

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2018-2020**



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND ACTION

Chair: Katherine Siavelis
Liaison: Evan Scurtis
Members: Maria Antonakas, Despina Denne, Martha Driscoll, Diana Jianis, Athena Kalyvas, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Alexis Limberakis, Stella Pantelidis, Lynn Peters, Aphrodite Skeadas, and Evanthia Valassiades

August 22, 2020

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.

The Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee, which includes National Board Members from each of our nine Metropolises, has been working diligently to develop a further understanding of the multi-faceted problem of human trafficking and to determine ways our Chapters and Members can take action in dealing with this critical issue. Each of these Board Members is highly motivated and concerned about this critical issue and hopes to make a difference in helping victims of human trafficking. To this end, our Committee has been working, sharing and discussing the following:

- Researching agencies, programs and information within each state, throughout all of our Metropolises, that provide assistance to victims of human trafficking;
- Sharing additional books and reading materials on the topic and what can be done;
- Attending presentations, programs, and seminars which have recently occurred and/or are being done within each Metropolis; and
- Making presentations at our various Metropolis Clergy/Laity/Philoptochos Conferences or Metropolis meetings regarding the work that our Human Trafficking Committee is doing.

This past January 2020, during *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*, our Committee was able to develop a description of our Human Trafficking work within the Philanthropic Projects Section of our National Philoptochos Website. This description includes the efforts that Philoptochos is making nationwide in working with Covenant House International Agencies as well other Local Agencies in numerous ways to combat this crisis.

Beginning in January, our Human Trafficking Committee, together with the help of our Metropolis Presidents, was able to disseminate Lists of Agencies that have been compiled, which assist victims, survivors, and those at risk of being trafficked, within each Metropolis to our Chapters and Members. As a result, many of our Chapters have taken on this important cause and continue to bring awareness and educate our members and our communities regarding all aspects of this critical issue. They have also worked with local agencies that assist victims of human trafficking, who are very appreciative of their efforts.

Although we have all been faced with significant challenges during the past several months during this Pandemic, our Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Committee hopes to continue our efforts in providing our Chapters and Members with current information on laws and programs, revised Lists of Agencies, as well as informative books and resources regarding Human Trafficking, its effects, and the actions that we as Philoptochos Members can take.

Most importantly, our goal is for all of our Philoptochos Chapters and Members to become more educated, raise awareness, and make every effort in whatever way we can to end modern slavery and help heal and support the victims of this tragic problem!