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for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

**Report to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly  
Brussels, Belgium  
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Since 1999, when I offered the first Supplementary Item on human trafficking, at the St. Petersburg Annual Session, the Parliamentary Assembly has repeatedly condemned this modern day slave trade. It is with deep regret that I am unable to attend the Assembly's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in Brussels in order to continue our dialogue on human trafficking and other pressing issues for our governments and the OSCE.

With this report, I would like to provide a brief update on my ongoing activities. I will also provide a general overview of anti-trafficking efforts by OSCE participating States. Finally, I will address a particular issue which requires more attention by us as legislators and policy makers—the exploitation of children in pornography.

As a Member of the U.S. Congress, I was the prime sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and a Reauthorization of that Act in 2003. These laws created a comprehensive framework for prosecuting traffickers, providing assistance to victims, and engaging foreign governments in the battle against trafficking. This past January, President Bush signed into law another major anti-trafficking bill -- the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, which I sponsored. This law authorizes continuing funding for the U.S. Government's anti-trafficking initiatives, including money used to support NGO projects. The law also requires the U.S. Government to develop trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations where indigenous populations are vulnerable to many forms of violence. The law creates extraterritorial jurisdiction over U.S. Government contractors to ensure that they can be held accountable for involvement with trafficking while serving abroad, and it addresses peacekeepers and international aid workers being complicit in trafficking and sexual exploitation. The statute also addresses the internal trafficking of American citizens and nationals for commercial sexual exploitation. As we focus our political attention on international trafficking, we must not neglect internal trafficking that occurs within our own borders and victimizes our own citizens.

Additionally, I have convened three hearings, including one on the U.S. Military's efforts to implement an anti-trafficking policy for its service members and contractors; one hearing on the World Cup, and other major sporting events, as a catalyst for sex trafficking; and one oversight hearing on the 2006 *Trafficking in Persons Report* issued last month by the U.S. State Department.

Throughout the year, I continued a dialogue – often face to face – with officials and parliamentarians from throughout the OSCE region and Partner states. Allow me to offer a few comments on the current status of anti-trafficking efforts in the OSCE region specifically. Since taking office, President Bush has devoted more than \$300 million to combat trafficking worldwide. Many other governments have also committed significant resources. As documented by the U.S. State Department's sixth annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* issued on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 149 countries have a documented trafficking problem, all but 12 of those countries were found to be making significant efforts during the past year to address this criminal activity.

Regrettably, one government in the OSCE region—Uzbekistan—let its nascent efforts lapse and was found not to be making significant efforts to combat trafficking. Several others were determined to have only barely passed this minimal threshold.

In the past year alone, 41 countries enacted new laws to combat trafficking—including 12 in the OSCE region. Nearly 7,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and more than 4,700 convicted (including 1,984 in the countries of Europe and Eurasia). These improved law enforcement statistics demonstrate the importance of countries acquiring the legal tools necessary to combat trafficking and the political will to implement those tools. Of equal importance, more shelters and rehabilitation facilities have been set up for victims and more humane policies have been put in place to respond to their needs.

I am heartened by the legislative progress made in the OSCE region in the past few years. Much of the work that remains ahead of us rests on the implementation of anti-trafficking laws that are already enacted. In some countries, more legislation is still needed—on trafficking victim protection, or sex tourism, or on the involvement in trafficking by peacekeepers and other international personnel.

It has also come to my attention that there is a dire need for laws against the exploitation of children in pornography. This awareness led me to propose a supplementary item on “Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography” for consideration at the Brussels Annual Session. In my absence, the Head of the U.S. Delegation, Representative Joseph Pitts, a long-time member of the Assembly, has agreed to move this supplementary item. He will be joining the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Senator Anne-Marie Lizin, in hosting a special event with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children and calling for the creation of a global network to combat child pornography.

As with all forms of child trafficking, child pornography is but another way in which children have become commodities to be bought and sold. In nearly 70% of cases, the producer of child pornography is someone known to the child—all too often a relative. But, there is also significant anecdotal evidence indicating that one of the purposes for which children are trafficked, internally within a country or internationally, is for the production of child pornography.

Child pornography is a multi-billion dollar enterprise. Its exact scope is difficult to gauge, but experts agree that the problem has exploded with the advent of the Internet. Children’s lives are forever altered when exploited and abused through child pornography. First, they are victimized by the sexual abuse involved in producing the pornography. Then, they are victimized by the permanent record of their exploitation which is documented on film or video and placed into the public domain, including cyberspace. Once there, the images are irretrievable and cause a child to be re-victimized as his or her images are viewed ... forever. The physical and psychological damage to these children is immense. Those who possess and distribute these images are as complicit as those who manufacture them.

Child pornography afflicts every OSCE participating State. Currently, those who produce or disseminate child pornography can all too often evade criminal liability by operating in countries with weak or no laws against child abuse and child pornography. Their risk of

prosecution is low, and the potential to make huge sums of money is high. In other words, at present child pornography is a high profit/low risk business.

As legislators, we are in a position to change this situation.

Earlier this year, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children published a report which reveals a need for many countries to adopt or strengthen legislation to criminalize child pornography and related activities. The study found that of 184 Interpol member countries around the world more than half (95) have NO LAWS addressing child pornography. In many other countries, the existing laws are inadequate. Within the OSCE region, only Belgium, France and the United States have laws considered comprehensive enough to make a significant impact on these crimes. We also have the responsibility to recognize that much of the demand originates in each of our countries. Another 14 OSCE countries were in "substantial compliance" with the recommended criteria for laws against child pornography.

Adoption of this Supplementary Item will continue the Parliamentary Assembly's role as a path-breaker in combating human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, in whatever form and whatever place they appear. I encourage this Assembly to adopt the Supplementary Item on "Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography" which recommends specific actions that participating States and the OSCE can take to attack this horrific industry and which will put the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on record condemning the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including through child pornography.

Distinguished colleagues, we must redouble our efforts to eradicate this modern day slavery. As I have said before, we must leave no stone unturned to rescue the victims from the cruelty of trafficking and bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. I challenge each of us to use our strategic position as a lawmaker, as the means to those ends.

It is an honor to serve as the Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, and I appreciate very much your continued confidence and support.

