



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 16 April 2013

*Chair: Hon Laurie Ferguson MP
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

Human Rights Committee examines modern day slavery at Sydney hearings

Australia's efforts to address slavery, slavery-like conditions and trafficking in persons will be on the agenda at public hearings in Sydney of federal parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade on 22 and 23 April.

Human Rights Sub-Committee chair, Laurie Ferguson, says the committee will hear from groups such as Anti-Slavery Australia, the Salvation Army and the Josephite Counter-Trafficking Project as it examines Australia's efforts to prevent these heinous crimes both domestically and internationally.

"These public hearings will enable the committee to gauge the extent of modern day slavery, look at how victims are protected and the services that are provided as part of victim support," Mr Ferguson said.

"We need to work collaboratively across governments within Australia and abroad, and with businesses and individuals to drastically reduce instances of slavery and trafficking. Active involvement by all these groups is a key component to combatting modern day slavery."

The groups appearing before the committee will also include the Australian Agency for International Development; the Australian Council of Trade Unions; the Falun Dafa Association of NSW; Family Voice Australia; No Slavery Australia; and the Scarlet Alliance.

The public hearings will be on **Monday, 22 April 2013** and **Tuesday, 23 April 2013** from **9.00 am** in the Macquarie Room, Parliament of New South Wales, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

The hearing will be audio webcast live on: www.apf.gov.au/live

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website: <http://www.apf.gov.au/jfadt>

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP on (02) 9829 7477 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4290 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.apf.gov.au/jfadt>