



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 13, 2024

CONTACT: Kathy Dempsey, NAC Communications & Advocacy Consultant OR

Waed Al-Nimri, AEHT Communications Director

Thrilled with Overwhelming (414-11) & Bipartisan Passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

"I am so grateful for the overwhelming bipartisan support demonstrated by the swift passage of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023," said **Katie Boller Gosewisch**, the Executive Director of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking. "We are deeply committed to cutting through the complexities of trafficking and migration, driving forward systemic reforms."

"This bill is foundational to addressing root causes of forced migration which will reduce the numbers of children and adults who come face to face with labor and sex trafficking in the United States," said **Fran Eskin-Royer**, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. "Congress is not always a house divided. The House of Representatives has just shown that the dignity of the human person can take priority. In particular, I commend Chairman Chris Smith of New Jersey who has spent his career in Congress giving voice and hope to many, including those who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked."

The Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd have been working together to identify and then advocate for a multi-pronged legislative strategy to break the link between human trafficking and forced migration. The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 5856) is a critical piece of legislation offering systemic solutions to cut traffickers' supply lines by eliminating the root causes and helping migrants remain in their home countries. It focuses on providing international humanitarian assistance in food security, housing, employment, education, and healthcare in those local communities.

About AEHT and NAC:

AEHT and NAC are dedicated to eradicating human trafficking through advocacy, collaboration, and education. They work tirelessly to bring awareness to the issue and support legislative measures that protect and empower the most vulnerable in society.

<u>Alliance to End Human Trafficking</u> was founded in 2013 by a group of Catholic Sisters committed to ending human trafficking and supporting survivors. They created a national network of resources and support that includes many different congregations of women religious and mission-aligned partners. Today, this member-based organization has grown to include more than 115 congregations and another 100+ individuals and organizations spread throughout the United States. AEHT is also the U.S. member of Talitha Kum, the international network of consecrated life working to end human trafficking.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations. NAC reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

###