World Day Against Trafficking in Persons:

Honoring Survivors & Highlighting Organizations Working to Combat Modern-day Slavery
Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

Recorded remarks
Jessica Hart
Director,
Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice
Hilary Chester
Associate Director for Anti-Trafficking Programs

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/
Migration and Refugee Services
2020: Reflections on the Twentieth Anniversary of the TVPA

- Strength and longevity of Coalitions
- Contributions of faith-based organizations and communities
- From "rescue of victims" to full-restoration of survivors
2020: Impact of Global Pandemic

- Global Church response to displaced migrant and foreign workers
- New definition of "essential workers"
- Risks to essential workers
- Opportunities for advocacy
Jennifer Reyes Lay
Executive Director,
U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
July 30, 2020
“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.”

Pope Francis
In April 2013, 15 sisters gather in Washington D.C. and seeds of the network planted

Steering committee of three sisters led the network for the first three years.

In 2014, Joined Talitha Kum

In 2016, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking became a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization.

In 2019, hired first Executive Director
Members

- 15 members of the Board of Directors
- 100+ congregations of women religious
- 30 partner coalitions, parishes, and individuals

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org
Primary Goals

- Public awareness and education for prevention
- Advocacy, including legislative advocacy
- Survivor support and services
USCSAHT

Education and Awareness

- Educational Modules in English/Spanish
- Public presentations on Human Trafficking 101
- Monthly Stop Trafficking Newsletter
- Blog / News
Past campaigns focus on supply chain, addressing root causes and stabilizing vulnerable populations

Current campaign focused on Protecting Children from Online Trafficking and Exploitation
USCSAHT

Survivor Services

- Safe Houses and direct support for survivors
- Developing mentorship program
- Educational scholarships and job placement
Ways to get involved

Ending Slavery Is Everyone’s Work

• Become a Member of USCSAHT
• Participate in one of our current campaigns
• Follow us on social media
• Educate others in your ministry settings
• Become a conscious consumer and investor
• Prayerfully support this work
Mary Anne Silvestri
Founding Member of ESTHER Ministry St.
Joseph Parish, Long Beach, Ca.
ESTHER Ministry
End Slavery, Trafficking Humans & Effect Rescue

St Joseph Parish / Los Angeles Archdiocese

Long Beach, California

Presenter: Mary Anne Silvestri
ESTHER Ministry

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ESTHER Ministry

In 2014, after a few members of our parish attended an open meeting of the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force:

• We saw a need and assessed our skills and resources.
• We knew we could raise awareness, volunteers and donations.
• We approached our pastor, got approval to form a ministry and is now a Core Team member of LBHTTF.

ESTHER collaborates with LBHTTF members to:

• Help Homeland Security provide clothes, food, luggage, and even puppy care to survivors testifying in HT trafficking cases.
• Provide DCFS with items for at risk CSEC children;
• Stock CAST with baby items, furniture and home goods for Survivors placed in transitional housing;
• Distribute Humanitarian Bags and PPE to Survivor Outreach organizations and shelters.
Ways ESTHER raises HT awareness in our Parish:

• Provide HT facts and events in Parish bulletin/social media
• Develop a logo, bookmark and link on parish website: https://stjosephlb.org/parish-organizations/esther-ministry/
• Establish an email: estherministry1@gmail.com

Pre-COVID Activities:

• Organize HT speakers for Mass and Ministry meetings
• Select HT books for Parish Book Club
• Host Fair Trade Coffee and Donuts after Masses
• Host a Become a Shepherd event with speakers/resources
• Assemble Humanitarian Bags in person

Post-COVID Activities:

• Communicate via email, social media, Zoom meetings
• Order humanitarian items and PPE (masks, hand sanitizer, gloves) online: https://www.dollardays.com (5% donation; tax free) https://www.positivepromotions.com
• Ship directly to Outreach Org or Central Distribution Point for pick-up
ESTHER Ministry at the Community Level

**ESTHER** helps organize and participates in **LBHTTF** monthly meetings and community events.

**Pre-COVID Activities:**
- Provide volunteers at annual Youth Empowerment Safety Symposium (YESS) awareness event attended by over 300
- Staff HT Awareness table at Long Beach Grand Prix
- Staff Fair Trade resource table offering Fair Trade Coffee/Tea and information about Catholic Relief Services.

**Post-COVID Activities:**
- Attend Zoom planning/networking meetings
- Plan virtual awareness events
- Participate in **LBHTTF** PSA video: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=309700516694357](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=309700516694357)
- Dialog with frontline HT organizations to assess and respond to changing humanitarian needs
Ashley Feasley
Director of Policy,
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/
Migration and Refugee Services
Funding for Anti-Trafficking Initiatives: Appropriations

House of Representatives funding:

- *Department of Justice*: $95 million in Trafficking Assistance, $3 million in prevention of trafficking of girls; $1.5 million national study of law enforcement response to sex trafficking of minors

- *Department of Health and Human Services*: $29.95 million to Victims of Trafficking Assistance

- *Department of State*

- *Department of Homeland Security*: $2.16 million - Blue Campaign; $8.05 million for Trade Agreement Remedies and Enforcement related specifically to products made with forced labor
Upcoming and Current Legislation

• **LIFT Act**: Leveraging Information on Foreign Traffickers (LIFT) Act, H.R. HR 5664; Senate forthcoming

• **EARN IT Act**: Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 S. 3998

• **Slave-Free Business Certification Act**: Introduced by Senator Hawley
Q & A
Thank you!