prostitution in the world, according to a United Nations report dated May 2003. It is interesting here to note that these countries have all undertaken serious efforts towards legislative reform to address trafficking in human beings. Laws alone do not stop trafficking, although they are a necessary place to start.

These countries share many of the same routes, and many of the same countries of destination, including but not limited to Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland and the United States.

These countries are primarily countries of origin for women trafficked for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. However, recent studies of trafficking patterns in these countries indicate new trends, notably trafficking of children (boys and girls), trafficking for labor, and the development of local sex tourism. This particular trend is very unsettling. The sex tourism is a by-product of coveted commercial development necessary to the betterment of the collapsing economic infrastructures.

Numbers of trafficked persons are very difficult to come by, with most information being provided by countries of destination. Victim identification remains inadequate.

Most trafficked persons return to the same conditions which initially compelled them to seek employment elsewhere. The hardship is compounded, however, by the fact that they are often stigmatized as a result of their trafficking experiences. Furthermore, criminal status that ensues from being considered an illegal immigrant, or being in possession of fraudulent documentation further marginalizes these women and shuts them out of the formal economy.

Overall, there is a lack of protection and re-integration programs for returning trafficked persons. Most programs provide short term assistance only and are not equipped to provide long-term support to trafficked persons. Failure in identification of trafficked persons and the subsequent dearth of long-term assistance appear to be factors which contribute to re-trafficking.

Each country has experienced a period of great political instability.

CHALLENGES TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

I believe that both countries of origin and of destination have a responsibility for providing protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, for the plight of women like Mariana, and to ensure that Jana, and even Victoria, will be able to contemplate a future with options and possibilities, much in the way all of us in this room approach the future.

In countries of origin, root causes need to be considered. These run very deep, and comprise social and economic push factors that drive women to seek employment overseas, including the absence of alternatives, the social stigma that leaves trafficked persons marginalized, and the on-going need to provide financial assistance to their families. It is also necessary to consider wide-spread corruption, the lack of a human rights approach, mistrust towards the police and judiciary, the absence of a tradition to resolve issues through court procedures, lack of co-operation between the State and the civil society, widely spread distrust towards NGOs as foreign agents and representatives of political opposition, inadequate funding for the implementation of anti-trafficking programs and projects, lack of co-operation with countries of destination. This list goes on.

Countries of destination, on the other hand,—and this includes us—will have to concretely recognize that they create the demand which encourages human trafficking and enables organized criminal groups to generate billions of dollars annually in tax-free revenue at the cost of human misery. Furthermore, countries of destination need to develop humane and compassionate approaches to victim identification, victim protection, and long-term victim assistance. Successful reintegration begins at the country of destination.

After making this distinction, I personally believe that it is no longer adequate to talk about solutions, policies and practices directed exclusively towards countries of origin and destination, for these countries are in fact linked by very complex relationships that include financial institutions, border and immigration police, law enforcement, the tourist and transportation industry, and other equally significant commercial and professional enterprises. To address only a country of origin without looking at where the reward comes from for criminal activity is an incomplete approach, and will therefore yield incomplete results. Regional approaches to combating trafficking in persons, linking countries of destination and origin, have the best potential for arriving at comprehensive and systemic solutions.

In addition to the challenge of complex political and commercial relationships mentioned above, I would like to talk briefly about the great challenge of victim identification, underscoring why there is such urgency in addressing this topic. From 1 January 2000 to 31 December, 2004, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other nongovernmental organizations assisted 1,464 trafficking victims to return to Moldova, and this number includes 81 minors. In 2004, one destination country alone documented repatriation of 1,774 Moldovan women. These women were listed as illegal immigrants; however, human rights groups in this country attest that the majority of Moldovan women who are arrested for violations of immigration laws are victims of trafficking. Similar discrepancies can be found among the other countries we are talking about. In one year, one country reported more Moldovan women than other reports claim were helped in five years. These discrepancies require our serious consideration. Why the discrepancy? What needs to be changed in order for women to seek out assistance? Are the right groups providing the assistance so that trafficked persons feel protected? Is the assistance appropriate to the need?

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Here I would like to ask two more questions:

(1) What about the present? Are we really making progress? If trafficking, as all indicators tell us, is in fact a growth industry, then what do we not know? What are we getting wrong? What in fact is the real impact of anti-trafficking funding?

(2) What about the future? Are our current efforts helping to lay a foundation that will enable prevention, protection and prosecution to continue after donor funds have decreased?

I am particularly concerned about the need to think about investing in the creation of sustainable grass roots initiatives as opposed to reactive project development. The question of funding is of particular concern to me right now. Wealthy nations have responded generously both by making funds available and by elevating this issue to one of high political visibility. But let us be realistic. History shows us that in time, another world crisis will capture world attention as well as money, even though human trafficking itself will not disappear. Will there be organizations, movements, trained personnel in rural communities, small towns and big cities who will be able continue to pressure their governments and work to assist individuals?

Let us look again at Moldova. This small country with a population of barely 4 million people is now receiving between $USD 10M–12M over several years to combat trafficking in persons. Here are some questions we need to think about, not only for Moldova, but for all countries receiving large amounts of external assistance.

To what extent are these funds actually reaching trafficked persons or developing grass roots capacity?

To what extent are these funds being invested to ensure sustainable anti-trafficking initiatives?

To what extent is there coordination among donors to ensure that there are no duplicated efforts?

Who is around the table at these coordinating meetings? Are the right partners present in order to make sure that these efforts are able to continue into the future, long after grant money has decreased?

Are the faith communities involved? It is well known at this time that faith communities have the capacity to reach trafficked persons which are normally outside of the grasp of other organizations; this comes from the fact that they are closely linked to the communities and have the trust of the local populations—including the trust of trafficked persons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Coordinate initiatives of major donors to ensure that there will be no duplication of efforts, and that there will be monitoring of grant activities.

Make sure that grants provide for a broad representation of local NGOs.

Make sure that funded projects ensure provision of benefits directly to individuals and to the empowerment of small local NGOs. Many budgets give only token amounts to local initiatives while having large budgets for travel and foreign consultants. This is the time to develop the grass roots work force.

Develop existing capacity and cultivate potential/future capacity. Are there sufficiently trained service professionals? Do countries' economic development plans foresee the training of new members of the work force taken from returning trafficked persons?

Develop a long-term perspective to finding long-term solutions rather than only addressing immediate needs.

Give priority to programs that work towards social inclusion—the forgotten stepchild of the anti-trafficking movement. Make reintegration a long-term policy.

Members of the Human Rights Caucus, I will end where I began, challenging us to consider that we could be part of the greatest human rights movement of the past two hundred years, with a legacy of freedom, redemption and hope that will serve as a model for generations to come. Do we have the courage, the discipline, and the wisdom to make it happen? May it be so. Thank you.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, there has been significant debate in recent years regarding the chances of the developing world reaching

the Millennium Challenge Goals (MCG). Reaching the goals will be a trying task, but some regions of the world seem to be making satisfactory progress. The Caribbean is one such region that has high hopes for success in this important endeavor.

On the occasion of a recent Inter-American Development Bank seminar on the issue of the Millennium Challenge Goals, Dame Billie Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the island of Barbados, wrote an informative May 3rd Op-Ed which describes the prospects and challenges facing the Caribbean in regards to achieving the Millennium Challenge Goals.

Dame Miller's overall view is that the Caribbean's progress to date has been very promising. Indeed, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report for the Caribbean gives a rather bright prognosis for the majority of the Caribbean's nations in their MGD progression. However, some countries continue to face significant obstacles.

For example, Haiti remains mired in political instability and economic impoverishment. Though it contains 50 percent of the Caribbean's population it is the region's poorest country. The nation of Guyana, though blessed with abundant natural resources, is saddled with an extremely high ratio of debt, making it the Caribbean's only Highly Indebted Poor Country.

Despite the Caribbean's overall progress, Dame Miller emphasizes that there remains threats to the region which must be accounted for. Most pressing is the region's ongoing vulnerability to natural disasters.

We are all aware of the calamity the Caribbean region faced in 2004 due to Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan, and Tropical Storm Jeanne, which caused billions of dollars in damage. Thousands lost their lives, and the region's tourism and agricultural sectors, on which so many islands depend, was battered. The production of major agricultural exports for many countries is still on hold several months later. The Caribbean in concert with its neighbors, like the United States, must continue to address the issue of disaster response and mitigation. With efficient and functioning systems in place, these disasters need not be so devastating to the region.

Dame Miller also emphasizes the region's need to broaden access to education, as well as information and communications technology, for all its residents. Doing so will help to spur the economic development of the region, and also allow for the greater participation of the Caribbean population in civic and political life.

She also stresses the importance of the region's continuing efforts at regional economic integration. In the face of increasing globalization and trade liberalization, Dame Miller argues that the Caribbean must solidify their economic and trade ties, in route to a Caribbean Single Market Economy, which would remove all barriers to trade, capital movement, and technology and manpower transfer. Dame Miller foresees such an integration being achieved by 2006.

I sincerely thank Dame Miller for her insightful opinions. She reminds us, that while the Caribbean will undoubtedly face challenges in its socio-economic evolution, its dedication to addressing these challenges, and its ability to harness its immense potential, will ultimately determine its future success.

[From the New York Carib News, May 3, 2005]

CARIBBEAN MAY DEFY ''OVERWHELMING ODDS''—AS REGION SEEKS TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

In this first decade of the 21st century, in a post 9/11, post Enron World the time seems hardly propitious for the removal of obstacles to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals nor the realization of the 0.7 percent of overseas Development Assistance Commitment.

Progress (towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals set by the world's leaders summit in 2000) has been far from uniform across the world—or for that matter across the Goals. There are large disparities across and within countries. In terms of priorities for attention, the developing world is divided into well-organized categories: the LDC's (less developed countries), of which Haiti is the only member in the Caribbean, although with a population of 8 million, it accounts for over 50 percent of the 14 million citizens of the Caribbean Community, or Caricom, as it is known; the HIPC (highly indebted poor) countries, of which Guyana, the seat of the Caricom secretariat, is the only one among the Caricom states; and finally, the poorest of the poor. Small, middle incomes, mostly island countries, are, as we would say in the Caribbean, neither fish, fowl nor good red herring. We are therefore acutely aware that self-reliance and national and sub-regional actions will be the defining imperative in our efforts to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs.

In that respect, and defying the overwhelming odds, the prognosis for the achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean is very promising. In fact, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report on the matter gives an optimistic outlook for most of our countries in respect of at least six of the eight goals. But the region faces a number of challenges to the achievement of the Goals.

Foremost among them is the vulnerability to economic shocks, and to every natural disaster known to humankind, be it hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides, earthquakes or flood.

The catastrophic hurricane season of 2004 had a grave impact on the socio-economic development prospects of many of the small islands of the Caribbean. Decades of painstaking human and financial investment in social development, representing several years' worth of gross domestic product were lost in a matter of hours.

The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in December serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of many developing nations to natural disasters.

Globalization, education, information and communication technology all offer the potential for reducing social exclusion by creating economic conditions for greater prosperity through higher levels of growth and employment, and by providing new avenues for community participation.

Conversely, there is the risk of an ever-widening gap between those who have and control the resources, the capital and knowledge of the global economy and those who are excluded. The challenge for all of us is to fashion policies, which reduce this risk and maximize this new potential. Various studies in Latin American and the Caribbean have shown that even in the presence of steady rates of economic growth, a reduction of inequality is not guaranteed. Clearly, the solution does not lie exclusively in wealth creation.

Globalization has brought tremendous benefits to significant portions of the world, but at the same time, large sections of the world have experienced far too few of its benefits, while others still, particularly in the poorest countries, remain totally marginalized. Many feel threatened by the way these processes have affected their communities, endangering their jobs and widening the gap between rich and poor. For them globalization has not delivered on the promises of vast development opportunities on a global scale, nor has it lessened the prevalence of economic disparities and social injustice.

For the Caribbean, the only sensible response to globalization and trade liberalization, and to the inevitable disappearance of trade preferences has been to expedite the deepening of the Caricom integration process. At this time, the members of the Caribbean Community are fully engaged in the most ambitious of endeavors to consolidate our market place and economic space through the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, CSME, which provides for the removal of barriers to trade, goods, services, movement of capital, technology and skilled persons and also to the establishment of letterpresses. We expect that the CSME will be fully operational by 2006, making us the only integrated region, apart from the European Union to achieve such a status, and readying us to better access the global market process.

HONORING LAKE HOPATCONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, in my Congressional District. The Historical Society is celebrating fifty years of protecting documents and artifacts for the community and promoting education and historic preservation.

The actual creation of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society occurred on August 10, 1955, at the Langdon Arms Restaurant with eight people in attendance. From the beginning, the members' goal was to establish a museum for the lake.

From the original eight individuals who attended the first meeting in 1955, the society grew to 150 members by the time the museum opened in 1965. In the early 1960's the state of New Jersey moved forward with plans for a new administration building at Hopatcong State Park. The park was on land which was previously owned by the Morris Canal and Banking Company. When the canal was abandoned in the 1920's, the 98 acres around the Lake Hopatcong dam were set aside as a state park.

Today, with nearly 800 members, the organization continues to follow its mission ''to collect, house and preserve artifacts and documents relating to the civil, political, social and general history of Lake Hopatcong and to encourage the education and dissemination of information about Lake Hopatcong's history.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in congratulating the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, its trustees and all of its outstanding members and volunteers, upon celebrating its 50th Anniversary.