

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO - JUNE 29 – JULY 2**



Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee

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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 this term, our Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee, through several Zoom Conference Calls and our individual work, has been busy researching and obtaining updated information as well as working within each of our nine Metropolises and across the nation in order to successfully complete many of our objectives. These accomplishments have included:

- (1) Revising our **Human Trafficking Ministry** on our **National Philoptochos Website**.

This Revision, listed as one of National Philoptochos' Philanthropic Projects, presents our information in a concise, informative and easily visible format in three main drop-down sections: **Awareness, Action, and Prevention**.

- (A) **Awareness Section** includes: Definitions and data from various reliable sources; January Human Trafficking Awareness Day & Month; National Hotline Number; Recognizing the Signs; Blue Campaign – Mia's Story Video; At Risk Population Facts; Reading List; and *Revised Human Trafficking...Did You Know Fact Sheet*.

(B) **Action Section** includes: Chapter Outreach Suggestions; Education Advocacy; and Safe Reporting.

(C) **Prevention Section** includes: Top 10 Tips2Protect Teens Online (US Dept. of Homeland Security – Know 2 Protect); and Is Your Youth Having Problems (Love 146)

In addition, Resources and Downloads are also presented from these sections that are easily accessible to obtain further information. Our Metropolises have now linked our **Human Trafficking Ministry** information from our National Website to their Metropolis Websites along with their lists of the Human Trafficking Agencies and Services offered within their particular Metropolis so that they may take action in offering their assistance to a Human Trafficking Agency in their area.

- (2) During the month of **January – Human Trafficking Awareness Month** and in particular **January 11th – Awareness Day** was highlighted in our Philoptochos Witness, Social Media Posts, and/or Metropolis Newsletters. During January, Philoptochos Members were also encouraged to wear blue and display Blue Human Trafficking Awareness pins as a visible sign of solidarity, hope and public witness against this human injustice.
- (3) Our Chapters are encouraged to continue our Philanthropic Work in this critical area not only in January but throughout the year in their Awareness, Action and Prevention Efforts.

Philoptochos Chapters can post the ***Human Trafficking...Did You Know Fact Sheet*** on their Parish Bulletin Board to increase awareness and provide important information about this critical issue.

Philoptochos Chapters can find an Agency or Organization in their area that supports individuals affected by Human Trafficking in various ways. (See the Resource List developed within each State and Metropolis.) These agencies have Professionals that provide various services, such as: social services and counseling; shelter and temporary housing; food and clothing; job training and employment referrals; medical referrals; and legal services.

Philoptochos Chapters can work with an Agency to determine what their needs are, and how they can best support them. Commonly Requested Items include: Food, such as Snacks, Lunches, and Hot Meals; Backpacks with needed everyday items and supplies; Basic Clothing; Hygiene and Toiletry Items; and Monetary Support for specific projects.

- (4) Philoptochos Chapters along with their Parishes, such as St. Katherine's, Naples, FL, St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield, MA, and St. Luke, Bromall, PA, have recently hosted presentations regarding Human Trafficking and have continued to support agencies that provide assistance to affected individuals in numerous ways.

We encourage all our Chapters to take pictures and write to National Philoptochos and our Human Trafficking Committee about the work that they are doing in assisting individuals affected by this issue, so that we can share ideas within one another.
Together we can all make a difference!

***Your participation by supporting our 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.***

Respectfully submitted,

Vasilianna Fakiri and Katherine Siavelis, Co- Chairs
Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee