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## **U.S. Department of State Releases 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report**

ATLANTA, GA (August 3, 2015) -- On July 27, the U.S. Department of State released the annual 2015 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The TIP Report seeks to engage foreign governments on the issue of human trafficking. It provides a comprehensive assessment of governmental anti-trafficking efforts, as well as recommendations for future steps for States to prevent trafficking. The TIP Report analyzes all forms of trafficking in persons, including sex trafficking and forced labor.

This year's report focuses on the role of human trafficking in the global marketplace. It assesses the risks workers may encounter when seeking employment and steps that governments can take to prevent trafficking, such as encouraging transparency in global supply chains. According to the 2015 TIP Report, workers in the global supply chain are often exploited through debt manipulation, contract fraud, and document switching. When large numbers of workers migrate to a particular area for employment, such as agriculture or mining, the incidence of sex trafficking in those areas may increase. Traffickers may advertise jobs directly related to the primary industry and then force the recruits into prostitution. This correlation has been well documented in the global extractive mining industry. For example, service providers in areas near large American oil-extracting facilities, such as the Bakken Fields in North Dakota, report that sex traffickers are exploiting women in the area, including Native American women (2015 TIP Report, 19).

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines human trafficking as inducing a person "to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any person under age 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present." The most vulnerable populations to human trafficking in the United States include youth involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as runaway and homeless youth (2015 TIP Report, 352). Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation can target youth throughout the state of Georgia, especially ones lacking stable support systems. Georgia Cares' mission is to serve child sex trafficking victims in the state of Georgia, with the goal of seeing victims restored to health, safety, and well-being. We invite you to partner with us as we work to eradicate modern day slavery, and stand with us as we continue to support victims on their journey to restoration. To learn more about how you can serve Georgia Cares and become an advocate for child victims of sex trafficking, click [here](#). To access the full text of the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, click [here](#).

### **About Georgia Cares**

*Georgia Cares is the single, statewide coordinating agency to connect services and treatment care for victims of child sex trafficking. Through research informed practices and evidence based assessments, the organization coordinates services to meet all needs and dimensions of a child's wellbeing. Staff follow a victim throughout their process of treatment and recovery to lead healthy, successful lives as productive members of society. Visit [www.gacares.org](http://www.gacares.org) to learn more about Georgia Cares.*