



Alliance to End Slavery and  
Trafficking  
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February 19, 2015

The Honorable Edward R. Royce, Chairman  
The Honorable Elliot L. Engel, Ranking Member  
The House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 500 as introduced by Representative Honda (D-CA), Representative Bass (D-CA), Representative Poe (R-TX), and Representative Davis (R-Ill). H.R. 500 is a bi-partisan legislation that seeks to establish a survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (Council) to review federal government policy on human trafficking. We urge you to co-sponsor and pass H.R. 500, a vital piece of legislation needed to establish this critical survivor-led Council.

Almost 14 years after the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, there is now a substantial group of identified survivors of human trafficking who are willing and capable of informing policy, shaping programmatic and funding decisions, providing training and technical assistance, and leading educational efforts. Their voices need to be prioritized. As awareness of human trafficking grows, many groups, including concerned citizens, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, are stepping up to address this atrocity. Central to their success is the input of survivors, who have the most direct and intimate knowledge of the harm caused by trafficking and how any contemplated efforts at redress are likely to be received by those in a similar situations.

This legislation would establish an advisory council to provide advice and recommendations to the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) and the President's Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Specifically, H.R. 500 directs the Council to: (1) meet at least annually or at the request of the SPOG to review federal government policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking; (2) formulate assessments and recommendations to ensure that U.S. policy and programming efforts conform to best practices in the field of human trafficking prevention; (3) meet with the SPOG at least annually to formally present the Council's findings and recommendations; and (4) submit annual reports to the Task Force and other relevant congressional committees and agency heads.

This Council will provide a formal mechanism for senior administration and agency representatives seeking survivor input. Survivors will also have a designated and centralized place to provide their feedback. The Council is essential because it values survivors beyond their story. Moreover, survivor input on government priorities and actions will improve the likelihood that proposed plans and solutions are effective. We urge you to support this critical legislation now. If you have any questions, please contact Melysa Sperber, ATEST Director, at [msperber@humanityunited.org](mailto:msperber@humanityunited.org) or (631) 374-0749.

Sincerely,

### **Organizations**

180 Degrees/Brittany's Place

Adler Graduate School

Advocates Against Human Trafficking - Tampa Bay

AGAPE

Alianza de Puerto Rico contra la Trata Humana

Anti Trafficking Advocacy

Anti-Human Trafficking NOW

AO: Advocating Opportunity

Asian Women United of MN

Beasister2asister

Beating Trauma, LLC

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

BEST

Big Sandy Distribution, Inc.

Bluff Country Family Resources

Bon Secours Charity Health System

Bon Secours Health System, Inc

Bon Secours Health Systems/New York  
Bon Secours Kentucky Health System  
Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center  
Bon Secours New York Health System  
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System  
Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital  
Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital  
Breaking Free Inc.  
Catholic Health Initiatives  
Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center  
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation  
Church Women United  
Church Women United in New York State  
Civil Society  
Civil Society Help  
Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)  
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)  
Codecatenation, LLC  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters  
CREA  
Daughters of Charity; St. Louise Province  
Dominican Sisters of Houston

Dominican Sisters of Peace

ECPAT-USA

ELCA Lutheran Church Grand Canyon Synod

EVE- Formerly Exploited Voices now Educating

Exodus Cry

FB Consulting

First Baptist Church

Franciscans

Free the Slaves

Freedom From Exploitation

Freedom Network USA

Freedom of Mind Resource Center Inc.

Friends Against Abuse

Futures Without Violence

GoodWeave

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Hagar USA

Ho'ola Na Pua

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA

Holy Union Sisters

HOPE Coalition

Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services

Human Trafficking Working Group, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN

ICCR Human Trafficking Group Leadership

Identifiable Me

IL Women Religious against Human Trafficking

Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH)

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center

International Institute of Buffalo

IOFA

IPS

Jewish Labor Committee Western Region

Journey Church

La Maestra Community Health Centers

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

LifeWay Network

Loma Linda University Church

Love Never Fails

M.A.T Musicians against trafficking

Made By Survivors/The Emancipation Network

MANY

MarcelaLoaizaFoundation

Marti Mac Enterprises, LLC

Mentari

Mercy Health

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Mission 21

Mission at Serenity Ranch

MISSEY

Modern Slavery Research Project

Montgomery County Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Mosaic Family Services

My Sister, SBC

My Sisters' Place, Inc.

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

National Survivor Network

Nola Brantley Speaks!

NOOWA! Not On Our Watch Advocacy!

Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment

OC/SoCal Survivors To Thrivers

Office of the Vicar for Women Religious, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital

Pax World Management LLC

Polaris

Portfolio Advisory Board; Adrian Dominican Sisters

Preda

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Public Law Center

Purple Hearts Missions Possible Inc.

Rebecca Bender Ministries

Redeem and Restore Center

Redeemed Ministries

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province

Religious Sisters of Charity

Rescue 1 Global

Responsible Sourcing Network

Restore NYC

Runaway Girl FPC

Runaway Girl, Inc.

Safe Horizon

SaintA

SBS

Schervier Nursing Care Center

School Sisters of Notre Dame - Shalom North America Contacts

School Sisters of St. Francis

Sex Workers Project

Sextrade101

Sexual Assault Response Team

Shared Hope International

Shining Stars

Sisters of Charity

Sisters of Charity Health System

Sisters of Divine Providence

Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ

Sisters of St. Francis

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Sisters of St. Joseph

Sisters of St. Louis

Sisters of the Holy Cross - Notre Dame, IN

Slavery Today

[socialhumantraffickingevents.info](http://socialhumantraffickingevents.info)

Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province

Solidarity Center

Soroptimist International of the Americas - Camino Real Region, District 1

Southern Arizona Against Slavery

Sowers Education Group

SPACE International

St. Joseph Health

St. Mary of the Lake Church in White Bear Lake, MN

St. Mary of the Lake Human Trafficking Working Group

Sun Gate Foundation

Survivors for Solutions

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights



Thai Community Development Center

ThankYouList.com

The Empowerment Program

The Gray Haven

The International Human Trafficking Institute

The University of Texas at Austin

There Is Hope For Me, Inc.

Tides Family Services

TO THE MARKET | Survivor-made Goods

Traffick911

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Trinity Presbyterian Human Trafficking Task Force

Trinity Health

Tronie Foundation

Truckers Against Trafficking

U.S. Fund for UNICEF

U.S.-Ontario province Sisters of the Holy Names

UMW

Unitarian Universalist Abolitionists

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Voices of Hope

Walk Free

West Chicagoland Anti-Trafficking Coalition

Willow Way

Women Graduates USA

Women Religious Against Human Trafficking

Worker Justice Center of NY

World Relief

Xaverian Brothers

Zonta

**Individual Advocates**

Anne Genevieve Gallivan

Betty Houbion

Dee Lindblom

Diane Hodges Popps

E W UNNIKRISHNAN MD

Hazel Fasthorse

Holly Austin Smith

Jacqueline Zimowski, Survivor

Jasmine Grace

Julia Elder, the burlap lady

Kate Price

Mai Cha Vang

Margaret Howard

Patricia Keefe, Sister

Robin Miller

Steven Barnes

Vicki Lichtenauer

Wendy Barnes, Author of And Life Continues

**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, Futures Without Violence (FUTURES), International Justice Mission, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision.**