field emerging over the last few years called the epigenetic effects, and that means that environmental influence transfers back into the expression of the genes so, in spite of the fact that you have the correct genes, they do not express the same way because you have been subjected to stress,

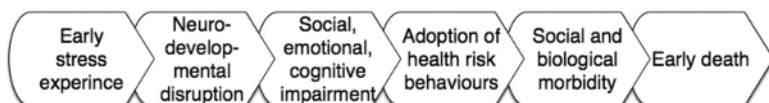
Normally we would think that the genes would be expressed in the brain together with the environment, but we can actually show that a real adverse event propagates back and actually locks down and closes off some gene expressions. It is called epigenetics.

This is one example demonstrating that since we have two pairs of genes we can either have zero risk, one risk, or two, and this is now part of the serotonin system in the brain, which is protective against depression. It was possible to demonstrate that if you had no maltreatment whatsoever, very little depression was expressed, but if you added maltreatment, some maltreatment or a lot of maltreatment, in the end you could see that there was a covariance with the carriers and the social effects, i.e. it was possible to demonstrate how, in the variance of biology, the effects of social maltreatment were actually expressed to the population, just demonstrating how effective and violent this type of interaction is.

We can also note that when we look at adults that have been subjected to adverse life events and adverse events of a severe type at an early age, normal risk factors that we connect with low social standing in our societies are enriched in these children with very marked physiological effects like increased numbers of cardiac events, increased lung cancer both due to living standards – and smoking, of course – but diabetes, alcoholism, high blood pressure and depression anxiety, all of those that take a big toll in our social agenda, all of them are overexpressed in correlation with this.

To conclude, we have also demonstrated that these types of events actually stay on for a long time, so a simple psychological explanation is not enough. We have been able to demonstrate that things like changes in the immune system, in the stress system etc, hang on and the stress effects on the heart system hang on long after the adverse events have happened, which means that what we come back with is, namely, we have to aim for prevention.

EARLY ADVERSE EVENTS



Prevention is the only way to go, it is good business with good prevention, because when we get the train of development the following way, with early stress experience that hampers the neurodevelopmental development, that leads to social, emotional and cognitive impairment, that, in turn, makes you adopt health risk behaviours, which increase the social and biological morbidity and actually a shortened life span as well, and the

AMERICAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY

- We need a strong, proactive advocacy for more effective interventions for children with symptomatic evidence of toxic stress.
- These should include
 - family oriented measures
 - better educated mental health professionals
 - but above all **prevention** with a strong focus

inability to provide good measures for the next generation following yourself, this means that it is all about prevention. The American Paediatric Society has adopted this in fighting these types of adverse events by saying that we need better family-oriented measures, we need better-educated mental health professionals but, above all, we need prevention with a very strong focus in order to be successful. And when we design our societies, it has to be into the basic design of our society in order to handle it for the generations to come.

CRIMINALIZING THE PURCHASE OF SEX. AS A MEANS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING

MS ANNA SKARHED
Swedish Chancellor of Justice

Your Eminences and Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to be here today and to have been given the opportunity to speak to you about one of the ways in which Sweden has tried to protect children's rights, as well as the rights of women and men who are victims of trafficking for sexual purposes.

Legislation that prohibits the purchase of sex

On January 1, 1999, as the first country in the world, Sweden passed legislation that prohibits the purchase of sex.

A person who, in other cases than previously stated in this chapter, obtains a casual sexual relation in exchange for payment shall be sentenced for the purchase of a sexual service to a fine or to imprisonment for at the most six months [one year from July 1, 2011]. What is stated in the first paragraph also applies if the payment has been promised or made by someone else. (Swedish Penal Code, Chapter 6: Sexual Crimes, section 11).

The offence comprises all forms of sexual services, whether they are purchased on the street, in brothels, or in other similar circumstances. Attempts to buy sex are also punishable. The

payment can be money or goods or a favor of some sort. If convicted the penalty is normally a fine but a buyer can also be sentenced to imprisonment. The maximum penalty was from the beginning 6 months in prison, but is now one year. If the victim is under 18 years of age the maximum penalty is 2 years. The victim as well as the perpetrator can be male or female. (To have intercourse with a child under 15, in some cases under 18, according to Swedish law is always considered to be a rape, with a minimum sentence of 2 years in prison.)

The law criminalizing the purchase of sex first and foremost applies to offences committed in Sweden. It also applies if a Swedish citizen purchases sex abroad if the victim is less than 18 years of age, as well as if a Swedish military employee buys sex abroad. There have been some cases where women in prostitution have been exploited by Swedish personnel in Kosovo.

This means that the Swedish law today, unlike the later implemented law in Norway, does not criminalize all purchase of sex by Swedish citizens outside of Sweden. This is however now under consideration by the government since it could be said to send a double message and thus reduce the normative effect of the law.

The positive direct and normative effects of the legislation have inspired other countries in the European Union and beyond to implement similar laws e.g. England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2010), Norway and Iceland (2009), South Africa (2007), and South Korea (2003). These countries report similar positive results. In France there is right now an ongoing discussion about a similar legislation and in the Netherlands – police and politicians are also interested to learn more about “the Swedish model”.

Evaluation of the offence – Special Inquiry report July 2, 2010

In 2008, when the Swedish law had been in force for ten years, the government appointed me to lead a Special Inquiry. Our

task was to evaluate the implementation of the law and its effects. Our results were based on statistical material and research-reports that had investigated different aspects of trafficking and prostitution during the ten years of the law. We also consulted with police, social workers, civil society, public authorities and other key stakeholders. We contacted individuals in prostitution, and women who had left prostitution. The Committee report (*Förbud mot köp av sexuell tjänst. En utvärdering 1999-2008*, SOU 2010:49) was presented to the government on July 2, 2010.

In short we found that:

1. The number of persons exploited in street prostitution in Sweden had halved since 1999.
2. Before 1999 the situation was similar in the Nordic countries. But in 2008 the neighbouring countries, Denmark and Norway had three times as many individuals (read women) in street prostitution as Sweden. (This was before the Norwegian legislation was adopted. When Norway adopted its law in 2009 they had a radical decrease in the amount of street prostitution.)
3. The concern that prostitution should “go underground” and move from the street to other arenas had not been fulfilled.
4. Prostitution-contacts through the Internet had increased in Sweden as it had in other countries. This however could not be considered to be a result of the law, but was a natural development considering the growth of online technology.
5. The number of individuals offering sex via Internet web pages/ads, according to the surveys made, was also much larger in Denmark and Norway.
6. According to police and social workers there was no evidence of an increase of indoor prostitution.

7. Despite a significant increase in prostitution in the neighbouring countries during the past 10 years, there was no evidence of a similar increase in Sweden. We found it reasonable to believe that this was due to the new legislation.
8. The criminalization had deterred the establishment of organized crime networks/groups in Sweden. The National Police as well as the Swedish rapporteur on trafficking in humans has concluded that the law functions as a barrier against the establishment of traffickers and pimps in Sweden.
9. The law had strong support in Sweden among the public, and had led to a significant change in attitudes, hence it has had a normative effect as well as a direct effect to reduce the extent of prostitution and crime.
10. The criminalization acts as a deterrent for the buyers. Persons with experience in prostitution as well as police and social workers concluded that the buyers had become more careful and that the demand had decreased since the prohibition came into force.
11. According to a study in 2008 less than 8% of Swedish men had in the last year bought someone for prostitution purposes – compared to 13.6% before the law came into force.
12. Despite misgivings that the criminalization of buyers would make it more difficult to reach women in prostitution, that prostitution would “go underground”, and that the conditions of individuals engaged in prostitution would worsen, there was no evidence what so ever of negative effects, such as more violence or worse conditions for individuals exploited in prostitution. But the fact remains that it is, and has always been, very dangerous to be involved in prostitution.
13. Police and prosecutors did not report any administrative difficulties to enforce the law. However it is important to

note that good enforcement depends on the resources available, and what priorities are made by the justice system.

How do we go forward?

It is important to stress that although two distinct phenomena, there is a clear and strong link between prostitution and trafficking. According to the UN Global Report on Trafficking in People 2014 as many as 33% of the detected victims are children, twice as many girls as boys. And in Europe the vast majority of the victims of trafficking are victims of sexual exploitation.

The number of victims is incomprehensible. It is estimated that only in Europe 140 000 women and girls are every day victims of trafficking for sexual purposes, forced into prostitution. This is a lucrative business which also finances other types of organized crime, such as dealing in narcotics and weapons. Thus combatting trafficking is essential also in order to prevent other types of serious criminality. And in order to reduce trafficking it is essential and necessary to stop prostitution.

The “new” approach of the so called Swedish or Nordic model is to focus on demand; to focus on the buyer. This is logical to us. If there was no demand there would obviously be no prostitution. It is important to mention that this is no moral issue but a question of human rights! It is also a strong gender issue and a question of equal rights since the overwhelming majority of the victims of trafficking are girls and women.

Several reports have shown that the opposite way of dealing with the problem of trafficking, which is to legalize the “business” and considering the “selling” of sex an ordinary job, has not been successful.

I do not have the time today to go into detail about the many reports. However I want to mention the UN global Report on Trafficking in People 2014. A very strong voice in favor of the

Swedish/Nordic model is also the report “Prostitution, trafficking and modern slavery in Europe”, of March 2014 by the European Commission’s rapporteur Mr Mendes Bota. He concludes that “voluntary prostitution” is a myth, since for the large majority of individuals prostitution is the consequence of either a state of poverty and extreme need or of violence. He also emphasizes that every country has the right to choose its own way but strongly advises legislators all over Europe to follow the example of Sweden and other Nordic countries and criminalize the purchase of sex.

Like Mr Mendes Bota I believe that criminalizing the buyer of sex is today the most effective measure to combat trafficking in human beings. Criminalization is not enough but it is an important message to those who exploit others. To stop trafficking for sexual and other purposes is a huge and difficult task that no individual, organization or even country can solve alone. But we have to believe we can do it together. So we have to be persistent and continue the work against trafficking and prostitution. We owe this to our children and to all the children of our world.

More than 150 years ago, in 1862, the great writer Victor Hugo wrote in his work “Les Misérables”, and I quote; “Some say that slavery has disappeared from European civilization. That is incorrect. It still exists, but now it weighs only on women and it is called prostitution”.

This is the challenge we still meet today.

It is therefore of great importance that the Holy Father has taken the initiative to have this seminar today in the Casina Pio IV in the Vatican City.

