



**Before the  
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**

**Hearing on  
Human Trafficking: International and National Implications  
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## **Introduction**

Good morning. My name is Selene Martin. I am the Director of LexisNexis Cares for LexisNexis, a global solutions provider. On behalf of LexisNexis, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss our efforts to help combat human trafficking, both here in the United States as well as in countries throughout the world. I commend the Commission for focusing your efforts and resources on this very important issue.

LexisNexis® is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting, and academic markets. LexisNexis serves customers in more than 100 countries with 15,000 employees worldwide.

Dedicated to corporate responsibility, LexisNexis works collaboratively to improve the lives of others in our local and global communities. Through the LexisNexis Cares program, each one of our employees is given up to four paid days each year to volunteer in the community in which they live and work. In addition to core volunteer activities, we encourage employees to use their professional skills to support non-profit organizations or provide pro bono legal services in partnership with law firms and legal aid organizations. LexisNexis employs approximately 2,000 lawyers and is in a unique position to leverage our expertise, products and solutions to make an impact in advancing the Rule of Law.

LexisNexis believes that meaningful, sustainable economic and civic progress can only occur in societies where the Rule of Law exists. An absence of the Rule of Law provides a breeding ground for many types of human rights atrocities, including human trafficking. LexisNexis is working through collaborative partnerships with law firms, NGOs, and government organizations to build legal capacity, drive awareness and advocate for victim support in the campaign against human trafficking. LexisNexis has employed a three-pronged strategy which includes 1) promoting awareness, 2) victim support, and 3) training. I would like to describe our efforts in each of these areas and highlight our partnerships with several key organizations.

## **Promoting Awareness**

Raising awareness of the global trafficking issue is a key component to LexisNexis' efforts to advance the Rule of Law around the globe. LexisNexis has partnered with Priority Films and the Redlight Children Campaign to help raise awareness of this serious international problem.

The Redlight Children Campaign was founded by former New York attorney, Guy Jacobson. After an eye-opening sabbatical in 2002 where he was aggressively solicited for prostitution by a group of young girls being pimped in Cambodia (some as young as the age of 5), Jacobson began to gather a passionate group of advocates determined to protect children in threat of becoming part of the global sex trade. The Redlight Children Campaign aims to decrease demand for child sex trafficking through creating a legal framework that helps address the issue more effectively.

Jacobson, who had already founded Priority Films at the time of his sabbatical, realized he could utilize the power of mass media to help fight this epidemic and thus began to develop three films about child sex trafficking. While in development, he became further aware that his film and media efforts could be supplemented; using his background in law and economics he set out to create a comprehensive blueprint of action items for how to decrease all forms of child exploitation. The result was his newly-founded NGO, the Redlight Children Campaign. For his tireless efforts, Jacobson was honored by the U.S. State Department in 2008 with the prestigious Global Hero award.

In 2007, LexisNexis had the rare opportunity to partner with Priority Films and the Redlight Children Campaign to distribute "Holly" to 10 major U.S. cities as well as to Vienna and Sydney. "Holly," a full length feature film based on the true stories of abducted children in Cambodia, stars Ron Livingston, Virginie Ledoyan and the late Chris Penn. It was through these film screenings that LexisNexis brought together a forum of attorneys, government officials, NGOs, law students and academia to learn about and identify solutions for combating human trafficking. Panel experts included State Department officials, NGOs and attorneys providing direct representation to victims of human trafficking. Guy Jacobson was also present on every panel. In addition, LexisNexis sponsored the distribution of DVDs to U.S. consulates around the world so that they could better educate their staff about human trafficking.

In June 2010, LexisNexis will have the opportunity again to partner with Priority Films on the world premier of "Redlight," the highly-acclaimed feature documentary on child sexploitation. The film focuses on personal stories of young Cambodian victims and two remarkable advocates for change: Somaly Mam and Mu Sochua. Through the support and efforts of LexisNexis, "Redlight" will continue to raise awareness in cities across the U.S. and internationally in an effort to create a public/private coalition to help eradicate this global epidemic.

### **Victim Support**

Providing support to the victims of human trafficking is another important facet to LexisNexis' ongoing campaign. I would like to highlight LexisNexis' partnership with three organizations providing support to victims of human trafficking: The Somaly Mam Foundation, Polaris Project and My Sister's Place.

### **The Somaly Mam Foundation**

The Somaly Mam Foundation was founded by Somaly Mam, who was sold into sexual slavery when she was 12 years old by a man who posed as her grandfather. She eventually ended up in a Phnom Penh brothel, beginning a decade of horrific rape and torture. She describes this period of her life simply: "I was dead. I had no affection for anyone."

But Somaly Mam was able to escape. With the help of an aid worker from France, she fled Cambodia in 1993. In 1996, just three years following her heroic escape, Mam created a nonprofit organization called AFESIP (Agir pour les Femmes en Situation Précaire, or Acting for Women in Distressing Circumstances) that works with local law enforcement to raid brothels and reintegrate the trafficked women into society. It is estimated that between 1.2 and 2 million people are currently being held as sex slaves around the world. Mam, now 38, has established a model for addressing this issue and has already helped more than 4,000 women and children escape the brothels.

When LexisNexis sat down to talk to Somaly Mam in 2007, we were captivated by her story and felt compelled to help. Instead of asking for money to support her programs, she asked for help in the form of LexisNexis employees with skill and experience in areas such as human resources, management and development of staff, marketing and fundraising, strategy and

technology. Thus the Somaly Mam Task Force was born with representation from LexisNexis employees around the globe as well as a handful of Mam's key staff based in Cambodia. This joint effort helped Mam and her team increase capacity to serve victims of human trafficking in her three Cambodian shelters as well as helped to build the base for the successful launch of the US-based Somaly Mam Foundation in 2007.

Today, LexisNexis is represented on the organization's board of directors and the current Executive Director is a former LexisNexis executive whose passion for Somaly's work moved him to leave his role at LexisNexis and pursue leading the Somaly Mam Foundation. The Somaly Mam Foundation supports rescue, shelter and rehabilitation programs across South East Asia, and is viewed as a global leader in awareness and advocacy campaigns that shed light on the crime of sexual slavery and focus on getting the public and governments involved in the fight to abolish modern day slavery.

Since 2007, LexisNexis has provided both cash and in kind support to AFESIP and the Somaly Mam Foundation, specifically donating computers and other equipment to NGO staff, providing research support on the issues surrounding human trafficking, and engaging LexisNexis volunteers in direct and virtual support of Mam's work. LexisNexis employees in locations such as Singapore, Toronto and cities across the United States have conducted outreach in support of the women and children in Mam's shelters, bringing a smile and sense of hope to these victims.

### **The Polaris Project**

LexisNexis has also partnered with the Polaris Project, an NGO based in Washington, DC, whose vision is for a world without slavery. Named after the North Star that guided slaves toward freedom along the Underground Railroad, Polaris Project has been combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery since 2002 and is one of the few organizations working to eradicate all forms of trafficking. It serves both U.S. citizens and foreign national victims, including men, women and children.

Polaris Project conducts direct outreach and victim identification; provides social services and transitional housing to victims; operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), a national 24/7 hotline on human trafficking; advocates for stronger state and federal

anti-trafficking legislation; and engages community members in local and national grassroots efforts. Since its inception, Polaris Project has come to the aid of thousands of human trafficking victims.

Leveraging expertise in database modeling and application development, LexisNexis worked with Polaris Project to develop and implement a new Web-based system that offers faster access to information and makes it easier for its NHTRC hotline employees to manage data more effectively. The system also helps increase the number of victims identified, the number of survivors receiving critical social services, and the number of traffickers brought to justice.

Through the LexisNexis partnership with the Polaris Project, we have helped the organization advance its National Human Trafficking Resource Center, through innovative LexisNexis analytics solutions. Prior to using the LexisNexis designed database, Polaris Project relied on information in disparate spreadsheets, making it difficult to access, maintain, and share vital information.

During the past two years, resources at the center have become increasingly strained, as call volume has grown two to three times that of previous years, highlighting the critical need for these services and infrastructure improvements. In 2009, over 1,000 potential victims were referenced through the NHTRC hotline. In recent months, Polaris call takers have responded to up to 30 calls per day, and more than 800 calls per month. The U.S. Department of Justice, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, regularly consult and partner with Polaris on this initiative. Law enforcement officials from around the United States have said that through the hotline, Polaris brings more quality and credible leads than traditional law enforcement systems of identifying trafficking victims.

As part of our significant commitment to combating human trafficking and advancing the Rule of Law around the world, LexisNexis supports Polaris Project through direct financial aid, legal and technical advice, and research. In addition to our work with the hotline, LexisNexis is partnering with Polaris to provide support to ensure that law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other state and local law enforcement officials receive training on “Human Trafficking 101” and “Investigative Training for Human Trafficking Cases”.

In addition, we have participated in state-level anti-trafficking efforts (e.g., an Ohio Statehouse Forum on Human Trafficking) and supported state-level legislation and public awareness events (e.g., a Wittenberg University Human Trafficking Forum).

### **My Sister's Place**

My Sister's Place (MSP) advocates for the human rights of domestic violence and human trafficking victims in West Chester County, New York. Founded in 1978, My Sister's Place supports victims through advocacy, community education and victim services. In addition to serving domestic violence victims, My Sisters' Place is currently the Human Trafficking Service Provider for the New York Hudson Valley Region. My Sister's Place programs and services include:

- Two emergency shelters;
- 24-hour hotline for assistance and referrals;
- Extensive support group network in both English and Spanish;
- Full-service Legal Center providing advice and representation in family law and immigration matters;
- Comprehensive children's services;
- Outreach to healthcare workers; and
- Life skills program that includes job training.

LexisNexis volunteers have conducted a technology assessment of their White Plains operations, donated computers and other equipment for use by MSP staff, and provided a team of employee volunteers to plan and execute a wildly successful awareness and fundraising event held this past month providing MSP with the opportunity to share their story with more than 500 attendees from the New York area, including law firms, public interest organizations, corporations, political officials and community members.

My Sister's Place, Somaly Mam Foundation and LexisNexis have recently announced a partnership to leverage the strength of each organization to end domestic violence and human trafficking in the United States. At this year's gala, the organization honored Somaly Mam for her tireless advocacy for, and support to, the girls in her Cambodian shelters as well as trafficking victims here in the United States.

## **Training**

### **ABA National Training Institute**

In October 2008, LexisNexis partnered with the American Bar Association National Training Institute on a symposium in Washington, DC to discuss Civil Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims, bringing together leading human rights law practitioners and advocates in an effort to provide training, resources and assistance to attorneys seeking to provide counsel to, and to enforce the rights of, victims of human trafficking through civil actions in our nation's courts. Symposium topics included:

- The State of Human Trafficking: Prevention, Prosecution and Protection
- Who Are Adult Victims of Human Trafficking?
- Special Considerations for Child Trafficking Victims
- Intersection of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
- Building Understanding Among Civil and Criminal Attorneys
- Collaboration in Representing Victims of Human Trafficking
- Introduction to Litigating Human Trafficking Cases Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and State Trafficking Civil Statutes
- Litigating Human Trafficking Cases: Labor Law Claims, Tort Claims and Other State Claims
- Promising Practices in Pro Bono Representation and Coordination

Today, we continue our work with both the American and International Bar Associations to advance Rule of Law globally, increase the capacity for pro bono and ensure access to justice for our most vulnerable populations. In addition to collaborating with public-private partners on symposiums and other awareness raising events, LexisNexis employees (from our General Counsel to other leaders throughout the company) volunteer their time serving on various boards and committees, leveraging our company resources to advance these important initiatives.



**Conclusion**

In closing, I would like to thank the Commission for highlighting this human rights atrocity and allowing me to share our story with you today. LexisNexis is dedicated to working collaboratively with partner organizations around the globe to end the abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable populations. Women, children and migrant victims of human trafficking deserve full access to justice. Rule of Law demands it. We stand ready to partner with and provide support to this Commission to build legal capacity, drive awareness and support key NGOs providing victim services in an effort to address the growing problem of human trafficking around the globe.