

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE
September 16, 2013

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District of Columbia State Advisory Committee to Hold Briefing on Trafficking of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth

**What: Briefing of the District of Columbia State Advisory Committee
to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

When: Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 9:30 a.m. ET

**Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20245**

WASHINGTON, DC - The District of Columbia State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public briefing to gather information on the issue of human trafficking of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth in the District of Columbia from public safety officials, government officials, and community advocates. It will look at the scope of the problem in the District, the efforts to address it, and the services provided to youth who are victims of human trafficking.

Each year thousands of young people become homeless. A disproportionate number of the runaway and homeless youth population is LGBT youth, comprising approximately 40 percent. Once homeless, they face a significant chance of becoming victims of human trafficking. According to the Health and Human Services Administration for Families and Children, "more people are enslaved today than at any point in human history, and LGBTQ youth are being trapped in sexual slavery at alarming levels ... Once trafficked, these children face beatings, mutilations, brandings, rapes and a host of other crimes that no child should ever live through."

Invited panelists include two survivors of human trafficking, and also Nina Carr of Courtney's House, Katherine Chon of Health and Human Services, Ruby Corado of CasaRuby, Tim Jefferson of the Polaris Project, Ari Redbord of the Department of Justice, and Officer Steven Schwalm of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department.

The briefing is open to the public. For more information contact Barbara de La Viez, Eastern Regional Office, (202) 376-7533, or Larry Pearl, Chairperson, DC State Advisory Committee, (202) 554-4642.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Martin R. Castro, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, David Kladney and Michael Yaki. Commission meetings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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