

# Hastings Women's Law Journal

---

Volume 13

Issue 1 *Symposium Issue: Sexual Slavery: the  
Trafficking of Women and Girls into the United States  
for Sexual Exploitation*

Article 1

---

1-1-2002

## Foreword

Sonia Mérida

Maya Nordberg

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj>

---

### Recommended Citation

Sonia Mérida and Maya Nordberg, *Foreword*, 13 *Hastings Women's L. R.* i (2002).

Available at: <http://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj/vol13/iss1/1>

This Prefatory Matter is brought to you for free and open access by UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Hastings Women's Law Journal* by an authorized administrator of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [marcusc@uchastings.edu](mailto:marcusc@uchastings.edu).

---

## Foreword

Every year HASTINGS WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL (HWLJ) devotes the first issue in each volume to the publication of materials presented at the previous annual Symposium. HWLJ is proud to present materials on the topic of the February 2001 Symposium entitled, *Sexual Slavery: The Trafficking of Women and Girls into the United States for Sexual Exploitation*.

The Symposium outlined sexual trafficking in two sessions, with the morning session detailing the psychological impetus and human costs of sexual slavery.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Helen Fisher delivered the keynote address at the Symposium, examining the physiological origins of sexual impulses. Dr. Fisher concluded that humans evolved several brain mechanisms for enabling – and curbing – the international sex trade. Norma Hotaling exposed the human denominator in sexual slavery: the individual as survivor, and the individual as perpetrator. Hotaling discussed the international momentum emerging to both halt trafficking and address survivors' needs.

The afternoon session focused on the routes and analyses of these sexually predatory practices, and both legal and non-governmental responses.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Donna Hughes discussed communications technologies as significant contributions to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Dr. Hughes highlighted the impact of the internet in providing the sex industry with new means of locating, marketing and delivering women into conditions of harm, exploitation, and modern slavery. Peter Schey, recounted efforts as lead counsel challenging the INS' effort to deport a 3-year-old child

---

<sup>1</sup> Presenters at the morning session included: Cheryl Hanna, Professor, Vermont Law School; Helen Fisher, Ph.D., Research Professor and member of the Center for Human Evolutionary Studies, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University, and Research Fellow with the Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research; Norma Hotaling, Founder and Executive Director of SAGE, the Standing Against Global Exploitation Project, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Presenters at the afternoon session included: Donna Hughes, Ph.D., Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair, Women's Studies Department, University of Rhode Island; Peter Schey, attorney, and President and Executive Director, Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law; Melissa Farley, Ph.D., Director of Prostitution Research and Education, a sponsored project of San Francisco Women's Centers; Sandra Hunnicutt, Executive Director, Captive Daughters.

trafficked into the United States from Thailand in April, 2000. Schey concluded that for the most part, whether from lack of vision or commitment, United States law enforcement agencies treat trafficking in women and children similar to motor vehicle violations, with virtually no penalties and no victim assistance. Dr. Melissa Farley emphasized the similarities between trafficking and prostitution as causally founded in male assumptions of sexual entitlement. Dr. Farley additionally detailed research she and associates conducted on the prevalence of prostitution-related harm and violence. Finally, Sandra Hunnicutt discussed sex trafficking of American teenage girls and necessary preventative measures.

In addition to speakers' materials and papers written for this Symposium, this issue of the Journal includes Emma Goldman's article, *The Traffic in Women*, originally published in 1910, which provides historical context to the ongoing struggle to end sexual trafficking. Though almost a century old, Goldman's assessment of the relationship between industrialization and sexual exploitation remains current. The reprinting of the Goldman article, along with the footnotes and citations would not have been possible without the help of the *Emma Goldman Papers Project*, at the University of California, Berkeley. In particular, Barry Pateman provided a publishing history as well as citation and research assistance.

Sexual slavery is not a new issue in the United States, but it is a topic often ignored by scholars and those in the legal community. Survivors, practitioners, and recent socio-economic developments re-introduced the issue of sexual slavery into academic dialogues and emphasized the necessity of immediate response. Despite the recent extension of domestic and international legal protections and remedies, the violence and human rights abuses inherent to the trafficking in persons continue unabated. International efforts to close down this slave industry are commendable and only the beginning. As a global community, we must insist that human rights and dignity transcend over the marketplace of bodies. By presenting this critical academic discussion from the 2001 Symposium, HWLJ hopes to raise awareness and incite action.

*Sonia Mérida & Maya Nordberg*  
Co-Editors-in-Chief, 2001-2002