



American ideals. Universal values.

April 25, 2017

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio and Senator Warren:

I write to express Human Rights First's support for the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation would strengthen the role of the Treasury Department and better integrate financial institutions in global efforts to combat slavery. We applaud your leadership in putting this legislation forward, and we urge its swift passage.

Modern slavery, also known as human trafficking, is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. Because it is a profit-driven enterprise in which perpetrators operate with relative impunity, efforts to combat human trafficking will not succeed unless they increase the legal risks to perpetrators and enablers, and decrease their profits.

The financial resources currently deployed to fight modern slavery are alarmingly low. Worldwide, governments and NGOs combined spend roughly \$124 million annually to combat trafficking, while traffickers are earning exorbitant profits estimated at \$150 billion per year. Even as the world leader in supporting international anti-trafficking programs, the U.S. government spends more money in a single month fighting the war on drugs than it spent fighting trafficking—domestically and internationally—over the past 15 years. That is not a fair fight. We have to be creative about how we tackle this issue with the resources we have and engage actors from across government, business, and civil society.

This legislation will elevate the role of the U.S. Department of Treasury in the government-wide effort to combat modern slavery by formally adding the Treasury Department to the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (PITF). Additionally, the bill directs the PITF to work with financial institutions to identify successful strategies to target human trafficking cases through anti-money laundering investigations and make recommendations to replicate those efforts throughout the industry. The U.S. government must then report on the number of money laundering cases that the Treasury Department and Department of Justice investigated and prosecuted that involve human trafficking. Engaging the financial industry in pursuing effective strategies to identify traffickers by following the money trail will be an important tool to reverse the risk-reward equation for perpetrators.

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Slavery is legal nowhere, yet happens everywhere. Eradicating it will require significant additional efforts, as well as sustained focus and cooperation among nations, state and local governments, law enforcement, private companies, and civil society. Your legislation will make a substantial contribution to this effort.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to end modern slavery. We pledge to work with you and others in Congress to ensure that slavery, which was such a shameful part of our nation's history, has no part in its future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisa Massimino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elisa Massimino
President and CEO