



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Human Rights Organization Declines Craigslist Grant

Minneapolis/St. Paul (May 4, 2010) – The Advocates for Human Rights received an unsolicited grant of \$25,000 yesterday from the Craigslist Charitable Fund. The organization will decline the donation.

While The Advocates appreciates the recognition of its work, it cannot accept the funds because Craigslist generates a high percentage of its profits from adult ads. This market fuels the human sex trafficking industry. It is the exploitive behavior resulting from these ads that makes our efforts necessary. According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, Craigslist is currently considered “one of the foremost venues for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the United States” by organizations working to end human trafficking.

The Advocates corroborated the problematic role played by Craigslist in Minnesota in its [report on sex trafficking](#) published last year. Following the report, The Advocates for Human Rights led a successful statewide coalition that convinced the Minnesota Legislature to toughen state law, making victims safer by holding perpetrators accountable. The progressive law is now a model for others in the country, and The Advocates is providing trainings and outreach to ensure its implementation.

“A key project of The Advocates in recent years has been to eradicate sex trafficking, and there is much work that remains to be done,” says Jim Dorsey, chair of the board of directors. “The Advocates, like many nonprofits, has been adversely affected by the economy. Therefore, we did not make the decision to turn down this grant lightly.”

The Advocates is grateful to the many foundations and individuals who make possible its work to promote human rights and to reform cultural and political structures that oppress human dignity.

**The Advocates for Human Rights** is a non-governmental, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the 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; represents immigrants and refugees in our community who are victims of human rights abuses, trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. The Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations. For more information on The Advocates, visit [www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org).

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