

# COALITION TO ABOLISH SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING

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## TESTIMONY OF KAY G. BUCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) thanks the Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness of the Committee on Government Reform of the United States House of Representatives for this opportunity to supplement the record regarding its role in providing necessary resources to victims of human trafficking. I, Kay Buck, as Executive Director of CAST provide the following testimony:

On October 29, 2003, Janice G. Raymond presented testimony to this Subcommittee. At the hearing entitled, "The Ongoing Tragedy Of International Slavery And Human Trafficking: An Overview," Dr. Raymond made unsubstantiated statements that "CAST" is a "well-known, pro-'sex work'" advocate and that it supports "prostitution as work," "decriminalization of the sex industry," and "prostitution as an employment choice." To the contrary, her characterization of CAST is inaccurate. Equally troubling is that Dr. Raymond made no attempt to communicate with anyone at CAST to confirm her perceptions.

To set the record straight, please be advised that Dr. Raymond's characterization of CAST as an organization that supports the legalization of prostitution is simply incorrect. To be more specific, myself and the Board of Directors of CAST verify that CAST has not and does not support "prostitution as work", "decriminalization of the sex industry", "prostitution as an employment choice", "pro-'sex work' advocacy," or the "legalization of prostitution" in any way, shape or form. CAST has always and will continue to combat human trafficking, in all of its forms, as defined by § 103(8) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000:

(A) sex trafficking<sup>1</sup> in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

(B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Pub. L. No. 106-386, Division A, 114 Stat. 1464 (2000).

We have communicated both telephonically and in writing with Dr. Raymond in order to correct her unsubstantiated beliefs about CAST on the issue of the legalization of prostitution. Irrespective, however, of Dr. Raymond's ultimate beliefs about CAST's view on this matter, the higher imperative is that the information provided to this Subcommittee and reflected in the Congressional Record accurately describes CAST's core mission and outlines the official views of

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<sup>1</sup> § 103 (9) provides "[t]he term 'sex trafficking' means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act."

CAST on the issue of sex trafficking. Thus, as indicated above, we appreciate your willingness to allow us to provide this information to this Subcommittee.

Since its inception in 1998, CAST has been the first and only organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to assisting all victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery and working towards ending all instances of such human rights violations. CAST's activities are interconnected by a client-centered approach that seeks to empower trafficked victims to fully realize their individual potential while advancing the human rights of all trafficked persons, including victims of sex trafficking, domestic worker trafficking, and garment worker trafficking, to name a few. As detailed below, CAST's model program areas include intensive case management and counseling to trafficking victims, providing basic needs to victims such as food, housing, and medical care, human rights advocacy and policy reform, research and training, and public education and community organizing.

*CAST provides comprehensive human services to trafficked persons* who need shelter, food, medical and mental health care, legal services, ESL training and jobs. The case management arm of CAST also provides coordination and individual legal advocacy in tandem with local and federal government agencies working to prosecute criminal cases against traffickers and provide other victim services.

*CAST conducts policy advocacy focused on protecting and advancing the human rights of trafficked persons.* This effort is directly informed by research and the actual experiences of CAST's trafficked clients both inside and outside the criminal justice system. CAST also provides training to government and non-government organizations that may come into contact with trafficked persons. CAST has provided training on how to serve trafficking victims to over 2000 individuals from government agencies, law enforcement and non-governmental organizations.

*CAST seeks to promote the dignity and freedom of trafficked persons* through community organizing and public awareness. Public speaking and media advocacy efforts seek to highlight the courage and resilient spirit of trafficked people and recognize them as contributing members of the community.

In the over 200 cases of trafficking and slavery CAST has been involved either through direct service or as a consultant, CAST has worked extensively with the following United States government agencies to assist all trafficked persons as they cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers:

- a. Department of Justice,
- b. Immigration and Naturalization Service/Department of Homeland Security,
- c. Federal Bureau of Investigation,
- d. Department of Labor,
- e. Many other law enforcement agencies.

We complement the good work of this Subcommittee in its exploration of human trafficking and look forward to continuing to work with members of this Subcommittee and the United States Congress to jointly rid the world of human trafficking in all of its forms.

Sincerely,

Kay Buck