

SLAVERY NO MORE 2012 GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
August 10-11 ~ LOS ANGELES, CA

PANEL: Modern Day Abolitionists

Jocelyn White: Unfortunately we ran out of time for Q and A, so can you please thank them for their presentations. I'm going to go ahead and ask my panelists to join me up here on stage. As they make their way up here, I know *California Against Slavery* has a raffle going on for their next walk. I think if you go visit their table they have more information on that. Also in your packets that you received was a report a crime card. I recommend if you don't have any information in your cell phones stored, I would program those into your phone when you get an opportunity.

This panel will be about what an everyday person can do to abolish slavery? Ordinary people like you and me, people who aren't law enforcement but have a desire to see it ended. I have Ashley Abercrombie, she's the Outreach Director from Oasis. We have Jonathan Slater who is a college student, and Carrie Ngangnang is a Regulatory Operations Specialist. We have Michael Lundberg again, a lawyer from Latham and Watkins, and Kristina Sachs who is a Leadership Development Consultant. Though we would love to break down doors, we can't, so how can everyday people get involved in this movement? I'm going to go ahead and start with you Ashley. Could you share with us how you got started in this work and what you did?

Ashley Abercrombie: The first time I even heard anything about human trafficking was actually through Harmony Dust who you will hear as the Keynote Speaker to close us today. The great thing about being introduced to human trafficking in this way is that it put a very personal touch on it, because she was a friend. Knowing her story made the issue very personal and also very actionable. That's how I first heard about it was through *Treasures*.

Jocelyn White: What was the first thing you did to start doing the abolitionists work?

Ashley Abercrombie: I first started serving on the outreach team. They go out into strip clubs the third Friday of every month. I've been doing that for the last eight years, and I started initially there. Then it branched into many different things, but that's how I started.

Jocelyn White: Jonathan and the rest of the panel can you share with us as well what was the very first thing that you did to get involved?

Jonathan Slater: The first thing that I did was just trying and educate myself about the issue and then try and get connected to a community. When you find out a problem, you want to work towards a solution, but it's a very tough, tough issue. It'll wear on you emotionally, psychologically, and in some cases maybe physically but just trying to have a support network. I got connected with *International Justice Mission*.

Carrie Ngangnang Thank you I first heard about human trafficking in 2008 watching Justin Dillon's documentary *Call + Response*. It was at that time that I began to do my own

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research and really discover what is this human trafficking thing all about. As a Regulatory Operations Specialist for a pharmaceutical company here in Orange County, I regularly go back to Washington D.C. for extremely boring FDA conferences. I happened to be at one of these conferences in 2010, and *International Justice Mission's* headquarters are based conveniently there not far from the FDA. I made a visit there and learned more about the work that they were doing. It wasn't long after that that I, along with Jonathan, started getting involved with *International Justice Mission*.

Michael Lundberg: My first exposure I came back in 2004 when I was working doing undercover investigation in Liberia and was speaking with someone who was working for the U.N. helping to eradicate and shut down some of the brothels in Monrovia. As it turned out a lot of the U.N. officials, the heads of various NGO's in the country, liked to frequent a certain establishment which was trafficking young girls and boys from North African and Eastern Europe. It turns out she was one of the least popular people in town and faced a lot of uphill battles even from within her own network there. I guess one of the first things I did, it wasn't my primary focus, but when I was in New York speaking with people from the Security Council was one of my last messages was by the way there's someone you need to talk to, and you guys have an issue that you need to work out.

So just slipping it in there not as a major argument point but certainly getting on their radar screen. It was always on our radar screen working in that area for years. Now as an attorney also linked up with *International Justice Mission* helping build capacity of their people in the field. That's one of the things we're looking to do both on the investigative side as well as on the lobbying and the advocacy side and doing hopefully some capacity building for local law enforcement and the local judicial processes in these countries where it's a major issue.

Kristina Sachs: I was serving *World Vision* at the time that I was introduced to the human trafficking issue, so its a few years ago. There was a legislative bill called the *Child Protection Compact Act*. I was on a regional leadership team of the *Orange County Chapter of Women of Vision* which is a ministry offshoot of *World Vision*. That was my first introduction to the issues, and the more I uncovered, and the more I got equipped. Then I was asked to be a presenter on Capitol Hill for the issues in Senator Boxer's office.

Over the following two years that unfolded, it's sort of baptism through fire. The more you know the more you realize what you don't know. From that I came under the watchful eye of one of the leaders on staff with *International Justice Mission* and so he asked me to come onboard as a Justice Advocate. I've been involved as a Justice Advocate which is a community educator. I do public speaking, building relationships, nurturing, and yes the topic is messy and slippery. I mention it whenever I can. I'm happy to be here. I've been with *International Justice Mission* now for a year.

Jocelyn White: And we're so happy to have all of you on board. Like most of probably everyone out here who doesn't have the privilege of doing this full time, some of

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you are students; some of you have other jobs. How do you possibly fit doing this work into your schedules?

Carrie Ngangnang: I just bring it into my work. Working for a pharmaceutical company we don't exactly deal with this issue ever, but that's not good enough for me. I just bring it into my office and share with my colleagues. I spend at least 40 hours a week with them. Why not tell them what my heart for justice is especially with this particular issue. I find ways to weave it into whatever my team or my office might be working on. What I find is I have a little moment of fear to bring it up, but as soon as I do, people are always more than willing to learn and to be educated themselves to want to do something about it as well.

Jocelyn White: Jonathan you're a student. You're studying long hours, but I know you serve with *International Justice Mission, California Against Slavery* and some others. How do you possibly fit it all in?

Jonathan Slater: A mixture of things. One of the things that I do for relaxation is watch movies, and even when I watch movies I'll multitask. I'll be doing research about some legislation that's coming up, and I guess I'll make a segway now, because we're talking about legislation. They're some important bills that are going through our California legislature. One of them involves tattoo removal for human trafficking victims. Do you remember the legislative number? It's A, B something. I'll try and get back to you. I know the other one involves as far as posting lookout signs as far as information for victims of human trafficking in certain businesses. I know that's *SB 1193*. One of them involves records as far as like human trafficking that way. Obviously having a criminal record if they're convicted of prostitution. Just having that being stricken. Just removed, because they're victims not obviously perpetrators. To go back to the first thing just multitasking.

Carrie Ngangnang: I think that life seems to happen in seasons, so I've been working in outreach and issues of justice in volunteer work for eight years, and now I work in that field. I think it's seasonal. There's some seasons where the best I could do was financial partnership. There's seasons when I'm able to be down on the ground in the outreach opportunities, but I think above all else, it's about priorities. I've built my life around fighting in justice, so I think when something becomes a priority, when it becomes one of those things where I can't sleep at nighttime unless I'm doing something about these issues, then that's when you're able to fit it into your schedule. Your life is built on your priorities.

Jocelyn White: Great. Some people here have visited all of these exhibitors and are probably going to go home full of opportunities, full of pamphlets and flyers, so what would your suggestions be as far as first steps? How do you pick which one to start with amongst all of the overwhelming materials that we have and opportunities. What are your recommendations in just getting started?

Kristina Sachs: If I can respond to that. I'm in the Orange County area, and one of the most useful organizations that I became involved with was the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. Up here, you've got the Los Angeles Metro. They conduct

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monthly meetings, and there's usually a guest speaker that adds value. It's equipping. It's the networking community here in the Orange County model. That was one of the ways that I became much more aware and sort of exponentially sped up my process, so I could speak into it more. Feel more confident and know who the movers and shakers, so to speak, were in my own area.

These are service providers. They're law enforcement agents. They're law firms. All of those that would come alongside a survivor, and in Orange County, there are about 95 survivors right now in shelters. If you were to envision that person sitting on a chair, there's probably about 12 or 14 people around them that represent their care. That was one of the ways that really got me up to speed and a part of a bigger picture than just myself but not feeling overwhelmed. It is a huge issue, and the collaboration, partnership, teamwork that's a big part of it.

Jocelyn White: Carrie do you want to answer that too?

Carrie Ngangnang: Sure. As you said there are several great organizations represented around the room, and if you are someone who is new to this whole idea of you actually participating in the movement in some way, I would highly encourage you to spend time really seeking out what each one of these groups here represent and what they do. Then take a look at your own self and identify what your own strengths are, your own talents, your resources and see. Maybe just identify one of these organizations that you can take what you have been given and gifted with and help and serve one of those organizations in that way. So really self-identifying what makes you, you and how can you use what you've been given to help come alongside one of the groups that are already doing such a great work.

Jocelyn White: Michael as a law firm that already has their types of cases how does Latham fit in doing this type of work within their casework?

Michael Lundberg: Well I'm very lucky at least in my law firm. We have a very, very strong pro bono program. In fact, there's no cap on the number of hours we can do in pro bono for a year in accounts towards our annual requirement getting towards bonus. In that sense, I'm thankful that my first is sort of putting its money where its mouth is, and that's one of the reasons I picked them.

We also recognize, and it comes in the form as a lawyer, as an auditor, as somebody involved in business, we all have different skill sets that we can add to some of these organizations. It doesn't mean you're going to be running around the country doing an investigation. It may mean that you're in an office saying hey your accounting system has got to get pulled together. You're a mess. Or maybe fundraising making phone calls or helping set a business strategy plan for the organization. Everybody has some way of contributing and for me it may be doing some legal consulting. It may be providing my own life experience from my prior job, but I know that I know nothing about working a spreadsheet. I know nothing about fund raising. I know nothing about making sure that my

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team is auditing its work properly, and that's why at my old NGO we used to bring in volunteers from outside to help with that.

Any amount of time that you can provide and free up somebody in that NGO means they can be out strategizing or doing something in the field. Every dollar that you can donate means they have an extra dollar to provide to do the work they want to do. Any expertise that you can provide means that their job is that much easier and they're going to be that much more effective in trying to achieve what they want to achieve.

Jocelyn White: So often you hear resources. And I heard this statistic that last year Americans spent over \$30 million on Halloween costumes for their dogs, so imagine where that money could have gone to. Where are we going? If you are one of those people, let's talk later. A lot of times finding out what you do, I love what Carrie said, *"It's what she does in finding a way to use it in the context of ending slavery."* Some of the meaningful ways that has come across that we have seen in the Los Angeles Metro Task Force is we had a designer come up to me and say what can I do? This is what I do is there anything that I can do in abolishing slavery? I went up to him and said, "At the L.A. Metro Task Force we're trying to put bench advertisement in focus communities, and we would really love it if a designer would design these for us. Would you take a stab at it?"

He did and Dana who was here earlier this morning told us off of one of those bench ads, there was a report of a tip, and then they actually did an investigation and made an arrest. That was someone that said, this is what I do what can I do? In your bulletins is a sample of all of those benches. We did them in eight different languages, and they're all over California. I just want to thank him publically, because he is here with his wife and doing the designs here. Daniel if you wouldn't mind. I know you're going to hate me for this, but can you stand up and can we all just thank him? Daniel's up there in the media booth.

Often times I think just as everyday people it's seeing the value of the stuff that seems tedious and hard, and you can't see the cause and effect of what we're doing. If one of you can just kind of share the times you get overwhelmed how do you pass and get through that?

Ashley Abercrombie: I think that the number in itself is extremely overwhelming. Like 27 million people are enslaved around the world, and if you think about the number you can get caught underneath the problem. I think again going back to just hearing the story that we heard earlier makes things go okay that's one person, and if you can make it about one then it doesn't seem so overwhelming. The issue is a little bit more personal. To the point that we were talking about bringing strength to organizations, I think sometimes we all want to be like the hero or the front line person or the one who does the rescuing. I think like we do grocery shopping for a home every week that has women and children who have been rescued from trafficking. For us it's like I can grocery shop. That's not hard. That's not overwhelming. I can totally grocery shop. That's an easy thing to do or for *Treasures*, we can stuff gift bags. That's not overwhelming. That's very easy to do, so finding those things that

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make it about the one and then also that support and organization who carries the weight of actually rescuing victims and seeing change or the legislation changing. I think finding those ways keeps it less overwhelming.

Jocelyn White: That's really, really great. Thank you Ashley. Like I said earlier I see the value in what you do. I remember when I started my volunteer work. *International Justice Mission* said we have this piece of legislation that we need lobbying for, and I was someone that knew nothing about legislation, about how the government worked, and it all seemed very overwhelming and hard. I had to do a lot of homework, but someone said I know it's hard, but it's what's needed. A lot of times we have an idea of how we should serve, but sometimes it's listening to the organization saying what is really needed. Being willing to take that risk and step into those places that are hard and are challenging. It is amazing how much you will grow during that whole entire process. Holly from *International Justice Mission* who spoke earlier talked me through every minute of setting up a district meeting and what to say. I was clenching it talking about the *Child Protection Compact Act*, but now just tell me what bill I'm going. It is just quite a journey, but it's worth the journey.

I'm going to ask one final question if you all can give a short answer for what are you most excited about right now about doing your advocacy work?

Carrie Ngangngang: Personally I'm the most excited about collaboration. The panel earlier where we got to see a nonprofit organization, police officers. That to me is the most exciting thing I think. Media, social media makes us more connected than ever, so collaboration is huge.

Jonathan Slater: To go off of that collaboration and the future. We have an election coming up. Proposition 35's going to be on the ballot in California. Remember to vote yes on that in November. Also, *International Justice Mission's* having an advocacy day on Wednesday August 15th. I feel like things are right around the corner. Something big's about to happen.

Carrie Ngangngang: For me ten years ago, I worked with families living in motels in Costa Mesa. This was before I knew about the problems of human trafficking and modern day slavery, and I saw it at the motel then and didn't know that that's what I was seeing. I have now recently in the last six months or so gotten back involved at that same motel in Costa Mesa. I see signs of potential human trafficking everywhere. What I am most excited about right now is what is stirring in that place and the good work that can be done to help prevent our young girls living at this motel from entering into a life of prostitution. And to prevent these young men, teenage boys from becoming pimps and getting into that to begin with, so I am very excited about the possibilities of the work of prevention that can be done at this motel.

Michael Lundberg: I'm excited, because I have a pocket full, like 15 or 20 new business cards, of people who I want to be in contact with and network with and who I already have in the back of mind that they need to be introduced to X,Y, and Z, because I think they have a

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skill set that they can add to them or vice versa. Really it just comes down to making a couple of phone calls. You go through your personal rolodex. I don't have to donate 15 hours. If I can make a 15 minutes phone call and put two people in contact, someone's got a new donor. Somebody has a new contact that can help me to do some work for them or some advocacy work for them. That's all it takes sometimes, so I'm excited about that.

Kristina Sachs: I love that theme of connections, and I'm also going to piggyback onto what Jonathan had to say. In Orange County we have set up some in district meetings, so our advocacy days run a couple more day during the week. I just got confirmation that we'll be seeing Senator Feinstein's legislative assistant, so some of you may have gotten word about that and assemblymen and congress people. I'm excited in that area. One other thing I'd like to mention. I've heard in one of the seminars, workshops, summits, global gatherings that I've been to that *"If you have ten minutes or you have ten days or you have ten years, whatever it is your capability of investing that you make a difference."*

The other thing I'd like to share is as Jocelyn was talking about how do you get through? How do you feel encouraged? How do you handle the volume of this? *International Justice Mission* is a faith based organization, so we come to prayer. Every day at 11:00AM in the headquarters office, I have also visited, and they'll come together. They'll pray for the global movements that they have and the offices and they'll pray for each of the individuals that are staffed there. There's great power in that.

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