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INTERNATIONAL GRAND BASILEUS

Established 1920

Human Trafficking Topic of Zeta Day at the UN (United Nations)

June 21, 2010, Washington, DC – On June 3, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and its International President Sheryl P. Underwood welcomed over 70 dignitaries and guests to the United Nations as part of the landmark “Zeta Day at the UN.” The theme for the day was “Partnerships to Enhance the Empowerment of Women: Zetas Confronting the International Issues – Human Trafficking.”

The event, held at the United Nations Church Center Building located at 777 U.N. Plaza, E. 44th Street and First Avenue, New York, New York, was hosted by President Underwood and included dignitaries such as Alderman Sandra Jackson, 7th Ward-Chicago, Illinois. According to Underwood, “Human Trafficking is inhumane and must be stopped. Our desire with “Zeta Day at the UN was to shed light on a topic that thrives in the darkness of ignorance and apathy.”

Guests began arriving at 9:00 am, cleared security and proceeded to the Briefing area, where panelists prepared to educate and inform on the topic of Human Trafficking. As an NGO (Non-governmental organization) of the United Nations since 2001, Zeta Phi Beta believes the



International President
Sheryl P. Underwood

atrocities of human trafficking warrant that it is brought to the forefront of the nation’s collective conscientiousness. According to International President Underwood, “Domestically, human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world, second only to the drug trade. Youths, in communities across the country, who are forced into illegal drug sales and distribution, or young girls in the heartland of America who are forced into prostitution, are victims of human exploitation as are the children in Rwanda kidnapped and forced to participate in behavior no child should endure. It’s important for us to understand that human trafficking has a global and a domestic face.”

As an international organization which touches people, especially women and children, all around the world, the Sorority sees it as core to their organizational civic responsibility to address injustice and educate communities on topics that are of global interest and which have a domestic counterpart. Dr. Kathryn Malvern, Director of "Zeta Day at



Dr. Kathryn Malvern

the UN" and Non-Governmental Organization Main Representative, brought greetings on behalf of her office and stated: "We are assembled today for the third time at this great world organization for *Zeta Day at the United Nations*. Today we will be in conversation and learn more about a topic that deserves domestic and global attention - Human Trafficking. Our NGO mission corresponds to the UN's Millennium Goals of which "Human Trafficking" is a part. Our partnership, via over 130,000 Zeta women, is capable and supports the United Nations in its quest to disseminate information nationally and internationally."

Alderman Jackson adeptly showed the domestic implications of Human Trafficking, which is often presented as an international issue only. She shared with those in attendance, the impact of global human trafficking on communities in the United States.

Millions of people are coerced, sold, kidnapped or traded into human trafficking annually. The majority of these victims are women and children. Human Trafficking is a billion-dollar industry built on exploitation, not just sexual exploitation. The collection and sale of human body parts and forced labor, a modern day slave trade, are all considered human trafficking.



Alderman Sandra Jackson

Zeta Day at the UN brought together a learned panel of experts on the topic of human trafficking. They included: Panel Moderator - Dr. Lois Beilin, Representative of the Soroptimist International to the United Nations and panelists Carol Smolenski, Executive Director and founder of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT-US); Denise Scotto, Esq., Founder of Global Legal Strategies and Dr. Padmini (Mini) Murthy, M.D., NGO Co-Representative of Medical Women International Association to the United Nations.

The Briefing Panelists offered thought-provoking information which generated engaging questions regarding Global and Domestic Human Trafficking; Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Trafficking; Development of Government Policies, National and Local Legislation and Awareness Education from a Legal Aspect and the Impact of Human Trafficking on Mental and Physical Health.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon held in conjunction with Zeta Day at the UN, was Kate Weber, Director, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) U.S. Fund for UNICEF. As Director of NGOs, Ms. Weber works with service-based and faith-based non-governmental organizations,

as well as professional associations, to fulfill the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's mission to educate, advocate and fund-raise in support of UNICEF. UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund, is working on the ground in over 150 countries and territories.

In keeping with the vision of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority to provide support to children around the



Sheryl Underwood and Kate Weber

world, President Underwood presented a check for \$20,000 to UNICEF to support their efforts to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence.

Dignitaries in attendance included: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority International President Sheryl P. Underwood; The Honorable Sandra Jackson, Alderman – 7th Ward, Chicago, IL; Dr. Eunice S. Thomas, 19th International President-Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; Dr. Kathryn T. Malvern, Main NGO Representative and Zeta Day Director; Wilma L. Davis, Alternate NGO Representative; Ms. Mary E. Singletary, RN, BA, President, National Council of Women, USA and Coordinator-Z-HOPE International Women of Color - Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.; Dr. Constance Smith Hendricks, National Director – Health Justice and South Central Regional Director -Zeta Phi Beta; Lynette Banks-Harris, Eastern Regional Director -Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; Dr. Bennie Reams, National Education Foundation; Maria-Luisa Chevez, Chief, NGO Relations at the United Nations; Kate Weber-Director of NGOs for UNICEF and Annie Tyson-Jett, President & Chief Operating Officer-B&C Associates, Inc.



Pictured left to right: Mary E. Singletary, Carol Smolenski, Denise Scotto, Esq., Dr. Padmini Murthy, M.D., Dr. Lois Beilin, International President Sheryl P. Underwood, Dr. Kathryn T. Malvern, Jalisa Malvern and the Honorable Sandra Jackson

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About Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated: Founded in 1920, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was established for the purposes of promoting the cause of education by encouraging the highest standards of scholarship through scientific, literary, cultural and educational programs; promoting charitable projects on college campuses and within the community and promoting the idea of Finer Womanhood.