

under the Declaration Follow-up, the ILO has progressively increased its profile and activities on forced labour over this four-year period. Guided by its Governing Body mandate, the programme has emphasized: advice on appropriate legislation; awareness raising on forced labour, among both the general population and key authorities; research and surveys, on the nature and extent of the problems; prevention, through advocacy, vigorous application of national laws and regulations, and by tackling underlying causes; and sustainable support and rehabilitation measures.

SAP-FL has been active in many parts of the world in a short period of time. Awareness-raising has been conducted in all regions, and with major international partners. There is growing consensus that forced labour is the key entry point for anti-trafficking action. Research—in South and South-East Asia, transition and industrialized countries and Latin America—has for the first time provided a full understanding of the nature of modern forced labour, and of the action needed to eradicate it. Law and policy advice have been provided to Asian countries including China, Mongolia and Vietnam, paving the way for ratification of the ILO's Conventions on forced labour.

Several ILO projects aim to strengthen institutional structures for combating forced labour. A Brazilian project supports the Government's National Action Plan against Slave Labour, working with several ministries, police, judiciary and labour authorities as partner agencies. The project, in part through a massive awareness campaign, has contributed to the significant rise in the number of forced labourers rescued in Brazil. In South Asia, a project to promote the prevention and elimination of bonded labour has gradually developed new tools for tackling this immense problem. With an initial focus on using microfinance to prevent bonded labour and assist the rehabilitation of released bonded labourers at the community level, it has moved increasingly into capacity-strengthening of Government agencies and other partners. In Pakistan, ILO assistance has largely been designed to support the goals first set out in the 2001 National Policy and Plan of Action on bonded labour.

On trafficking, research and studies in both origin and destination countries have prepared the ground for integrated programmes across the trafficking cycle, combining prevention, victim identification and protection, law enforcement, and rehabilitation of victims. As requested by international partners the ILO has taken a lead in providing guidance to member States on the forced labour and labour exploitation dimensions of trafficking, drawing on pertinent ILO standards. Operational projects are now under way in West Africa, South East Asia, China, and Eastern and Western Europe. In particular, these projects aim to involve labour authorities and other institutions including employers' and workers' organizations in action against trafficking, demonstrating the importance of their cooperation with police, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies in general.

ACTION PLAN: A GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST FORCED LABOUR

The ILO now calls for a global alliance against forced labour. It will require national commitment to eradicate forced labour through plans with specific time horizons. National plans and programmes will need to be backed by extensive international assistance, notably from the development agencies and financial institutions concerned with poverty reduction. Asia, where the numbers affected by contemporary forced labour are the largest, must be the

highest priority. The development agencies, which base their strategies on poverty targeting and the eradication of extreme poverty, should single out bonded labour systems for priority attention. In Latin America, where the incidence of forced labour is particularly severe amongst indigenous peoples, poverty reduction programmes and resources can be targeted at the peoples and areas affected.

As regards forced labour and trafficking, the destination countries need to take their share of responsibility. All countries need to include provisions against forced labour and trafficking in their criminal laws, involving labour law experts in the drafting process. There is a need for more awareness of the role of demand for cheap and flexible labour in the destination countries in giving rise to trafficking and forced labour, and also for more rational migration management.

Universities, research and policy institutions need to improve the knowledge base on forced labour. Priority can be given to the difficult issues, where there is currently a lack of consensus as to whether and which practices do constitute forced labour. One example is the forced labour aspects of prison labour.

The ILO can take an active leadership in this global alliance. It can set targets for eradicating the forced and bonded labour problems linked to structural poverty, as part of its contribution to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It can identify specific steps, with targets for the coming years, against the forced labour problems linked to globalization. Employers and workers' organizations will have a key role to play, the former developing codes of conduct to ensure vigilance against forced labour in supply chains, the latter helping the informal economy workers vulnerable to forced labour in their efforts to organize themselves and seek redress. Through their regional and international networks, transport and other unions can exercise permanent vigilance against human trafficking.

The ILO can help member States improve data gathering on forced labour. Reliable forced labour statistics must now be developed at the national level, providing benchmarks against which progress can be measured over time.

Through operational projects, the ILO can greatly help member States eradicate forced labour. The aim will be to develop "models" of intervention, which can then be applied on a wider scale by others. These should comprise linked components, addressing upstream policy and legal issues, as well as strengthening enforcement institutions and providing direct support for victims. In developing such integrated projects the ILO needs to draw on all its capacities, as they relate to employment promotion as well as the application of labour standards.

In developing projects, however, it must be remembered that hard policy decisions are required to end forced labour. Such instruments as microfinance are important for prevention and rehabilitation, and will always be part of the "toolkit" against forced labour. But to combat impunity, and to tackle the roots of either the more traditional or more modern forms of forced labour, member States may ultimately have to revisit their land, tenancy, labour market or even migration policies.

With courage and commitment to face up to the problems, and with the allocation of resources to meet the challenges, there is a real hope that forced labour can finally be relegated to history.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words in honor of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities of the United States. As my colleagues know, May marks Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Throughout this month, the United States celebrates the history, culture, and traditions of Asian and Pacific Islanders, and recognizes their unique contributions to the United States.

First proposed as a 1-week celebration in 1977, the occasion was expanded into a month-long event in 1990. May was chosen because of its unique significance to the history of Asian Americans. May 7, 1843 marked the first recorded immigration of Japanese to the United States, while May 10, 1869 marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad, which would not have happened when it did without the labor of Chinese immigrants.

The Asian and Pacific Islander population has a rich history in this country, especially in the Pacific Northwest. In my home State, records show the arrival of Asian immigrants as early as the 1860s, while some scholars even speculate that Chinese explorers sailed down the Alaskan coast to what is now Washington State centuries before. Today, there are nearly 13 million Asians and Pacific Islanders living in the United States, representing 4.4 percent of the population. In Washington, they make up nearly 6 percent of the citizenry.

Over the past century and a half, Asian and Pacific Islander communities have contributed significantly to the cultural vibrancy of Washington State. Individuals within Washington's Asian and Pacific Islander communities have also worked to stand up for justice and make our country a better place. In 1944, Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese-American student at the University of Washington in Seattle, took a stand against the unfair treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II when he refused to obey discriminatory curfew orders. In taking his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, he left a lasting reminder of the importance of standing up for civil rights.

America is a land of immigrants and our history demonstrates that we are stronger because of our diversity, not in spite of it. However, we can only live up to the promise of our diversity if we recognize the mistakes of our past and give all groups a voice in public discourse. Asian Americans have a powerful history in the Pacific Northwest, and I believe we cannot ignore its darkest period. For this reason, I was pleased to work with Senator PATTY MURRAY to secure Federal funding for a study of the Eagledale Ferry Dock site on Bainbridge Island, which served as a point of departure for members of the Japanese-American community on their way to internment camps during World War II. These funds are a critical

step toward commemorating the sacrifices and the strength of the Japanese-American community, and to recognizing an important chapter in the history of Bainbridge Island, my State, and our Nation.

I am proud to represent a State with a history of electing a diverse group of citizens to public office. In 1993, Filipina-American Velma Veloria became the first Asian-American woman to serve in the Washington State Legislature. Over the past decade, her work to fight human trafficking and promote peace and social justice has truly made my State a better place. Since then, Washington State has also seen the service of Gary Locke, Washington's first Asian-American Governor, and Paul Shin, the first Asian American to serve in the State senate. In fact, the rich history of Asians and Pacific Islanders holding elected office in Washington State dates back to 1962, when Wing Luke, a decorated World War II veteran and former Assistant Attorney General of the State of Washington, won a seat on Seattle's city council. Today, his legacy is commemorated in Seattle's Wing Luke Asian Museum, along with the stories of thousands of other Asian immigrants. I am personally honored to be involved in renovating the museum's East Kong Yick building, one of the first two buildings in Seattle owned by nonwhites. The museum is both a local and national treasure, respected as a Smithsonian affiliate and honored at the White House 10 years ago with the National Award for Museum Services.

As this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage month begins, I believe it is important to preserve the lessons of the past, while recognizing the immense benefit we all receive from living in a diverse country built on the contributions of immigrants from around the globe. Diversity, and the exposure to other customs and ideas that it involves, leads to opportunity and gives the United States much of its strength. In celebrating the rich history, culture, and traditions of Asian and Pacific Islanders this May, we recognize their important contributions to the strength and diversity of our country, and to the bright future that lies ahead.

PASSING OF VICKI COTTRELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, with the untimely death of Vicki Cottrell, Utah's executive director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, NAMI, a powerful and compassionate voice who spoke for those who suffer the effects of mental illness has been silenced. Vicki Cottrell's untiring efforts across Utah, in the legislature, in the jails and mental health courts, among community and religious leaders, and among families, will be difficult to replace. The passionate spirit and vision that she shared with her staff will continue.

Before working for NAMI Utah, Vicki worked in computer software sales. But

after her daughter was diagnosed with schizophrenia, Vicki formed her own support group for people who have loved ones with a mental illness. Eventually, she merged her group with NAMI Utah.

Over the past 20 years, Vicki has worked for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill's Utah affiliate. She started as a volunteer teaching classes and worked her way up to the executive director's post. Going the distance to places like Logan was common for her, and she took a message of advocacy around the State. Vicki's influence did not just reach inside Utah's borders, though. Upon hearing of her death, NAMI members and friends from across the country brought forth an outpouring of sympathy.

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. expressed his condolences noting that Vicki helped educate many about mental illness and the way new medical treatments help the afflicted lead very productive lives. He said, "She traveled throughout the Nation sharing this message of hope and will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Vicki was a member of my Advisory Committee on Disability Issues for the State of Utah. She worked closely with my office and visited with me and my staff in both Washington and Utah to advocate for the needs of the mentally ill. Her strong commitment to those suffering from mental illness was well known throughout Utah. She provided valuable insights to the Advisory Committee and will be missed by all of the committee members.

The love and respect so many felt for Vicki Cottrell came from her willingness to use her own family's struggle with schizophrenia as an example and turn it into something to help others cope. She worked hard to eliminate the stigma often attached to mental illness, and was tireless, energetic and motivated in her mission.

Vicki's grace, humanity, and love touched every life she met. Her public life never overshadowed her deep devotion for her 6 children and 10 grandchildren. She was a loyal friend and enjoyed close relationships with many. Her beautiful and well-attended garden was a metaphor for her life.

I ask that my colleagues please join me in extending heartfelt sympathies to Vicki's family and friends. The magnitude of the loss for Utah and the Nation is substantial.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MG RICHARD S. COLT

• MR. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to honor one of the great Army Reserve generals in the United States of America. MG Richard S. Colt has served as the commanding general of the 77th Regional Readiness Command based at Fort Totten, NY, for the last 4 years, and I am honored to recognize him on the floor of the Senate. He celebrates

his retirement after 38 years of service to this country. While I am a Senator from Idaho and he is a commanding general from the State of New York, he deserves all of our praise because he was on duty in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Major General Colt is a Vietnam veteran who has always put soldiers first. His emphasis on readiness and training has prepared our citizen soldiers for the current global war on terror.

General Colt is among the finest this country has to offer, and he leads by example. He trains, teaches, and leads his soldiers. He will be sorely missed by his soldiers and by all of us who cherish freedom. We honor his service, congratulate him on his retirement, and reflect on the accomplishments of this great leader.

His dates of service are from July 25, 1967 to June 19, 2005. I know that his family is very proud of him, including his wife Dorothy and his daughters Mary Colt and Jennifer Sullivan and grandson Ryan Richard Sullivan.●

A LIFE OF TEACHING, A LOVE OF LEARNING, A HEART FOR CHILDREN

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize a truly remarkable individual today. Gail Chumbley is a history teacher at Eagle High School in Eagle, ID. A high school history teacher; there are many individuals who can claim this job title but few who have done so much. Gail is an amazing teacher, passionately devoted to teaching our American experience to her students. Not only does she teach about events in our Nation's history, she has ventured into the next realm, moving the tenets of American citizenship into the real world for her students.

I first heard of Gail's efforts 4 years ago when she became actively involved in the Library of Congress's Veterans Oral History Project four years ago. At that time, she had organized the recording of over 300 oral histories for Eagle High School's library alone. She expanded the effort to include other Idaho schools and collaborated with local civics groups to record literally hundreds more interviews that went to both the Eagle High School archives and the Idaho Oral History Center. One of the most significant accomplishments of Gail and her students was their participation in the Veterans Stand Down in Boise where homeless veterans were given the opportunity to record interviews. Her efforts were not confined to veterans of past wars. Gail and her students also have sent gift boxes and cards to our current service women and men in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002. She was instrumental in making Eagle High School the top school donor for the World War II Memorial, with a donation of close to \$25,000. The list of her accomplishments, enhanced further with her national recognition by the Daughters of