News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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University of St. Thomas presents panel discussion on Human Trafficking

WHAT: A panel discussion on the issues surrounding trafficking in women. Topics include the role Houston is playing as a hub in international human trafficking and why; the process by which women and girls are kidnapped, held, and coerced into prostitution, pornography, or domestic servitude by traffickers.

WHEN: 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb 8

WHERE: Jones Hall, University of St. Thomas, 3910 Yoakum

BACKGROUND: This event coincides with UST English Professor Janet Lowery's play "Traffic in Women." The play will run Feb. 2, 3, 9, 10, 12 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 4 and 11 at 2:30 p.m. in Jones Hall. 'Setting up a panel on Trafficking Women in conjunction with the production of my play "Traffic in Women II" will hopefully raise awareness of the contemporary tragedy that victims of trafficking experience, and perhaps produce a public outcry that will motivate change in any laws, policies, or attitudes that further shame the victims and tolerate the perpetrators," said Dr. Lowery.

Panel members include: Eva Eitzen, attorney for Catholic Charities; Deacon Joe Rubio representing St. Jerome's Center, providers of housing for trafficked minors who have 'escaped'; a representative from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District; Jacqueline Garcia, a case worker with the YMCA International Services; and Dominican Sister Ceil Roeger, an activist in human trafficking locally and nationally.

Dr. Lowery will co-moderate the event. UST co-sponsors include the English Department, the Master in Liberal Arts Program, the Center for International Studies and the Catholic Studies Program.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Dr. Janet Lowery at 713-525-3177.

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