



## CALL TO ACTION: UNITED STATES LOCAL & STATE REPRESENTATIVES

August 17, 2023

On February 27, 2023 the National Association of Attorneys General sent a critical letter<sup>1</sup> to congressional leaders, declaring an issue detected with the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), which is hosted by Polaris Project. The letter drafted was a bipartisan submission on behalf of 36 state and territory attorneys general. The issue at hand is the lack of cooperation between the NHTH and law enforcement in sharing crime tips related to human trafficking.

As an initial course of action since this letter was sent to congressional leadership, there has since been a bipartisan bill<sup>2</sup> proposed by Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL) and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL) called the “Human Trafficking Hotline Enhancement Act”. This proposed legislation would call for those that contract with the NHTH to relay crime tips to local and state law enforcement to aid in any investigation for human trafficking crime and victim recovery.

Through the upstart of Counter Trafficking Alliance, it was important for our organization to have a vision and a mission for the anti-trafficking industry. For us to realize what this was, we had to assess the industry for how it stood at that point in time. We considered many elements, but one that recurrently brought up by front-line anti-trafficking ministries/non-profits were the lack of resources available to victims and survivors of human trafficking.

This directed our attention to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Their mission is advertised and perceived to the public to be the beacon of help and resources for trafficking victims. After a 2-year long review<sup>3</sup> we detected: fiscal discrepancies, data concerns, caller grievances, former employee complaints, possible conflicts of interest, and more—all these at the expense of tax-payer dollars. We surface these issues to you with urgency. These critical elements affect the way human trafficking victims are recovered and cared for.

As we all know, human trafficking is a modern-day epidemic. Time, resources, and money misappropriated negatively impacts victims and survivors in their recovery. As such, we call upon an immediate, full-scale investigation launched into the National Human Trafficking Hotline and release the general details of the investigation’s findings to U.S. citizens.

Counter Trafficking Alliance Leadership

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1. <https://www.naag.org/press-releases/attorneys-general-call-on-congress-to-improve-federal-state-cooperation-to-end-human-trafficking/>

2. <https://laurellee.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-laurel-lee-introduces-human-trafficking-hotline-enhancement-act>

3. <https://countertraffickingalliance.com/watchdog/polaris-project-profile>