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MEDIA ADVISORY ... MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking To Announce New Name, Initiatives

Annual Conference Provides Opportunity To Educate and Collaborate Efforts To End Human Trafficking

WHAT: You are invited to the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Annual Conference, "Breaking Barriers To End Human Trafficking," where an announcement will be made about its new name and initiatives to combat trafficking along with our 10-year anniversary celebration. Workshops will include sextortion, child labor, a legal panel, trauma-informed care, and the Sister Margaret Nacke Bakhita Awards Dinner.

This year's conference marks a 10-year journey for USCSAHT, which started as an inspiration and grew into a nationwide movement that spurred Catholic sisters across the United States into action. USCSAHT is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery.

WHO: <u>U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking</u> has invited its member organizations, sister congregations, local anti-trafficking agencies, university students, and more to attend and learn more about how we may better address this heinous crime.

WHEN: The conference commences on Sept. 28, at 1:30 p.m. EST and concludes on Sept. 30 at 11:45 a.m. The announcement will be made on Sept. 29 at the Awards Dinner at 6:30 p.m. preceded by a Happy Hour Reception at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Double Tree by Hilton Chicago North Shore Conference Center, 9599 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, IL 60077

WHY: Human Trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. It is the second most lucrative and is soon expected to surpass the illegal drug trade. Drugs can be sold once, but people can be sold multiple times, with many victims being sold 15 to 30 times a day.

This is a \$150 billion dollar industry with an estimated 50 million people ensnared in labor and sexual exploitation along with forced marriage. USCSAHT recognizes the need to address this issue in the United States and abroad while collaborating with other organizations to make ending human trafficking a possibility.

HOW: Visit *SistersAgainstTrafficking.org* for more information about the conference and agenda. Join us to learn more, and get access to our founding sisters and our survivor advisory council for interviews. For more information, email christine@sistersagainsttrafficking.org

USCSAHT was founded in 2013 by a group of Catholic Sisters committed to ending human trafficking and supporting survivors. They created a national network of resources and support that includes many different congregations of women religious and mission-aligned partners. Today, this member-based organization has grown to include more than 115 congregations and another 100+ individuals and organizations spread throughout the United States. USCSAHT is also the U.S. member of Talitha Kum, the international network of consecrated life working to end human trafficking.

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