

# Turn on the Light

## A SOLIDARITY PRAYER WALK FOR AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### MATERIALS

- Audio-visual equipment and internet access
- Baskets to collect letters
- Bible open to Matthew 5:13–16
- Candle for each participant: Consider [purchasing fair trade candles from Prosperity Candle](#), which include a prayer for victims of human trafficking, and lining the route of your solidarity walk with additional candles.
- Copies of the solidarity vigil for leader, cantor and readers
- Copies of letters to members of Congress personalized for your community. (See options below and letters on pages 8–9.)
- Lighter or matches
- Music for [“Christ, Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP](#), and song sheets for participants
- Pens for participants
- Symbolic objects to represent each story:
  1. First station: fair trade coffee and other fair trade items
  2. Second station: books, cards, pens
  3. Third station (optional): An item to represent a local story (see “Preparation” below)
- Video, [“Turn on the Light: Help Stop Human Trafficking,”](#) from CRS YouTube channel
- Video, [“Lead, Kindly Light,”](#) from CRS YouTube channel, or reflective music

### PREPARATION

- This prayer vigil is designed as a solidarity walk. Beginning indoors, participants then prayerfully walk with candles to stations outside to hear stories. Afterward, they move inside for the letter writing and a closing prayer. The walk can be as simple as going around a building. Adjust it as needed for space or inclement weather.
  1. Set up the indoor vigil space:
    - Light the candles and place them in front of the room/church.
    - Place baskets, copies of letters to Congress and pens near the candles.
    - Test videos.
    - Place a Bible and a copy of the solidarity vigil at the podium or lectern.
  2. Set up the outdoor walk:
    - Map your route.
    - Choose two to three places you’ll stop to hear the stories. Place symbolic objects (see materials list) at each stop.
    - Optional: Add a station about the Church’s work to combat human trafficking in your community. The [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ anti-trafficking program](#) or your [local Catholic Charities office](#) may have a local story.
    - Optional: Line the route of your solidarity walk with candles.
- Prepare cantor to lead [“Christ, Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP](#).
- Prepare one leader and four to five readers. Give each reader copy of this solidarity vigil with their part highlighted.

- Prepare someone to play the video(s).
- Prepare the letters to your members of Congress. Choose from one of the following two options:

#### OPTION 1: PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFY THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING THE VIGIL.

- This option is preferable if participants represent many districts (i.e., a university setting where students are from different states or different parts of the state).
- This approach requires participants to access the internet. You can either set up laptops/tablets connected to Wi-Fi or rely on participants to use their smartphones.
- If you choose this option, make copies of each letter as is from pages 8-9\* for each participant. Each person will need three letters: one for each of their two senators and one for their representative.
- During the event, you will show participants how to identify their senators and representative, and how to address the letters. They will complete the letters with the date of the event and the name of the community (parish, school, etc.) that is hosting the solidarity vigil, and other information.
- During the letter-writing section, offer to show participants how to find their members of Congress online at [confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit](http://confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit), using the “Find your district” button under the section labeled “Meet with Congress.” Ask them to enter their ZIP code when prompted. After they enter it, the names of their two senators and representative will pop up. They should write the full names of their senators and representative at the top of their letters on the lines, “The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_” and “Dear Senator(s)/Representative \_\_\_\_\_”

#### OPTION 2: ORGANIZERS PREPARE THE LETTERS WITH SENATORS’ AND REPRESENTATIVES’ NAMES IN ADVANCE.

- This option is preferable if the majority of participants are from the same state and district.
  - Copy and paste the sample letter on pages 8–9\* into documents with your institution’s letterhead. Visit [confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit](http://confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit) and click on the “Find Your District” button under the “Meet With Congress” section. Enter the ZIP code where your institution is located. The names of your two senators and representative will pop up.
  - Pre-address the letters to the senators and representative listed. Add the date of the event and the name of the community (parish, school, etc.) that is hosting the solidarity vigil.
  - Print copies for participants. Each participant will receive three letters: two for their senators and one for their representative.
- **\*Please review page 11 to see whether your representatives are already cosponsors of the Business Supply Chain bill.** If they are, complete the thank you letter on page 10, and address it to the senator or representative who has signed the bill. Please be sure to add, “United States Senate,” or “United States House of Representatives,” on the first full line and include “Senator” or “Representative,” before his or her name.
  - Your letters will have the most impact if they are hand delivered to local offices. [Check out these tips](#) on how to set up a meeting with your member of Congress. And, after your visit, [let Catholics Confront Global Poverty know](#) you had a meeting and how it went.
  - If you can’t hand deliver the letters to members, it’s best to mail them to their local or district offices. If you are mailing letters to several states and/or districts, be sure to mail the letters separately to each senator and representative. You can find senators’ addresses by visiting [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), and representatives by visiting [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).
  - It helps to send along a copy of any press coverage of the solidarity vigil along with the letters. Also, be sure to follow up with each member of Congress you sent a letter to so you’ll know whether they received it.



## Welcome and opening prayer

**LEADER:** We gather together to pray for all people who experience human trafficking.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...

God of Light,  
We pray for all of the people—  
men, women and children—  
hidden in the darkness of slavery.

Help us shine your light into the  
homes, streets, factories and brothels  
in our own neighborhoods and around the world  
where people are enslaved.

The darkness is as light, to you, O Lord.  
No person in any corner of the world  
is hidden from your sight.  
Help us shine your light.

Amen

## Opening song

**CANTOR LEADS:** “Christ Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP

## Gospel reading

**READER ONE:** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

[Jesus said:]

“You are the salt of the Earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:13-16)

The Gospel of the Lord,

**RESPONSE:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Turn on the light

**LEADER:** In the Gospel reading, Jesus says that we are the light of the world, sent to shine our light before others. Being the light and turning on the light ever more brightly means that we are called to take time to pray about, educate others on, and take action to change the social injustices that are often kept hidden. As you may know, human trafficking is one of these injustices.

Human trafficking is modern slavery that happens in both our local communities and to our brothers and sisters around the world. Men, women and children are kidnapped or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation.

Trafficking includes forced work on farms, and in factories, hotels, restaurants and other industries. Hours are long, conditions are poor, and workers labor for little or no money. Victims of sex trafficking may work in brothels, strip clubs or on the streets. Human trafficking is an insidious evil—prevalent but often unnoticed. Victims are too afraid to speak up. Their traffickers threaten further harm to them or their families if they do.

Human trafficking is the third most profitable organized crime, after drugs and weapons sales, with close to \$150 billion in annual revenue.

Traffickers exploit already vulnerable people—women and children, migrant workers, indigenous and displaced people and those living in extreme poverty. Human trafficking is most prevalent in societies with wide economic and social disparities. Fifty-five percent of forced labor victims and 98 percent of sex-trafficking victims are women and girls.

Tonight, we pray that we might turn on the light so that trafficked individuals—sometimes hidden in plain sight—will be seen. We also pray that we may shine our light on the root causes of human trafficking: the many injustices that cause our global brothers and sisters to live in desperate circumstances, risking their safety to earn money to support themselves and their families.

**PLAY VIDEO:** [“Turn on the Light: Help Stop Human Trafficking,”](#) from CRS YouTube channel

We will now listen to stories that illustrate the darkness of labor and sex trafficking. We'll pray for all of the children, women and men affected and reflect on ways we can shine a light on this injustice. Please take a candle and then follow me as we begin a prayerful walk. We will sing the chorus of “Christ be Our Light” (or remain silent) as we walk, and pause in two (or three) places to pray for victims of labor and sex trafficking. As we walk, we remember that trafficking victims are often forced from one place to another, and that we may be passing them by without noticing them.

**CANTOR TO LEAD:** Chorus of “Christ Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP

**PARTICIPANTS WALK OUTSIDE TO FIRST STATION.**

### **Solidarity walk**

**READER TWO:** The story of modern slavery on Brazilian coffee farms often starts when workers are recruited by labor brokers, or “gatos,” and transported to remote farms.

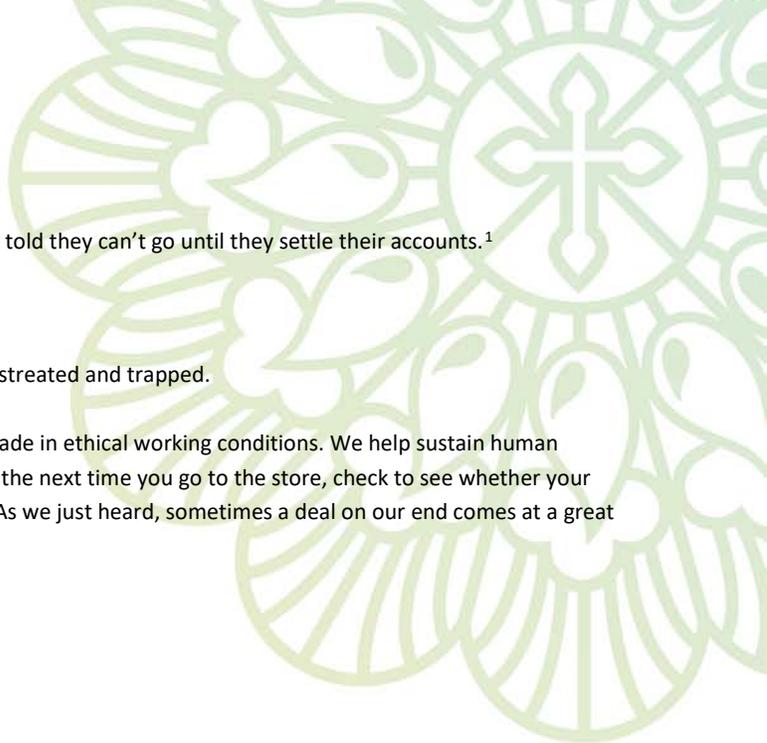
Gatos often promise legitimate work as a ruse. So while workers may “freely accept” employment, they are doing it under false pretenses about the work and pay.

From the moment workers step onto the buses that take them to the farms, they incur debt: Gatos charge workers for the trip. And the moment they leave their communities, the workers are cut off from the social support networks they turn to in times of need. The distance between the farms and the communities they call home makes them even more vulnerable.

Living conditions on these farms are squalid: Imagine houses with dirt floors and no running water, no trash cans and no system for disposing of solid waste. Workers sleep on thin mats because there are no beds. They cook over open flames on the floor because there are no stoves. There is no refrigeration. Workers must pile their trash near their homes, walk long distances for water, and go to the bathroom in forests or open fields. The work is grueling. The days are long. Food is scarce, expensive and of poor quality. Breaks are limited.

Payments are often irregular and frequently less than what was promised. And deductions are made for lodging, food, supplies and equipment. Some workers are not paid at all.

From the moment they start their journey into forced labor, workers begin piling up debt. They must work to pay for transportation to the farm, protective equipment, rent for the miserable lodging, and for food and supplies from stores owned by the farm.



Workers often have no idea they are in debt until they try to leave and are told they can't go until they settle their accounts.<sup>1</sup>

[PAUSE]

God, help us turn on the light in farms and factories where laborers are mistreated and trapped.

One way we can help is by buying coffee, food and other goods that are made in ethical working conditions. We help sustain human trafficking by purchasing coffee grown on farms like the one described. So the next time you go to the store, check to see whether your grocery list includes fair trade items, even if they cost a few dollars more. As we just heard, sometimes a deal on our end comes at a great cost to someone else.

**CANTOR LEADS:** Chorus of "Christ Be Our Light," Bernadette Farrell, OCP

**PARTICIPANTS WALK TO NEXT STATION.**

**READER THREE:** "If I had tried to escape, the brokers would have beaten me ... They kept wooden rods."

These were the words of 22-year-old Shanti,\* a victim of sex trafficking in India's brothels.

Shanti's path from a rural village to a big-city brothel was one that many young girls in India have unwittingly followed. Growing up in farm country taking care of cattle and doing household chores, as a teenager Shanti knew little about city life. And she knew nothing about human trafficking—the buying and selling of people into forced or unpaid begging, prostitution or labor. When a local money lender encouraged Shanti to take a job as a housekeeper in Mumbai, she agreed.

A few days later, Shanti realized something had gone terribly wrong. She said, "I was told he sold me and another girl for [\$1,200]."

Shanti worked for her "brokers" for 3 years, unable to leave. Once when she was sitting outside the brothel, her madam accused her of trying to escape. "The madam hit me with a burning stick," she said, showing the scar.

Shanti and other women in the brothel were finally set free after a police raid. They might have had nowhere to go, but a Catholic Relief Services partner in India that works to end sex trafficking provided counseling, job skills training and other services. CRS projects supported by Catholics in the United States assist poor and vulnerable people in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Shanti learned bookbinding and got a job at a print shop, where she and several dozen other young women make business cards, notebooks and other items.<sup>2</sup>

Without support and other options, many women who escape prostitution may be sexually exploited again.

[PAUSE]

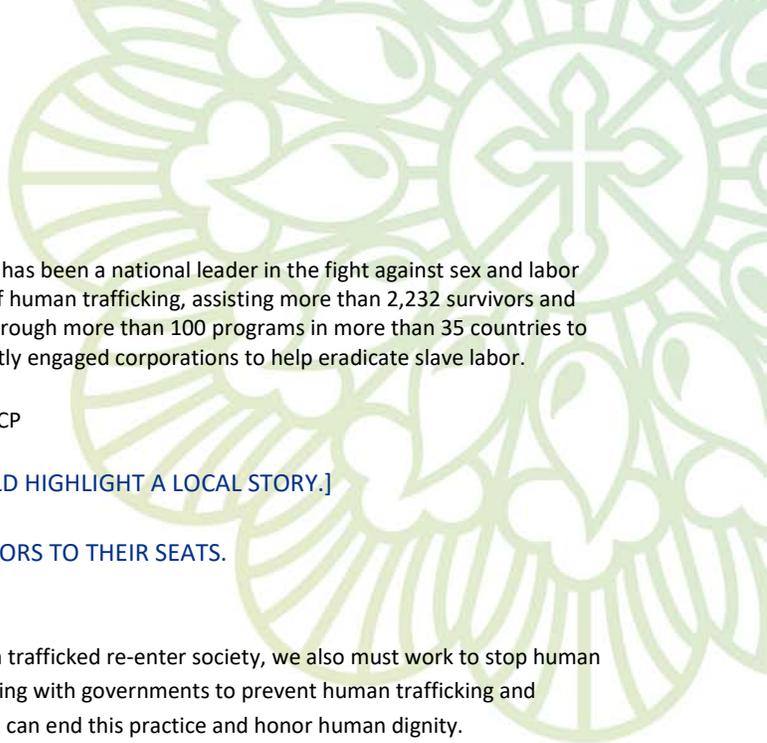
God, help us turn on the light in the brothels, on street corners and wherever women are victims of sex trafficking. May we support the work of Church—locally and around the world—to put an end to this crime and help victims recover.

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\*Name changed.

1. Story adapted from "This is What Modern Slavery Looks Like," Coffeelands blog <http://coffeelands.crs.org/2015/12/this-is-what-modern-slavery-looks-like/>

2. Story adapted from "Helping Survivors of India's Sex-Slave Trade," <http://www.crs.org/stories/helping-survivors-indias-sex-slave-trade>



For more than a decade, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been a national leader in the fight against sex and labor trafficking. The USCCB and its partners have provided services to victims of human trafficking, assisting more than 2,232 survivors and more than 500 of their family members. CRS has worked internationally through more than 100 programs in more than 35 countries to reduce human trafficking and, through public-private initiatives, has recently engaged corporations to help eradicate slave labor.

**CANTOR TO LEAD:** Chorus of “Christ Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP

[OPTIONAL: PARTICIPANTS WALK TO NEXT STATION, WHICH WOULD HIGHLIGHT A LOCAL STORY.]

PARTICIPANTS EXTINGUISH THEIR CANDLES AND WALK BACK INDOORS TO THEIR SEATS.

### Letter writing

**LEADER:** We should not only support efforts to help those who have been trafficked re-enter society, we also must work to stop human trafficking by exposing the unjust conditions that allow it to flourish. Working with governments to prevent human trafficking and advocating for businesses to keep trafficking out of their supply chains, we can end this practice and honor human dignity.

Pope Francis says: “Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that ‘purchasing is always a moral—and not simply an economic—act.’”

We can be mindful consumers by purchasing items made with respect for workers and in conditions that uphold human dignity. We can ask our government leaders to require companies to make information about their products’ supply chains public. This would help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. The Catholic Church is committed to defending human life and dignity. The proposed legislation would play an important and critical role in enhancing respect for human dignity by fighting conditions that enable human trafficking.

In a moment, I will distribute three letters to each person: one for each of your senators and one for your representative. The letters ask them to cosponsor the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act.

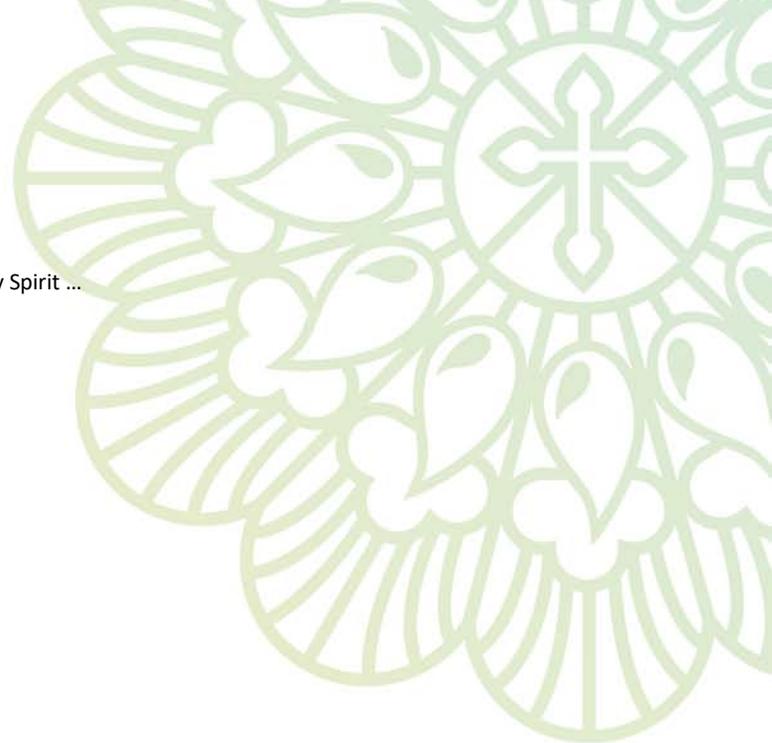
We make a difference when we lift up our voices together, but it’s also important that you personalize your message to your members of Congress. I invite you to take a few moments to edit the letter by adding your name, a few lines about why this issue is important to you, and your signature and home mailing address. Please also fill in the blanks about this event, noting the name of our institution and your role here (e.g., student, parishioner, etc.). After you sign the letter, place it in one of the baskets (at the front of/around the) church.

**Note:** Please adapt these instructions as needed if a small group will hand deliver the letters to local congressional offices.

DISTRIBUTE LETTERS AND PENS.

[IF YOU ARE ASKING PARTICIPANTS TO FIND THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: Direct them to use their smartphones or laptops/tablets to access the [confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit](http://confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit) and ask them to click on the “Find” button to enter their ZIP code and identify their senators and representative.]

PLAY VIDEO: “[Lead, Kindly Light](#)” from CRS’ YouTube channel or play reflective music while participants write their letters.



## Closing prayer

READER FOUR: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...

Dear Jesus,

In your name, we close our prayer tonight.  
As we bring forth light to defy the claims of darkness,  
As we bring forth joy and song to defy the claims of sadness,  
As we bring forth a spirit of generosity to defy the claims of want,  
As we bring forth peace to defy the claims of war.

That in the darkest, saddest, most wanting, warring corners of the world,  
All may look to Bethlehem,  
Where in the humblest of circumstances,  
In a time of repression,  
From the person of a poor refugee woman,  
In the filth of a manger,  
In the form of a most vulnerable child,  
You came among us to say, "No, there is a light in this world."

Let us be a light to others.  
Let us be the fruit of the branch of Jesse's tree.  
Let us be the bearers of the indescribable gift that is your grace.  
And so defy all false claims on your people and their dignity.

May you be born anew, into every season  
Into every age  
Into every land and every human heart.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen

## Closing song

CANTOR LEADS: "Christ Be Our Light," Bernadette Farrell, OCP



The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am deeply concerned about child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking, both abroad and within the United States.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, I am learning about this issue and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery like human trafficking.

In the 114th Congress, unfortunately, the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, H.R. 3226/S. 1968 did not pass. As your constituent, I urge you to put forward and cosponsor similar legislation in this new Congress. It is important that companies make information about their products' supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

I care about this issue because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I believe that we can fight human trafficking—and this legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal. I urge you to cosponsor and support similar legislation in the new Congress.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

\_\_\_\_\_





The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am deeply concerned about child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking, both abroad and within the United States.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, I am learning about this issue and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery like human trafficking.

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I care about this issue because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I believe that we can fight human trafficking—and this legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal. I urge you to cosponsor and support similar legislation in the new Congress.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

\_\_\_\_\_





The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to thank you for cosponsoring the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, S. 1968/H.R. 3226 in the 114th Congress. As your constituent, I appreciate your taking this stand to help stop the use of slave labor, forced labor and child labor in the products I purchase.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, I am learning about this issue, and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery like human trafficking.

As you know, human trafficking is an affront to human dignity. Pope Francis says, “Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation like human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain.” We, as consumers, also have the right to know how the products we purchase were produced. Pope Francis calls on all of us to have “the awareness that ‘purchasing is always a moral—and not simply an economic—act.’”

As Congress moves into its 115th session, we urge you to reintroduce and cosponsor legislation that will support transparency in business supply chains. You can be instrumental in helping to ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery or human trafficking. I believe that we can fight human trafficking, and your support in bringing forward this type of legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal.

Thank you, again, for cosponsoring this important legislation!

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

\_\_\_\_\_



## Cosponsors

### BUSINESS SUPPLY CHAIN BILL

The following senators and representatives are cosponsors of the business supply chain bill. If any of them represent your district or state, please thank them using the letter on page 10, or the [Senate](#) or [House](#) member thank-you email. For the most up-to date information, please visit the [Library of Congress](#).

#### ARIZONA

Representative Raul Grijalva  
Representative Kyrsten Sinema

#### CALIFORNIA

Representative Ted Lieu  
Representative Zoe Lofgren  
Representative Julia Brownley

#### CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Representative James Himes

#### GEORGIA

Representative John Lewis

#### DC

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton

#### IOWA

Representative David Loebsack

#### INDIANA

Representative Andre Carson

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Edward Markey  
Representative Michael Capuano

#### MICHIGAN

Representative Daniel Kildee

#### MINNESOTA

Senator Al Franken  
Representative Betty McCollum  
Representative Keith Ellison

#### NEW JERSEY

Representative Chris Smith  
Representative Leonard Lance

#### NEW YORK

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Representative Carolyn Maloney  
Representative Nita Lowey  
Representative Nydia Velazquez

#### OREGON

Representative Earl Blumenauer

#### RHODE ISLAND

Representative David Cicilline

#### WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin  
Representative Gwen Moore