

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

With the mid-term elections behind us, we all agree on the need to work together in the spirit of bipartisanship as we commence the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As the signatures of Democratic and Republican women Members of Congress below will attest, an issue that truly has bipartisan support is the global problem of trafficking in persons. Your leadership on this issue, sustained by Ambassador John R. Miller and the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, has helped cultivate a 21st century abolitionist movement.

Therefore, we are writing to you to urge you to make the fight against trafficking a top priority during the final two years of your administration by proposing a new initiative to end the many human rights abuses inflicted on men, women, and children around the world and in the United States. Additionally, we believe a new initiative, both at home and abroad, could be launched with an announcement included in the upcoming State of the Union Address.

While much has been done to combat modern-day slavery in its many forms — bonded labor, domestic servitude, sex slavery, child soldiering, and child sex tourism, to name a few — the many facets of this challenge are only beginning to receive the recognition they deserve. As the Department of State's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report detailed, most of the victims of this terrible crime are women and girls, a fact that underscores human trafficking as a serious women's rights issue.

Such an initiative could support further funding for the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act, legislation sponsored by Representatives Pryce and Maloney, which was signed into law as part of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act at a White House ceremony in January. As you know, the legislation incorporated proven practices designed to halt the spiraling demand that fuels sex trafficking. From San Francisco to New York to Washington, D.C., groups like SAGE, GEMS, and the Polaris Project, are working to break the cycle of demand. This new initiative could further successful efforts to educate male sex buyers, prosecute both traffickers and buyers, and enlighten society about the crime and its survivors. As part of this initiative, we would urge you to consider the legislation introduced by Senator Grassley and Representative Maloney that applies the penalties of the federal tax code against the pimps who conceal the profits they reap at the expense of the victims of sex trafficking.

In addition, this new initiative can advance the pioneering projects your 2003 Presidential Initiative inaugurated in eight countries — protecting survivors, prosecuting traffickers, and preventing new trafficking crimes in Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. This critical work deserves continued support; however, the funding will soon run out. It would be a shame to see the United States lose its leadership momentum because we failed to continue funding this important investment in the global fight to end modern-day slavery.

Traffickers prey on the most vulnerable members of society. The recruiters, traffickers, brothel owners, customers and other crime syndicates who make up the industry profit from the victimization of individuals who cannot defend themselves. Therefore, we urge you to spearhead a new initiative that would fund a renewed commitment to continue and enhance your efforts to fight against modern-day slavery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

Kay Granger

R. J. [Signature]

Rosa L. DeLauro

Heila Jackson Lee

[Signature]

[Signature]

Alyson J. Schwartz

Tammy Baldwin

Lynn C. Woodsey

Corinne Brown

Madelin J. Bordallo

Jan Schenkouhy

Shelley Moore Capito

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Loretta Sanchez

Darlene Hooley

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List of Signers:

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
The Honorable Deborah Pryce  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz  
The Honorable Gwen S. Moore  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Lynn Woolsey  
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
The Honorable Corrine Brown  
The Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald  
The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky  
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
The Honorable Darlene Hooley