

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

February 23, 2015

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are a coalition of organizations from across the United States dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable women and children and write to express our support for the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015*, S. 178 (JVTA). The JVTA would provide much needed services and support to domestic victims of trafficking and provide a tool for law enforcement, courts, and the anti-trafficking task forces throughout the country to effectively target the demand that fuels the sex trafficking market.

The JVTA provides unprecedented support to *domestic* victims of trafficking, who are too often invisible and underserved, by creating grants for state and local governments to develop comprehensive support programs for victims. In addition, the Act will directly assist domestic victims of trafficking by finally allowing them access to the same services and support systems that have been previously available only to foreign victims of human trafficking in the U.S. The legislation prioritizes victim assistance by training federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, and training law enforcement on facilitating physical and mental health services for trafficking victims they encounter.

Every day in this country, thousands of women and children are bought and sold. The unfettered demand for sex, with underage girls in particular, has caused pimps and exploiters to resort to more extreme tactics in order to meet the growing demand. Women and children, especially girls, are advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. This happens in every city, in every state.

The elimination of sex trafficking is fundamentally linked to targeting the demand for commercial sex. Any effort to prevent sex trafficking must focus on the sex buyers and facilitators. Without buyers of commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist.

This legislation is vital. The *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015* represents an effort to provide the necessary support services to our domestic victims of trafficking in the U.S. and to target the culture of impunity for those who seek to purchase sex, especially with children. As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, child welfare, civil rights, runaway and homeless youth, and human rights movements, we urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

1. Rights4Girls
2. ECPAT-USA
3. NAACP
4. National Domestic Violence Hotline
5. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
6. National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)
7. Minnesota Indian Women Resource Center
8. National Women's Law Center (NWLC)
9. American Psychological Association
10. National Children's Alliance
11. Equality Now
12. Shared Hope International
13. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA)
14. Survivors for Solutions
15. Breaking Free Inc.
16. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
17. PROTECT
18. National Crittenton Foundation
19. First Focus Campaign for Children
20. Girls Inc. (National)
21. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
22. National Center for Youth Law
23. Alameda County District Attorney's Office
24. Advisory Council on Child Trafficking (ACCT)
25. My Life My Choice

26. Girls for Gender Equity
27. PACE Center for Girls, Inc.
28. The Children's Campaign
29. Sojourners
30. Men Can Stop Rape
31. YWCA National Capital Area
32. WestCoast Children's Clinic
33. FAIR Girls
34. Sanctuary for Families
35. Alliance for Girls
36. Girls Inc. of Alameda County
37. DC Rape Crisis Center
38. Stop Modern Slavery
39. Women's Foundation of Minnesota
40. Healthy Teen Network
41. United Methodist Women
42. Foster Family-based Treatment Association
43. Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery
44. Children's Home Society of Washington
45. American Association of University Women SF
46. Exodus Cry
47. Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center
48. Hope Academy of the Denver Street School
49. Directions For Youth & Families
50. Violence Prevention Coalition

51. Children Now
52. Always Free
53. Set Free
54. End Slavery TN
55. Child Advocacy Center a Division of Meridian Health Services
56. Program for the Empowerment of Girls (Albuquerque specialized court for girls)
57. Changing Destinies
58. Second Life of Chattanooga
59. Students Ending Slavery at the University of Maryland
60. Hope Run Kenosha
61. Tex Pride Disaster & Recovery First Responders
62. West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy
63. Empowered You, LLC
64. Traffick Free
65. Chapelwood United Methodist Church
66. Hephzibah Children's Home
67. Side-By-Side Church International
68. Lives Worth Saving
69. Pleasant Grove United Methodist Women
70. Sisters of Providence
71. A2 Trafficking Task Force
72. Michigan Abolitionist Project
73. Set Free Movement
74. Refuge of Light
75. Ash Creek Baptist Church

76. Companions of Wisdom
77. Zonta Club of Pinellas County
78. Oasis of Hope
79. Benton County Republican Women
80. Ho'ola Na Pua (Hawaii-based child sex trafficking service provider)
81. Butterfly House
82. International Christian Center
83. New Life Refuge Ministries
84. The Red Web Foundation
85. Coastal Bend Grace House
86. Freedom13
87. The RavenHeart Center
88. Scott County Sheriff's Office
89. Flathead Abolitionist Movement
90. The Porch Light
91. Honermann Homeschool
92. Heartly House
93. Milton Hershey School
94. River's Voice Music
95. San Antonio Against Slavery
96. Smoky Hill Vineyard Church
97. Sauk Prairie Church
98. MQA Charity in Action
99. St Mary of the Lake Human Trafficking Working Group
100. Eden's Glory

101. Project Resource Company
102. Shelter In The Storm
103. Daughters of Charity
104. Denver Street School - Hope Academy
105. Stockton Covenant Church
106. National Association of Social Workers
107. I'm Aware
108. Christian Inn Ministries, Inc.
109. Living in Liberty
110. Precious Ones
111. Thomas Spann Clinic
112. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
113. CharlotteLaw Advocates Against Trafficking of Humans
114. Saint Hilary Parish
115. RJ Huffman & Associates
116. Sufficient Grace Outreach
117. Anti-Trafficking Task Force, First Congregational Church of Boulder
118. The MENTOR Network
119. Freedom From Exploitation
120. Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services
121. Virginia Beach Justice Initiative
122. Religious Sisters of Charity
123. To Love Children Educational Foundation International Inc.
124. Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County
125. Make Way Partners

126. Restore NYC
127. Ozone House, Inc.
128. ENC Stop Human Trafficking Now
129. YouthSpark
130. Changing Destinies
131. Visitors from the Past
132. Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference
133. Living Water for Girls
134. The Ray E. Helfer Society
135. Edmund Rice International
136. Bay Area Girls Unite
137. Exodus Cry
138. Horizon Farms
139. The Tobert and Polly Dunn Foundation
140. Lotus Medicine
141. Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
142. Home Instead Senior Care
143. From Words 2 Action Outreach Ministries
144. Butterfly Dreams Abuse Recovery
145. O L Pathy Foundation
146. Dignity Health
147. Forsythe County Child Advocacy Center
148. Civil Society (Minnesota based anti-trafficking organization)
149. 300m4freedom
150. Bluff Country Family Resources

151. Sexual Assault Services, Inc.
152. Asian Women United of MN
153. Tubman Family Crisis & Support Services
154. Rochester Franciscan
155. Human Trafficking Task Force, Trinity Presbyterian Church
156. Anoka Ramsey Community College
157. New York Asian Women's Center
158. St. Mary's Social Justice Ministry
159. St Mary of the Lake Human Trafficking Working Group
160. Franciscan Peace Center Anti-Trafficking Committee
161. Kids At Risk Action
162. Nomi Network
163. Soroptimist International of Stuart
164. Someplace Safe
165. Calvary Temple
166. Genesee County Youth Corporation
167. Youth Attention Center
168. The Advocates for Human Rights
169. Livingston Family Center
170. Central New Mexico Counseling Service
171. Downey McGrath Group
172. Women Graduates-USA
173. Lutheran Services in America
174. Life for the Innocent
175. Too Young to Wed

176. WRAP Court (specialized “CSEC” court, Philadelphia)
177. Real Life Giving
178. Christian Inn Ministries, Inc.
179. Angels Ministry
180. California Alliance of Child and Family Services
181. Crittenton Center
182. Children's Court Division (2nd Judicial District Court, Albuquerque)
183. Oak Chapel UMC
184. Greif Fellowship in Juvenile Human Trafficking at The Ohio State University