

City and County of San Francisco
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Theresa Sparks
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Department on the Status of Women and San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT) to Host Press Conference to Kick-Off Human Trafficking Awareness Month 2015

Special Guests & Speakers include: Melinda Haag, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of CA, SF District Attorney George Gascon, SFPD Chief Greg Suhr, SF Supervisor Katy Tang, and other top City Officials

Event will also honor recipients of the 2015 Modern-Day Abolitionist Award

(San Francisco) The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) in conjunction with the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT), are pleased to partner in a joint press conference at San Francisco's City Hall to "kick-off" the City's annual awareness campaign in observance of ***Human Trafficking Awareness Month 2015 on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 11:00am, Room 408.***

This annual campaign was formally recognized by San Francisco leaders in 2010 and runs each year between January 11 (National Human Trafficking Awareness Day) and February 12 (Abraham Lincoln's birthday).

Speakers and special guests at this year's press conference will include: Melinda Haag, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of CA, SF District Attorney George Gascon, SFPD Chief Greg Suhr, SF Supervisor Katy Tang and Diana Oliva-Aroche, Director of Violence Prevention, Mayor's Office and other top City officials and members from law enforcement who will discuss their departments' priorities in combatting human trafficking. Additional speakers scheduled to participate include Supervisor Norman Yee, Tatum S. King, Acting Special Agent in Charge, ICE HSI San Francisco, John Kramar, Director, San Francisco District Office, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, DHS, Jack Jaqua, Co-Founder, Omega Boys Club, Julie Soo, Co-Chair, SFCaHT and Commissioner, San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, and Nancy Goldberg, Co-Chair, SFCaHT and Steering Committee Member, Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking.

The press conference will also recognize and honor the recipients of the 2015 "Modern-Day Abolitionist Award", which is an award given out each year to Bay Area leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to creating a local and global community that values human life and abhors practices that deny a person's right to live a life free from violence, exploitation, and slavery. This year's award recipients include:

- **SFCaHT's 2015 Modern Day Abolitionist Award for Government Policy - Emily Murase, Executive Director, SF Department on the Status of Women**
- **SFCaHT's 2015 Modern Day Abolitionist Award for Advocacy - Sharan Dhanoa, Coordinator of the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking**
- **SFCaHT's 2015 Modern Day Abolitionist Award for Education - Benita Hopkins, Director of Education, Love Never Fails**

In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, SFCaHT members will also be holding various events to raise awareness about human trafficking in the Bay Area. A calendar of these events can be found online at www.sfcaht.org.

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www.sf-hrc.org



SFCAHT was launched as a joint effort by the HRC, DOSW and the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking (JCEHT) in January 2010. Today, it has a membership of over 20 agencies representing a broad array of nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, service providers, educators, and community members. SFCAHT is committed to ending human trafficking through collaboration, education, outreach, advocacy, and supporting survivors of human trafficking by taking a zero tolerance stance on exploitation, violence, and human trafficking and building a strong group of anti-trafficking advocates and experts in San Francisco.

For more information about this event or SFCAHT, please visit www.sfcaht.org or contact Linda Janourova-Tang at ljanourova@gmail.com.

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