

Who We Are

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) is a U.S. based coalition that advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world.

We advocate for lasting solutions to prevent labor and sex trafficking, hold perpetrators accountable, ensure justice for victims and empower survivors with tools for recovery. Our collective experience implementing programs at home and abroad provides our coalition an unparalleled breadth and depth of expertise.

ATEST formed in 2007, and formalized its alliance in 2009, and works as a collective in partnership with civil society, governments, and businesses to create fundamental change of the accepted norms that enable slavery and trafficking to persist around the world — from strengthening laws and business standards to building public will.

Slavery & Trafficking Today

Legal nowhere but present across the globe, modern slavery damages our communities, taints the products and services we consume and the profits we earn, and is one of the most pressing human rights challenges of our time. The fact that the enslavement and trade of human beings exists in our modern world as a disturbingly large, highly profitable illicit industry is unacceptable.

ATEST Contacts

2021 Co-Chairs

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ATEST Secretariat

ATEST member organization Free the Slaves serves as the alliance's secretariat and fiscal sponsor.

ATEST Funding

ATEST currently receives financial support from member organization dues and the Oak Foundation/NEO Philanthropy.

ATEST Core Principles

We advocate for solutions within a human rights based approach that encompass prevention, protection and the rule of law. And we advocate for the mobilization and protection of resources to accomplish this work.

We believe in a holistic, comprehensive approach to anti-trafficking work, striving to address the needs and vulnerabilities of communities particularly at risk, including immigrants, migrant workers and refugees, LGBTQIA, children, runaway and homeless youth, communities of color, and ethnic and religious minorities.

We are committed to focusing on racial and gender equity throughout our work.

We promote victims' rights and access to justice and remedy, and the decriminalization of coerced and forced conduct. We insist on the separation of labor law and immigration enforcement.

We take a victim-centered, trauma-informed, and worker-experience approach and center our work in a human, civil, and worker rights framework. We advocate for inclusion of survivor voices in the shaping of anti-trafficking policies and programs.

We believe in consensus building, collaboration, and partnerships to support bipartisan solutions that address the root causes of trafficking and the vulnerabilities of the populations for whom we advocate.

We promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in our anti-trafficking programming and advocacy, focused on concrete actions, long-term solutions, and measurable impact.

ATEST Policy Priorities

The scope of modern slavery and human trafficking has come into sharp focus in recent years, with estimates that tens of millions are enslaved worldwide — more than any other time in history. Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world, generating an estimated \$150 billion in illicit profits annually.

ATEST advocates for robust funding of anti-trafficking work (including both labor and sex trafficking), holistic legislation and programmatic implementation that includes a victim-centered policy approach, strong U.S. leadership in the global fight to confront human trafficking and modern slavery, and development of a stronger and inclusive anti-trafficking movement that builds collective voice and power.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act Reauthorization (TVPRA)

The TVPRA and related legislation establish the architecture of the federal government’s approach to prevent human trafficking, protect victims and survivors, and prosecute perpetrators. The act is up for reauthorization in the 117th congress, and ATEST is advocating for 12 key policy reforms in four categories:

- Critical spending authorizations and lengthening the reauthorization timeline
- Expanding protections for survivors
- Preventing trafficking in global supply chains
- Integrating anti-trafficking strategies into foreign assistance

Our full recommendations: <https://bit.ly/3wupee0>

Trafficking Victims Protection Act Implementation (TVPRA)

ATEST is also focused on implementation of federal programs already authorized by Congress, including:

- Provisions that require tier ranking of countries in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report to be based on anti-trafficking impacts only
- Engagement with the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security on implementation of a new victim protocol

Presidential and Federal Agency Action

AATEST has proposed comprehensive recommendations to the Biden-Harris administration that call for a catalytic investment in prevention and strategic global leadership in anti-trafficking efforts. See the full recommendations: <https://bit.ly/3wGStdP>. The recommendations include cross-cutting themes for action throughout the federal government:

- [COVID-19 Impacts on Trafficking](#)
- [Establishing a Strong Worker Rights Framework](#)
- [Recommendations for a Victim-Centered Approach to Immigration Policy](#)
- [Recommendations for Federal Law Enforcement Agency Victims Services Protocol and Policy Development](#)
- [Addressing Vulnerabilities to Labor and Sex Trafficking](#)

Federal Appropriations

AATEST focuses on key appropriations bills that cover a wide range of federal departments and agencies, including the Justice Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Education Department, Department of Homeland Security, Labor Department, Department of Health and Human Services, State Department, and U.S. Agency for International Development. Full briefing materials on appropriations can be found on the AATEST website: <https://bit.ly/2DoikiE>.

A Voice for the Voiceless

AATEST will continue to speak out when policies or practices harm trafficking victims and survivors, or hurt immigrants or others who are vulnerable to trafficking

ATEST Accomplishments

Modern slavery and human trafficking are nonpartisan issues. In the past decade, ATEST has worked closely with members of Congress, administration officials, business and faith leaders, policy experts and advocates, worker organizations and survivors to strengthen and expand America's efforts to end slavery and trafficking.

Programmatic and Budgeting Accomplishments

- ATEST advocacy has helped triple the number of federal agencies with a trafficking program in their federal appropriations – catalyzing a whole-of-government federal response.
- ATEST advocacy has helped quadruple Department of Justice victim service grants
- ATEST advocacy has helped create a 50 percent hike in funding for the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit in the Justice Department
- ATEST advocacy has helped create a 66 percent hike in funding for the Office to Monitor and combat Trafficking in Persons at the State Department

Policy Accomplishments

- ATEST advocacy has ensured renewal and strengthening of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- ATEST advocacy has helped create the End Modern Slavery Initiative, also known as the Program to End Modern Slavery at the State Department
- ATEST advocacy has helped launch the Child Protection Compact system, where the U.S. partners with governments in trafficking hot-spots such as Ghana, Philippines, Peru and Jamaica
- ATEST advocacy has helped close an important loophole in the tariff act that had allowed slavery-tainted goods to enter the U.S.
- ATEST advocacy helped lead to the executive order banning federal agencies or contractors from purchasing slavery-tainted goods or services

ATEST Member Organizations

[Coalition of Immokalee Workers \(CIW\)](#)

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. CIW's [Anti-Slavery Campaign](#) has uncovered, investigated and assisted in the prosecution of numerous multi-state farm slavery operations across the Southeastern U.S., helping liberate more than 1,200 workers held against their will since the early 1990s. The CIW is also recognized for pioneering the design and development of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility paradigm, a worker-led, market-enforced approach to the protection of human rights in corporate supply chains.

[Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking \(CAST\)](#)

Based in Los Angeles, CAST provides comprehensive social and legal services to survivors of all forms of human trafficking in the United States. It also conducts extensive outreach, advocacy, and training efforts based on a survivors-centered approach to ending modern slavery.

[Free the Slaves](#)

Free the Slaves liberates slaves, helps them rebuild their lives, and changes the economic, legal and social systems that allow modern slavery to exist. Through innovative grassroots community organizing projects, rigorous evaluation and groundbreaking research, targeted advocacy, and compelling communications and public engagement, Free the Slaves is helping show the world that ending slavery is possible.

[HEAL Trafficking](#)

HEAL Trafficking is a network of more than 3,500 survivors and multidisciplinary professionals in 35 countries building the capacity of health care systems and health professionals to respond to trafficking. HEAL works to mobilize a shift in the anti-trafficking paradigm toward approaches rooted in public health principles and trauma-informed care.

[Human Trafficking Institute](#)

The Human Trafficking Institute is combating slavery at its source by empowering justice systems to stop traffickers. Working inside criminal justice systems, the Institute provides the embedded experts, world-class training, investigative resources, and evidence-based research necessary to free victims.

[Humanity United Action](#)

Humanity United Action is dedicated to cultivating the conditions for enduring freedom and peace. The organization develops relationships and engages with key government and advocacy stakeholders in pursuit of legal and policy change, regulatory action, and public funding.

[McCain Institute for International Leadership](#)

Inspired by the character-driven leadership of Senator John McCain and his family's legacy of public service, the McCain Institute implements programs and initiatives to make a difference in people's lives across a range of critical areas: leadership development, human rights, rule of law, national security, counterterrorism and combatting human trafficking.

[National Network for Youth \(NN4Y\)](#)

NN4Y is the nation's leading organization advocating at the federal level to educate the public and policymakers about the needs of homeless and disconnected youth. We are a membership organization of service providers, state agencies, coalitions, advocates and individuals who work toward our vision of a world where vulnerable and homeless youth can escape the dangers of the streets and access safety, youth-appropriate services, hope and healing.

[Polaris](#)

Polaris works to dismantle the systems that make sex and labor trafficking possible and profitable in North America. For more than a decade, Polaris has provides real-time response to victims and survivors through the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline and harnessing what we learn from that experience to help inform, design and implement scaleable, long-term solutions that leverage the insight of survivors and hold all actors in the human trafficking ecosystem accountable.

[Safe Horizon](#)

Based in New York City, Safe Horizon is the nation's leading victim assistance organization and helps more than 250,000 people each year who have been affected by child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking or other violent crimes.

[Solidarity Center](#)

The Solidarity Center strengthens workers' economic and political power by promoting an international movement for democracy and social justice—where governments enforce, and employers respect, workers' rights. The center uses its expertise to combat some of the worst forms of labor exploitation, including forced labor, human trafficking, and migrant worker exploitation.

[T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights](#)

T'ruah brings together rabbis and cantors from all streams of Judaism, together with all members of the Jewish community, to act on the Jewish imperative to respect and advance the human rights of all people. Grounded in Torah and our Jewish historical experience, and guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we call upon Jews to assert Jewish values by raising our voices and taking concrete steps to protect and expand human rights in North America, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

[United Way Worldwide](#)

The United Way Center on Human Trafficking & Slavery believes that it is possible to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery in our generation and is mobilizing civil society, governments and businesses to that end. Founded in 2015, we are focused on mobilizing a collaborative effort across sectors, building public and political will needed to spur greater action and expanding comprehensive solutions to the communities around the world.

[Verité](#)

Verité is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization that works with major brands and suppliers to assess and improve working conditions worldwide. The organization works to combat slavery and labor trafficking in global supply chains.

[Vital Voices Global Partnership](#)

Vital Voices Global Partnership identifies, invests in and brings visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity in their communities.