

## VIRTUAL 2021 Shine the Light Human Trafficking Conference

Dear Colleagues,

Please remember to come to our VIRTUAL 2021 Shine the Light Human Trafficking Conference: Root Causes and Intersections on Human Trafficking. The conference, which is free of charge, will be held over **two afternoons, March 8 (12noon to 3:00 pm EST), and March 9 (12noon to 1:30 pm EST)**. We also are organizing a Call-to-Action Day on Trafficking for March 9.

Register at <http://bit.ly/2021traffickingconference>

Building on the success of our previous in-person Human Trafficking Conferences in 2018 and 2019, this year's participants will hear from survivors, service providers and other experts. An additional advocacy panel will share easy and ongoing actions that can be taken to combat trafficking.

In the spirit of bi-partisanship, we welcome our Congressional Honorary Co-Chairs, Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA).

Our co-sponsors this year are the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team, the U.S. Coalition of Sisters Against Human Trafficking, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Office of Migration and Refugee Services.

**Monday, March 8, 12:00 – 3:00 pm EST & Tuesday, March 9, 12:00 – 1:30 pm EST**

Advance registration required

Register online or call 301-622-6838

**There is no fee for the conference**

On Day 1, we will begin with an overview of human trafficking that speaks to the various root causes. Panel presentations on both sex and labor trafficking with domestic and international components will follow. On Day 2, we will focus on advocacy campaigns and how all of us can make a difference. Additional details are available on our Conference webpage (<https://www.gsadvocacy.org/human-trafficking-conference.html>).

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to engage in Q&A with panelists both days.

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Confirmed speakers include Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley; Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS, United Nations Representative for the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Diana Fimbres, Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives on Labor Trafficking, Polaris; Sr. Christine Truong, RGS, MSW, ACSW, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Services Atlanta; Hilary Chester, PhD, Associate Director, Anti-Trafficking Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Lawrence Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Jennifer Reyes Lay, Executive Director, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking; Sr. Ann Scholz, SSND, PhD, Associate Director for Social Mission Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Scott Wright, Director, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach; and current Members of Congress. As in past conferences, trafficking survivors with their powerful stories will be pivotal contributors to the day.

Please register at <http://bit.ly/2021traffickingconference> or by calling the National Advocacy Center at 301- 622-6838.

We also encourage you to spread the word – share this invitation with your colleagues and networks.

If you would like further information, please reach out to Fran Eskin-Royer ([associatedirector@gsadvocacy.org](mailto:associatedirector@gsadvocacy.org)) or me ([nacdirector@gsadvocacy.org](mailto:nacdirector@gsadvocacy.org)). Thank you.

Larry

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"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." – John Lewis