



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Prevent • Protect • Prosecute*

# 2021



## **South Carolina remains vigilant in its efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking.**

In 2024, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division reported 285 human trafficking tips in 40 of the state's 46 counties. The vast majority, 94%, involved sex trafficking. SLED reported that 317 victims of the 392 linked to the cases were females, while 315 victims were children and youth. South Carolina also saw a 58% increase in the number of adult victims. Suffice it to say, we continue to contend with the widespread impact of human trafficking in communities across our state.

In its efforts to prevent, protect, and prosecute, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force accomplished historic achievements in 2024. The state's first prevention education curriculum, TraffickProofSC, won a silver Telly Award. The award honors excellence in video and television and is one of the most coveted awards in that industry. Furthermore, the South Carolina Department of Education selected TraffickProofSC as recommended instructional materials for sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention.

South Carolina continues to have a deficit of specialized programs for victims of human trafficking. To increase access to much needed services, the Task Force requested \$12 million from the General Assembly to develop and expand community-based and residential programs. The State Task Force received a \$6.5 million appropriation in the FY25 budget to support the development or expansion of residential programming for minor victims.

Furthermore, the Task Force advocated for the passage of state-level human trafficking legislation, supported the development of the 1st Judicial Circuit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force,



and launched a state-wide Hispanic awareness campaign. The transportation and tourism initiative, TravelWatchSC, rolled out in 2024 as well as an initiative for unhoused and runaways that included 50,000 items being delivered to shelters across South Carolina. My office continued its work prosecuting human traffickers while training hundreds of professionals across the state to better identify and respond to the crime, both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

A successful strategic approach to human trafficking demands a collaborative and multidisciplinary response. I am grateful for the collective contributions of many across South Carolina. Thank you for your hard work and continued dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

Attorney General Alan Wilson  
Chair, South Carolina Human Trafficking  
Task Force





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## Overview of the State Task Force

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# Overview of the State Task Force

The 2012 human trafficking law, S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-2050 (B)(1), states that the Attorney General will chair a task force to address the crime of human trafficking in South Carolina. Task Force efforts are in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies. The law indicates that the Task Force shall submit annual reports, inclusive of findings and recommendations, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate.

**In addition to the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, legislatively mandated members include:**

- » The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
- » The South Carolina Police Chiefs Association
- » The South Carolina Sheriffs' Association
- » The State Law Enforcement Division
- » The Department of Health and Environmental Control
- » The State Office of Victim Assistance
- » The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination
- » The Department of Social Services
- » The Office of the Governor
- » The Department of Employment and Workforce

Besides the aforementioned members, two non-governmental organizations are appointed to the task force: The South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). An invitation of membership is also extended to representatives of the United States Department of Labor, the Office of the United States Attorney, and federal law enforcement agencies within the State.

**The Task Force shall also consider completing the following collectively or via one or more of its constituent agencies:**

- » Collect and share trafficking data among government agencies while respecting the privacy of victims of trafficking in persons;
- » Coordinate interagency information sharing for the purposes of identifying criminals engaged in trafficking in persons;
- » Establish policies to position state government to work with non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society to prevent trafficking and provide assistance to United States citizens and foreign national victims;
- » Review the existing services and facilities to meet trafficking victims' needs and recommend a system to coordinate services;
- » Evaluate the various approaches used by state and local governments to increase public awareness of trafficking in persons;
- » Collect and publish data on trafficking, posting the information on the Attorney General's website;
- » Design and implement public awareness campaigns to inform potential targets of the risks of victimization;
- » Create and disseminate materials to increase the public's awareness of the extent of trafficking in persons, both US citizens and foreign nationals, within the United States.



State Task Force meeting

# Human Trafficking State Plan

## 2012

- » First comprehensive legislation passed defining human trafficking as a crime. Legislation also mandated a new state human trafficking task force with the Attorney General as the Chair.

## 2015

- » Legislation passes authority for the State Grand Jury to investigate human trafficking.
- » National hotline posters are mandated in certain businesses across South Carolina.
- » The National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts was attended in New York City by a delegation of a Family Court Judge, General Sessions Judge, Human Trafficking Prosecutor and the Director of Court Administration.

## 2017

- » South Carolina joins the National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives joining 24 other states and three national representatives.
- » SLED assigns Special Agents to specifically work human trafficking cases.
- » A state MOU was signed between the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, as the Chair of the State Task Force, and Polaris that runs the National Human Trafficking Task Force.

## 2014

- » The legislatively mandated South Carolina Human Trafficking State Plan released in June.
- » First Human Trafficking for State Prosecutors Training held in Columbia, South Carolina. Human Trafficking Task Force hosted in partnership with the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute.

## 2016

- » The first human trafficking conviction using State Grand Jury jurisdiction.
- » Human Trafficking in the South Carolina Courts training held by the Human Trafficking Task Force in partnership with the State Justice Institute and attendance for judges was mandated by the Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

## 2018

- » Legislation passed that modified the definition of abuse and neglect in South Carolina to position the Department of Social Services to respond to the needs of minor sex and labor trafficking victims.
- » The Attorney General's Office, as the Chair of the Task Force, is legislatively mandated to develop certification for direct service providers and create the criteria for Acute Crisis Care and Resource Centers. The legislation also requires the Task Force to develop a resource directory for family court judges and law enforcement.
- » A cohort of family court judges participated in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking in Asheville, NC.
- » The first statewide Human Trafficking Healthcare Protocol completed.

## 2014 State Plan

### 1. Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- » Finding: There is not abundant or comprehensive data about human trafficking as it is happening in South Carolina.

### 2. Protecting, Supporting, and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking

- » Finding: First responders, labor agencies, and victim advocacy groups must be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.
- » Finding: There is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources for groups that provide services to victims of human trafficking.

- » Finding: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.
- » Finding: There is a lack of understanding and awareness of the various immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking, which are essential to victim safety and prosecution.
- » Finding: Civil relief options for a trafficked victim are not well known or communicated.
- » Finding: Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.



## 2019

- » The State Task Force pilots the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking (VSP-HT) professionals. It is the first of its kind in the nation.
- » The General Assembly provided funding for two full-time SLED Special Agents to work human trafficking cases, officially creating the Human Trafficking Unit under Alcohol and Vice Services.

## 2021

- » The Task Force partners with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and The Irina Project at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to host an online training for media on responsible news reporting about sex trafficking.

## 2023

- » The first statewide prevention education curriculum, TraffickProofSC, is developed for middle and high school students in partnership with SCETV.
- » An online training and special event calendar is developed to share opportunities with interested citizens and stakeholders across the state.
- » The first survivor retreat was held to better align lived experiences with state-level subcommittees and gather input on initiatives.
- » The mandated resource directory starts development online to provide access to all professionals working with victims and survivors of human trafficking.
- » Work begins on the first specialized human trafficking court for juveniles to be piloted in the Lowcountry of South Carolina.
- » The Task Force's Law Enforcement Subcommittee convenes state-level human trafficking investigators from the eight southeastern states to meet in Columbia.
- » The Attorney General Special Victim Prosecutors, in conjunction with the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, conducted a two-day state-wide training on prosecuting sexual assault and human trafficking cases.

## 2020

- » The Task Force moves quarterly meetings and professional trainings online in response to Covid-19.
- » Online resource materials are developed for the public in both English and Spanish to help prevent and respond to human trafficking during the pandemic.
- » The Task Force forms its Advisory Council of subject matter experts to gain input on initiatives related to vulnerable populations.
- » The Task Force works with other southeastern states to develop formal guidance on human trafficking training and awareness to ensure accurate information sharing throughout the region.

## 2022

- » The State Task Force celebrates its 10th anniversary.
- » The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force receives its first recurring financial appropriation from the General Assembly. The appropriation positions the Task Force to implement its strategic response plan.
- » The State Task Force begins hiring new staff to implement the strategic response plan and roll out a statewide prevention education initiative.

### 3. Investigating and Prosecuting Human Traffickers

- » Finding: The lack of resources available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges frustrates opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- » Finding: The lack of information-sharing among law enforcement officers and prosecuting offices hinders opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- » Finding: The lack of trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges prevents opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.

### 4. Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

- » Finding: There is inadequate enforcement of existing rules and regulations in South Carolina.
- » Finding: Lack of awareness about human trafficking and ingrained societal perceptions aggravate this problem, resulting in lost opportunities to help victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

### 5. Areas for Additional Consideration and Study

- » Foreign National Victims
- » Rapid Response Teams
- » Child Victims
- » Internet and Technology

# Human Trafficking State Plan

## 2024

### 2024 South Carolina Code of Laws Act 213 (S.142)

- » Amended legislation, years in the making, went into effect July 2, 2024. The final act addresses several topics in addition to human trafficking, like address confidentiality for victims. The human trafficking law changes include adding to the definition of sex trafficking, South Carolina Code Section 16-3-2010(7), the following crimes: (k) sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to Section 16-15-395, 16-15-405, or 16-15-410; or (l) promoting or participating in prostitution of a minor pursuant to Section 16-15-415 or 16-15-425.
- » Additionally, the new law expands the safe harbor provision for minors to include nonviolent misdemeanors and Class F felonies in both general sessions and family court. The provision becomes effective if it is determined after investigation that the minor committed the offense as a direct result of, or interrelated to trafficking. If charges are dismissed, it provides instructions to ensure the Department of Social Services has been notified of the situation.
- » The amended law allows for both minors and adults to move to expunge a conviction and provides the method to carry it out. The expungement is available in the discretion of the court to anyone who can prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the conviction or adjudication of a nonviolent misdemeanor or Class F felony was a direct result of, or interrelated to, trafficking. Victims of trafficking who are being tried or adjudicated for any crime may raise the affirmative defense that the crime was done under duress or coercion because it is directly a result of, or interrelated to being a victim of trafficking.
- » While the affirmative defense was already an option, the new legislation added to the prior wording.

### \$6.5 million Appropriation to Build Services for Minor Victims

- » Under the leadership of Attorney General Wilson, the State Task Force requested funding to increase the number of specialized service providers in South Carolina. The General Assembly appropriated \$6.5 million for the development of residential programming for minors of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The funds are to be dispersed through a Human Trafficking Grant Program that will seek proposals for multiple levels of care for both minor female and male victims.



# Meet the Team

## Meet the Team



*Kathryn Moorehead* is the Director of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Programs and the State Human Trafficking Task Force at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General. She brings nearly 25 years of experience in the fields of education, social work, community advocacy, and public health, with an emphasis on trauma-informed, victim-centered programming.

Prior to joining the Office of the Attorney General, Kathryn was the Country Director for an international counter-human trafficking non-governmental organization overseeing their operations in Cambodia. She also consulted for a year in Guyana, South America with the country's only organization providing legal and support services to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Her work experience includes therapeutic programming and

community-based initiatives as well as partnerships with NGOs and governments in the United States, South America, Central America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Kathryn represents South Carolina in the US Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families Region IV Human Trafficking Advisory Group composed of eight states, represents South Carolina in the National Human Trafficking Compendium, and is a member of the National Human Trafficking & Disabilities Work Group. She is appointed to the SC Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (member of both the Racial and Ethnic Disparities/Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders and Grants Committees) and a member of the SC Joint Council on Children and Adolescents. Kathryn is also a member of the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network.

Kathryn graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and earned a Master in Education of Risk and Prevention from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. Kathryn also earned a post-graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from Boston University's School of Management. She was awarded the Wheaton College Alumnae/i Community Service Achievement Award in May 2012 and a Women of Influence Award from the Columbia Regional Business Report in June 2018. In October 2024, Kathryn was selected for the US State Department's Speakers Bureau to engage international audiences on topics of strategic importance to the United States.





*Monique Patton Garvin* is the Deputy Director of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Programs and the State Human Trafficking Task Force. She has nearly a decade of professional experience in the fields of education, social work, community advocacy, and public health, with an emphasis on the effects of trauma and abuse across the lifespan.

Prior to her current role, Monique served as the VAWA Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. She coordinated statewide trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other service providers on the topics of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking and harassment. While in this position, Monique provided technical assistance to Sexual Assault Response Teams and Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils statewide. She coordinated the Annual Silent

Witness Program to honor victims of domestic violence homicides. Monique's experience includes serving as a 2014 corps member for Teach for America. She taught middle and high school math in Colleton and Clarendon Counties. Her background includes providing residential care to unaccompanied and system-involved youth in Richland County, as well as supporting victims of domestic violence seeking emergency housing in York County.

Monique is a charter member and Legislative Chair of the COLA City chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., a national service organization focused on uplifting women and serving youth through their Top Teens Program. She has been involved in the community as a member of the Columbia Chapter of the NAACP, 2018 Graduate Civic Scholar, 2018 City of Columbia Mayor Fellow, 2020 James Clyburn Fellow, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Monique earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Professional Writing from Winthrop University and dual Master degrees in Public Administration and Social Work from University of South Carolina. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Teach for America South Carolina, Monique was spotlighted for her impact as a 2014 corps member and her current work in domestic violence and sexual assault. Monique recently received the Service Award at Columbia Fashion Week and was a recipient of the Columbia Business Monthly Best and Brightest 35 and Under award in 2022.



*Marc Cardwell* is the Graphic Designer for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In his role, Marc is responsible for creating

awareness campaign materials, including posters, banners, flyers, stickers, online graphics, and other related materials. He also maintains the State Task Force website, contributes graphics for social media sites, designs the annual reports, and will be the lead on a new Task Force podcast.

He is a seasoned graphic designer with over 25 years of expertise in advertising agencies, in-house marketing departments, and freelance work. His creative portfolio spans a wide range of projects, including logos, annual reports, flyers, and dynamic social media graphics. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Marc has made impactful contributions to the design community. As a former board member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, he played a pivotal role in fostering creativity and collaboration within the industry. With an extensive background in both traditional and digital design, Marc consistently delivered visually striking and strategically sound solutions for his clients.

His dedication to community extends to his role as a former Cub Scout leader, where he imparted valuable skills and mentorship to young minds.

Marc graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from the University of South Carolina.



*Mandy Bowden* is a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. She provides support to state-level

subcommittees and regional task forces in the Midlands area of the state. Mandy is the lead on the TravelWatchSC initiative, presents on the topic of human trafficking within the Midlands, and facilitates human trafficking related special projects with a statewide reach.

Prior to this role, she served as the Children's Justice Act Coordinator for the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina, School of Law. Mandy coordinated the S.C. Children's Justice Act Task Force, that is comprised of over 30 child abuse professionals across the state. She was also a Child Victim/Witness Advocate, as part of a special child abuse prosecution unit of the SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination. In this role, she traveled the state assisting a Child Abuse Attorney Specialist with the investigation and preparation of criminal court cases involving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or homicide. Her work also included being a Victim Services Coordinator for the Department of Juvenile Justice where she helped establish a victim services program for the agency.

She has been an avid child and victim advocate and has worked or volunteered with an array of organizations that have given her a well-rounded experience in many aspects of the criminal justice system.

Mandy received a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with an emphasis in Criminology, and a Master in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina.



*Veronica Smith* is a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. She provides

support to state-level subcommittees and regional task forces in the Upstate area of the state. Veronica is the lead on labor trafficking for the Task Force as well as the point person for the development of Spanish language resources including trainings and public awareness materials.

Prior to this role, Veronica served at Lutheran Services in Columbia as part of a multidisciplinary team that provided direct services to refugees. She transitioned from Program Assistant and Case Manager for victims of Human Trafficking, to Medical Coordinator, and ultimately became a Case Manager for unaccompanied minors. In her latter position, Veronica oversaw reunification of minors with their families in the United States and worked in collaboration and under the guidelines of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Veronica also served as a full time Medical Interpreter for Prisma Health. Simultaneously, she served as a Spanish teacher for St. Peter's Catholic school where she taught children of all ages. Veronica gained extensive experience as an English teacher in Mexico, teaching students of all ages before moving to South Carolina nearly 20 years ago.

Veronica earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Sonora, located in Northern Mexico, where she served as an intern for the Research Center in Nutrition and Development (Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo, AC in Hermosillo, Mexico) participating in field studies involving farm workers, with a focus on human development and social vulnerability.



*James Massie* is a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. He provides support to

state-level subcommittees and regional task forces in the Lowcountry area of the state. James is the lead on piloting the state's first specialized juvenile court for human trafficking victims, presents on the topic of human trafficking within the Lowcountry, and facilitates human trafficking related special projects with a statewide reach.

Prior to this role, James served as the Douglas County (GA) Juvenile Courts Program Manager where he ensured the safety, permanency, and wellbeing of foster care children. He was responsible for facilitating meetings with community-based case managers and health care coordinators to focus on children with complex needs and then monitoring the appropriate services. James was a member of the Douglas County Multidisciplinary Team and coordinated Child Parent Psychotherapy and Combined Parent-Child Cognitive Behavioral Therapy trainings for clinicians in the Atlanta Metro Area. He was a member of the Court Improvement Team of Douglas County Juvenile Courts. He served as an active member of the Children in Court protocol team and juvenile courts representative in the local Community Outreach Resources for Excellence organization.

He has been a mentor to youth and volunteered countless hours of his time to community service throughout his career.

James graduated from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and earned a Master of Social Work from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. James graduated with honors from both universities.



*Blake Easter* is a Prevention Education Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. He is

responsible for supporting efforts in the Upstate and Midlands areas of the state. In this role, he is responsible for successfully implementing TraffickProofSC (TPSC) in middle schools, high schools, and youth-serving groups/organizations. In collaboration with the Prevention Education team, Blake designs, implements, and evaluates TraffickProofSC and other relevant programming and outreach opportunities. He is also the lead on topics related to trauma and education as well as work with special populations.

Prior to joining the Task Force, Blake taught social studies and special education for nine years. He also led efforts to introduce his school's first social-emotional learning curriculum. In that capacity, Blake conducted weekly lessons on self-awareness, goal setting, healthy relationships, and more. In 2023, Blake was awarded Teacher of the Year from his school leadership.

Blake is certified as a Restorative Justice Education Facilitator from RJ Ed. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Social Work from the University of South Carolina Aiken and a master's degree in Trauma-Informed Education from Columbia College.



*Ashley Bishop* is a Prevention Education Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In her role, Ashley is focused on the

use of TraffickProofSC for system-involved youth. Additionally, she will be developing a curricula and Train the Trainer program for agencies who serve system-involved youth.

Prior to this role, Ashley was in public education for 10 years. As a teacher, Ashley worked with students across the Midlands teaching Social Studies and Geography in grades 6-8 in Richland, Lexington, and Lee Counties. She received several awards including Teacher of the Month in 2016 and was nominated for Teacher of the Year in 2022 and 2023.

Ashley graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Art History from Winthrop University and a Master in Divergent Learning from Columbia College.





*Melanie Williams* is the Program Assistant for Training and Outreach for the State Human Trafficking Task Force. In this role, she is the lead on coordinating

statewide sector specific trainings, presentations, and special events in collaboration with Task Force staff and stakeholders. Melanie helps identify topics and subject matter experts for specialized trainings, maintains the State Task Force training calendar, secures venues, and promotes the events. She is the point person for the Victim Service Provider Certification for human trafficking professionals (VSP-HT), supports the Task Force public awareness efforts, and assists with the coordination of TraffickProofSC, the statewide prevention education program.

Prior to joining the State Task Force, Melanie spent three years as the Legal Assistant in the Civil Litigation section of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Her prior professional roles include working in the banking, healthcare, social work, and education sectors.

Melanie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Liberty University.



*Megan Raymer* is an Assistant Attorney General in the Special Victims Prosecution area of the General Prosecution Unit at the Office of the South

Carolina Attorney General. She is the Human Trafficking Prosecutor for the section.

Prior to her current role, Megan was the Violence Against Women Act prosecutor where she worked domestic violence, criminal sexual conduct, human trafficking, stalking, and harassment cases throughout the state of South Carolina. Megan also prosecuted homicides, police misconduct, and other criminal offenses. She is passionate about training law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers about the prosecution of human trafficking and other special victim crimes.

Megan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina with majors in Finance, Economics, and Global Supply Chain and Operations Management. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina's School of Law. During law school, Megan participated in the Domestic Violence Clinic where she represented individuals seeking protection from domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking through emergency civil litigation. Megan is a member of the South Carolina Bar.



*Glynn Fogle* is the Human Trafficking Victim Advocate in the Victim Advocacy Division at the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. In this

role, Glynn advocates for minor and adult human trafficking victims throughout the state of South Carolina. She is responsible for assisting victims of human trafficking through the criminal court process during prosecutorial and post-adjudication matters as required by statute. She also supports victims throughout court proceedings and collaborates with assigned prosecutors and investigators on each case.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of South Carolina. Glynn spent a decade in the medical field as an experienced healthcare administrator, focused on providing quality medical services to patients and their families. Following her work in this field, Glynn served as a victim advocate at the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office for four years. In this role, Glynn educated victims on their legal rights, helped them understand court procedures, identified resources, and coordinated services to support victims.



*Drew Tocheny* is the Human Trafficking Investigator in the Special Victims Prosecution area of the General Prosecution Unit at the South Carolina Office of

the Attorney General. He is a seasoned investigator with over 20 years of experience in law enforcement, specializing in digital forensics, cybercrime, and complex criminal investigations. Having served with the New York State Police, Drew has worked in various high-level roles, including the Major Crime Unit, and Computer Crime Unit, where he led intricate investigations involving violent crimes, financial fraud, child exploitation, and cybercrime. With expertise in digital forensics, OSINT, and IoT investigations, Drew became a trusted specialist in the field, frequently involved in search warrants, court testimony, and case management.

A passionate advocate for public safety and technology, Drew is also a skilled public speaker, delivering presentations on internet safety, digital forensics, and online accountability to both professional and community audiences. His leadership experience includes mentoring fellow officers, training teams on cutting-edge forensic techniques, and managing complex, multi-faceted investigations. With a background in psychology (B.S. from Binghamton University), Drew brings a unique blend of analytical, technical, and interpersonal skills to his work, making him an asset to both the South Carolina Attorney General's office and the communities he serves.

## **Other Funded Positions**

The State Task Force currently funds two positions within the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General's Administration Division. One position is assigned to the Information Technology Section as an IT Consultant providing support via the helpdesk. The other position is in the Human Resources Department in the role of Recruitment Coordinator. Both professionals, along with their department counterparts, provide ongoing support to the Human Trafficking Unit as its staff lead statewide efforts to combat the crime in South Carolina.



*Chris Brunswick* is the Data and Research Analyst for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In this role, Chris is responsible for leading

the development of the state's first integrated data collection system for human trafficking. Chris is also the lead for the Data Research and Management Subcommittee.

Prior to joining the Task Force, he built a portfolio comprised of various analytical and web development projects ranging from simple data analysis to complex computer vision tasks with a full user-interface.

Chris earned a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Data Science from Eastern University. Chris is in the process of acquiring a certificate in Full-Stack Web Development from Midlands Technical College.

With an extensive educational background in mathematics, statistics, and data science, he aims to apply his unique skillset to support the anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina.



*Matthew Benfield* is the Program Coordinator for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Programs at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General. He manages the STOP

Violence Against Women grant. In his role, Matthew also develops training for various professional sectors about matters related to the VAWA crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and human trafficking. He is also responsible for planning and coordinating the annual Silent Witness ceremony, providing public awareness, supporting statewide sexual assault response teams and domestic violence coordinating councils, attending regional human trafficking task force meetings, and updating the state domestic violence and sexual assault protocols.

Prior to joining the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, Matthew served as a Graduate Intern with the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. While interning with the State Task Force, he supported community outreach events, researched special topics, and developed resources for the Task Force website and public awareness initiatives.

Matthew graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. He recently completed his Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina in May 2024. While studying for his masters, Matthew was a graduate assistant for the International Student and Scholar Support (ISSS) Office on campus. While with the ISSS Office, Matthew managed the social media pages, developed resources for international students, and assisted with the Thinking Globally Program.

## Vacancies

The State Task Force is currently onboarding a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator for the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. The staff will begin the position in mid-January 2025. This individual will be the liaison for the Healthcare Subcommittee, support the Coastal Region Task Force, and help launch the last two regional task forces in the state, the Pee Dee Regional Task Force and the 3rd Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force. The Task Force is also recruiting for a Program Assistant to support the statewide certification of specialized service providers, the Human Trafficking Grant Program, and other related projects.



# 2024 Human Trafficking Task Force Initiatives

**8**

**Goals Set for 2024**

**6**

**Original Goals Accomplished**

**3**

**Additional Goals Achieved**



# 2024 Human Trafficking Task Force Initiatives

## Training and Event Calendar

In 2024, the State Task Force included a new calendar on its website to share training opportunities and special events being held throughout the state. This positioned the Task Force with a central repository for those seeking professional education and public awareness events.

## Certification of Human Trafficking Providers (2025 Rollover)

Certification for specialized direct service providers remains a priority for the Task Force. Under a 2018 unfunded mandate, the State Task Force was required to certify such agencies. In 2019, the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals (VSP-HT) was launched. The work for the agency certifications will be a priority in 2025.

## Online Resource Directory

In 2024, the State Task Force began work on a legislatively mandated resource directory. The early stage of the directory, in map form, can be found on the Task Force's website. As agencies become certified at the state-level, the map will be the best resource for stakeholders to identify specialized and supplemental service providers by county. Currently, the resource directory includes regional task force chairs, Children's Advocacy Centers, and those who have achieved the Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence (SAFE) designation.

## Task Force Podcast (2025 Rollover)

The Task Force staff began work in 2024 on its podcast by researching other podcasts on the topic, developing ideas for the episodes, and planning next steps. The State Task Force plans to launch the podcast in early 2025. The Task Force will invite anti-human trafficking advocates, including those with lived experience, to participate in the episodes to help bring added awareness to efforts in South Carolina.

## Vulnerable Populations

There are numerous populations who are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. In 2024, the State Task Force partnered with shelters for the unhoused and runaways to distribute 50,000 personal hygiene items with info about the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

## Gang Facilitated Human Trafficking

Given the increase in gang facilitated human trafficking, the State Task Force offered a law enforcement training that examined the intersection of gangs and human trafficking. Over 50 local, state, and federal law enforcement attended the one-day training held in Columbia.

## TravelWatchSC

The TravelWatchSC initiative was launched in January 2024 with partnerships formed between the State Task Force and Columbia Metropolitan, Greenville-Spartanburg International, and Myrtle Beach International Airports. The airports began running digital signs featuring the National Human Trafficking Hotline. A continued partnership between the South Carolina Trucking Association and the Task Force resulted in 50,000 large decals, in English and Spanish, to be distributed to trucking companies across the state.

## Media Toolkit

The Irina Project, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was asked by the State Task Force to conduct a news analysis of South Carolina media, over a two-year span, to track reporting about human trafficking. Once the news analysis was completed, The Irina Project developed a South Carolina specific media toolkit to support efforts by journalists to accurately and responsibly report on issues related to human trafficking.

# TravelWatchSC

In an effort to educate travelers in South Carolina about reporting human trafficking and accessing services, the State Task Force launched TravelWatchSC. This initiative focuses on collaborating with associations working in the transportation and tourism industries. Phase one of the campaign began in January through partnerships with Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and Myrtle Beach International Airport. The airports displayed digital signs and posters that were specifically created by the State Task Force for the aviation sector.

Phase two of the campaign targeted the trucking industry by partnering with the South Carolina Trucking Association. Decals displaying the human trafficking hotline number were created and posted on the back of commercial trucks. 50,000 decals were distributed to the 330 South Carolina Trucking Association member organizations. Decals were provided in both English and Spanish to broaden the reach across the state. In addition, the State Task Force and the South Carolina Trucking Association partnered to provide a presentation at the 2024 Southeast Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Research Summit held at the University of Alabama in August. The presentation highlighted the

successful collaboration between the two partners that has enhanced human trafficking awareness efforts in South Carolina's trucking industry.

In September, the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association hosted their 2024 Marketing and Operations Conference in Myrtle Beach. Mandy Bowden, the State Task Force point person for TravelWatchSC, presented human trafficking information relevant to the hospitality industry to help better educate the professionals in attendance at the conference.



# Hispanic Awareness Campaign

Language barriers are a factor in preventing human trafficking information from reaching significant percentages of the population. In South Carolina, Spanish is the second most spoken language after English. The Task Force was eager to reach more members of Spanish speaking communities through a statewide Hispanic Awareness Campaign. The campaign was designed to increase outreach, public awareness, and information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

## Outreach

The State Task Force liaison for the Hispanic Awareness Campaign, Veronica Smith, established connections with those working in professions that support Spanish speaking communities, advocates facilitating meetings and special events, and others working on language accessibility. Efforts will continue to build a strong network that can assist the Task Force in bringing awareness about human trafficking, both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

## Spanish Presentation

During Hispanic Heritage Month, the State Task Force invited the public to attend a virtual human trafficking presentation offered completely in Spanish. There were 29 attendees. The presentation was recorded and is available to the public to aid in facilitating access to information about human trafficking.

## Community Events

The State Task Force liaison attended Latin festivals across the state to share information about human trafficking, how to report a suspected incident, and how victims can access much needed services. At the festivals, items with the National Human Trafficking Hotline phone and text numbers were shared with those in attendance. Items included 2,000 magnets, 5,000 pens, 2,500 koozies, 750 keychains, 1,000 informational cards, and 1,000 brochures, all containing information in Spanish.

## Next Steps

The State Task Force will continue its efforts to bring awareness to Spanish speaking communities through additional training opportunities, Hotline items, and other such resources. The Task Force's free statewide prevention education curriculum, TraffickProofSC, will also be available with Spanish subtitles and dubbing. There will also be a video for parents and guardians, a video for the hotel industry, and a video for the restaurant industry that will all include Spanish subtitles and dubbing. The Task Force hopes to develop additional sector specific videos including healthcare, transportation, agriculture, the family courts, and others identified through input from outreach efforts.



Greenwood Latin Festival





# Unhoused and Runaway Initiative

The State Human Trafficking Task Force acknowledges that vulnerable populations in our society are extremely susceptible to victimization by human traffickers. In efforts to reach a specific vulnerable population, the State Task Force distributed 50,000 personal care items to organizations across the state that serve unhoused individuals and runaway youth. Each item was customized with the National Human Trafficking Hotline contact information.

The distributed items included sanitizing wipes, deodorants, insect repellent spray, lip balm/sunscreen sticks, and refillable water bottles. Regional task forces across the state helped to identify 26 organizations to receive the items and they were delivered by State Task Force staff during August and September. The State Task Force thanks each regional task force for supporting this initiative in their communities.

County	Organization	County	Organization
Aiken	The Salvation Army of Aiken	Jasper	Jasper County School District Homeless Program
Anderson	The Salvation Army of Anderson	Kershaw	United Way of Kershaw County
Beaufort	Family Promise of Beaufort County	Lexington	Lexington County School District One, McKinney-Vento Program
Catawba Nation	Catawba Nation Housing Services	Lexington/Richland	Supportive Housing Services
Charleston	One80 Place	Oconee	Our Daily Rest
Charleston	CARES for the Unhoused	Orangeburg	The Samaritan House of Orangeburg County
Florence	House of Hope of the Pee Dee	Pickens	Family Promise of Pickens County
Greenville	Pendleton Place	Richland	Oliver Gospel
Greenville	Triune Mercy Center	Richland	Palmetto Place
Greenwood	Greenwood Pathway House	Spartanburg	Miracle Hill Rescue Mission
Greenwood	United Way of Lakelands	Sumter	Eastern Carolina Housing Organization, Sumter
Horry	New Directions of Horry County	York	Pathways Community Center
Horry	Sea Haven for Youth		
Horry	Eastern Carolina Housing Organization, Myrtle Beach		



**50,000**  
items delivered to  
organizations across  
South Carolina

# Trunk or Treat

In 2024, the State Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee partnered with regional task forces to support the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat initiative. The regional task forces partnered with faith-based organizations to increase human trafficking education and awareness efforts across the state. The family-friendly events provided members of regional task forces the opportunity to engage directly with community members while distributing items that promote TraffickProofSC, the State Task Force prevention education curriculum specific to South Carolina. The events also provided an opportunity to share online safety tips to highlight the impact of social media in relation to the crime of human trafficking.

The State Task Force distributed 5,000 items to the regional task forces for the Trunk or Treat events. Items included glow cups, candy, stress balls, color-changing mood pencils, and a palm card to educate parents and guardians about the realities of human trafficking. Thank you to all the Trunk-or-Treat locations for welcoming us to participate in your events.

County	Organization
Aiken	1st Baptist Church of Montmorenci
Barnwell	Barnwell YMCA
Dorchester	Church at Cane Bay
Greenville	St. Paul United Methodist Church
Greenwood	Main Street United Methodist Church
Edgefield	Town of Edgefield
Jasper	Creative Church
Jasper	Gillisonville Baptist Church

County	Organization
Horry	Chesterfield Missionary Baptist
Horry	James Frazier Community Center
Lancaster	Hyde Park Baptist Church
Lexington	Pelion Trunk or Treat Community Event
Orangeburg	Orangeburg Sheriff's Office
Richland	Reid Chapel AME Church
Saluda	Saluda County Sheriff's Office/ Town of Saluda
Spartanburg	Inman First Baptist Church



Upstate Regional Task Force



Cayce FD (with Muffin) and CAE Public Safety

# 2025 Human Trafficking Task Force Initiatives

## Annual Advocate of the Year Award

In January, the inaugural Advocate of the Year Award will be awarded to former Senator Katrina Frye Shealy for her steadfast commitment to legislation that ultimately changed the anti-human trafficking landscape in South Carolina. The Task Force thanks the Senator for her commitment to the cause as well as her work to protect children and adolescents in our state. The award will be an annual opportunity for the Task Force to recognize the efforts of one individual that positively impacts South Carolina through their anti-human trafficking work.



## #SCWagsforAwareness

To bring added awareness, the Task Force created the #SCWagsforAwareness social media campaign that launches on January 1, 2025, to mark Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The campaign was developed to reach individuals who may not otherwise be exposed to information about the crime. It was also designed for pet owners and their dogs to stay engaged throughout the entirety of January. There is an event calendar featured on the Task Force website that details the prompts that will be shared on Facebook and X. At the end of the campaign, the “Best in Show” will be awarded to the person that helps bring the most awareness throughout the month.



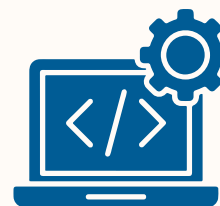
## \$6.5 million Human Trafficking Grant Program

The South Carolina General Assembly appropriated a one-time sum of \$6.5 million in 2024 for the State Task Force to develop a statewide human trafficking specific grant program. The funds are to be used to support the development of residential programming for minor victims of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The expectation is that there will be support for a minimum of three programs for minor females and one program for minor males. Additional funding, if available, will be allocated to efforts across the state that aim to provide support services to minor victims. More information will be shared in January regarding the grant process.



## Learning Management System

A goal for the State Task Force is to develop an online learning management system (LMS) that will host and store training sessions for a broad range of professional sectors. The LMS would provide one location for the state’s eLearning content, ensure quality instruction, and allow access per sector to the materials. It will be a cost-effective means of bringing new training topics that are accessible to stakeholders across South Carolina. Furthermore, it would provide a means for Victim Service Providers for Human Trafficking, prosecutors, healthcare workers, law enforcement, and others to maintain continuing education credits to meet the requirements in their professional field.





# 2025 Human Trafficking Task Force Initiatives

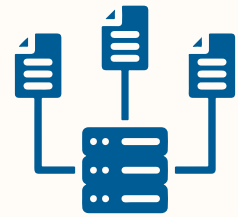
## 2025 Human Trafficking in the Carolinas Conference

In July, the State Task Force will host a two-day conference that will highlight best and emerging practices in the anti-human trafficking field. The plan is to include tracks for law enforcement, prosecutors, direct service providers, healthcare, and interfaith. There will be a wide array of topics to include labor trafficking, sector specific trauma-informed practices, TraffickProofSC prevention education, interfaith anti-human trafficking efforts, South Carolina's healthcare protocol, sextortion, and tips on prosecuting human trafficking cases. In preparation, the Task Force will solicit input from subcommittees regarding topics that would be especially helpful to those working in the various sectors.



## Statewide Data Collection System

The Task Force will identify and secure funding to develop and pilot the data collection system in 2025. The goal of creating a statewide data collection system is to gain a better understanding of human trafficking in South Carolina, how it intersects with other crimes, and the services needed to support those who have been victimized. The system will be designed to collect and analyze human trafficking data to guide awareness and prevention efforts, enhance investigation strategies, and inform policy recommendations. Data will also be collected for the other Violence Against Women Act crimes that include domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and harassment.



## State Task Force Podcast

In 2024, the Task Force began its work on developing the subject matter and structure for its inaugural podcast. The podcast is expected to be released in early 2025. Topics will include advocacy, legislation, special initiatives, prevention efforts, and input from those with lived experience. The podcast will also explore innovative ideas in the anti-human trafficking movement as well as how we can collectively bring more attention to labor trafficking in South Carolina and across the nation. The Task Force hopes to provide a resource for those actively engaged in anti-human trafficking efforts and those interested in joining the movement.



## Certification of Human Trafficking Agencies

Under a legislative mandate, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is required to certify those providing services to human trafficking victims and survivors. The State Task Force will need to launch the certification process in 2025 to allow for details to be finalized. The certification will specifically be for those who work solely with human trafficking victims and survivors, similar to the requirements for the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking. The certification will be available to those providing community-based services as well as residential. Once certified, the agency will be included in the Task Force's resource directory located on its website ([humantrafficking.scag.gov](https://humantrafficking.scag.gov)) under victim/survivor services.



# TraffickProofSC





# TraffickProofSC Prevention Education

## TraffickProofSC Highlights

### 2024 Silver Telly Award Winner

TraffickProofSC was the recipient of the 2024 Silver Telly Award. The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television across all screens. Founded in 1979 to honor local, regional and cable television commercials, with non-broadcast video and television programming added soon after, the award has evolved with the rise of digital video to include branded content, documentary, social media, immersive and more. The Telly Awards celebrates the best work in the video medium in an exciting new era of the moving image on and offline.

### 2024 SC Department of Education's Erin's Law Instructional Resource

The TraffickProofSC curriculum aligns with middle and high school health standards for grades 8–12. In 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education selected TraffickProofSC as an approved curriculum for sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention.

### TPSC Presented at Shared Hope International

Monique Garvin, State Task Force Deputy Director, and Ashley Bishop, Task Force Human Trafficking Prevention Education Coordinator, presented at Shared Hope International in Phoenix, Arizona. The presentation discussed the development and implementation of TraffickProofSC as a prevention education framework for other anti-human trafficking organizations. The presentation also focused on strategies and tools to build multisector partnerships and data driven performance metrics for effective implementation.

## TraffickProofSC Overview

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is one of the first steps in prevention. In partnership with SC Education Television (SCETV), the State Task Force developed TraffickProofSC, a series of free, age-appropriate, educational videos and curriculum catered to middle and high school students. This initiative serves as the first statewide human trafficking prevention education curriculum in South Carolina that highlights the importance of educating youth and their families on the realities of human trafficking.

The TraffickProofSC curriculum teaches students how to identify different types of human trafficking and associated warning signs, methods used by traffickers to exploit victims, and what to do if they think someone is being exploited. During the sessions, educators and students are provided with tools and resources to assist those who are or who may be vulnerable to being trafficked.

The curriculum includes modules on the following topics:

- » Human Trafficking Overview: What is Human Trafficking?
- » Staying Safe Online
- » Labor Trafficking
- » Sex Trafficking

**For questions related to TraffickProofSC, please contact a member of our prevention education team.**

#### *Statewide:*

Monique Garvin, Deputy Director  
moniquegarvin@scag.gov

#### *Upstate and Midlands Areas:*

Blake Easter, Prevention Education Coordinator  
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#### *Low Country and Pee Dee Areas:*

Ashley Bishop, Prevention Education Coordinator  
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# TraffickProofSC Prevention Education



## January 2024

» The Prevention Education Team conducted a 6-hour professional development for the faculty and staff at Blythewood High School. School administrators, guidance counselors, and lead teachers received a demonstration of the TraffickProofSC curriculum and a refresher course on mandated reporting.



## March 2024

» The first TPSC Train the Trainer was hosted in Columbia, SC. The two-day training graduated five trainers from Kay Phillips CAC and the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.



## May 2024

» TraffickProofSC is awarded the 2024 Silver Telly Award.

## February 2024

» The prevention education team completed the University of South Carolina Law School's Advanced Mandated Reporter Train-the-Trainer. Team members were certified as trainers to assist other professionals in understanding their role in reporting human trafficking and other suspected abuse.



## April 2024

» TraffickProofSC was piloted at Blythewood High School in Richland County. Over 100 students participated in four classes, including law education, sociology, and health science. Classes included students in grades 9-12 who participated in all four modules.



**94%**

of participants from the pilot said they know who to report to if they or someone they know might be a victim of human trafficking.

**95%**

of participants said they knew who to report to if they or someone they know might be a victim of human trafficking.

**"The training balanced educating students on the dangers with empowering them to recognize warning signs and stay safe. Interactive discussions encourage questions and create a supportive environment. This training is a valuable tool in raising awareness to help young people know the dangers of human trafficking and encourages them to seek help from a trusted adult."**

— TraffickProofSC Facilitator

# TraffickProofSC Prevention Education



## June 2024

- » Postcards were sent to over 500 middle and high schools in South Carolina to share information about the TPSC initiative. Information was sent to all the public and private middle and high schools in the state, including the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools and the South Carolina Independent School Association.
- » Blake Easter was onboarded as a Human Trafficking Prevention Education Coordinator, serving the Upstate and Midlands areas.



## August 2024

- » TraffickProofSC developed a catalogue of course offerings for school staff. Topics include an overview of human trafficking for school personnel, vicarious trauma in schools, trauma-informed education, and tools to navigate online grooming techniques.



## November 2024

- » The South Carolina Department of Education selected TraffickProofSC as recommended instructional materials for sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention.

## July 2024

- » Two TPSC Train the Trainer sessions were hosted in July. These sessions graduated 11 trained facilitators from Metropolitan CAC, Durant Children's Center, Julie Valentine Center, Dickerson CAC, Dee Norton CAC, Children's Recovery Center, and The Family Resource Center.



## October 2024

- » The final TPSC Train the Trainer session of the year was hosted virtually. The session graduated 14 trained facilitators from First Light CAC, Safe Passage, Inc., Edisto Children's Home, the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Dee Norton CAC, and the CAC of Aiken.
- » TraffickProofSC presented at the Shared Hope Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.



"Continued partnerships are essential to empower students, faculty, and staff with knowledge and awareness, helping the school community recognize and combat the dangers of trafficking in South Carolina. These partnerships play a vital role in creating a safer environment and promoting the well-being of students while equipping parents with the necessary tools to guide these important conversations with their children."

— Odora Coleman, Assistant Principal, Blythewood High School

The TPSC modules were designed to leverage the information from the previous lessons and by module 4 only 0.6% of students from the pilot showed no improvement from pretest to posttest.

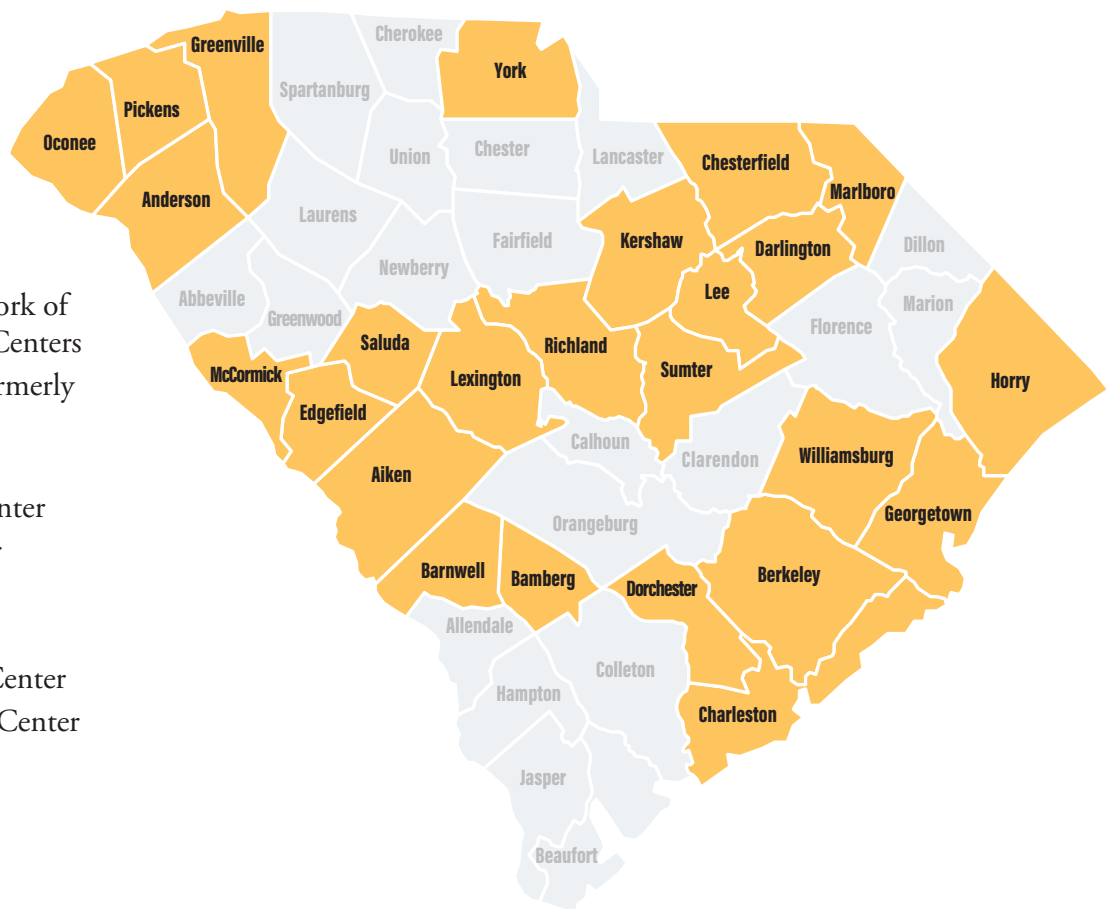
# TraffickProofSC Prevention Education

To expand the reach and impact of the curriculum, the Prevention Education Team hosted three (2 in person, 1 virtual) Train-the-Trainer sessions to certify Child Advocacy Centers statewide. 11 out of 17 CACs partnered with the State Task Force to have at least one trained TPSC facilitator represent their area. These efforts produced 27 new TPSC facilitators and covered

25 out of the 46 counties in South Carolina. These local and state level collaborations not only increase the capacity of TPSC efforts, but they highlight the availability of resources to vulnerable youth in our communities. The continuation of these efforts is vital in preventing and increasing awareness, building strong partnerships, and creating safer communities.

## Partner Children Advocacy Centers

- » South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
- » Kay Phillips CAC (formerly Dorchester CAC)
- » Metropolitan CAC
- » Durant Children's Center
- » Julie Valentine Center
- » Dickerson CAC
- » Dee Norton CAC
- » Children's Recovery Center
- » The Family Resource Center
- » Safe Passage
- » CAC of Aiken
- » First Light CAC



"SCETV and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force's partnership brings together state agencies that share a dedication to elevating community safety by leveraging their respective skills and expertise to inform our citizens about the importance of preventing human trafficking crimes. It is gratifying to experience the passion our respective agencies bring to the project and richly rewarding to work together for the betterment of South Carolina."

— VJ Alfred, Director of Instructional Design and Technology, South Carolina ETV and Public Radio



# TraffickProofSC Prevention Education

## Professional Trainings and Conferences

TraffickProofSC represented at nearly 30 outreach events and presentations across the state and reached nearly 1500 professionals and community members. Groups included: Aiken County Department of Juvenile Justice, Palmetto Place, Richland One Health Educators, and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

Members of the Prevention Education team presented at state and national conferences, including Shared Hope International and the South Carolina Association of School Resource Officers. Other 2024 collaborations included the South Carolina Department of Education, Richland School District 2, Richland School District 1, and Calhoun County School District.

## TPSC Phase II

In Phase II of TPSC, a second prevention education curriculum will be developed to meet the needs of youth in residential and community-based programs across the state. The educational materials will be designed for youth with a wider range of lived experiences and vulnerabilities, with the intended impact of increasing awareness and identification of at-risk and confirmed minor victims and survivors. Implementation of this phase will include providing support to community-based programs, child-serving agency staff, and

child advocacy centers. Educators will also have access to a learning management system to become trained TPSC facilitators and will be able to earn recertification credit.

Additionally, videos will be created for parents, guardians, and teachers to provide education related to sex trafficking, labor trafficking, potential red flags, and the psychological impact that exploitation may have on minor victims.

All the educational videos developed in Phase Two will include voiceovers and dubbing in Spanish.



July Train-the-Trainer for CACs



State Task Force Prevention Ed Coordinators



Outreach materials

## Training and Outreach

### **22** Trainings

Offered to those working in professional sectors integral in identifying human trafficking, responding to the crime, and providing quality services to victims and survivors.

### **968** Individuals Trained

Trainees included law enforcement, prosecutors, healthcare, direct service providers, and other stakeholders across South Carolina.

### **106** Presentations

Provided by the State Task Force staff and prosecutors at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General.

### **5,155** Presentation Attendees

Attendees included educators, faith-based professionals, state agency staff, and others interested in learning more about human trafficking in our state.

# Training and Outreach

## Two-Day Advanced Law Enforcement Training

In 2024, the State Task Force provided seven two-day Advanced Law Enforcement trainings for officers from across South Carolina. More than 160 participants completed an intensive two-day program addressing both foundational and advanced strategies for responding to labor and sex trafficking. The training covered critical topics such as trauma-informed policing, effective investigative processes, and equipping officers with the tools and knowledge to identify, address, and prevent human trafficking in their communities. The objectives included identifying red flags, risk factors, and relevant laws.



Fortis Tactical Systems led an intensive Trauma-Informed Policing session that examined adverse childhood experiences, the effects of trauma, and the importance of being trauma-informed. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) facilitated case studies of human trafficking cases to explore the complexity of the crime and relevant investigative strategies. Additionally, SLED agents trained participants on the use of case reporting tools and utilizing relevant resources. Chris Muller-Tabanera, The Network Chief Strategy Officer, presented on the illicit massage industry. He shared information about local and national trends, the impact of culture on victimization, and network operations. Representatives from the respective local Child Advocacy Centers spoke about the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol and emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in responding to human trafficking.



## The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Understanding and Responding to Victims

The State Task Force partnered with My Life My Choice (MLMC) to bring added awareness about human trafficking to South Carolina. MLMC first presented The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Understanding and Responding to Victims. There were 171 individuals present for the online introductory training. This event helped attendees understand the scope of human trafficking, how to recognize an exploiter, common recruitment tactics, the impact of commercial sexual exploitation, how to utilize the Stages of Change Model while working with commercially exploited youth, and our collective roles in identifying and responding to victims.



## Skills and Strategies for Providing Effective, Trauma-Informed Services to Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

MLMC also provided advanced clinical training, Skills and Strategies for Providing Effective, Trauma-Informed Services to Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth. The virtual training was attended by 53 practitioners from across South Carolina. Those in attendance received tools to develop trauma informed clinical programming for commercially exploited youth. The one-day training provided a space for practicing the skills through role play, group discussion, and small group work.

## Annual Human Trafficking Train the Trainer Academy

In 2024, The State Task Force continued to offer HEAL's Human Trafficking Train the Trainer Academy to healthcare professionals active in the response to human trafficking in South Carolina. There was one professional from the Lowcountry of the state that completed the training. HEAL's Train the Trainer is designed





# Training and Outreach

to teach a public health approach to human trafficking, how to identify and overcome barriers in victim identification, strategies for developing a protocol for healthcare institutions, and insights into both trauma-informed care and the role of culture in care. The State Task Force will continue to offer this impactful training to healthcare professionals active in regional and state-level responses within their sector.

## Human Trafficking and Tattoo Identification: A Comprehensive Overview

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force collaborated with the National Human Trafficking Training Academy (NHTTA) to bring multiple trainings to the state including Human Trafficking and Tattoo Identification: A Comprehensive Overview. This virtual training had 121 attendees who received an introduction to the intersection of human trafficking and tattoos. The topics included the significance of tattoos in trafficking situations and the trauma associated with the markings. Throughout the four-hour training, trauma-informed approaches were emphasized to ensure attendees gained added insight into the psychological impact of tattoos on victims and emotional consideration for survivors. Attendees also heard from a survivor of human trafficking about the psychological impact of tattoos used to control her and the positive emotional effects of covering the tattoos with other images.



## Unmasking the Hidden: Confronting Familial Sex Trafficking

NHTTA also provided an online training regarding familial human trafficking, a crime that impacts communities across South Carolina. The four-hour training session, Unmasking the Hidden: Confronting Familial Sex Trafficking, provided the 111 attendees with an in-depth understanding of familial sex trafficking and its impact on victims. The information presented

included defining and distinguishing familial sex trafficking from other forms of the crime and how to recognize signs and behavioral indicators of both victims and perpetrators. The training also helped attendees develop skills to engage and support victims including the coordination of a multi-disciplinary response.

## Gang-Facilitated Human Trafficking

The intersection of gang affiliations and human trafficking cases has grown increasingly complex in South Carolina, prompting the need for specialized training for law enforcement. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force hosted a one-day Gang-Facilitated Human Trafficking training. This opportunity equipped 53 law enforcement officers and victim advocates, including 3 federal and 19 state-level agents, with critical skills to address the challenges of gang-controlled trafficking. Those who participated in the training gained insight into recognizing behavioral indicators and other signs of gang-related trafficking and applying advanced investigative techniques to identify trafficking victims while building strong cases. The Task Force plans to continue providing law enforcement-specific training opportunities to address emerging issues such as gang facilitated human trafficking.

## Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals

The legislatively mandated Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals was offered twice in 2024. The multi-day training was first held in May and June with 15 individuals receiving their certification. The second training was held in September and October with 8 professionals completing their certification. Agencies who had staff attend the trainings include Doors to Freedom, Engaging Minds Services, Lighthouse for Life, Jasmine Road, Children's Advocacy Center of Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union, and the Formation Project.





# Training and Outreach

The State Task Force surveyed trainees that completed the basic core curriculum to gather input regarding the training. In 2025, the Task Force will offer two training opportunities including a one day in person with three virtual morning sessions format in addition to a multi-day in-person only training one-day format. As services for minors are developed across the state, the Task Force expects to have larger enrollment in the VSP-HT trainings and may need to increase the number of training opportunities offered to specialized service providers.

The Task Force would like to thank the following instructors for their contribution to the two VSP-HT training courses. The wealth of information shared by these individuals helps to ensure the state-level certification is a continued success.

- » Christine Shaw Long, NC Human Trafficking Commission
- » Abdalis Toro, SC Department of Employment and Workplace
- » Margaret Bodman, USC Children's Law Center
- » Ari Foster, The Hive Community Circle
- » Aaliyah Simon, SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
- » Dr. Valerie Ekue, The Hive Community Circle
- » Sharon Rikard, Doors to Freedom
- » ChristaBeth Turner, Doors to Freedom
- » Becky Bonavida, Doors to Freedom
- » Rebekah Hiatt, SC Victim Assistance Network
- » Megan Raymer, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Caroline Hughes, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Christina Toler, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Linda Leneau, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Ruth Brockman, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Blake Easter, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Monique Garvin, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Kathryn Moorehead, SC Office of the Attorney General

## State Task Force Outreach

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force staff, and prosecutors from the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, receive requests for presentations throughout the year. In 2024, staff and prosecutors provided 106 presentations in communities across the state. The presentations reached 5,155 attendees. In addition, State Task Force staff, subcommittee chairs, and subcommittee members also provided outreach via special events and initiatives. The Task Force thanks stakeholders across the state for their efforts to engage communities on the topic of human trafficking.

## Point of Contact:

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Training & Outreach Program Assistant  
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
mwilliams@scag.gov

## VSP-HT Trainee Feedback

"I found the information to be very helpful and interesting in understanding what victims may experience."

"It was very informative. The more trainings I attended, the more the information made sense and linked together. I loved the interactions between the teachers and students."

# Training and Outreach

## **SCHTTF 2-Day Advanced Law Enforcement Training Highlights**

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force hosted seven two-day Advanced Law Enforcement Trainings throughout the state. This advanced training offered valuable insights and practical tools to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in addressing human trafficking in South Carolina.

The overview of human trafficking was presented at each training by the SCHTTF program coordinator assigned to the respective area. Objectives included reviewing basics related to identifying red flags, risk factors, and relevant laws. Fortis Tactical Systems also led an intensive Trauma-Informed Policing session which examined the effects of trauma, the importance of being trauma-informed, and addressed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in policing. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) facilitated reviews of human trafficking cases, thus shedding light on its complexities and offering guidance on relevant investigative strategies. Additionally, SLED agents trained participants on the appropriate use of case reporting tools and resources.

Chris Muller-Tabanera from The Network trained attendees about the illicit massage industry, sharing information about local and national trends, the impact of culture on victimization, and other insights about traffickers' network operations. Additionally, this session also emphasized identifying red flags and risk factors associated with illicit massage businesses. Representatives from local Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) presented highlights from the Child Abuse Response Protocol and emphasized the importance of interagency coordination in combating human trafficking. SCHTTF program coordinators facilitated a session covering key topics such as identifying red flags, risk factors, and relevant laws. A critical component of the training was the Trauma-Informed Policing session, led by Fortis Tactical Systems, which examined the effects of trauma, the importance of being trauma-informed, and



addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in policing. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) presented on detailed human trafficking cases, shedding light on its complexities. Additionally, agents from SLED trained participants on the appropriate usage of applications that aid in accurately reporting cases. The Network team provided essential insights into the culture of illicit massage businesses, offering detailed information about their internal and external operations. This session emphasized identifying red flags and risk factors associated with these establishments. A representative from the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) discussed the importance of interagency collaboration, the Child Abuse Response Protocol, and understanding the importance of coordinated efforts in combating human trafficking. This training offered valuable insights and practical tools to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in addressing human trafficking in South Carolina.

# Training and Outreach



Fortis Tactical Trainer



Fortis Tactical Team



Hardeeville Advanced LE Training



Trauma-informed Policing Session

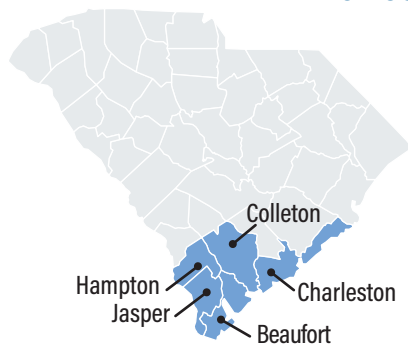


2nd Judicial Circuit Advanced Law Enforcement Training

# Training and Outreach

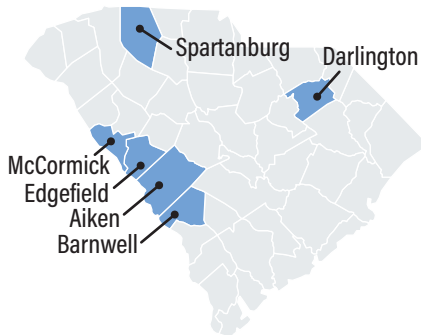
Trainings took place in Hardeeville, Aiken, Florence, York, Myrtle Beach, Newberry, and Orangeburg. A total of 160 law enforcement officers attended the two-day training, that covered a wide range of topics. The agenda included an overview of human trafficking, trauma-informed policing, insight into the illicit massage industry, case studies, a review of the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol, and the importance of interagency collaboration. Each training drew participants from the noted counties in South Carolina.

## Lowcountry Advanced Law Enforcement Training



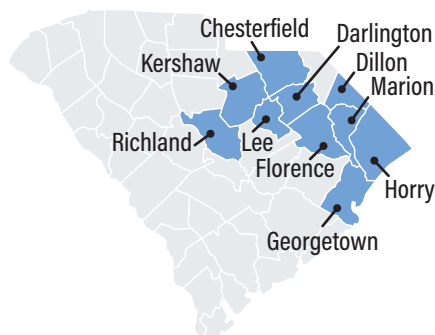
Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
36	32	2	2	0

## 2nd Judicial Circuit Advanced Law Enforcement Training



Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
28	23	2	1	2

## Pee Dee Advanced Law Enforcement Training

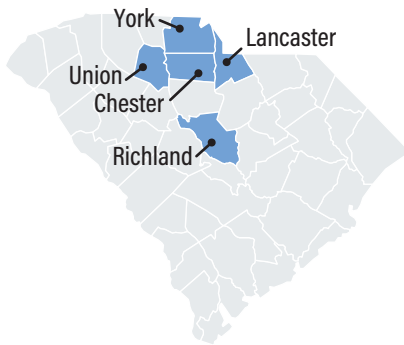


Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
39	25	14	0	0



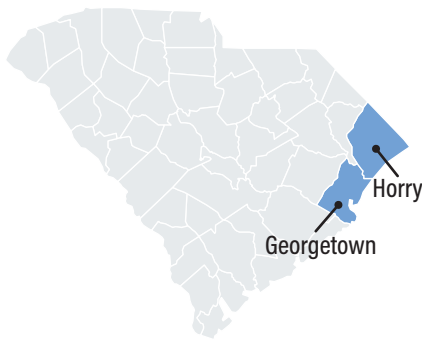
# Training and Outreach

## Catawba Area Advanced Law Enforcement Training



Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
29	26	2	0	1

## Coastal Region Advanced Law Enforcement Training



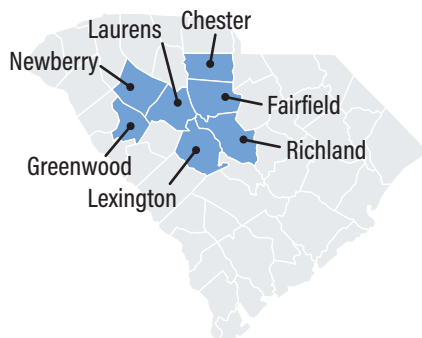
Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
22	20	2	0	0

## 1st Judicial Circuit Advanced Law Enforcement Training



Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
16	10	3	3	0

## 8th Judicial Circuit Advanced Law Enforcement Training



Total Number of Attendees	Law Enforcement Officers	Law Enforcement Victim Advocates	State Employees	Federal Employees
18	12	3	3	0

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# **South Carolina Specific Data**

# Prosecution of Human Trafficking

## Collaborating for Optimal Results

The three prosecution offices handling human trafficking cases in South Carolina are the United States Attorneys' Office for the District of South Carolina, the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, and the Solicitors' Offices representing the sixteen judicial circuits of South Carolina. In 2024, we saw the strengthening of the relationships between the groups create and clarify a model for the future of human trafficking prosecution in South Carolina.

While the federal government passed the first human trafficking legislation in 2000, the South Carolina Attorney General's Office worked closely with the State Legislature to draft and ultimately pass in 2012, South Carolina's first comprehensive human trafficking legislation. The 2012 legislation mandated the development of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. The State Task Force provided the platform for future collaborative efforts amongst the three prosecution groups.

The collaborative efforts began with statewide training opportunities for prosecution and law enforcement to better identify human trafficking in South Carolina. It became evident that the complexities of the cases, not seen in most criminal investigations, would require an increased level of time and dedication from investigators and prosecutors as well as communication and resource sharing amongst agencies. It was through experience, including successes and challenges, that necessitated a model of streamlined communication optimized for the prosecutors and law enforcement. This communication provides for clear decision-making and helps in preventing the duplication of efforts.

*In 2024, steps were developed to provide guidance on how human trafficking investigations and ultimately prosecution decisions should be handled in South Carolina.*

1. The initial report is received by a law enforcement agency who relays it the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and other representatives on the law enforcement subcommittee to determine if the case is already being worked by local, state or federal authorities.
2. The law enforcement contact reaches out to their corresponding contact at the US Attorney's Office, Attorney General's Office, or Solicitor's Office to share about the initial investigation.
3. The attorneys respond with any legal advice needed immediately and gather known jurisdictional information. The attorney brings in appropriate state, local and federal prosecutors to determine who should be the point of contact for law enforcement to streamline communication.
4. At this stage, all parties speak to address the case including who is involved in the investigation and the primary point of contact is given to law enforcement for any further communication for legal advice during the investigation. The law enforcement point of contact is identified and responsible for communication between the law enforcement and prosecutors.



SCAG Special Prosecution

# Prosecution of Human Trafficking

The process proved particularly useful in 2024 in the investigation and prosecution of four defendants for trafficking minors across state lines, *United States v. Nicholson et al.* The case originated in South Carolina as the defendants lived in our state. Local, state and federal partners all worked on the case and, while charges originated in South Carolina, it became apparent the case was going to involve transporting minors across state lines. The United States Attorney's Office adopted the charges and indicted for prosecution in federal court. It is an example of successful prosecution given stakeholder communication and understanding of responsibilities. This same system is being used in other cases, resulting in both state and federal prosecutions.

## United States Attorneys' Office for the District of South Carolina

Per the US Department of Justice, the United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) prosecute defendants charged with human trafficking crimes, including labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and sex trafficking of children. Prosecutors and victim assistance staff provide human trafficking victims services and ensure victims are accorded their rights throughout the criminal justice process. The USAO for the District of South Carolina is an active member of the State Human Trafficking Task Force.

In 2024, the USAO's in Greenville and Columbia offices successfully prosecuted seven cases of human trafficking.

## Contacts

- » Greenville: Carrie Fisher Sherard, Assistant United States Attorney
- » Columbia: Elliott Daniels, Assistant United States Attorney
- » Charleston: Katie Orville, Assistant United States Attorney
- » Florence: Lauren Hummell, Assistant United States Attorney
- » The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

The Attorney General's Special Victims Prosecution Area, under General Prosecution, houses those responsible for prosecuting both sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases. These prosecutions would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the investigators and victim advocates who help prepare the victims and locate the witnesses needed to move forward to a successful resolution of the charges. Special Investigator Holly Siniard works with the Task Force and Special Victims Prosecution to assist with special projects outside of traditional prosecution. Special Victims successfully prosecuted four cases with one defendant taking the case to a jury verdict in 2024. The *US v. Nicholson* case mentioned above was adopted by the United States Attorney's Office including four separate defendants. There are 16 cases that remain active after December 31, 2024.

## Contacts

- » Megan Raymer, Assistant Attorney General
- » Kinli Abec, Assistant Deputy Attorney General
- » Andrew Tocheny, Special Investigator for Prosecution



The Hollings Award for Excellence in State Prosecution

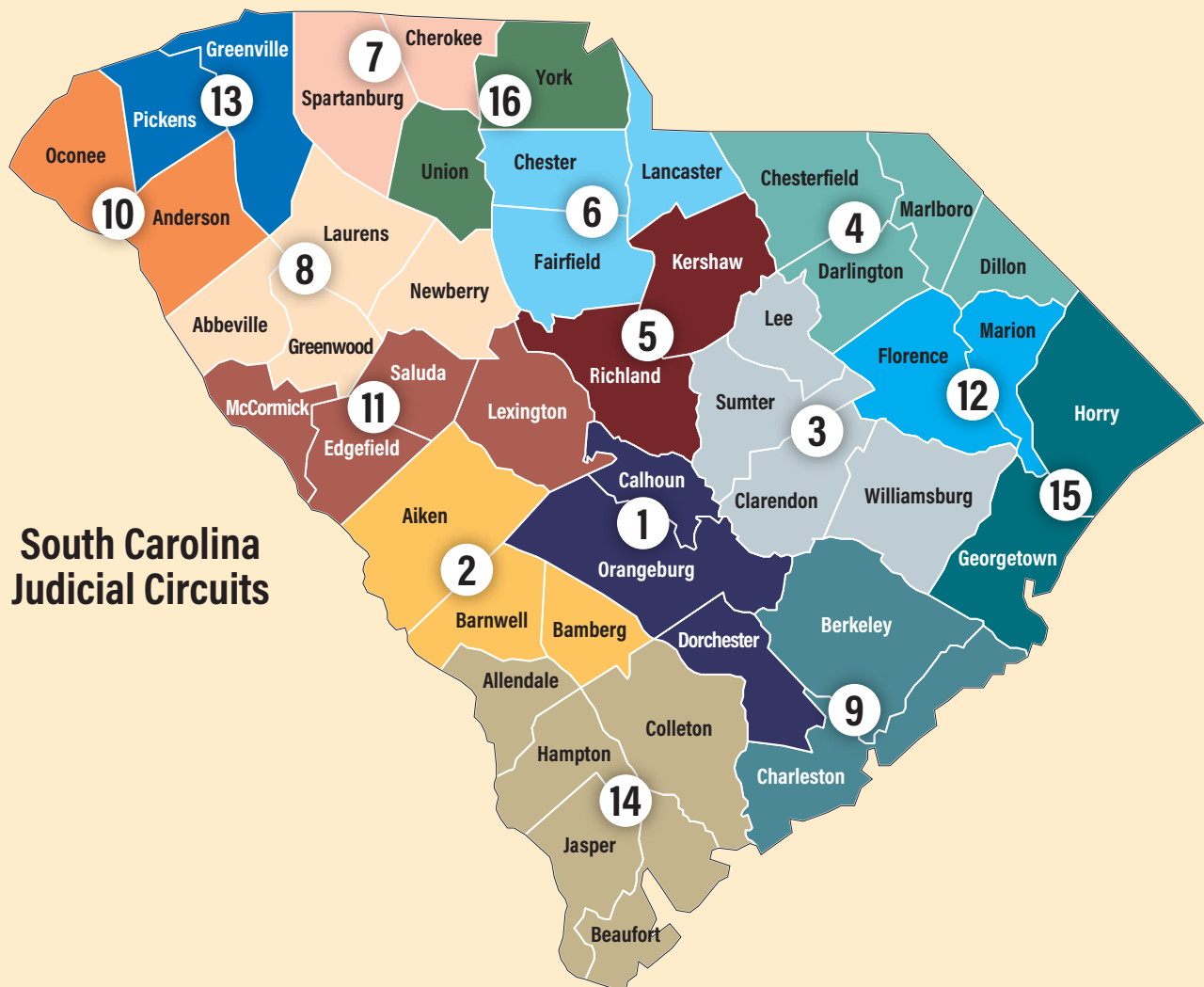


# Prosecution of Human Trafficking

## South Carolina Solicitors' Offices

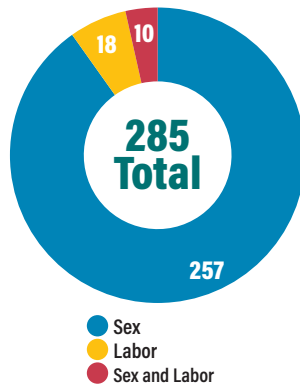
Solicitors' Offices across the state designated prosecutors in both general sessions and family court to attend trainings on human trafficking. These prosecutors work in conjunction with state and federal prosecutors and law enforcement on human trafficking investigations and prosecutions. Family Court prosecutors are working with juveniles who are identified as potential human trafficking victims. They see that the cases are handled in such a way that the juveniles receive proper services, and their cases are reviewed for any relationship to the trafficking situation.

Human trafficking cases are complex and demanding cases to prosecute. Victim advocates and investigators in the solicitors' offices provide an invaluable resource of bridging the advocacy from the initial law enforcement contact to the advocacy and communication required throughout the court process. Victims of human trafficking vary in number depending on the scope of the trafficker's crimes and the services needed to keep them safe, healthy, and ultimately prepared to go to court. Solicitors have committed to working together to bring justice for victims of human trafficking. In 2024, the Solicitors in York County successfully prosecuted two cases and Lexington County prosecuted one case. Several Solicitor's Offices have pending trafficking cases leading into 2025.

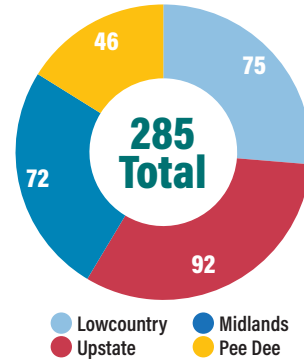


# South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Data

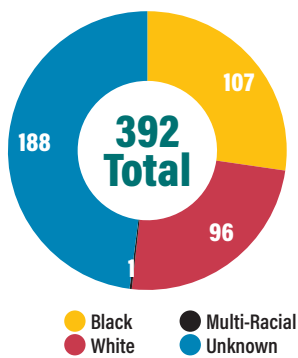
Tips Investigated in 2024



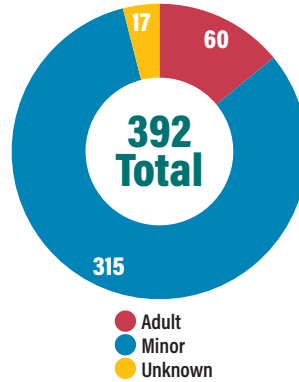
Tips by Area



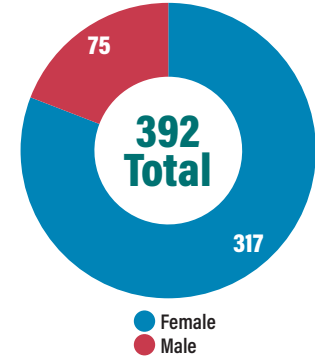
Race of Victims



Adult and Minor Victims



Male and Female Victims



County	Number of Tips
ABBEVILLE	2
AIKEN	7
ALLENDALE	1
ANDERSON	6
BAMBERG	2
BARNWELL	1
BEAUFORT	5
BERKELEY	18
CALHOUN	0
CHARLESTON	31
CHEROKEE	8
CHESTER	4
CHESTERFIELD	3
CLARENDON	2
COLLETON	2
DARLINGTON	2

County	Number of Tips
DILLON	0
DORCHESTER	8
EDGEFIELD	2
FAIRFIELD	1
FLORENCE	6
GEORGETOWN	2
GREENVILLE	32
GREENWOOD	2
HAMPTON	1
HORRY	22
JASPER	4
KERSHAW	2
LANCASTER	5
LAURENS	8
LEE	0
LEXINGTON	21

County	Number of Tips
MARION	1
MARLBORO	0
MCCORMICK	0
NEWBERRY	4
OCONEE	4
ORANGEBURG	4
PICKENS	1
RICHLAND	31
SALUDA	1
SPARTANBURG	16
SUMTER	3
UNION	1
WILLIAMSBURG	0
YORK	9

# National Human Trafficking Hotline Data

## Top 5 Counties for Reported Situations

1. Greenville	13
2. Horry	9
3. Richland	8
4. Charleston	5
4. Spartanburg	5

## Top 5 Labor Trafficking Venues / Industry

1. Retail/Small Business
2. Housekeeping/Cleaning Service
3. Hospitality
4. Restaurant/Food Service
5. Domestic Work

## Top 5 Sex Trafficking Venues / Industry

1. Hotel/Motel-Based
2. Pornography
3. Escort/Delivery Service
4. Illicit Massage/Spa Business
5. Residence-Based Commercial Sex

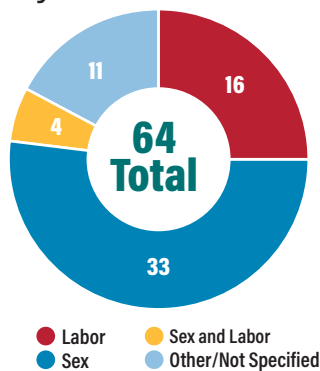
64

Total  
Reported Trafficking  
Situations

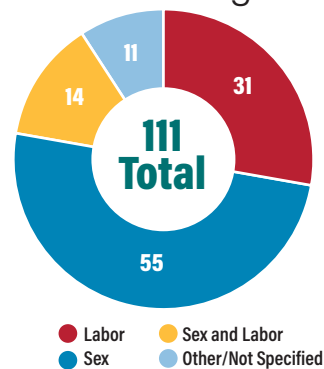
111

Total  
Likely Victims

## Form of Trafficking by # of Situations



## Victims by Form of Trafficking



The National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics depicted here are from 2023 data. It takes Polaris a year to clean the information.

# Department of Juvenile Justice Data

Of the 63 juveniles identified as human trafficking victims, each victim was involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice for at least one of the following charges. The most prevalent being runaway.

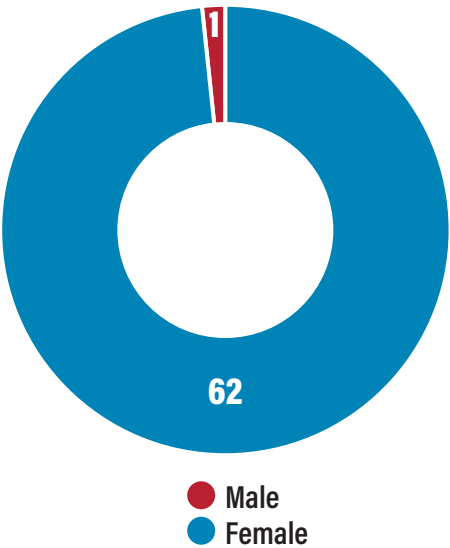
Runaway, Assault and Battery 3rd, Contempt of Court, Probation Violation, Incurrigible, Malicious Injury to Personal Property, Resisting Arrest, Truancy, Shoplifting, Grand Larceny, Providing False Information to Law Enforcement, Unlawful Use of Telephone, Petit Larceny, Receiving Stolen Goods, Possession of Cocaine, Unlawful Possession of a Pistol, Breaking into Motor Vehicle, Pedestrian in Highway, Throwing Bodily Fluids, Unlawful Use of Vehicle, Trespassing, Breach of Peace, Interfering with School Bus, and Disturbing School.



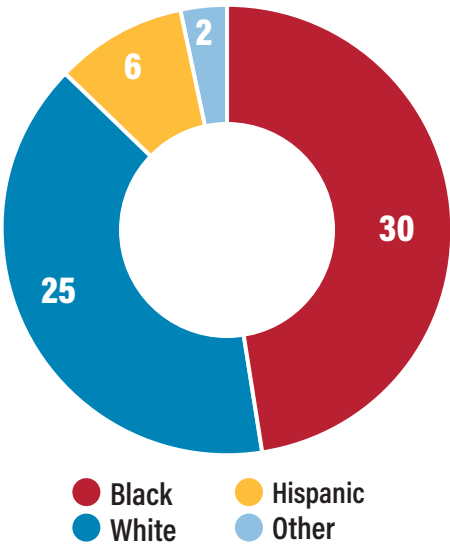
## Victims by County

Aiken	4	Kershaw	1
Anderson	1	Laurens	2
Berkeley	8	Lexington	6
Charleston	4	Newberry	1
Cherokee	2	Oconee	1
Dorchester	6	Richland	10
Edgefield	1	Spartanburg	2
Greenville	9	Sumter	1
Horry	1	York	3

## Broken Down by Gender



## Broken Down by Race





# South Carolina Courts Data

**As 2024 closes, 37 different defendants have a total of 62 charges pending for human trafficking in the South Carolina State Courts.**

Twenty-eight human trafficking charges were closed in 2024, one defendant with two charges was convicted by a jury trial in Richland County prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office, four charges pled to human trafficking, 5 charges pled to other charges related to trafficking, and the trafficking charges were dismissed. Sixteen charges involving four defendants were dismissed for federal prosecution and prosecutorial decisions on the same facts, one charge was dismissed. Twenty new charges of trafficking were opened reflecting sixteen separate defendants. Half of the charges were trafficking of minors under 21 and half were trafficking adults.

In 2024 multiple cases were prepared for jury trials and prosecutors addressed the challenges of bringing

the cases to trial. Cases moving through the system in South Carolina often take time to get scheduled on the trial docket and often face continuances or other complications getting the case before a jury. This year prosecution has dealt with the difficulty of preparing victims for a court case only to have it delayed. The importance of detailed documentation every step of the investigation and trial preparation has become paramount. As trial preparation occurs, the details of phone calls, social media and other evidence used to put the case together in the beginning must be reviewed again each time the case comes up on a docket. The detailed documentation, cooperation and understanding between law enforcement and the prosecutors are the keys to a successful prosecution from the initial charge through disposition.

## Total Pending Defendants by County

Anderson	2	Lancaster	3
Beaufort	4	Lexington	1
Berkeley	4	Marion	1
Charleston	5	Marlboro	2
Dorchester	2	Oconee	1
Florence	2	Orangeburg	2
Greenville	1	Richland	4
Horry	3	Sumter	2
Jasper	2		

(note defendants charged in more than one county are counted once in each county)

## Defendant Cases closed by Type

Trial Conviction for Trafficking	1	Prosecution assumed by Federal Prosecution, State case dismissed	4
Guilty plea to Trafficking	4	Dismissed	1
Guilty Plea to another charge and Trafficking charge dismissed	4		

## Defendant Cases Opened in 2024 by County

Anderson	2	Lancaster	2
Beaufort	4	Lexington	1
Charleston	1	Richland	1
Florence	2	York	2
Jasper	2		

## Defendant Cases Closed by County in 2024

Berkeley	1	Lexington	1
Darlington	1	Richland	7
Florence	1	York	2
Lancaster	1		

The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of classical architecture. It features several large, fluted columns with papyrus capitals, set against a wall of similar columns. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The overall color palette is a monochromatic blue, ranging from deep navy to a lighter, almost white, where the text is located.

# **National and State Partnerships**

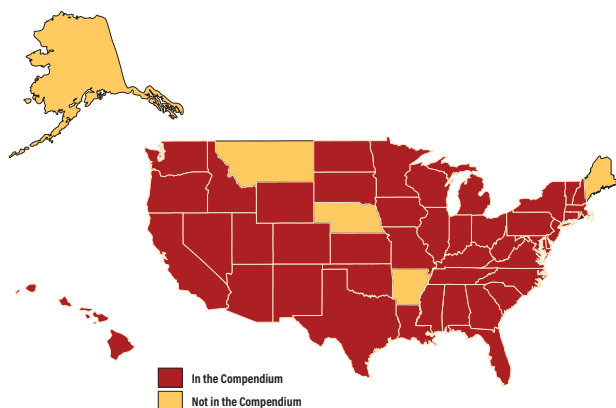
# National Partnerships

## Administration for Children & Families

ACF promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, youth, individuals and communities to be resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure. The Atlanta



Office coordinates the Region 4 Human Trafficking Workgroup composed of state leaders from the eight southeastern states. Member states include South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky.



## National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

The National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives is a group of professionals, primarily operating at the state level, who work on human trafficking issues and inform state-level policy decisions on how to address the crime. The National Compendium is designed as an opportunity for leaders to share ideas with one another to boost anti-human trafficking efforts both nationally and within their own states. It is led by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs. South Carolina maintains membership in the Compendium and actively engages with other state leaders.

## National Human Trafficking & Disabilities Working Group

The mission of the National Human Trafficking & Disabilities Working Group (NHTDWG) is to promote a survivor-centered, collaborative approach steeped in disability and racial justice for the prevention of trafficking of people with disabilities and Deaf individuals and ensure an accessible and appropriate response to survivors. NHTDWG is a collaboration of professionals, self-advocates, and survivors from all around the United States. The Working Group strives to create resources and to address gaps in research, social services, and legal services for individuals with disabilities who are at risk of trafficking or who may have experienced trafficking. The leadership and membership of NHTDWG is formed from experts and self-advocates from the anti-trafficking and disability communities.



## National Association of Attorneys General

Attorney General Alan Wilson, Chair of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, is a member of the National Association of Attorneys General and sits on the Association's Human Trafficking Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum

for state attorneys general to collaborate on issues related to



human trafficking and promote best practices aimed at combatting trafficking at the local, state, national, and international levels. The Human Trafficking Committee focuses on facilitating education, investigation, prosecution, victim services protection, prevention, and outreach in the human trafficking space; disseminating information on emerging issues and promising practices in the fight against human trafficking; and building alliances with international partner agencies and non-governmental organizations that share mutual goals.

# National Partnerships

## Polaris

The National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline (the Hotline) is the nationwide anti-human trafficking hotline and resource center serving victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community in the United States. Since 2007, it has been run by Polaris, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization. The hotline provides human trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and services to get help and stay safe. They also equip the anti-human trafficking community with tools to effectively combat human trafficking. The hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help. Polaris also provides anti-trafficking trainings, technical assistance, state specific data, and capacity building support.



## Thorn

Thorn is a unique nonprofit leveraging technology to combat child sexual exploitation. They are partnered with international non-governmental organizations and technology volunteers to stop the spread of child sexual abuse material and combat child traffickers who utilize the Internet in their crimes. Their work is guided by three principals: accelerate victim identification, equip platforms, and empower the public. In 2015, Thorn built a technological tool, Spotlight, to help law enforcement identify child sex trafficking victims and arrest their abusers. Currently, officers in all 50 states and Canada leverage the tool in their investigations and have helped identify thousands of child victims of human trafficking in the past five years. The technology identifies ten children per day on average, generating more than a 60% reduction in search time. Ultimately, Spotlight has equipped law enforcement to tackle more cases of child sexual exploitation within a shorter time frame.



## U.S Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

USCRI administers the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Trafficking in Persons. TVAP helps foreign national survivors of human trafficking achieve HHS certification and provides trauma-informed, person-centered, comprehensive case management services, facilitating timely access to vital services necessary to stabilize and re-establish their ability to live independently. Services include emergency assistance, safety planning, basic needs (food, clothing), and access to legal services, housing, health, education, language instruction, and other needed resources.



## Soul Survivor Ink

Soul Survivor Ink (SSI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on helping survivors of human trafficking and prior gang affiliation by assisting them in the removal of "branding" tattoos and scars. SSI partners with organizations nationwide to refer survivors to certified and trained affiliate tattoo artists and technicians while ensuring survivors' safety and privacy. The goal is to support survivors in their emotional, spiritual, and physical healing process through the elimination of "branding" reminders. SSI works with the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force to identify tattoo artists and technicians interested in participating in the program while promoting the available services to victims and survivors across the state.





# State Partnerships

## South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association

The purpose of the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association is to provide leadership which enhances the independent malt beverage wholesale industry; to advocate on behalf of its members before government and the public; to encourage the responsible consumption of beer; and to provide programs and services that will enhance members' efficiency and effectiveness.



## South Carolina Hospital Association

The South Carolina Hospital Association is committed to making South Carolina one of the nation's healthiest states by helping our hospitals and health systems provide the best care possible. They advocate for sound healthcare policies and legislation, facilitate collaboration to tackle problems that none of us could solve alone, find and share innovations and best practices, and provide data, education and business solutions to help our members better serve their patients and communities. The Association comprises approximately 100 member hospitals and health systems and 900 personal members.



## South Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association

With roots that date back to 1947, the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association was formed in 2012 when the South Carolina Hotel & Motel Association and the South Carolina Restaurant Association merged into a single organization. SCRLA is a statewide, non-partisan trade organization. The mission is to promote, protect and educate the foodservice and lodging industries of the state and to ensure positive business growth for our members. SCRLA strives to represent the best interest of its members on small business issues, hospitality and tourism concerns and towards the protection of South Carolina's quality of life.



## South Carolina Trucking Association

As a non-profit trade association, the South Carolina Trucking Association serves as the voice of the trucking industry in South Carolina since 1933. Membership has grown from 17 dues paying members in 1936, to a high point of almost 900 companies by the mid-nineties, to about 600 members today. The association's carrier members range from small, family-owned businesses with only a few vehicles, to large, national companies with major terminal facilities throughout South Carolina, the southeast and the nation. Small businesses comprise the majority of SCTA membership.



## South Carolina Indigenous Women's Alliance

The South Carolina Indigenous Women's Alliance (SCIWA) exists to recognize, unify and provide support and empowerment to all women of indigenous origin residing within or from the state of South Carolina.



"The State Task Force's commitment to disrupting human trafficking in South Carolina is evidenced by our multisector partnerships at the state, national and federal levels. We appreciate the ongoing support of our partners. Together, we will continue to deepen our collective impact with survivor-centered approaches and innovative solutions."

— Deputy Director Monique Garvin, South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

# State Partnerships

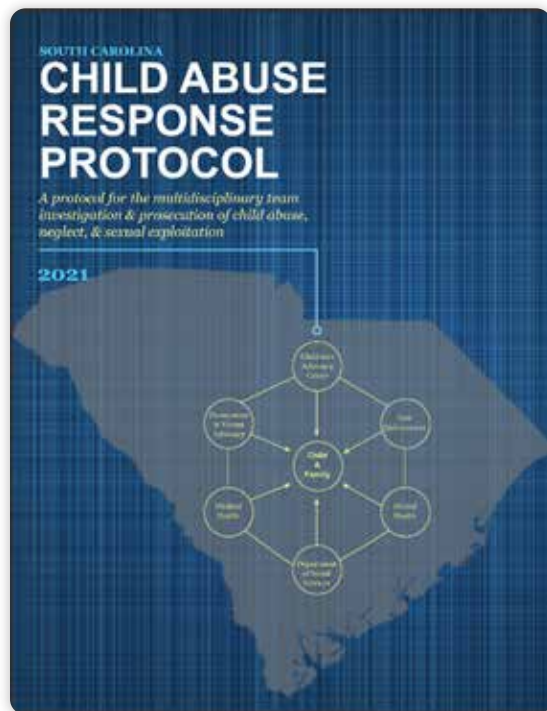
## Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

The South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Center (SCNCAC) is a non-profit membership organization that is accredited by the National Children's alliance. SCNCAC is the statewide leader in the response to child abuse in South Carolina. There are 17 primary Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in our state as well as 14 satellite CACs.

In 2018, SCNCAC began a collaboration with the South Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force to develop a statewide child abuse protocol. The goal was to create a tool to formalize the use of CACs and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) in South Carolina's response to child abuse. In 2021, Governor McMaster signed the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol bill into law. This legislation requires that in the investigation of a known or suspected crime against a child, a MDT must follow the protocol. This includes cases

of human trafficking involving minors. The procedure is listed in section three, Joint Investigations (LE & DSS) and Special Issues.

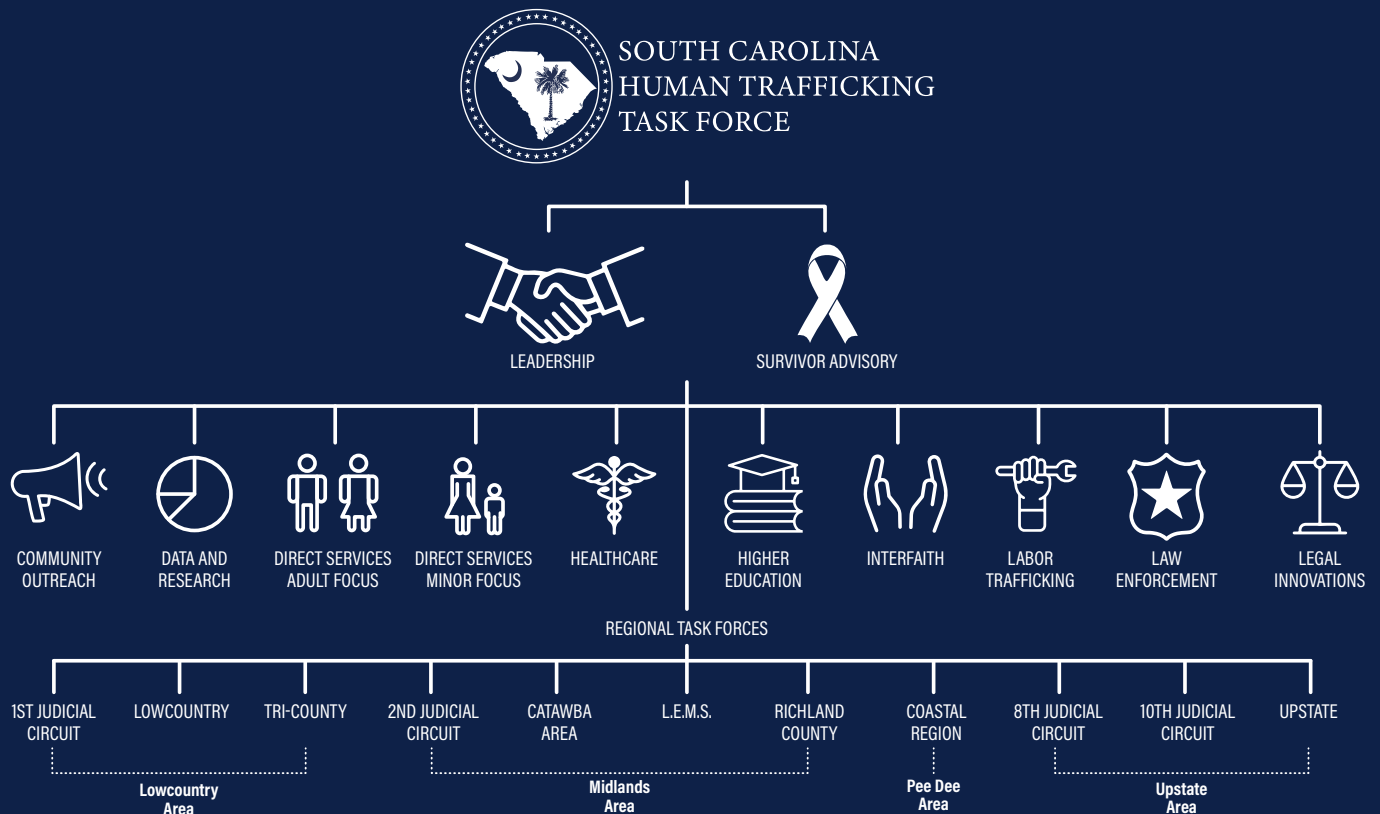
The SCNCAC offers online training that is self-paced and consists of approximately 3.5 hours of instruction. If you are a professional that is involved in responding to the needs of minor sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking victims, please complete the training available on their website.



**"A child is a victim of trafficking in persons as defined in Section 16-3-2010, including sex trafficking, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare. Identifying a child as a victim of trafficking in person does not create a presumption that the parent, guardian, or other individual responsible for the child's welfare abused, neglected, or harmed the child."** —SC Code Ann. § 63-7-20 (6)(b)

*The above information was taken from the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Center's website.*

# Human Trafficking Task Force Infrastructure



# Leadership Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Leadership Subcommittee includes members positioned to support statewide human trafficking initiatives, legislative requests, and system-level improvements with the goal of effectively preventing and responding to human trafficking in South Carolina.





## 2024 Highlights

### *\$6.5 Million Appropriation*

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, Chair of the State Task Force, led efforts to secure funds from the state government to build much needed services for victims and survivors of human trafficking. On behalf of the Task Force, General Wilson requested \$12 million for both community-based and residential programs. The State Task Force mandated member agency leaders signed a letter to the General Assembly presenting the case for additional services in the state and how funds would be used to benefit victims of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The General Assembly appropriated \$6.5 million specifically for the development of residential programs for minor victims.

### *Task Force Mandated Member Agency Membership*

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force works with numerous state agencies in its efforts to prevent the crime, investigate sex and labor trafficking, protect victims, respond to the needs of survivors, and prosecute cases. While the mandated member state agencies are engaged in broader efforts, there are also several state agencies who are at the table in discussions. The Task Force prioritized identifying agencies that are key to the statewide response and would like to see the formalization of their membership through an amendment to the original 2012 legislation.

### *Human Trafficking Legislation*

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force supported the passage of Senate bill 142 on August 15th at the South Carolina State House. The legislation focused on affirmative defense and the expungement of certain offenses if those crimes were committed in relation to a victim being sex or labor trafficked. The bill also included the establishment of the Address Confidentiality Program. The latter protects victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, or sexual offenses by authorizing the use of confidential designated addresses for victims.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Human Trafficking Grant Program*

The SC Human Trafficking Grant Program will launch in January of 2025 to coincide with Human Trafficking Awareness month. The program will

support the development of residential services for minor victims of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The launch will begin with a solicitation workshop. Shortly thereafter, the grant will open for organizations to submit proposals for review by a committee.

### *Legislative Amendment*

The State Task Force would like to see the 2012 legislation amended to remove the Department of Health and Environmental Control with the newly established Department of Public Health. Additionally, the Task Force would like to see additional state agencies added to the membership. The South Carolina agencies would include the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children's Advocacy.

### *Training Needs & Public Awareness Materials*

In 2025, the Task Force will assess the training needs of member agencies. The sector-specific needs will be considered as well as the extent of needs across South Carolina. The State Task Force will then develop training specific to the needs and prioritize agencies working directly with children, adults, and families. The State Task Force will also work to identify the needs of member agencies regarding National Hotline posters, brochures, and other materials to better educate the public and those working in their agencies. The items produced will be specific to each agency's brand and available in English and Spanish. Other languages will be considered in relation to demographic data and the unique populations the agencies work with in different locations around the state.

### **Task Force Liaison:**

Kathryn Moorehead

Director

SC Office of the Attorney General

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# Survivor Advisory Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee provides survivor-informed recommendations to the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force to enhance statewide programs and services, while identifying existing and potential barriers and opportunities to support survivors.



## 2024 Highlights

### *New Subcommittee Chair*

Heather Pagan, Survivor Support Director for Lighthouse for Life, accepted the chair position for the subcommittee. Heather and the State Task Force liaison then worked on a plan to restructure the subcommittee and onboard survivor members.

### *Launch of a New Structure*

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee was restructured this year. The new structure includes a subcommittee comprised of four volunteer survivor seats representing each of the four areas of the state (Upstate, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Lowcountry). The subcommittee members are appointed via a referral and interview process. The members are asked to provide a two-year commitment to serve as the survivor representative for their area.

### *Onboarding Completed*

All four members completed the onboarding process. The new members include Ciara Cerqua, the Upstate representative, Sarah Caine-Martin, the Midlands representative, Sara Johnson, the Pee Dee representative, and Camille Arnold, the Lowcountry representative. The members met virtually in December, for a meet and greet, and are eager to contribute to projects in the new year.

## 2025 Goals

### *Quarterly Meetings*

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee plans to meet quarterly in 2025, with two meetings in person and two virtual meetings. This schedule will support the need for consistent communication amongst members regardless of geographic location.

**"Engaging survivors is often thought of as listening to survivor stories of trauma and recovery. However, there are many ways to empower survivor voices, including inviting and cultivating their thoughts and analyses of critical issues affecting the field."**

— Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime

The meetings will also provide opportunities for input on state-wide and regional initiatives while also positioning members to share ideas for new awareness campaigns and projects.

### *Valued Input and Ideas*

The first goal of 2025 for the subcommittee will be to provide guidance on a newly designed statewide human trafficking hotline poster. The subcommittee will also explore ways to incorporate lived experience viewpoints into the State Task Force newsletter and relevant state subcommittee efforts.

### *South Carolina Human Trafficking Grant Program*

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee will provide feedback for the new Human Trafficking Grant program to launch in 2025. One member will represent the subcommittee on the grant review committee to ensure survivor voices are incorporated in the process.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

Heather Pagan  
Survivor Support Director  
Lighthouse for Life  
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### **Task Force Liaison:**

Mandy Bowden  
HT Program Coordinator  
SC Office of the Attorney General  
[mandybowden@scag.gov](mailto:mandybowden@scag.gov)



Heather Pagan, Chair



# Community Outreach Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Community Outreach Subcommittee guides public awareness and community outreach efforts for South Carolina's regional human trafficking task forces. The subcommittee aims to ensure the provision of accurate information related to human trafficking definitions and crime specific data and consistent messaging





## 2024 Highlights

### *Increased Collaboration*

The Community Outreach Subcommittee is comprised of subcommittee chairs from each regional task force. The subcommittee met four times virtually over the course of the year, with ongoing communication regarding input on targeted initiatives. Members are encouraged to confer about human trafficking awareness plans and activities in their regions, especially regarding efforts during human trafficking awareness month. The design positions members to facilitate statewide initiatives at the local level. In support of these efforts, the State Task Force provided tablecloths with regional task force logos for more localized branding for use at public awareness events.

### *Standardized PowerPoint Presentation*

The Community Outreach Subcommittee completed a standardized PowerPoint template for community awareness presentations. The slides are tailored for each task force including their respective logo and data specific to the counties in their region. The subcommittee also finalized a universal evaluation form for community outreach that is accessed via a QR code at the end of presentations.

### *Train-the-Trainer*

A train-the-trainer session was held by the State Task Force for regional Community Outreach Subcommittee chairs as well as regional task force chairs. Seven regional task forces were represented at the training including four regional subcommittee chairs and six regional task force chairs. Subsequently, these individuals are now able to obtain and facilitate the PowerPoint presentation. This endeavor should help spread consistent, accurate human trafficking messaging across the state.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Ensure a Broad Reach*

The Community Outreach Subcommittee, after conducting the train-the-trainer in 2024, has set a goal of a minimum of one presentation in each of the 46 counties. The subcommittee, with the help of regional task forces, will map the presentations throughout the year and report back on the impact made in communities across the state.

### *Provide Resources*

The subcommittee will continue to provide resources and materials to regional task forces. A survey will be used to solicit input regarding online resources that should be added to the State Task Force's website. Additionally, there will be opportunities for the regional task force Community Outreach Subcommittee to request specific materials from the State Task Force for use in their communities.

### *Collaborate with Sectors*

The subcommittee will collaborate with other state-level subcommittees on strategic community and state-wide initiatives. It will also promote human trafficking awareness activities throughout South Carolina by assisting the subcommittees in identifying larger regional events that may help target specific professional sectors.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Pam Imm  
The Courage Center  
Drpamimm@gmail.com

### **Task Force Liaison:**

Mandy Bowden  
HT Program Coordinator  
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
mandybowden@scag.gov



Dr. Pam Imm, Chair

# Data and Research Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Data and Research subcommittee collects, analyzes, and interprets relevant data to understand the implications of human trafficking, enhance service provision, inform prevention and intervention strategies, and provide policy-making recommendations related to human trafficking and its intersection with other issues.



## 2024 Highlights

### *Stakeholder Engagement*

The Subcommittee met with several agencies and institutions to hear about their expertise and experience in data collection and management operations, as well as the elements associated with developing a data collection system. Those organizations included the Data Integration and Analysis Division of the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, the Innovation and Digital Services Division of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Polaris Project, and researchers from the Darla Moore School of Business. Other subcommittee activities included participating in the State Data Team's quarterly meetings and a tour of the SLED Fusion Center.

### *Assessment Survey*

The subcommittee conducted an assessment survey regarding human trafficking data collection in South Carolina. The purpose of the assessment was to identify existing data collection efforts, explore current interests and needs of an integrated data collection system, and gather insight from relevant stakeholders in our state. A total of 15 participants, representing 10 organizations, responded to the survey. The insights collected provided valuable input to guide the development of the state's data collection system.

### *Design Phase*

With input from the assessment survey and other stakeholders, the subcommittee began the preliminary design phase of the data collection system. It also developed a proposed budget and outlined the system requirements with focus on data security, system integration, reporting and visualization tools, and compliance with relevant regulations.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Multidisciplinary Collaboration*

The Data and Research Subcommittee will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to develop the statewide data collection system. Following the completion of the preliminary design phase, the subcommittee will create a feedback loop with individuals from different sectors for ongoing input. Furthermore, a list of subcommittee members will be formalized for multisector perspective.

### *Funding Opportunities*

In 2025, the subcommittee will seek sustainable funding sources for the data collection system. This process will involve identifying relevant funding agencies and exploring grant platforms.

### *Data Collection and Analysis*

The subcommittee will continue to provide ongoing research support and data analysis to the State Task Force's prevention education program, TraffickProofSC, as well as Task Force training opportunities, subcommittee projects, and statewide initiatives.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Liyun Zhang

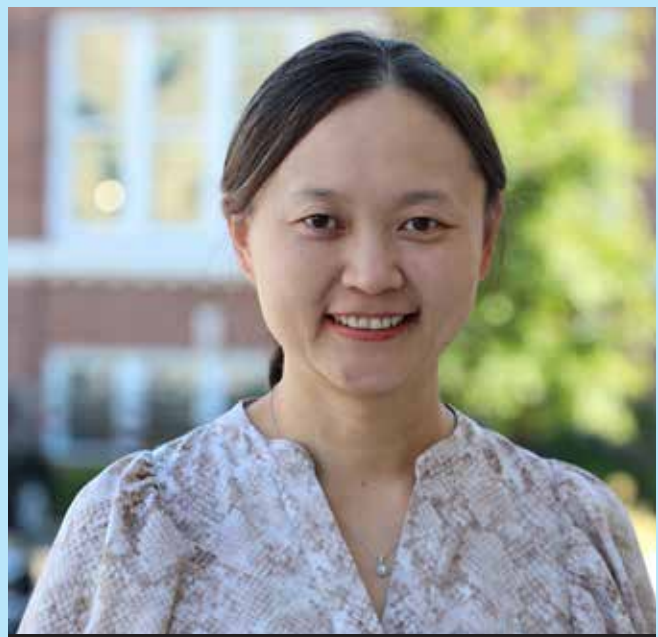
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### **Task Force Liaison:**

Christopher Brunswick

Data and Research Analyst

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
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Dr. Liyun Zhang, Chair



# Direct Services: Adult Focus Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Direct Services Subcommittee, with an Adult Focus, helps coordinate service providers across the state to better respond to the needs of adult victims and survivors through improved communication and information sharing; and helps shape the State Task Force initiatives through reference to best and emerging practices in the field.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Assessment of Current Services*

The Task Force continued its efforts to identify service providers working with adult victims, specifically those providing specialized support to human trafficking victims. The process highlighted the lack of services across South Carolina as well as the ongoing need for community resource mapping by regional task forces as well as the State Task Force. The assessment also reinforced the critical need for additional programs to work with both sex trafficking and labor trafficking victims and survivors.

### *Funding Request*

The State Task Force, under the leadership of Attorney General Wilson, requested funds from the General Assembly to support community-based programs for adult victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Emergency and long-term housing for victims were priority areas identified through the assessment of current services available across the state. A lack of specialized clinical mental health services were also found to be deficient. Unfortunately, the General Assembly did not provide funding for community-based services for adults or minor victims.

### *Composition of the Subcommittee*

Given the lack of services available specifically for victims of human trafficking, the Task Force considered how best to ensure support for these individuals. The supplemental certification was again confirmed as the next best step in identifying providers of an array of services then ensuring a level of knowledge when working directly with victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, consideration was given to leaders in supplemental service fields being recruited to serve on the subcommittee. The involvement of these leaders will help ensure continuity in a continuum of care.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Resource Mapping*

In 2024, the State Task Force continued its efforts to identify service providers in areas across the state. It will be critical that this process continues in 2025 with the support of both the subcommittee as well as regional task force subcommittees. A more formal process will be developed to solicit input regarding services available in communities across South Carolina.

### *Supplemental Provider Certification*

As the Task Force rolls out the specialized certification for human trafficking service provider organizations, it will also begin building out the requirements for the supplemental certification. The process will include ongoing research into best and emerging practices, identifying required training topics, and the criteria for the organization vetting process. There will be considerations made by not only the Direct Services for Adults Subcommittee, but other subcommittees that represent the professional sectors providing supplemental services.

### *Subcommittee Recruitment*

As the resource mapping and supplemental certification process are both developed further, representatives from various professional sectors will be recruited to serve on the subcommittee. The Task Force will also extend invitations to the specialized service providers who are certified through the state. This will position those providing support to victims to contribute to ongoing system improvements and help identify ongoing training needs.

### **Task Force Liaison:**

Kathryn Moorehead

Director

SC Office of the Attorney General

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**"Adult victims and survivors of human trafficking need specialized support as they navigate the legal system, secure housing, obtain employment, and access healthcare while healing from their experiences. It is important that we develop and maintain a holistic support system in South Carolina composed of well-trained professionals."**

— Director Kathryn Moorehead, South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

# Direct Services: Minor Focus Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Direct Services Subcommittee, with a Minor Focus, aims to support children and adolescent victims by identifying system improvements and intervention strategies, formalizing recommendations, and advocating for specialized resources to assist at-risk and confirmed minor victims of human trafficking.



## 2024 Highlights

### *New Task Force Liaison*

State Task Force Prevention Education Coordinator Blake Easter joined the Task Force staff in July bringing experience in trauma informed education. He now serves as the liaison to the subcommittee. In 2024, Blake began his work in researching issues related to the human trafficking of minor males and will broaden the Task Force's focus on other vulnerable populations.

### *Training Opportunities*

In 2024, the State Task Force offered training to help improve the response to minor sex trafficking, the most prevalent form of human trafficking in South Carolina. My Life My Choice provided two training opportunities, The Commercial Exploitation of Children: Understanding and Responding to Victims and Skills and Strategies for Providing Effective, Trauma-Informed Services to Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth. In addition, the Task Force hosted the National Human Trafficking Training Academy's Unmasking the Hidden: Confronting Familial Sex Trafficking and Gang-Facilitated Human Trafficking, both relevant to the trafficking of children and youth.

### *New Membership Considerations*

The Task Force assessed the stakeholders needed to improve the state's response to minor victims of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Doors to Freedom, the only program for minor female victims of sex trafficking in South Carolina, was the first to be considered. Additionally, there are multiple state agencies working to support minor victims as well as the Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. When the South Carolina General Assembly appropriated funds to the Task Force for the Human Trafficking Grant Program, consideration was given as to how to incorporate the recipients of those funds to provide ongoing support and guidance.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Membership Composition & Recruitment*

In 2025, the Task Force will roll out the Human Trafficking Grant Program followed by the reconfiguration of the subcommittee. Those identified in 2024 will join recipients of grant funding as members. The State Task Force will share the new membership in its newsletter and on its website.

### *Identify Priorities and Communication Strategies*

Throughout the next year, it will be critical for the newly composed subcommittee to develop a formal protocol regarding the response to minor victims in South Carolina. Ideally, a centralized referral system will be developed with more effective communication strategies that will ultimately benefit the minor victims, their families, and the service providers supporting children, youth, and families. Other priorities will be identified in the process of developing a state protocol.

### *Training Needs*

The training needs of those working with minor victims of human trafficking will continue to be a priority as programs and systems are built out in South Carolina. Those receiving funding from the Human Trafficking Grant Program will be provided specific opportunities to help guide their work in developing programming and better supporting minor victims. Other direct service providers, including non-profits and child advocacy centers, across the state will benefit from additional training opportunities including the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

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Program Manager  
SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers  
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### **Task Force Liaison:**

Blake Easter  
HT Prevention Education Coordinator  
SC Office of the Attorney General  
blakeeaster@scag.gov



Kristin Dickson, Chair



# Healthcare Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Healthcare Subcommittee provides trauma-informed, evidence-based recommendations to medical providers and their agencies to best respond to the needs of trafficking victims seeking services in South Carolina.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Online Resource Directory*

Since the 2018 legislative mandate requiring the State Task Force to develop a resource directory, there has been much work in identifying what resources should be included from the healthcare field. This year, the Task Force posted a resource map on its website. The Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence (SAFE) designated institutions were added to the map to assist those working with victims.

### *HEAL Training*

Again, the Task Force offered HEAL's Train the Trainer Academy this year to healthcare professionals engaged in state and regional anti-human trafficking work in South Carolina. The interactive learning opportunity is a two-day virtual workshop. The curriculum is designed to provide techniques for teaching a public health approach to human trafficking, identifying victims, and insights into trauma-informed responses.

### *Liaison Recruitment*

The State Task Force actively searched for a candidate to be its Healthcare Subcommittee liaison while also providing support to the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. This role will actively support the subcommittee while working to identify needs within the professional sector. An individual was identified for the position with a start date in mid-January 2025.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Recruit a New Chair*

A priority for 2025 is to identify and recruit a new chair for the Healthcare Subcommittee. The ideal individual will be knowledgeable about the medical field in South Carolina, understand the importance of including multiple specialty areas in the subcommittee, and be prepared to strategically address the needs of healthcare in relation to human trafficking.

### *Healthcare Protocol, Training, and Implementation*

In 2019, the first statewide human trafficking healthcare protocol was released by the State Task Force's Healthcare Subcommittee. It was shared in a training event hosted for those working in the medical field. In 2020, the Healthcare Subcommittee began diversifying its membership to broaden representation from varying medical specialties in the field. However, the Covid pandemic presented challenges for continued work within this sector. The subcommittee will build out its membership in 2025 and build a strategic approach to supporting healthcare workers across South Carolina.

### *Expand Sector Specific Training*

HEAL Train the Trainer Academy is an excellent resource for those wishing to increase awareness of human trafficking in the healthcare field. The State Task Force will continue its support of professionals completing the academy while formalizing a state-specific training plan for a broad medical audience. The Task Force will conduct a survey soliciting input from those in healthcare to best serve the professional sector.

### **Task Force Liaison:**

Kathryn Moorehead

Director

SC Office of the Attorney General

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"Individuals who experience human trafficking have a range of health consequences and many individuals with pervasive health concerns and disabilities are particularly vulnerable to traffickers. But despite up to 88% of trafficking victims accessing health care during their trafficking situation, not every health care professional may feel equipped to identify the signs or address a trafficking survivor's needs."

— Polaris, *On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking*

# Higher Education Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Higher Education Subcommittee collaborates with post-secondary institutions to coordinate a strategic response to human trafficking with an emphasis on tertiary level awareness, prevention education, training, and resource development.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Pledge Development*

The State Task Force drafted a pledge package focused on three key areas: training, course integration, and campus-wide awareness. The Task Force liaison began to identify point people at each college and university across the state who demonstrated interest in anti-human trafficking efforts. Those identified will be asked to provide input on the development and implementation of efforts.

### *Prevention Education and Professional Training*

Under the pledge package, comprehensive training sessions and resources will be developed to target faculty, staff, and campus police at the tertiary level. College and university professors, as well as vocational school instructors, will have the opportunity to become trained TraffickProofSC facilitators to reach students in their programs and campus student groups. Further, the subcommittee began assessing opportunities to integrate human trafficking education into courses as well as student activities across campuses.

### *Collaboration*

The Task Force continued to partner with the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention office at the University of South Carolina. Staff attended tabling events in January and February to share resources about human trafficking. Each event provided awareness materials to help educate students and staff about the realities of human trafficking. Subcommittee members will continue to develop and support opportunities to collaborate with Title IX programs at campuses across South Carolina to increase outreach on college and university campuses.

## 2025 Goals

### *Network Building*

The Higher Education Subcommittee will continue to develop a network of contacts that represent colleges and universities in the state. This will be achieved through phases that will identify schools by area of the state to allow for tertiary prevention education and increased community awareness across South Carolina. Through this process, the subcommittee composition will be developed to also allow for statewide representation.

### *Pledge*

In 2025, the subcommittee will finalize pledge packages for colleges and universities. The packages will be used when engaging colleges and universities statewide. Each institution will be asked to commit to comprehensive human trafficking efforts outlined in the pledges.

### *Educational Materials*

TraffickProofSC will be further expanded to include resources for higher education. Prevention education items will include a video, a curriculum, and National Human Trafficking Hotline posters for use around campuses. Additionally, there will be resources developed for those working within higher education including professors and instructors, administration, campus police, student support services, and others supporting young adults. The State Task Force will also create giveaway items for tabling and sporting events to spread awareness and contact information to get involved with the fight.

### **Task Force Liaison:**

Ashley Bishop

Prevention Education Program Coordinator  
SC Office of the Attorney General  
[ashleybishop@scag.gov](mailto:ashleybishop@scag.gov)



Tabling event at the University of South Carolina

# Interfaith Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Interfaith subcommittee will assist in developing human trafficking protocols and trauma-informed practices within houses of worship and will coordinate state and regional anti-human trafficking trainings and awareness efforts with members of the faith community.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Strengthening Networks*

The Interfaith Subcommittee continued to focus on identifying faith leaders in communities across South Carolina to contribute toward state and regional interfaith goals. The subcommittee chairs prioritized sharing information with faith leaders, strategizing with them, and discussing challenges faced by faith-based communities within the anti-human trafficking movement.

### *Collaborating with Faith-Based Communities*

The subcommittee led the second annual Trunk-or-Treat initiative in partnership with ten regional task forces throughout the state. Thousands of fun TraffickProofSC items were distributed to young people at the community events, along with human trafficking prevention information for their parents or guardians. The initiative provided valuable opportunities to build new partnerships and increase communication with various houses of worship.

### *Sector Specific Awareness*

In 2024, the subcommittee developed the Interfaith Subcommittee Human Trafficking Basics presentation, designed to educate and train faith leaders about the crime and its prevalence in South Carolina. The presentation also provides practical, safe ways to support anti-trafficking efforts. The presentation was shared with the South Carolina Interfaith Nurses as well as places of worship in the Midlands and Lowcountry.

## 2025 Goals

### *Increase Awareness*

The Interfaith Subcommittee will continue its efforts to share knowledge about human trafficking with faith-based communities. This will include utilization of the subcommittee's Human Trafficking Basics presentation, the development of a Train the Trainer program, and continuing to share resources specific to interfaith houses of worship. The combined efforts will increase engagement on the topic of human trafficking across South Carolina while also helping to identify stakeholders interested in contributing to state and local efforts.

### *Community Engagement*

Members of the Interfaith Subcommittee will attend community events throughout the year, with a minimum of once per quarter, to establish and strengthen connections across the state. The

subcommittee will share awareness items to better educate the public, provide the contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and highlight the availability of the State Task Force's free prevention education curriculum, TraffickProofSC, for middle and high school students.

### *Interfaith Roundtables*

In 2025, the subcommittee will host roundtables in each of the strategic areas of the state. The roundtables will position community faith leaders to discuss opportunities for increased engagement and how best to educate their houses of worship about human trafficking. The gatherings will also position stakeholders to provide guidance on upcoming events and initiatives.

### **Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**

Roger Acton, Faith Based Victim Services Program Director  
South Carolina Victim Assistance Network  
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Dr. Kamran Borhanian, Retired Physician  
The Baha'i Faith and Interfaith Partners of South Carolina  
borhaniank@gmail.com

### **Task Force Liaison:**

James Massie  
HT Program Coordinator  
SC Office of the Attorney General  
jamesmassie@scag.gov



Dr. Kamran Borhanian and Roger Acton, Co-Chairs

# Labor Trafficking Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee aims to increase community awareness and trainings to direct service providers on the typologies of labor trafficking, the identification of national and foreign-born adult and minor victims, and the development of sector-specific best practices and resources.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Public Awareness*

The subcommittee participated in a series of activities throughout the year to bring awareness about the crime of labor trafficking. One of the subcommittee co-chairs conducted an interview with a Honduran reporter visiting the United States. The interview included sharing information about the rights and protections for agricultural workers to help prevent labor trafficking along with other violations. The subcommittee gave labor trafficking presentations at the Anti-Human Trafficking Symposium at the University of South Carolina School of Law, the Southeastern Employment Training Association Conference, the SC Immigrant Victim Coalition, and the 2nd Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force. The chairs of the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee also presented about the prevention of human trafficking/labor trafficking along with the US Attorney's Office, Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

### *Information Gathering*

In an effort to bring new information to South Carolina, the subcommittee chairs attended events on human trafficking, continued presence, and victim support/services. The events included the 2024 Anti-Trafficking Alliance Conference, Confronting Labor Trafficking in the Southeast Agricultural Industry, the Migrant Workforce: Resources to Prevent Labor Trafficking, Gender-Based Violence, and Harassment, and the National Labor Trafficking Conference.

### *Topic Specific Guidance*

The subcommittee provided technical assistance to healthcare, workforce development, victim service providers, and regional task forces.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Public Awareness*

In 2025, the subcommittee will continue its efforts to raise awareness about labor trafficking. This will be achieved through presentations, the development of new outreach materials, sector specific videos, and online campaigns.

### *Language Accessibility*

The subcommittee will also develop labor trafficking specific materials designed for potential victims to report a crime or seek support services. The resources

will be created in Spanish, the second most spoken language in South Carolina. The Labor Trafficking subcommittee will work with the Data & Research Subcommittee to look at demographics in the state and identify other languages for translation.

### *Community Partnerships*

The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee will establish new partnerships with state agencies and other organizations to display informational materials about labor trafficking, worker rights, and child labor. Members will target organizations that work with unaccompanied minors, men and boys, foster care, and post-release services to provide presentations related specifically to their professional sector.

### **Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**

Abdalis Toro

South Carolina Department of Employment  
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Lucyana Roldan

US Department of Labor/Wage and Hour Division

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### **Task Force Liaison:**

Veronica Smith

HT Program Coordinator

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General

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Abdalis Toro and Lucyana Roldan, Co-Chairs

# Law Enforcement Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee is committed to the prevention of human trafficking and effectively responding to the crime in South Carolina. Through collaboration and accountability, the subcommittee facilitates sector specific training, assists law enforcement and social services agencies with ongoing investigations, promotes victim-centered responses, and provides public outreach to communities across the state.





## 2024 Highlights

### *Expanded Training Initiatives*

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee hosted seven two-day Advanced Law Enforcement Trainings. The trainings were held in Hardeeville, Aiken, Florence, Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach, Newberry, and Orangeburg. The subcommittee also hosted a one-day Gang-Facilitated Trafficking training that was attended by local, state and federal law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and prosecutors. There were additional trainings provided by SLED to over 400 officers from across the state. Topics included human trafficking indicators, trauma-informed practices, and collaboration with victim service providers. *(For more information, please reference the Training & Outreach Section)*

### *Increased Collaboration*

The subcommittee strengthened partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to improve intelligence sharing and investigative outcomes by hosting several law enforcement subcommittee meetings around the state.

### *Development of a New Reporting Mechanism*

A streamlined and accessible tip form was launched on SLED's website to make it easier to report suspected human trafficking and to ensure information is shared with local stakeholders.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Enhance Outreach and Reporting*

The subcommittee will promote the new tip form through public awareness campaigns with the goal of increasing incident reporting from various stakeholders as well as the community at large. It will also engage with community partners and schools across the state to aid in the identification and reporting of human trafficking.

### *Strengthen Training Initiatives*

In 2025, the Law Enforcement Subcommittee aims to train at minimum 200 law enforcement officers through its 2-day comprehensive curriculum and develop new training modules tailored to emerging trends, such as digital platforms used for trafficking.

### *Increase Data-Driven Strategies*

The subcommittee will work with stakeholders to implement advanced tools for tracking and analyzing human trafficking patterns across South Carolina. It will also provide data-driven recommendations for addressing trafficking hotspots in our state.

### *Improve Victim Support Systems*

The subcommittee will collaborate with victim service organizations to enhance referral processes and support services for survivors encountered during investigations.

### *Legislative Advocacy*

The subcommittee intends to support new or revised state legislation aimed at strengthening penalties for human trafficking-related crimes.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

Lt. Jade Roy  
Human Trafficking Unit  
SC Law Enforcement Division  
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### **Task Force Liaison:**

James Massie  
HT Program Coordinator  
SC Office of the Attorney General  
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Lt. Jade Roy, Chair

# Legal Innovations Subcommittee

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Legal Innovations Subcommittee is to promote judicial programs that address the needs of trafficking victims and survivors navigating the criminal and family court systems.



## 2024 Highlights

### *Developing a Family Court Program*

To ensure the specialized RISE court for youth has a foundation that is strategically planned, the Legal Innovations subcommittee hosted a series of virtual and in-person meetings throughout the year. These sessions centered on developing a structure to support the specialized court's operations and resource-based needs. Participants engaged in discussions emphasizing the integration of trauma-informed practices. Additionally, members connected with professionals from human trafficking courts across the country, drawing on their experiences to plan for the specialized court's unique challenges. This approach will provide a comprehensive plan designed to empower and protect young victims of human trafficking.

### *Steps Toward Standing up the Court*

The subcommittee identified and completed the groundwork for a specialized human trafficking court to provide restoration for minors in South Carolina who have experienced human trafficking or are at-risk of being trafficked. The subcommittee is focusing on a victim-centered, trauma informed setting that promotes safety, healing, growth, and the opportunity to thrive. Members are collaborating with the Human Trafficking Institute and the Children's Law Center to identify personnel, statistics, and a formalized structure as well as goals for the new court proposal. The subcommittee is working with the court to determine how and where it will fit in the South Carolina Court system and how and when it could be feasible to begin the process of a pilot program.

### *Awareness of RISE Court*

Members of the subcommittee shared about the development of a specialized court for youth with stakeholders across South Carolina. As the information was shared, members also solicited input from those working with minor victims.

## 2025 Priorities

### *Formalize the Framework*

In 2025, the Subcommittee will formalize the framework for the RISE Court pilot program. The research, discussion with other courts, and trauma-informed approaches will be integrated into the model. This will become the living framework for the pilot and will be modified to create a final model as the court addresses its own successes and challenges.

### *Video for Parents and Guardians*

The State Task Force will, in partnership with South Carolina ETV, develop a unique video to be used by RISE court to inform parents and guardians about the crime of human trafficking, both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The video will include an overview of the laws in South Carolina as well as the impact of the crime on young people. This informational video will better position parents, guardians, and others to support minor victims as they progress through the program.

### *Identify and Secure Funding*

In 2025, the formalized framework will be used to also seek funding sources to support staffing, infrastructure, and other resources for the specialized human trafficking court for minors. Members of the Legal Innovation Subcommittee will identify grant opportunities for the RISE Court pilot program and draft proposals. Additional funding opportunities will also be discussed to ensure the successful launch.

### **Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan  
USC Joseph F. Rice School of Law  
chauhana@mailbox.sc.edu

### **Task Force Liaison:**

James Massie  
HT Program Coordinator  
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
jamesmassie@scag.gov



Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan, Chair



# Advisory Council

Historically, the anti-human trafficking field has acknowledged that sex and labor exploitation can happen anywhere and to anyone. While this is true, it is also important to recognize that some populations are more vulnerable to human trafficking than others. While no one factor guarantees that an individual will be trafficked, vulnerabilities can serve as routes to human trafficking victimization.

In 2021, the State Task Force formalized an advisory council to improve the response to the crime and fully address vulnerabilities to human trafficking. The Advisory Council also enhances the State Task Force's ability to address the ongoing need to continue educating members of the community about best and emerging practices relevant to South Carolina's anti-human trafficking efforts.

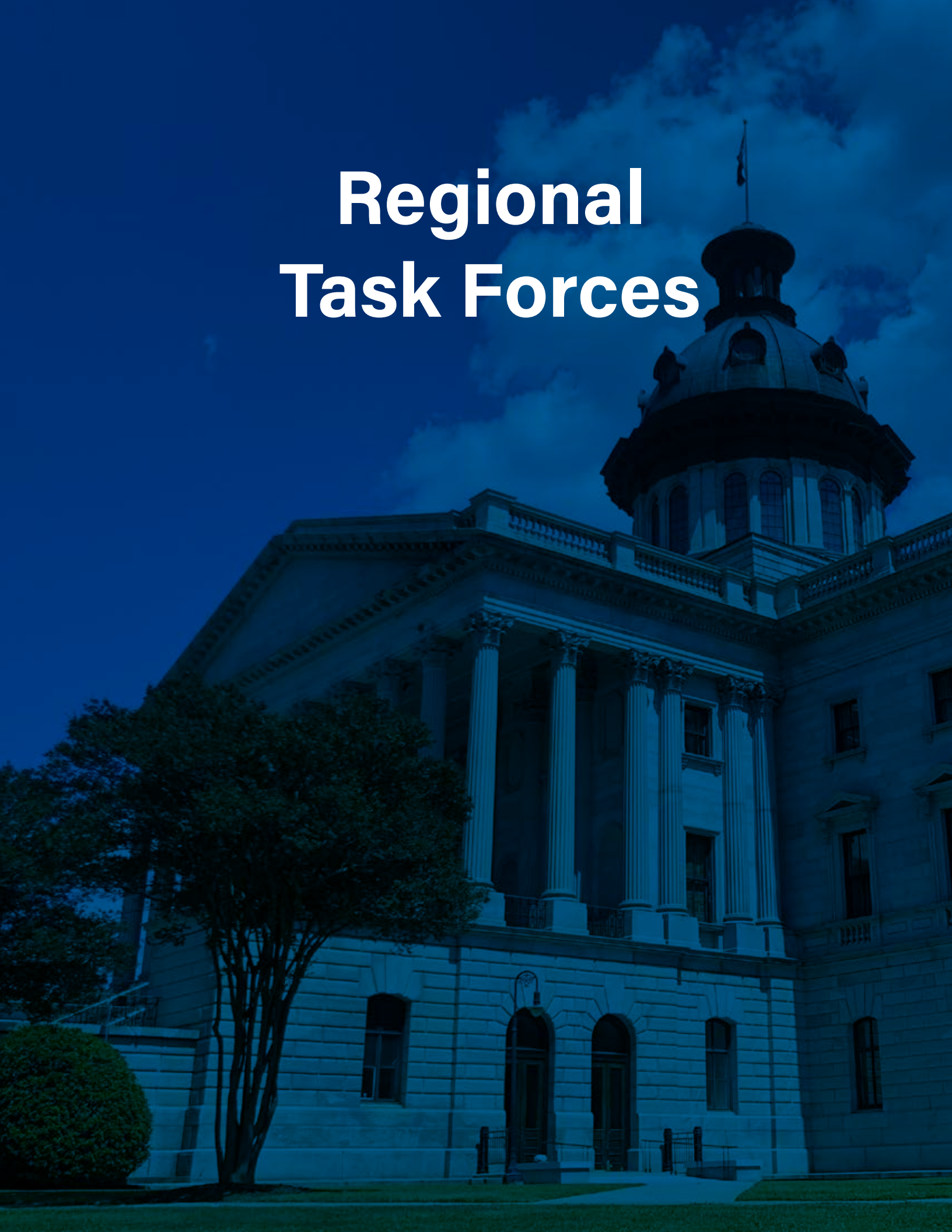
Below is a list of prioritized focus areas. The Task Force is dedicated to maintaining partnerships with subject matter experts in these fields. Additionally, the State Task Force will continue its efforts in 2025 to develop initiatives that bring awareness of human trafficking to diverse populations and support efforts to prevent victimization.

Mental Health	Finance
Transportation	People of color
Aging Population	LGBTQIA+
Individuals with disabilities	Runaway youth
Hospitality	Unhoused populations
Substance Use Disorders	Language accessibility
Indigenous populations	Cultural competency
Technology	

If you are a professional working in one of these fields and would like to be involved in statewide efforts, please contact Deputy Director Monique Garvin at [moniquegarvin@scag.gov](mailto:moniquegarvin@scag.gov).



# Regional Task Forces





## 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chairs

Chandra Mcpherson-Gibbs, [cmcperson@orangeburgcounty.org](mailto:cmcperson@orangeburgcounty.org)  
Labrena Aiken-Furtick, [lafurtick@casafamilysystems.com](mailto:lafurtick@casafamilysystems.com)

### Law Enforcement

Lenel Smith, [LDSMith@orangeburgcounty.org](mailto:LDSMith@orangeburgcounty.org)

### Healthcare

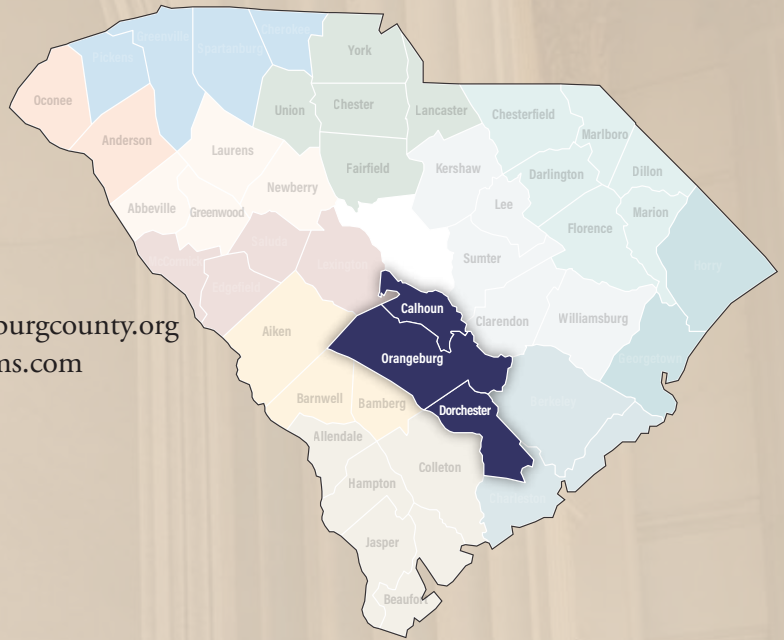
Charlene Pruitt, [charlenepruitt664@gmail.com](mailto:charlenepruitt664@gmail.com)

### Community Outreach

Shanika Aiken, [thesafeorg@gmail.com](mailto:thesafeorg@gmail.com)

### Direct Services

Ty 'Ionna Gillam, [tgillam@casafamilysystems.com](mailto:tgillam@casafamilysystems.com)





## 2024 Highlights

- » Several meetings were conducted to address the critical need for a regional task force within the 1st Judicial Circuit. Stakeholders highlighted the significance of a unified, multi-agency approach.
- » The State Human Trafficking Task Force program coordinator for the area delivered a detailed presentation outlining the structure and vision for the regional task force. The attendees gained understanding of how each subcommittee would contribute to the overarching mission of the task force.
- » Organizations, agencies, and individuals were identified to contribute their expertise and time to the region's efforts.
- » Upon request from the regional task force, the State Task Force Law Enforcement Subcommittee facilitated its Advanced Human Trafficking Law Enforcement training in Orangeburg.
- » The State Task Force Unhoused and Runaway initiative dispersed items to the Samaritan House in Orangeburg. The items included personal care products with the National Human Trafficking Hotline contact information.

- » The regional task force participated in the Orangeburg Sheriff's Office Annual Trunk-or-Treat event, engaging with community members to promote awareness about human trafficking. Along with candy, the items handed out included TraffickProofSC bookmarks, glow cups, mood pencils, stress balls.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Officially Announce the 1st Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force
- » Identify and Recruit Community Leaders
- » Create Obtainable Vision and Goals
- » Schedule Quarterly Meetings
- » Organize Public Awareness Events
- » Increase Multisector Training Opportunities

## 2025 Meetings

TBD



Labrena Aiken Furtick and Chief Chandra Gibbs, Co-Chairs





## 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chairs

Maryann Burgess, Co-Chair, [mburgess@cacofaiken.org](mailto:mburgess@cacofaiken.org)

Lt. Eric Kirkland, Co-Chair, [ekirkland@barnwellcountysheriff.net](mailto:ekirkland@barnwellcountysheriff.net)

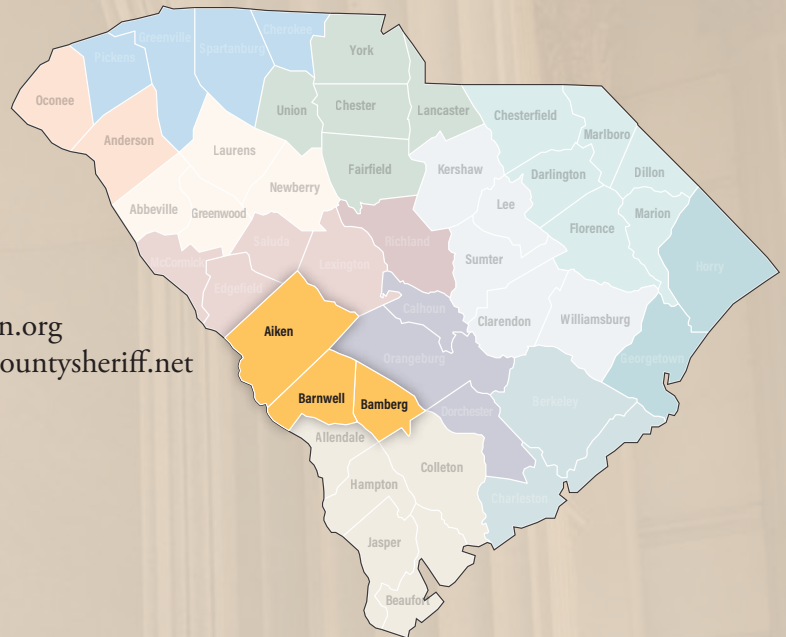
### Community Outreach

Nina Spinelli, [nina.spinelli@outlook.com](mailto:nina.spinelli@outlook.com)

### Interfaith

Logan Ford, [logancreedford@gmail.com](mailto:logancreedford@gmail.com)

Dr. Crystal Ratliff, [ratliffc@sctechsystem.edu](mailto:ratliffc@sctechsystem.edu)



## 2024 Highlights

- » Lt. Eric Kirkland with Barnwell County Sheriff's Office, joined Maryann Burgess as a Co-Chair of the 2nd Judicial Circuit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. With Lt. Kirkland's help, a recruitment effort ensued to engage more members from the Bamberg and Barnwell areas of the region. The listserv has now grown to 125 individuals.
- » The meetings were held quarterly, and locations expanded outside of the Children's Advocacy Center of Aiken County facility. Other meeting locations included the Aiken Public Library, Barnwell County Health Department, and one virtual meeting. The four meetings averaged 15 attendees.
- » The meeting presentation topics included a labor trafficking case study, substance abuse treatment services, and child labor laws.
- » A human trafficking awareness month event was held at Aiken Technical College, where members of the regional task force served on a panel to share information with over 100 attendees. In January, an awareness roundtable event was also held in Bamberg for community stakeholders.
- » There were two regional faith-based trunk-or-treat events held in Aiken and Barnwell in October.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Expand and Diversify the Listserv
- » Fill Vacant Subcommittee Chair Positions
- » Identify Outreach Opportunities

## 2025 Meeting Dates:

February 28th

June 13th

August 22nd

November 14th



Salvation Army of Aiken accepts unhoused initiative items

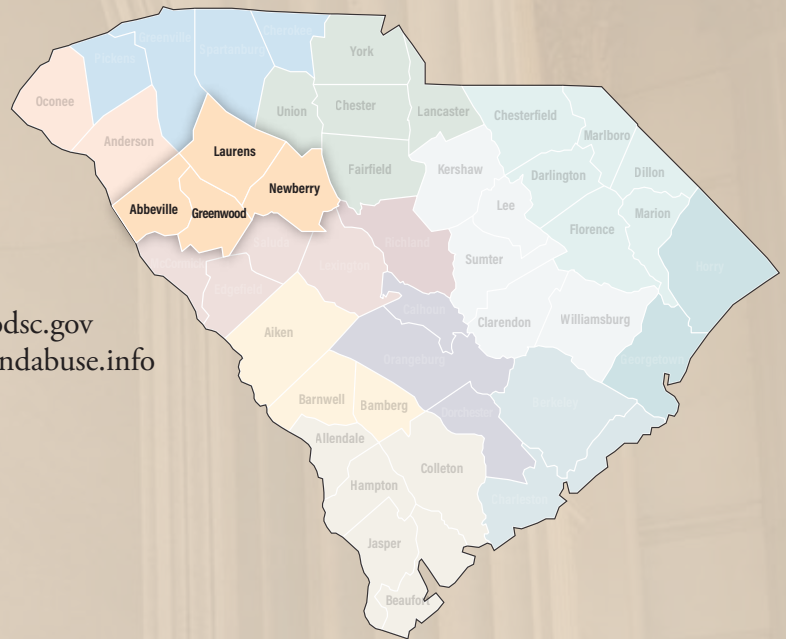


Lt. Eric Kirkland and Maryann Burgess, Co-Chairs





## 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE



### Regional Task Force Chairs

Windy Chappell, Co-chair, [Wchappell@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:Wchappell@greenwoodsc.gov)  
Deashedra Wakefield, Co-Chair, [swakefield@beyondabuse.info](mailto:swakefield@beyondabuse.info)

### Community Outreach

Catie Maffett Young, [cyoung@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:cyoung@greenwoodsc.gov)

### Direct Services for Minors and Adults

Dr. Alice Hodges, [ahodges@megshouse.org](mailto:ahodges@megshouse.org)

### Healthcare

Jessica Jacobs, [jjacobs@carolinahealthcenters.org](mailto:jjacobs@carolinahealthcenters.org)

### Law Enforcement

Reynolds Satterfield, [reynolds.satterfield@ppp.sc.gov](mailto:reynolds.satterfield@ppp.sc.gov)



## 2024 Highlights

- » Meetings were held in person at the Piedmont Technical College and Laurens Police Department Training Center, as well as virtually, with over 40 members present at each meeting.
- » Meeting presentations have included diverse case studies involving Human Trafficking and prison sentences connected to those cases as well as presentations from SCVAN (South Carolina Victim Assistance Network).
- » This year, the 8th Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force participated in a Trunk or Treat event at Main Street United Methodist Church, initiative led by the State Interfaith Subcommittee, during the month of October.
- » Donations were delivered to different non-profit organizations as part of the Unhoused Population Initiative.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Re-Establish the Interfaith and Labor Trafficking Subcommittees
- » Develop a Calendar of Events
- » Increase Membership and Community Participation
- » Identify Community Awareness Opportunities

## 2025 Meeting Dates:

March 20th

June 19th

September 18th

December 11th



Canine Companion



Deashedra Wakefield and Windy Chappell, Co-Chairs



## 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chair

Lt. Anna Orr, Chair, [aorr@oconeelaw.com](mailto:aorr@oconeelaw.com)

The task force recently had a leadership transition. New chairs will be recruited for the following subcommittees in the new year:

### Community Outreach

### Direct Services

### Healthcare

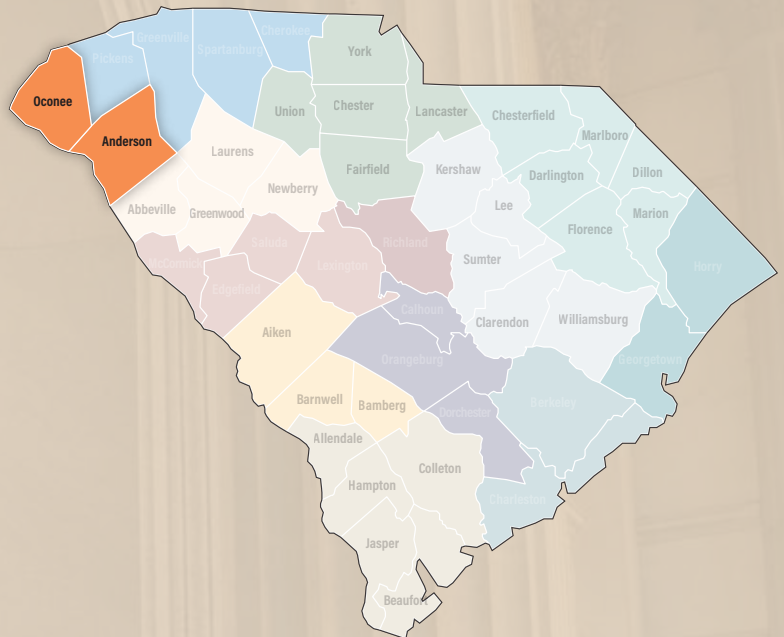
### Law Enforcement

### Interfaith

### Labor Trafficking

### Data and Research

### Higher Education





## 2024 Highlights

- » The 10th Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force assumed new leadership in 2024.
- » The State Task Force Unhoused and Runaway Initiative provided personal care products to two locations in the 10th Judicial Circuit. Items were delivered to the Salvation Army in Anderson and Our Daily Rest in Seneca. Every item disbursed had the contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Identify and Recruit Community Leaders
- » Fill Subcommittee Chair Positions
- » Schedule Quarterly Meetings
- » Organize Public Awareness Events
- » Increase Multisector Training Opportunities

## 2025 Meeting Dates

TBD



Lt. Anna Orr, Chair

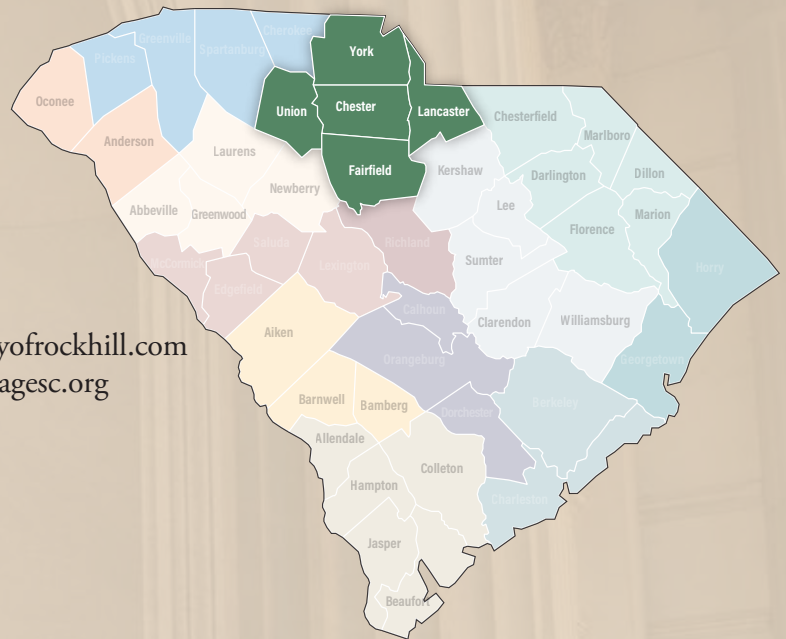


Oconee County Sheriff's Office





## CATAWBA AREA REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE



### Regional Task Force Chairs

Brandon Avidon, Co-Chair, [Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com)

Lisa Glazebrook, Co-Chair, [Lglazebrook@safepassagesc.org](mailto:Lglazebrook@safepassagesc.org)

### Community Outreach

Brian Collins, [BCollins@lancastersc.net](mailto:BCollins@lancastersc.net)

### Direct Services

Melissa Foster, [melissa.foster@catawba.com](mailto:melissa.foster@catawba.com)

### Law Enforcement

Brandon Avidon, [Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com)

## 2024 Highlights

- » The Catawba Area Regional Task Force started with bi-monthly meetings in 2024 and then adjusted the schedule to quarterly. The regional task force met five times over the course of the year with an average of 30 attendees. The listserv has grown to over 165 individuals.
- » Locations for the meetings continued to rotate counties and included York County Sheriff's Office, Rock Hill Police Department, Tega Cay, and Chester. There was an additional virtual meeting as well.
- » Meeting presentations have included local service provider overviews, human trafficking prosecution including a case study, State Task Force initiatives, a survivor's perspective, and a networking break-out session.
- » The regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event was held in Lancaster in October. The chair of the Community Outreach subcommittee continues to provide information on the task force's Facebook page that closes the year with 200 followers.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Continue to Grow the Listserv
- » Recruit Additional Subcommittee Chairs
- » New Meeting Topics
- » Facilitate the New Community Outreach Presentation

## 2025 Meeting Dates

February 13th

May 15th

August 21st

November 20th



Catawba Area September 2024 meeting

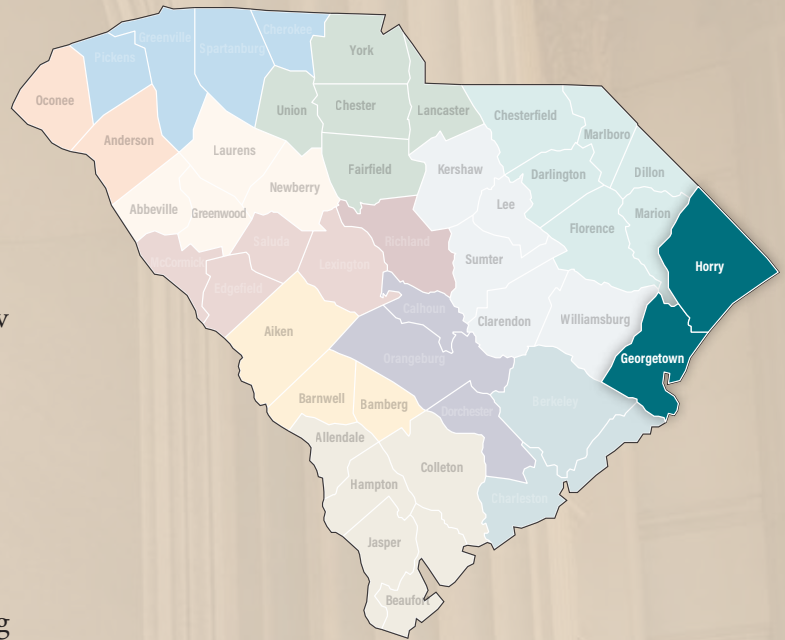


Lisa Glazebrook and Detective Brandon Avidon, Co-Chairs





## COASTAL REGION REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE



### Regional Task Force Chairs

Captain Sherri Smith, [smithsh@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:smithsh@horrycountysc.gov)

### Public Education/Outreach

Ron Harrison, [rlharrison@gmail.com](mailto:rlharrison@gmail.com)

### Interfaith

Shelbia Wiley, [swiley@engagingmindservices.com](mailto:swiley@engagingmindservices.com)

### Direct Services

Kelly Mason, [kmason@childrensrecoverycenter.org](mailto:kmason@childrensrecoverycenter.org)

Beverly Wilhelm, [bwilhelm@coastal.edu](mailto:bwilhelm@coastal.edu)

Angela Brown, [browna@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:browna@horrycountysc.gov)

### Higher Education

Beverly Wilhelm, [bwilhelm@coastal.edu](mailto:bwilhelm@coastal.edu)

### HealthCare

Natalie Lennard, [natalie.lennard@mcleodhelath.org](mailto:natalie.lennard@mcleodhelath.org)



## 2024 Highlights

- » The Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force's Leadership Committee focused on two strategic initiatives: enhancing service accessibility and strengthening community awareness. These efforts empowered members of our communities and contributed to prevention of future exploitation
- » This year, the regional task force partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Health to deliver one-hour training sessions for law enforcement officers, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to identify and respond to human trafficking cases.
- » A representative from the Coastal Region Task Force spoke monthly at the 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office Intervention Program. This initiative provides educational sessions for at-risk youth and adults. The sessions emphasized awareness and prevention centered around human trafficking and related crimes.
- » The task force partnered with Engaging Minds Services to conduct the annual Coastal Region Human Trafficking Conference. This event included law enforcement, government officials, nonprofits, and community leaders. The primary focus was on addressing the unique challenges within the coastal area of South Carolina.



Unhoused and Runaway Initiative

- » The Rotary Clubs of Horry County played an important role in preventing and responding to human trafficking by providing educational resources to members in our surrounding communities.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Enhance Resource Accessibility and Coordination
- » Strengthening Community Awareness and Training
- » Regularly Scheduled Meetings,
- » Increase Outreach to Vulnerable Populationss

## 2025 Meeting Dates:

January 15th

March 13th

June 12th

September 18th



Captain Sherri Smith, Chair



## L.E.M.S. REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chairs

Chief Daniel Ruggiero, Co-Chair, [d.ruggiero@flycae.com](mailto:d.ruggiero@flycae.com)

Lea Anne Roach, Co-Chair, [leaanner@pathwaystohealing.com](mailto:leaanner@pathwaystohealing.com)

### Community Outreach

Lindsay McDade, [Lmcdade@caycesc.gov](mailto:Lmcdade@caycesc.gov)

### Direct Services

Hallie Hart, [hhart@dickersoncac.org](mailto:hhart@dickersoncac.org)

### Healthcare

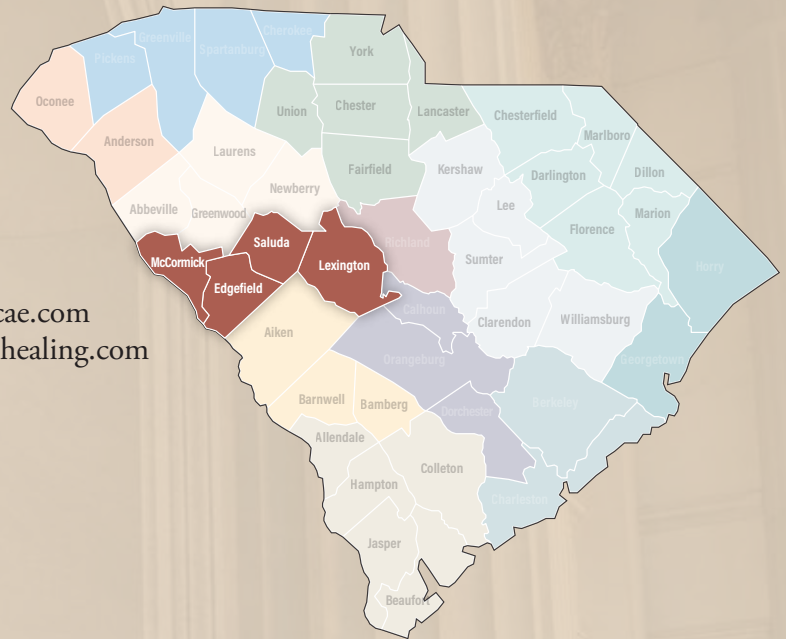
Shellie Keisler, [Shellie.Keisler@prismahealth.org](mailto:Shellie.Keisler@prismahealth.org)

### Law Enforcement

Aimee Lutz, [ahlutz@lexsc.com](mailto:ahlutz@lexsc.com)

### Interfaith

Luis Cruz, [luisacruz.1992@yahoo.com](mailto:luisacruz.1992@yahoo.com)





## 2024 Highlights

- » Lea Anne Roach, Pathways to Healing, joined Chief Ruggiero as a Co-Chair of the regional task force. Five subcommittee chairs were recruited to lead subcommittees.
- » The LEMS Regional Task Force met bi-monthly at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport with a virtual option available. Six meetings were held this year with an average of 22 attendees at each meeting.
- » The meeting presentation topics included Uplift Lexington programming, incarcerated survivor programming, The Courage Center overview of services, Pathways to Healing's prevention education program, and the Department of Social Service program for non-citizen children.
- » The regional task force again secured a booth at the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic in March to display human trafficking awareness materials. They partnered with the Richland County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force to secure volunteer members to man the booth for the three-day event that accommodated approximately 150,000 attendees.
- » Lindsay McDade, Cayce Fire Department, introduced the idea of utilizing her therapy mini-horse, Muffin, to help bring human trafficking awareness. The regional task force then hosted

an appearance by Muffin at the Columbia Metro Airport in May where the South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson joined in engaging travelers. Travelers were given "Muffin has a message" awareness cards containing the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

- » Three regional faith-based trunk-or-treat events were held in October. The locations included Saluda, Edgefield, and Pelion.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Continue to Grow the Listserv
- » Continue Participation in the Sportsmen's Classic
- » Identify Community Awareness Opportunities
- » Expand the Subcommittees

## 2025 Meeting Dates

February 11th

April 8th

June 10th

August 12th

October 14th

December 9th



Leanne Roach and Chief Daniel Ruggiero, Co-Chairs, with K9 Gauge



Outreach initiative at Columbia Metro Airport





## LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### **Chairs**

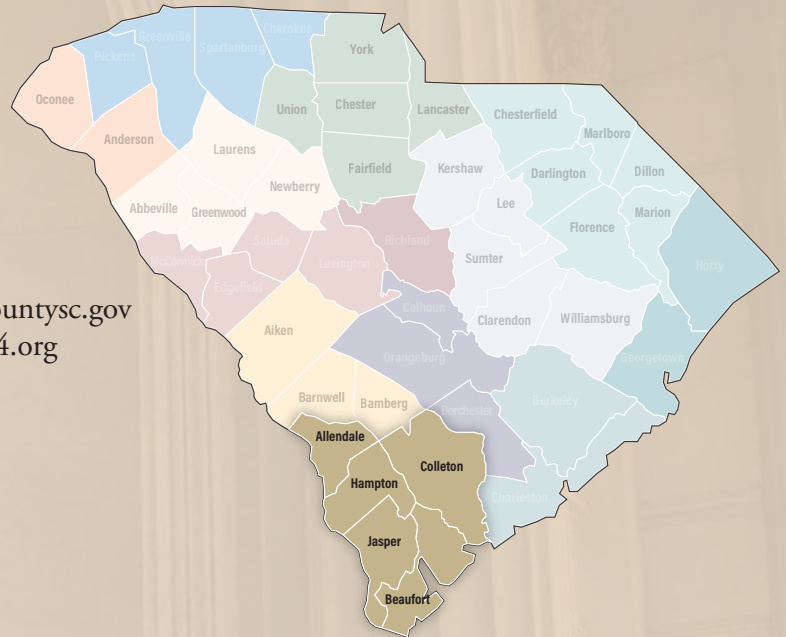
JoJo Woodward, Co-Chair, [jwoodwardjr@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:jwoodwardjr@jaspercountysc.gov)  
Erinn McGuire, Co-Chair, [emcguire@scsolicitor14.org](mailto:emcguire@scsolicitor14.org)

### **Direct Services/Victim Services**

Michelle Fraser, [mfraser@scsolicitor14.org](mailto:mfraser@scsolicitor14.org)

### **Law Enforcement**

Sherri Clark, [sclark@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:sclark@jaspercountysc.gov)



### 2024 Highlights:

- » The Lowcountry Regional Task Force hosted its fourth consecutive Annual Community Address, providing updates and engaging the community in the fight against human trafficking.
- » The task force partnered with Beaufort County Emergency Medical Services to deliver trauma-informed care and human trafficking training to paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians. This opportunity enhanced the ability of first responders to identify victims and respond appropriately.
- » The Jasper County Sheriff's Office Trunk or Treat event provided an opportunity to connect with the public and share critical information about human trafficking prevention.
- » The regional task force coordinated with the Zonta Club of Beaufort and the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island to launch and sustain anti-human trafficking initiatives, fostering valuable partnerships with organizations that share the mission of victim support and advocacy.

### 2025 Priorities:

- » Update and Modernize the Lowcountry Task Force's Website
- » Fill Subcommittee Chair and Member Vacancies

- » Establish New Collaborations with Organizations in the Region
- » Provide Additional Training to Multisector Professionals
- » Increase Public Awareness Initiatives

### 2025 Meeting Dates

January 27th

April 28th

August 25th

October 27th



January Human Trafficking Awareness Month Event



Erinn McGuire, Co-Chair





## **RICHLAND COUNTY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

### **Regional Task Force Chair**

Jennifer Mason, Chair, [mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov)

### **Education & Awareness**

Jennifer Douglass, [Jennifer2001\\_10@msn.com](mailto:Jennifer2001_10@msn.com)

### **Law Enforcement**

Capt. Brittany Jackamonis, [Bjackamonis@rcsd.net](mailto:Bjackamonis@rcsd.net)

### **Survivor Support**

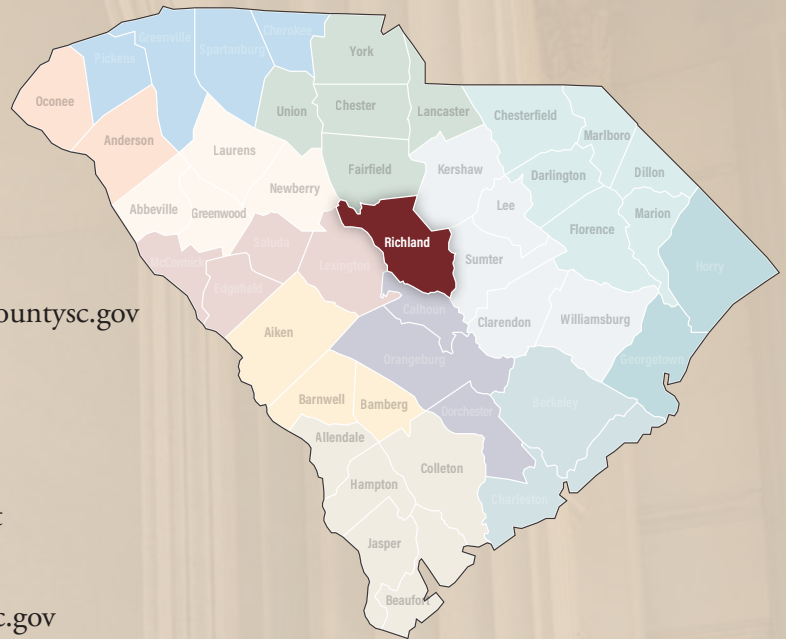
Jennifer Mason, [mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov)

### **Interfaith**

Ida Thompson, [rewt255@gmail.com](mailto:rewt255@gmail.com)

### **Legislation & Advocacy**

Robert Healy, [rhealy@legislativeroundtable.org](mailto:rhealy@legislativeroundtable.org)





## 2024 Highlights

- » The Richland County Regional Task Force meets bi-monthly in Columbia. It met six times with an average of 23 attendees per meeting.
- » A new law enforcement subcommittee chair joined the regional task force.
- » Meeting presentation topics included Polaris' National Survivor Study, trafficking within the LGBTQ+ population, Truckers Against Trafficking programs, an Attorney General's Office case study, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- » The regional task force highlighted Human Trafficking Awareness Month by conducting a "canvas the county" initiative. Hotline posters were distributed to businesses divided by zip code.
- » In March, the task force teamed up with the LEMS Regional Human Trafficking Task Force to staff a human trafficking awareness booth at the Sportsmen's Classic event at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia.
- » In October, the regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event was held in Columbia at Reid Chapel AME Church.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Increase Awareness and Outreach

## 2025 Meeting Dates

January 17th

March 21st

May 16th

July 18th

September 19th

November 14th



Oliver Gospel accepts delivery of unhoused initiative items



Regional Task Force meeting



Jennifer Mason, Chair



## TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chairs

Brooke Burris, Co-Chair, [bburris@tricountyhttf.org](mailto:bburris@tricountyhttf.org)

Lauren Knapp, Co-Chair, [lknapp@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:lknapp@charlestoncounty.org)

### Adult Services

Ivy DeAngelis, [ivyde@theformationproject.org](mailto:ivyde@theformationproject.org)

### Child Services

Nicole Hoffman, [nhoffman@dorchestercac.org](mailto:nhoffman@dorchestercac.org)

Rachael J. Garrett, LMSW, [rgarrett@deenortoncenter.org](mailto:rgarrett@deenortoncenter.org)

Millicent Walker, [mwalker@dcccic.org](mailto:mwalker@dcccic.org)

### Interfaith

Jessica Goodwin, [jessica@scvan.org](mailto:jessica@scvan.org)

### Healthcare

Erin Hart, [hartli@musc.edu](mailto:hartli@musc.edu)

Sue Wood, [woods@muscu.edu](mailto:woods@muscu.edu)

### Legal Innovations

Anne L. Ross, [aross@charlestonprobono.org](mailto:aross@charlestonprobono.org)

Emily Guerrero, [emily.guerrero@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:emily.guerrero@nelsonmullins.com)

### Prevention & Education

Kathryn J. Ramey, [kjramey@tricountyhttf.org](mailto:kjramey@tricountyhttf.org)

Megan Manigault, [megan@iamvoices.org](mailto:megan@iamvoices.org)

### Refugee/Foreign National

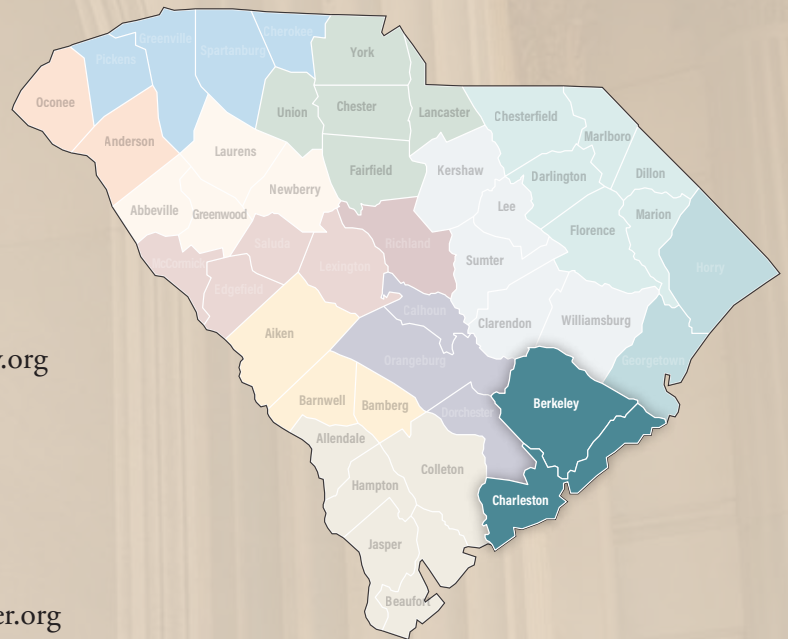
Adriana Fernandez Ruffer, [afernandezruffer@gmail.com](mailto:afernandezruffer@gmail.com)

Celina Anthony, [anthony@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:anthony@charleston.k12.sc.us)

### Research & Data

Dr. M. Kristen Hefner, Ph.D., [mhefner@citadel.edu](mailto:mhefner@citadel.edu)

Dr. Leslie Hill, Ph.D., [lhill4@citadel.edu](mailto:lhill4@citadel.edu)



## 2024 Highlights

- » The members assumed roles at national and international conferences, spearheading initiatives focused on research and data collection. These efforts have been instrumental in shaping evidence-based policies and advocacy strategies for the region while enhancing the collective understanding of human trafficking trends and responses.
- » Three official proclamations were secured this year from the city of North Charleston, Mount Pleasant, and Charleston, reinforcing the importance of addressing human trafficking at local and regional levels.
- » In the summer, the Tri-County Regional Task Force launched the first Youth Advocacy Certification Program. It has emerged as a vital tool to educate youth in the region on human trafficking through the TraffickProofSC curriculum. It was a great opportunity to encourage engagement and advocacy.
- » The Prevention & Education Subcommittee delivered over 15 sector-specific trainings and community-based presentations this year. The

sessions strengthened the region's collective response to human trafficking by increasing awareness and equipping professionals with the necessary tools to identify and assist victims.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Complete Two-Year Terms on Subcommittees
- » Evaluate and Revise Organizational Structure
- » Enhance Training for Prosecutors and Solicitors on Human Trafficking
- » Strengthen Regional Labor Trafficking Response
- » Explore Expansion of Jail Screening Tools
- » Advocate for Education Regarding Updating Commercial Sex Code
- » Advocate for Legislation for Human Trafficking Training for Healthcare Professionals

## 2025 Meeting Dates

January 31st

May 9th

August 8th

November 14th



Brooke Burris and Lauren Knapp, Co-Chairs





## UPSTATE REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### Regional Task Force Chairs

Ashley Villani, Co-Chair, [ashley@jasmineroad.org](mailto:ashley@jasmineroad.org)

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### Labor Trafficking

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### Law Enforcement

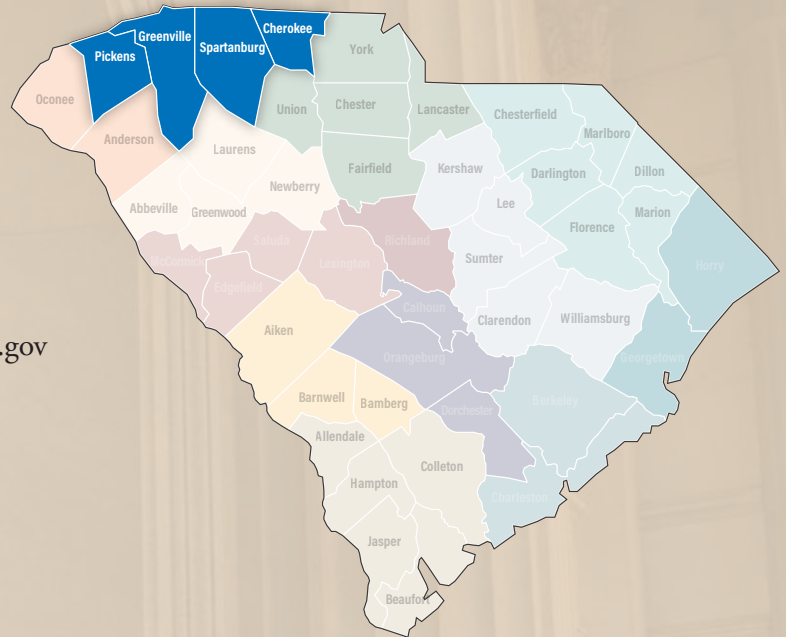
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### Direct Services for Adults

Josh Holder, [jholder@pcadvocacy.org](mailto:jholder@pcadvocacy.org)

### Community Outreach

Jane Olson, [JaneMOlson@djj.sc.gov](mailto:JaneMOlson@djj.sc.gov)



## 2024 Highlights

- » The Upstate Regional Task Force meetings were held in person at Grace Church Downtown Campus and the University Center of Greenville, with over 20 members present at each meeting.
- » The meetings included presentations from members of the task force, service providers in the Upstate area, and statewide organizations as well as updates from subcommittees.
- » The task force participated in Trunk or Treat events at St. Paul United Methodist Church and Inman First Baptist Church.
- » Donations were delivered to different non-profit organizations as part of the State Task Force Unhoused and Runaway Initiative.
- » The task force provided public awareness information at Bon Secours St. Francis 6th Annual Human Trafficking Seminar.
- » A new Facebook page for the Upstate Regional Task Force was started later in the year.

## 2025 Priorities

- » Re-establish Three Subcommittees
- » Grow the Membership of Subcommittees
- » Create an Event Calendar to increase and reflect community presence.
- » Increase Social Media Presence and Reach

## 2025 Meeting Dates

March 14th

June 13th

September 12th

December 12th



Ashley Villani and Captain Alia Paramore, Co-Chairs

## 12 Ways to Help Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts in South Carolina

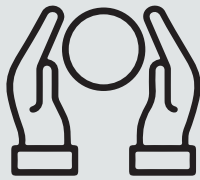
**1** Help members of your community learn about the signs of human trafficking by hosting an awareness presentation at your business, house of worship, or civic group. Visit [humantrafficking.SCAG.gov](http://humantrafficking.SCAG.gov) to schedule a presentation from a member of the State Task Force.



**2** If you suspect that an incident may be human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733. In an emergency, call 911 for local law enforcement.



**3** Donate items to a human trafficking program that may need hygiene products, food, clothing, old cell phones or other items to support survivors.



**4** Volunteer your time to a program in your community. Non-profits can benefit from volunteers coordinating fundraisers, collecting items for survivors, and assisting with basic office tasks.



**5** Encourage middle and high schools to include the TraffickProofSC prevention education curriculum in their classrooms. Go to the State Task Force website to request a presentation at your local school. You can also sign up for the TraffickProofSC newsletter online.



**6** If you are a parent or guardian, learn more about how traffickers target young people by accessing reliable resources online.

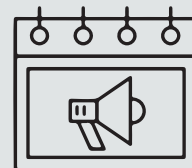




**7** Encourage after-school programs and youth groups to request a TraffickProofSC presentation at [humantrafficking.SCAG.gov](http://humantrafficking.SCAG.gov).



**8** If you are a member of a faith community, get involved in your regional task force interfaith efforts, host an awareness event, or collectively support a local non-profit working with victims and survivors.



**9** Use your social media accounts to help bring awareness. You can share State Task Force posts and include #humantrafficking awareness or #preventhumantrafficking to help spread accurate information.



**10** If you are in law enforcement, healthcare, or direct services, request sector-specific training from Task Force members who work in your professional field. Visit [humantrafficking.SCAG.gov](http://humantrafficking.SCAG.gov) to make the request.



**11** Sign up for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force newsletter to learn about training opportunities, outreach efforts, regional task force meetings, and other pertinent information.



**12** Join a regional task force to help prevent human trafficking and better respond to the needs of victims in your community.



# Acknowledgments

**We would like to acknowledge the contributions made to the 2024 Annual Report  
by the following people:**

## **South Carolina Office of the Attorney General**

<i>Kathryn Moorehead, EdM</i> Director SC Human Trafficking Task Force	<i>James Massie, MSW</i> Human Trafficking Program Coordinator Lowcountry Area
<i>Monique Garvin, LMSW, MPA</i> Deputy Director SC Human Trafficking Task Force	<i>Blake Easter, MEd</i> Prevention Education Coordinator Schools, Community, and Parents
<i>Marc Cardwell</i> Graphic Designer SC Human Trafficking Task Force	<i>Ashley Bishop, MEd</i> Prevention Education Coordinator System-Involved Youth and State Agencies
<i>Mandy Bowden, MCJ</i> Human Trafficking Program Coordinator Midlands Area	<i>Melanie Williams</i> Training and Outreach Program Assistant SC Human Trafficking Task Force
<i>Veronica Smith</i> Human Trafficking Program Coordinator Upstate Area	<i>Heather S. Weiss, JD</i> Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General General Prosecution

## **South Carolina Judicial Branch**

Jamesetta Lovett, Court Administration

## **Polaris – National Human Trafficking Hotline**

Shannon Elliott, Senior Manager of Learning, Innovation, and Data Systems

**The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General would also like to thank the State Task Force Subcommittee Chairs, Regional Task Force Chairs, and partner organizations who contributed information for the 2024 Annual Report.**

If you have questions about the 2024 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:

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