



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 18-5836, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL AND S.O.S. ESCLAVES

WHEREAS, Chicago's Abolition Institute works to fight modern day slavery in partnership with two inspiring organizations; Anti-Slavery International based in the United Kingdom and S.O.S. Esclaves based in Mauritania; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Slavery International is the world's oldest international human rights organization, having led the successful effort to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire nearly 200 years ago and still fighting modern slavery today; and

WHEREAS, in Mauritania, race and descent-based slavery is still widespread and enslaved people face abuses similar to those experienced by slaves in our own country prior to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Boubacar Messaoud, founder of S.O.S. Esclaves, and Karine Penrose-Theis and Jennifer Castello of Anti-Slavery International, are visiting Chicago this week as guests of the Abolition Institute to jointly raise awareness of the scourge of modern slavery; and

WHEREAS, leaders from all three groups draw inspiration from abolitionists from Illinois who risked their lives to fight slavery and made our state known throughout the world as a beacon of freedom and as the Land of Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, for decades, S.O.S. Esclaves' members have stood up against intense persecution and violence to fight for the rights of all Mauritians to be free from slavery; and

WHEREAS, this work is more important now than ever before because an estimated 40 million people are still enslaved in the world today; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby honors and congratulates S.O.S. Esclaves and its founder Boubacar Messaoud, and Karine Penrose-Theis and Jennifer Castello of Anti-Slavery International, for their continued work for human rights and the abolition of modern slavery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners will work with the Abolition Institute, Anti-Slavery International and S.O.S. Esclaves to ensure that our county and state remain beacons of hope in the global fight against slavery and human trafficking, so honoring the true spirit of the Land of Lincoln.