



MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: May 31, 2024

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Hill Briefing:

Human Trafficking / Forced Migration and the Legislation that Can Break the Link

The [Alliance to End Human Trafficking](#) (AEHT) and the [National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd](#) (NAC) seek attainable bi-partisan solutions to reduce human trafficking in the U.S. through diminishing root causes of migration, protecting unaccompanied children, and speeding up asylum seekers' access to work. These two faith-based networks are hosting a briefing on Capitol Hill at 9:30 am on Thursday, June 6 titled "Breaking the Link Between Human Trafficking and Forced Migration."

AEHT and NAC are pleased to announce Honorary Co-Chairs for the briefing are Congressman Dan Goldman (D-NY-10) and Congresswoman Maria Salazar (R-FL-27) and are grateful for their support and active concern for people endangered by human trafficking.

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Human Trafficking / Forced Migration and the Legislation that Can Break the Link

Thursday, June 6, 2024 | 9:30 -11:00 am

2045 Rayburn House Office Building

Q&A included | media interview availability following briefing

"The Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd joined together last year to focus on the increasingly clear link between human trafficking and forced migration," said **Katie Boller Gosewisch, Executive Director of AEHT**. "At a time when a record number of people are on the move, the United States is underprepared to address the threat human traffickers pose to those forced to leave their homes. According to the State Department over 70 percent of people trafficked in the U.S. are immigrants. They are at risk all along their journey, in their home countries, along their route, at the border and in the United States."

"There is widespread consensus on the urgent need to combat human trafficking, but there is little understanding of systemic, root causes, like forced migration, and the need to address the

U.S. policies that may inadvertently facilitate the exploitation of migrants and immigrants by traffickers,” said **Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of NAC**. “Looking at where our two organizations could affect change and break a few links between human trafficking and forced migration, we selected three discreet areas with legislative solutions already proposed. (1) Help people be safe and be able to support themselves in their home countries and thus avoid the dangerous journey altogether. (2) Improve immigration proceedings for unaccompanied children and be a formal process to combat human trafficking. (3) Speed up the process of allowing asylum seekers to find legal work so that they do not languish and become victims of trafficking.”

AEHT and NAC believe that legislation currently pending in the 118th Congress is a good starting point.

- **Senate passage of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023 ([H.R. 5856](#) – *overwhelmingly passed (414-11) in the House Feb. 13, 2024*). The seminal legislation includes provisions to address the realities that lead to forced migration, a root cause of human trafficking.** While some people need to migrate in search of safety and security, AEHT and NAC believe that they should not be forced from their homes by circumstances beyond their control. The organizations are advocating Senate passage of H.R. 5856 with its provisions for U.S. aid for sustainable development and humanitarian assistance for food security, housing, employment, education and health care in local communities. These provisions would enable migrants to avoid undertaking the treacherous journey to the United States.
- **Passage of the Immigration Court Efficiency and Children’s Court Act of 2023 ([H.R. 6145](#) and [S. 3178](#)).** These bills would assist unaccompanied children, including those in need of protection from trafficking, as they navigate the complex U.S. immigration system. One of the most important aspects of the legislation is that it ensures trained “eyes” on unaccompanied children in the U.S. This assurance will lessen the chance that these children fall through the cracks and become prey to bad actors who might step in as ‘sponsors’ or ‘guardians’ only to exploit them for labor, sex, or other nefarious purposes.
- **Rapid work authorization for asylum seekers ([H.R. 1325](#)).** The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide employment authorization for asylum applicants (provided they are not in detention and the application is not determined “frivolous”) 30 days after their filing of the asylum application. NAC and AEHT know first-hand how often the inability to work leaves people desperate and ripe for exploitation. We are advocating for an improved process for asylum applicants seeking to work in the United States.

By working from these different angles and with different collaborative partners, AEHT and NAC are convinced that we can better protect migrants from the threat of human trafficking.

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.

[Alliance to End Human Trafficking](#) 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.

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