



August, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

Thank you for agreeing to meet – or authorizing your staff member to meet – with us to discuss the issue of modern day slavery. We appreciate your taking time during the Congressional recess to address this international human rights pandemic, particularly knowing that you are dealing with many important domestic issues.

We wish to bring to your attention the work of International Justice Mission, a non-governmental organization that we support. IJM works with local governments around the world to help rescue victims of trafficking and slavery, and helps them prosecute and convict traffickers, pimps, and brothel owners.

Legislation recently introduced in Congress, H.R. 2737, “The Child Protection Compact Act,” was informed by IJM’s model of working side-by-side local officials to rescue victims and apprehend perpetrators, thus deterring the crime and lowering the prevalence of victimization of children in the sex industry.

We would like to ask your support for H.R. 2737, which authorizes the State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Office (G/TIP) to negotiate child protection agreements with governments burdened by child trafficking, and make grants to NGOs and/or local governments to rescue the victims, eradicate the crime, and bring perpetrators to justice in local courts.

Please consider cosponsoring H.R.2737 and urging House leadership to bring the bill to the full House for consideration. For more information on H.R. 2737, please contact Allison Hollabaugh in Representative Chris Smith’s office (Allison.hollabaugh@mail.house.gov) or Eileen Campbell, Director of Justice Campaigns at International Justice Mission (ecampbell@ijm.org).

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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