



For immediate release

Hadassah and Beth Israel to Host Free Educational Event on Human Trafficking: Face the Facts – Stories, Statistics and Solutions

San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan to be featured speaker, along with several experts from non-profits and a trafficking survivor, at May 22 event

SAN DIEGO – May 9, 2018 —HADASSAH and Beth Israel Social Action Committee are hosting an [educational event](#) on Tuesday, May 22 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm on human trafficking in San Diego and the U.S. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held at Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego 92122 in the University City area. The panel presentation will be followed by a question and answer period and information expo during a dessert reception. HADASSAH and Beth Israel are sponsoring the event with the goal of having it lead to advocacy on the part of its members and others in the community. Attendees are asked to RSVP by May 20 by registering on the website at <https://cbisd.org/programs/facethefacts/> or by calling 858-268-3200.

Featured speakers will include San Diego [District Attorney Summer Stephan](#); Bianca Morales-Egan of [Project Concern International](#); Ashlie Bryant from [3Strands Global](#); Jamie Gates from [Point Loma Nazarene](#) University; and a trafficking survivor, all of whom will address the challenges and possible solutions that can be put in place once people understand the scale of the problem. In San Diego alone, trafficking is an \$800 million industry with at least 8,000 victims. The event will be moderated by Chris Marsh, San Diego market head for UBS Financial Services. UBS Financial Services is part of a San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective, whose aim is to significantly reduce child sex trafficking. By bringing together organizations working on vital components of trafficking prevention, they are working to achieve greater success eradicating human trafficking.

“Once you understand how deep and how wide this problem is in present day society, it is shocking and heart-breaking,” said Audrey Levine, President of San Diego HADASSAH. “We felt compelled to address the issue and raise awareness for this systemic problem.”

Rabbi Alyson Solomon of Beth Israel added, “We are our brother’s keeper, our sister’s keeper. By understanding the different aspects of human trafficking, we can do a better job to stop it. I hope everyone who hears about this program will attend.”

The speakers:

- District Attorney Summer Stephan is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She has had much success in changing the way people look at prostitution, recognizing that many of those who have been trapped in it are actually victims.
- Bianca Morales-Egan is the technical advisor for Human Trafficking and Gender Equity at San Diego-based Project Concern International (PCI) and leads PCI's efforts to raise awareness about, and [prevent, human trafficking](#).
- Co-founder, President and CEO of 3Strands Global Foundation, [Ashlie Bryant](#) began her journey to combat human trafficking when a friend's 17-year old daughter was taken from a grocery store in her Sacramento suburb. She has spent eight years working on prevention education and reintegration.
- [Dr. Jamie Gates](#), cultural anthropologist and director of Point Loma Nazarene University's Center for Justice & Reconciliation, co-led a ground-breaking research project on the impact of gangs on human trafficking. He co-chairs the Research and Data Committee of the San Diego County Advisory Council on Human Trafficking and CSEC, and founded and directs the Human Trafficking Research and Data Advisory Roundtable for San Diego County.

The numerous non-profit organizations represented in the information expo have developed programs to educate the community, work with teachers in our local schools, and support survivors in transitioning. They will provide options on ways to assist survivors and get involved in solutions. None will be soliciting donations but they would certainly be happy to receive them.

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Media Inquiries

Beth Walsh
Clearpoint Agency
Beth@clearpointagency.com
(760) 230-2424

Ilene Tatro | Program Director
Beth Israel
Direct: 858-900-2516 | Main: 858-535-1111
e: itatro@cbisd.org | w: www.cbisd.org

