



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *115th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

RECOGNIZING
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH of Florida
in the House of Representatives

January 11, 2018

Mr. Speaker:

I rise today to recognize National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The trafficking of persons for forced labor and sex is an egregious human rights violation that has unfortunately grown into a sophisticated global industry, one that profits off the enslavement of others.

The multibillion-dollar profits of the human trafficking business rival those of illicit arms and drug trades. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking is a \$32 billion business annually, with \$9 billion right here in the United States. These profits are made off the enslavement and exploitation of some of the most vulnerable in our society.

No matter where it takes place, or what form it takes, the enslavement of others is one of the most pressing human rights crises facing us at home and abroad. That is why we must work together at the international, federal, state, and local levels to work for justice and protection for victims of these heinous crimes.

To that end, I applaud the incredible efforts in my district by both local governments and private sector organizations like the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force, the Broward Human Trafficking Coalition, Nova Southeastern University's Trauma Resolution Integration Program, and the Ark of Freedom Alliance, that advocate on behalf of the victims and take concrete action to end this tragic form of modern slavery.

I hope that National Human Trafficking Awareness Day will serve as a vital reminder about the scourge of human trafficking and the need for us all to continue our collective work against this affront to human dignity.

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS