



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Department on the Status
of Women

INTRODUCING
THE SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Month-long Awareness Campaign and Kick-off Event

On January 11, 2010, the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking will hold a press conference at City Hall in San Francisco to announce its innovative collaboration and to introduce a month-long awareness campaign. **The campaign will begin on January 11, 2010, International Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and end on February 12, 2010, Abraham Lincoln's birthday.** Activities will include a panel discussion by service providers, film screening and additional events. Please visit the "*San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking*" link in the "*Highlights*" section of the San Francisco's Human Rights Commission's website (<http://www.sf-hrc.org>) for more information about the awareness campaign (the full link is available at: <http://www.sf-hrc.org/index.aspx?page=58>).

The State Department estimates that 14,500-17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year for involuntary servitude or modern-day slavery. Home to a large international port, San Francisco is a major transit point for traffickers, where trafficked individuals have allegedly been discovered working on the Bay Bridge, selling their bodies for sex and cooking in hazardous conditions.

The problem of human trafficking is exacerbated due to inadequate rehabilitation services for rescued victims, making victims vulnerable to re-exploitation. Upon rescue, victims need medical, psychological and legal services as well as housing and food. While service providers who traditionally assist the immigrant, domestic violence, and the homeless populations reach out to assist victims of human trafficking, they receive limited funding to support this work from government sources.

The complex problem of identifying, rescuing and rehabilitating victims and prosecuting traffickers requires a diverse group of committed government officials, civil society representatives, service providers, enforcement officers and the entire community. For this important reason, the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT), a collaborative of nonprofits and governmental agencies, was formed. SFCaHT is working to enable collaboration, the distribution of information, and the joint promotion of important abolitionist work.

If you would like more information about SFCaHT or the situation of human trafficking in San Francisco, please contact Kristie Miller at SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation), 415-358-2716 or Lenore Anderson at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, 415-553-1189.