



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

May 6, 2013

The Honorable John Carter, 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 Carter 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 initiatives in the FY14 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill for the Bureaus of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to combat the \$30 billion illegal human trafficking and slavery industry. As you may know, Congress recently voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (P.L. 113-4), further validating the Department of Homeland Security's crucial role in fighting this despicable crime.

As you begin to draft the fiscal year 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, we ask that you consider funding and report language to better combat human trafficking as follows:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): \$10,000,000 for Investigations

We request \$10,000,000 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, and 2013. 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 \$10,000,000 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, the TVPRA of 2008 and the TVPRA of 2013. ICE is one of the first lines of defense in combating this crime as it enters the U.S.

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 2014 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.

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)). Additionally, Continued Presence, a temporary form of immigration relief was explicitly created under the TVPA of 2000 to provide status to potential trafficking victims. Too often victims are not receiving this form of relief in a timely matter, and additional burdens are placed on the cooperating victim as well as the service providers assisting the victim who remains without status in the United States.

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. The Committee also encourages ICE to seek: (1) Continued Presence for potential trafficking victims as soon as possible to assist in the prosecution of traffickers and aid in victim recovery and (2) assist local and state law enforcement understand the requirements of CP and promptly respond to any state or local requests by law enforcement for CP for potential victims of human trafficking.

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 2014 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.

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, email address, and website information in all U.S. ports of entry.

We understand the extremely difficult funding situation you are facing in FY 2014. 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,

The A21 Campaign

Abolition International

AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Juana Sabatino, Director
Assault Prevention Services, Milwaukee, Wi.

Vednita Carter, Founder & Executive Director
Breaking Free Inc.

Break the Chain Campaign

Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Boston, MA)

Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking (BEST)

California Against Slavery

Catholic Health East

Ruth Rosenbaum, Executive Director
CREA: Center for Reflection, Education and Action

Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition Board of Directors

Betty J. Houbion
Independent Community Advocate
Chartered SC Human Trafficking Law

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Christians Against Trafficking, Tulsa, Ok.

Church Women United

Civil Society (Minnesota)

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters

Dr. Ana Steele, President
Dalit Freedom Network

Destination Freedom

Dr. Daniel G. Bercu, President & Founder
Doctors At War, Inc.

Dominican Sisters of Houston

ECPAT-USA

Erin Meyer
End Slavery Cincinnati

Federal Way Coalition Against Trafficking (FWCAT)

Florrie Burke, Consultant

Free the Slaves

Freedom Network USA

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Global Centurion

Glory House of Miami

GoodWeave

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Yardley, PA

Juana Sabatino and Maria Beltrah, Facilitator
Healing Hearts

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

Holy Union Sisters USA

Human Rights Project for Girls

Idaho Coalition for Justice

Illinois Collaboration of Youth

Amy Fleischauer, LMSW
Director, Victim Services
International Institute of Buffalo

International Institute of Connecticut

International Institute of Los Angeles (IILA)

International Institute of New England (IINE)

International Justice Mission

Shelby French, Executive Director
International Organization for Adolescents
Chicago, Illinois

Jewish Labor Committee Western Region: Los Angeles Network to End Slavery

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
PO Box 4028

Frankfort, KY 40604

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

The Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition

Lutheran Social Services of New England

Made By Survivors, a project of T.E.N. Charities

Amb. Mark P. Lagon
Georgetown University
Former Ambassador at Large to Combat TIP, U.S. Department of State

Maternal and Child Health Access

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Mosaic Family Services

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

National Consumers League

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

National Survivor Network

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

New River Valley Justice Initiative

Stephen Warnath
The NEXUS Institute

Jacqueline Zimowski
No Human Trafficking

Nomi Network

Not For Sale

Not For Sale Campaign Ohio Chapter

Not For Sale Campaign, Arkansas Chapter

Not For Sale Campaign, Colorado Chapter

Not For Sale Campaign, Connecticut Chapter

Not For Sale Campaign, Florida Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Georgia Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Houston Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Illinois Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Kansas Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Kentucky Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Louisiana Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Massachusetts Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Michigan Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Minnesota Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Nevada Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, New York Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, North Carolina Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Ohio Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Orange County, CA Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, San Diego Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, South Carolina Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Texas Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Virginia Chapter
Not For Sale Campaign, Washington Chapter
Oasis USA
p.h. balanced films
Pacific Survivor Center
Pax World Funds (may add: Julie Fox Gorte)

Aquilina Soriano Versoza, Executive Director
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California

Polaris Project

Ruth Kuhn, SC, Coordinator
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment

Religious Sisters of Charity

Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province

Responsible Sourcing Network

Restoration Ministries

Restore NYC

Richmond Justice Initiative

Safe Horizon

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province Shalom Office

Robert Beiser, Executive Director
Seattle Against Slavery

Shared Hope International

Shenandoah Valley Justice Initiative

Sinsinawa Dominicans

Ruth Kuhn, SC, Chair
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Corporate Responsibility Committee

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

Sisters of Mercy U. S. Province
1075 Bermuda Drive
Redlands, CA 92374

SlaveFree Madison

Sandra Lincoln, SHCJ, Coordinator of Peace and Justice
Provincial Leadership Team Member
Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, Provincial
Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Veronica Swain Kunz, Chief Executive Officer
South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Thai Community Development Center

The Lifeboat Project, Inc. Jill Bolander Cohen Founder/CEO

The National Crittenton Foundation

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF

The Women's Community, Inc.

There Is Hope For Me, Inc.

General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church

Verité

Kristy Childs
Founder & Executive Director
Veronica's Voice Inc.

VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Virginia Beach Justice Initiative

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Women of Vision Albuquerque

Women of Vision Austin

Women of Vision Baltimore

Women of Vision Charlotte, NC

Women of Vision Chicago

Women of Vision Colorado

Women of Vision Columbia-Willamette, Oregon and SW Washington

Women of Vision Eastside, Washington State

Women of Vision Fairfield County

Women of Vision Greater Seattle

Women of Vision Houston

Women of Vision Kittitas-Yakima, Yakima-Ellensburg, WA

Women of Vision New Jersey

Women of Vision New York City

Women of Vision North Atlanta

Women of Vision Orange County

Women of Vision San Diego

Worker Justice Center of New York

World Vision

YWCA York/York County Human Trafficking Task Force

Marion L. Simpson, Executive Director
Young Adult Guidance Center, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)

Youth Services for Stephens Count, Inc. (Duncan, OK)

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, and World Vision.