



human rights *first*

American ideals. Universal values.

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Culberson and Ranking Members Mikulski and Fattah:

We write as leaders from the business and financial sectors, law enforcement, the military, federal, state and local government and the civil rights community to urge your support for critical anti-human trafficking programs that prioritize disrupting the business of trafficking and eventually bringing an end to this horrific crime.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. The United States is a source, transit, and destination country in the global human trafficking business and must play a central role in combating this scourge. Our country has taken many important steps, including enacting and reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and acceding to the Palermo Protocol to the Transnational Crime Convention in 2005. But the numbers of victims and the profits made by exploiting them have continued to rise.

The U.S. government, private sector, and civil society must work together to put an end to this growing criminal enterprise. There are an estimated 20.9 million victims of modern-day slavery around the world today, generating \$150 billion annually in illicit profits. The State Department's most recent annual Trafficking in Persons report states that fewer than 9,500 human trafficking cases were prosecuted worldwide in 2013, resulting in less than 6,000 reported convictions. Most traffickers operate with relative impunity. It is essential we continue to invest in victim services, but we must also significantly increase the risks to traffickers so that every victim rescued is not merely replaced with a new victim.

To achieve this, we request the following:

1/3

75 Broad Street, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10004

Tel: 212.845.5200
Fax: 212.845.5299

humanrightsfirst.org

805 15th Street, N.W., #900
Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202.547.5692
Fax: 202.543.5999

1303 San Jacinto Street, 9th Floor
at South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX 77002

Tel: 713.955.1360
Fax: 713.955.1359

- **Office of Justice Programs: \$42,500,000**

We request that you maintain FY15 levels for anti-human trafficking programs managed by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). These include the Human Trafficking Task Forces that were authorized under section 204 of the TVPRA of 2005 (P.L. 109-164) and victim service grants that enhance interagency collaboration and promote a coordinated community response that tackles the issue comprehensively.

Currently, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office for Victims of Crime, both under OJP, fund thirteen Human Trafficking Task Forces, down from forty-two task forces funded in the past ten years. These task forces take a comprehensive and proactive role in investigating cases of human trafficking through a multi-disciplinary approach linking partners from different perspectives at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels. Trafficking is a complex crime that is not widely understood at all levels of law enforcement and this coordination goes a long way improving the success of investigations and prosecutions in specific jurisdictions. Federal funding is key to ensuring cooperation amongst all relevant agencies and also consistent reporting of data.

- **Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit: \$6,500,000**

The Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) has seen a 56% increase in cases in the last five years over the previous five years. This specialized federal unit is crucial given the complexity of human trafficking cases and also since cases often involve multiple jurisdictions. HTPU also leads six pilot Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams (ACTeams) to enhance coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labor. Despite this increase in case load, the HTPU has been flat funded at \$5.3 million since FY10. We request this increase to the General Legal Activities account to keep pace with the office's continually increasing workload.

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation: \$15,000,000 and Report Language**

We request \$15,000,000, as authorized by Section 113(h) of the TVPA of 2000 (P.L. 106-386), as amended by the TVPRA of 2005 (P.L. 106-164) and the TVPRA of 2008 (P.L. 110-457), for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Salaries and Expenses account to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and forced labor would be significantly enhanced through additional resources devoted specifically to trafficking and forced labor.

As of January 1, 2013, a federal mandate exists for data on human trafficking to be submitted to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program per the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, however reporting is still inconsistent. Reporting to the UCR and NIBRS is on a voluntary basis and is not being consistently implemented because no mechanism to require reporting is in place. The committee should add human trafficking as a Part I violent crime in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program for purposes of calculating funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (42 U.S.C. 3755) to mandate consistent data collection.

Proposed Report Language

The Committee directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation to classify severe forms of trafficking in persons as a “part 1 violent crime” in the Uniform Crime Reporting program for purposes of calculating funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

We must put exploiters out of business and bring them to justice. Failing to reverse the risk-reward equation for all enablers within the network of human trafficking will leave us struggling to slow and eventually stop this growing illicit industry. To achieve this, we respectfully ask you to fully fund these programs at the requested levels. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to anti-human trafficking programs.

Sincerely,

THE HONORABLE LOUIS J. FREEH
*Chairman, Freeh Group International
Solutions
Former Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation*

ERNIE ALLEN
*Founder & former President and CEO,
International Center for Missing & Exploited
Children
Founder & former President and CEO,
National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children*

DAVID ARKLESS
*President, International, CDI Corporation
Founding Counselor and Former Co-Chair,
Global Business Coalition Against
Trafficking*

MARILYN CARLSON NELSON
Retired Chairman and CEO, Carlson

FRAN DELLA BADIA
*Former President, North American Retail,
Coach, Inc.*

THE HONORABLE MARK P. LAGON
*Former Ambassador, United
States Department of State, Office to
Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons*

GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK, USMC (RET.)
*President, Birmingham-Southern College
Former Commandant, United States Marine
Corps*

AMY LYONS
*Vice President of Corporate Security, Bristol
Myers Squibb
Former Assistant Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigations*

KENNETH MORRIS
*Founder and President, Frederick Douglass
Family Initiatives*

JOHN PEPPER
*Honorary Co-Chair, National Underground
Railroad Freedom Center
Former CEO, Procter & Gamble*

LISA PRAGER
*Partner, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Former Acting Assistant Secretary for Export
Enforcement, United States Department of
Commerce*