



EXODUS  CRY



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

October 2, 2017

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chair  
U.S. House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Ranking Member  
U.S. House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner and Ranking Member Jackson Lee:

On behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), Exodus Cry, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), Shared Hope International, and Survivors for Solutions, we write to protest the absence of any survivor voice, or parent of a minor survivor, at the Subcommittee's October 3 hearing on H.R.1865, *Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (FOSTA)*.

Together, we represent service providers caring for victims of human trafficking, anti-trafficking policy experts, and survivor leaders who know, first hand, the extensive harm experienced by vulnerable people sold and exploited by traffickers using online platforms.

What makes this legislation especially critical is its power to **help prevent brutality, rape, and murder—all real crimes perpetrated with impunity online** under the current legal regime as interpreted by numerous courts.

This blanket immunity for Internet service providers is just a theoretical problem until you listen to survivors. Survivors and their families demonstrate how common online sex trafficking is, how devastating it is, and how impossible it is to gain access to justice today.

The deeply adverse and pervasive physical and psychological impact of human trafficking is well documented in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> In addition, we must underline that human trafficking

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalcenturion.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/The-Health-Consequences-of-Sex-Trafficking.pdf>

disproportionately impacts women and children of color, as well as the poor and homeless in our communities.<sup>2</sup>

We stand by, ready to provide your Subcommittee with evidence of the life-crushing reality of online sex trafficking and to introduce you to survivor voices, which have been inexplicably excluded from the hearing.

Sincerely,

*Taina Bien-Aimé*

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*Benjamin Nolot*

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US Congress 1995-99  
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Shared Hope International  
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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.essence.com/culture/gabrielle-union-op-ed-human-trafficking-women-girls-color>