



December 4, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), 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 are writing to urge for the following inclusions as you work to complete the final SFOPS appropriations bill.

We request \$20,000,000 for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) to ensure it can fulfill its statutory mandates, including to support: coordination of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) and Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG); deployment of rapid response teams; production of and improvements to the integrity of the Trafficking in Persons Report; implementation of Child Protection Compacts, diplomatic engagement and technical assistance; and management and oversight of increased assistance to combat trafficking in persons. These resources will enable J/TIP to provide additional expertise in prosecution and prevention strategies; address performance gaps, particularly for Tier 2 Watch List countries; and support ongoing reporting and grant functions to achieve the TVPA's standards and build in-country capacity. We recommend \$500,000 be used to continue to provide training for J/TIP and mission staff worldwide who contribute to the annual TIP Report to ensure that requirements are implemented in ranking countries solely on anti-trafficking impacts.

We request \$66,000,000 for J/TIP from the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account to award grants to U.S.-based and foreign NGOs, and PIOs to fight human trafficking internationally through training for law enforcement, legal support, and aftercare services for survivors.

This funding is needed to continue essential preventative work, which has previously included programs to reduce trafficking in mining zones in the Democratic Republic of Congo; scale up child protection systems in Mauritania to prevent and combat child trafficking; provide safe migration process support and crucial services to vulnerable migrant workers in Bangladesh; and improve the identification of and services for

victims of forced labor in the garment/textile, domestic work, and agricultural sectors in Jordan, as well as male forced labor victims in Thailand's fishing industry. Particularly considering the COVID-19 crisis, more people are vulnerable to trafficking. Additional funding and support are required to meet the increased need for ongoing and new services.

We request an additional \$10,000,000 specifically for Child Protection Compacts. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-4), the State Department is authorized to provide assistance for each country that enters into a child protection compact with the United States to support policies and programs that prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, and abuse against children, and measurably reduce the trafficking of minors, by building sustainable and effective systems of justice, prevention, and protection. The assistance can be provided in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to or with national governments, regional or local governmental units, or NGOs with expertise in the protection of victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

In 2016, under Section 1298(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (PL 114-328), Congress authorized the Program to End Modern Slavery, a new initiative focused on advancing transformational programs and projects that seek to achieve a measurable and substantial reduction of the prevalence of modern slavery in targeted populations in priority countries, up to the level of \$37,500,000 per year through 2020. We urge the conferees to fully at the authorized level. This funding should complement existing anti-trafficking programs, while protecting existing foreign assistance for human rights, development, humanitarian aid, and democracy.

Per the *Leveraging Information on Foreign Traffickers Act* (or "LIFT Act", Sec. 1299R of P.L. 116-283), we request adequate compensation for survivors engaged with the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking ("Council") to support the time each member spends participating in official duties of the Council. The Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act (Sec. 115 of P.L. 114- 22) established the Council to provide advice and recommendations to the SPOG and the PITF. The authorization was extended to include travel expenses and per diem by Congress in 2018 by Sec. 114 of PL 115-425. Human trafficking survivors are in the best position to speak to policies that have the greatest impact and will effect real change. Survivors of human trafficking are more than just their stories—they have a deep understanding of the problem and what is needed to combat it and support survivors. Council members must reflect the diverse backgrounds of survivors of trafficking—including foreign national and U.S. citizen survivors of sex trafficking and forced labor. The request would fund support staff for the Council, convenings, Council members' travel and incidental expenses, and other activities authorized by the Act. We applaud the U.S. government for working with survivors, not only on their behalf, and encourage agencies to engage further with the Council.

Of the amounts provided for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), we request \$10,000,000 specifically for activities to support labor rights, labor recruitment reform, corporate accountability activities, and efforts to combat gender-based violence. We encourage DRL to prioritize activities centered on advocacy and capacity building aimed at supporting survivors, advocates, and survivor-advocates. To this end, public-private partnerships and other forms of multi- and cross-sector engagement ensure more inclusive and sustainable support in preventing and addressing violence, trafficking, and exploitation. These important programs strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in areas

including, but not limited to, labor and sexual exploitation in supply chains (including products or services exported to the United States).

Within the budget for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Development and Innovation, we request \$1,800,000 to support the Justice, Rights and Security Team's efforts on the integration of anti-trafficking work into other USAID programs, both at headquarters and within missions, including but not limited to health, food security, disaster response, and economic development.

ATEST welcomed USAID's 2012 Counter-Trafficking in Persons Policy (C-TIP) and 2013 Field Guide. We recognize that an update is scheduled for release in October-November 2021. We are concerned, however, about the pace of this policy's implementation generally, and on the integration of anti-trafficking efforts into broader development programming in particular.

We request \$12,500,000 for USAID's Global Labor Program (GLP). The GLP plays a crucial role in addressing the underlying root causes of human trafficking, and strengthening labor rights and workers' organizations around the world. The GLP strengthens human trafficking prevention initiatives by supporting coordinated cross-border and regional programs that improve the economic, social, and democratic development of vulnerable workers, including migrant, informal economy, and women workers. These workers are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, forced labor, and gender-based violence. The GLP also supports country-based regional and global programs on adherence to core labor standards.

We request \$1,000,000 to support USAID's Human Rights Grants Program, which is available to USAID missions around the world to address human rights objectives or support integration of human rights issues across all development initiatives. ATEST urges these funds be used for anti-trafficking specific grants to in-country NGOs, with an emphasis on cross-sectoral programming.

Finally, we want to thank the Committee for all your work to support funding for programs that address human trafficking and modern slavery. Your leadership in appropriating critical funds for the State Department has saved lives and given countries around the world the resources they need to fight human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms.

Sincerely,

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Free the Slaves

HEAL Trafficking

Human Trafficking Institute

Humanity United Action

McCain Institute for International Leadership

National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Polaris

Safe Horizon

Solidarity Center

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
United Way Worldwide
Verité
Vital Voices Global Partnership

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.

Contact: Terry FitzPatrick / ATEST Co-chair
terry.fitzpatrick@ATEST-US.org / 571-282-9913