



PRESS RELEASE: Embargoed until December 2, 2020, 12:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

International Cruise Victim activists join with Global Cruise Activists to launch “Rethink Cruise Tourism” Campaign *Calling for a Covid-inspired “rethink” of cruise tourism*

Los Angeles, CA — Community members from www.internationalcruisevictims.org affiliated with the [Global Cruise Activist Network \(GCAN\)](#) announced the launch today of their new “Rethink Cruise Tourism” campaign to compel cruise customers, investors and governments to imagine a socially, economically and environmentally responsible cruise industry, before restarting the cruise ships sector following its Covid-19 hiatus. As part of the campaign, GCAN released two videos - "RethinkBeforeRebook" and "RethinkBeforeReinfect" - along with a series of graphics and fact sheets to provide policy makers and would-be cruisers with a vision of what a transformed cruise industry could look like. The graphics include: “RethinkBeforeReinfect,” “RethinkBeforeRebook,” “RethinkBeforeReinvest,” and “RethinkBeforeRepollute,” each targeting a different audience.



In September 2020, GCAN published its [“Principles for Responsible Cruise Tourism,”](#) which provides a roadmap for a transition to the socially and environmentally responsible future GCAN members want to see. The Principles address a range of concerns ranging from the cruise industry’s negative impacts on local communities to [Labor, Climate Change, Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Environment & Biodiversity, Public Health,](#) and [Crime Victims.](#)

“For decades, the cruise industry’s business practices have put the social fabric, economic integrity, public health, and environment of host communities — as well as passengers, crew, coastal and marine ecosystems, and the climate — at risk,” said Jamie Barnett, president of International Cruise Victims, Inc, “From burning huge volumes of highly polluting fuel, dumping in the ocean, underpaying its lowest-paid workers, and avoiding labor, tax, environmental and criminal laws, cruise companies have failed to protect the health and safety of passengers and workers. The latest example of this — the industry’s mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, shows that governments must reign in and regulate this rogue industry in order to protect people, communities and the environments they depend on.”

GCAN’s campaign launch comes just days after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a [travel advisory](#) recommending that “all people avoid travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide” “because the risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships is very high.” Other countries around the world have issued similar warnings. According to the CDC: “cruising safely and responsibly during a global pandemic is very challenging” because “cruise ship travel facilitates and amplifies transmission of COVID-19.” Within the last few weeks, most major brands ([Carnival](#), [Royal Caribbean](#), [Norwegian](#), [MSC](#), [Disney](#)) announced a suspension of operations and cancellations of many of their upcoming cruises through 2020 and beyond. Despite these dire international warnings, the industry continues its relentless drive to expand the industry by continuing with development plans for new cruise terminals, including in the Bahamas, United States, Belize, and the United Kingdom.

About GCAN: The Global Cruise Activist Network formed during the Covid-19 pandemic to demand that the cruise industry not return to business as usual. GCAN’s members, who consist of cruise port residents, civil society organizations, and labor & crime victim advocates, are aligned around the values of health, safety, security, conservation, and equity. GCAN’s logo features two international maritime flags representing the letters K and L, which communicate “I wish to communicate with you” (K or Kilo) and “You should stop your vessel immediately” (L or Lima).

A recording of today’s virtual press conference, as well as the full set of the campaign’s graphics, are available at www.globalcruiseactivistnetwork.com.

###

MEDIA CONTACT: [Jamie Barnett, International Cruise Victims – 818-355-6462](#)

AND/OR

Karla Hart, Juneau, Alaska, 907-957-6723 (cell),
globalcruiseactivistnetwork@gmail.com

Europe: Dave Walsh, Barcelona, +34 691 826 764, europe@stand.earth