

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We extend our gratitude to you and senior members of your Administration for meeting with leaders of the anti-trafficking community on February 23rd, 2017. We are encouraged by your interest and commitment to this issue. We look forward to working with your office to advance the effort to combat human trafficking and end modern slavery in our lifetimes.

Trafficking victims are children, women, and men—U.S. citizens and foreign nationals—who are exploited for both sex and labor. Trafficking victims come from urban and rural communities. They are both undocumented and documented immigrant workers. They are victimized overseas and throughout the United States, increasingly on the internet.

Despite bipartisan and broad public support, anti-trafficking efforts have been underfunded. Human trafficking is a \$150 billion a year criminal enterprise. However, the complete U.S. Government investment in anti-trafficking efforts for both domestic and international efforts in FY16 was only \$242 million. This figure dwarfs in comparison to the \$30.5 billion spent by the government annually on combatting drug trafficking.

To disrupt the root causes of trafficking, the U.S. government must take bold new actions. **We are concerned that drastic cuts to domestic and international programs will adversely impact the very people most vulnerable to being trafficked.** Traffickers thrive by targeting the most vulnerable in society. This often includes runaway and homeless youth, children who are in foster care or in other vulnerable situations, those in extreme poverty, the LGBT community, Native Americans, migrant workers and refugees.

We are calling on you to launch a historic anti-trafficking effort that would mark the beginning of the end of this epidemic. We need the leadership that only the White House can provide to win this fight.

We are calling on you to launch a historic Presidential initiative that includes:

FIRST: To address this problem effectively, we need adequate resources. This effort has been historically starved for funds. Therefore we need **a bold and dramatic scaling of resources to fuel this fight.** **We recommend an increase of \$145 million in appropriations for each of the next seven years** to adequately fund a comprehensive U.S. government response that includes victim identification, law enforcement and prosecution, improving data collection and analysis, providing comprehensive services and leadership development for survivors, and an array of prevention efforts.

These funds should be on top of the current accounts and divided equally between international efforts, including full funding of the End Modern Slavery Initiative (EMSI) at \$250 million, and funds targeted to domestic efforts.

We want to emphasize that additional funding for anti-trafficking efforts must not be realized through cuts for programs that support vulnerable communities most at risk for human trafficking, which would

only serve to undermine this very effort. We stand ready to work with your Administration to help determine how these funds could most effectively be deployed across government.

SECOND: Instruct your Administration to **undertake a bold policy agenda that will prioritize and improve anti-trafficking efforts**, particularly in the following areas:

- **Use trade policy and trade enforcement**, including enforcement of the Tariff Act of 1933 ban on imports made with forced labor, to protect American workers and businesses from the threats of human trafficking.
- **Partner with the private sector** to combat human trafficking - both labor and sex trafficking - and incentivize businesses to expand best practices, particularly in their supply chains and internal policies.
- Ensure **survivors of human trafficking are included in every part of the policy-making process** and empower survivors by promoting opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Ensure that **victims of human trafficking are not prosecuted** for crimes they were forced to commit while in their trafficking situation.
- Ensure that **immigration enforcement includes screening** for potential victims of trafficking and incorporates a victim-centered approach to protection and support services.
- Increase and **improve the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenders through training, technical assistance**, and the implementation of evidence-based practices that build stronger relationships between law enforcement and at-risk communities.
- Focus on **preventing human trafficking**, including integrating anti-trafficking efforts into wider U.S. foreign assistance programs and domestic programs that address root causes.
- Build a **more efficient government response by improving data collection**, developing a methodology to determine prevalence in the U.S. and abroad, and promoting data sharing across federal agencies.

THIRD: To accomplish these goals, we recommend that your White House lead **the development of a U.S. Government Strategic Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**. This plan should be co-created with experts, survivor leaders and government officials committed to preventing and eradicating this crime. We can provide a list of key participants for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this process.

As you said, Mr. President, in your address to Congress earlier this week, *“the time for small thinking is over. The time for trivial fights is behind us. We just need the courage to share the dreams that fill our hearts, the bravery to express the hopes that stir our souls and the confidence to turn those hopes and dreams to action.”*

We all share the dream of freedom. If you choose to commit bold and historic leadership to combat human trafficking, we can free millions and end this scourge once and for all.

Sincerely,