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*“Human Trafficking and
Involuntary Servitude”*

Presented to
The Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee

by
John C. Odean

February 21, 2007
Annapolis, Maryland

February 21, 2007

I want to thank all the senators of the wonderful state of Maryland for allowing me to share today. I am very grateful for your tireless dedication, your continual hard work, and the heartfelt service you perform for, and on behalf of the people of Maryland.

[To the issue at hand, Human Trafficking. Please make note of this packet which contains pertinent quotations, statements and factual information to which I refer today.]

The people of my community – the Vineyard Community Church of Central Maryland – have been working in Ukraine with orphans for nearly six years now. Through the years, as our work has unfolded, we have come face-to-face with the wickedness that Senate Bill 606 addresses – Human Trafficking.

Let me say first that we stand with and echo the words of President George W. Bush from his July 2004 address on this subject (***see attached page 1***): *‘human life is (indeed) the gift of our Creator, and it should never be for sale.’* In this very same address President Bush brought our attention specifically to the issue of human trafficking when he said (and I quote): *‘U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, and Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland...’* (***see attached page 2***)

As I have mentioned, we have been working with orphans in Ukraine for close to six years. During this past year we have become aware that the very orphans we try to care for have been trafficked to the United States, with Baltimore being one of the primary destinations, as cited in a study on child victims of trafficking from the University of Pennsylvania. (***see attached page 5***) Per our involvement in Ukraine, we know that at the age of 16, orphans in Ukraine are forced out

out of the state institutions and left to fend for themselves. All too often this means they end up on the streets as the target of human traffickers. We understand from a published report in 2005 from the U.S. Embassy in Kiev (**see attached page 17**) that traffickers are focusing increasingly on orphans —Can you imagine our shock as we began to realize that one of the destinations of trafficking out of Ukraine is Baltimore, Maryland? Here we are, trying to assist in one corner of the globe, only to find this rearing it's ugly head in our own back yard!!!!???

As we've begun investigating the issue of sex trafficking in Maryland, we were further disheartened to find that the Ukrainian orphans who are trafficked into our state are only one part of a much larger problem. Through our emerging relationships, we have learned that others...mere children – boys and girls – are similarly trafficked within Maryland and forced onto the streets. According to the reports published in 2006 from the U.S. State Department and the United Nations, (**see attached pages 15 & 16**), the U.S. ranks 'high' as a destination country for victims trafficked from Ukraine.— As trafficking from Ukraine is rather difficult and involved in terms of criminal business, we can only assess that it is much easier and profitable for domestic criminals involved in this terrible activity. The more we find out about this tragedy in our own country...in — the great state of Maryland— we hover between heartbreak and righteous indignation. To echo the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: *'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'*

The words of the prophet Isaiah reach down through the ages and compel us on the course set before us: *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon us because the LORD has anointed us to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners." The Lord Almighty says: "Is this not the breaking fast that I have chosen?: that you would loosen the bonds of wickedness, and undo the bands of the yoke, and let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke?" (Isaiah 61:1 & 58:6)*

Truth be told: when people are oppressed and held captive by traffickers (on both an international and domestic level) we need to act to *"loose the bands and let the oppressed go free"*.


Should we not endeavor to empower on every level? Federal...State...and Local?...encouraging both those who are helping the victims...and those who would go after the traffickers? I understand that this GREAT Senate has nearly unanimously passed this legislation previously...we commend you on this...and ask that you do this again as we contend for passage on the other side.

It is just very hard to understand why we have not acted to empower state law enforcement and legal authorities after President Bush has specifically mentioned Maryland in his statement that established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center in the summer of 2004. ***(see attached page 2)***

And thus...I ask...with all sincerity, as my community moves to help the victims here in Maryland, would you please encourage and empower us by passing Senate Bill 606? By so doing you will also encourage, enable and empower law enforcement and legal authorities at the state and local level to know that we, the people of Maryland, are serious about stopping human trafficking, and that we all stand together against this wicked activity.

May God bless you and give you strength and wisdom,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Odean". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, prominent "J".

John Odean



For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
July 16, 2004

President's Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel
Tampa, Florida
10:48 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction. It's always good to be with Jeb. (Laughter.) He's a great brother and a fine governor. (Applause.) And I know my daughter, Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here. (Applause.)

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership. (Applause.)

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State, thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service. (Applause.)

Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks -- (applause).

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. Attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love. I met Lawn Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lawn? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. (Laughter.)

The reason why Lawn came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lawn is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And Lawn is such a person. (Applause.)

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers, you're serving justice by putting them behind bars, you're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion, they depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service. (Applause.)

⇒ Human life is the gift of our Creator -- and it should never be for sale. (Applause.) It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence, they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that more than 80 percent are women and girls, and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it. (Applause.)

→ The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. And it is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland, or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia, or and Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it. (Applause.)

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime -- and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. (Applause.) We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in 2004. Today, the Department of State as announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge -- (applause) -- funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. This approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the Department of State released its 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns, and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a "Special Watch List" of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the United States government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims. (Applause.) Over the past three years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17-and-a-half years in prison -- the maximum time allowable -- for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17-and-a-half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail. (Applause.)

This year, the Department of Justice under General Ashcroft's lead successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious. And when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. We're staying on the hunt. (Applause.)

We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try and run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America. (Applause.)

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out. (Laughter.)

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion dollar a year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism -- and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba."

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about the industry. This is his quote, "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution of this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. (Applause.) We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom. (Applause.)

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. (Applause.) In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. (Applause.) And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

All the steps I've outlined today are important, yet, the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you, Anna? Yes, thanks for coming. She is a victim advocate. I think some

of you might have met her earlier today. A few years ago, Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriffs Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnapped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night. At first, Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison. (Applause.)

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because a good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the -- side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America. We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. -- you've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida -- because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to -- to the strategies that will enable us to prevail. I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency. God bless. (Applause.)

END 11:13 A.M. EDT

Exhibit 3.19

Regions and Countries of Origin of Sexually Exploited Trafficked Foreign Children in the U.S., 2000

World Region	Country of Origin	Focus Group Cities In Which Children Were Found
ASIA-OCEANIA		
	Australia	Honolulu, New Orleans
	Burma	Chicago, New York
	Cambodia	Honolulu, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle
	Hong Kong	Honolulu, New York, Seattle
	India	Berkeley, Chicago, New York, San Jose
	Japan	Honolulu
	Korea	Detroit, Honolulu, New York, San Francisco
	Laos	Honolulu, Los Angeles
	People's Republic of China	Detroit, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Seattle
	Philippines	Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, Seattle
	Sri Lanka	Chicago, Los Angeles
	Taiwan	Honolulu, New York, San Francisco
	Vietnam	Chicago, Honolulu, New York, New Orleans
AFRICA		
	Benin	Seattle
	Burkina Faso	Seattle
	Cameroon	New York, Seattle
	Eritrea	New York, Seattle
	Ethiopia	New York, Seattle
	Ghana	New York, Seattle
	Nigeria	Seattle
	Somalia	Chicago
	Sudan	Chicago
CENTRAL and SOUTH AMERICA		
	Belize	San Diego
	Colombia	Chicago, El Paso, San Diego
	Costa Rica	El Paso, San Diego
	El Salvador	El Paso, Chicago
	Guatemala	Chicago, El Paso, New York
	Honduras	Chicago, El Paso, Miami
	Nicaragua	Chicago, El Paso, San Diego, Los Angeles
CARIBBEAN		
	Dominican Republic	Fort Lauderdale, Homestead (FL), Miami, New York
	Haiti	Fort Lauderdale, Homestead (FL), Miami, New York
	Jamaica	Miami, New York
NORTH AMERICA		
	Canada	Chicago, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Seattle
	Mexico	Chicago, Detroit, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle
EASTERN EUROPE		
	Bosnia	Chicago, New York
	Byelorussia	Chicago, Seattle
	Czech Republic	Honolulu, New York
	Hungary	Los Angeles (via Mexico), New York
	Poland	Chicago, Honolulu, New York
	Russian Federation	Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles (via Mexico), New York, Seattle
	Ukraine	Baltimore, Los Angeles (via Mexico), New York, Seattle

Source: Estes, Richard J. and Neil Alan Weiner, 2001. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work).

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The "Natasha" Trade: Transnational Sex Trafficking

by Donna M. Hughes



Photo source: Photo Disc

Trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a shadow market valued at US \$7 billion annually. Women are trafficked to, from, and through every region in the world. This highly profitable trade poses a relatively low risk compared with trades in drugs or arms. The moneymakers are transnational networks of traffickers and pimps who prey on women seeking employment and opportunities. These illegal activities and related crimes not only harm the women involved; they also undermine the social, political, and economic fabric of the nations where they occur.

Countries with large sex industries create the demand for women; countries where traffickers easily recruit women provide the supply. For decades, the primary sending countries were in Asia. But the collapse of the Soviet Union opened up a pool of millions of women from which traffickers can recruit. Former Soviet republics such as Belarus, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine have become major suppliers of women to sex industries all over the world. In the sex industry today, the most popular and

about the author

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valuable women are from Russia and Ukraine.

This article focuses on the trade originating in Ukraine. It examines the scope of the problem, the factors that create a climate ripe for trafficking, the methods traffickers use, and the people who profit from the trade in women and girls. It concludes with some strategies to address the problem of trafficking and discusses the role that policymakers, researchers, and law enforcement officers in the United States can play.

Scope of the Problem

It is difficult to know how many women have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. The trade is secretive, the women are silenced, the traffickers are dangerous, and not many agencies are counting. Also, the word "trafficking" does not have

a universal meaning, resulting in different estimates depending on the definition used. This article uses the following definition:

Trafficking is any practice that involves moving people within and across local or national borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Trafficking may be the result of force, coercion, manipulation, deception, abuse of authority, initial consent, family pressure, past and present family and community violence, economic deprivation, or other conditions of inequality for women and children.¹

This definition accepts that trafficking occurs even if the woman consents, which is consistent with the 1949 United Nations convention prohibiting it. Narrower definitions of trafficking require acts of violence or coercion.

Exact numbers are unknown, but international agencies and governmental bodies estimate that each year over 1 million women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation in sex industries.

In the last decade, hundreds of thousands of women have been trafficked from Central and Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union into prostitution throughout the world. The U.S. State Department estimates that 50,000 to 100,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year for labor or sexual exploitation, primarily

"Can people really buy and sell women and get away with it? Sometimes I sit here and ask myself if that really happened to me, if it can really happen at all."

— A Ukrainian woman who was trafficked, beaten, raped, and used in the sex industry in Israel. After a police raid, she was put in prison, awaiting deportation.

The U.S. Response and Role

Until recently, trafficking in women in the United States had never been systematically studied, and the U.S. lagged behind Europe and Asia in recognizing and addressing the problem, especially as it occurred within this country. In the last 2 years, the United States has vigorously responded, making the trafficking of women a top priority. In 1998, a Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and the Trafficking of Women and Girls was issued that directed the

Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Intera-gency Council on Women to expand their work against violence against women to include work against the trafficking of women.

The strategy to combat trafficking has been implemented as a program referred to as the three P's: Prevention of Trafficking, Protection and Assistance for Victims, and Prosecution and Enforcement Against Traffickers.

from Southeast Asia, the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe.²

The Ukrainian Ministry of the Interior estimated last year that 100,000 Ukrainian women were trafficked during the previous decade. The International Organization for Migration estimated the number to be four to five times higher. Popular destination countries include Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Yugoslavia. Large numbers of Ukrainian women are trafficked into Korea to be used as prostitutes near military bases. In some parts of the world, such as Israel and Turkey, women from Russia and other former Soviet republics are so prevalent that prostitutes are called "Natashas."

Climate for Trafficking

The growth of shadow economies and criminal networks in the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union arises from expanding economic, political, and social transnational linkages increasingly

beyond local and state control. Members of organized crime rings establish contacts with collaborators in diaspora communities and work within migrating populations to build criminal networks. Increased migration also serves as a cover for traffickers transporting women.

Privatization and liberalization of markets have created wider and more open marketplaces. Computer technologies also have enabled the increased volume and complexity of international financial transactions, increasing opportunities for transnational crime and decreasing the probability of detection. This technological aspect of globalization allows money gained through trafficking in women to be transferred and laundered.

In the former Soviet Union, the state economy didn't supply the goods and services the public needed or wanted. The shadow economy began to meet those demands decades before the collapse of communism. When the Soviet political and economic system weakened and collapsed, existing organizations leaped to fill the vacuum. Privatization allowed previously illegal markets to operate legally and expand, but they retained their

business methods, which were based on corruption and protection schemes. The independent states that emerged lacked organized and efficient regulatory agencies to hinder the growth of crime networks.

In Ukraine, people who were no longer able to support themselves with one salary or who weren't being paid for long periods sought additional work. But the only jobs available were in the privatized criminal businesses. The result has been a criminalization of the economy in general and an expansion of organized criminal networks. By 1995, the shadow economy accounted for 50 percent of Ukraine's gross domestic product.

Transnational trafficking of women from the former Soviet Union had its beginnings during perestroika in the mid-1980's, when international travel restrictions were eased. The disintegration of the Soviet Union opened borders for travel, migration, and privatized trade, all of which facilitated the operations of criminal networks. Transnational crime networks from the Newly Independent States organized to meet the demand for women to be used in brothels, massage parlors, bars, and street prostitution in receiving countries.

Strategies and Tactics

Hundreds of trafficking victims have recounted their experiences to nongovernmental organizations, reporters, and police. Although individual variations exist, the themes of manipulation and violence from the traffickers and further persecution by police appear repeatedly.

Irina, aged 18, responded to an advertisement in a Kyiv, Ukraine, newspaper for a training course in Berlin, Germany, in 1996. With a fake passport,

she traveled to Berlin, where she was told that the school had closed. She was sent on to Brussels, Belgium, for a job. When she arrived, she was told she needed to repay a debt of US \$10,000 and would have to earn the money in prostitution. Her passport was confiscated, and she was threatened, beaten, and raped. When she didn't earn enough money for the first pimp, she was sold to another pimp who operated in Brussels' red light district. When she escaped with police assistance, she was arrested because she had no legal documentation. A medical exam verified the abuse she had suffered, such as cigarette burns all over her body.³

Lena, aged 21, was recruited by a woman who said her daughter was working in Greece and making a lot of money. When Lena arrived in Greece, her passport was taken away and she was put into a small room in a brothel, guarded by two dogs. She was sold in prostitution each night from 9 in the evening until 6 in the morning. When she escaped and returned to Mykolayiv, she had US \$55.⁴

Tatyana, aged 20, is from a small town in Lugansk Oblast in Eastern Ukraine. She could not find a job there because the economy is very poor and the factories are closed. A friend of her mother's told her that she could earn US \$4,000 a month working as a maid for a rich family in the United Arab Emirates. When she arrived, her passport was taken and she was sold to a brothel for US \$7,000 and forced into prostitution to repay the purchase and travel costs. When she escaped and went to the police for help, she was arrested and sentenced to

3 years in prison for working in a brothel.⁵

In addition, a number of trafficking rings have been uncovered, revealing the tactics, financial rewards, and transnational reach of such networks.

In March 1999 in Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine, two men and a woman were arrested for selling 200 Ukrainian women and girls, aged 13 to 25, for the sex industry in Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. The traffickers received US \$2,000 for each woman. The women were held in debt bondage until they repaid their expenses. If they complained, their debt was tripled.⁶

In Poland, 70 percent of the Ukrainian women in the sex industry are monitored at all times by guards. The women are sold from one agency to another for US \$4,500 to \$11,000, and each time the woman incurs a debt that must be repaid.⁷

In September 1999, a psychology teacher from Cherkasy, Ukraine, was charged with being head of an international trafficking ring that sold young Ukrainian women into the sex industry in the United Arab Emirates. Along with criminals from Kazakhstan, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates, she promised 30 young women jobs as dancers, waitresses, or domestic servants, and then sold them to buyers in the sex industry.⁸

Recruitment Methods

Sex industries use up women—both physically and emotionally—necessitating regular fresh supplies of women, which keeps trafficking profitable. Recruiters, traffickers, and pimps have developed common operating methods. One strategy is

advertisements in newspapers offering lucrative job opportunities in foreign countries for low-skilled jobs, such as waitresses and nannies. Some advertisements promise good salaries to young, attractive women who will work as dancers and hostesses. An estimated 20 percent of trafficked women are recruited through advertisements.

Another method of recruitment is through "marriage agencies," sometimes called mail-order bride agencies or international introduction services. According to a report by the International Organization for Migration, all mail-order bride agencies with women from the former Soviet Union are under the control of organized crime networks.⁹ Recruiters use "marriage agencies" to contact women who are eager to travel or emigrate.

But the most common way for Ukrainian women to be recruited is through a friend or acquaintance who gains the woman's confidence. "Second wave" recruiting occurs when a trafficked woman returns home to draft other women. Once a woman has been trafficked and trapped in the sex industry, she has few options. One of the few means of escaping the brutality of being forced to have sex with multiple men each day is to move from victim to perpetrator.

Entrapment in Prostitution

Whatever the recruitment method, the majority of women do not expect the sexual exploitation and violence that await them. After a woman has reached the destination country, the trafficker or pimp tells her that she is not going to work as a waitress, nanny, or whatever more agreeable opportunity was offered, but will be in prostitution. The methods used to control women

once they reach the destination country include confiscation of travel documents, violence, threats to harm family members, and debt bondage.

Pimps in Western Europe and Israel can buy Russian or Ukrainian women for a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, then make several thousand dollars from them by selling them in prostitution. The women get to keep little, if any, of the money. Women must repay their purchase price and travel and other expenses before they are allowed to leave. A woman may be sold from one pimp to another, at which time her debt starts all over again. Often, the only way out of the sex industry is a police raid, which results in deportation. There are indications that pimps, working with officials, tip off police on the whereabouts of a woman just about the time that woman has earned enough money to leave, resulting in the woman being arrested and deported and the pimps keeping the money.

Even when women know they will be in prostitution, their expectations are usually far from the reality. One woman who knew she would have to engage in prostitution thought it would be like the film "Pretty Woman," where one man would support her.¹⁰ Women don't realize the lack of control they will have, the level of the violence that will be used against them, and the small percentage of money they will receive.

According to Narcisa Escaler, Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration:

[M]any migrants...are eager to escape poverty or political and social insecurity, and...are unaware or unmindful of the pitfalls of irregular migration. [I]n many instances, trafficked migrants are lured by false promises, misled by misinfor-

Officials' acceptance of prostitution and trafficking exacerbates the problem. According to Kateryna Levchenko, coordinator of La Strada-Ukraine, "Complacency on the part of government and law enforcement officials is as much to blame as financial difficulties [for facilitating recruitment]."

mation concerning migration regulations, or driven by economic despair or large-scale violence. In such cases, the migrant's freedom of choice is so seriously impaired that the "voluntariness" of the transaction must be questioned.¹¹

The networks' tactics mimic those of slave traders. For example, in Milan, Italy, in December 1997, police uncovered a gang that was auctioning women from the former Soviet Union. The women were stripped partially naked, displayed, and sold for an average price of US \$1,000.¹² Traffickers and pimps also use extreme violence to control their women and territory. In Italy, police report that one woman in prostitution is murdered each month.¹³ Women are mutilated and murdered as warnings to competing traffickers and pimps and as punishment for refusing to engage in prostitution. In two reported cases, women who resisted were killed as an example to other women. In Istanbul, Turkey, two Ukrainian women were thrown off a balcony and killed while six of their Russian friends watched. In Serbia, a Ukrainian woman who resisted was beheaded in public.¹⁴

Trafficked women get little assistance once they are under the control of traffickers and pimps. In receiving countries, they are treated as criminals, either as prostitutes or illegal immigrants.

Many people view the women as complicit in the trafficking, as immoral, or as workers—a wide span of perspectives, all of which ignore the harm to the victims and many of which blame the victims for the crimes committed against them. Officials often minimize or deny the severity of the problem, the violence and coercion used in trafficking, and the harm to victims. One official in Ukraine was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "women's groups want to blow this all out of proportion. Perhaps this was a problem a few years ago. But it's under control now."¹⁵

Officials' acceptance of prostitution and trafficking exacerbates the problem. According to Kateryna Levchenko, coordinator of La Strada-Ukraine, "Complacency on the part of government and law enforcement officials is as much to blame as financial difficulties [for facilitating recruitment]."¹⁶ In

Russia, an undercover investigation by the Global Survival Network implicated government officials in collaborating with trafficking networks.¹⁷

Profit and Corruption

Once a woman is under the control of a trafficker or pimp, she can be exploited to make a large profit. Pimps can make 5 to 20 times as much from a woman as they paid for her. An International Organization for Migration study of women trafficked into Germany found that the trafficker or pimp requires a payment of US \$3,000 to \$30,000 from a woman for her travel expenses and her purchase price. Then she must pay for her room and board in the brothel as well as the pimp's fees, lawyer's fees, doctor's fees, and sometimes private living expenses. Even after a woman has paid off her debt, she must turn over 50 to 75 percent of her earnings to pimps.

The *Kyiv Post* reported that a Ukrainian woman in a massage parlor owned by a Russian in Silver Spring, Maryland, was allowed to keep only 30 percent of the US \$70 price for a massage. If she wanted more money, she had to engage in prostitution for tips.¹⁸

Le Monde reported that during a 3-month stay in Germany on a tourist visa, a woman can make US \$20,000 for a pimp, according to German police. An Eastern European woman can earn more than that for a pimp or trafficker in Japan, where Eastern European women are considered exotic.

Le Monde further reported that Oksana Ryniekska, a Ukrainian doctor, operated a brothel with non-English speaking women from Eastern Europe in Essex,

UK, for 8 months before she was arrested. During that time she made more than US \$210,000.¹⁹

The money made from the sexual exploitation and enslavement of trafficked women enriches transnational criminal networks. According to Michael Platzer, of the United Nations Center for International Crime Prevention, trafficking in women has one of the highest profit margins and lowest risks for criminal groups in Eastern Europe. Mikhail Lebed, chief of criminal investigations for the Ukrainian Ministry of the Interior, told the *Kyiv Post*, "It is a human tragedy, but also, frankly, a national crisis. Gangsters make more money from these women in a week than we have in our law enforcement budget for the whole year."²⁰

The corruption of officials through bribes and the collaboration of criminal networks with government officials enable traffickers to operate. In Russia, the Global Survival Network found evidence of government collaboration in the Interior Ministry, the Federal Security Service, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.²¹ As the influence of criminal networks deepens, the corruption goes beyond occasionally ignoring illegal activity to providing protection by blocking legislation that would hinder the groups' activities. As law enforcement personnel and government officials become more corrupt and criminals gain more influence, the line between the state and the criminal networks starts to blur, making it difficult to intervene in the succession of corruption, collaboration, crime, and profit.

Trafficking in women brings prosperity neither to individual women nor to the communities the women come from. The money the criminal networks make is laundered through bank accounts of criminal bosses in

financial centers, such as the United States and Western Europe or in offshore accounts.

In Israel, for instance, organized crime groups from the former Soviet Union invested profits from trafficking in women, along with other illegal activities, into legitimate businesses. Between 1990 and 1995, some US \$2.5 to \$4 billion had been invested in Israeli banks and another US \$600 million had been invested in real estate.²²

Moreover, trafficking in women has been found to be part of broader transnational criminal schemes. From early 1998 until mid-1999, US \$10 billion was laundered through the Bank of New York. The account belonged to Ukrainian-born crime boss Semion Mogilevich, who the FBI and Israeli intelligence reported was involved in prostitution, weapons and drug trafficking, and investment scams. According to one source, Mogilevich headed a large prostitution ring that operated in the nightclubs in Budapest and Prague.²³ Mogilevich's crime network operated in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, and the United States.²⁴

Strategies for Change

Although trafficked women can be found almost anywhere, the destinations for most trafficked women are countries and cities where there are large sex industry centers and where prostitution is legal or widely tolerated. Legalization of prostitution, pimping, and brothels causes an increase in trafficking to meet the demand created by a legitimized sex industry.

Most approaches to the problem of trafficking have focused on the sending countries. In the former Soviet Union, prevention education projects are aimed at potential victims of trafficking, and non-

governmental organizations have established hotlines for victims or women seeking information about the risks of accepting job offers abroad.

Less attention is focused on curtailing demand. For example, in 1998 a Training Program to Combat Trafficking of Women from Ukraine was held in New Jersey, where hundreds of Ukrainian women have been trafficked into strip clubs and massage parlors. Twenty representatives from Ukraine government ministries, law enforcement, social services, the media, and nongovernmental organizations attended. An INS agent told this audience, "This is your problem that you are going to have to solve. It is like drugs -- you have to get at the root of the problem, which is overseas."²⁵ He ignored the possibility for action against the illegal sex industry in the United States.

Legalized prostitution makes it difficult to hold traffickers accountable for their activities. Traffickers evade prosecution by claiming that the women knew what they were getting into, and prosecutors generally have a hard time establishing the line between voluntary and forced prostitution. When prostitution is legal, the prosecution's case depends upon proving that the woman did not consent. Considering women's vulnerability in these slavelike circumstances and the fact that some women do initially consent to travel or even to work as a prostitute, such cases are much more difficult to prove.

According to Michael Platzer, head of operations for the United Nations' Center for International Crime Prevention, "The laws help the gangsters. Prostitution is semi-legal in many places, and that makes enforcement tricky. In most cases punishment is very light."²⁶ In the Plan of Action Against Traffic in Women and Forced Prostitution

for the Council of Europe, Michele Hirsch stated, "where only forced prostitution is illegal, inability to prove constraint has repeatedly led to international procurers being acquitted by the courts."²⁷

In 1949, the U.N. General Assembly Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others stated that "prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family, and the community" and that consent of the trafficked person is irrelevant to the prosecution of the exploiter. Ukraine is a signatory to the Convention (1954), as are the Russian Federation (1954), Belarus (1956), and Latvia (1992). The Convention was not widely ratified and did not create a monitoring body, so there has been no ongoing evaluation of its implementation or effectiveness.

The Convention is under attack by those who favor legalized prostitution and "consensual trafficking." The trend toward legalization of the sex industry and definitions of trafficking that require proof of coercion or force will make conviction of traffickers even more difficult and will benefit transnational criminal networks.

Another approach to ending trafficking is to intervene in the demand. In 1998, Sweden passed a law that created a new offense: "gross violation of a woman's integrity." Prostitution was included as a type of violence against women. The "purchase of sexual services" is prohibited and is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment up to 6 months. The government was clear that this new offense marked Sweden's attitude toward prostitution as an "undesirable social phe-

nomenon." This law is the first that aims to protect women from violence by holding men accountable and thereby addressing the demand for women to be trafficked for prostitution.

Policies and laws in the United States need to change to recognize the victimization of women who have been trafficked into prostitution. In most cases, the women are treated as criminals and/or illegal immigrants when in fact they have been the victims of violent crimes and are desperately in need of medical, legal, and social services. There needs to be aggressive intervention against illegal prostitution in the sex industry to curtail the trafficking of women to meet the demand. More research is needed to support a new understanding of prostitution and the trafficking of women, instead of relying on old rationales based on sexist judgments of women's lives and experiences.

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation has become such a large and severe crisis, affecting not only women's well-being but also the security of nations, that strong interventions are needed at all levels and points in the trafficking process. This modern slave trade benefits only criminals.

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Notes

1. This definition of trafficking was modified slightly from that put forth by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, an international nongovernmental organization.
2. Visit the Secretary of State's Web site at <http://secretary.state.gov/www/picw/trafficking/index.html> for more trafficking information.
3. Paringaux, Roland-Pierre, "Prostitution Takes a Turn for the West," *Le Monde*, May 24, 1998.

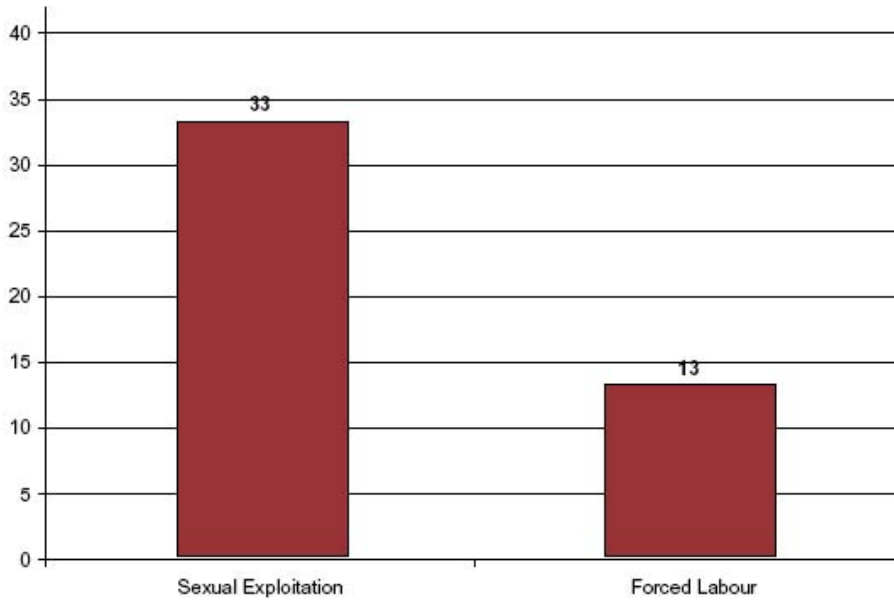
4. Bird, Chris, "100,000 Ukrainians Slaves of West's Sex Industry," *Reuters*, July 6, 1998.
5. Escaler, Narcisa, "Statement at the United States–European Union Transatlantic Seminar to Prevent Trafficking in Women," Lviv, Ukraine, July 9–10, 1998.
6. "Ukrainian Police Arrest Sex Trade Gang," *Newsline* 3(54), Part II (Prague, Czech Republic: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, March 18, 1999). Regional Security Office, U.S. Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine, *Crime Digest*, March 1999, <http://www.usemb.kiev.ua/rso/CrimeDigest9903.html>.
7. Regional Security Office, U.S. Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine, *Crime Digest*, January 1999, <http://www.usemb.kiev.ua/rso/CrimeDigest9901.html>.
8. "Ukrainian Teacher Held Over Sex Ring Allegations," *Reuters*, September 24, 1999.
9. International Organization for Migration, *Information Campaign Against Trafficking in Women from Ukraine — Research Report* (Geneva, Switzerland: International Organization for Migration, July 1998).
10. Hyde, Lily, and Marina Denisenko, "Modern-Day Slavery Traps Local Women," *Kyiv Post*, October 9, 1997.
11. Escaler, Statement.
12. Specter, Michael, "Traffickers' New Cargo: Naive Slavic Women," *New York Times*, January 11, 1998.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.*
16. La Strada is a nongovernmental organization in Ukraine working to prevent trafficking in women

For More Information

- Todd S. Fogelson and Peter H. Solomon, "Crime, Criminal Justice and Criminology in Post-Soviet Ukraine" (Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, forthcoming spring 2001).
- Donna M. Hughes and Claire M. Roche, eds., *Making the Harm Visible: Global Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls, Speaking Out and Providing Services* (Kingston, Rhode Island: Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, 1999).
- International Organization for Migration, *Information Campaign Against Trafficking in Women From Ukraine—Research Report* (Geneva, Switzerland: International Organization for Migration, July 1998).
- Kateryna Levchenko, *Combat of Trafficking in Women and Forced Prostitution: Ukraine, Country Report* (Vienna: Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, September 1999).
- MiraMed Institute, "Who Is Trafficking CIS Women?" *Preliminary Survey Report on Sexual Trafficking in the CIS*. (Moscow MiraMed Institute, June 1999).
- Visit the Trafficking in Women From Ukraine Research Project, part of the US–Ukraine Research Partnership, Web site at <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ukraine>.

- and help the victims of trafficking.
17. The Global Survival Network was an organization focused on illegal trafficking of both humans and other animals. In December 1999, the Network's directive was altered to include only wildlife conservation issues and its name was changed to WildAid. Although the group's emphasis has changed, information dealing with human trafficking still is available from WildAid. Contact the organization at <http://www.WildAid.org> or call 415–834–3174.
18. Hyde and Denisenko, "Modern-Day Slavery Traps Local Women."
19. Paringaux, "Prostitution Takes a Turn for the West."
20. Hyde, Lily, "Women's Groups Battle Sex Slavery," *Kyiv Post*, January 23, 1998.
21. Global Survival Network, *Crime and Servitude* (Washington, DC: Global Survival Network, 1998).
22. Amir, Menachem, "Organized Crime in Israel," in *Organized Crime — Uncertainties and Dilemmas*, eds. Stanley Einstein and Menachem Amir (Chicago: Office of International Criminal Justice, 1999): 231–248.
23. "Les Nouvelles Mafias d'Europe de l'Est," *Marianne en ligne*, December 5, 1997. Accessed at <http://www.marianne-en-ligne.fr/12-05-97/dessus-b.htm>.
24. Koshiv, Jaroslav, "A Native Son and the Bank of New York Scandal," *Kyiv Post*, August 26, 1999.
25. Personal notes from Training Program to Combat Trafficking of Women From Ukraine, July 1998.
26. Specter, "Traffickers' New Cargo: Naive Slavic Women."
27. Hirsch, Michele, *Plan of Action Against Traffic in Women and Forced Prostitution* (Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 1996).

Figure 51: Reported purpose of trafficking, North America (total number of sources =42)



North America as a destination region


North America is mostly reported as a destination region. The main regions of origin are reported to be the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Fewer sources report of trafficking in persons from countries in Central and South Eastern Europe, and a limited

number of sources refer to human trafficking from Africa into North America.

When examining the most reported countries of origin of victims trafficked to North America, a number of sources collected in the Trafficking Database indicate Ukraine, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Thailand. Colombia, Georgia and the Philippines are also reported.



United States of America
Region*: North America

<p>Population**: 298,213</p> <p>Population under 14: 20.8%</p> <p>Net migration: 4.5</p> <p>Human Development Index: 10th/177</p> <p>Gender-related Development Index: 8th/140</p> <p>TI—Corruption Perceptions Index: 7.5/10</p> <p>WEF—Organized Crime Index: 5.5/7</p>	
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Reported trafficking according to the citation index

<p>Country of origin: Low</p>	<p><i>Reported destinations out of the country:</i></p> <p>Low: Canada, Japan.</p>
<p>Country of transit: N.R.</p>	<p><i>The country is a reported transit for victims trafficked:</i></p> <p>N.R.</p>
<p>Country of destination: Very High</p>	<p><i>Reported origins for the country:</i></p> <p>High: China, Malaysia, Mexico, Russian Federation, Thailand, Ukraine. ←</p> <p>Medium: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.</p> <p>Low: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Peru, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).</p>


* **Regions:** The source for the regional classification used is, United Nations (2005), "World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision - Highlights", New York: United Nations, Department of Economic Affairs, Population Division; can be downloaded from the internet at http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPP2004/2004Highlights_finalrevised.pdf. This has been varied here with the use of the following sub-regions to reflect the human trafficking information provided by the source institutions: Central and South Eastern Europe, Western Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Western Asia and Turkey.

** **Sources:** **Population figures (thousands):** World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, Highlights, Department of Economic Affairs, Population Division, United Nations, New York, 2005; **Net migration figures:** International Migration Report 2002, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, United Nations New York, 2002; **Human Development Index (HDI):** Human Development Report 2005, UNDP, http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005/pdf/HDR05_HDI.pdf; **Gender-related Development Index (GDI):** see reference for HDI; **TI—Corruption Perceptions Index:** Transparency International, www.transparency.org/pressreleases_archive/2004/2004.10.20.cpi.en.html; **WEF (World Economic Forum) Organized Crime Index:** M. Porter, K. Schwab and A. Lopez-Claros, Global Competitiveness Report 2005-2006, Policies Underpinning Rising Prosperity, World Economic Forum, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Maps: The boundaries and designations used in the maps do not imply official endorsement nor acceptance by the United Nations.
N.R.: Not reported (i.e., information not available).

Ukraine

Region*: Commonwealth of Independent States

<p>Population**: 46,481</p> <p>Population under 14: 14.9%</p> <p>Net migration: -2</p> <p>Human Development Index: 78th/177</p> <p>Gender-related Development Index: 59th/140</p> <p>TI—Corruption Perceptions Index: 2.2/10</p> <p>WEF—Organized Crime Index: 3.1/7</p>	
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Reported trafficking according to the citation index

<p>Country of origin: Very High</p>	<p>Reported destinations out of the country:</p> <p>High: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, unspecified Western Europe.</p> <p>Medium: Austria, China, Croatia, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, the FYR of Macedonia, United Kingdom, Western Asia in general.</p> <p>Low: Belarus, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand.</p>
<p>Country of transit: High</p>	<p>The country is a reported transit for victims trafficked:</p> <p>From Afghanistan, India, Pakistan to Western Europe.</p> <p>From Russian Federation and generally Central and South Eastern Europe to Western Europe.</p> <p>From Russian Federation to Japan.</p> <p>To Czech Republic, to Poland and to unspecified Central and South Eastern European countries.</p>
<p>Country of destination: Medium</p>	<p>Reported origins for the country:</p> <p>Low: Belarus, Russian Federation, Tajikistan.</p>

* **Regions:** The source for the regional classification used is, United Nations (2005), "World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision - Highlights", New York: United Nations, Department of Economic Affairs, Population Division; can be downloaded from the internet at http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPP2004/2004Highlights_finalrevised.pdf. This has been varied here with the use of the following sub-regions to reflect the human trafficking information provided by the source institutions: Central and South Eastern Europe, Western Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Western Asia and Turkey.

** **Sources:** **Population figures (thousands):** World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, Highlights, Department of Economic Affairs, Population Division, United Nations, New York, 2005; **Net migration figures:** International Migration Report 2002, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, United Nations New York, 2002; **Human Development Index (HDI):** Human Development Report 2005, UNDP, http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005/pdf/HDR05_HDI.pdf; **Gender-related Development Index (GDI):** see reference for HDI; **TI—Corruption Perceptions Index:** Transparency International. www.transparency.org/pressreleases_archive/2004/2004.10.20.cpi.en.html; **WEF (World Economic Forum) Organized Crime Index:** M. Porter, K. Schwab and A. Lopez-Claros, Global Competitiveness Report 2005-2006, Policies Underpinning Rising Prosperity, World Economic Forum, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Maps: The boundaries and designations used in the maps do not imply official endorsement nor acceptance by the United Nations.

N.R.: Not reported (i.e., information not available).



Press and Information > Press Release Archive– June 15, 2004

FOURTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING REPORT IS RELEASED

To inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments in the fight against modern-day slavery, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell released the fourth annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* at the State Department in Washington Monday, June 14.

Ukraine was rated in Tier Two of the report, an indication that the country does not yet fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so. Ukraine is a source country for women and girls trafficked to Europe and the Middle East, as well as for men trafficked to Europe and North America. It is also a major transit country for Asian and Moldovan victims trafficked to Western destinations. Ukraine has seen an increase in the trafficking of children, especially orphans, during the last year. While the government of Ukraine has made progress in combating trafficking, it still lags in terms of implementing the Comprehensive Program for Combating Trafficking in Persons, coordinating with law enforcement officials of destination countries, and fighting government corruption.

"Criminals and criminal networks are targeting some of the most vulnerable people in Ukraine," said former U.S. Rep. John Miller, who leads U.S. Government efforts against human trafficking. "We're reaching out in the spirit of partnership to encourage all governments to accelerate efforts to end this atrocity and protect people from human trafficking schemes."

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The 2004 report estimates 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked in this manner across national borders each year. Of those, 47 percent are women, 34 percent are girls under the age of 18, and 16 percent are boys under the age of 18 meaning more than 80 percent of victims are female and 50 percent are children.

Millions more are thought to be trafficked within country borders worldwide.

The U.S. devoted more than \$70 million in anti-trafficking in persons programs abroad in the last fiscal year, and, in a September speech to the U.N. General Assembly, President Bush committed an additional \$50 million in U.S. spending abroad this year. U.S. assistance for anti-trafficking programs in Ukraine totaled nearly \$3 million last year with \$1.5 million expected this year.

The fight against human trafficking is attracting worldwide attention because trafficking threatens human rights, public health, and the safety and security of nations.

The 140-country *Trafficking in Persons Report* is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Its purpose is to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

The efforts of governments to fight human trafficking are rated in tiers in the report based on tangible actions taken throughout the year. The standards used to determine these ratings can be found in the 2004 report at www.state.gov/g/tip.

Attached is an excerpt from the *Trafficking in Persons Report* regarding Ukraine. The complete worldwide Trafficking in Persons Report is available to the public on the State Department's website <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004>.

Excerpt from the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, June 14, 2004 UKRAINE (TIER 2)

➡ Ukraine is a source country for women and girls trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and for men trafficked to Europe and North America for forced labor. Ukraine is also a significant transit country for Asian and Moldovan victims trafficked to Western destinations. Ukraine has seen an increase in the trafficking of children, **especially orphans**, during the last year.

The Government of Ukraine does not yet fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite resource constraints, Ukraine continues to make progress in combating trafficking, demonstrated by a steady increase in prosecutions and convictions. But progress has lagged in implementing the Comprehensive Program for Combating Trafficking in Persons, coordinating with law enforcement officials of destination countries, and fighting government corruption. The Ukraine parliament should adopt amendments to the criminal code that will strengthen anti-trafficking legislation.

Prosecution

Ukraine's criminal code criminalizes trafficking in persons, but does not address recruitment nor clearly define internal trafficking as a separate crime. The government has drafted and introduced to parliament amendments to the criminal code to bring Ukraine into compliance with international standards, but they have not yet been adopted. In 2003, prosecutors tried 41 trafficking cases and convicted traffickers in 29 cases. These results represent increases of 215% and 190%, respectively, over 2002. Those 29 cases involved 32 defendants of whom 11 were sentenced to prison terms, two to restraint of liberty in correction facilities, and 19 to probation. Despite this improvement, the government should provide oversight to the sentencing process to ensure that judges are implementing the legislation effectively, and to prevent the risk that judges will be improperly influenced. Corruption remains a problem for Ukraine in government and at all levels of society. Official corruption decreases the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts on trafficking. Cooperation and coordination with law enforcement officials in destination countries has improved, but remains inadequate to address the scope of the problem. Weak border security contributes to trafficking, especially along the Ukraine-Russia border.

Protection

The police and Ukrainian embassies abroad engage NGOs to provide trafficking victims with protection services, particularly at the airport and the port of Odessa. Law enforcement officers should continue efforts to publicize and provide resources for witness protection programs. During prosecution in 2003, 278 victims testified, an increase over the 202 victims who testified in 2002. In June 2003, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers approved guidelines for establishing and operating victim rehabilitation centers. The Government of Ukraine introduced simplified procedures in late 2003 to assist victims of trafficking and to facilitate their repatriation.

Prevention

Although the Ukrainian Government has made some progress in implementing its Comprehensive Program for Combating Trafficking in Persons, its Interdepartmental Coordination Council for Combating Trafficking in Persons has had no formal meetings since its establishment in December 2002. Local commissions on combating trafficking were created throughout Ukraine pursuant to the Comprehensive Program, but their quality and effectiveness vary. Regionally throughout Ukraine, NGOs collaborated with Family and Youth Affairs Departments on information and education campaigns, such as peer training at schools, universities, cafes, and clubs

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Ukraine Has Caught Our Hearts

...religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphans and widows in distress...
— James 1:27

Steven Hamilton, one of our Partnership leaders from the Central Maryland Vineyard shares with us about the modern scourge of human trafficking and its impact worldwide and especially in Ukraine:

Let Justice Roll Down

'more people are enslaved today than before the American Civil War...' - National Geographic

Did you know that women and children are being bought and sold...right in front of us? The modern-day equivalent of slavery: *Trafficking in Persons or Human Trafficking*. This is a global issue and we all face it, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination. Human trafficking is an assault on human dignity and an affront to God's dream of "abundant life" expressed so beautifully in John 10:10: *"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."* It is an issue that demands a response, especially from those committed to the Gospel proclamation of rescue, relationship, reconciliation, justice and peace. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, over 17,000 foreign nationals are trafficked annually in the United States alone...and sad to say: Baltimore, Maryland and the entire U.S. East Coast is one of the top destinations for Ukrainian victims. These mostly helpless people are being forced to live under oppression in the underground sex industry and labour market...and it is happening where we live. OK, what do we do? At the Central Maryland Vineyard we have begun to meet as an advocacy and prayer group to learn more about human trafficking and to begin our first response: **prayer**. As we pray we are listening and looking for



Pray against this wickedness...and join us as we go to walk out Jesus words: '...He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...to set free the oppressed free...'

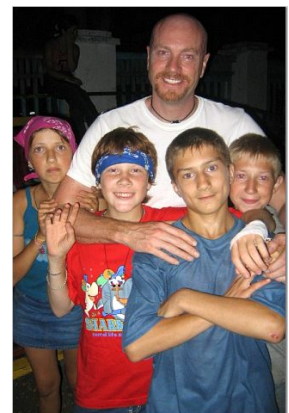
what the Father might have us do. If this issue touches your heart, we would ask that our partners please join us as we seek the Lord and His Kingdom and how He would have us respond here in America and in the UK and in the Norden countries and particularly in Ukraine. We have developed an information program and can recommend resources for other churches who want to start similar advocacy and prayer groups.

As a partnership, we are all ready moving to attack human trafficking in Ukraine. A recent report from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv stated that: *"...Ukraine has seen an increase in the trafficking of children, especially orphans, during the last year. While the government of Ukraine has made progress in combating trafficking, it still lags..."* After praying for breakthrough, in October, John Odean and I went to Odessa and met with an organization that helps the victims of trafficking who are returning to Ukraine. Their name is Faith, Hope and Love. We are in the midst of working with them to begin presenting an information campaign in the orphan-

ages in Odessa and in the surrounding area for those orphans who are at-risk age. If you would like to contribute to this effort or want to start an advocacy and prayer group at your church, please contact me at: shamilton@vcccm.org

Let's follow the Father in His heart cry:

"...Is this not the fast I have chosen: to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke?"
Isaiah 58:6



Steven Hamilton
Annapolis
Maryland



Steven, Sean Hart, and our friend Yuiui in Yalta during a recent trip to Ukraine for training our leaders throughout Ukraine.

Vineyard



Welcome to the Partnership
Joining in the Fun...Joining with the Father!

The Lord has indeed blessed us as we have followed after and joined Him in what He is all ready doing in Ukraine. Over the last year, others have recently been called and are joining our efforts and we just wanted to give them a big welcome!!

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Richmond, Virginia

Vineyard Community Church
Bristow, Virginia

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Waldorf, Maryland

Hub City Vineyard
Hagarstown, Maryland

Vineyard Church
West Point, Georgia

Hull Vineyard
Hull, United Kingdom

Bristol Vineyard
Bristol, United Kingdom

Birmingham Vineyard
Birmingham, United Kingdom

We also want to thank and welcome our Friends of the Partnership:

Universal Aid for Children—
Ukraine

Vineyard Records UK

Faith Hope and Love in Odessa,
Ukraine

Vineyard Discipleship School
Birmingham, UK

Convoys of Hope

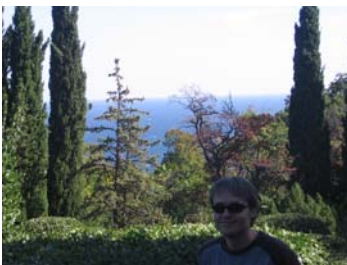
Frontier Horizons



Can you feel the love? Here is a bunch of us as we gathered together for great fellowship in Simferopol, Ukraine in October 2006. They know all us Brits, Ukrainians, Swedes, Finns and Americans by our love...by our love...

“Small things done in great love can change the world.”

- Mother Teresa



Vineyard church planter Henrik Ahlström serving with us in the Crimea this past October

News from Odessa

by Henrik Ahlström

Henrik Ahlström, pastor of the Vineyard church plant in Odessa shares with us this month about what is happening with the Odessa church plant...

Greetings to All!!!
There are many things happening in Odessa! In September the team from Sweden arrived and we could start up the work here more officially.

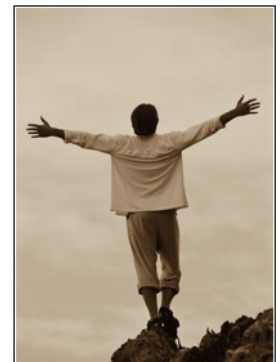
It is nice to finally have started after two years of praying and preparations. We have been a mix of Ukrainians, Russians, Americans, British, Swedish and Finnish people helping out here the first few months in our church plant's history. The team from Sweden arrived in September so the first month we have spent a lot of time in preparation, but now we have progressed in to more routines.

We just started to rent a smaller place downtown for our meetings. We meet there for meeting/home group on Wednesdays and for English Club on Thursdays. The English Club has been great! It has given us a lot of new contacts with students at university and we hope we can connect them later on with home groups or welcome them to go to the Alpha course. Saturdays we are usually doing servant evangelism at the Potemkin Stairs. We are giving out

flowers, coffee, tea and cookies. We hear comments like: “We haven’t met a church before that gives away stuff for free” or “This is great”. The place we usually set up is near a wedding hall, so several times we have been serving the whole wedding party! Being at that place has given us on-going relationship with 3 girls. They have been on gatherings we have had, and we hope we can plug them into church. On Saturdays we are also arranging movie nights for our friends; it been a great thing to hang out with people and get to know them. On Sundays we have some teens over at my apartment for food and bible study. Some of them come from orphanage number 4 and some go to a high school nearby. It feels good to provide both teaching, but also a warm family atmosphere and some home cooked food for them! As a plant we are in a gathering phase, so all we do is focused on meeting new people. We are really thankful, because God has given us a lot of new friends that do not know Him yet, but our prayer and hope is to bring them one step closer to Jesus!

We hope like Mother Teresa:
“Small things done in great love can change the world”

Henrik Ahlström
Odessa
Ukraine



Vineyard

An Interview with Partnership Leader John Odean

John Odean is our current partnership leader and senior pastor from the Central Maryland Vineyard. This

issue we ask him a few questions to get an understanding of where the partnership has been and where his leadership team sees it going as it chases after the Father and His work in Ukraine.

1. The Vineyard Ukraine Partnership seems to have started and grown really quickly...how did this happen?

We often times stand there a bit overwhelmed scratching our heads, saying "Wow, did you see that?". It's pretty amazing what God is doing in Ukraine in everything from church planting, to the orphan care, to fixing the human sex trafficking problem. It feels like we tripped over something the Father is doing. So...while it would be very tempting to try and say: "Look at all that God is doing through our efforts"...I think it's more like we found the gold mine that He happens to be mining at the moment. The blessing is that we get to be involved. And it indeed does seem like anything that people put their hands to on behalf of the Kingdom of God just quickly expands. It's very difficult to keep up with all that He is doing. Exciting yet scary too!

2. What is it like - and how has it gone thus far - working with multiple Vineyard associations in Ukraine (i.e., from UK and Norden and USA)?

Wow...this is perhaps one of our greatest joys in this endeavor. While I've traveled greatly over the course of my life, this is really my first time doing an ongoing ministry in the international theatre. We often have said that we feel like we stumbled into something that the Father is doing. Since we've begun we have heard quite a few stories about how other AVC's have not worked well together in various countries. How there's been problems and clashes. That just has not been the case with our partnership. It really all started with us reaching out to the Norden Vineyard AVC, then I contacted a friend of mine in the UK to gather some of his musician friends in order for us to do a worship conference in Ukraine. Those musicians turned out to be record producers and pastors, with some representation of the board of AVC UK. The long and short is that we had such a great time working together and were so caught up by the 'sudden' appearance of the Holy Spirit in our meetings. We all stood back and said: "Can we all do this again, and again, and again?...and can we all do it together?" The Norden Vineyards wanted to plant a Vineyard in Odessa, which is the area that our church from Maryland has invested in so highly over the years. We are just so glad to be working with them, and

Henrik is just great. And so we literally have a partnership that has equal partners with voices heard and concerns addressed from 3 international We are all just following what we see the Father doing. I've been told that the rest of the 'global' Vineyard has heard of this emerging model and have their eyes on us. Yikes! That's a bit scary. But we're trying not to think about that. We just love what God is doing, and we really have a very deep love and mutual appreciation for each other. No competition here. Thus far decisions are made by consensus of each person representing the partnership and country. It sorta feels like we're behaving the way we're supposed to.

3. Has involvement in this Partnership changed your outlook on how 'Christian missions' and cross-cultural evangelism is done?

Certainly...in every way. For many years our church was stuck in a rut I think many churches fall into. That being: throwing some cash at some person or couple that goes somewhere in the world and does...God knows what. Lots of money given to people, but pretty sure that there is minimal influence or what we might call Kingdom impact. We don't do it that way anymore. I now believe that the best way to reach a geographic area for Christ is to build strong churches with Kingdom ministry values. I also believe the best thing we can do is to equip the nationals to lead their own churches. They know their culture, they know the history, and the problems that they face better than any outsider. What we can do best is help them find their voice, and to train them in Kingdom/Vineyard values...and then let them interpret it to their community. I also have come to embrace the 'partnership' model in that 'everyone gets to play'. Sounds so Vineyard, doesn't it? One Vineyard church can't do much to effect an area on the other side of the globe. But if we band together in our efforts and resources, we can do a lot. So smaller churches can play with bigger churches...we even have several church plants that are really involved in our partnership. We're all part of the same team, rallying follow the Father and His heart for all peoples on this planet.

**John Odean
Millersville
Maryland**



We're all part of the same team, rallying follow the Father and His heart for all peoples on this planet.

4. The Ukraine Partnership has quite a few strategic collaborations going on with other organizations. How does it all fit together?

The bottom line of our Ukrainian partnership is definitely planting churches. We believe church planting is the best way to bring the good news of the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus to people in a geographic area. If that is the bottom line, the top line for our partnership is helping solve social justice issues in the name of Jesus. As such we've become very involved with the plight of orphans, which is a national crisis. This has to do with everything from helping 'make over' the dilapidated orphanages, to creating college scholarships for teen orphans so they are not thrown back into the streets. We do summer camps, and Christmas wish lists. Our newest effort is in the area of Human Trafficking (Sex Trafficking). This is another abhorrent problem in Ukraine. Functioning in all of these differing 'arms' of ministry has brought us into close collaboration with several organizations. [see page 2 for a list of these organizations]

5. As the Partnership leader, what do you see the Father doing? What is on the horizon for the Partnership? What is next?

Hmmm...I see the Father pouring out His Holy Spirit in great power. I believe we will see both a new movement that will be outside the established church in Ukraine. It will catch people who don't relate to the established church, or have been rejected by the established church. It will be one of worship, power, and ministry in the hands of the people. It will be grass roots but will sweep through the country.

try. It will ultimately renew the established church. On horizon for the partnership? I think God has invited us to stir and release it. I think in doing the very things I've been speaking of here (training, social justice, etc) it will just continue to ignite and grow. What's next for our partnership? Spring will have us in Kiev holding another pastor/leaders conference...and growing by the end of the week into a worship conference for other non-Vineyard churches in Kiev. And of course some servant evangelism. Summer will have many of our partnership churches adding 3 more orphan summer camps. Fall will bring another leaders/training session. And we hope to add another 3 or 4 Vineyards within the next two years.



**John Odean
Millersville
Maryland**

Vineyard

News, Announcements and Prayer Points

The Vineyard Ukraine Partnership training teams are headed for Kyiv, Ukraine is coming Spring to meet with our pastors, church planters and God as we seek to ignite the people of Ukraine through the breaking through of the Kingdom of God. Please pray for this special time of gathering...that the Lord would use it for His purposes and that His very Presence would go with us.

Please pray for the orphans of Ukraine, particularly those at risk to be recruited and exploited by international human traffickers. Pray that our information campaign in the orphanages would have an impact on these young children...and pray for the Lord Himself to protect these vulnerable children against exploitation.



Vineyard church planter Henrik Ahlström and his team in Odessa are reaching out to the people

of Odessa, especially right now university students. Please pray for their efforts to reach out, and that their English Club might draw people to learn English and begin a journey of faith in Christ Jesus.

Vineyard Ukraine Partnership is excited about our upcoming conference in Kyiv in April 2007. Please begin praying for this endeavour and that Jesus would bring His People together in one accord, worshipping Him in one Spirit and building up the disciples in our one faith.

Join us in prayer for what the Lord is doing in Ukraine, for the people of Ukraine, for our church planters and pastors, for all their teams, for the people they are gathering in their fellowships, and for the orphaned children in crisis throughout Ukraine.

Please pray for the churches in Ukraine:

***Kremenchug
Kyiv
Odessa
Simferopol***



Orphanage Reports

(from Priest Sergiy @ Orphanage #34 in Odessa, September 2006)

This year they organize a group of children who are sick with autism. They gave them good rooms and there are apparatuses for physical exercises in one of them. Parents of these kids help the school very much. Unfortunately, we do not have books for coloring, which kids love a lot. They like music but we don't have cassettes with Christian themes. School doesn't have means to purchase all these things. This year it is easier to work with senior graders. They have become more attentive to themselves and other people. They rejoice at their own little progresses. They keep school territory in order.

With gratitude and respect, Priest Sergiy

The Vineyard Ukraine Partnership is a network of Trans-Atlantic Vineyard churches that partner together to do what no one church could do alone - ignite the nation for God by foster-

Vineyard Ukraine Partnership (planting churches in Ukraine)

ing a Vineyard church-planting movement of empowered evangelicals with a Kingdom foundation among and for the people of Ukraine.

It's a bold undertaking, and we need your help. As a member of the Vineyard Ukraine Partnership, you will:

- Contribute to the planting of new churches, supporting and training of Ukrainian leaders, and advancement of the Kingdom of God in Ukraine
- Hear and pray about opportunities to minister in Ukraine, such as short-term missions, ministry and training trips
- Receive prayer updates from team leaders to help you pray regularly for existing churches, new church plants and ministry happening in Ukraine

Please contact Steven Hamilton for more information on how you can participate in the Vineyard Ukraine Partnership at 410.987.3440 or shamilton@vcccm.org