

# INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION®

*Advocacy Summit 2013: June 10-11*



## Talking Points for Lobby Meetings with Senate and House Offices

### **Connection: Introduce yourself and the people in your group.**

Say where you live, and share briefly why you care about trafficking and slavery. Let them know you are there to discuss the issue of U.S. leadership in the fight against modern-day slavery, and that you'd like to focus on two specific areas:

1. The importance of targeted “focus country” investment, and
2. The important role of the State Department Trafficking in Persons Office.

### **Context: Provide a brief overview of the problem.**

- There are an estimated 27 million slaves worldwide, which is more than any other time in history, including all four hundred years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- The good news is that **it is actually possible to combat this crime successfully**. There are dozens of proven anti-trafficking models around the world that have rescued and restored victims, brought perpetrators of slavery to justice, and protected whole communities by deterring trafficking and slavery. [*Show staff the successful models white paper.*]
  - **International Justice Mission**, for example, has worked closely with the government of the Philippines and Cambodia to significantly reduce the availability of minor girls for commercial sexual exploitation. [*Show staff the Cambodia Daily article in their leave-behind folder. You may also choose to show staff the “Transformation in Cambodia” video.*]
  - In India, an investment from **Google** allowed IJM to expand its casework on bonded labor slavery from nine to 50 districts, freeing more than 900 people in ten months. [*You may choose to show staff the “Successful Anti-Slavery Models in India” video.*]
  - **World Vision, Free the Slaves and Solidarity Center** have all worked on successful models as well, from Haiti to Sri Lanka to Lesotho.
- In 2013, the **Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act** passed with a provision that authorized **Child Protection Compacts**. These would be multi-year, targeted funding for countries that have the will to combat child trafficking but lack capacity. This kind of

approach allows U.S. government funding to go deep in a specific region to develop successful models that demonstrate measurable progress. By partnering with foreign governments, the U.S. can leverage its diplomatic pressure as a leader in the fight against human trafficking, while also providing resources for countries to build capacity and improve.

### **Commitment: Supporting Focus-Country Investment**

**I know this is not the appropriations season, but since I have this opportunity to be with you in person, I want to deliver the message that I fully support U.S. investment in replicating and scaling up successful models, and I hope your office will as well.**

**The Trafficking in Persons Office (J/TIP) should be given additional resources to replicate and scale up successful anti-trafficking models. The Office's budget of only \$25 million to help governments eradicate slavery around the world is carefully spent, but not nearly what is needed to build judicial systems that can put traffickers in jail and eradicate slavery.** *[You may choose to show the staff the "TIP Grants Save Lives" video.]*

### **Context:**

- The second issue I'd like to talk to you about, which is related, is the importance of the Trafficking in Persons Office (J/TIP) in leading the U.S. fight against slavery internationally. In 2000, Congress authorized the creation of this office at the State Department to publish an annual report that ranks 180 countries on the basis of how well they're addressing human trafficking and slavery issues within their own borders. Through the annual TIP Report, the U.S. is able to leverage its diplomatic leadership on human trafficking to pressure countries to improve their efforts to fight the crime.
- Congress also authorized the TIP Office in order to directly assist the Secretary of State in his or her effort to coordinate the U.S. government inter-agency response to trafficking in persons abroad. But because the TIP Office is an office and not a bureau, the Ambassador who directs the Office does not have direct access to the Secretary because of its position on the organizational chart. The Ambassador and his staff are our government's leading experts on slavery, but they are currently left out of important conversations.

For example, when anti-trafficking "tier rankings" are determined for the TIP Report, political considerations sometimes outweigh the facts about a country's anti-trafficking performance. IJM's Vice President of Government Relations Holly Burkhalter recently published an Op-Ed on this very issue (*Show staff recent Washington Post Op-Ed*)

- We understand that sometimes anti-slavery concerns may have to take a back seat to other U.S. interests. But the State Department office that is most expert on modern-day slavery

should at least have a seat at the table where important decisions are made. This office speaks up for the most marginalized people on the planet—their voice needs to be as powerful as it can possibly be.

**Commitment: Make the TIP Office to a State Department Bureau**

- **Please support the Trafficking in Persons Office being upgraded to a State Department Bureau so that it can do the job Congress intended even more successfully.**
- **For House meetings: Ask your Representative to cosponsor H.R.2283, the “Human Trafficking Prioritization Act.”**
  - House offices can join as co-sponsors of HR2283 by contacting Alison Hollabaugh with Congressman Chris Smith.
- **For Senate meetings: Senator Blumenthal will be introducing a companion bill soon. (Show the text). These bills upgrade the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) to a State Department Bureau.**
  - Interested Senate offices can contact Jenna Spinks in Senator Richard Blumenthal’s office.

**Catapult: Leave on a positive note, and establish a clear plan.**

- Thank the member of Congress or aide for their time.
- Establish a clear follow-up plan and timeline. “May I check back with you in a couple weeks?” Is there any additional information you can provide that would be helpful?