

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to raise serious concerns regarding the Department of State's failure to release the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which is now more than two months past its statutory deadline. This follows the unprecedented three-month delay of the 2025 report. The repeated failure to issue this congressionally mandated report on time is unacceptable and raises serious questions about whether the State Department is giving the fight against human trafficking the priority and resources it demands.

For decades, the United States has led global efforts to combat human trafficking and hold governments accountable for protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers. The TIP Report is central to that leadership. In 2000, Congress mandated its creation through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), establishing what would become one of the world's most prominent human rights and foreign policy assessments. The TIP Report equips U.S. diplomats to press foreign governments to strengthen anti-trafficking policy across the world.

The repeated delays in the publication of the TIP Report follow the Administration's decision to significantly reduce staffing in the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office). Reports indicate that fewer than three dozen employees remain to carry out the federal government's central anti-trafficking mission, including producing reports that assess anti-trafficking efforts across 188 countries. The loss of institutional expertise and lack of urgency in filling these gaps in personnel is deeply troubling.

Another serious concern is the status of the TIP Report Heroes Program. The TIP Report Heroes Program honors individuals who have made significant contributions to ending human trafficking worldwide. Recipients include survivors, activists, law enforcement, and government officials who have worked to prevent, prosecute, and support victims of human trafficking. Despite more than two decades of recognizing TIP Heroes, the State Department omitted the program from the 2025 TIP Report release.

At the same time, the TIP Office has operated without a Senate-confirmed director since the beginning of the current Administration. The combination of diminished staffing, the absence of permanent leadership, and the repeated delays sends a troubling message about the priority this Administration places on combating human trafficking.

In light of these concerns, we request answers to the following questions by September 30, 2026:

1. When will the 2026 TIP Report be published?

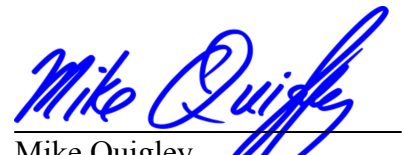
2. How many staff are currently working in the TIP Office? Does the Department of State intend to make any changes to current staffing levels?
3. What is the current status of efforts to appoint permanent leadership to the TIP Office?
4. What is the current status of the TIP Report Heroes Program, and why was the annual program canceled? Does the Department intend to reinstate the program?
5. Why was the TIP Report Heroes Program excluded from the 2025 TIP Report? Does the Department intend to include TIP Report Heroes in the 2026 report?

We urge the Department of State to immediately release the TIP Report and demonstrate that combating human trafficking remains a serious priority of this Administration. We further urge the Department to promptly appoint permanent leadership to the TIP Office and restore the staffing and institutional capacity necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and ensure the timely publication of future reports.

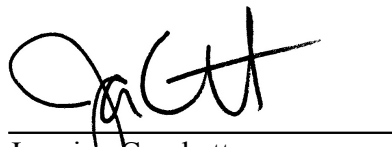
Sincerely,



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



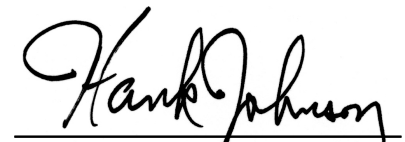
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



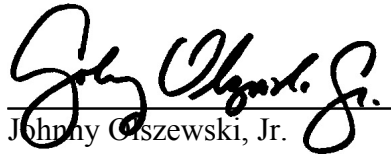
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



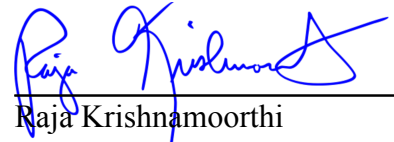
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



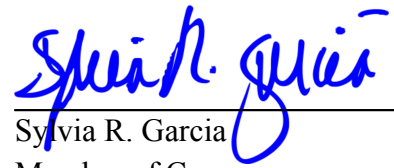
Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George Latimer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "L".

George Latimer
Member of Congress