



Smith marks National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Calls for swift passage of anti-trafficking reauthorization legislation

WASHINGTON—Recognizing National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), an international leader in combating human trafficking, today called for greater action from the international and US communities—at all levels of government—to partner with civil society to eliminate this heinous crime:

“On any given day, at least 27.6 million people across the world are enslaved in forced labor and/or sex trafficking.

Human traffickers and their nefarious networks are cunning and opportunistic—which is why it is important now more than ever to pass my comprehensive [Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023](#) to continue and boost our efforts to assist the most vulnerable among us. Delaying its passage is delaying justice.

Education prevention programs that train the trainers so that the program has a sustainable multiplier effect and partner with schools, survivor-leaders, students, parents, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and anti-trafficking organizations go a long way toward preventing this scourge on humanity in the first place.

Likewise, efforts to streamline protection services for survivors of human trafficking are critical for healing, empowerment, and to prevent re-trafficking via housing, mental healthcare, workforce development, and life-skills training.

The amazing work done by survivor-leaders and organizations across the country—including the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, Covenant House NJ, the NJ Restaurant and Hospitality Association, 3Strands Global Foundation, PACT, The Foundation United, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Thistle Farms, Tim Tebow Foundation, Hope for Justice, USCCB, IJM, and ATEST—have protected so many vulnerable people from exploitation while providing tremendous support and resources to victims.

While real progress has been made in the US to combat the scourge of human trafficking since the enactment of my [Trafficking Victims Protection Act](#) in 2000, we cannot let our guard down.

It will take each and every one of us to end this heinous crime—we must each be aware, educated, and act to prevent this crime, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers.”

To report suspected human trafficking, please call the Blue Campaign at 1-866-347-2423; to get help from the NJ Human Trafficking Hotline, call 855-363-6548; or call the national hotline at (888) 373-7888 to get help anywhere in the United States.

Congressman Chris Smith’s Laws to Combat Human Trafficking

(excerpts)

- [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 \(Public Law 106-386\)](#)
Authorized \$95 million over two years for anti-trafficking enforcement and assistance programs; created severe punishments including life sentences for operators of trafficking rings in the US and economic penalties for those operating in other countries; and established the annual Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) Report, which ranks more than 190 countries in their efforts to combat trafficking.

- [**Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 \(Public Law 108-193\)**](#)
Authorized over \$105 million over two years for trafficking prevention programs, anti-trafficking enforcement, and victim assistance; and allowed trafficking victims to sue their traffickers in US courts.
- [**Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 \(Public Law 109-164\)**](#)
Authorized \$306 million over two years to various federal agencies for victim assistance, law enforcement training, investigation and prosecution of trafficking and related offenses like money laundering and tax violations, and education.
- [**Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection, Prevention, and Reauthorization Act of 2018 \(Public Law 115-425\)**](#)
Authorized over half a billion dollars for diplomatic efforts to curb trafficking abroad, training of US and foreign law enforcement officials on trafficking, victim assistance including housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and education, and investigation of international trafficking rings.
- [**International Megan’s Law \(Public Law 114-119\)**](#)
Criminalized the traveling of a convicted sex offender outside the US without first giving 21 days’ notice to US authorities; established county-to-country notification to protect children from convicted pedophiles who may seek to travel for the purposes of sex trafficking; and required placing identifying markers in convicted pedophiles’ passports to keep them from “country hopping” to abuse children.

The latest version of this release may be viewed at:
<https://chrissmith.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=411816>

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