

# Business community acting to end human trafficking

by Aleya Hammad

*While the prime responsibility for eliminating human trafficking rests with governments, a successful global strategy requires engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs, the security sector, the public – and the business community.*

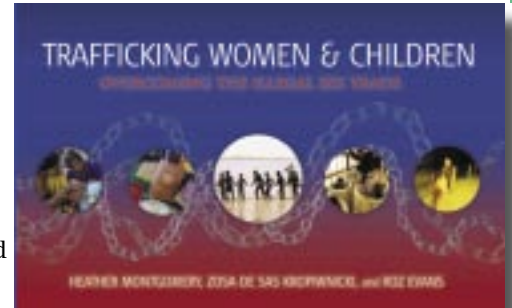
**W**hile the prime responsibility for eliminating human trafficking rests with governments, a successful global strategy requires engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs, the security sector, the public – and the business community.

On 23 January 2006 in Athens the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM)<sup>1</sup> launched the 'End Human Trafficking Now' initiative to rally the business sector to join the global campaign against human trafficking. Business leaders gathered at a meeting hosted by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-sponsored by the International Organization for Migration, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),<sup>2</sup> the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime (UNODC),<sup>3</sup> the World Bank, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)<sup>4</sup> and the Foundation for the Child and the Family.

In Athens corporate leaders signed up to seven Ethical Principles against Human Trafficking:<sup>5</sup>

- zero tolerance towards human trafficking
- awareness-raising campaigns and educational activities
- mainstreaming anti-trafficking in all corporate strategies
- ensuring the compliance of personnel
- encouraging business partners to apply the same ethical principles
- advocacy to urge governments to strengthen anti-trafficking policies
- wider sharing of good practice.

A Working Group of business leaders was constituted and charged with disseminating the Ethical Principles and soliciting sustained involvement of the business community. The SMWIPM is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Working Group.



*Aleya Hammad is a founding member and member of the Board of SMWIPM. Email: aleya@hammad.com. For more information, or to be involved in the End Human Trafficking Initiative, contact SMWIPM, PO Box 2161, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland. Email: info@gcwdp.org Tel: +41 22 741 7784.*

A background document, *Trafficking Women and Children, Overcoming the Illegal Sex Trade*, was produced for the Athens roundtable. Sponsored by the SMWIPM, it was published by the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. To obtain a free copy, please contact SMWIPM.

1. [www.womenforpeaceinternational.org](http://www.womenforpeaceinternational.org)
2. [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)
3. [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)
4. [www.dcaf.ch](http://www.dcaf.ch)
5. [www.womenforpeaceinternational.org/Events/Files/Ethical\\_Principles\\_against\\_trafficking.pdf](http://www.womenforpeaceinternational.org/Events/Files/Ethical_Principles_against_trafficking.pdf)

## 15-day course on forced migration: Kolkata, India, 1-15 December 2006 organised by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG)

The MCRG's annual course is aimed at younger academics, refugee activists and others working in the field of human rights and humanitarian assistance for victims of forced displacement. The course will be preceded by a two and a half month long programme of distance education including nationalism, ethnicity, partition and partition-refugees, national regimes and the international regime of protection, political issues relating to regional trends in migration in South Asia, internal displacement, the gendered nature of forced migration and protection framework, resource politics, environmental degradation and other aspects relating to forced displacement. The course will emphasise the experiences of displacement, creative writings on refugee life, critical legal and policy analysis, and analysis of relevant notions such as vulnerability, care, risk, protection, return and settlement.

Applicants must have three years' experience in related work or hold a post-graduate degree in Social Sciences or Liberal Arts, and be proficient in English. Fee: INR 3000/ for candidates from South Asia; US\$300 for those outside South Asia. MCRG covers accommodation/other course expenses. Applications must be received by 31 May and include a recommendation letter and 500-1000 words on the relevance of the course to the applicant's work. Applications to [mcrg@mcrg.ac.in](mailto:mcrg@mcrg.ac.in) or by post to MCRG, FE-390, Ground Floor, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700106, West Bengal, India. See [www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in) for more details.