



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Author Discussion and Book Signing on Human Trafficking at Hartford Public Library**

**Hartford, Connecticut (July 9, 2012)** — Hartford Public Library presents a rare glimpse into a world seldom seen by outsiders, where corruption and different forms of evil still prevail, *Human Trafficking: Slavery in our Day and Age*, Monday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for Contemporary Culture at the Downtown Library.

For many people, human trafficking is something that takes place in a far away country. Matt Friedman, Regional Project Manager for the United Nations Interagency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), in Bangkok, Thailand, will discuss how this issue has relevance in the United States and, in fact, to our local communities.

“Human trafficking is a complex human rights issue that is receiving more and more attention in the media these days,” said Friedman. “The purpose of my presentation will be to provide a detailed overview of the problem and offer an update on what is being done to address it globally. The role of the private sector and how it can help will also be highlighted.”

Following Friedman, local author Raymond Bechard will present *The Berlin Turnpike: A True Story of Human Trafficking in America*. Bechard’s book depicts a close, historical examination of commercial sexual exploitation right in our backyard and within all American communities. A book signing will follow.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information about the program, visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

#### **About [Hartford Public Library](http://www.hplct.org)**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library’s new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)