

# NEWS

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## Action Group Applauds Release of “The True Cost of Shrimp”

*Washington, DC* – The Action Group to End Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery today applauded the release of a report on human rights and worker abuses in the international seafood industry called “The True Cost of Shrimp,” authored by the Solidarity Center, a coalition member organization.

"We applaud the Solidarity Center for releasing this report, which will shed light on the role of human trafficking and modern day slavery in supporting a multi-billion-dollar industry that touches all of our lives," said UN Goodwill Ambassador Julia Ormond, member of The Action Group and founder of ASSET "The practices and abuses highlighted by 'The True Cost of Shrimp' will help educate the American public, national lawmakers, and corporate executives about the need to ensure that every step of our supply chains respects the rights of working people everywhere."

"Indeed, 6 years after shrimp surpassed tuna as America's top-selling seafood, how can we countenance that we have more transparency on the humane treatment of dolphins than we do human beings?" asked Alison Friedman, Executive Director of ASSET (Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking).

The Solidarity Center is a member of The Action Group to End Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, a diverse group of organizations whose complimentary areas of leadership and specialization have brought them together to develop an advocacy strategy for abolishing slavery and human trafficking. Last year, the coalition worked with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to recommend amendments to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), which passed on December 4 with overwhelming bipartisan support. The TVPA, first passed in 2000, is the cornerstone legislation that created policies and programs with the aim of combating human trafficking overseas and in the United States.

Important recommendations that were included in the House-passed TVPRA, which will help curb human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, include:

- Authorizing the Executive Branch to establish programs to “prevent and deter” trafficking in persons. This provision suggests focusing on programs that investigate and inspect “private entities, including labor recruitment centers” and programs that provide information to immigrant populations including information about their rights in foreign countries, and establishing hotlines in the native languages of the “major immigrant groups”.
- Encouraging the U.S. Department of State, together with the International Labor Organization and other international organizations, to establish a multilateral framework between labor sending and labor receiving countries to protect migrant workers from human trafficking and worker exploitation.

“The Action Group is committed to these ongoing efforts to ensure justice for the victims of human trafficking and modern day slavery,” said Tom Sheridan, Chair of The Action Group. “We will continue to work with governments and the private sector until they embrace a more active human rights agenda.”

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### Action Group Members

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