



Panel discussion on human trafficking and ceremony appointing Ms. Julia Ormond as UNODC Goodwill Ambassador

on the occasion of *The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery*
2 December 2005, 3:00-5:00 p.m., U.N. Trusteeship Council Chamber

Human trafficking has become one of the most profitable activities of criminals worldwide. It is a dynamic, adaptable and opportunistic enterprise and, like many other forms of criminal activity, takes advantage of conflicts, disasters and the vulnerability of people in crisis situations. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime has established a Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT), drawing on assistance from Member States to combat human trafficking. UNODC is the guardian of the UN Protocols on Person Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, which serves as the framework for GPAT.

UNODC's partners against trafficking include the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and Vital Voices Global Partnership. More information on the work of UNODC on Human Trafficking may be found at UNODC's GPAT website (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking_human_beings.html).

Panel members:

- Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. **Antonio Maria Costa** (host and moderator);
- Hon. **Nancy Kassebaum Baker**, distinguished former U.S. Senator, Blair Africa Commissioner; Vital Voices Global Partnership Honorary Co-Chair (keynote speaker);
- Ms. **Melanne Verveer**, Chair of the Board, Vital Voices Global Partnership; former Chief of Staff to then-First Lady Hillary Clinton;
- Ms. **Bianca Jagger**, human rights advocate;
- Ms. **Jessica Neuwirth**, President of Equality Now; 2003 *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year;
- and, as a special guest, Ms. **Julia Ormond**, UN Goodwill Ambassador.

Advance availability for the media, immediately following the UN noon press briefing, Room S-226:

USG Antonio Maria Costa | Ms. Bianca Jagger | Ms. Julia Ormond

As Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Ormond will serve as a focal point for anti-human trafficking efforts, raising awareness globally of this modern form of slavery and galvanizing opposition.

Ms. Julia Ormond has a proven record of advocacy on human rights issues, both in her individual capacity and as the co-founder and co-chair of FilmAid International, Inc. FilmAid, an independent non-profit launched at the height of the Kosovo refugee crisis, uses the power of film to promote health, strengthen communities, and enrich the lives of the world's vulnerable and uprooted. In 2003, Ms. Ormond received the prestigious Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland. The award is reserved for media figures who use their talents and influence to make substantial contributions to humanitarian causes. Ms. Ormond has for the past decade worked closely with various U.N. agencies and NGOs on advocacy issues related to refugees, persons living with AIDS, and victims of human trafficking.

Ms. Ormond is best known for her film roles in the following motion pictures: "Legends of the Fall" (with Brad Pitt); "Sabrina" (with Harrison Ford); "Smilla's Sense of Snow" (with Gabriel Byrne); First Knight (with Richard Gere); and, "The Barber of Siberia." She is also the Executive Producer of the Emmy award-winning documentary "Calling of the Ghosts," an intimate story of survival of two women in Bosnia, caught in a war where rape was as much an everyday weapon as bullets and bombs.

Agenda of panel discussion, 15:00 – 17:00 hours

Welcoming Remarks: Under-Secretary-General Antonio Maria Costa

Keynote Speech: Hon. Nancy Kassebaum Baker

UNODC Goodwill Ambassador Appointment Ceremony

Panel Discussion: Ms. Melanne Vermeer, Ms. Bianca Jagger, Ms. Jessica Neuwirth

Open discussion between and among the day's panelists and audience.

Closing Remarks

For media accreditation, please visit www.un.org/media/accreditation/index.htm, Mr. Gary Fowle, Chief, Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, United Nations Headquarters, Room S-250, New York, NY 10017, tel: 1-212-963-6937, fax: 1-212-963-4642.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Mr. Costa, Ms. Ormond or Ms. Jagger, contact Tim Wall, UN Department of Public Information, 1-212-963-5851.

