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FLIGHT CREW TRAINED TO RECOGNIZE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dallas /Ft. Worth, TX – Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) and Traffick 911 coordinate the first volunteer training for airline personnel on human trafficking and flight attendants and pilots are giving up their days off to attend. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott anticipates 10,000 children will be trafficked in the Dallas Fort Worth area during the days surrounding the Super Bowl. Many victims are expected to be flown into DFW on commercial airplanes.

Training will take place 9 -4 pm on Monday, January 31 at the Yandry Conference center at DFW airport near American Airlines Gate C-2. The training had to be closed after the first 60 participants, but dozens more from American Airlines, American Eagle, United, Delta and US Air have been put on the waiting list. Materials will be distributed to every major city in the United States, building awareness about the “red flags” that crews can be especially alert to for the week before the Super Bowl. Wallet cards also let airline personnel know how to report suspicious situations to pilots or local authorities without confronting victims themselves. This effort is a partnership with the Texas based non-profit, Traffick911 who conceived the “*I’m Not Buying It*” campaign endorsed by former NFL Pro Devin Wyman.

AAI is also flying in 12 experts to support the effort including colleagues from Haiti, Colombia, and the United States. Tina Frundt who recently won the Frederick Douglas Award and is the feature of upcoming documentaries on CNN and Oprah will also join the group.

27 million slaves make human trafficking the second most lucrative criminal industry in the world. Domestic minor sex trafficking is a serious problem in the United States, with hundreds of thousands of children at risk every year. The scope of this human rights issue is one that needs non-profits, businesses and governments to tackle in a coordinated effort.

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AAI has taken a leading role in involving the airline industry. In July, 2010 they coordinated a Congressional Briefing to Airline Partners with Congressman Chris Smith and a Briefing to Embassies in October with Congressman Joe Pitts. American Airlines issued an in flight Bulletin for flight crews in response to this effort, and highlighted Airline Ambassadors effort in September's in flight magazine, American Way. AA has also made a commitment to include this issue in annual emergency procedure training.

AAI is looking for funding to educate flight crews on this issue, partnering with Innocents at Risk and Traffick 911 to roll out training across the nation. Four embassies have offered to support the effort and arrange training for airline / airport personnel in the Philippines, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, and Netherlands.

Airline Ambassadors is also partnering with UNICEF and Bureau for Protection of Minors (BPM) to build Safe Houses for trafficked children at every border crossing in Haiti. Partners from UNICEF and BPM will also attend the DFW training session

Founded in 1996 by an American Airlines flight attendant, AAI's mission is to provide international relief and development to under-privileged communities worldwide. As the only non-governmental organization of the airline industry and has hand delivered more than \$50 million worth of humanitarian aid to children in 51 countries and escorted more than 1000 orphans and children to new homes or for needed medical care. The latest information about AAI is available at www.airlineamb.org.

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AIRLINE AMBASSADORS INTERNATIONAL: TRAVELING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"