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ACTION ALERT

Urge Congress to Protect Human Dignity and Combat Human Trafficking!



In poor villages in India, human traffickers often target young people who have dropped out of school to earn money for their families, promising them good jobs in the city. But they're sometimes sold into forced labor or prostitution. Thanks to a CRS program, young people in small villages are getting back into school and out of harm's way.

Now is the time to shine a light against trafficking by taking action to protect our brothers and sisters—especially children—from human trafficking and exploitation. [Contact your members of Congress today](#) and ask them to fight human trafficking by cosponsoring the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015. This legislation would require companies to make information about their products' supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Thanks in large part to growing awareness, education and outreach, more companies are aware of the possible existence of modern-day slavery in their global operations and supply chains. As Catholics in the United States, we work to fight human trafficking because it is an affront to the lives and dignity of our brothers and sisters who are its victims.

Our Church works to fight human trafficking both abroad and within the United States. For more than a decade, the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) has been a national leader in the fight against sex and labor trafficking. USCCB and its partners provided intensive case management services to victims of human trafficking, assisting more than 2,232 survivors and more than 500 of their family members. In addition, [Catholic Relief Services](#) implemented more than 100 programs in more than 35 countries to reduce human trafficking and, through public-private initiatives, has recently engaged the corporate sector to help eradicate the worst forms of slave labor.

We need you to shine a light on human trafficking today! [Contact your members of Congress](#) and ask them to cosponsor and support the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015.

"Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that 'purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.'"

- [Pope Francis, January 1, 2015](#)

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Dear Senator(s)/Representative,

As a supporter of Catholics Confront Global Poverty, an initiative of Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I urge you to cosponsor and support the passage of the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, H.R. 3226/S. 1968.

This legislation would require companies to make information about their products' supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. The Catholic Church is committed to defending human life and dignity. The proposed legislation, if enacted, would play an important and critical role in enhancing respect for human dignity by fighting conditions that allow human trafficking to exist in our world today.

Thanks to growing awareness, education and outreach, human trafficking is no longer a hidden crime committed overseas. Today, more companies are aware of the possible existence of modern day slavery in their global operations and supply chains. The principle that companies have a responsibility to respect human rights and address issues like exploitative supply chains is rooted in moral law and has gained unprecedented acceptance over the past decade.

Pope Francis has eloquently described the concerns involved in this important area of the law. In his annual message for the celebration of the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis observed:

“Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that ‘purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.’”

In solidarity with our Holy Father's call to action, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services continue to fight human trafficking both abroad and within the United States. For more than a decade, USCCB has been a national leader in the fight against sex and labor trafficking. USCCB and its partners have provided intensive case management services to victims of human trafficking, assisting more than 2,232 survivors and more than 500 of their family members. In addition, CRS has implemented more than 100 programs in more than 35 countries to reduce human trafficking and, through public-private initiatives, has recently engaged the corporate sector to help eradicate the worst forms of slave labor.

I believe that we can fight human trafficking—and this legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal. As your constituent, I urge you to cosponsor and support this bill to help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent issue.

Sincerely,
CCGP Supporter