Slavery in 2011 has mutated but not disappeared. Today, it lives on in many forms, including modern child trafficking. Thousands of people, including children, are trafficking throughout the world each year. The United States has been designated as a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children.

This symposium will bring together various stakeholders including the U.S. Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, to focus on the role of the United States in both the problem of child trafficking as well as the response.

The conversation is intended as a substantive and productive discussion about current and future goals. It seeks to move the dialog forward for children by examining the reality of children trafficked in the Americas and the ability of U.S. society to respond.

The panel will also expected to address current legislation regarding the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Speakers

Luis CdeBaca serves as Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State. Appointed in 2009 by President Obama, Ambassador CdeBaca’s office assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance, and advocates for an end to modern slavery. He coordinates U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery and serves as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State.

Peggy Healy is Senior Vice President for Latin America of Covenant House International. Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency for homeless, throwaway and runaway children in the Americas. Ms. Healy will address the realities facing trafficked children both domestically and in Mexico and Central America. She will speak to the role of the United States, as a nation and as a society, in the demand for exploited children as well as their protection, and will address the efforts of Covenant House and nonprofit organizations to serve these children.

Anne Milgram is the former Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and currently a senior fellow, New York University Center on Administration of Criminal Law. Ms. Milgram previously served as the lead Department of Justice prosecutor for human trafficking cases. She will discuss the enforcement issues on the state and federal level of current U.S. trafficking laws.

Cory Smith is Policy Consultant for the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), a diverse group of U.S.-based human rights organizations acting in unity to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking, both at home and abroad. He is an adjunct professor, University of New Hampshire School of Law and policy consultant for Humanity United and the ATEST. Professor Smith has been a long time advocate for vulnerable populations by protecting human rights and civil liberties through federal legislation, appropriations and executive branch measures.