

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2015

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We are an alliance of organizations and individual advocates from across the United States dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable women and children. We write to express our support for the Senate anti-trafficking package, the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, as amended*, S. 178 (JVTA package) recently voted out of the Senate unanimously. This package, which includes nearly all of the trafficking bills passed overwhelmingly by the House in January, would provide much needed services to victims of human trafficking and help ensure that child victims ensnared in the sex trade are no longer arrested and treated as criminals.

According to the FBI, over 80 percent<sup>1</sup> of all confirmed sex trafficking cases in the U.S. involve U.S. citizens, yet across the country, victims still lack basic necessities. Simply stated, there are more animal shelters in our country than programs or beds for victims of trafficking. This critical legislation provides unprecedented support to victims, who for too long have endured arrest, imprisonment, and stigma for their victimization instead of support and services. The Senate package contains critical funding for housing and services – a crucial element the House companion lacks. Moreover, the legislation supports training for federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, so that victims can receive the compensation they are rightly owed by law.

Every day in this country, thousands of women and children are bought and sold. The unfettered demand for sex has caused pimps and exploiters to resort to more extreme tactics in order to meet exploding demand. The JVTA package directs the Department of Justice to incorporate strategies for reducing demand into anti-trafficking training programs and sting operations, including Innocence Lost. Women and children, especially girls, are advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease and anonymity. This happens in every city, in every state. The JVTA package would help fight online exploitation and work to bring buyers of child sex to justice. It creates a new partnership with wounded warriors, training them to serve as online investigators of child pornography and exploitation.

Advocates know: this is the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation in years. The JVTA package represents a tremendous bipartisan effort to provide necessary support and protections for our victims of human trafficking, and at long last ends the culture of impunity for those who purchase our most vulnerable for sex. But these victims have

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<sup>1</sup> Banks, D. and Kyckelhah, T., *Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010* (NCJ 233732), Bureau of Justice Statistics (2011) at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/press/cshti0810pr.cfm>

waited too long. After several years of advocacy and over a month of delay on the Senate side, we are just one step away from providing this population with justice and healing.

As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, faith-based, child welfare, law enforcement, and human rights movements, we urge the House to take up and pass this vital legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

- 1 Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls)
- 2 National Domestic Violence Hotline
- 3 Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
- 4 Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
- 5 ECPAT-USA
- 6 Girls Inc.
- 7 Shared Hope International
- 8 Equality Now
- 9 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
- 10 National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- 11 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- 12 New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 13 Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Services
- 14 Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 15 Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
- 16 Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
- 17 New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
- 18 Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- 19 Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 20 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
- 21 National Children's Alliance (NCA)
- 22 Jewish Women International (JWI)
- 23 Children's Advocacy Institute
- 24 National Association of Counsel for Children
- 25 Courtney's House, survivor-led service provider
- 26 PROTECT
- 27 First Focus Campaign for Children
- 28 Franciscan Action Network
- 29 Breaking Free, survivor-led service provider
- 30 The Organization for Prostitution Survivors
- 31 Religious Sisters of Charity
- 32 Sanctuary for Families
- 33 Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

34 Dominican Sisters of Peace  
35 DC Rape Crisis Center  
36 Congregation of St. Joseph  
37 Religious of the Sacred Heart  
38 Survivors for Solutions, survivor-led service provider  
39 YouthSpark  
40 Poverty Elimination and Community Action (PEACE) Foundation  
41 Providence House Inc.  
42 Freedom From Exploitation  
43 Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province  
44 Sisters of Mercy  
45 Second Life of Chattanooga  
46 Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest  
47 Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
48 Naomi Project  
49 YWCA National Capital Area  
50 U.S. Fund for UNICEF  
51 National Center for Youth Law (NYCL)  
52 Christ United Methodist Church  
53 ENC Stop Human Trafficking  
54 Sisters of St. Joseph CA  
55 W. Haywood Burns Institute  
56 Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
57 School Sisters of Notre Dame - CP Province Shalom-JPIC Office  
58 WestCoast Children's Clinic  
59 Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association  
60 Trinity Health  
61 Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province  
62 Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE)  
63 Dominican Sisters of Hope  
64 Wildwood United Methodist Church  
65 Daughters of Mary and Joseph  
66 Presbyterian Women  
67 Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province  
68 San Francisco Department on the Status of Women  
69 Enterprising and Professional Women - NYC  
70 MPower Mentoring  
71 Children Now  
72 Hollywood Business and Professional Women  
73 Mark P. Lagon, Former Ambassador-At-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S.  
Dept. of State

- 74 Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center
- 75 Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference
- 76 California Federation Business & Professional Women
- 77 Virginia Beach Justice Initiative
- 78 Sex Trafficking Survivors United
- 79 Burning Bush Moments
- 80 Sara Kruzan, Survivor Advocate
- 81 Mary David, Survivor Advocate
- 82 Mentari, New York-based trafficking provider
- 83 MISSEY Inc.
- 84 WITNESS
- 85 World Outreach Worship Center
- 86 Citizens Against Trafficking
- 87 Culture Reframed
- 88 Parenting Project
- 89 Human Trafficking Awareness
- 90 Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
- 91 Samaritan House
- 92 Regent Law Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law
- 93 The Advisory Council on Child Trafficking
- 94 Center for Global Justice
- 95 Slavery Today
- 96 The Salvation Army 614 Corps
- 97 Regent Law Center for Global Justice
- 98 Dare for More
- 99 Sisters of St. Joseph NW PA
- 100 The Samaritan Women
- 101 Worthwhile: Go
- 102 CHI Memorial Community Health Center
- 103 Hamilton County Health Department
- 104 City Church of Chattanooga
- 105 The Healing Place of Hampton Roads
- 106 Lee University
- 107 Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services
- 108 Task Force Against Human Trafficking for the Episcopal Diocese of New York
- 109 Protect HER
- 110 Mary Kay Cosmetics
- 111 Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- 112 Chattanooga Women's Club
- 113 Brainerd Baptist Church
- 114 Young America Ministries

- 115 Lions Club
- 116 United Methodist Women
- 117 Duoloyi Ministry
- 118 Hamilton County Health Department
- 119 Gateway Christian Center
- 120 Sisters of Charity
- 121 OLP Foundation
- 122 The Advocates for Human Rights
- 123 Burks United Methodist Church
- 124 Sisters of Providence
- 125 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- 126 Chattanooga Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- 127 Regent University Center for Global Justice
- 128 Episcopal Diocese of New York
- 129 Jewish Child Care Association
- 130 All Saints Institute for Asian American Concerns
- 131 Therapeutic Interventions, Inc.
- 132 Church of the Incarnation
- 133 Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
- 134 Center for Global Justice at Regent Law
- 135 Children's Law Center of California
- 136 Seraphim Global
- 137 Christina Oaks
- 138 Chattanooga State Community College
- 139 Savior Arts, Inc.
- 140 Church of the Holy Comforter
- 141 Sex Trade 101
- 142 Project Woman, Ohio-based domestic violence and sexual assault center
- 143 John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 144 The Up Center
- 145 Foster Family-based Treatment Association
- 146 Alternatives to Violence Center
- 147 Tri County Help Center, Inc.
- 148 Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
- 149 Business and Professional Women (BPW)
- 150 Amara Legal Center
- 151 All Saints Episcopal Church
- 152 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 153 Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel (AMG) International
- 154 Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
- 155 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

- 156 New York Presbyterian Church
- 157 First Centenary United Methodist Church
- 158 West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
- 159 Rape Crisis Team Trumbull County
- 160 Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- 161 Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation
- 162 SHEBA USA
- 163 Hope Tree Family Services