

Nonprofit Organizations Urge Trump to Prioritize Ending Human Trafficking in Second Term

News Provided By

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Ending forced labor is both the right thing and the smart thing to do. It will benefit millions of individuals directly and benefit the economy as a whole.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, November 22, 2024 /[EINPresswire.com](#)/ -- The [Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking](#) (ATEST) today provided key recommendations for how the incoming administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump can combat forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery during his second term in office.

"Forced labor/human trafficking is a national security, global trade, economic growth, public health and criminal justice issue – as well as a violation of fundamental human rights. It is one of the world's largest human rights challenges and criminal industries, affecting 28 million people worldwide. It is an illegal business practice that undercuts legitimate companies and incentivizes violent, exploitative labor practices. It is an unfair trade practice that threatens the stability of global commerce," ATEST says.

"What's needed from the Trump administration is a coordinated and strategic approach that places emphasis, resources, and political will on preventing people from ever becoming trafficked in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, construction, fishing, domestic work, retail, tech and hospitality – as well as ending forced commercial sexual exploitation," ATEST says.

Read the recommendations for action: [Presidential Priorities](#) | [Budget Recommendations](#)

The recommendations include: Enforcing tariffs to protect American businesses from imports of products made by forced labor; Ensuring that no federal tax dollars are spent on trafficking-tainted products; Expanding the use of data-driven decision making in anti-trafficking programs; Integrating trafficking survivors into anti-trafficking project teams; and Preventing exploitation before it starts by addressing the root causes of human trafficking.

The recommendations focus on eight priority agencies: The Executive Office of the President; the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Education; and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Next year, the first year of the incoming administration, is the 25th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the U.N. Palermo Protocol. These groundbreaking achievements in 2000 form the cornerstones of anti-trafficking programs inside the U.S. and around the world. The Trump Administration can mark this anniversary by reaffirming America's commitment to ending all forms of forced labor and human trafficking through strategic policy improvements and investments in a whole-of-government approach.

About ATEST: The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) is a U.S.-based nonpartisan coalition that advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and forced labor around the world. ATEST promotes lasting solutions to prevent labor and sex trafficking, hold perpetrators accountable, ensure

justice for victims and empower survivors with tools for recovery. The collective experience of ATEST member organizations implementing programs in more than 30 U.S. cities and 100 countries gives the alliance unparalleled breadth and depth of expertise. ATEST has prepared transition information for every incoming administration since 2008, including President Trump's first term. ATEST memos are the most comprehensive set of anti-trafficking recommendations prepared by civil society organizations in the U.S.

###

Human Rights Group Says Some Holiday Presents Are Tainted by Modern Slavery

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Free the Slaves](#)

December 16, 2020, 16:11 GMT

New one-minute video asks viewers if they are inadvertently financing slavery and racial inequality.

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES, December 16, 2020 /[EINPresswire.com](#)/ -- At the height of the holiday gift-giving season, the U.S. anti-trafficking organization [Free the Slaves](#) is alerting consumers that many common products are linked to modern slavery. Clothing, jewelry, electronics and food are products often tainted by forced labor.

Sometimes it is sweatshop slavery in manufacturing factories or processing facilities. Often, raw materials are the problem — from cocoa and cotton to gold and specialized metals used in computers and cell phones. The United Nations estimates more than 40 million people are trapped in modern forms of slavery worldwide.

“The things we buy are decisions we make about the world we want,” Free the Slaves Executive Director Bukeni Waruzi says in a holiday reminder to consumers. “It’s important to reflect on how everyday purchases can unknowingly fuel modern slavery and the racial inequality it creates around the world.”

Free the Slaves has teamed up with the [522 Productions #untoldstory project](#) to produce a vivid video reminder of the impact that the globalized economy has on vulnerable individuals from disadvantaged groups. [See the video here](#). The one-minute message, which premiered on YouTube just before this year's Black Friday holiday sales began, is intended to raise awareness about the need to be mindful when buying gifts.

“Buying fair-trade-certified gifts is a good choice to break slavery’s chain of exploitation,” Waruzi says. “Contributing to anti-trafficking groups on behalf of a family member, friend or neighbor is also a good option for the holiday season.”

Currently celebrating its 20th year, Free the Slaves is one of the world’s most respected anti-trafficking organizations. The group’s specialized field teams work in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean to change the conditions that allow slavery to still exist, helping entire villages and neighborhoods to ward off

traffickers and become slavery-free. Since its founding, the group has helped liberate more than 14,000 people and put more than 300 traffickers behind bars.

###

Hillary Rodham Clinton calls for “Decade of Determination” at 8th Annual Freedom from Slavery Forum

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Free the Slaves](#)

October 30, 2020, 16:18 GMT

Anti-trafficking experts commemorate 20th anniversary of landmark legislation and chart path forward for anti-slavery movement

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, October 30, 2020 /[EINPresswire.com](#)/ -- Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged hundreds of anti-trafficking activists around the globe to redouble their efforts to eradicate modern slavery. Calling for a “Decade of Determination,” she recalled the formative days of the modern anti-slavery movement but said much work remains undone.

“We’ve come a long way since International Women’s Day in 1998, when we challenged the world to adopt the 3P Paradigm of prevention, protection and prosecution” to combat trafficking, Clinton said. “The Decade of Development that followed saw the sharpening of our understanding of this issue, the adoption of domestic legislation, and the growth of best practices. As Secretary of State, I was proud to call for a shift into a Decade of Delivery, and what a productive decade it has been.”

“Today, I’m calling for a Decade of Determination. It is time to take stock of our efforts to determine what is working and what is not. And most importantly, we must stay determined,” Clinton said. “Let’s keep going.”

President Bill Clinton signed the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act on October 28, 2000. As First Lady, Clinton was deeply involved in shaping the legislation. The law created a blueprint for the federal government’s anti-slavery strategy. A U.N. treaty outlawing human trafficking, the Palermo Protocol, was signed shortly after the U.S. law was enacted. The U.N. estimates more than 40 million people are in modern forms of slavery today.

[Clinton’s remarks](#) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the U.S. and U.N. anti-trafficking initiatives were a highlight of the four-day [Freedom from Slavery Forum](#). The session was organized in partnership with Yale University’s Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

The forum creates a collegial space for anti-slavery leaders to create partnerships, discuss promising practices, and develop a shared action agenda. The 2020 forum stressed innovation in anti-trafficking programs as organizations adapt to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 Focus Areas:

Research to Fight Modern Slavery: How can drivers of modern slavery and the impact of interventions be measured in ways that shape policy, generate funding and inform the design of interventions?

Strengthening Advocacy, Grassroots to Global: How have the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act and U.N. Palermo Protocol shaped the movement? How can coordinated global action more effectively serve enslaved individuals and vulnerable populations?

Empowering & Learning from Survivors: How can stronger survivor engagement and leadership be achieved in advocacy, research, policymaking, awareness-raising and project implementation?

Fundraising & Resource Mobilization: What is the movement's financial future in the face of challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic, what must funders do to keep the movement resourced?

"We are honored that so many human rights leaders came together to work collectively on mapping paths forward for our movement," said [Free the Slaves](#) Executive Director Bukeni Waruzi, whose organization serves as the forum's secretariat.

2020 Forum Speakers:

- Kevin Bales | University of Nottingham Rights Lab
- Sarah Bessell: Human Trafficking Legal Center
- David Blight | Yale University
- Joha Braimah | Free the Slaves
- Luis CdeBaca | Yale University
- Dominique Chauvet-Staco | Pathy Family Foundation
- Michaëlle De Cock | International Labor Organization
- Geannina Dinarte Romero | Costa Rica Minister of Labor & Social Security
- Davina Durgana | Minderoo Foundation/Walk Free
- Alice Eckstein | U.N. University Center for Policy Research, Delta 8.7
- Tina Frundt | Courtney's House
- Nick Grono | Freedom Fund
- Anousheh Karvar | Government of France, Alliance 8.7
- Shawn MacDonald | Verité
- Ima Matul | National Survivor Network
- Deepika Mittal | Global March Against Child Labor
- David Okech | Univ. of Georgia African Programming & Research Initiative to End Slavery
- Charlotte Oldham-Moore | U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Sophie Otiende | Liberty Shared
- Deborah Pembrook | Monterey County California Rape Crisis Center
- Cheryl Perera | OneChild Canada
- John Cotton Richmond | U.S. State Dept. Office to Monitor/Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Vijay Simhan | Humanity United
- Zoe Trodd | University of Nottingham Rights Lab
- Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- Kevin Willcutts | U.S. Labor Department International Labor Affairs Bureau

The forum is made possible by Elkes Foundation funding.

###

New Video Brings Modern Slavery Survivors to Passover Zoom Seders

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Free the Slaves](#)

March 18, 2021, 14:22 GMT

Free the Slaves project makes Passover 2021 about slavery past AND present

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, March 18, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Unable to safely gather in person, many Jews will turn to Zoom and other digital platforms for Passover Seders next week. To deepen the experience of this year's online and hybrid gatherings, the [Free the Slaves Passover Project](#) has produced a unique and deeply personal video to be played at Seders.

The five-minute video features slavery survivors from around the world describing, in their own words, the brutality of slavery today. Hosted by [Rabbi Debra Orenstein](#) of Emerson, NJ, the video also offers hope for eradicating slavery by enlisting the involvement of the Jewish community.

Downloadable Passover Seder Video: freetheslaves.net/Judaism.

Judaism is deeply connected to the themes of slavery and freedom. The Torah instructs in Deuteronomy 24:18: "Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that the Lord your God redeemed you from there. Therefore, I command you to do [justice]." The enslavement of Jews during biblical times—and their subsequent exodus—are a central narrative not only for Jewish people, but for others who have found hope in the biblical story.

The slavery survivors in the new video explain the hardships they endured, including malnourishment, life-threatening work conditions, daily beatings and being kept in leg shackles.

"Working like this, there is no difference between an animal and a human being," one man says in the video.

The individuals in the video were enslaved in Brazil, Cambodia, India, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and Pakistan. They are now free, but the United Nations estimates more than 40 million people are currently trapped today in modern forms of slavery around the world. They are involved in the production of products that American consumers buy every day, including food, clothing, electronics and jewelry.

The new video is part of an ongoing campaign to enlist Jewish schools, congregations and communities into a network mobilized against human trafficking throughout the year. The Passover Project webpage includes fact sheets, handouts, readings and activities for Passover and educational material for Jewish schools.

If every person who attends a Seder learns a few facts about modern slavery, changes shopping habits in just a few small ways to avoid slavery-tainted products, donates a few dollars to groups helping to liberate the enslaved and change the conditions that allow slavery to still exist, and reaches out to educate just a few additional people, we would liberate tens of thousands of people.

"Passover recalls the bitterness of slavery and celebrates the joy of freedom," Rabbi Orenstein says in the video. "We Jews commemorate our exodus from ancient Egypt, but slavery still exists, and it is our obligation as Jews to help the millions of people now in bondage. There is no better time than z'man cheruteynu, the season of our liberation, to help others be free."

ABOUT FREE THE SLAVES: Widely regarded as a pioneer and leader in the modern abolition movement, Free the Slaves works on the front lines and the corridors of power to liberate entire communities from modern slavery and change the conditions that allow slavery to exist.

###

20 Years of Fighting for Freedom

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Free the Slaves](#)

March 02, 2020, 17:11 GMT

One of world's best-known anti-slavery organizations celebrates 20th birthday

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES, March 2, 2020 /[EINPresswire.com](#)/ -- It started with outrage that slavery still exists, and empathy for those tricked and trapped by traffickers. It has evolved into a steely determination to ensure that everyone, everywhere is free.

[Free the Slaves](#) turns 20 years old this week, having liberated more than 14,000 people from modern slavery and sending more than 300 traffickers to prison.

Free the Slaves was born in the early days of the new millennium on March 2, 2000, as a small collective of dedicated activists committed to alerting the world about slavery's global comeback and to catalyze a resurgence of the abolition movement. Slavery has been outlawed everywhere, but it has not been eradicated. Free the Slaves exists to help finish the work that earlier generations of abolitionists started.

The organization has grown over the years, helping those in slavery around the world escape the brutality of bondage. The group helps prevent others from becoming trapped by traffickers and trains officials to bring slaveholders to justice. Free the Slaves help survivors restore their dignity, rebuild their lives, and reclaim the future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Slavery will end when businesses clean up their supply chains and consumers demand slavery-free products, when governments and international institutions toughen enforcement and fund anti-slavery work worldwide, and when activists and advocates educate the vulnerable about their rights and empower those in slavery to take a stand for freedom.

And, the group says, slavery will end when the public takes action. Free the Slaves is building a movement for social justice and asks people to [join](#) them in spreading freedom worldwide.

As the group's executive director, Bukeni Waruzi, wrote in a field dispatch this week while visiting one of the

world's slavery hot spot regions in India: "Free the Slaves will never rest until the final person in slavery walks free."

###

Global Leaders Meet in Ethiopia to Strengthen Civil Society Response to Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[Free the Slaves](#)

December 13, 2019, 14:59 GMT

The Freedom from Slavery Forum addresses a growing human rights crisis.

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, December 13, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Human rights activists from around the globe strategized new ways to confront the widespread problem of human trafficking and modern slavery during a special three-day convening at the United Nations Conference Center this week in Addis Ababa. Experts from 46 organizations in 18 countries crafted plans to accelerate civil society action in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East.

The U.N. estimates that more than 40 million people are trapped in modern forms of slavery worldwide. Many of them are forced to work without pay as domestic servants or in the construction, manufacturing, agriculture and fishing industries. They generate USD \$150 billion in illicit profits every year for traffickers and slaveholders. About 25 percent of enslaved people today are children.

Civil society organizations play a critical role in the prevention of such abuse, the protection of those victimized by it, and the prosecution of perpetrators. Efforts are now underway to increase civil society's impact in order to achieve U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, the end of child labor by 2025 and forced labor by 2030.

This week's convening in Ethiopia was the seventh annual [Freedom from Slavery Forum](#). The forum's mission is to gather anti-trafficking experts from a wide range of independent civil society groups to share best practices, identify opportunities for coordinated action, and develop a stronger collective voice.

A forum briefing for journalists featured the following speakers and themes:

Bukeni Waruzi, Free the Slaves, United States: Slavery is widespread in Africa and the world; the Freedom from Slavery Forum exists to develop global solutions.

Daniel Melese, The Freedom Fund, Ethiopia: Ethiopia is about to become a U.N. "Pathfinder" model nation; the country's new national action plan must include civil society solutions.

Lawrenta Igoh, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Nigeria: Victims and survivors must lead the way by shaping and implementing anti-trafficking programs.

Tina Frundt, Courtney's House, United States: Governments and nonprofit groups must work together

effectively for anti-trafficking plans to be successful.

Purva Gupta, Global March Against Child Labor, India: Being gender responsive is a key for ending exploitation.

Mark Makinde, Dignity Foundation for Relief and Development, South Africa: Bringing dignity to survivors grounds our work in human values.

The forum was made possible by grants from The Elkes Foundation, United Way Worldwide and the U.S. Labor Department's support initiative for [Alliance 8.7](#).