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CONTACT: Kay Anuluoha  
[kanuluoha@ijm.org](mailto:kanuluoha@ijm.org)  
571.447.5103



## **Student-Led Global Movement Takes a 24-Hour Stand to End Modern Slavery**

*Thousands of students expected to join Stand for Freedom campaign to support 29.8 million enslaved*

(April 9, 2014) *Washington, DC* — With an estimated 29.8 million people enslaved across the globe today, college students worldwide are joining together to Stand for Freedom today. Students are standing for 24 hours to raise awareness of the crisis of modern slavery, and will help bring rescue to the millions of slaves who await freedom through supporting non-profit organization International Justice Mission (IJM).

Stand for Freedom is an international student-led movement to help end modern-day slavery. Participants give one day in an effort to change what those enslaved endure every day.

In 2013, 500 schools and communities signed up to host Stand For Freedom events across 36 states and four countries, raising over \$130,000 and collecting more than 37,000 signatures asking President Obama to make ending slavery a priority.

“For the girl trapped in a brothel, the young man stuck in forced labor, the family enslaved, they are all seeking hope and someone to give them a voice to speak up through the brutality they endure. For 24 hours, students everywhere from Hong Kong to Texas are stepping into the unseen footprints of the enslaved and making known the reality that slavery still exists and needs to end,” says Greg Darley, IJM’s director of college mobilization.

Nearly a thousand students from universities across the U.S. and globally have already committed to participate in Stand for Freedom. Each event’s target is to raise \$1,000 and collect 1,000 signatures to ask Congress to pass the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, which would elevate the Trafficking in Persons Office to the status of a bureau and give leaders within the State Department more authority to elevate the issue of slavery.

The funds raised will directly support IJM’s most urgent efforts to bring freedom to families held in slavery, children forced into prostitution and others trapped in violence every day around the world. In the past five years alone, IJM has brought more than 10,500 victims of violence and injustice, and secured the conviction of more than 400 criminals -hundreds more on trial.

Visit [ijm.org/stand](http://ijm.org/stand) or search #Stand4Freedom for more information on IJM’s Stand for Freedom.

### **About International Justice Mission**

International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. The largest non-profit organization of its kind, IJM combats slavery, sex trafficking, property grabbing, police abuse of power and sexual violence, working in nearly 20 communities throughout South and Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. [www.IJM.org](http://www.IJM.org)

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