



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

April 24, 2013

Anne C. Richard
Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary Richard:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express concern about lack of funding in 2013 for family reunification for human trafficking survivors in the United States. We ask you to prioritize providing additional funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) who funds this vital program to reunify the survivors many of our members and the organizations listed below serve.

ATEST is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based human rights organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. The current member organizations address many different aspects of human trafficking, including both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. 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 Campaign, 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).

In January of this year many ATEST members and listed allies below received information that the IOM program for family reunification for trafficking survivors was overwhelmed by requests and that the program expected to exhaust all resources in the next few months so they were (1) wait listing all new cases and (2) assisting only a limited number of cases that had already enrolled in 2013. For example, one ATEST member reported that three trafficking survivors who had already requested IOM services and expected to be reunified with their family in the upcoming year were told, "their cases were placed on hold until new funds could be secured."

As I am sure you are aware, identified cases of human trafficking in the United States and the number of those granted T-visas because of cooperation with law enforcement have been steadily increasing year after year. For trafficking survivors grappling to recover from this heinous crime, family reunification is one of the most important steps in their recovery process. Many survivors have been separated from family for 2, 3 or even 10 years. Additionally, trafficking survivors who have cooperated with law enforcement constantly worry about retaliation against family members in their countries of origin until those family members are secure in the United States.

The Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Bureau provides funding from the Migration

and Refugee Assistance account (MRA) through the IOM, which provides vital support to ensure family reunification for trafficking survivors occurs as quickly as possible. This program provides services that no other organization assisting trafficking survivors in the United States is able to provide because of the international scope and the necessary coordination to assist family members from numerous countries. Thus the true impact of lack of MRA funding to support family reunification is that trafficking survivors must wait even longer for the support of loved ones, family member are placed at additional risk of retaliation from traffickers, and additional burdens are placed on service providers and other programs in the United States assisting these survivors.

For the reasons listed above we again request that the PRM Bureau prioritize securing additional funding for family reunification for trafficking survivors in 2013. If you would like to discuss in person the importance of family reunification to human trafficking survivors, ATEST would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and the unit that manages this program funding in the near future. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cory Smith at (202) 361-1442 or at csmithhu@gmail.com.

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.

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

Damayan Migrant Workers Association

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

Friends Fiduciary Corporation

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

Southern Poverty Law Center

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

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

YWCA York/York County Human Trafficking Task Force

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.

cc:

Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Stephen Pomper

Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

Gayle Smith

Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director, National Security Council