



NOW-NYC

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Contact: Brielle Nalence

212.627.9895

Schneiderman Vows to Fight Human Trafficking NOW-NYC Commends His Pledge

New York, NY, October 28, 2010 – Eric Schneiderman, if elected Attorney General, has pledged to prioritize and transform law enforcement’s response to human trafficking and to help ensure that New York State’s Anti-Trafficking Law enacted in 2007 is more widely used to crack down on trafficking operations.

The National Organization for Women-New York City applauds Senator Schneiderman’s pledge. NOW-NYC has endorsed Eric Schneiderman in the race for New York State Attorney General. Schneiderman built a strong track record as State Senator advancing issues critical to women, working hard to fight violence and promote women’s health.

“Senator Schneiderman showed true leadership in changing New York State law to criminalize strangulation attacks, a common weapon of batterers and sexual predators that wasn’t adequately addressed under the old law,” said Jane Manning, President of NOW-NYC. “We hope that he will provide similar ground-breaking leadership in the area of human trafficking.”

As Attorney General, Schneiderman has said he will use the Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) to crack down on human trafficking with the goal of a ground-up transformation of how law enforcement tackles this widespread problem.

- First, he will marshal its special expertise in fighting multi-state criminal enterprises to pursue cases against local and international traffickers. The time-tested strategies used by the OCTF - wiretapping with court orders, conventional surveillance, stings, and tracing financial proceeds - are well-suited to human trafficking cases.
- Second, he will direct the OCTF to study why so few cases have been brought under the new law, and report back in 12 months with a set of best practices for investigating trafficking. All too often, street level law enforcement practices fail to recognize that young women forced into prostitution are victims, and, from a case-making point of view, that they are important potential witnesses against the rings or pimps that profit from commercial sex.
- The OCTF will examine best practices around the nation, consult with academics and advocates, and deliver an investigative and prosecutorial blueprint for how best to make these cases.

“New York needs a leader on human trafficking,” said Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director of NOW-NYC. “Eric Schneiderman has stood up for women’s rights in New York and as Attorney General he would have a tremendous opportunity to stand up for some of the world’s most marginalized women.”

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to promote women’s reproductive rights, secure women’s economic empowerment, and end violence and discrimination against women.

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