



February 2018

January was Human Trafficking Awareness month. On January 11th, the Nevada DMV introduced its new “Awareness Campaign” they have implemented together with Homeland Security and “Truckers Against Trafficking”. The Nevada DMV is the only one in the nation that has taken such a step to bring awareness to Trafficking. An informative film is shown in the waiting area and there are pamphlets given out with information as well. The Hot-line number is very prominently displayed both in the film and the pamphlets. Governor Brian Sandoval introduced the initiative at the DMV on Sahara Ave on Jan 11th, timed for the “Wear Blue Campaign”. Also speaking was Mike McKeown, Executive Director, Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. and also the Director of the “Blue Campaign”.

It has been a good start of the year for AIP. On January 15th, I did a radio interview for Malibu Funding talking about Trafficking primarily in Las Vegas. This is my second interview with them.

On January 16th I talked to my physician Dr. Maria Keller, who expressed great interest in arranging training for physicians, especially OBGYNs at hospitals.

As a follow up from my meeting with the Clark County School District Superintendent, “Nevada Sex Trafficking Awareness Campaign” in partnership with “AIP”, “10,000 Kids” and “F.R.E.E. International” met with Clark County School District on January 18th to discuss the details of our training with the Teachers, Social Workers and Counselors at the Middle- and High-Schools.

I flew to Washington, D.C. on Jan 22nd to participate in important meetings together with Ambassador at Large for Trafficking in Person Worldwide, Per-Anders Sunesson, who came from Stockholm. Despite the Government shut-down, we managed to conduct all the meetings we had planned. The initial purpose of the trip was a Conference on Human Trafficking – “In Your Neighborhood and Around the Globe”, which AIP co-hosted with Women of Homeland Security, thanks to Sara Shroerlucke. Opening Key-note speaker was the Swedish Ambassador, who was speaking about “The Swedish Model”, which has been very effective in stopping sex trafficking.

On January the 23rd, Ambassador Sunesson and I met with the US Department of State, Deputy Director of Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Mr. Justin Maybury. As soon as a Director has been appointed, the Ambassador will return to D.C. and we will both meet with that official. We met with the former Director, Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, whom the Ambassador knew already.

On the same day, we had a tour of the “National Center for Missing and Exploited Children” outside of D.C. in Alexandria, VA. A very impressive organization that do much more than most of us know. AIP will be working with them on training curriculums, etc. They have already developed these and we can take part.

We had a very interesting meeting with Demand Abolition and its Founder, Ambassador Swanee Hunt, and Alex Trouteaud, Public, Policy and Research Director. They are fully backing “The Swedish Model”.

The following day we met with the Senior Director of Human Trafficking at The McCain Institute. Incidentally, Cindy McCain was offered the position at the State Dept as Director of Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, but had to decline due to her husband’s failing health.



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Ambassador Sunesson and the newly appointed Swedish Ambassador to the US, Karin Olofsdotter, Emma Nilsson from the Embassy, Sara Schroerlucke and myself had an important meeting with Nevada Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. The Senator has looked at The Swedish Model in the past and was very interested in hearing more details. She offered her help with our work in Nevada. Some of us also met with representatives from Sen. Marco Rubio's office and Sen. Robert Portman. We ended the day with a meeting at USAID.

January 25th was the half-day Conference. Approximately 100+ people attended, all with a great interest in Trafficking. Opening Keynote speaker was the Swedish Ambassador. Everyone seemed very interested in Sweden's approach and the results thereof. He was followed by a Panel consisting of a supervisory Special Agent from FBI, Patricia Cogswell, Assistant Director, DHS/ICE.HSI and Dr. Kimberly Mehlman-Orozco, Author and Subject Matter Expert. Closing Keynote speaker was Mick McKeown, Executive Director, Homeland Security, Chair of the Blue Campaign. (Already mentioned above).

AIP now has a presence in D.C. and important contacts to work with. The Swedish Embassy will be a very helpful conduit to set up meetings with higher-up officials.

On Jan 28th, we had a table at "The Art Expo", during the large Furniture & Home Accessory Show at the Las Vegas Market Center.

We had a second meeting with officials from the CCSD with further discussions on the Curriculum and training. We will be presenting our final version of the training to them prior to the actual training for about 275 teachers, social workers and counselors. This will be the first of many.

I am a member of The Governor's Awareness Sub-Committee, "CSEC" (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children), and on Feb 12th we presented our recommendations to the Governor's Office. These recommendations will be put into place once approved.

We are also beginning to enter into a collaboration with The Guardian Group, a Veteran run, non-profit, dedicated to the intervention of trafficked children. Our goal is to help them with establishing themselves in Nevada through our good will with Metro and hospitality businesses to train them in recognition of trafficked persons. . We will focus on both new technical means of intervention as well as on the street intel to support Metro. More on this subject will be provided in our next newsletter.

Cordially,

*Lena Walther*