



Human Trafficking Part I: Slavery Still Exists Today

One of the most startling statements in this month’s study is this: “More people are enslaved today than ever were in the transatlantic slave trade of the past.” An important inclusion in this report is a definition of the many ways people are being enslaved in our world today. This report, based largely on the LWWNJ study that convinced the national convention attendees in June to agree to approve it for national concurrence, consists of a number of startling statistics. It’s not easy to take them all in, but the end result is an eye-opening look at a dark underside of modern life. On the plus side, there is an organization that is working to alleviate some of the suffering. Part 2 in a few months will document what is happening locally.

Calendar

November

- 1 Briefing and At-Large meeting**
Final day for in-person absentee voting
- 2 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 3 VOTER deadline
- 3-4 Student holidays
- 4 Election Day
Absentee ballot return deadline
(7 p.m.)
- 7 LWWNCA Board meeting
- 12 4600 Duke Street community election
- 10-13 Unit meetings**
- 11 Veterans Day
- 18 Sequoyah election
- 19 Board meeting**
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 27-28 School holidays

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Presidents' Message



Did you know that GMU students are reading about our League and its history? That's because Bernice Colvard, as LWVFA's historian, arranged for George Mason University to maintain an archives of our documents. We thank Bernice for her initiative in gathering the documents and arranging for their transfer to GMU.

A few weeks ago, we went to GMU with Beth Tudan to meet with archivists Yvonne Carigan, Head of the Special Collections and Archives, and Christine Cheng, Research Services Coordinator. We wanted to learn what they have, what they need and the format they prefer for documents we submit in the future.

We learned that they have divided our collection into 11 categories of which a few are: correspondence, issue-related material, oral histories, subject files, convention and meeting booklets and miscellaneous photos. We spent only two hours in the archives – not enough time for a thorough examination. When we have more details about what our archives contain, we'll share them with you in a *VOTER* article.

They showed us an acid-free folder with *Facts for Voters*, printed LWVFA calendars from the 1980s and other things. Some of the documents in this folder had been printed

directly from a typewritten master. It was a fascinating trip back in time.

Ms. Carigan and Ms. Cheng told us that our archives are quite popular with teachers and with students. And they span a considerable length of time. For example, the subject files date from 1948 to 2012.

We asked whether they prefer electronic or paper documents. Their answer was paper. If we have a certain piece only in electronic form, they asked for it in .pdf or .jpg format. They hope this will limit the impact of future software changes.

If you'd like to see photos of some of the items that they showed us, go to our website. Below the list of options on the left, just click on the icon for Facebook or Twitter.

We look forward to working with Ms. Carigan and with Ms. Cheng to keep our collection up to date. This is one more way of letting the community know about our projects and our activities.

In the meantime, we thank you for all you have done to help LWVFA to do what it does best. We couldn't have done it without you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Julie and Helen

Can You Assist With Running a Community Election?

Volunteers are needed for community elections, which raise significant funds for LWVFA's budget. Remember monies earned from these efforts help to fund League efforts. Please use these links to sign up:

- [Sequoyah Community Election Volunteer Sign Up](#)
- [Duke Street Election Volunteer Sign Up](#)

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2014 - 2015

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150

Additional Background Information on Fracking

October 2014 Unit Discussion

– from Elizabeth Lonoff – committee member, by email dated 10/4/2014

The following message from Elizabeth Lonoff (elonoff@msn.com) was received after the October Briefing.

Water is an integral component of the hydraulic fracturing process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Water regulates waste disposal of recovered fracturing fluids ("flowback") into surface waters under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (point source) permit program and sometimes the injection of fracturing fluids as authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended the SDWA to exclude from EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program "the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities." (This is known as the Halliburton loophole, named after the company that invented fracking in the 1940s and inserted at the request of then-Vice President Dick Cheney, a former chief executive of Halliburton.) Any service company that performs hydraulic fracturing using diesel fuel must receive prior authorization through the applicable UIC program. Revised (Feb. 2014) guidance and related information is available at <http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/class2/hydraulicfracturing/hydraulic-fracturing.cfm#guide>.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 created a rebuttable presumption that certain oil and gas related activities authorized by the U.S. Department of the Interior in managing public lands and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in managing National Forest System Lands are subject to a "categorical exclusion" under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Activities under the Mineral Leasing Act and exploration and extraction of natural gas are exempt from NEPA because of a blanket finding of no significant impact unless the public can prove otherwise

Wastes generated from crude oil and natural gas exploration and production are generally subject to non-hazardous waste regulation under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subtitle D and excluded from hazardous waste regulation under Subtitle C.

Over the last several years, many states have been developing and updating legislation and regulations in light of the increase in the use of hydraulic fracturing, including requirements related to waste management. EPA reviewed the waste-related provisions of state regulations as of March 2014 for oil and natural gas waste pits and storage tanks for 26 states with the most significant shale gas activity.

In summary:

- All 26 reviewed states have oil and gas regulations.
- State regulations vary greatly in scope and detail.
- Regulatory programs can include regulatory parameters such as liner requirements, clear definitions of waste fluids and characterization requirements, operational controls, maintenance, closure, and financial assurance requirements.
- Several areas do not appear to have specific requirements, such as groundwater, air, or post closure monitoring.

Numerous states have recently updated regulations to include disclosure requirements for the chemicals used in the practice of hydraulic fracturing. State regulations continue to evolve as hydraulic fracturing issues become more prevalent and additional information becomes available.

Update

The U.S. Forest Service was scheduled to announce in September whether it's going to allow fracking within the George Washington National Forest under the forest's new 15-year management plan. Planning staff officer Ken Landgraf recently announced that additional time would be required to address all the comments received on the draft plan. While it wouldn't be the first national forest to allow fracking, advocates on both sides of the debate view this decision as crucial. On September 10th, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe predicted that horizontal fracking for natural gas will not occur in the George Washington National Forest.

Invitation

Executive Briefing on the 10/1/14 Virginia Energy Plan, available at http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/2014_VirginiaEnergyPlan2.shtml

9-11 a.m. (check-in begins at 8:30) on October 14th Science Museum of Virginia
2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond 23220

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters will be briefed by Governor McAuliffe and administration staff on the Virginia Energy Plan which lays out the Commonwealth's energy policy for the next 4 years.

League Co-sponsors Meet and Greet Sessions Throughout the County

By Peggy Knight, Chair, Meet and Greets

It has been a busy fall for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. We co-sponsored eight Meet and Greet Events in the Northern Virginia area for the candidates in the 8th, 10th, and 11th Congressional Districts. Our co-sponsors included AARP, Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, AARP Virginia, AAUW McLean and Mt. Vernon Branches, Sully, Mason and Lee District Councils, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, Omicron Theta Zeta Chapter, Fairfax. Jim Southworth of Fairfax Public Access was able to video the events and upload them to YouTube. This was popular with both the voters and the candidates.

Because of the irregularly shaped boundaries, some of the candidate forums included candidates from two districts. We teamed with League of Women Voters of Loudoun County to have an event for the 10th Congressional District in Leesburg and with the League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area to have one in Lake Ridge for the 11th Congressional District. The Leagues from Falls Church, Arlington and Alexandria partnered with us for the events in the 8th Congressional Districts. All candidates certified to appear on the ballot were invited to participate in the events in their district.

Thirteen of the fourteen candidates participated in one or all of the events in their district. They appreciated the opportunity to interact with the voters. In turn, the voters

welcomed the chance to interact with the candidates. One voter stated “that hearing from candidates in a small forum was useful.” The independent candidates appreciated the opportunity to share their views, and one voter stated that “it was very interesting to learn more about the other candidates, particularly the independent voices”.



These events could not have been a success without the efforts of the members of the League and our partners. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Jim Southworth for his efforts to produce professional quality videos of these events. To view any of the events go to www.lwv-fairfax.org/2014MeetandGreet.html.

While the 2014 election is almost behind us, we need to look forward to the 2015 one. All the members of the Assembly, the Board of Supervisors, the sheriff, School Board members, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Clerk of the Court, and the members of the Soil and Water Commission will be on the ballot. Fulfilling our mission to educate the voters will require “many hands to make light work”. Start thinking about what you can do to make the 2015 Meet and Greets a success.

Thank You to All Those Who Helped With Voter Outreach

Thank you all for your work on the photo IDs, publicizing the Meet and Greets, and your voter registration activities in many locations this October and November. We have begun to reach out in new ways and have continued a presence in our traditional haunts, such as libraries. Please look out for a short questionnaire to be included in the November Unit Chair Letter. We will be asking for your observations about this election season and your suggestions for improvements to be made for next year’s season.

Sidney Johnson, Voters Service Coordinator



Northern Virginia delegation to the People’s Debate in Richmond gather for a photo op. (l-r: Beth Tudan, Lois Page, Sidney Johnson, Ann Kanter, Olga Hernandez, Sue Worden and Carol Noggle.)



Part 1 of 2 . . .

Slavery Was Not Abolished in 1864; It Still Exists Today

Edited by Judy Helein and Karole McKalip

The League of Women Voters of the United States at their convention in June 2014 adopted the Human Trafficking Position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey as follows: “The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.”

The unit discussion article this month is in large part taken from the League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s Human Trafficking Study and Consensus. This study was conducted by Elizabeth Santeramo and Doris Schapira, with assistance on specific research items from Norma Blake, Loretta Lynch, Joy Scally and Rhea Tabakin. The entire study with many resources can be found on the League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s website, www.lwvnj.org. The New Jersey study included information on the state of New Jersey and Essex County that is not included in this article.

Human Trafficking Part 2 will be presented in February 2015 and will include information on Virginia and Fairfax County

Definition

“Trafficking in persons” and “human trafficking” have been used as umbrella terms for the act of: Recruiting, Harboring, Transporting, Providing, or Obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It includes: compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.

Human trafficking can include but does not require movement. People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked.

Common Methods of Control include:

- Restriction of movement
- Confiscating passports, visas, and/or identification
- Constantly accompanying the victim
- Insisting on answering questions on behalf of the

- victim, and/or translating all conversations
- Isolating the victim by not disclosing his or her location or address
- Requiring the victim to live and work in the same location
- Harmful living conditions
- Restricting access to food and appropriate clothing
- Forbidding access to appropriate medical care
- Not allowing time off or sufficient time to sleep
- Harmful working conditions
- In exchange for work opportunity, charging a large fee that is difficult or impossible to pay off
- Requiring unusually long work hours with few or no breaks
- Restricting the number of days off
- Providing little to no pay or irregular pay

Selling Stolen Babies

One other area, which is also human trafficking but does not fit neatly into the previous definitions, is the selling of stolen babies. This involves kidnapping or in other ways obtaining babies that are wanted by their birth families, but passing them off as orphans. They are sold for huge profits to desperate would-be parents, who do not know that the babies have been stolen and who think they are saving the



baby from a life in an orphanage or on the street.

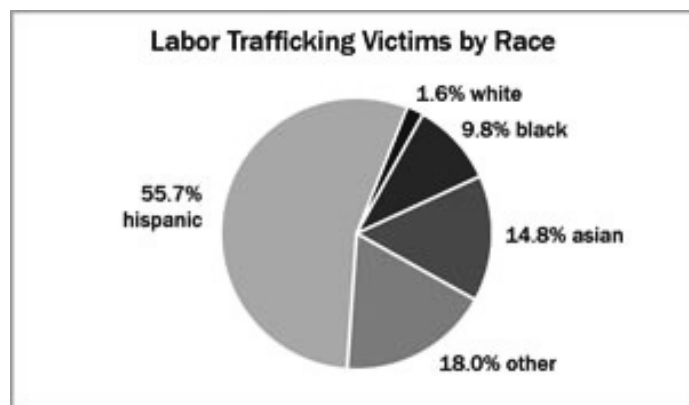
REPORTED INCIDENTS 2008-2010

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, provided the following figures in April 2011.

- Federally funded task forces opened 2,515 suspected incidents of human trafficking for investigation between January 2008 and June 2010.
- About 8 in 10 of the suspected incidents of human trafficking were classified as sex trafficking.
- About 1 in 10 incidents were classified as labor trafficking.
- Federal agencies were more likely to lead labor trafficking investigations (29%) than sex trafficking investigations (7%).
- More than half (62%) of the confirmed labor trafficking victims were age 25 or older, compared with 13% of confirmed sex trafficking victims.
- Four-fifths of victims in confirmed sex trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens (83%), while most confirmed labor trafficking victims were identified as undocumented aliens (67%) or qualified aliens (28%).

Trafficking.org Statistics

- Minor victims were sold an average of 10-15 times a day, 6 days a week.
- 1 out of 5 pornographic images is of a child.
- The sale of child pornography has become a \$3 billion dollar industry.
- Over 100,000 websites offer child pornography.
- 55% of Internet child pornography comes from the United States.



How Many People Are Actually Trafficked?

The United States Department of State 2012 and 2013 Report on Trafficking in Person (TIP) states estimates that as many as 27 million men, women, and children around the

world are victims of what is now often described with the umbrella term “human trafficking” at any given time. The work that remains in combating this crime is the work of fulfilling the promise of freedom -- freedom from slavery, for those exploited, and the freedom for survivors to carry on with their lives.

Gender Estimates

According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime: Women account for 55% to 60% of all trafficking victims detected globally; women and girls together account for about 75%. Twenty-seven percent of all victims detected globally are children. Of every 3 child victims, 2 are girls and 1 is a boy.

Estimates--Not Statistics--for the United States

The Congressional Research Service estimates that as many as 17,500 people are believed to be trafficked into the United States each year, and some have estimated that 100,000 U.S. citizen children are victims of trafficking within the United States.

Incidence in the United States

The following is a list of available statistics estimating the scope of human trafficking within the United States from Trafficking.org. *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the United States:*

- There are 100,000 to 300,000 underage girls being sold for sex in America.
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 12-14 years old.
- 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year.
- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of running away from home.

A good resource is this website, which is constantly updated: <http://human.globalincidentmap.com/home.php> When you view it, scroll to U.S., and magnify the map. Be sure to click on legend to see what the flashing symbols mean.

THE POLARIS PROJECT

The Polaris Project, a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, was founded in 2002 and is named after the North Star that guided slaves to freedom in the U.S. From working with government leaders to protecting victims' rights, to building partnerships with the world's leading technology corporations, Polaris sparks long-term change that focuses communities on identifying, reporting and eliminating trafficking networks. This comprehensive

model puts victims at the center of all that the organization does – helping survivors restore their freedom, preventing more victims, and gathering the data to pursue traffickers wherever they operate.

The Polaris Project operates the free central 24-h our National Human Trafficking Resource Center for the United States, connecting professionals, victims and community members to information services. Call 1 (888) 373-7888 or text HELP or BE FREE (233733) to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in a specific area; or to request training and technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources.

Polaris' policy program is viewed as a premier source of human trafficking legislation and policy expertise in the United States. During the past 4 years, Polaris has rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws that are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors. 2014 is the final year of Polaris' State Ratings on Human Trafficking laws. This year's analysis shows that 37 states passed new laws to fight trafficking in the past year. Delaware, New Jersey and Washington have perfect scores, meaning that they have laws fulfilling all 10 categories. Twelve states have failed to make minimal efforts to pass laws that support victims.

Polaris Project Statistical Snapshots

Sex trafficking

Sex trafficking exists within the broader commercial sex trade, often at much larger rates than most people realize or understand. Sex trafficking has been found in a wide variety of venues of the overall sex industry, including residential brothels, hostess clubs, online escort services, fake massage businesses, strip clubs and street prostitution.

Fake Massage Businesses

- "Johns" who frequent fake massage businesses make it a "hobby" to buy sex and to track all such brothels nationwide. There are more than 5,000 brothels disguised as massage businesses nationwide.
- Standard pricing structure: Johns pay a house fee of \$60 - \$90 per half hour/hour plus they occasionally pay tips; the women are pressured to "please the customer."
- Standard day for a woman in a fake massage business: 10 a.m. - 2 or 3 a.m., 7 days a week.
- Estimated average number of men a woman must have sex with daily: 6 - 10.

Internet-Based

- When the U.S. Craigslist Adult Services Section was available, there were 10,000-16,000 adult services postings/day in the U.S. alone. This was estimated to be 40% of the total online sex ads in the U.S. each day at the time.
- Law enforcement across the U.S. has identified online sex ads as the number one platform for the buying and selling of sex with children and young women.
- An FBI investigation found that more than 2,800 ads of prostituted children were posted on Craigslist in 2008 alone.

Residential Brothels

- Standard price for 15 minutes of sex at a Residential Brothel: \$30
- Standard day for a woman or child at a Residential Brothel: 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 12 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Estimated number of men a woman or child must have sex with daily: 25 - 48 men.

Street Prostitution

- Estimated number of men that victims must have sex with daily: 1 - 15
- Standard quota per night: \$500 to \$1,000 or more per night
- Minors as young as 12 years old are recruited into prostitution in the United States.

Hostess & Strip Clubs

In the 2008 study "Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution," conducted by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 46% of the 113 interviewees had bought sex at strip clubs and 49% of interviewees believed that there were girls under 18 years of age working at strip clubs.

Escort Services

While statistics on the scope of sex trafficking in escort services are not available, a 2008 study provides insight into the dynamics of the network. It states that of the women and girls interviewed, 41% of the women and girls were escorts, and 28% started as escorts when first recruited into commercial sex. Ninety-three percent had pimps when they were first recruited. Of the 41% who were escorts, 67% had experienced violence by their pimps and 59% said that they had been coerced.

Truck Stops

Victims working a truck stop typically earn \$5 - \$100 per sex act. All earnings are confiscated by the pimp. Victims of pimp-controlled sex trafficking are

commonly forced to meet quotas of \$500 to \$1,000 a night. The availability of statistics is limited due to the crime's hidden nature and limited awareness by law enforcement and social-service providers

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines labor trafficking as: "The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of bondage or slavery."

Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farm workers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay. In the United States, these forms of forced labor are more prevalent than many people realize.

Agriculture & Farms

Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, numerous cases of slavery have emerged in agriculture. In the state of Florida alone, the Department of Justice has prosecuted 7 labor trafficking cases, assisting over 1,000 victims. Most recently, on September 2, 2010, the Department of Justice issued an indictment alleging that Global Horizons, a labor recruiting company, recruited over 400 Thai workers and forced them to work in agriculture in at least 13 states by ensuring the workers accrued a substantial debt, confiscating their passports and visas, and deporting workers that didn't cooperate with the company's demands.

Domestic Workers

Victims of domestic servitude in the U.S. are most often foreign national women with or without documentation living in the home of their employer. Men and boys may also be victims, but these cases are less common.

Restaurants & Food Service

Cases of human trafficking in restaurants have been investigated in multiple states, including Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the prevalence of labor trafficking in restaurants has been

commonly cited by human trafficking investigators and service providers as an area of concern.

Factories/Manufacturing

Labor trafficking in manufacturing occurs in the garment industry and in food processing plants in the United States. Victims, both men and women, have been forced to work 10-12 hour days, 6-7 days per week with little or no break time. People may be trafficked into garment industry jobs such as sewing, assembling, pressing, or packing apparel. Others may be forced to work in food processing operations that include slaughtering, preserving, canning and packing goods for distribution.



An Example Several workers paid large fees to labor recruiters who brought them to the U.S. with falsified documents. When the workers arrived in the U.S., they had to work at a canning plant in a small, rural town in Kansas to pay their enormous debt. Then recruiters required that the workers live in overcrowded conditions in housing that they provided. Because of its isolated location, the workers had to rely on the recruiters for food and basic

supplies. Recruiters took the majority of the workers' paychecks, claiming that the money went to their debt, housing, and food. *This information is based on calls received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

Peddling & Begging Rings

Peddling and begging rings are estimated to cumulatively earn \$50 million annually. Victims may take in as much as \$100 per day, but are allotted barely enough to cover meals, usually \$8 to \$15 per day. They typically don't have enough money to buy a bus ticket home.

Hospitality Industry

Over 1.5 million people in the U.S. work in the accommodation industry. The extent of trafficking within the industry is unknown.

PROSECUTION & PROTECTION LAWS

This part of the study focuses on existing anti-trafficking laws which deal with the prosecution of offenders as well as victim protection and services.

United States Law

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) is a federal statute passed into law in 2000 and renewed in 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2013. It created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking, with a significant focus on the international dimension of the problem. The law provides a three-pronged approach:

- • Prevention through public awareness programs overseas with a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program;
- • Protection through a new T-Visa and services for foreign national victims, and
- • Prosecution through new federal crimes laws.

Pending U.S. Legislation

A new law is being considered in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 1732) “Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act.” This bill was introduced with bipartisan support, including co-sponsorship by the late New Jersey congressman Donald Payne.

Some minors who are sex-trafficking victims have had contact, often multiple times, with a child welfare system not always prepared to help them. This bill is low-cost because it focuses on the utilization of existing resources and reporting frameworks. provides for the use of existing resources to better protect and serve these vulnerable youth.

According to Polaris Project, a 2007 study conducted in New York State shows that more than 85% of identified commercially sexually exploited children in New York State had prior child welfare involvement. The information identified by this reporting requirement will help child welfare officials to better meet their child protection goals by encouraging better identification of trafficked children, and greater understanding of their specialized support and services needs.

Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States

On April 9, 2013, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote in part:

“Now, for the first time in more than a decade, the federal government has created a coordinated “Strategic Action Plan to strengthen services to victims of human trafficking in the United States. Together with the Department of

Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, we are co-chairing this process and working with partner agencies of the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. We released the proposed Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States this morning to the public for comment... Human trafficking is wrong. It is illegal. Join us in the fight for dignity for some of the most vulnerable among us.” (The complete federal strategic action plan can be found on the website. See End Note #3.)

Bradley Myles, CEO, Polaris Project, issued the following statement with regard to the federal strategic plan: “We strongly support the recommendations offered for the U.S., and agree that increasing funding for service for all victims of human trafficking -- including U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, men, women and children -- should be a top priority. The U.S. government’s first-ever federal strategic action plan to strengthen services for trafficking victims is an important milestone, and we strongly support an increase in funding to accelerate the government’s ability to implement this plan.”

The States

Today, all 50 states have human trafficking laws. But the laws vary greatly in definition and areas covered. The implementation of these laws is dismal, judging by the few cases brought to the justice system in proportion to the extent of the crimes.

Safe Harbor Laws

Bradley Myles, CEO, Polaris Project, emphasizes that it is still possible for child victims of sex trafficking to be arrested and prosecuted for prostitution in dozens of states. He urges more states to pass ‘Safe Harbor’ laws that provide support for these young victims of exploitation and abuse.

The Opposite Point of View

- One woman, Laura Agustin, claims on her website: “Millions of people around the world make a living selling sex, for many different reasons. What are they expected to do? This would take away their livelihoods. Selling sex may be their preference.”
- Media outlets such as Backpage.com, and the classified ad section of numerous print and online publications, make their money selling sex ads. Their business would not be as profitable if they did not sell ads.
- Traffickers make millions of dollars selling sex or labor and they don’t want to be deprived of their income.
- Some may feel that these efforts might be too costly.

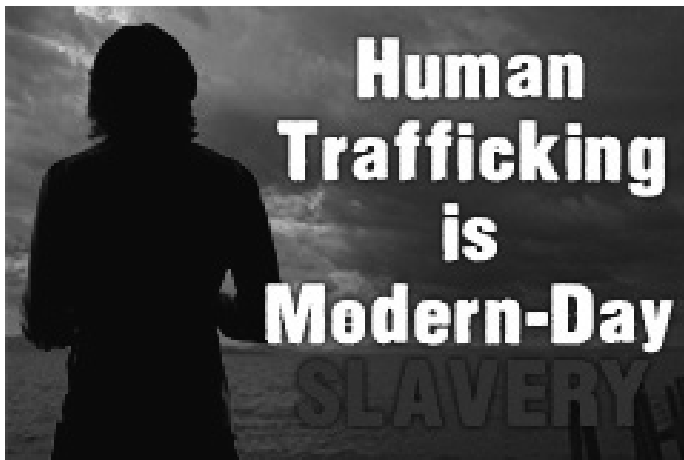
COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Many Americans have little – if any – awareness of human trafficking. Even those who have heard of human trafficking are uninformed. Some believe that incidents of trafficking might occur somewhere else in the world – probably in some distant foreign country – not where they live or work. Not in the U.S.A.

The belief is often held that women from poor foreign countries choose to come to this country and work as prostitutes or in low paying jobs because it is better than the life they left behind. The truth is that they are tricked into a slave trade. Men, women and children are then exploited for both sex and labor. It most definitely exists in our neighborhoods and workplace, and might even involve our own children.

Many are horrified when they learn that people with whom they interact every day – a maid, a manicurist, a landscaper, a restaurant worker – may in fact be held against their will, exploited and abused.

More people are enslaved today than ever were in the transatlantic slave trade of the past.



Some patrons who visit a neighborhood business where trafficked individuals are working, may get a gut feeling that “something is wrong or off,” but fear keeps them from taking action. Factors that keep the community-at-large from recognizing human trafficking in their communities and taking corrective action are lack of awareness of:

- the forms of human trafficking
- the signs that human trafficking is taking place in their community
- the fact that many community businesses that have trafficked individuals working for them operate under the radar of concerned citizens because they

are not a public nuisance

We hope that this article has increased your awareness of the extent of the Human Trafficking problem in the United States. In February we will delve into what is happening in Virginia and Fairfax County.

END NOTES:

1. League of Women Voters New Jersey Study Human Trafficking http://www.lwvnj.org/images/issues/HT/2013_HT-Study-FactsIssues.pdf
2. The Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org>

Discussion Questions

1. Did the article help you to understand the scope of human trafficking in the U.S.? Were you aware of the widespread areas that use the labors of people who are being “trafficked”?
2. How many members and/or guests who attended the unit meeting were aware of the Polaris Project? What does it do?
3. Discuss the Federal laws/actions that are currently in place or proposed. Do we need more laws or more effective prosecution?
4. What actions, if any, can we as individuals take to address the issues around human trafficking, i.e., its exposure, support for victims, preventive laws?

Virginia Moves to End Veteran Homelessness

September 24, 2014, marked the kickoff of the statewide 100 Day Challenge to house veterans experiencing homelessness. On any given night, 617 veterans in Virginia are homeless based on the 2014 Point-In-Time Count, a survey of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. Understanding the gravity of this situation, Governor Terry McAuliffe and mayors from Alexandria, Hampton, Richmond, Petersburg, Salem, Roanoke, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News signed the Mayors Challenge. The initiative is designed to encourage community leaders to collaborate on strategies targeting veteran homelessness.

This 100 Day Challenge is a step toward ending veteran homelessness by the end of December 2015. It follows a two-day Boot Camp in which community partners from Roanoke, Richmond and Hampton Roads teamed up to create local goals based on unique challenges that each

community is experiencing in housing veterans faster. The initiative was sponsored by the Governor's Homeless Coordinating Council, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness. The National League of Cities also has been an active partner in encouraging local leader participation in the Challenge.

The 100 Day Challenge is an opportunity for members of local, state, and federal governments, as well as nonprofits, charities, and faith-based organizations, to join together in teams to implement strategies that have been proven effective in ending homelessness in communities across Virginia and the nation. The Housing First model is one of the adopted approaches. It focuses on providing housing for the most chronically homeless veterans, then connecting them with additional resources to retain their housing. These resources include case management, health care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and job training. This was a primary strategy used by Phoenix and Salt Lake City.

Leaders of the two cities announced early this year that they have ended chronic veteran homelessness in their communities. Another key to their success was the deployment of navigation teams into the communities to work directly with veterans and obtain any documentation they may need to obtain housing. Once housed, veterans are linked to additional resources and provided with what they need to create a stable lifestyle and remain in housing.

The Hampton Roads, Roanoke and Richmond metro area communities, in partnership with the Veterans Affairs

Medical Centers, have rigorously evaluated their current systems and created a plan to efficiently house as many veterans as they can in the next 100 days. Through this effort, they will also be eliminating the duplication of processes, challenging groups to look at this issue in a new way, and moving veterans into housing first while connecting them to services more quickly. This collaboration of local, state and federal efforts is a pivotal movement that will push Virginia closer to becoming the first state to reach the federal goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

These local communities are continuously searching to create partnerships with individuals, organizations and landlords who want to contribute to the lives of the men and women who have protected our freedom.

The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for increased resources and implementation of best practice strategies, such as the Housing First model, to prevent and end homelessness.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) operates 23 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for federal veterans benefits. Among other services, DVS operates two long-term care facilities offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans, and also provides veterans with direct linkages to needed services including behavioral healthcare, veteran's benefits, housing, employment and other public and private assistance programs. (www.dvs.virginia.gov):

Speakers' Corner . . .

LWVFA Members speak at community events and participate in panels across the Fairfax area. Some recent events include:

September 11, 2014 – Mt. Vernon AAUW, at Fiona's Pub in Kingstowne Center, **Sherry Zachry and Sue Worden** (LWV-VA Voter Services Director) spoke about upcoming elections, candidate events (Meet & Greets, LWV-VA Senatorial Debate on October 13) and provided information on photo ID. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

September 13, 2014 - **Sidney Johnson** (LWVFA Voters Service Coordinator) met with members of the Omicron Zeta Theta chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, a graduate business women's sorority. Sidney thanked them in person for their financial support for the videographer at the Meet & Greet on September 27 at the Herndon Fortnightly

Library and shared information about the other activities and interests of the League.

September 14, 2014 – Friends of the Library Forum, at Tysons-Pimmit Library, **Therese Martin** (Action Monitor LWV-VA) participated in a discussion on how to advocate with elected officials on funding and other issues relating to the Fairfax County Public Library system.

September 16, 2014 - **Sidney Johnson** met with social service counselors of the United Community Ministries (UCM) in the Mount Vernon area, with help of LWVFA member JoAnn Hersh (MVE unit) who volunteers with UCM and had set up displays of Fairfax Elections and League literature at the UCM offices. UCM serves the population in the Route 1 corridor, and area of low-income persons. At the meeting, the counselors said that they would be happy to mention voter registration and free photo ID opportunities to their clients.

We Welcome Beth Tudan as Our New Executive Director



Beth Tudan is our new Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Fairfax and also an Academic Publishing consultant. Beth had a long interest in voting, serving first as an International Election Monitor for the State Department in some of Romania's earliest democratic elections. She also worked with American Citizens Abroad of

Geneva on the rights of overseas Americans voters.

She is a polling official for the LWVFA for Fairfax

County. Beth is an active member of the League's Education Committee, and co-wrote articles in the VOTER on the privatization of higher education in Virginia and on the adoption of electronic textbooks in FCPS.

Beth is serving a second term as Fairfax County Council of PTAs Vice President of Engagement. She was also PTA President at both Oakton Elementary School and Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School PTAs in Germany with the European Congress of PTA. Beth received a Fulbright Scholarship in Economics to study in Romania from 1991-93 and has earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and an MBA. She has taught high school economics, government, and AP US History, and was a historical researcher for author Alex Haley. Beth, a native Tennessean with historical Virginia roots, and her husband live in Vienna and have three sons who are enrolled at Oakton Elementary and Madison High School.

FCPS, Local Agencies Expand Scope of Restorative Justice Program for Youth

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), in collaboration with the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC), Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and Northern Virginia Mediation Services (NVMS), is launching a program that will allow School Resource Officers (SROs) to refer select incidents committed by juveniles in Fairfax County schools and communities to a restorative justice conference so students can avoid automatic entrance into the criminal justice system. Offenses that are non-violent and non-drug criminal offenses are eligible for the new program.

While FCPS and JDRDC have had separate restorative justice programs for the last few years, the recently signed memorandum of understanding is unique in that it formalizes the program, expands its scope to encompass additional partners, and implements the program countywide.

It brings together multiple county agencies and a community organization to respond jointly to youth crime and wrongdoing. The new program, which enables SROs to forego criminal charges against students for certain offenses, will be launched in October.

In addition to the cases referred by the SRO to the FCPS Restorative Justice specialist, the agreement also establishes

a pilot program—to begin in October—at the Mount Vernon District Station to refer youth with non-violent criminal offenses to a restorative conference conducted by NVMS.

Restorative justice is a victim-centered response to crime and wrongdoing that focuses on victims' needs as related to the harm caused by the incident. Young offenders are held accountable by direct involvement in repairing the harm they caused to the victim, community, themselves, and their families. It gives victims a voice in the outcome and aims to reduce the incidence of recurrence of the offense.

FCPS has used restorative justice for more than five years; the program has been in effect in the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for two years. The program is designed to address critical issues including minority overrepresentation in discipline and justice proceedings, bullying, Internet crimes, and the school-to-prison pipeline experienced by some youth who engage in criminal activities at an early age.

Training in the restorative justice program has been conducted for FCPS and county agencies. In addition, FCPS restorative justice specialists have been training other school districts locally and across Virginia about the new program. For more information, contact the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach at 571-423-1200.

Domestic Violence Hotline
703-360-7273

Units Express Thoughts on Gun Safety

By Karole McKalip

Introduction

The topic of guns, particularly of concealed weapons, has recently been in the news. In June and September our League discussed guns primarily in terms of safety and education. The following represents a comprehensive summary of the discussions that occurred in our June and September unit meetings. We looked at statistics and actions at the Federal, State and County levels; then we examined the relationships between guns and homicide, suicide, and domestic violence. We learned about the methods that the County and State are currently employing to reduce gun violence and to educate and protect our community on the consequences of the use of guns. One unit suggested that perhaps the biggest value of the studies and our ensuing discussions is as a building block for communication with groups such as the NRA by presenting non-inflammatory information and statistics as a starting point for civil discourse.

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.” (May Gun Safety article)

The National League’s position on guns was amended following federal court decisions concerning the interpretation of the Second Amendment’s “right to keep and bear arms.” The League’s current position focuses on the regulation of firearms as a “public health and safety issue” and “supports regulating firearms for safety.” It does not address a citizen’s constitutional “right to keep and bear arms.”

Guns, Suicide, and Domestic Violence

Many members believed that the availability of guns promotes their use and leads to greater numbers of completed suicides and homicides. Their easy access and use lead to more fatal consequences. Responses from some units

concluded that: “fewer guns would decrease the number of suicides”; someone who wants to commit suicide will find a way but guns allow for ‘impulse’ suicides; “if guns were secured better and not so available, the number of suicides by firearms would drop”; the sentiment in our group “was that public safety was sellable to the public--we agree that health and safety should be emphasized.”

Some members were surprised to learn that completed suicides were so much greater than homicides, especially in Northern Virginia. This phenomenon was contrary to expectations. There was some speculation that people committed suicide after thinking about it for some time.



Methods to Reduce Deaths/Injuries From Firearms

One unit believed that “effective programs in Fairfax County were well documented in the study presentation and applauded the existence of the programs, especially in training for police officers. The lack of personnel and/or facilities in crisis intervention were noted as significant barriers to resolutions of the presenting crises.” Some of the particularly effective techniques that members noted were:

- More training for police officers
- Counseling potential victims and offenders
- Domestic violence studies and action centers
- Lethality assessments of homes
- Bystander education
- Resources officers in schools
- Available counseling services to domestic violence victims and offenders
- Educational sessions on safe handling and securing of firearms
- Free gun locks
- SAFE program, which teaches women self-defense techniques

Limitations or Restrictions on Enacting Regulations of Firearms

Several units explored the difficulties that local and state authorities face passing firearm regulations. The Brady Law was mentioned as the most recognizable federal legislation currently intact. It was noted that state laws on firearms cannot contradict federal law or Supreme Court

rulings. However, states have enacted legislation regarding open carry and concealed carry of firearms. Several units discussed the application of the Virginia Dillon Rule which limits the methods that counties pursue. The boundaries between Federal, State, and County regarding firearms regulations need further clarification.

Community Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

One unit was surprised at how many different gun control/anti violence groups exist and the lack of connection among them. Perhaps they are effecting change by the pressure these organizations present to various retail stores and restaurant chains which state clearly they do not allow firearms on their premises. What seemed surprising to another unit was the apparent lack of funding for research related to the public health risk of firearms.

Some suggestions, relating to gun safety, included:

- Help modify the discussion about violence
- Develop/support cultural changes
- Join “grass-roots” movements
- Write letters to editors supporting mental health service increases agreed on by LWVFA and written by co-presidents
- Ask questions of candidates
- Contact state/federal legislators
- Assist with campaigns for improved mental health services
- Support funding for another mobile crisis unit; Fairfax has only one.
- Lobby elected local and state officials to close loopholes in gun laws in Virginia; League member can lobby as individuals.
- Use the League to pull groups together to help with

coalition building

- Push for more state funding for mental health services
- Educate youth on the harm guns bring and how to use them safely
- Get religious and community organizations involved
- Rather than limiting guns, take a more realistic approach to focus on health and safety

Where Do We Go From Here?

Some ideas proposed by the units to address the issues of gun safety include:

- The League at the national level could push for more scientific studies with regard to the use of firearms as a public health issue.
- Softer approaches to gun violence as health and safety problems are needed in order to work with the NRA and gun lobby.

How can we accomplish increased public education about gun safety and could an increased focus on gun safety and public health eventually change the culture in America?

One unit suggested that guns need to be much more controlled: background checks need to be required at gun shows, a nationwide assault weapons ban needs to be enacted, sales of “smart guns” need to be not only supported but required, there needs to be more funding for research about guns as a public health and safety menace. The members were strongly opposed to concealed carry laws. Not all units voiced such specific actions, but clearly the topic of gun safety in our society emerged as complex issue that must continue to be rationally discussed and evaluated.

Making Preliminary Protective Orders Easier

Barbara Nunes, Chair, Domestic Violence

In the 2002 Domestic Violence study we discussed protective or restraining orders. There are three types—emergency (EPO) preliminary (PPO), and protective (PO) or final. A victim either calls the police or goes to the magistrate to obtain an EPO which is effective for 72 hours or until a judge issues the PPO. The applicant fills out an 8-page affidavit with the intake at the courthouse. The case then comes before the judge in Juvenile & Domestic Relations (J&DR) court. If granted, the sheriff will serve a PPO on the respondent. The order is not in effect until the order is served. The PPO is for the safety of the victim but may address temporary custody of children and some support for housing and use

of the car. A PO will be scheduled within 15 days after the respondent has been served in person.

The PPO process entails information about the victim, respondent, nature of abuse, suggested action, etc. and is comprehensive. Recently Judge Mann and others took a look at the process and are proposing changes to assist victims. Presently 48 to 49 percent of victims are non-English speaking, which has presented problems. Over 150 different languages are spoken in Fairfax County. In the proposed new system, victims may select one of two options:

- 1) Submit a written affidavit. Intake will arrange for paperwork to be submitted and the judge makes the decision by the end of the day. If a translator is needed, this may delay response.
- 2) See the judge in person. An interpreter is provided if the information is available before 1 p.m.

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Human Trafficking: Part 1

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the "At Large Meeting" and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of October 1, 2014, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, November 1

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale 22003
Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401_

Monday, November 10

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield 22150
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

Tuesday, November 11

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully District Gov. Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly 20151
Contact: Leslie, 571-213-6384

Wednesday, November 12

9:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Dist. Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

Star Nut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Sharone 703-734-1048
or Adarsh 703-356-8368

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermille Pl.
Springfield 22153-1526
Contact: Kathleen 703-644-1555

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Art Gallery at Heron House
Lake Anne Village Center
Reston 20190
Contact: Lucy, 703-757-5893

Thursday, November 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

11908 Paradise Lane
Oak Hill
Contact: Charleen 703-620-3593

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

9607 Laurel Vale Place
Fairfax Station 22039
(Annual Book Sale fundraiser)
Contact: Nancy 703-256-6570
or Peg 703-256-9420

1 p.m. Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library
10304 Lynhaven Pl.
Oakton 22124
Contact: Bobby, 703-938-1486 or
Liz, 703-281-3380

7:45 p.m. Mt. Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

December Meetings:

FCPS School Update: Budget, Calendar, Etc.



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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Julie Jones, Co-President
Helen Kelly, Co-President
Ron Page, Editor
Liz Brooke, Coordinator

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year is July 1 through June 30. Current dues year ends June 30, 2015.)

Membership Category: Individual \$65 ____ ; Household (2 persons-1 VOTER) \$90 ____ ; Donation \$ ____
 Student \$32.50 ____ ; (Coll. Attending _____)

Membership is: New ____ ; Renewal ____ ; Reinstate ____ ; Subsidy Requested ____

We value membership. A subsidy fund is available, check block above and include whatever you can afford.

Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ **Unit** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(M)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Thank you for checking off your interests:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Govt | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence |

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403