



Congresswoman Ann Wagner

Statement for C-Fam event: “Root Causes of Trafficking in Persons: Key Role of the Family for Protection and Prevention”

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

March 15, 2017

Thank you to the Center for Family and Human Rights for organizing this tremendous event, and I wish I could be in attendance today. Sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that has been able to grow and thrive and now primarily takes place online. Thanks in no small part to internet marketplaces, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has witnessed an increase of 846 percent of suspected child sex trafficking reports in recent years.

Innocent women and girls will continue to be sold online until we choose to prosecute the exploitative online marketplaces that facilitate the crime. The “I am Jane Doe” documentary perfectly captures the horrific incentive structure that enables sex trafficking advertisements to flourish in the United States, and the victims and their mothers featured in this film deserve a resolution. This is why I am proud to be working on legislation that will hold websites that facilitate sex trafficking accountable. Protecting the most vulnerable in our society while safeguarding the freedom of the internet are in no way mutually exclusive, and I look forward to working with all of you on this legislation. Thank you for all your amazing work.