

TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

1 Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is committed to helping to
2 protect the rights of women and is outraged by the global scourge of trafficking in women.

3 Trafficking in women occurs when women are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or
4 sexual exploitation within and across national borders. Victims of trafficking are subject to
5 gross human rights violations including kidnapping, rape, torture, starvation, and threats of
6 murder or torture of family members. International agencies and governmental bodies
7 estimate that each year over one million women and children are trafficked for the purposes
8 of sexual exploitation—a shadow market estimated at \$7 billion annually.

9 Trafficking and its related crimes not only harm the women involved; they also undermine
10 the social, political and economic fabric of the nations where they occur by demeaning
11 women and increasing violence and crime.

12 In recent years, the United Nations, as well as the United States and Israel have made
13 significant progress towards the elimination of trafficking; however, there is much work still
14 to be done. Hadassah urges all nations to make the elimination of the trafficking of women a
15 priority by strengthening anti-trafficking legislation, sharing information, aggressively
16 prosecuting traffickers, and mounting public information campaigns. Hadassah further urges
17 countries to provide safe havens for victims of trafficking and institute a comprehensive
18 range of social services for their rehabilitation.