

November 11, 2020

Dear President Trump:

The undersigned organizations work to combat human trafficking in the United States and around the world. As such, we understand the extensive harm that results when coercion or physical violence are used to force an individual, particularly a child, to engage in commercial sex. Although we do not minimize or diminish the severity of Lisa Montgomery's offense, we unequivocally support her clemency in light of the extremity of her history of sexual abuse and trafficking victimization. Lisa Montgomery's execution is scheduled for December 8, 2020. We urge you to commute her sentence to life without the possibility of parole.

Prior to committing this offense, Lisa Montgomery experienced every type of abuse imaginable. Her childhood was replete with sexual abuse, physical violence and trafficking into commercial sex. As advocates who raise awareness about human trafficking, create system responses that better identify and protect trafficking victims, and support those recovering from sexual exploitation, we understand why Lisa's history is so relevant to determining how she should be punished for her crime.

Lisa was born with permanent brain damage as a result of her mother's alcohol intake during pregnancy. Sexually abused by her stepfather as a young girl, Lisa was repeatedly raped in her home for years. Brutal physical violence accompanied the sexual abuse. Lisa's mother began trafficking her to men for sex when Lisa was a young teenager. Lisa developed dissociative disorder and complex post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the repeated rapes she suffered.

Like so many other trafficking victims, the very systems that were supposed to protect Lisa did not, rendering her vulnerable to ongoing exploitation and abuse. School and child welfare authorities failed to intervene, despite indications that Lisa was being abused. Social services removed her older sister from the home, but left Lisa behind.

As experts on sex trafficking and its impact on victims, we know that Lisa's prior victimization doesn't excuse her crime. Nonetheless, it provides critical context that explains why she committed these acts, which might otherwise seem incomprehensible. Lisa is a victim of trafficking and extensive trauma with serious mental health issues, including dissociative disorder directly linked to her experiences of sexual violence. Despite being mischaracterized at her trial as an "abuse excuse," Lisa's victimization is inextricably connected to the crime she committed.

At the time of Lisa's prosecution, we did not know as much as we do now about the devastating harm caused by the commercial sexual exploitation of a child. Since Lisa's

sentencing, our legal system has evolved to reflect this understanding through the proliferation of a body of law aimed to protect child trafficking victims like Lisa. Had any of these laws been in effect when Lisa was a child or young adult suffering human trafficking, our legal systems would have offered more meaningful intervention.

No one can go back in time to remedy the wrong that was done to Lisa. But you can keep her from suffering the ultimate injustice by commuting her sentence. Lisa has suffered some of the worst forms of sexual violence, and we know that victims of such violence experience lifelong psychological damage. Under these circumstances, we urge you to grant her clemency as an appropriate and just extension of mercy.

Sincerely,

Organization Name	Location
1 3Strands Global Foundation	Sacramento, CA
2 Advocating Opportunity	Toledo, OH
3 Amara Legal Center	Washington, DC
4 Anti-Trafficking Fund at NEO Philanthropy	New York, NY
5 Araminta Freedom Initiative	Baltimore, MD
6 Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network	Mesa, AZ
7 Ark of Freedom Alliance	Fort Lauderdale, FL
8 ArtWorks for Freedom	Washington, DC
9 Benedictine Sisters - Mount St. Scholastica	Atchison, KS
10 BGilot Consulting	Tallahassee, FL
11 Breaking Free	Saint Paul, MN
12 Chains Interrupted	Cedar Rapids, IA
13 Christen Resilience	Dania Beach, FL
14 Coalition Against Trafficking in Women	New York, NY
15 Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking	Los Angeles, CA
16 Coalition for Women Prisoners	Bronx, NY
17 Community Health Network	Indianapolis, IN
18 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes	Fond du Lac, WI
19 County Youth Bureau	Batavia, NY
20 Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul	St. Louis, MO
21 Dawn's Place	Philadelphia, PA
22 Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids, MI
23 Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa	Sinsinawa, WI
24 FAIR Girls	Washington, DC
25 Film and Law Productions	Boston, MA
26 Free to Thirve	San Diego, CA
27 Freedom From Exploitation, Inc.	San Diego, CA

28	Freedom Network USA	Washington, DC
29	Freedom13	Kingston, WA
30	HEAL Trafficking	Los Angeles, CA
31	Ho'ola Na Pua	Honolulu, HI
32	Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC	Northfield, IL
33	Human Trafficking Clemency Initiative	Brooklyn, NY
34	Human Trafficking Clinic, University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI
35	Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center	Seattle, WA
36	Justice At Last	San Francisco, CA
37	Justice Restoration Center	Clearwater, FL
38	Karana Rising	Washington, DC
39	Katherine & George Alexander Community Law Center	San Jose, CA
40	Knights of Peter Claver - ASBS	New Orleans, LA
41	Leadership Conference of Women Religious	Silver Spring, MD
42	Living in Freedom Together (LIFT)	Worcester, MA
43	Love146	New Haven, CT
44	Modeling Equality	Boston, MA
45	Moms Against Trafficking	Barrington, IL
46	Moore & Van Allen Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project	Charlotte, NC
47	National Center for Youth Law	Oakland, CA
48	National Human Trafficking Survivor Coalition	Parker, CO
49	New York Anti-Trafficking Network	New York, NY
50	NC Stop Human Trafficking	Farmville, NC
51	Northeast Ohio Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Warren, OH
52	Northern California Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking	Northern California, USA
53	Pillars of Hope, Inc.	Clayton, CA
54	POETIC	Dallas, TX
55	Preble Street	Portland, ME
56	Rahab's Daughters	Barrington, IL
57	Ransomed Life	San Antonio, TX
58	REACH for Tomorrow	Greenfield, OH
59	Reflection Ministries of Texas	Midland, TX
60	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Area	Montebello, CA
61	Religious Sisters of Charity	Culver City, CA
62	Rights4Girls	Washington, DC
63	Safe Horizon	New York, NY
64	Salvatorian Advocacy for Victims of Exploitation (S.A.V.E.) Inc.	Citrus Heights, CA
65	Sanctuary for Families	New York, NY

66	Shared Hope International	Washington, DC
67	Shield North Carolina	Apex, NC
68	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province & Congregational Leadership	Nazareth, KY
69	Sisters of Saint Francis	Colorado Springs, CO
70	Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities	Syracuse, NY
71	Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God	Pittsburgh, PA
72	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	Los Angeles, CA
73	Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania	Erie, PA
74	Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Associates Social Justice Committee	Bensalem, PA
75	Society of the Holy Child Jesus	Rosemont, PA
76	Southern Grit Advocacy	Wichita Falls, TX
77	Spartan Nation Liberation Foundation	Dubuque, IA
78	Story's SAFEhaven	Memphis, TN
79	Survivors for Solutions	Colorado Springs, CO
80	Susquehanna Valley Community Mental Health Services	York, PA
81	The Advocates for Human Rights	Minneapolis, MN
82	The Alice Project, Cornell Law School	Ithaca, NY
83	The Avery Center for Research and Services	Greeley, CO
84	The Exploitation Intervention Project, The Legal Aid Society	Queens, NY
85	The Haba Law Firm, PA	Longwood, FL
86	The Human Trafficking Legal Center	Washington, DC
87	The Human Trafficking Prevention Project at the University of Baltimore School of Law	Baltimore, MD
88	The Lifeboat Project, Inc.	Apopka, FL
89	The Voices and Faces Project	Chicago, IL
90	Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery	Dubuque, IA
91	Truckers Against Trafficking	Englewood, CO
92	U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking	St. Louis, MO
93	University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors	College Park, MD
94	Veronica's Voice	Kansas City, KS
95	VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.	Naranja, FL
96	Volunteer Lawyers for Justice	Newark, NJ
97	Wisdom International: Help2Others	Sausalito, CA
98	Women's Justice NOW	New York, NY
99	World Without Exploitation	New York, NY
100	YouTurn	Omaha, NE