



MEDIA ALERT

Date: February 7, 2014

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ARIZONA'S MAJOR AIRPORT AND AIRLINE PERSONNEL RECEIVE TRAINING TO HELP EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZE AND REPORT SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UPCOMING TRAINING at Sky Harbor International Airport with:

**Tamie Fisher, Arizona Acting Director of Aviation, Sky Harbor Airport,
Jim Waring, Mayor's Task Force on Human Trafficking,
Katy Resendez, TRUST: Training and Resources to Stop Trafficking**

Training Date/Time: Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 from 1:00pm – 2:30pm MEDIA: 12:30 – 1:00 pm

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, 320 N. 44th St. Phoenix, AZ 85008

TRAINING HOSTS: Airline Ambassadors International & Innocents at Risk

U.S. airports are major hubs of entry and exit for perpetrators and their victims. The U.S. Department of State has determined that transportation professionals are among the best-placed to identify trafficking situations. This training will raise awareness by teaching both warning signals and approved methods of how to handle a suspected trafficking situation.

Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) is partnering with Innocents at Risk to conduct a 90-minute training for flight attendants, gate agents and front line personnel at Sky Harbor International Airport on Monday, February 10th. During this training, airport employees will learn the warning signs to look and listen for to identify victims and perpetrators of human trafficking. The training has been provided at or near 20 airports so far and is part of an effort to raise awareness in Phoenix prior to SuperBowl 2015.

Every year, adults and children are being trafficked through Phoenix Sky Harbor airport. The United States and the State of Arizona have laws to protect victims and penalize perpetrators of human trafficking, which is commonly defined as people profiting from the exploitation of others, controlling them by force, fraud, or coercion.

Since minors currently are not required to carry identification in order to travel by airplanes entering and exiting U.S. airports, traffickers have been trying to use this to their advantage. Cases have been documented in which traffickers have misrepresented themselves as sports coaches, employers and family members of trafficked victims. Airport personnel at ticket

counters, gates and other areas of airport operations are in a unique position to be able to identify potential victims and report potential incidents to law enforcement agencies in order to rescue victims and bring traffickers to justice.

ALL AIR TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. MEDIA ARE WELCOME FROM 12:30-1:00 PM RSVP: angels@airlineamb.org

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPATING OFFICIALS AND EVENT HOSTS

“Too often, traffickers operate in the shadows. We’re not going to let that happen in Phoenix. This Task Force will shine a light on this issue so our community can host and enjoy a safe Super Bowl – one free from victimization and one we can all be proud of.”

Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix

“We are so grateful to the efforts of the airline personnel. You’ve been a powerful force in helping save many innocent lives. Expanding this initiative can lead to the end of child trafficking!”

Deborah Sigmund, Founder, Innocents at Risk

“The U.S. State Dept. has determined that transportation professionals are among the best-placed to identify trafficking situations. Airline personnel are our first line of defense”

Nancy Rivard, President, Airline Ambassadors

Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) (www.airlineamb.org) provides for orphans and vulnerable children worldwide. AAI volunteers escort children for needed medical care, hand-deliver humanitarian aid to orphanages, and educate and advocate on the issue of human trafficking awareness in the airline industry.

Innocents at Risk (www.innocentsatrisk.org) Innocents at Risk was established in 2005 to help prevent child trafficking by educating the public in order to prevent innocent lives being sold to sex trade. In 2008 we established the Flight Attendant Initiative with Sr. AA Flight Attendant, Sandra Fiorini. Innocents at Risk serves as a liaison and training point for flight attendants and airline personnel providing essential awareness materials and a protocol of how to report red-flag situations of trafficking.