

USCMA/AFJN Resolution on Child Trafficking in Africa
2006 Annual Conference

To call upon the U.S. Catholic Mission Association, Africa Faith and Justice Network, the U.S. Government, the United Nations, the international community to exert their full influence to educate and mobilize to end child trafficking, especially in Africa.

Whereas, forty-one of the fifty-three African governments were found to take insufficient actions against widespread human trafficking by the U.S. State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons report;

Whereas, globally there are approximately 300,000 child soldiers, most of whom are in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2005 there were only fifty-eight convictions against human trafficking offenders;

Whereas orphans are especially vulnerable to trafficking rings and 12.5% of the child population of Sub-Saharan Africa will be orphaned by 2010;

Whereas children are systematically trafficked and sold into domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation, or abducted by rebel armies to be sex slaves and child soldiers;

Whereas child trafficking has devastating effects on the development of communities and individuals;

Whereas knowledge of child slavery is so minimal that limited attention and resources are allotted to preventative and restorative measures;

Be it resolved that members of the U.S. Catholic Mission Association and Africa Faith and Justice Network:

1. Call on Congress to ratify the UN Protocol on Trafficking, which was introduced in 2000 but has yet to be passed.
2. Call on Congress to pass Resolutions 258 and 490, supporting the establishment of a United Nations Trafficking, Slavery and Exploitation Commission.
3. Call on African governments to meet the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and to take strong and consistent legal action against suspected offenders.
4. Call on donor nations, including the United States, to politically and financially support African governments' efforts against human trafficking.
5. Call on the U.S. Catholic Mission Association and Africa Faith and Justice Network as organizations and their bodies of members to educate the public about the realities of child trafficking and equip them to take action on behalf of the victimized children.