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# January 9, 2009: Sanchez Statement on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Grove), Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, issued the following statement for the record on the second annual National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2009.

Below is the full text of her statement.

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January 9, 2009

Rep. Loretta Sanchez:

Madame Speaker,

I rise today to recognize the second annual National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2009. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, and the largest manifestation of slavery today. It continues to be a multi-dimensional threat that deprives people of their human rights and dignity.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking is now the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. About 80% of transnational victims are women, girls and up to 50% are minors. It is vital that the United States continue to expand our efforts to combat trafficking both within and beyond our own borders.

I am very proud that in my district, a number of agencies, including law enforcement, victims service providers, and community organizations have joined together to form the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. I hope that more local communities will stand together to protect every person's right to be free from forced marriage, prostitution, and labor.

Each of us has a responsibility to fight human trafficking and slavery. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and working to stop human trafficking around the world.

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