



October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Ann Wagner  
435 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tulsi Gabbard  
1609 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative David Jolly  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Gillibrand and Portman; Representatives Wagner, Gabbard, and Jolly:

The NATIONAL SURVIVOR NETWORK (NSN) and the **138** undersigned survivors of trafficking are delighted that The **Trafficking Survivors Relief Act** (S. 3441 and H.R. 6292) has been introduced at the federal level. We are grateful for your support in our plight to break free from criminal barriers incurred during our exploitation, which often stop the process of allowing us to move from victim to survivor. This legislation is such an important step in our ability to reconstruct our lives. It allows for a feeling of progress in the belief of having a second chance at life. A belief in the possibilities of achievements beyond measure. A belief in the true meaning of justice for all.

The NSN understands that in order for survivors to become productive members of society, vacating federal criminal records is imperative to our success. NSN members believe these criminal barriers attained during our exploitation prevented most of us from rebuilding our lives and achieving our dreams. To show evidence of this, through The NSN's collective voice, we surveyed 130 survivors of human trafficking who have been criminalized. The majority of survivors reported they had suffered long-term effects from the arrests and convictions they faced as a trafficking victim. *More than 80% reported criminalization had created a barrier when seeking employment and more than 50% reported it as a barrier to housing.* Lack of housing and employment are often cited as significant factors in creating vulnerability to trafficking or other forms of exploitation.

It is almost impossible to start your life over and be productive without a safe place to sleep at night. Working a job that provides self-sufficiency creates higher self-esteem. As The NSN's survey demonstrates, these are things survivors will continue to struggle with until we change our current policies and laws. Survivors will continue to be re-victimized until this legislation is passed and replicated locally in each state to allow victims to petition the court and explain the circumstances of their arrests and convictions. We need to be free to work and create a life with dignity.

For these reasons The NSN and the undersigned survivor advocates strongly and passionately endorse **(S. 3441 and H.R. 6292) The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act** which provides an ending to the destruction criminal backgrounds have on victims of human trafficking. Together we can stop the life sentences!

Sincerely,

Beth Jacobs, NSN Policy Chair, Executive Director Willow Way, Sex Trafficked for 6 years, Survivor Leader, Tucson, AZ

Ima Matul, Survivor Coordinator, Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking and NSN Chair, Labor Trafficked for 3 years, Los Angeles, CA

Savannah Sanders, Sex Trafficking Prevention, Sex and Labor for 9 months, Mesa, AZ

Autumn Burris, Survivors for Solutions, Sex Trafficking, Denver, CO

Jasmine Grace Marino, Bags of Hope Ministry, Domestic sex trafficked for 8 years, Boston, MA

Pamela Michell, CAST Policy Co-Chair, Los Angeles, CA

Alice Nyiro, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus, Labor trafficked for 1 1/2 year, Los Angeles, CA

Lorena Barrios, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus, Labor trafficked for 4 years, Los Angeles, CA

Siti Pasinah, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus, Labor Trafficked, Los Angeles, CA

Dunia, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus & V.P. Alumni of Shields for Family, Sex trafficked for 9 years

Vishal Kumar, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus, Labor Trafficked for 1 year, Los Angeles, CA

Avelino Reloj, CAST Survivor Advisory Caucus & NSN, Labor trafficked

Shandra Woworuntu, Mentari, Sex trafficking, New York

Lely, Labor trafficked for 4 years, New York

Eli Shayo, Sex and labor trafficked for 1 year, New York

Jimmy Lopez, CAST Survivor Advisory, Labor Trafficking, Huntington Park, CA

Shamere McKenzie, Sun Gate Foundation, Sex Trafficked for 18 months, Baltimore, MD

Marlene Carson, Rahab's Hideaway, Sex Trafficked for 9 Years, Columbus, Ohio

Tammy Bitanga, Ho'ola Na Pua, CSEC for 5 months & pimp control/20 years in and out of the game, Honolulu Hawaii

Rebecca Bender, Rebecca Bender Initiative, Sex & Labor for 6 years, Grants Pass, OR

Robin Miller, Survivor Commercial Sexual Exploitation for 6 years, Vancouver, WA

Dr. Katariina Rosenblatt, There Is Hope For Me, Inc., Sex Trafficked 3 separate cases - about 1 year total, FL

Tanya Street, Identifiable Me, Sex Trafficked for 2 years, Portsmouth, VA

Wendy Barnes, Sex Trafficked for 13 years, Lake Forest, CA

Elle Snow, GAME OVER, Pimp Controlled 8 months, Eureka, CA

Lynn Sweetland, The Hope Project, Sex trafficked for 3 months, Myrtle Beach, SC

Fainess Lipenga, SAFE CENTRE, Labour trafficked for 3 Years, MD

Jessica Ann McFalls, U.S. Domestic Sexual Trafficked for 4 years, Stephens City, VA

Kate Price, University of Massachusetts Boston, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) for 8 years, Boston, MA

Christine Cesa, MiraculousOnes, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children / Sex Trafficked for 14 years, Los Angeles, CA

Survivor, Sex trafficked for 3 years, Los Angeles, CA

Rhoda Kershaw, Sex trafficked for too long, Nashville, TN

Marti MacGibbon CADC-II, ACRPS, NSN and IPATH, International sex trafficked for approximately 2 months, Occidental, CA

Selina Deveau, Musicians Against Trafficking, Minor sex trafficked for 10 years, Limington, Maine

Aubree E. Alles, SheCounts, Sex trafficked for 10 years, Orlando FL

Bobbe Taber, Child sex trafficked on and off from age 2 to 17, Tempe AZ

Jessica Neely, Refuge for Women, Porn industry for 7 years, Tulsa Oklahoma

Brigette Robarge, Survivor Advocate, Sexual/Labor for 10 years, Detroit, Michigan

Darlene Pawlik, Juvenile Sex Trafficked for 4 years, Raymond, NH

Jen Spry, JenSpry.org, Child Sex Trafficking in America for 12 years, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Amy Smith, Sex trafficking and commercial exploitation via strip clubs for 1 year

Brittany Meyer, A Safe Place, Sex Trafficked for 1 year, Wilmington

Dawanna Plummer, Beloved: Not Forgotten, Safe Home 3 years, Warsaw, IN

Rebekah Charleston, Rebekah Speaks Out, Sex trafficked for 10 + years, Fort Worth, TX

Jennifer Gaines, Breaking Free, Sex trafficked for 28 years, Minneapolis, MN

Jennifer A Clinger, Thistle Farms, trafficked for 33 years, Nashville

Cathy Bauer, Domestic Adult for 7 years, Phoenix, Arizona

Brent Woody, West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy, Dunedin, Florida

Nicole Bell, Living In Freedom Together Inc., Sex Trafficked 13 years, Worcester Massachusetts

Dona Lemoine-Acierno, Worcester, MA

Aubrey Lloyd, Domestic minor sex trafficked for 1 year, Anderson, Indiana

Yohanna Ramirez, Sex trafficked for 2 years, Rochester, NY

Danielle John, Youthworks, Sex Trafficked for 5 years and 9 months, Fargo, ND

Necole Daniels, Survivors on the move, Sex trafficked for 6 years, San Francisco, CA

Nadia kohn, Shared hope international, Trafficked in strip clubs for 7 years, Salem Oregon

Krysten DeMello, Sex trafficked for 2 years, Auburn, MA

Survivor

Delores Day, Restore Innocence Ranch, Sex Trafficked for 5 years, Waukesha, WI

Shanna Parker, ANGELSGOTOWORK, Sex trafficked for 5 years, Phoenix, Arizona

Ruth Rondon, Sex trafficked for 18 years, Wyoming Michigan

Shay, Willow Way, Sex Trafficked for 3 years, Tucson, AZ

Angie Kimball, Willow Way, Sex trafficked for 17 years, Tucson Arizona

Sue, Tucson Arizona

Jennifer Martinka, Tucson

Annika Mack, Sex trafficked for 5 months, Stockton, California

Emily Dickson, Sex Trafficked and Labor Trafficked for 6 years, Redlands, California

Christine Cesa, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children for 12 years, Los Angeles, CA

Megan Lundstrom, Free Our Girls, Sex trafficked for 5 years, Denver, CO

Allison Franklin, Sex trafficked for 8 1/2 years, Houston

Lupita Williamson, Mexico- USA, 05/2005, Tucson AZ

Charisma De Los Reyes

Stephanie Gerber, Sex trafficked for 10 years, Mesa AZ

Dayne Allen, TX

Lynn Sweetland, Own in works, domestic sex trafficked for 3 - 4 months, Myrtle Beach, SC

Noel Gomez, OPS, Sex trafficked for 10 years, Seattle, Washington

Wendy Barnes, Author: And Life Continues, Sex Trafficked for 13 years, Lake Forest, CA

Kyra Doubek, Sex Trafficked for 5 years, Kent, Washington

Angela Renfro, The Kristy Love Foundation, Trafficked for 18 years, Louisville, Kentucky

Crystal Hart, Willows Way, Trafficked for 15 years, Tucson

Julia Anderson, Touch One, Sex, Labor, Forced Marriage for 11+ years, Seattle, WA

Marjorie Saylor, Survivor Leader Network of San Diego, Sex and Labor Trafficked for 7 years, San Diego, CA

Jodi Barria, Sex trafficked for 20, Worcester, MA

Crystal Anthony, Sex Trafficking for 5 years, Orange, CA

Jeri Moomaw, Washington Engage, Sex trafficked for 9 years, Olympia, Washington

Sarai Smith-Mazariegos, S.H.A.D.E Project, Child Sexual exploitation, sex trafficked for 4 years, California

Marcela Gabriel, Marcelalaoizafoundation.com, Sexual exploited for 18 months, Nevada

Kaleilani Grant, Sex Trafficked for 2years, Honolulu, HI

Quintecia Young, WeAreM.A.A.T, Trafficked for 10 years, Oakland, CA

Annette Lloyd-Holland, Norcross, GA

Margarete Stettner, Sex trafficked for 6 years, Hollywood

Deborah Pembroke, Commercial Sexual Exploitation as a Child for 12 years, Watsonville, CA

Alaya McIvor, Human Trafficking for Sexual Services for 12 months, Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Jennifer Kempton, Survivor's Ink, Domestic sex trafficked for 6 years, Columbus

Courtney Mitchell, Soliciting for 10, Kunkletown, PA

Andrea Nieto, Sex trafficked for 3 years, Puyallup, WA

Kiley Taggart, Afton, WY

Eric Harris, Madison Church of God, Commercial sex trafficked for 3 months, Anderson Indiana

Lisa L. McLaughlin, Survivor's Ink, Canal Winchester, OH

Alison Stansifer, Lewis Center, OH

Survivor

Brittany Greenbaum, San Diego, CA

Allie Bailey-Gates, Glenwood Springs

Carissa Phelps, Runaway Girl, Inc, Trafficked for over 3 years, San Luis Obispo County, California

Angie Conroy, Strey Khmer Organisation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Rowena, BREAKING FREE, Victim/ Survivor of Sex trafficking for 10 years, Saint Paul

Lori McCormic, Lotusgrlz.com, Stripping and prostitution for 12+ years, Bay Point, CA

Alisha West, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking, Seattle, WA

Theresa Flores, Traffickfree, Domestic minor sex for 2 years, Columbus, Ohio

Sonia L Dunlap, Sex trafficked for 5 years, Hayward, California

Rita Brown (Stuart), Sex trafficked for 6 months then was found/retuned for 6 months at age 13-14yr, Seattle, WA

Tabitha Groat, National Survivor Network, labour trafficked for nearly three years, Marlette, MI

Jeri Peterson, BREAKING FREE, St. Paul, Minnesota

Lisa L. McLaughlin, Survivor's Ink, Canal Winchester, OH

Emmy Myers, Lacey's Hope Project, Sex trafficked for 3 years, Jackson, Wisconsin

Sula Skiles, Sold as sex slave to billionaire through fashion/modeling industry for 3 weeks, Destin, FL

Shawnee (The Real Shawnee), I started the combination of movements in 2010 while still being trafficked by force, while rescuing others and contacting world leaders who fully enforce my movements, Purple Hearts Missions Possible & Healthy Horizons; Native American Warriors Task Force in collaboration with Survivors4Solutions, Sex and Labor trafficked. The organized

criminals also conspired to steal my identity and trust funds while stalking, forcefully abducting, torturing and trafficking me to the highest bidders. Drugging me to brutally rape and make forced porn with my unwilling sleeping body. Even orchestrating horrific events to attempt a cover up...corruption are involved! Trafficked for most of my life since I was a child, so for decades, The Americas

Marie Merklinger, SPACE, SOLWODI, STOP SEXKAUF, Prostitution for 3 Years, Stuttgart, Germany

Tajuan McCarty, The WellHouse, Sex trafficked for 12+ years, Birmingham, AL

Keri Seay, Thistle Farms, Nashville, TN

Deb U Smith, Assistant District Attorney, Nashville, TN, co-founder of Nashville's first trafficking court, Nashville, TN

Leslie Shiflet, Hurst, TX

Yoyo, Exploitation, Boston, MA

Kathleen Mitchell, Founder Catholic Charities DIGNITY Programs, Sex Trafficked for 20 years, St. Paul, MN

Lyndsey Maldonado, Sex worker for 10 years, Indianapolis, IN

Terry Forliti, Breaking Free, Sex Trafficked for 5 years, St. Paul

Lisa Scott, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Misty Mckinney, Sex trafficked, Sherwood, Oregon

Marnee Westberg, Institute on Human Trafficking Education, Human Sex Trafficking, Livonia, MI

Sheree Brandow, South Lyon, MI

Amy L. Andrews, Survivors Consultation Network, DMST CSE approximately 5 years total, Desert Hot Springs, CA

Anonymous, Sex trafficked for 5 months, Boise, Idaho

Megan Hansen, Survivors Ink Outreach, Sex trafficking, Columbus, OH

Linda Goldman, Thistle Farms, Nashville, TN



Regina Mullins, Thistle Farms, Prostitution for 16 Years but free for 20 years because of the Magdalene House a two year program for victims, Nashville TN

Shelia McClain, End Slavery Tennessee, CSEC for 5 years, Nashville TN

Melissa Renschler, Sage House, Sex trafficked for 26 years, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Kaitlyn

Marq D. Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of The BUDDY House, Incorporated, 4.5 years as a survivor, Riverdale GA

#### About the NSN:

In February 2011, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) launched the National Survivor Network (NSN) in an effort to foster connections between survivors of diverse forms of human trafficking and to build a national anti-trafficking movement in which survivors are at the forefront and recognized as leaders. The 178 members of the NSN include survivors with various backgrounds and origins spanning 22 countries, including Ghana, India, Indonesia, Colombia, Cameroon, and the United States. Active members currently reside in 32 U.S. states, including AR, AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, and WA) The NSN's diverse membership makes it uniquely representative of the myriad of situations and dynamics experienced by survivors of human trafficking. By connecting survivors across the country, the NSN supports and encourages survivors to realize and develop confidence as leaders and expertise in the anti-slavery movement.