



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
4.		Favor	Anabel Martinez	See attachment for full comment.
		Oppose	Monisha Parker	<p>Dear Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to address a pressing issue that has increasingly captured our community's attention: child trafficking in Los Angeles County. This heinous crime not only tears apart families but also puts the most vulnerable members of our society at an unthinkable risk. Reducing child trafficking requires a multifaceted approach that involves community engagement, law enforcement, education, and collaboration among various stakeholders. I would like to propose several strategies that can be implemented to tackle this issue effectively.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance Law Enforcement Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized Training: It is essential to provide law enforcement agencies with training focused on recognizing the signs of trafficking and methods to rescue and rehabilitate victims. • Collaboration with NGOs: Partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that specialize in trafficking can improve law enforcement's understanding of the issue and enhance their response measures. 2. Increase Community Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Campaigns: Launching awareness campaigns that educate the community about the signs of trafficking and reporting mechanisms can empower citizens to take action. • Schools and Youth Programs: Implement educational programs in schools to inform children and adolescents about safety, the dangers of trafficking, and resources for seeking help. 3. Strengthen Legal Frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for Stronger Laws: Working with lawmakers to strengthen anti-trafficking laws and enforcing adequate penalties for traffickers is crucial. • Victim Protection Laws: It is vital to ensure that laws protect victims and provide necessary resources and support services for their recovery. 4. Improve Access to Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Services: Expanding access to mental health services, housing, and legal assistance for victims of trafficking is imperative for their rehabilitation. • Hotlines and Reporting Tools: Establishing confidential reporting hotlines and online tools can facilitate prompt reporting of suspected trafficking incidents.



PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

5. Interagency Collaboration

- Joint Task Forces: Creating task forces that integrate law enforcement, social services, and community organizations will foster a more effective response to trafficking.
- Information Sharing: Encouraging data sharing among agencies can help track trafficking patterns and identify at-risk populations.

6. Engage the Private Sector

- Corporate Responsibility: Encouraging businesses to adopt policies preventing trafficking in their supply chains and collaborating with NGOs for support can amplify our efforts.
- Training for Employees: Providing training for staff in industries vulnerable to trafficking, such as hospitality and entertainment, can act as a preventive measure.

7. Support Vulnerable Populations

- At-Risk Youth Programs: Implementing programs that support youth from backgrounds predisposed to trafficking, such as those in foster care or experiencing homelessness, is essential.
- Outreach Programs: Creating outreach initiatives targeting marginalized communities can help build trust and provide crucial resources.

8. Long-Term Rehabilitation

- Survivor Integration Programs: Developing comprehensive programs to help survivors reintegrate into society via education, job training, and mental health support is vital.
- Peer Support Networks: Establishing networks for survivors allows them to support one another and share vital resources.

9. Research and Data Collection

- Conduct Studies: Investing in research can deepen our understanding of child trafficking in the area, such as demographics and interventions that are effective.
- Monitor Trends: Regular assessments of implemented strategies are necessary to improve and adapt interventions continuously.

10. Advocacy and Policy Change

- Lobby for Resources: Advocating for increased funding at federal, state, and local levels for anti-trafficking initiatives will ensure sustained efforts.
- Engagement with Media: Collaborating with media outlets to responsibly report on trafficking issues can reduce stigma and encourage community involvement.

By combining these strategies, Los Angeles County can create a robust framework to effectively reduce child trafficking and protect our communities' most vulnerable members. It will require the commitment of individuals, organizations, and government entities to address this complex issue.

				Thank you for considering these essential strategies. Sincerely, Monisha Parker
		Item Total	2	
Grand Total			2	



September 26, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Re: Letter of Support for Los Angeles County Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SJI), I write in support of Los Angeles County Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking.

SJI is an evidenced based and community-informed policy think tank that intentionally fills gaps in human trafficking prevention with an intersectional approach through systemic change and policy innovation. SJI focuses its policy work under 5 pillars: Government Accountability, Racial Justice, Immigrant Justice, Climate Justice and Economic Justice. SJI, especially support the County taking a public health prevention framework, a community-based approach, a comprehensive approach, and a data and evidence based approach to all forms of child trafficking. These four approaches offer a holistic and comprehensive solution that ensures all forms of trafficking are addressed while moving away from a traditional law enforcement-centered model. While law enforcement remains indispensable in apprehending dangerous traffickers, we must acknowledge that it cannot be the sole solution. Additionally, these approaches collectively expand LA County's capacity to prevent, identify, and respond to trafficking in a proactive, inclusive, and modern way.

Why SJI Supports a Public Health Prevention Framework:

SJI supports the adoption of a public health prevention framework because it shifts the focus from reacting to trafficking after it occurs to preventing it from happening in the first place. This proactive approach will address the root causes of trafficking by focusing on reducing risk factors and promoting protective measures across individual, family, community, and societal levels. By doing so, this framework will help prevent future exploitation, improve the well-being of vulnerable children, and reduce the number of youth who experience trafficking in LA County. It aligns with SJI's commitment to a preventive, rather than punitive, model.

Why SJI Supports a Community-Based Approach:

SJI supports a community-based approach to preventing and addressing child trafficking because it empowers diverse sectors of the community to work together to prevent trafficking and support survivors. Engaging local governments, nonprofits, private organizations, and those with lived experience will ensure a coordinated and collaborative response to trafficking. This approach will leverage community strengths, resources, and collective knowledge to expand prevention efforts, increase reach, and improve services. Elevating the leadership of survivors will ensure that the voices of those most impacted are centered in solutions, making efforts more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to real needs.

Why SJI Supports a Comprehensive Approach to All Forms of Child Trafficking:

SJI supports LA County's comprehensive approach to addressing all forms of child trafficking because it recognizes that trafficking intersects with other forms of violence, such as child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation. By acknowledging these overlaps, the County will better identify and serve victims who have experienced multiple forms of trauma. This approach will also focus on improving data collection and service delivery for labor trafficking victims, thus ensuring that no child is overlooked. By addressing all forms of trafficking and their root causes, LA County is taking steps to create a more inclusive and equitable system that offers meaningful support to every child, regardless of how they are exploited.

Why SJI Supports a Data Based Approach to Preventing Human Trafficking:

Efforts to combat human trafficking must be guided by evidence-based data to ensure resources are allocated effectively. For example while significant attention is often given to sex trafficking around high-profile events like the Olympics and upcoming Men's World Cup, research indicates that labor trafficking is a much more prevalent issue. Research and past experiences have shown that labor trafficking tends [to increase given the increase in demand for construction and infrastructure](#)¹ development needed for these large scale events. The focus on sex trafficking only during these events draws attention away from the root causes of labor trafficking, such as vulnerable migrant workers in industries like agriculture, domestic work, and construction. Instead of disproportionately increasing resources during sporting events, prevention efforts should be always explored, be data driven, evidence based, also directed towards industries where labor exploitation is widespread, address systemic vulnerabilities, and offer protections that can reduce trafficking across the board.

These four approaches, taken together, will create a robust and holistic strategy that will ensure no form of child trafficking is overlooked, while expanding LA County's reach, strengthening its prevention efforts, and promoting equity for all children and their families affected by trafficking, regardless of the form of exploitation they experience.

¹ Formisano, C. (December 12, 2022). *FIFA World Cup: Combating Modern Slavery at Mega Sporting Events*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bsr.org/en/blog/fifa-world-cup-combatting-modern-slavery-at-mega-sporting-events>

Therefore, we applaud the Board of Supervisors for adopting the Los Angeles County Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking. By adopting this five-year plan which is inclusive of labor trafficking and forced criminality, its setting the County on a more holistic path of addressing and preventing child trafficking in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anabel Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Anabel Martinez, Esq.

Senior Policy Counsel

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Loyola Law School