

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 percent¹ 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

¹ 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	Survivors for Solutions, survivor-led service provider
38	YouthSpark
39	Poverty Elimination and Community Action (PEACE) Foundation
40	Providence House Inc.
41	Freedom From Exploitation
42	Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province
43	Sisters of Mercy
44	Second Life of Chattanooga
45	Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
46	Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
47	Naomi Project
48	YWCA National Capital Area
49	U.S. Fund for UNICEF
50	National Center for Youth Law (NYCL)
51	Christ United Methodist Church
52	ENC Stop Human Trafficking
53	Sisters of St. Joseph CA
54	W. Haywood Burns Institute
55	Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
56	School Sisters of Notre Dame - CP Province Shalom-JPIC Office
57	WestCoast Children's Clinic
58	Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association
59	Trinity Health
60	Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province
61	Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE)
62	Dominican Sisters of Hope
63	Wildwood United Methodist Church
64	Daughters of Mary and Joseph
65	Presbyterian Women
66	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
67	San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
68	Enterprising and Professional Women - NYC
69	MPower Mentoring
70	Children Now
71	Hollywood Business and Professional Women

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

111	Gateway Christian Center
112	Sisters of Charity, New York Region
113	OLP Foundation
114	The Advocates for Human Rights
115	Sisters of Providence
116	Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
117	Chattanooga Coalition Against Human Trafficking
118	Episcopal Diocese of New York
119	Jewish Child Care Association
120	All Saints Institute for Asian American Concerns
121	Therapeutic Interventions, Inc.
122	Church of the Incarnation
123	Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
124	Children's Law Center of California
125	Seraphim Global
126	Chattanooga State Community College
127	Savior Arts, Inc.
128	Church of the Holy Comforter
129	Sex Trade 101
130	Project Woman, Ohio-based domestic violence and sexual assault center
131	The Up Center
132	Foster Family-based Treatment Association
133	Alternatives to Violence Center
134	Tri County Help Center, Inc.
135	Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
136	Business and Professional Women (BPW)
137	Amara Legal Center
138	All Saints Episcopal Church
139	Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel (AMG) International
140	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
141	First Centenary United Methodist Church
142	West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
143	Rape Crisis Team Trumbull County
144	Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
145	SHEBA USA
146	Hope Tree Family Services
147	The Dreamcatcher Foundation
148	The Potter's Hands Foundation, Inc., New York-based human trafficking safe house
149	Townhall II, Ohio-based service provider

150	Restoration Ministries DC
151	Capital Baptist Church
152	General Federation of Women's Clubs
153	Compassionate Humans Against Trafficking (CHAT)
154	Creative Learning Enterprises, Inc.
155	General Federation of Women's Clubs
156	HelpLine of Delaware & Morrow Counties, Inc.
157	Orbitz Worldwide
158	Victim Rights Law Center
159	International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association
160	Leland Police Department
161	GenerateHope Inc.
162	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
163	Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS)
164	Zonta Club of Pinellas