



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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MIRA SORVINO TO BE APPOINTED UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF DRUGS AND CRIME GOODWILL AMBASSADOR ON 12 FEBRUARY

New York, NY: Academy Award-winning actress Mira Sorvino, will be appointed a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking. The ceremony takes place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations between 3:00-5:00 pm on Thursday, 12 February.

Ms. Sorvino's induction will be held during a high-level panel discussion on human trafficking, and the launch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.

The Office on Drugs and Crime is the lead UN agency fighting all forms of human trafficking including sex slaves, child soldiers, forced labor, illegal adoption and illegal organ transfers. UNODC works with governments, the private sector and NGOs by raising public awareness, engaging in preventative activities and enhancing the capacity and skills of criminal justice professionals and policymakers. In March 2007, the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, UNODC launched UN GIFT, the UN Global Initiative to Fight human Trafficking, www.ungift.org.

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive-Director of UNODC notes that, "human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar a year business. Its profits are second only to drugs and arms, and most of its victims women and girls, many of whom are forced into prostitution or otherwise exploited sexually. Art is a powerful advocacy tool to raise awareness of and prevent human trafficking. We know that Mira's commitment to the plight of trafficking victims will move people to take action against modern day slavery. Abraham Lincoln – whose 200th birthday will be celebrated on February 12th – spoke words which still ring true today: 'Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature – opposition to it is in his love of justice'.

"For the love of justice, and the defence of human dignity, we should all join Mira in asking how we may be complicit in this crime, and what we can do to stop it."

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MIRA SORVINO is a critically acclaimed actress and accomplished human rights advocate. She won the [Academy Award](#), the [Golden Globe Award](#), the [Critics' Choice Award](#), the National Board of Review and New York Film Critics Circle citations, among other honors, for her performance in Woody Allen's "Mighty Aphrodite." She was a Golden Globe Award nominee for her performance in the miniseries "Human Trafficking"; and had previously been nominated for her portrayal of Marilyn Monroe in "Norma Jean and Marilyn", which also earned her an [Emmy Award nomination](#).

Ms. Sorvino most recently starred in the NBC miniseries "The Last Templar" and will next be seen in the drama "Like Dandelion Dust" which premiered at the Palm Springs Film Festival, and "Multiple Sarcasms" opposite Timothy Hutton and Stockard Channing. Other credits include Terry George's "Reservation Road," opposite Joaquin Phoenix, and Mark Ruffalo; Robert Redford's "Quiz Show;" Spike Lee's "Summer of Sam;" David Mirkin's "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion;" Whit Stillman's "Barcelona;" Ted Demme's "Beautiful Girls" and Rob Weiss' "Amongst Friends". She is also a [distinguished stage actress and film producer](#).

Daughter of veteran actor Paul Sorvino, Ms. Sorvino, attended [Harvard University](#), where she graduated magna cum laude in [East Asian studies](#) and received the Hoopes Prize for her thesis. She has also won the National Italian American Foundation's Achievement Award. In 2006, she was honored with [Amnesty International's Artist of Conscience Award](#), which is given to those who have displayed longstanding philanthropic and humanist efforts. Through her work with Amnesty, she lobbied the U.S. Congress on abolishing human trafficking and atrocities in Darfur. She has been a [supporter of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime anti-trafficking initiatives](#) since 2007.