

2622 Hemel Dr.
Pella, IA 50219
January 5, 2017

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing this letter on behalf of human trafficking victims and their families all over the world in order to put an end to this horrific crime. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that forces people into labor or sexual exploitation. It is a very difficult crime to stop, because the majority of trafficked victims do not come forward due to fear of the traffickers or even fear of law enforcement. The pain and suffering that human trafficking causes victims needs to stop. A human being should never, under any circumstance, be sold for money. Human trafficking deprives people of the right to choose what they want to do with their life.

Current estimates suggest that there are 45.8 million people involved in human trafficking throughout the world today. Not only are there a lot of people involved in human trafficking, but there are also a lot of countries involved. There is some form of modern slavery in 167 countries worldwide. Fifty five percent of slave victims are female and twenty six percent of slave victims are minors. Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry in the world. 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. Therefore, human trafficking is a global problem. It is not just a problem within certain nations, it is very prevalent at the international level.

The main reason I addressed this letter to you is because I have a plan to end human trafficking and to help the victims of this unlawful act. However, my plan involves the United Nations and creating an international law, which is where you could help. President-elect Donald Trump has recently appointed you to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Therefore, you could present this plan to the United Nations in order to have a Convention on Human Trafficking held by the General Assembly.

There are multiple parts to my plan that I would create through the United Nations in order to prevent human trafficking. I would promote awareness-raising campaigns all around the world, aimed at persons at risk of being trafficked and at the general public through education and mass media. I would promote more research to be conducted and more data to be collected that would allow for proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons. I would create an international law that would increase the punishment for committing this crime. The sentence would be a minimum of 25 years to life, for every person convicted of trafficking. I would create a worldwide program for identified or recovering victims of human trafficking (similar to the Witness Protection Program) in order for them to move on to a normal life. The victims would be entitled to: a place to live, necessary health care, counseling if needed, and the right to live in a country that could provide them with these benefits. Lastly, I would have developed countries provide financial support to developing countries that could not implement this plan on their own, due to lack of resources or money. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime would be one of the agencies responsible for implementing the plan, as well as the individual government agencies within each country that choose to adopt this plan. Each country's agency would work hand in hand with the UNODC to ensure they are taking all the necessary steps to execute the plan and correctly following all the rules and regulations.

My plan would cost a substantial amount of money, but the advantages of this plan heavily outweigh the disadvantages. Money would be spent to conduct research and to have awareness-raising campaigns. Money would be spent by developed countries to provide financial support to developing countries not capable of implementing this plan alone. Money would be spent on the new program for identified or recovering victims of human trafficking. However, all the money that is spent will provide major help to crack down on human trafficking and ultimately put an end to this form of modern day slavery, as well as help the victims of this heinous crime to recover and to move on with their lives.

There would be opposition to my plan, but I am prepared for it. Countries like North Korea who do not abide by any of the laws or treaties created by the United Nations could be opposed. To this opposition, I would say that this plan would make the world a better and safer place. Every country in the world should be able to agree that human trafficking is a heinous

crime, the punishment for committing the crime should be severe, and the victims should have a chance to live new lives. This plan would create global unity and get rid of this form of modern slavery. Criminal justice systems all around the world would strengthen. Some developed countries that do not want to financially support the developing countries could be opposed. To this opposition, I would say that the benefits of eliminating human trafficking around the world far outweigh the costs of supporting developing countries. Developed countries can not just focus on themselves to solve human trafficking, they will have to focus on developing countries where trafficking is very common - trafficking is not a national issue, it is a global issue.

Sincerely,

Ryan Van Wyk

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