



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hearing Statement of Intelligence and Counterterrorism Chairman Max Rose (D-NY)**

***Tackling Human Trafficking: Assessing Federal, State and Local Information Sharing Efforts***

**October 28, 2019**

**Old County Courthouse, 301 West Market Street, Greensboro, North Carolina**

I'm happy to be here in North Carolina - great to be here in your beautiful state. You've treated this New Yorker well. And trust me, it's always nice to leave DC. It has been a pleasure serving on the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Subcommittee with my colleague and friend, Ranking Member Mark Walker.

It's so important to get out of the echo chamber of DC and hear from people across the country about the problems they face. That's our duty as Members of Congress. Earlier this year, in May, Ranking Member Walker joined me for a field hearing in my district on Staten Island, where we heard from local officials about the terrorism threats facing New York City. Today, we're coming to Ranking Member Walker's neck of the woods to talk about the very serious issue of human trafficking. Today's hearing is entitled Tackling Human Trafficking: Assessing Federal, State, and Local Information Sharing Efforts.

Today we will hear testimony from witnesses who are on the front lines of the fight against human trafficking here in North Carolina. I don't need to tell anyone that human trafficking is a huge problem. There are an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide, of which more than 400,000 are believed to live in the United States. That is a horrific statistic. We must do better. A study by Polaris in 2018 showed that one of the biggest risk factors for being trafficked is whether you've recently migrated or relocated. The second biggest risk factor was substance abuse. The biggest takeaway, though, is that there's no one profile that fits a victim of human trafficking, although women and children have a higher risk of being trafficked.

There's no one profile for an individual who participates in trafficking humans. And in the face of such a massive, diverse problem, we really need a whole-of-society approach. From the Department of Homeland Security all the way to local law enforcement, everyone has a part to play. I understand that, in the last decade, the Department of Homeland Security has unified its efforts to fight human trafficking under the Blue Campaign. That includes the work being done by ICE Homeland Security Investigations. I'd like to hear more about the Blue Campaign today—about what's working, what challenges you face, and how Congress might be able to help. I also believe that businesses must play their part too. That's why I support legislation sponsored by my fellow New Yorker, Representative Carolyn Maloney, the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act. It would force large corporations—any company that makes more than \$100 million a year—to tell Americans, every year, what measures that company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and child labor within that company's supply chains.

Today, I want to hear from all of our witnesses about the quality and frequency of information sharing between federal, state, and local officials. I also want to hear about how some of you may have worked with businesses, here in North Carolina and across the country, to help fight human trafficking from that end as well. Finally, I'd also like to hear what recommendations you might have for Congress—or even for other states, like my home state of New York—to strengthen the fight against human trafficking.

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