



## LOS ANGELES ANTI-FORCED LABOR PROGRAM

### GOALS

Human trafficking and forced labor have no place in the County of Los Angeles. The County has the potential to be a leader in the fight against forced labor and child labor in its supply chains and contracted services. In 2020, the Office of Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer published a report that recommended fighting labor trafficking with strategies focused on “prevention protection, prosecution, partnership, and policy.”<sup>1</sup> But in 2023, the County of Los Angeles is still failing to protect some of its most vulnerable victims and communities. The County needs to require *all* suppliers and service providers seeking to contract with the county to take active steps to prohibit trafficking-related activities in their supply chains. This targeted approach is long overdue.

### HOW WILL LOSANGELES HELP LABOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS?

The new approach aims to:

- 1) Establish a clear, unambiguous mandate that contractors are able to follow;
- 2) Require that all government solicitations and contracts include language prohibiting government contractors, subcontractors, and agents from using forced labor, charging employees recruitment fees, or using misleading recruitment practices;
- 3) Require companies seeking to contract with the County of Los Angeles to certify that no forced labor or human trafficking is or will be used in the production of their products;
- 4) Require companies to create a compliance plan that seeks to prevent, identify, and address forced labor in their supply chains. To assist in the creation of those plans, the proposed bill explicitly lays out the plan’s minimum requirements;
- 5) Tiered rollout (i.e., start with highest risk sectors and phase in implementation of guidelines on other sectors over determined time frame);
- 6) Incentivize compliance and proactive measures to address forced labor;
- 7) Require disclosure of locations for all goods and services produced or assembled which are sold to the County of Los Angeles.

### NEED FOR ACTION

<sup>1</sup> Office of Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, *Labor Trafficking Strategy Development*, January 2020, [https://rdaconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LA-City-Attorney\\_Labor-Trafficking-Strategy-Report.pdf](https://rdaconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LA-City-Attorney_Labor-Trafficking-Strategy-Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Anabel Munoz, *Some LA garment workers paid as little as \$1.58 per hour, US Department of Labor survey shows*, April 3, 2023, [https://abc7.com/departament-of-labor-2022-survey-](https://abc7.com/departament-of-labor-2022-survey-garment-workers-southern-california/13059956/)

The passing of this bill is crucial to safeguarding the rights of all workers, including victims of labor trafficking. Now is the time for action as we are seeing numerous cases of labor trafficking coming to light in the County of Los Angeles across a wide range of industries. In 2023, an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor revealed that many Los Angeles-based garment workers are forced to work and not paid for their labor.<sup>2</sup> The majority of the workers are women, immigrants, and people of color who are forced to work in dangerous and poor working conditions.

Additionally, another investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor discovered forced labor involving minors from Guatemala working in poultry processing companies in La Puente and the City of Industry.<sup>3</sup>

The County of Los Angeles has immense purchasing power and more than 100,000 active vendors.<sup>4</sup> The current statutory framework addressing forced labor in the County is fragmented at best and there is a lack of coordination between agencies to stop forced labor before it starts. The new approach will provide guidance on what companies must do to contract with the County of Los Angeles. Accordingly, the County of Los Angeles must take active steps to eliminate forced labor in its contracts with vendors and suppliers.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### ABOUT SJI

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Policy Initiative (SJI) is an evidence-based and community-informed think tank that intentionally fills gaps in human trafficking prevention with an intersectional approach through systemic change and policy innovation.

[garment-workers-southern-california/13059956/](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/sol/sol20231023)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, *US Department of Labor investigators found children working dangerous jobs, unlawful hours*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/sol/sol20231023>

<sup>4</sup> County of Los Angeles, 2023, *webVEN*, lacounty.gov, September 26, 2023, <https://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/webven/>.