



Te Ope Whakāora

# Public Sphere

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News & Updates from The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit | December 2011

## THANK YOU

*We want to thank everyone for reading Public Sphere in 2011 and engaging with our Unit through conversations, forums, conferences, emails, campaigns and so on this year. The Unit would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and blessed Christmas and an amazing start to 2012!*

## EDITORIAL

A just world requires that people are treated fairly in those workplaces hidden from public scrutiny and that all children are protected from abusive sexual and labour practices. Sadly, according to speakers at the recent Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum 'The Inconvenient Truths', the Pacific is not free from exploitative workplaces and the abuse of children.

Speakers at the forum from countries across the Pacific revealed exploitative employment practices, sex trafficking and the trading in consumer goods manufactured by children.

Reports on trafficking in persons are sometimes weakened by anecdotal information presented in an extravagant, highly emotional manner. The Pacific Trafficking in Persons avoided this trap with evidential reports and papers presented by reputable organisations working in this field within the Pacific. Researchers came from a diverse range of creditable organisations, including Auckland University, the Australasian Institute of Criminology, Stop the Traffick UK, Save the Children, the Department of Labour and the US Embassy.

The report from Dr Christina Stringer and Glenn Simmons of Auckland University documented labour abuse and disturbing human rights breaches on foreign-chartered fishing vessels contracted to New Zealand companies, and operating in the exclusive economic zone.

The research showed that although crew voluntarily entered into contractual agreements to work on these foreign chartered vessels, they were then subjected

**Public Sphere** is an e-newsletter from The Salvation Army's Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit.

to exploitative working conditions—some forced to work shifts of more than 50 hours, and paid as little as NZ\$6700 a year. Examples were given of crew having their passports and other documents confiscated, and the use of debt-bonding to keep crew members compliant was a common tactic. Crew suffered maltreatment on board ship, including verbal, physical and occasionally sexual abuse, as well as insanitary living conditions, food rationing and substandard food and water quality.

Trafficking in persons represents modern day slavery and, appropriately, the forum finished with a strengthened commitment for organisations to provide further research on the subject, and to work together for the abolition of trafficking in persons in the Pacific.

**Campbell Roberts, Director**

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012

### State of the Nation roll out

The Unit will be launching our annual State of the Nation report in February 2012 in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. This much-anticipated report will continue to detail The Salvation Army's view on the state of our children, crime and punishment, social hazards, work and income and housing in our nation.

For more information, contact [ronji\\_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:ronji_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org)

### Making our voice heard

The Unit will make submissions to the Ministry of Social Development's Green Paper for Vulnerable Children and to the Ministry of Justice around some of the upcoming justice reforms in early 2012. Watch this space!

[Click here to subscribe](#) (Public Sphere does not necessarily represent the official views of The Salvation Army)

We welcome your feedback → **Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit** | New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory | **Auckland Office:** PO Box 76249, Manukau City, e: [social\\_policy@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:social_policy@nzf.salvationarmy.org), p: (09) 261 0883, m: 027 450 6944, f: (09) 262 4103 | **Wellington Office:** p: (04) 802 6269

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## Trafficking Forum report

In early 2012, the Unit will release a comprehensive report about the Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum, held recently in Wellington. Watch this space! For more information, contact [chris\\_frazer@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:chris_frazer@nzf.salvationarmy.org)

## Working effectively together

The Unit will strengthen its relationships with local communities and Salvation Army centres around the country in 2012. We want to ensure that the policy changes we advocate for are informed by, and driven from, community groups and Salvation Army centres. The Unit is considering holding community forums in 2012 to continue engaging with our local and regional communities.

## PUBLICATIONS

### The truths shared at the Pacific Trafficking in Persons conference

The Unit's Chris Frazer, one of the main Forum organizers, provides a detailed summary on the speakers and presentations from the recent Forum. Chris' report captures some of the powerful stories and sobering statistics shared during these two days. The report will be available in the new year [here](#).

### Being the change you want to see

Shar Davis from the Unit offers some short yet very insightful thoughts about her experiences at the recent Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum. [Read her report here.](#)



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## NEWS

### The Inconvenient Truths

The Unit wishes to thank all the presenters and delegates that attended and contributed to a very successful Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum earlier this month, called 'The Inconvenient Truths'. Over 100 people from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and organisations attended the forum and engaged in rigorous discussion around various trafficking issues. There are links to some of the papers from the forum in this edition of Public Sphere. The Unit acknowledges the hard work from all the forum partners, particularly Hagar Trust International, EPCAT Child Alert NZ, Stop the Traffik UK and the Unit's very own Chris Frazer and Shar Davis.

### Modern-day slavery exposed

The Salvation Army has issued a media release discussing a paper from University of Auckland researchers about human rights breaches on foreign-chartered fishing vessels contracted to New Zealand companies, which was presented at the Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum.

[Read the media release here.](#)

Read Auckland University Business School's paper ['Not in New Zealand Waters, Surely'](#).

### Important member of SPPU moves on

It is with great sadness that the Unit farewells Malcolm and Rogena Irwin. Malcolm has been a critical member of the Unit since 2009 and has provided many invaluable and thought-provoking pieces of work. Malcolm and Rogena will become Centre Leaders for the REC Church based in Royal Oak, Auckland. The Unit gratefully thanks Malcolm and Rogena for their input into the Unit's work and wishes them and their family God's massive blessings for this next chapter of life!

### Counting populations conference

Ronji Tanielu presented at the Population Association of New Zealand Conference ([panz.rsnz.org/](http://panz.rsnz.org/)) in November. Ronji was part of the Counting Populations panel and presented about the Mangere Housing Survey.

[Read about the survey here.](#)