



\*\*\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\*

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## ILLINOIS HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM

*Human rights leaders and lawmakers gather to urge action against modern-day slavery  
and for Trafficking Victims Protection Act reauthorization*

**CHICAGO, Ill.** (September 14, 2011) – Just weeks after Chicago police exposed a significant child sex trafficking ring, local and global leaders in the fight against modern-day slavery and sex trafficking will gather to speak to the urgency of the fastest-growing and second-largest<sup>1</sup> criminal industry in the world today.

### What:

International Justice Mission, in partnership with Illinois lawmakers, human rights experts and community leaders, will host an Illinois human trafficking forum to engage the community on some of the most pressing human trafficking matters in Illinois, the United States and around the world, and the vital need for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)'s reauthorization.

### Who:

- U.S. Congressman Peter Roskam (IL-6<sup>th</sup>)
- Holly Burkhalter, Vice President of Government Relations, International Justice Mission
- Child sex trafficking survivor, DreamCatcher Foundation
- Lynne Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church (Moderator)

The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), the Salvation Army's STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking, the Salvation Army Partnership to Rescue our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE), TraffickFree and the DreamCatcher Foundation will co-sponsor this event.

### When:

Monday, September 19, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

### Where:

Park Community Church, Main Auditorium  
1001 N. Crosby Chicago, IL 60610

### About International Justice Mission

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global human rights organization that brings immediate relief to victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. Since 2005, IJM has assisted more than 9,000 individuals, many of whom were victims of forced labor slavery or sex trafficking. A multi-national team of lawyers and law enforcement professionals conduct criminal investigations and collect evidence to relieve victims and bring perpetrators to justice, and IJM social workers secure appropriate aftercare for victims of abuse. IJM's multi-national staff work in 13 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to ensure that the global poor are protected from violent forms of oppression by their countries' own laws.

### About the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking, with a significant focus on the international dimension of the problem. The law provided a three-pronged approach: prevention through public awareness programs overseas and a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program; protection for victims in the U.S., including a new T Visa, which allows trafficking victims to remain in the U.S. if they agree to testify against their perpetrators, and prosecution through newly designated federal crimes. The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005, and 2008. Each time the bill was reauthorized, innovations and improvements were added to the solid structure provided by the original TVPA of 2000. The bill is due for a fourth reauthorization before December, 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2009). Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking. Retrieved January 21, 2010 from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact\\_human.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_human.html)