

Empowering Women & Girls in the US and Around the World

A Very Special and Significant Opportunity to Support the Work
of the

International Black Women's Public Policy Institute

Executive Summary

The ARCH project is the development and launch of a groundbreaking new on-line platform which will revolutionize the fight against human trafficking in the United States. This project is key to the IBWPPI mission because one of our four pillars of work revolves around the issue of human trafficking. Establishing an online platform such as the ARCH Network, will propel the work needed to curb and universally impact the issue of human trafficking in a manner never before realized.

Why IBWPPI?

Founded with the mission of advocating on behalf of Black women and girls globally, the International Black Women's Public Policy Institute is committed to using its advocacy platform to shed light on the domestic impact of human trafficking, with a particular emphasis on its impact within communities of color. During 2016-2017, IBWPPI will advance this work significantly through the launch of its ARCH Network, an innovative, interactive online directory of vetted organizations with demonstrated success in the following areas: Awareness and Advocacy, Rescue, Counseling and Healing for trafficked victims. The ARCH Network was conceived in response to a call to action that was issued during a 2013 White House Summit on Human Trafficking.

How can you assist with this work?

In order to bring this vision to life, IBWPPI is requesting donations to cover the staffing costs associated with completing conversations and vetting procedures with some 200 organizations currently identified as potential ARCH Network resource partners, and to classify each organization by relevant ARCH distinction.

To support the launch of the ARCH Network as well as the simultaneous implementation of regional and community-based awareness campaigns, IBWPPI requests support to assist with the funding of staffing cost associated with the development of the on-line platform as well as costs associated with the virtual design and on-line hosting of the project. A portion of these funds will also be used to cover costs associated with community outreach and awareness activity.

Why is donating to this project so important?

One of the greatest threats to the educational empowerment of women in the United State and throughout the world is the exploitative tragedy of human trafficking. According to the Polaris Project, some 27 million people are subjected to sexual or labor

exploitation through human trafficking. The vast majority of victims are women and children. While this is a tragedy that touches every single corner of the globe, many Americans view the problem as somehow external to these shores. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sex and labor trafficking has been reported in each and every state and territory in the nation. Over 80% of victims are US citizens, and 40% of confirmed sex trafficking victims are African Americans, although only 13% of the nation's population is of African American descent.

While to some, the problem may feel overwhelming, the fact of the matter is, there are very real and practical steps that can be taken to empower people with the information they need to fight back, extricate, and heal women and children from this harrowing experience so that true empowerment can begin.

What is the ARCH Network?

In the Summer of 2016, IBWPPI will officially launch the ARCH Network—a coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing awareness to the disparate impact that sex trafficking has on Black women and girls at home and abroad. As an interactive online resource directory of vetted organizations with demonstrated success in the areas of Awareness and Advocacy, Rescue, Counseling and Healing. The network will:

- Serve as a tool for social service agencies, government branches and the general public (such as individuals, civic organizations, churches and otherwise) looking to assist victims of sex trafficking, and
- Facilitate a cross sharing of resources and information for organizations, individuals and entities who are operating in localities that are known to have higher instances of human trafficking activity.

Concurrent with the launch, IBWPPI will initiate a regional and community-based awareness campaign, sponsored by IBWPPI and contributing organizations, that teaches the threats, risks, and dangers that Black girls face and fall prey to every day as it relates to the largely clandestine world of human trafficking. The goals are to:

1. Increase awareness of the problem
2. Uncover frequent methodologies that are utilized to capture and trap girls in the trafficking world
3. Heighten understanding and sensitivity toward victims and survivors.

In order to implement this work effectively and in a way that resonates with the individuals and communities most in need, the ARCH Network will concentrate on the top ten states for Potential Trafficking Activity as identified by the Polaris Project.

The Arch Network will specifically direct its efforts towards these ten states while also encompassing the remaining states within the Mid-Atlantic region by way of leveraging their proximity to IBWPPI's strategic position in the nation's capital.

While the ARCH Network will not be the first on-line directory that compiles human trafficking resources by state, it will be distinctive in that it will explicitly provide a culturally competent lens to the issue by specifically addressing the demographic and cultural element of this atrocity and highlighting culturally competent providers fully equipped to heal victims of color in a truly holistic way. Given the strong overrepresentation of women of color and particularly Black women and girls within the human trafficking space, this distinction is both critical and long overdue.

About IBWPPI

Since its inception, The International Black Women's Public Policy Institute, has made identifying those priority issues black women face internationally a priority nationally. Our vision is to connect and advocate for Black women globally through acts of kindness and public policy. Our mission is to work in the U.S. and internationally to convene hearings and discussions to evaluate the impact of current public policies and to initiate new policies that address major threats to the well-being of Black women and families.

IBWPPI is made up of advocates and policy thinkers, ready to engage in partnerships and a "mega collaborative" with groups, organizations, government, survivors, victims and leaders. In the past five years, the issue that has propelled IBWPPI into a most important national and international dialogue has been our efforts to ensure awareness of the domestic crises of human trafficking of Black girls. IBWPPI has worked hard to bring awareness of this issue calling for it to be a national priority and a part of the national debate on violence against women in general.

Conclusion

The International Black Women's Public Policy Institute welcomes your feedback and your donations. We can discuss the opportunity to partner with your organization on behalf of our mutual goal of empowering women. If you have any questions about this initiative or would like more information about IBWPPI, feel free to reach out to our President, Barbara Perkins at Barbara22@gmail.com. Our sincere thanks for your support and your donations.