

Advocacy Talking Points: Child Trafficking

Use these message guidelines to:

- ❖ Craft your own message to send to your elected official;
- ❖ Serve as an outline for conversations with congressional staff during an office visit;
- ❖ Guide your comments at speaking engagements or other educational or awareness-raising functions.

- Trafficking in persons is the use of fraud, force, or coercion to exploit a person for profit.
- Every year, 1.2 million children are trafficked for child labor. Another 1 million children are annually trafficked into the global sex trade. According to the U.S. Department of State, an estimated 50 percent of all trafficking victims are children under the age of 18.
- Many countries that have a high rate of human trafficking have tried to implement measures to combat this modern-day slavery. However, political will is often stymied by a lack of financial resources, legal expertise, technical capacity, and other resources that can appropriately protect children and punish perpetrators.
- The United States can and should do more to help foreign governments end the illegal sale of children for sex and forced labor. *The Child Protection Compact Act (HR 2737)* is one way we can do this.
- *The Child Protection Compact Act* will provide targeted resources to countries that have shown the political will to combat trafficking, but lack the resources and capacity to enforce that will. This legislation would help eradicate the exploitation of children for labor or commercial sex in developing countries by offering additional resources for law enforcement, protection of survivors, and deterrence through apprehension and prosecution of traffickers.
- As your constituent, I ask you to support the *Child Protection Compact Act (HR 2737)*.

To learn more about child trafficking and take action on this issue, visit www.seekjustice.org.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

- Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)

About the Child Protection Compact Act

- *The Child Protection Compact Act (CPCA) (HR 2737)* will provide targeted resources to countries that have shown the political will to combat trafficking, but lack the resources and capacity to enforce that will. This legislation would help eradicate the exploitation of children for labor or commercial sex in developing countries by offering additional resources for law enforcement, victim relief, and deterrence through apprehension and prosecution of traffickers.
- The CPCA authorizes \$50 million over three years for the State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) office to support targeted investments in eligible “focus countries” that have demonstrated a commitment to tackling the problem, but lack the necessary resources and technical assistance.
- An important feature of the bill is the requirement that focus countries enter into a “Child Protection Compact” with the United States that identifies strategies for protecting children and deterring traffickers, as well as benchmarks for measuring progress toward meeting specific goals.
- The resources currently available to the State Department Trafficking in Persons office are no match for the growth in child exploitation, both for labor and for commercial sex. The CPCA would better empower the TIP office to work with beneficiary countries to confront child slavery comprehensively and effectively.