



Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20006
www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org

March 22, 2012

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Daniel Coats, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Landrieu and Ranking Members Price and Coats:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to fund the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to conduct investigations into severe forms of human trafficking in the fiscal year 2013 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that is absolutely critical to fighting the growing problem of human trafficking and slavery. In addition, we are seeking language under both ICE and the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) accounts, to improve training on human trafficking cases within both agencies.

As you begin to draft the fiscal year 2013 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, we ask that you consider funding and report language to better combat human trafficking as follows:

1. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): \$18,000,000 for Investigations

We request \$18,000,000 for investigations by ICE to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Congress established this program under Section 113(i) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended by its reauthorization in 2005 and 2008. ICE plays a critical role in combating severe forms of trafficking in the United States and is therefore one of the first lines of defense in stopping this heinous crime. Additional resources will be used to expand investigations against suspected human traffickers and help reduce the incidents of trafficking and slavery in the United States.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee recommends \$18,000,000 for investigations into severe forms of human trafficking and to expand investigations against suspected human traffickers. Congress called on ICE to take a more active role in pursuing investigations of human trafficking under Sec. 113(i) of the TVPA of 2000, as amended by the TVPRA of 2005 and the TVPRA of 2008. ICE is one of the first lines of defense in combating this crime as it enters the U.S.

2. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Training for Officers

As mentioned above, ICE officers are on the frontlines of our efforts to combat human trafficking. The nuances of trafficking cases can often be ignored in the rush of large immigration cases. Too often, victims are treated as criminals rather than the victims they are. It is critical that ICE officers receive the training they need to identify and assist trafficking victims. To accomplish this goal, we ask that the following language be included in the Committee Report for the FY 2013 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Proposed Report Language:

ICE plays a critical role in investigating criminal organizations trafficking individuals into and within the United States. The Committee encourages ICE to work with appropriate non-governmental organizations and victim service providers to improve the training of ICE officers in the field to assist in the identification of human trafficking victims and provide appropriate referrals to victim service organizations.

3. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Rights for Human Trafficking Victims

When ICE initiates a crime raid, trafficking victims are often swept away and initially detained as criminals. We request report language to encourage ICE to identify trafficking victims early in the investigations and, if possible, prior to detention. The treatment of trafficking victims as criminals commonly undermines their cooperation in the prosecutions of their traffickers (the trafficking victims do not trust the government and will not talk after incarceration). It is critical to the future prosecution of traffickers and the rehabilitation of the victims that the victims get the appropriate medical, psychological, and legal assistance as soon as possible. In fact, the TVPA gives specific legal rights to trafficked persons, including the right to appropriate shelter not incompatible with their status as victims of a crime (22 U.S.C. § 7105(c)(1)(A)).

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee directs ICE to identify potential victims of human trafficking and slavery early in any ICE or ICE-led investigations and provide informational materials and referrals for victim assistance as quickly as possible prior to any legal action. The Committee encourages ICE to work with non-governmental organizations and victim service providers on victim referrals and assistance.

4. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Training for Officers

Like ICE officers, CBP officers play an integral role in our efforts to combat human trafficking, most especially at our borders. Training the agents to understand and appreciate the nuances of human trafficking cases and to accurately identify trafficking victims is imperative to servicing the victims, prosecuting the traffickers, and deterring future trafficking crimes. We ask that the following language be included in the Committee Report for the FY 2013 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Proposed Report Language:

CBP plays a critical role in identifying potential human trafficking victims as they enter the United States. The Committee encourages CBP to work with appropriate nonprofit organizations

and victim service providers to improve the training of CBP officers in the field to assist in the identification of human trafficking victims and provide appropriate referrals to victim service organizations.

5. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Human Trafficking Hotline Number

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. The hotline is used to collect tips on human trafficking cases, connect victims with anti-trafficking services in their area, and to provide training and technical assistance and specific anti-trafficking resources. We request that the Committee include report language directing the Commissioner to post the hotline number and website in all U.S. ports of entry.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee directs the Commissioner to post the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline and website information in all U.S. ports of entry.

We understand the extremely difficult funding situation you are facing in FY 2013. We have carefully vetted our requests to reflect priorities that are targeted on the most effective DHS programs to combat human trafficking. We thank you for your consideration of these requests and your continued leadership in fighting the scourge of human trafficking and slavery. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, at csmithhu@gmail.com or (202) 361-1442.

Sincerely,

Abolitionist Faith Community

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Break the Chain Campaign

Casa de la Familia

Catholic Health East

Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition (CMSHTC)

Chaya & API Safety Center

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Church Women United

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (ATEST)

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Fond du Lac, WI

The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters

Covenant House International

Dominican Sisters – Grand Rapids, MI – Leadership Team

The Dream Center Foundation

ECPAT-USA (ATEST)

End Slavery Cincinnati

Freedom Network

Florrie Burke, Consultant
Freedom Network Chair Emeritus

Free the Slaves (ATEST)

General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Laura J. Lederer, President
Global Centurion Foundation

The Glory House of Miami

Sister Diane Bardol, GNSH, Social Justice Coordinator
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

GoodWeave USA

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA, JPIC

Holy Union Sisters USA

The Human Trafficking Academy of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights Law at
St. Thomas University School of Law

Marianna Smirnova, Founder
Human Trafficking Resource Project

International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

International Justice Mission (ATEST)

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton Ohio

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Jewish Labor Committee Western Region/Los Angeles Network to End Slavery (LANES)

Junior League PA-MP State Public Affairs Committee of California

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc.

Lutheran Social Services of New England

Bro. Steven O'Neil, SM

Marianists International

Lynn Kersey, Executive Director

Maternal and Child Health Access

Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

United States Province

Mosaic Family Services

Jerilyn Stapleton, President

National Organization for Women, Miracle Mile LA Chapter

Vice President, California National Organization for Women

Vanessa Bouche, Director of Policy

National Research Consortium on Commercial Sexual Exploitation (NRC-CSE)

Teresa Downing, Executive Director

Network Against Human Trafficking (Iowa)

Stephen Warnath

Founder, President & CEO

The NEXUS Institute

Jacqueline Zimowski

No Human Trafficking

Nomi Network

Not For Sale (ATEST)

Not For Sale, Arkansas Chapter

Not For Sale, San Diego, CA Chapter

Not For Sale, San Francisco Bay Area, CA Chapter

Not For Sale, Orange County, CA Chapter

Not For Sale, Colorado Chapter

Not For Sale, Connecticut Chapter

Not For Sale, Florida Chapter

Not For Sale, Georgia Chapter

Not For Sale, Illinois Chapter

Not For Sale, Kansas Chapter

Not For Sale, Kentucky Chapter

Not For Sale, Louisiana Chapter

Not For Sale, Massachusetts Chapter

Not For Sale, Minnesota Chapter

Not For Sale, Nevada Chapter

Not For Sale, North Carolina Chapter

Not For Sale, Ohio Chapter

Not For Sale, South Carolina Chapter

Not For Sale, Houston, TX Chapter

Not For Sale, Texas Chapter

Not For Sale, Virginia Chapter

Not For Sale, Washington State Chapter

Oasis USA

Kathryn Xian, Executive Director
Pacific Alliance to End Slavery

Julie Fox Gorte, Senior VP for Sustainable Living
PaxWorld Management LLC

Polaris Project (ATEST)

Rabbis for Human Rights – North America

Religious Sisters of Charity

Patricia Jurewicz, Director
Responsible Sourcing Network

Richmond Justice Initiative

Safe Horizon (ATEST)

School Sisters of Notre Dame – Central Pacific Province Shalom Office

Sewa-Aifw

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

The Leadership Team of The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, NJ

Sister Barbara Aires, Coordinator of Corporate Responsibility
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Sisters of the Divine Savior: US Province

Administrative Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Sister Phyllis Tierney, SSJ
Coordinator, Sisters of St. Joseph Justice & Peace Office

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet,
Albany, NY Province Justice Committee

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Denise Granger, SSJ
For the Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield

Peter and Jocelyn White
Co-Founders, Slavery No More

Society of the Holy Father Jesus, American Province

Southern Poverty Law Center

TEN Charities/Made By Survivors

Thai Community Development Center

There is HOPE for Me, Inc.

Sister Patricia A. Daly, OP / Executive Director
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

Urban Humanitarian Project

U.S. Committee for Refugee and Immigrants

Sr. Patricia Johnson, Executive Director
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Verité (ATEST)

Vital Voices Global Partnership (ATEST)

Women's Foundation of Minnesota

Women's Refugee Commission

Lewis Papenfuse, Co-Executive Director
Worker Justice Center of New York

World Relief

World Vision (ATEST)

Bro. Jeremiah O'Leary, Coordinator for Justice and Peace
Xaverian Brothers

Youth and Shelter Services, Inc.

ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end all forms of modern-day slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, International Justice Mission, Not For Sale, Polaris Project, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, World Vision, and one individual member, Julia Ormond, former U.N. Goodwill Ambassador and president and founder of the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking (ASSET).