

Rescue and Restore Unity Coalition of So. California
Anti – Trafficking Grassroots Network of Los Angeles County

Rescue and Restore – Press Advisory
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For Immediate Release
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**Los Angeles County-Wide Events to Mark
NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS**

Press conference on Thursday, January 10, at 11 am at the NCJW building at
543 N. Fairfax Avenue

*Millions of men, women and children trapped into commercial sex slavery and labor
exploitation*

The Rescue and Restore Unity Coalition of Southern California, Los Angeles Chapter, is mobilizing local communities to mark the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness.

Event: Press conference on **January 10, 2008 at 11am**;

Where: National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles
543 North Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036; (323) 651-2930
Corner of Clinton, parking in the adjacent lot; Media vans pls. call ahead for space;

What: 1) Announce the Congressional Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11th;
2) Unveil schedule of county-wide events taking place on January 11th;
3) Call to action to end labor and sex slavery/*Human Trafficking*.

Who: LA Unity Coalition, and LA Human Trafficking Task Force.

The LA Unity Coalition is a group of prominent civic and faith-based leaders working together to combat modern day slavery in the LA area. The many Unity Coalition members include: Commission on the Status of Women, National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles Polaris Project-Los Angeles, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, The Southern California Division of the Salvation Army, NightLightUSA, Captive Daughters, and Oasis USA, etc.

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The scheduled activities to mark the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 include, among others, Prayer Vigil at Father Serra Park at the corner of Alameda and Los Angeles, from 3-4 pm, sponsored by The Salvation Army; Distribution of purple remembrance ribbons and instruction cards on how to identify victims of trafficking by the Polaris Project in Los Angeles, Oasis and NightlightUSA in Pasadena on Colorado Blvd, by The Equator Cafe; **PLEASE NOTE** that the full list of county-wide events, locations and lead organizations will be provided to the members of the press on Thursday, January 10, at 11 am at the press conference.

Facts about Human Trafficking

What is Human Trafficking? Human Trafficking occurs when vulnerable persons are entrapped through some type of force, threat or fraud to engage in commercial sex or work. It is a form of brutal modern day sex and labor slavery, increasingly controlled by organized crime.

Scope of the problem: Shockingly, U.S. State Department officials opine that nearly one million children are forced in to the sex trade each year. U.S. government experts estimate that as many as 27 million persons worldwide are trafficked; of that number 17,500 new victims are brought into the US each year. This State Department estimate does not include the hundreds of thousands of domestic persons who are also exploited in labor and sex situations. Thus, when the number of domestic persons trafficked are added to the number of foreign human trafficking victims, the grim reality of the full scope of the toil on lives becomes clear. Untold hundreds of thousands of persons are possibly exploited in the U.S. each year.

Conditions of slavery: Victims live in cramped conditions, denied the most basic of food and medical care. The majority of trafficking victims are entrapped in commercial sex, forced to provide sexual services to strangers multiple times a day with no chance of escape. Locally, victims can be found in local restaurants, factories, or massage parlors, serving long hours for little or no pay. As egregious, most are not allowed time off- even when sick- or permitted to go outside their prisons of sex and work exploitation.

Call to Action: This unimaginable horror to vulnerable persons, most of them young girls, must end. *The LA Unity Coalition* and its collaborative partners are committed to ending this brutal force of modern day slavery and needs your help. The awareness day, and its attendant activities, signals a formal “call to action” for all who wish to work to end the exploitation of vulnerable persons. Individuals can get involved through their financial support of organizations working to identify, rescue and rehabilitate victims; learn more about the issue; or volunteer to conduct awareness trainings or victim outreach. To find out what you can do or for more information call: Dr. Michael Smith 213-553-3278, or contact any of the Unity Coalition member organizations listed above.

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