

CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF ST. AGNES
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PRESS RELEASE:

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**CSA Continues Commitment to Stop Sex Trafficking
in the United States**

The year was 1889 when the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes began their effort to stop the trafficking of women by meeting single German girls and women who arrived at the docks in New York City. The sisters invited the new arrivals to the Leo House, a hostel they managed, where they helped the women begin their new life in America free of exploitation.

Today the congregation continues its strong commitment to the value and dignity of women and children who are the victims of trafficking. On January 21, 2007, CSA formally made public its corporate stance against human trafficking. The statement reads "CSA stands in solidarity with victims of human trafficking and takes a corporate stance against the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation."

Sister Stella Storch, coordinator of Justice, Peace, and Ecology for CSA, travels throughout Wisconsin giving presentations on the issue of sex trafficking. "People do not realize that the issue of sex trafficking not only occurs in the big cities of our country or third world countries but right here in rural communities of Wisconsin. I have spent almost ten years of my work life creating awareness and being proactive in stopping this heinous crime against women and children," said Sister Stella.

"You can take the position that you can't do anything to stop sex trafficking or you can become aware of why it occurs. Our laws in Wisconsin on this issue need to be strengthened and to be more inclusive. Writing a letter to your legislator is a start," continued Sister Stella. On our CSA web site we offer four direct ways to stop the sex slave trade industry. I hope people will go to www.csasisters.org and click on: <http://www.csasisters.org/resources.cfm>

In addition, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes is active in the United Nations on this issue. Along with 15 other groups of women religious, CSA is a member of a non-governmental organization called UNANIMA International whose purpose is to stop trafficking on a global basis.