

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 30TH -JULY 4TH – SAN DIEGO, CA
NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION



Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee

Chair: Katherine Siavelis
Co-Chair: Martha Driscoll
Members: Irene Arsoniadis Stephanie Cha
Eleni Constantinides Cindy Crosson
Despina Denne Vasilianna Fakiris
Irene Fotos Diana Jianas
Effie Moraitakis Matina Pappas
Aphrodite Skeadas, Andrea Tiggas
Anna Vedouras

July 2024

Mission Statement:

The mission of this committee is to educate and develop awareness of the multi-faceted problem of human trafficking and to encourage action by assisting and working with national and local agencies that assist victims of human trafficking.

Objective:

To build and enhance the focus in three important areas of Human Trafficking: **Awareness, Action, and Prevention.**

Over the course of the past two years, our Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee, through several Zoom Conference Calls and research within each of our nine Metropolises and nationwide has been working toward completing the following tasks for each of our objectives:

Awareness:

- ❖ Developed a Human Trafficking Fact Sheet with current vital statistics and information to be disseminated through each of our Metropolises to each of our Chapters to provide awareness of this multi-faceted issue.
- ❖ Informed and encouraged our Philoptochos members, friends and families to see the ***Sound of Freedom*** movie to obtain an insight into Human Trafficking in and outside of our country.
- ❖ Promoted educational videos from U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and other agencies (ex. Blue Campaign dhs.gov/bluecampaign).
- ❖ Referred our Committee to National Philoptochos Social Services Resource Guide.

Action:

- ❖ Updated and completed the Human Trafficking Awareness & Action Documents for each of our Metropolises listing the Human Trafficking Agencies and Services offered to be posted on each of their websites.
- ❖ Provided presentations and speakers on Human Trafficking within Chapters and Metropolises.
- ❖ Enhanced and updated reading list and resources.

Prevention:

- ❖ During the month of January, in order to commemorate Trafficking Awareness Month, National Philoptochos hosted a crucial webinar on **Thursday evening, January 25, 2024**, presented by **Love 146**, a non-profit international anti-child trafficking organization. This engaging session titled **“Navigating Conversations with Adolescents on Human Trafficking Awareness”** offered an in-depth overview of human trafficking within the United States. Led by experts from Love146, participants delved into crucial topics such as identifying markers, proactive prevention strategies, initiating safety conversations with youth under their care, and accessing vital resources.
- ❖ A Guide for Caregivers to Prevent Trafficking was also offered in pdf as an attachment to all participants.
- ❖ A recording of this Love146 Caregiver Training Webinar was also shared with National Philoptochos Board Members for those not able to attend.
- ❖ Additional educational programs and information offered by Love146 will hopefully be offered in the future.

Diakonia Project within our 2024 Philoptochos Convention:

- ❖ Our Philoptochos Convention Attendees together with the YAL Conference Attendees will participate in a Diakonia Project to assist individuals who have been affected by Homelessness and Human Trafficking in San Diego.
- ❖ Two organizations have been vetted and selected to be the recipients of this Diakonia Project: Your Safe Place and San Diego Rescue Mission.
- ❖ Attendees of both Philoptochos and YAL will assemble hygiene backpacks which include essential care items given to these two organizations to distribute to individuals in welcoming them at their outreach and yearlong programs.

Your participation by supporting Philoptochos’s efforts through Awareness, Action and Prevention is invaluable in creating a world where exploitation and trafficking are eradicated. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the solution.