

Sample language for Letters to the Editor:

Feel free to incorporate some of the facts and sample language presented here in your own Letter to the Editor.



On Abolition:

There are an estimated 27 million people living in slavery today. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that profits from forced labor slavery amount to \$44 billion year, and it is the fastest-growing criminal activity in the world. Around the world, governments of good will and organizations like International Justice Mission (IJM) are combating this horrendous crime. But scaling up this effort requires funding, diplomatic leadership, trade reform, and political commitment. Abolishing slavery in our lifetime is possible. All Members of Congress and our new President must be involved in a campaign to eliminate modern-day slavery.

On Building Justice Systems that Work for the Poor:

In many developing countries vulnerable women, children, and men are victimized by trafficking, sexual violence, police brutality and forced labor slavery because local justice systems are too weak to enforce the law. But, as NGOs like International Justice Mission (IJM) have demonstrated, even in the poorest of countries, justice systems can be made to work for everyone when perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted in local courts and imprisoned in accordance with the law. The U.S. should support the training of police, prosecution, and courts in developing countries as well as social services for victims, and should also link foreign assistance to the successful prosecution and conviction of trafficking perpetrators and slave-holders.

On Human Trafficking/ Need for Additional Funding:

According to the U.S. Department of State, human trafficking is the world's third largest criminal enterprise, after drugs and weapons. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that profits from trafficked victims account for \$31.6 billion per year. This violent crime will flourish as long as it remains profitable. Government agencies, like the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP), and NGOs like International Justice Mission (IJM), work to free trafficking victims and prosecute their perpetrators, by increasing the risk to traffickers and decreasing the profits they make from slavery and trafficking. Congress should increase funding for anti-trafficking activities like these and exert diplomatic pressure on countries that turn a blind eye toward such crimes.