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## **INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION COMMENDS CONGRESS' BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 28, 2013) – The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) today to combat trafficking and modern-day slavery and provide victim relief globally and within the nation's borders. There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today, more than any other time in history.

“International Justice Mission applauds Congress for crossing party lines to renew the landmark bill that gives the U.S. the essential tools to fight human trafficking and look forward to President Barack Obama signing this bill into law,” said Eileen Campbell, director of advocacy at International Justice Mission (IJM). “Foreign governments pay close attention to U.S. leadership on trafficking and slavery, and today the U.S. Congress has reasserted our global position in protecting the least of these—women, men and children in slavery.”

After being introduced in 2011 with strong bipartisan support, the TVPRA passed in the Senate earlier this month as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and is expected to be signed into law by President Obama soon.

The TVPRA will renew the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, which established the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), authorized the annual TIP report, and created a global minimum standard for confronting trafficking and slavery.

The reauthorization of the law includes a number of provisions to provide lifesaving new tools and strengthen global and domestic anti-trafficking programs and services, including:

- Authorizing the State Department to negotiate child protection compacts with designated focus countries to increase resources and political will to eradicate child trafficking (the essential provisions of the Child Protection Compact Act)
- Providing resources to allow the State Department to deploy experts quickly in the cases of humanitarian crises and other emergencies.
- Providing critical new tools that will make it easier to prosecute traffickers and people who exploit the poor

Learn more about International Justice Mission at [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org) and take action at [freedomcommons.org](http://freedomcommons.org).

### **About International Justice Mission**

International Justice Mission is a human rights agency that brings rescue to victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. IJM lawyers, investigators and aftercare professionals work in 16 communities in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with local officials to secure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators and to ensure that public justice systems - police, courts and laws - effectively protect the poor.

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