

Testimony of Ms. Letty Ashworth  
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before the  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International  
Organizations

Lessons Learned from Super Bowl Preparations: Preventing International Human  
Trafficking at Major Sporting Events

January 27, 2014

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Bass and members of the subcommittee, thank you for providing the opportunity to participate in this hearing to highlight and combat the scourge of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Our CEO, Mr. Richard Anderson, says it best: "Delta strongly condemns all forms of human rights abuses, including human trafficking. Our core values along with the responsibility that comes with our global reach have led us to be at the forefront among airlines in this fight against human trafficking."

Human trafficking presents a serious and ongoing threat, with an estimated 600,000-820,000 people trafficked across international borders annually according to the Department of State. In addition, sex tourism presents a significant threat as well, with an estimated one million children sexually abused through tourism industries. Training employees to spot the indicators of human trafficking, enhancing passenger awareness and coordinating with law enforcement worldwide are essential to combating these threats.

This year, thousands of people will make the trip to the New York City metropolitan area for Super Bowl XLVIII (48). As New York's largest carrier and official airline sponsor of the Seahawks, Delta will not only transport the Seahawks to the game, but we will carry many of the thousands of fans who will attend the Super Bowl to the region from dozens of points in our extensive global network that covers six continents. Delta's 80,000 employees worldwide – over 8,000 of whom live and work in the New York City Region alone - have received training and are in prime positions to be eyes and ears to spot potential cases of human trafficking and point them out to law enforcement for action.

All of us at Delta take seriously the responsibility to do what we can to stop this horrifying practice. To that end, Delta has established a formal Policy Against Human Rights Abuse that condemns human and child trafficking, including child sexual exploitation, and requires employees to refuse to take part in activities that cause or further human trafficking violations or sexual exploitation of children. Employees who participate in human trafficking activities or the sexual exploitation of children will be subject to termination from employment. Delta employees are also required to report to managers, supervisors or local authorities any passenger or employee believed to be engaged in human trafficking activities or the sexual exploitation of children.

Beyond setting appropriate expectations for our thousands of employees Delta is participating in a number of initiatives both internally and externally to help highlight and combat human trafficking. In 2011, Delta became the first U.S. carrier to sign the End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT) International Code of Conduct for Tourism. ECPAT is part of an international network with ties to the United Nations' Children's Fund and the World Trade Organization and operating in more than 70 countries, aimed at eliminating the commercial exploitation of children. As part of Delta's partnership with ECPAT and implementation of the Code of Conduct, Delta has:

- **Established an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children:** Delta's policy against human rights abuse condemns all forms of human rights abuses, including human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- **Implemented company-wide training:** Delta has informed our employees about possible human trafficking activities and indicators, with focused training for airport employees and in-flight personnel in the U.S. and elsewhere including specific protocols for reporting suspected incidents. Delta's training plan incorporates the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Blue Lightning Campaign training materials.
- **Introduced a clause in contracts with relevant suppliers stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children:** Delta's Supply Chain Management division has developed specific language that supports the Code to use on a case by case basis in contracts with relevant suppliers and vendors. In addition, Supply Chain Management has included related language in Delta's Supplier Code of Conduct, which was distributed this past year. Compliance with Delta's Supplier Code of Conduct is a requirement for doing business with Delta.
- **Committed to raise awareness about human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children among our employees, customers and suppliers:** Delta's Human Rights Policy and other information describing Delta's commitment to ECPAT and the Tourism Code of Conduct are published on delta.com. Delta has published a number of items highlighting the problem of trafficking on Delta internal employee communications channels.
- **Provided information to local "key persons" who informally support the Code:** Delta actively works to increase awareness of the need to combat Human Trafficking through memberships in organizations such as the global Business Coalition Against Trafficking and Aviation Leaders Against Human Trafficking, as well as participating in other activities with government agencies and NGOs similarly committed to combating Human Trafficking.
- **Reported annually on anti-trafficking and child exploitation awareness efforts:** Delta shares appropriate information via its annual Corporate Responsibility Report.

Throughout 2012 and 2013, Delta undertook a number of efforts to highlight the problem of human trafficking for employees, customers, shareholders and suppliers, including participating in Human Trafficking Awareness Day in January 2012; providing employees the opportunity to hear from a leader in the movement against trafficking, who herself was a victim for three years, through Delta's Global Diversity Speaker Series; and regularly updating employees and shareholders on Delta's efforts and resources through our intra-net news publications and in shareholder meetings.

In 2012, Delta became one of twelve founding companies of the global Business Coalition against Human Trafficking. Its mission is to mobilize the power, resources and thought leadership of the business community in an effort to end human trafficking, including all forms of forced labor and sex trafficking.

In June of 2013, Delta became one of the first airlines to adopt the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection's Blue Lightning initiative, which provides airline employees with added tools to help identify and report suspected instances of human trafficking. The program, combined with Delta's existing safety and security training initiatives, will help limit and prevent air transportation from being used as a vehicle to commit human trafficking and other forms of human rights abuses. All customer-facing Delta employees were scheduled to have completed the training program by the end of 2013. Blue Lightning training materials provide information on key indicators of potential trafficking activity and specific protocols for customer-facing employees to report any suspected incidents of human trafficking to law enforcement.

Delta also participates at events where businesses, governments and non-profits connect to address the issue of human trafficking, including representation at panels on this issue at Harvard Business School and being active in the Transportation Leaders against Human Trafficking, a DOT initiative championed by former Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

And finally, individuals at Delta and our extended Delta family feel passionately about this issue and are personally engaged in the issue beyond Delta's formal involvement. A wonderful example is Anna Bastian, who has joined us here today - wife of Delta's President Ed Bastian – who is extensively involved in the Polaris Project. Polaris pushes for stronger federal and state laws to combat trafficking; operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (1-888-373-7888); conducts training sessions; and provides vital services to victims of trafficking. Anna's leadership on this issue helps set the tone and encourages others at Delta to get engaged

Again, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Bass, we are so glad to join you here today to shed light on this awful practice. We hope that this hearing encourages others in the aviation and transportation industries to take what steps they can and should to stop human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.