

# **CALLING ALL ARTISTS & ACTIVISTS / Subverting Networks... Mail Art and Sex Trafficking**

## **WHAT IS MAIL ART?**

Mail Art is art sent through the post rather than displayed or sold through conventional commercial channels, encompassing a variety of media including postcards, books, images made on photocopying machines or with rubber stamps, postage stamps designed by artists, concrete poetry and other art forms generally considered marginal.

## **WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

According to the UN, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex, labour, or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitudes, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A 2009 UN report reveals that the majority of trafficking victims are women and children who make up 88% of all victims.

A 2005 CMAJ article reported more than 4 million girls and women are sold worldwide into forced prostitution, slavery, or forced marriage.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says that human trafficking is the third largest grossing sector of organized crime after drugs and arms.

A 2008 US Department report notes that Canada is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking.

A 2004 RCMP report estimates that 800 persons are trafficked into Canada per year. Estimates by nongovernmental organizations cite as many as 16,000. Also it is estimated that 1,500 to 2,200 people are trafficked from Canada into the US each year.

A 2008 Toronto Sun article reports that Canadas Aboriginal female population is prostituted and trafficked at disproportionate levels. Aboriginal youth are only 3 to 5% of the Canadian population, and yet in some cities they are 90% of the visible sex trade.

## **WHY MAIL ART FOR SEX TRAFFICKING?**

Because if networks like economic trade can be used facilitate sex trafficking, networks like the postal system can be used to speak out against it too.

Some themes to help you create your mail art about sex trafficking...

- Poverty, especially among women worldwide
- Inadequate education
- Inadequate employment
- Racial discrimination, racism, and intolerance
- Media, new technologies, pornography
- Discrimination of women
- Gender roles of women and men
- Economic disparities within countries
- Globalization and economic liberalization
- Civil and military conflicts/military bases
- Transnational crime and weak law enforcement
- Corruption by police, law enforcers, officials in many countries
- Sexualization of women and children
- Sex tourism

Send us any form of art... You may use our postcards too... Use all sorts of tools. Stamps, crayons, magazines, chalk, newspaper clippings, and the list goes on...

## **REMEMBER!**

To create your art

To place the correct postage

To include your email address

To mail your art to Sexual Assault Centre Kingston, P.O. Box 1461, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 5C7 by March 1, 2010 for our first exhibition... Your mail art will be part of a growing and travelling exhibition in months to follow.