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# News Release

**Russ Hiebert**  
Member of Parliament



## Local MP to Study Human Trafficking in S.E. Asia

June 19, 2012

"The desperate situation of millions of vulnerable women and children trapped in servitude or even slavery demands our attention. Cracking down on the immoral trade in vulnerable people, known as 'human trafficking' is a priority for our Government, and I am travelling to one of the more notorious centres of this trade to see what Canada can do about this problem internationally," said Mr. Hiebert.

According to the International Labour Organization, an estimated 2.4 million people are trafficked each year, and about half of them are children. About one in ten victims are trafficked for sexual purposes, while the majority are forced into working in factories, sweatshops, boats and farms. "Traffickers are organized criminals who take advantage of vulnerable populations, such as refugees or children, and use them for profit," said Mr. Hiebert.

The four-term MP says the trip dovetails with his parliamentary work as a leading member of the House of Commons sub-committee on International Human Rights. He says, "Although our Government has already taken strong steps to crack down on human trafficking in Canada, there is more that can be done internationally."

The trip is being funded by World Vision, a Canadian charity that addresses human trafficking and refugee issues in South East Asia. As such there will be no cost to Canadian taxpayers for Mr. Hiebert's trip.

Mr. Hiebert notes that the trip's itinerary precludes him from attending Canada Day activities this year. He says, "While I regret that I won't be able to join in the celebrations this year, I believe people understand the seriousness of the issues I'll be examining overseas and why I've made this trip a priority."

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**For further information: (604) 542-9495**



**(Ottawa) - Local MP Russ Hiebert is on his way to South East Asia to study the problem of human trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia, June 25 to July 1, 2012.**

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