



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates to Present at Ramsey County Training on Combating Sex Trafficking for Minnesota Hotel Workers

The training in Roseville will help hotel employees identify and respond to sex trafficking in Twin Cities hotels.

Roseville, MN (August 22 , 2012): The Advocates for Human Rights, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi, and Ramsey County law enforcement agencies will present a training on August 23, 2012 to help Twin Cities area hotel workers identify and respond to sex trafficking. The training, “Making A Difference – Ways To Help Prevent Sex Trafficking,” is the first of its kind in Minnesota and will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville.

Cheryl Thomas, director of The Advocates’ women’s human rights program, says, “Sexual exploitation of children through trafficking in Minnesota continues to be a growing problem. Hotels participating in this training should be applauded for their partnership in improving the safety of Minnesota women and girls.” The average age of a child lured into sexual exploitation in the United States is between 11 and 14 years.

The training will include in-depth reviews of recent sex trafficking cases in the Twin Cities and presentations by the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office, The Advocates, and law enforcement agencies.

The Advocates works to stop violence against women and uphold the rights of women and children in Minnesota and around the world. In Minnesota, The Advocates has been a leader in the area of combating sex trafficking. In 2011, The Advocates was proud to lead a coalition of partners (including the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office) to pass the “Safe Harbor” legislation, which included protections for commercially sexually exploited children and clarified that sexually exploited children are crime victims, not criminals.

For more information please contact:

Robin Phillips
Executive Director
(612) 746-0859
rphillips@advrights.org

Beatriz R. Menanteau
Staff Attorney, Women's Human Rights Program
(612) 746-4683
bmenanteau@advrights.org

###

The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is dedicated to the impartial promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; provides representation to immigrants and refugees who have suffered human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and uses research, education, and advocacy to engage the public, policy makers, and children in human rights work. The Advocates has received international recognition for a broad range of innovative programs and holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations. To learn more about The Advocates’ local, national, and international work, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.