## **RIGHTS4GIRLS**

### Fall 2015 Update

#### **Bringing #NoSuchThing Campaign to Los Angeles**

Rights4Girls' Malika Saada Saar and Yasmin Vafa were in Los Angeles on October 21st for the LA launch of their #NoSuchThing campaign to eradicate the notion of "child prostitute" in language and law. As part of the campaign's launch and press conference, LA County's Sheriff Jim McDonnell announced an end to arresting children for prostitution charges—and instead, connecting exploited children to services. The Sheriff also issued a directive to his 18,000 employees to stop using the term "child prostitute" in reference to child victims as a direct result of our #NoSuchThing campaign. In addition, the LA County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a bipartisan motion calling for an end to the arrest of children for prostitution offenses while reaffirming there is "no such thing as a child prostitute." These developments represent enormous progress as LA County is the largest county in the country to commit to this significant shift in ending the criminalization of our most vulnerable children and youth.





(Left) #NoSuchThing Campaign to Los Angeles. (Right) Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline Congressional Briefing.

# Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline Congressional Briefing & White House Event

On October 8th, Rights4Girls' Yasmin Vafa moderated a <u>Congressional briefing</u> on juvenile justice reform and our report, <u>the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline</u>. The event was hosted by Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA) and attended by eight Members of Congress, including Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX) signaling the growing bipartisan support for juvenile justice reform efforts in the House to address the specific needs of girls.

In addition, on October 28th, Rights4Girls returned to the White House for an event inspired by our report and its recommendations, entitled *Girls of Color and Intervening Public Systems: Interrupting the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline*.

# Check out our new campaign video! (Click to view)



### Legislative Efforts

Continuing our longstanding juvenile justice advocacy on behalf of girls, we successfully advocated for a <u>bipartisan Senate bill</u> through the Senate Judiciary Committee with significant improvements for girls, and particularly victims of sex trafficking in the justice system. We also worked closely on a bipartisan amendment to this legislation, the <u>Human Rights for Girls Act</u> which eliminates the use of restraints on incarcerated pregnant girls.

As always, we thank you for your support. Help us continue our work.

### DONATE HERE

### Other News

On October 14th, we were honored to receive the prestigious <u>Atlas Award</u> from the **World Affairs** Council for our anti-trafficking advocacy, presented to us by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

On October 1st, Rights 4 Girls' **Yasmin Vafa** presented at the **2015 Concordia Summit** with **Google** and **Thorn**.

On September 21st, we co-hosted the <u>Ohio Regional Anti-Trafficking Symposium</u> at the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center** with **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH) and Ohio Attorney

General Mike DeWine

Celebs **P. Diddy**, **Julianne Moore**, **Ashton Kutcher**, **Ashley Judd**, **Gabrielle Union**, **Rosie O'Donnell**, **Mia Farrow**, and many others sign and share T's **#NoSuchThing** <u>petition</u> on change.org bringing our total signatures to over 92,000. See the tweets below!



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