FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WCASA Calls Upon Wisconsin to Observe National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month

Madison, WI {date} – The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) invites the people from across the state to join them in the annual observance of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month. Human trafficking is modern day slavery. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Victims are trafficked by force, fraud or coercion primarily for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation. Human Trafficking is a significant problem in Wisconsin, where domestic and foreign victims have been identified in both urban and rural communities. In the past year a number of human trafficking cases have been prosecuted in Wisconsin utilizing state and federal anti-trafficking laws. National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month was established to bring to light the prevalence of human trafficking in our society, to recognize and support victims, to recommit to holding offenders accountable, and to acknowledge that every individual plays a role in ending slavery and exploitation.

President Obama has issued a proclamation declaring January 2011 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and encourages us to "rededicate ourselves to preventing and ending human trafficking." Interim Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk and Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz have signed similar proclamations recognizing the fight against modern-day slavery and importance of raising awareness to address and prevent human trafficking.

Throughout the month, groups across the state are organizing rallies, press conferences and other events aimed at raising awareness of Human Trafficking in Wisconsin. WCASA and SlaveFree Madison are co-sponsoring a free film festival on January 29th at the Pres House on the UW-Madison Campus. Compelling documentaries and feature films unveiling the dark underworld of sex trafficking, forced labor and exploitation of children and adults that feeds the U.S. and other world economies will encourage the audience members to reexamine their consumption habits and inspire many to fight modern day slavery. For more information about the event please visit www.slavefreemadison.com.

To learn more about Human Trafficking in Wisconsin and for the full text of proclamations go to www.wcasa.org/pages/Programs_Human-Trafficking.php.

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