From: JPHD-USCCB
To: JPHDmail

Subject: Action Alert! Protect Victims of Human Trafficking

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 10:51:43 AM

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Take Action!

Tell your Senators to protect victims of trafficking!

What's the issue? Trafficking of people is a modern day scourge that afflicts millions of people, particularly women and children, around the world resulting in extreme forms of sexual exploitation and forced labor. The *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (TVPA) established the United States' efforts and leadership to combat the multi-billion dollar industry. Since

Send your message to your Senators now!

then, the U.S. government has worked to prevent trafficking in persons; prosecute those who profit from it; and protect victims. Catholic Relief Services partners with U.S. government agencies and others to prevent trafficking and protect victims in more than 35 countries around the world.

The *Trafficking Victims Protection*Reauthorization Act expires on September 30, 2011 and Congress must act to reauthorize it. If the bill does not pass, U.S. pressure on countries across the globe to combat modern-day slavery will suffer. In this precarious economic environment, more vulnerable and marginalized people may fall victim to those who would exploit them.

What do you want me to do? Contact your Senators and ask them to support S. 1301, the Trafficking Victims Protection
Reauthorization Act and express strong support for the following:

Learn more about:

- A recent USCCB/CRS letter to the Senate in support of S. 1301, the *Trafficking Victims* Protection Reauthorization Act;
- How the United States
 Conference of Catholic Bishops is responding to human trafficking;
- How Catholic Relief Services is responding to human trafficking worldwide; and
- Migration and its connections to your Catholic faith.
- 1. The bill's increased authorization of funding for trafficking victim services and strong emphasis on partnerships with organizations like Catholic Relief Services to combat trafficking in persons.
- 2. Authorization of funding for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, tasked with assisting governments in responding to urgent needs.
- 3. Establishment of child protection compacts that would help specific countries to develop and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking plans to protect children. and urge them to preserve life-saving, poverty-focused international assistance in the upcoming deficit reduction negotiations and the FY 2012 appropriations process.

Take Action Now!

- E-mail your Senators
- Call 702-577-2339 for talking points and to be connected to your Senator's office
- Visit the <u>USCCB Action Center</u> for other current action alerts.

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