



Featured Project for June 2016

CATW-LAC

Access to Justice and Due Diligence for Sex Trafficking Victims' Red Alert System



Dining for Women

Changing the world one dinner at a time

Introducing CATW-LAC



Regional Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (CATW-LAC) works at the local, regional, national and international level to promote women's human rights, including the right to live free of violence and sexual exploitation. The organization designs and applies grassroots models for the prevention, protection and prosecution of those involved in the trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation, and it promotes those models to government agencies, policy and lawmakers and civil society to eradicate human trafficking.

Where in the world?

CATW-LAC is based in Mexico City, the nation's capital. A little over half the country's population lives below the poverty line. Problems facing Mexico include the scarcity of hazardous waste disposal facilities, rural to urban migration, a lack of clean water, deforestation, serious air and water pollution in the national capital and urban centers along US-Mexico border and more. The country also faces problems with corruption and is considered a major drug production and transit nation. Major drug syndicates control the majority of drug trafficking throughout the country. Mexico's \$2.2 trillion economy has become increasingly oriented toward manufacturing in the 22 years since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force. Per capita income is roughly one-third that of the US, and income distribution remains highly unequal.



What are we supporting?

The Red Alert System is an innovative system that consolidates the search for victims of contemporary forms of slavery, especially trafficking victims and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation such as forced marriages, debt bondage, servitude, abduction or illegal adoptions, forced begging, forced labor and domestic slavery.

The Red Alert System includes a comprehensive victim protection program:



- Uploading the case online
- Investigating the case through field work and tips
- Issuing a Red Alert to law enforcement
- Legal counsel and representation through the entire justice process
- Reintegration support (health services and medical support, shelter, relocation, legal and psychological assistance, protection) to victims or legal and psychological support for the surviving family.

Life Challenges of Women in Mexico

Economic, social, legal and political inequalities, lack of opportunities and social exclusion that women and girls face provide the social conditions that give rise to contemporary forms of slavery, especially human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The majority of victims are female, economically and racially marginalized, and are most often victims of prior physical and sexual violence. They are especially vulnerable to recruitment due to the absence of real, legitimate economic alternatives and opportunities.



The lack of prevention, protection, and assistance programs in Latin America and the Caribbean greatly exacerbates this problem. The number of women and girls disappearing in Mexico is increasing, mainly in communities under the control of the drug cartels and organized crime. Women and girls from the most oppressed, exploited and vulnerable groups in society are the most likely to be exploited by traffickers.

Budget

How Dining for Women's grant of \$50,000 will be used:

Item		Total
Legal Coordinator (1) and Legal Officers (2)	12 months	\$32,400
Office materials	Office and printing costs, transport, parking and gas	\$2,400
Travel expenses (connection of staff to victims, victims to court and more)	Airfare (15), land fares (40), per diem (50)	\$15,000
Other costs	Bank fare	\$200
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$50,000

About the Organization



The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is a non-governmental organization that works to end human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls worldwide. CATW is the world's first organization to fight human trafficking internationally and is the world's leading abolitionist organization. The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - Latin America and the Caribbean (CATW-LAC) was founded as the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) branch of CATW in 1990 by a group of women, chaired by the Economist Zoraida Rodríguez, during the International Conference held by CATW in Bangladesh. CATW-LAC provides services and training throughout the entire LAC region.

Share Your Thoughts



- Why do you think human trafficking is such a fast growing crime?
- How do think projects like the Red Alert System will aid in stemming the increase of crimes?
- How do you think this type of project could empower other crime victims?