

“Human Trafficking: Conflict and Crisis in the Americas”

The Women’s Studies Committee of South Texas College is hosting its fifth annual conference to address the horrifying realities of the Human Sex Trafficking trade. Almost one million people are trafficked across international borders each year and countless thousands more are kidnapped or sold within their own countries. Modern-day sex slavery is an abhorrent crime. Worldwide, sex trafficking is a 12-billion dollar a year business, making the sale of women and children one of the fastest-growing criminal industries in the world.

The 2011 conference will provide a forum for policy-makers and practitioners from Latin America to come together to provide vital information on trafficking in their regions and to coordinate with regional and domestic leaders. It promises to be a unique and valuable opportunity for collaboration and a potential stage for progress of historical proportions.

Our goals for the conference are to raise awareness about the pervasiveness of the sex-trafficking business, to explore the deeper causes of sex trafficking, and ultimately to take part in the larger international conversation about how to stop this insidious crime. We hope to address these questions and to consider forms of resistance to this deplorable exploitation of millions, which undermines basic respect for human rights and dignity.

Main Location:

Cooper Center, Pecan Campus
South Texas College
3200 W. Pecan Blvd
McAllen, Texas

Agenda

Tuesday, April 5th

- 6:00 – 6:30 pm Opening reception.
- 6:30 – 7:00 pm Documentary Film “Not for Sale”
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm “Human Trafficking in America: A Survivor’s Story”
Theresa Flores, Author “The Slave across the Street”

Wednesday, April 6th

- 8:30 – 9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 am Opening Remarks - **Laura Pena** - Office of the Under Secretary for
Democracy and Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 9:15 –10:15 am Keynote Speaker: “The Business of Global Sex Trafficking”
Siddharth Kara, Fellow on Human Trafficking, Harvard University and author of *Sex
Trafficking: Inside the Business of Global Slavery*
- 10:15 –10:30 am Break
- 10:30 – 11:30 am “The Process of Investigations into Labor and Sexual Exploitation”
Peter Bryant, International Enforcement Trainer/Specialist on Investigations into Human
Trafficking

- 11:30 – 12:30 pm “Advances and Challenges of Social Networks Fighting Human Trafficking in the Americas”
Fernando Mao, RATT, Argentina
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm “Trafficking of Children in the Virtual World”
Guillermo Galarza, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, Washington D.C.
- 2:30– 3:15 pm “Human Trafficking in the Americas”
Anna Rodriguez, Executive Director, Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- 3:15 – 3:30 pm Break
- 3:30 –4:30 pm “Child Trafficking in Central America: A Growing Business”
Ana Salvado, Save the Children, Costa Rica
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm “*Las Criadas* and Child Maid Slaves of Latin America”
Laura Zarate, Arte Sana, Austin, TX
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm Art Reception Opening

Thursday, April 7th

- 8:30 – 9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 – 10:00 am “Colombia Against Human Trafficking: Evolution of Organized Crime in Colombia”
Carlos Medina-Ramirez, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Bogota, Colombia
- 10:00 – 10:50 am “The Link between Human Trafficking and Gangs”
Laura Lederer, J.D., President, Global Centurion,
Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law Center
- 10:50 – 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm “Human Trafficking in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations: Women and Child Soldiers As Abandoned Victims”
Luz Nagle, J.D., Professor of Law, Stetson University College of Law, Florida
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm “Shadows of Sex Trafficking:”
Nairruti Jani, PhD, LLM, MSW, Assistant Professor, Gulf Coast University
- “Sex Trafficking in Mexico”
Arun Acharya Kumar, PhD, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León
- 2:00 – 2:45 pm “Problems of Border Issues in Human Trafficking”
Marisa Ugarte, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, San Diego, CA
- 2:45 – 3:00 pm Break
- 3.00 – 3.45 p.m. “Protection of Innocence: Legislative Framework Report Card on Texas”
Melissa Snow, Director of Programs, Shared Hope International

- 3:45 –4:30 pm “Community Awareness: The First Step in Rescuing Victims”
Maria Trujillo, Executive Director, Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition
- 4:30 – 5:15 pm “Lessons Learned from the Biggest Human Trafficking Bust on U.S. Soil”
Diana Velardo, Director, Artemis Justice Center, Houston, TX
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm Local Panel : “Sex Trafficking in our Region”
Moderator:
Corinna Spencer-Scheurich
Panelists:
Chris Burchell, President of Texas Anti-Trafficking In Persons
Victor Castillo, Former Investigative Journalist
Claire Antonelli , Attorney, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
Joseph Leonard, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Friday, April 8th

- 8:00 -8:30 am Registration
- 8:30 –10:20 am “Human Trafficking 101”
Sgt. Jeff J. Ortiz, Criminal Investigations Division, Human Trafficking Unit, Office of the Attorney General
- 10:20 – 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 – 11:15 am “The Role of DHS-ICE in Human Trafficking Cases”
Duane Cottrell, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS-ICE
- 11:15 – 12:30 pm “Human Trafficking: Prosecuting Cases”
Sgt. Juan Gonzales, San Juan P.D.
- 12:30 – 1:15 pm Working Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:00 pm “Immigration Remedies and Other Benefits for Human Trafficking Victims: Law Enforcement and Legal Options Available to Foreign National Victims of Human Trafficking”
Claire Antonelli, Attorney, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid

Agenda as of 21st March.

This agenda is tentative and subject to change.