With lockdowns, school closures and heightened poverty, COVID-19 has posed an increased risk to children and families being trafficked in the U.S. and globally.

Traffickers have adjusted their business model to the “new normal,” targeting many children online while capacity to provide essential services to victims has been limited.

Introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021 (H.R. 5150) is a bipartisan piece of legislation that seeks to provide funding to combat human trafficking in the U.S. and globally. Building on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, this legislation will create new programs and strengthen laws to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

UNICEF USA is calling on members of Congress to cosponsor and pass The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021.

UNICEF IN ACTION

- 30 MILLION CHILDREN live outside their country of birth, increasing their risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and other work.
- To address child trafficking, UNICEF works with United Nations partners and the European Union on initiatives that reach 13 COUNTRIES across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.
- The number of children involved in child labor has risen to 160 MILLION WORLDWIDE – an increase of 8.4 MILLION CHILDREN in the past four years – with 9 MILLION ADDITIONAL CHILDREN at risk due to the impact of COVID-19.
- IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, UNICEF helps collect data that makes child labor visible to decision makers.

To learn more, contact UNICEF USA’s Office of Policy and Advocacy at advocacy@unicefusa.org.