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\(^1\) 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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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
Dominican Sisters of Peace
DC Rape Crisis Center
Congregation of St. Joseph
Religious of the Sacred Heart
Survivors for Solutions, survivor-led service provider
YouthSpark
Poverty Elimination and Community Action (PEACE) Foundation
Providence House Inc.
Freedom From Exploitation
Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province
Sisters of Mercy
Second Life of Chattanooga
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Naomi Project
YWCA National Capital Area
U.S. Fund for UNICEF
National Center for Youth Law (NYCL)
Christ United Methodist Church
ENC Stop Human Trafficking
Sisters of St. Joseph CA
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
School Sisters of Notre Dame - CP Province Shalom-JPIC Office
WestCoast Children's Clinic
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association
Trinity Health
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province
Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE)
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Wildwood United Methodist Church
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Presbyterian Women
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
Enterprising and Professional Women - NYC
MPower Mentoring
Children Now
Hollywood Business and Professional Women
Mark P. Lagon, Former Ambassador-At-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Dept. of State
Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center
Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference
California Federation Business & Professional Women
Virginia Beach Justice Initiative
Sex Trafficking Survivors United
Burning Bush Moments
Sara Kruzani, Survivor Advocate
Mary David, Survivor Advocate
Mentari, New York-based trafficking provider
MISSSEY Inc.
WITNESS
World Outreach Worship Center
Citizens Against Trafficking
Culture Reframed
Parenting Project
Human Trafficking Awareness
Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
Samaritan House
Regent Law Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law
The Advisory Council on Child Trafficking
Center for Global Justice
Slavery Today
The Salvation Army 614 Corps
Regent Law Center for Global Justice
Dare for More
Sisters of St. Joseph NW PA
The Samaritan Women
Worthwhile: Go
CHI Memorial Community Health Center
Hamilton County Health Department
City Church of Chattanooga
The Healing Place of Hampton Roads
Lee University
Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services
Task Force Against Human Trafficking for the Episcopal Diocese of New York
Protect HER
Mary Kay Cosmetics
Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Chattanooga Women's Club
Brainerd Baptist Church
Young America Ministries
Lions Club
United Methodist Women
Duoloyi Ministry
Hamilton County Health Department
Gateway Christian Center
Sisters of Charity
OLP Foundation
The Advocates for Human Rights
Burks United Methodist Church
Sisters of Providence
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Chattanooga Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Regent University Center for Global Justice
Episcopal Diocese of New York
Jewish Child Care Association
All Saints Institute for Asian American Concerns
Therapeutic Interventions, Inc.
Church of the Incarnation
Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
Center for Global Justice at Regent Law
Children's Law Center of California
Seraphim Global
Christina Oaks
Chattanooga State Community College
Savior Arts, Inc.
Church of the Holy Comforter
Sex Trade 101
Project Woman, Ohio-based domestic violence and sexual assault center
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The Up Center
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
Alternatives to Violence Center
Tri County Help Center, Inc.
Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
Business and Professional Women (BPW)
Amara Legal Center
All Saints Episcopal Church
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel (AMG) International
Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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