



National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Anti-trafficking Efforts by National Council of Jewish Women
in California To Receive National Champion for
Social Change Award**

January 27, 2016, [Los Angeles, CA] - The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will present the prestigious Champion for Social Change Award to the NCJW sections and members of California for their work to prevent human trafficking. The California sections will be recognized for their outstanding work implementing a new California law requiring certain businesses to post information about how to report suspected human trafficking, and how victims and survivors can seek help through hotlines. The award will be presented at NCJW Washington Institute 2016, the organization's premier public policy event to be held in Washington, DC, March 13-15.

"The work of California NCJW sections together with many California NCJW members symbolizes the commitment of the National Council of Jewish Women to advocate on behalf of women, children, and families and to advance social and economic justice," said NCJW President Debbie Hoffmann. "We are extremely proud of the pioneering work of our California members to prevent trafficking and assist survivors."

The focus of the statewide effort was to promote implementation of the new law by reaching out to local businesses to ensure they posted the anti-trafficking information as the law provides. The Sacramento and Los Angeles sections, joined later by Long Beach, led the way in forming networks, expanding contacts, recruiting volunteers, and garnering publicity that had a double impact of improving compliance with the law and educating members of the Jewish and general public about the need to act to end trafficking. Hotline calls resulting from viewings of the poster to California's Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking have increased by 250 percent since 2013 as a result of the many posters NCJW members placed. The effort to train and mobilize volunteers is ongoing and has contributed significantly to general awareness and to increased membership in NCJW.

Cipra Nemeth, Vice President of Legislative and Community Engagement of NCJW/LA stated:
"NCJW/LA is carrying on the work of our founder, Hannah G Solomon, when she welcomed young, vulnerable women arriving at Ellis Island and gave them housing, language lessons and

job skills in order to be independent and self sufficient. Today, we educate the public about human trafficking across the country and within our own communities. Each of us has the power and responsibility to stop the exploitation of human beings forced into slavery and isolation."

NCJW Washington Institute 2016 brings women together from across the country to the nation's capital to enhance their knowledge of current public policy issues and challenges facing the country and the world through in-depth briefings by political leaders, advocates, and policy experts. Participants will also speak to their members of Congress in face-to-face meetings on Capitol Hill. Information on registration, speakers and workshops is available at www.ncjw.org/WI2016.

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ABOUT NCJW/LA

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates committed to the welfare and well-being of the Los Angeles Community. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW/LA serves more than 12,000 individuals through our Community Mental Health and Supportive Services, Scholarships, Talkline, Youth Educational Programs and Services, Back 2 School Store, intern training programs and our clothing assistance projects. NCJW/LA social justice programs provide education and legislative advocacy on issues that affect and impact women, children and families in the areas of children's rights, economic justice, healthcare, human trafficking, reproductive justice, LGBTQ, and gender related violence. All donations to our 8 Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW/LA. NCJW/LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-1641433). Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org. **Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807** or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org.