

NASW Delegate Assembly resolutions are non-binding statements adopted at the tri-annual NASW Delegate Assembly meetings. The resolution printed below was adopted by the delegates at the 2005 Delegate Assembly.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

- WHEREAS, At least 27 million people are held in slavery today, more than at any other time in human history;
- WHEREAS, Every community is touched by slavery as people are trafficked into and out of both urban and rural areas and through the production or purchase of slave-made goods that are traded in the global economy;
- WHEREAS, Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States every year and are forced into slavery in various industries, including agricultural labor, domestic servitude, and prostitution;
- WHEREAS, Only a small fraction of trafficking and slavery victims in the United States and around the world are detected, therefore the victims rarely are able to leave their situations and get assistance; and
- WHEREAS, There is little awareness around the world about the existence of slavery and trafficking and of the relevant warning signs, and only a small but growing body of knowledge about how to help survivors rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That social workers join the antislavery and antitrafficking movement and play a leading role in compiling and further developing the policies and practices for assisting survivors of slavery; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That social workers fight slavery and trafficking in their own communities through raising awareness of the warning signs and advocating appropriate steps for community members to take if they suspect slavery or trafficking and by coordinating their work with community groups, law enforcement officials, and other social services providers; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That social workers urge government, business, education, and nonprofit leaders to amplify the call for action against modern day slavery; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That social workers call for every state of the United States and every country to have a comprehensive law against human trafficking that punishes traffickers, provides protection and services for survivors, and

provides resources for law enforcement training and awareness raising among the general public; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NASW through its activities and programs, work to fight slavery and trafficking and amplify the call for action against modern day slavery.

Submitted by Southeastern Coalition

The NASW International Committee, with support from Free the Slaves, a nonprofit organization located in Washington, DC.

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