

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), DC
2	National Domestic Violence Hotline, TX
3	Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), NY
4	Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). DC
5	ECPAT-USA, NY
6	Girls Inc., NY
7	Shared Hope International, WA
8	Equality Now, NY
9	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), NV
10	National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), DC
11	National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, DC
12	New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
13	Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
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), DC
22	Jewish Women International (JWI), DC
23	Children's Advocacy Institute, CA
24	National Association of Counsel for Children, CO
25	Courtney's House, survivor-led service provider, DC
26	PROTECT, DC
27	First Focus Campaign for Children, DC
28	Franciscan Action Network, DC
29	Breaking Free, survivor-led service provider, MN
30	The Organization for Prostitution Survivors, WA
31	Religious Sisters of Charity, CA
32	Sanctuary for Families, NY

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

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

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

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