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Founded by Soroptimist International Northwestern Region

The CNN Freedom Project named the 2012 Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award Honoree



Portland, OR (December 6, 2011) – The Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking (NWCAT) announced today that **The CNN Freedom Project** will receive the 2012 Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award on Saturday, January 14, 2012 during the 4th Annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking & Film Festival in Portland, Oregon.

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award is named after award-winning journalist **Jane Velez-Mitchell**, host of "Issues" on HLN. "I am proud to support such an honorable and urgent cause by encouraging journalists to cover the critical issues affecting women. Fighting the 'war on women' must become a priority in our society...this can be accomplished only by making it a priority in our national dialogue," said Velez-Mitchell.

CNN launched earlier this year The CNN Freedom Project and in a very short time they have made a global impact on Ending Modern-Day Slavery. A vision of Executive Vice President and Managing Director of CNN International **Tony Maddox** a year ago, today has become a global recognizable brand on the war against human trafficking in America and around the world and has generated more than 200 stories of human trafficking from five continents. "The ongoing commitment to educating viewers is one of the utmost important defense tactics we can take on the frontlines of this war," said Michelle Bart, NWCAT Conference and Soroptimist Public Awareness Chair. "The CNN Freedom Project without a doubt has improved the lives of women and girls this year," said Bart.

Velez-Mitchell will present the award at the NWCAT Conference in January to **Mike McCarthy**, Senior Vice President of Programming at CNN International. For more information or to register log onto www.NWCAT.org.

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