

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Prevent • Protect • Prosecute*





**Human trafficking continues to plague communities across our state.**

In 2023, we saw an increase in cases reported by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division with the vast majority involving the sex trafficking of minors. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force remains constant in its efforts to prevent the crime and respond to the needs of victims while we continue to prosecute perpetrators.

To better prevent our youth from being victimized, the Task Force created TraffickProofSC, the first statewide human trafficking prevention education curriculum. TraffickProofSC was established in partnership with South Carolina ETV and specifically developed for middle and high school students. The curriculum contains lesson plans focused on sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and the use of social media. The latter also includes information about sextortion, a tool often employed by traffickers when targeting victims online.

While human traffickers continue to target children and adolescents, we are acutely aware that South Carolina lacks proper services for these young victims. In 2023, the Task Force began work on creating a specialized juvenile court for those identified as victims of human trafficking. We also linked the need for a new grant program to support organizations willing to expand or develop services specific to this population.

Given the complexity of human trafficking, state agency leaders must collectively identify and implement system-level approaches to enhance South Carolina's response to the crime. That includes far-reaching implementation of the TraffickProofSC curriculum, increasing support services for victims, and continuing to prosecute those who commit this heinous crime.

Thank you for your continued hard work and perseverance. I remain grateful for the combined efforts of many across this state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



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# 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 was 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 Judge's National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking in Asheville, NC.
- » The first statewide Human Trafficking Healthcare Protocol is 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 stakeholders across the state.
- » The first Survivor Advisory Subcommittee 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

## 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.

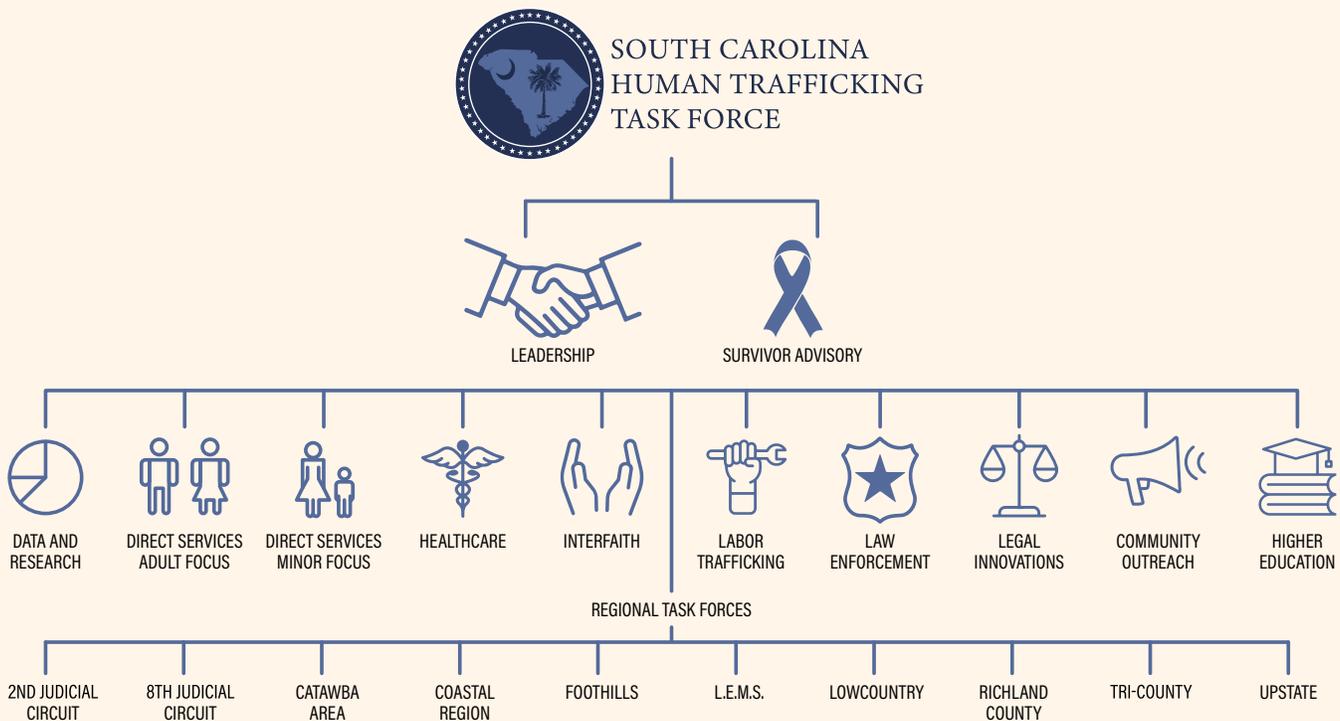


# Human Trafficking Task Force Membership

The 2012 legislation that formed the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force includes 11 mandated members, two appointed non-governmental organizations, and an invitation of membership to our federal partners within the state. Since the inception of the Task Force, we have seen a steady increase in the number of South Carolinians eager to learn more about anti-human trafficking efforts and remain engaged on the topic. The interest has brought the Task Force listserv to over 1,100 individuals from across our state.

In 2023, the State Task Force has been working with partners to update and clarify its membership composition. Our hope is to best position survivors with lived experience and representatives from professional sectors that contribute to efforts in South Carolina. We also would like to officially position the regional task forces with their much-deserved seat at the table.

The State Task Force hopes to officially update membership in 2024 with a modification to existing legislation. We will propose a new composition of membership that includes representatives from the original mandated state agencies, as well as additional mandated state agency representatives, appointed to sit on the Leadership Subcommittee. All appointees of this subcommittee will be considered members of the State Task Force. The remaining official membership will include chairs of the other Task Force subcommittees and chairs of the regional task forces. We will also extend an invitation of membership to representatives from federal agencies operating within South Carolina.



## 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 non-governmental organizations 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 Systems Improvement 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 in 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.



*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 first state-wide higher education 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.



*Aryaa Regmi* 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. Aryaa also leads the Task Force efforts around combatting labor trafficking, presents on the topic of human trafficking within the Upstate, and leads initiatives focused on special populations.

Prior to this role, Aryaa served as a Research Assistant for the Human Trafficking Center in Denver, Colorado where she was involved with an article published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The paper focused on the intersections between climate change and human trafficking to identify the underlying vulnerabilities and potential avenues for remediation. Aryaa also served as a Youth Navigator for the Office of Children Affairs with the International Rescue Committee. Aryaa's clients were refugee, asylee, and immigrant youth, including victims of trafficking, survivors of torture, migrants and/or of immigrant communities. While in Denver, Aryaa also advocated for asylum seekers by creating country condition reports for the Korbel Asylum Project while collaborating with pro bono asylum attorneys.

She served as a George Washington Carver intern at the World Food Prize Foundation and spent numerous summers as a mentor for Maiti Nepal, a human trafficking safe haven for girls and young women located in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Aryaa earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Global Resource Systems from Iowa State University and a Master of International Development from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. She also earned a certificate in Global Business and Corporate Social Responsibility while at the University of Denver.



*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.



*Hensley Parks* is a Prevention Education Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In his role,

Hensley is focused on the use of TraffickProofSC in schools and community youth-serving organizations.

He has over 12 years of law enforcement experience, including work on the Youth Services Division where he served children and adolescents through a variety of school and community-based services and programming. During his tenure in law enforcement, Hensley received numerous awards, including Deputy of the Year and Deputy of the Quarter. He was also voted one of Columbia's Hometown Heroes by WIS and Hardee's. Prior to his law enforcement career, Hensley was an entrepreneur for over 20 years. In 1999, he was named Businessman of the Year by Midland Magazine and the Rotary Club.

Hensley has coached basketball and mentored at Spring Valley High School for 15 years. Hensley graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in 2011 as a Class I Officer, and in 2014 went to work for the Richland County Sheriff's Department.



*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.



*Kevin McGuigan* is the Human Trafficking Investigator in the Special Victims Prosecution area of the General Prosecution Unit at the Office of the South

Carolina Attorney General. He brings 14 years of law enforcement experience to the position.

He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Economics from State University of New York College at Cortland. Following college, he attended the US Border Patrol Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Kevin was a Patrol Agent with the United States Border Patrol before becoming a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations, specifically investigating human trafficking and human smuggling. He relocated to South Carolina in 2021 and began working at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. While at the academy, Kevin taught Basic Law Enforcement as well as courses on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime Investigations.

## Meet the Interns



*Nya Grey* is an Intern with the Violence Against Women Act Programs and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In her role, Nya completes

policy and legislation research, assists with trainings, and supports community outreach, public awareness and special events.

A native of Seattle, Washington, Nya has a strong interest in community outreach. Her internship with the State Task Force has positioned her well to channel her passion for social work into professional activities. Nya is eager to gain knowledge and skills while channeling her unwavering commitment to social advocacy to effectively contribute to the mission of the division.

Nya is currently working on a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Columbia College with a projected graduation in April of 2024. She has received recognition for outstanding academic performance while maintaining her internship. Her hard work has resulted in earning a scholarship for future educational endeavors. Nya actively engages in extracurricular activities, such as volleyball, and is a student ambassador at her college. She also believes strongly in giving back through community service initiatives that include food drives for local shelters, community clean-up events, and fundraising events for charitable organizations.



*Matthew Benfield* is a Graduate Intern with the Violence Against Women Act Programs and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In his role, Matthew

completes research on special topics, assists in the development of human trafficking resources for the website, and supports community outreach, public awareness, and special events.

A native of Spartanburg, Matthew is interested in working with communities through advocacy, community development and policy reform.

Matthew recently received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of South Carolina in May of 2023. During his undergraduate program, he served as a worship leader for two years at an on-campus church. Matthew also volunteered at the Washington Street United Methodist Church soup cellar and breakfasts for people experiencing homelessness. He is currently pursuing his Master of Social Work at the University of South Carolina in the advanced standing track with a projected graduation date in May of 2024. Matthew is currently serving as a Graduate Assistant at USC's International Student and Scholar Support office where he manages social media pages and works on the office's demographics report.



*Claire Griffiths* is a Graduate Intern with the Violence Against Women Act Programs and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. In her role, Claire completes policy and legislation research, assists with trainings, develops the State Task Force monthly newsletter, and supports community outreach, public awareness and special events.

A native of Wake Forest, North Carolina, Claire is interested in utilizing her degrees to advocate for victims by pursuing a legal career in prosecution. She is especially interested in advocating for women and children. Claire pursued the internship with the Task Force because she felt it was at the perfect intersection of her interests and two graduate degrees, social work and law.

Claire received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She was a member of the University of South Carolina Women's Soccer team for five seasons, winning two Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament Championships and named to the SEC Community Service Team during the 2021 season. Currently, Claire is pursuing her Master in Social Work and a Juris Doctor through a dual degree program at the University of South Carolina. She will graduate in May of 2025.

### **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.

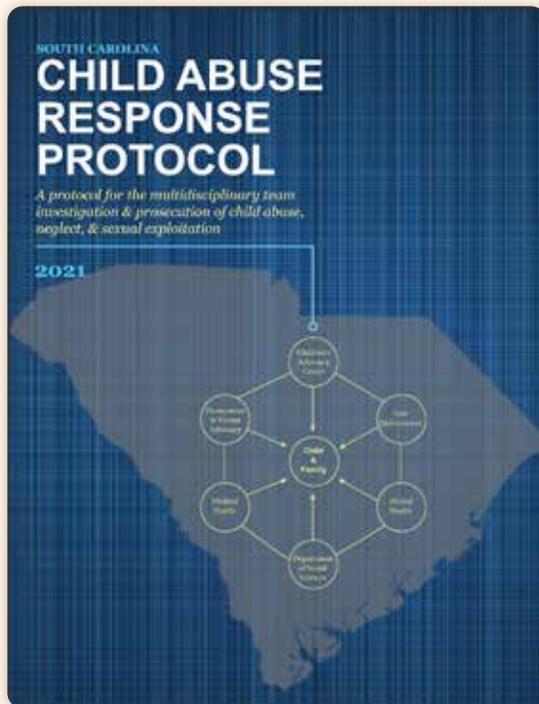
### **Vacancies**

Throughout 2023, the State Task Force has been interviewing and onboarding staff to fully implement its statewide strategic response plan. The Task Force, at the time of this report, is in the process of finalizing three remaining positions including a Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Pee Dee area of the state who will also support the Healthcare and Direct Services for Minors Subcommittees. The other two positions include a Program Assistant to perform administrative tasks while supporting trainings and initiatives and a Data Analyst to develop the state's first comprehensive human trafficking data collection system. The State Task Force hopes to have the positions filled in early 2024.

# South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol

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 Children Advocacy Centers (CACs) in our state as well as 11 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 SC Code Ann. § 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.*

# TraffickProofSC

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is one of the first steps in prevention. In partnership with SC Educational Television and Public Radio (SCETV), the State Task Force developed TraffickProofSC, a series of free, age-appropriate, educational videos and curricula catered to middle and high school students. This initiative serves as the first statewide human trafficking prevention education curricula highlighting 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 exploited. During session facilitations, educators and students will be 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?
- » Labor Trafficking
- » Sex Trafficking
- » Staying Safe Online

For questions related to TraffickProofSC, please contact Hensley Parks, Prevention Education Coordinator, [hensleyparks@scag.gov](mailto:hensleyparks@scag.gov) or Ashley Bishop, Prevention Education Coordinator [ashleybishop@scag.gov](mailto:ashleybishop@scag.gov).



## TraffickProofSC State Task Force Facilitator Request

Educators and community groups can submit requests for a State Task Force staff member to facilitate the TraffickProofSC curriculum at their middle or high school at [www.traffickproofsc.org](http://www.traffickproofsc.org).

## Train the Trainer Opportunities

Educators and Child Advocacy Center staff interested in becoming a TraffickProofSC facilitator can also sign up on the TraffickProofSC webpage. Those who participate will receive instruction on how to deliver the content and be provided with a facilitator's guide to assist them with training topics and class activities. 2024 Train the Trainer dates are on the Task Force website.

## TraffickProofSC Newsletter

This year, TraffickProofSC launched a newsletter to inform community members about human trafficking and raise awareness about the signs of trafficking, resources to utilize when you suspect trafficking, and community events and trainings.



**"TraffickProofSC's potential for helping students, educators, and caregivers prevent or address human trafficking in their spheres of influence, is well worth the time and effort invested in this pursuit. We look forward to witnessing the transformative power of TraffickProofSC and sharing in the reporting of its outcomes."**

—Dr. Salandra Bowman, Chief Learning Officer, South Carolina ETV

## TraffickProofSC Backpack Giveaway

To launch TraffickProofSC (TPSC), the Task Force hosted a press conference in July at the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office followed by a kickoff backpack giveaway on the State House grounds. The press conference included remarks from Attorney General Alan Wilson and Dr. Stephanie Cook, Interim President & CEO of SCETV. The press conference and backpack giveaway included local organizations, volunteers, and public officials including Representative Ligon from Chester and York Counties.

The campaign then launched in regions across the state. Students from various schools and neighborhoods were provided with backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, pens, a TPSC water bottle, stickers, and an educational flyer on the impact of social media. 3,000 backpacks were distributed across the state in numerous locations. Eight of the 10 regional task forces hosted events in their community. The State Task Force supported additional community events, including the Lexington Community Fun Day, National Night Out in McBee, SC, and the Columbia Housing Authority Resource Fair.

The following Regional Task Forces participated in the launch of TPSC in their communities:

Regional Task Force	Community Partner(s)	Location
2nd Judicial Circuit	Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County	Aiken
8th Judicial Circuit	Greenwood Lion’s Club	Ninety-Six
L.E.M.S. (Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda)	Radius Church White Knoll	Lexington
Catawba Area	Heart2Heart Foundation	Rock Hill
Coastal	▷ Spirit-Filled Ambassadors for Christ Church ▷ Loris Park	▷ Andrews ▷ Loris
Foothills	Anderson County Farmer’s Market	Anderson
Lowcountry	Hampton Police Department	Cottageville
Tri-County	▷ Charleston Hispanic Association ▷ Summerville Police Department ▷ Charleston County School District	▷ Summerville ▷ Ladson ▷ Charleston

The backpack giveaway events showcased community participation and collaboration. Through these events, thousands of students received school supplies and human trafficking awareness education to start the new school year on a positive note. The community support demonstrated a shared commitment toward awareness and educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. These events reinforced the importance of fostering a strong and supportive community.



## Trunk or Treat

The State Interfaith Subcommittee and the regional task force subcommittee members partnered with faith-based organizations to host Trunk-or-Treat events throughout the state. These events were a fun-filled, seasonal event designed to amplify awareness and outreach efforts against human trafficking. Ten regional task forces actively engaged in these efforts by distributing TraffickProofSC bags filled with candy, crayons, National Human Trafficking Hotline stickers, and other items. This provided an opportunity for regional task force members to network with places of worship and the communities they serve. Several hundred community members,

including parents and youth, were exposed to local and statewide anti-trafficking efforts. These efforts connected various faith-based organizations to new information about human trafficking and opportunities for them to get involved. In 2024, the Interfaith Subcommittee will continue bridging existing gaps and ensuring a more cohesive and coordinated response with faith-based organizations. The State Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee and regional task force subcommittees remain steadfast in their mission. Continued progress in task force collective efforts with faith-based establishments is eagerly anticipated.





“As integral members of the community, faith communities are in a position to identify situations of trafficking, report tips to law enforcement, and connect victims with life-saving resources. Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Mormon, Baha’i, and Hindu communities across the U.S. have launched successful initiatives to educate the broader community about the dangers of human trafficking and equip community members to identify victims and respond to suspected trafficking situations appropriately.”

— National Human Trafficking Resource Center

## Soul Survivor Ink

Many survivors endure “branding” tattoos that are constant reminders of their painful past. The SC Human Trafficking Task Force and Soul Survivor Ink have partnered to identify SC artists, aestheticians, and removal technicians to become participating affiliates by providing tattoo/scar removals and cover-ups to human trafficking survivors. Soul Survivor Ink is a nationwide 501(c)(3) organization based out of Arizona that screens and matches clients with providers. They also offer compensation to their affiliates so that survivors are not charged for services.

In 2023, postcards were mailed to 160 licensed tattoo establishments in South Carolina to recruit additional professionals to become affiliates with the program. The goal is to acquire a minimum of one in each of the four geographical regions of South Carolina.

Prior to 2023, Soul Survivor Ink did not have any affiliate partners in South Carolina. The Task Force is pleased to announce that we now have a recognized professional in the Midlands region who can serve survivors in our state and others in the vetting process. Survivors, along with an advocate, request services through the Soul Survivor Ink organization. More information on Soul Survivor Ink can be found on their website at [soulsurvivor.ink](http://soulsurvivor.ink)

*For more information on this initiative, or if you know a professional who may be interested in becoming an affiliate, please contact Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator at [mandybowden@scag.gov](mailto:mandybowden@scag.gov).*



Many survivors endure “branding” tattoos which are constant reminders of their painful past. **The SC Human Trafficking Task Force and Soul Survivor Ink** are partnering to identify SC artists, aestheticians, and removal technicians to become participating affiliates by providing tattoo/scar removals and cover-ups to human trafficking survivors.

Soul Survivor Ink is a nationwide 501(c)(3) organization who screens and matches clients and providers, and offers compensation to their affiliates so that survivors are not charged for services.

Contact Soul Survivor Ink today for more information and learn next steps to become an affiliate in SC. Call 833-776-8500 or email [info@soulsurvivor.ink](mailto:info@soulsurvivor.ink)



## Training and Community Outreach

### Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals

In October, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force hosted the Victim Service Provider certification training for human trafficking professionals (VSP-HT). The event was held at the South Carolina Sheriff's Association and included 24 attendees. The attendees completed one day in person and four virtual days of presentations for a total of fifteen hours.

The State Task Force would like to thank the following presenters for sharing their subject matter expertise with those in attendance.

- » Ari Foster, The Hive Community Circle
- » Monique Garvin, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Abdalis Toro, SC Department of Employment and Workforce
- » Megan Raymer, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Margaret Bodman, USC Children's Law Center
- » Kat Wehunt, Survivor Advocate
- » Ruth Brockman, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Veronica Swain Kunz, SC Office of the Attorney General
- » Aaliyah Simon, SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
- » Valerie Ekue, The Hive Community Circle
- » Kathryn Moorehead, SC Office of the Attorney General

*A special thank you to Melanie Williams, Task Force Training and Outreach Program Assistant, for her efforts in ensuring a successful event. We also appreciate the support from our interns, Claire Griffiths, Matthew Benfield, and Nya Grey.*

### The State Task Force Welcomes International Guests

In partnership with the Columbia Council for Internationals, State Task Force staff welcomed 14 professionals from Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Colombia. Members of the group, with the assistance of three interpreters, spoke about their work in preventing and responding to human trafficking and related violent crimes.

The group included representatives the following:

- » Supreme Court of Santa Fe Province
- » Red Uno
- » Legal Office for Women
- » Ombudsman for Women's Rights and Gender Affairs
- » Asociacion Lila Mujer
- » Telenord and Noticias SIN Channels
- » Ministry of Women
- » National Police Force Specialized Unit for Women in Situations of Violence
- » National Civil Police Academy
- » Feminist Lawyers Associated
- » Centers for Women Justice
- » Network Jalisco State
- » International Foundation Action Against Hunger
- » Office to Support Justice of Peace and Indigenous
- » Cusco Superior Court of Justice
- » Encuentros



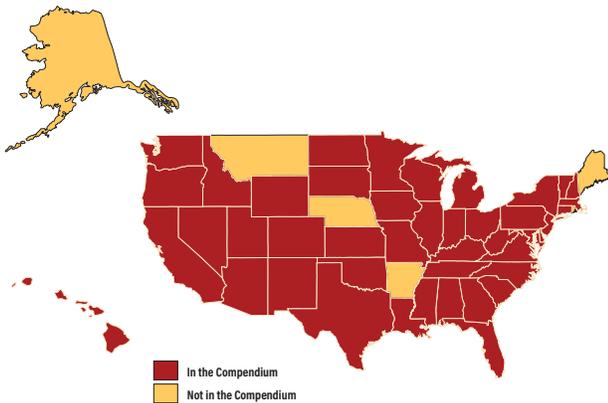
## Federal and National Partnerships

### 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.

## **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.



## 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 is grateful for its state, federal, and national partnerships. Given the complexities of human trafficking, it is critical that sectors collaborate on initiatives to enable South Carolinians to identify potential crimes, prevent individuals from being victimized, and effectively respond to cases across our state."

— Director Kathryn Moorehead, South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

### 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 2023, the USAO had a total of five human trafficking cases pending as of January 1st. Three new human trafficking cases were charged. Eight trafficking cases pled guilty as charged. Two human trafficking cases were closed in 2023 and three human trafficking cases will remain active after December 31st.

#### Contacts:

- » Carrie Fisher Sherard, Assistant United States Attorney
- » Elliott Daniels, Assistant United States Attorney
- » Katie Orville, 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 Victims had sixteen defendants with human trafficking cases

### Federal Trafficking Cases Pled Guilty as Charged

**3 Sex Trafficking of Minors**

**4 Sex Trafficking of Adults**

**1 Labor Trafficking of Adults**

pending as of January 1st, 2023. Six new human trafficking defendants were charged in 2023. Three sex trafficking of minor defendants pled as charged to trafficking or to related charges involving sex crimes. Nineteen cases will remain active after December 31st.

In June of 2023, the Special Victims Unit, 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. The training covered a variety of topics including interviewing child witnesses, medical forensic evidence, human trafficking case studies, and an appellate update. The training concluded with a networking event that included South Carolina human trafficking prosecutors and law enforcement from across the southeast.

#### Contacts:

- » Megan Raymer, Assistant Attorney General
- » Kinli Abee, Assistant Deputy Attorney General

### 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 to see that the cases are handled in such a way that the juveniles can receive proper services and their cases can be 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 situations 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.

# 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.



## **2023 Restructuring:**

Throughout 2023, the State Task Force gathered input from stakeholders as to the most impactful way to continually improve South Carolina's response to human trafficking. The Leadership Subcommittee historically included the Director of the Task Force, Subcommittee Chairs, and Regional Task Force Chairs. While these members provided vital insight into professional sector efforts and community initiatives, the subcommittee was not positioned to best impact statewide changes that are needed in South Carolina.

## **2024 Membership:**

In 2024, the State Task Force Leadership Subcommittee will be restructured, under the leadership of the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, to include representatives from the legislatively mandated and appointed member agencies. This subcommittee will provide input into future priorities and identify legislation to better prevent and respond to the crime of human trafficking in our state.

## **2024 Action Plan:**

The subcommittee will meet bi-annually to consider issues that impact counter human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. Members will also examine system improvements that need to be addressed amongst multiple state agencies. The Leadership Subcommittee will solicit input from the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee.

*To contact the Leadership Subcommittee, please email Director Kathryn Moorehead, [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov).*

**"Given the complexity of human trafficking, state agency leaders must collectively identify and implement system-level approaches to enhance South Carolina's response to the crime. That includes far-reaching implementation of the TraffickProofSC prevention education curriculum, increasing support services for victims, and continuing to prosecute those who commit these crimes."**

—Attorney General Alan Wilson, Chair

# Survivor Advisory Subcommittee

## Purpose:

To provide survivor-informed recommendations to The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force to enhance regional and statewide programs and services, identify existing and potential barriers and opportunities to support survivors, and leverage their expertise to achieve State Task Force goals.



## 2023 Highlights:

With support from the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee, the State Task Force was able to solicit feedback and recommendations into statewide programs, services, and resources throughout the year. The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee recruited and increased their membership and currently has ten representatives from around the state. Over the summer, The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee held a half-day, retreat in Columbia. The meet-up served as an opportunity to foster relationships between members and identify Survivor Advisory Subcommittee roles and goals. One of the priorities identified from the retreat was to develop a formal process for survivors to contribute to the various State Task Force Subcommittees. Consequently, survivors completed a survey detailing their education, interests, and expertise to align with the sector-specific work of each State Task Force subcommittee. This is a turning point as each State subcommittee will now have survivor leaders providing direct feedback and recommendations to priorities and goals. The meeting also discussed the development of other internal processes for the recruitment and the application process for future members as well.

## 2024 Goals:

With an increasing number of members joining regional task forces around the State, the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee hopes to identify one survivor leader to help support each regional task force. This will be done via a pre-approved recruitment and application process. Additional in-person events will be held to allow for face-to-face conversations rooted in the service provisions and support needed for survivors. These conversations will also focus on identifying and creating solutions for existing and potential barriers to survivor contributions and feedback for regional anti-trafficking goals and services. Lastly, the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee will continue to work closely with the State Task Force on upcoming initiatives, programs, and resources.

Thank you to Kat Wehunt for her years of service as the Chair of the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee.

*To contact the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee, please email Aryaa Regmi, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator at [aryaaregmi@scag.gov](mailto:aryaaregmi@scag.gov).*

“Government agencies at all levels should explore formal platforms to meaningfully engage survivors as subject matter experts and equal partners to become more survivor-informed in their policies and program implementation.”

— US Department of State



# Data and Research Subcommittee

## Purpose:

The purpose of the Data and Management and Research Subcommittee is to collect, analyze, and interpret relevant data to understand the implications of human trafficking, enhance service provision, inform prevention and intervention strategies, and provide policymaking recommendations related to human trafficking and its intersection with other issues.



## 2023 Highlights:

The Data and Research Subcommittee plays a crucial role in addressing human trafficking by providing insights into its prevalence, patterns, underlying causes, and its intersection with other topics. Topics include: behavioral health, prevention efforts, Violence Against Women Act crimes, substance abuse, gang-related activity, rural, tribal and indigenous communities. Comprehensive data within all aspects of human trafficking allows policymakers, law enforcement, and non-governmental organizations to understand the scope of the issue and identify vulnerable populations. Research enables the development of evidence-based strategies, improving the effectiveness of prevention, victim and survivor support, and prosecution efforts.

In 2023, the State Task Force met with multiple data and research experts to discuss opportunities and barriers to developing a data collection system in South Carolina. These research efforts have explored collection methods, storage recommendations, data encryption, anonymization and re-identification strategies, and sector-specific considerations. The State Task Force has deepened its involvement in the State Data Team quarterly meetings comprised of data analysts across the state. The State Task Force is also in the process of interviewing for the Data Analyst position and looks forward to filling the vacancy in 2024 to support the Data and Research Subcommittee.

## 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Data and Research Subcommittee anticipates the hiring and onboarding of the Data Analyst position, collaborating with various sectors to increase opportunities for data utilization, advocating for uniform data collection methods for victims of human trafficking, and supporting education and training, when appropriate.

## Chair:

» Dr. Liyuan Zhang, Director of Trainer Development and Research, USC Children's Law Center

*To contact the Data and Research Subcommittee, please email Aryaa Regmi, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator at [aryaaregmi@scag.gov](mailto:aryaaregmi@scag.gov).*

**"Data are an important tool in building an organization's capacity to serve all victims of trafficking. Data can help individuals assess organizational needs, identify areas for improvement, inform program strategies, and measure change over time. Organizations can use data to support protocols and programs, inform decision making, and drive action to serve victims of human trafficking."**

— US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

## Direct Services: Adult Focus Subcommittee

### Purpose:

The Direct Services: Adult Focus Subcommittee 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.



### 2023 Highlights:

In October of 2023, several adult-serving agencies had staff complete the Victim Service Provider: Human Trafficking (VSP-HT) training certification, which equips professionals who directly serve human trafficking victims. Those agencies included Lighthouse for Life, Doors to Freedom, I Am Voices, and Engaging Minds.

### 2024 Goals:

New leadership and increased membership will be recruited for this subcommittee in 2024. The subcommittee will advise on advanced training topics, become more familiar with the state level certification process and requirements, and assist with identifying supplemental service providers for resource mapping purposes.

*To contact the Direct Services Adult Focus Subcommittee, please email Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, [mandybowden@scag.gov](mailto:mandybowden@scag.gov).*

**“Without proper aftercare, 80% of trafficking victims will be re-victimized. Aftercare is imperative to a survivor’s ability to recover and heal from their trafficking experience.”**

—The Safe House Project



## Direct Services: Minor Focus Subcommittee

### Purpose:

**The Direct Services: Minor Focus Subcommittee aims to support child 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.**



### 2023 Highlights:

The Subcommittee held in-person and virtual meetings with representatives from the SC Department of Child Advocacy, the SC Department of Social Services, the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, and the SC Department of Juvenile Justice. In 2023, the Subcommittee focused on analyzing existing HT screening tools used by child-serving agencies; identifying opportunities for cross-system collaboration for child-serving agencies and organizations; and understanding the policies and procedures of state agencies who service or interact with at-risk and confirmed victims of human trafficking.

### 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Direct Services Subcommittee with a Minor Focus will work to identify a comprehensive array of needed services for child and adolescent victims of human trafficking. Based upon the ideal service array, the Subcommittee will propose a formalized level of care system to support the development of additional services for minor

victims of trafficking. The recommendations will also support the State Task Force's efforts in launching a human trafficking competitive grant program that would support the expansion of services in South Carolina.

This work will in turn position the Task Force to meet its legislative mandate to certify providers working directly with victims. Certified agencies will be listed in the resource directory, located on the Task Force website, that will be updated throughout 2024 as additional organizations fulfill certification requirements. The resource directory will include specialized and supplemental programs for child and adolescent victims of trafficking.

### Chair:

» Kayla Capps, Deputy Director, SC Department of Children's Advocacy

*To contact the Direct Services Subcommittee: Minor Focus, please email Kathryn Moorehead, Human Trafficking Task Force Director at [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov).*

**"Service providers report that all victims of trafficking have some type of mental health need. Specifically, service providers indicated that as a result of the trauma experienced, victims need trauma counseling and for domestic minor victims in particular, they often need anger management, conflict resolution, and family counseling."**

— US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

## 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.



## 2023 Highlights:

During 2023, the Healthcare Subcommittee held bimonthly meetings to identify opportunities to engage and support professionals in healthcare settings. The Subcommittee also connected with healthcare professionals from the Nebraska Healthcare Association to help inform opportunities to collaborate and support the development of healthcare-related resources for 2024.

increase education and training with healthcare professionals; and deepen existing partnerships. The Subcommittee will also coordinate with the South Carolina Forensic Nurse Examiners' Task Force to identify healthcare organizations who earn the Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence designation. This coordination will help build out medical resources in the Task Force's online directory.

## 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Healthcare Subcommittee will identify additional members from a variety of medical specialty areas; update the state human trafficking healthcare protocol; develop an implementation guide for the protocol;

## Chair:

» Shawn Armstrong, President,  
BayCare Health System

*To contact the Healthcare Subcommittee, please email Kathryn Moorehead, Human Trafficking Task Force Director at [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov).*



HEALTH, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, LINKAGE  
BECAUSE HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A HEALTH ISSUE

Celebrating *Ten* years of HEALing

Healthcare and behavioral health professionals from regional task forces across the state were offered the opportunity to complete a two-day intensive virtual workshop hosted by HEAL Trafficking. In October, five professionals completed the Train the Trainer Academy. It provided attendees with the content, knowledge, and teaching skills to train others within their sectors to respond to human trafficking. If you are a professional in healthcare or behavioral health and interested in a similar training, please contact Training and Outreach Program Assistant Melanie Williams, [mwilliams@scag.gov](mailto:mwilliams@scag.gov)

# 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.**



## **2023 Highlights:**

This year has been marked by meaningful progress and engagement with the Interfaith Subcommittee and faith-based communities throughout South Carolina. This year the committee prioritized information sharing among the interfaith community and designing strategic approaches to address the specific needs and challenges faced by faith-based organizations. Meetings were conducted bimonthly and served as a conduit for this year's highlights.

One notable achievement in 2023 was the finalization of an Interfaith Human Trafficking 101 training designed for faith-based community members and leaders. This presentation aims to equip participants with knowledge about the prevalence of human trafficking in South Carolina and creative ways that faith-based organizations can get involved in anti-trafficking efforts.

This year, the Interfaith State Subcommittee coordinated efforts with each Regional Task Force across the state to host Trunk-or-Treat events in partnership with houses of worship. These events provided an opportunity to interact with the faith-based community, raise awareness about human trafficking, and establish meaningful connections.

Additionally, the South Carolina State Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee supported recruitment efforts across each regional task force to ensure representation and coordination across the state amongst the faith-based community. Currently, all the Regional Task Forces are actively engaged with the Interfaith State Subcommittee and leading local efforts within their regional subcommittees.

Our commitment to combating human trafficking remains unwavering as we persist in reinforcing our relationships and collaborative efforts with interfaith chairs, subcommittee members, and faith-based organizations. These ongoing partnerships play a crucial role in fostering a united collective mission to eradicate human trafficking in South Carolina.

## **2024 Goals:**

The State Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee will continue expanding its capacity to serve by assembling a diverse team of faith-based members to represent and lead efforts. The subcommittee will also focus on developing a Train-the-Trainer Program to implement the Task Force's Human Trafficking 101 for Faith-Based Communities awareness presentation. This project will ensure consistent messaging and delivery of targeted education and awareness materials for faith-based communities. The Interfaith subcommittee will also develop resources specific to educating and supporting those in faith-based settings. Resources will include information regarding red flag signs, essential contact information for reporting purposes, and general knowledge about human trafficking.

## **Chair and Co-chair:**

- » Roger Acton, Faith Based & Victim Services Project Director, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network
- » Dr. Kamran Borhanian

*To contact the Interfaith Subcommittee, please email James Massie, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, [jamesmassie@scag.gov](mailto:jamesmassie@scag.gov)*

# Labor Trafficking Subcommittee

## Purpose:

The purpose of the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee is 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.



## 2023 Highlights:

The Labor Trafficking subcommittee is co-chaired by Abdalis Toro, State Monitor Advocate at the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW), and Lucyana Roldan, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist at the United States Department of Labor. The subcommittee is represented by members from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, SC Commission for Minority Affairs, SC Legal Services, SC Department of Social Services, SC Labor, Licensing and Regulation, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Charleston Pro Bono, SC Migrant Education Program, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, SC Agriculture Worker Health Programs, survivor leaders, and local law enforcement.

This past year, data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline has shown us that labor trafficking cases in our State continue to rise; therefore, the subcommittee is committed to raising awareness for this crime. Subcommittee chairs successfully presented on labor trafficking to all 10 regional task forces, and the State Task Force VSP-HT certification program hosted in late October. The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee focused efforts on child labor by distributing material in Spanish and English during community outreach events, such as the Anderson County Farmer's Market, in addition to speaking to groups around the State such as the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network.

In collaboration with members from the Survivor Advisory and the graphic designer at the State Task Force, the subcommittee developed labor trafficking-specific stickers that had examples of force, fraud,

and coercion in the workplace. Paper resources were developed in both Spanish and English that encompassed what labor trafficking is and red flags.

## 2024 Goal

In 2024, the Labor Trafficking subcommittee will continue to increase community awareness on this crime with sector-specific trainings geared toward law enforcement and the public. Members of the subcommittee will meet quarterly to develop and implement a streamlined referral process when cases and victims of labor trafficking are identified. Additional trainings specific to foreign national and unaccompanied minor populations in our State will be held, as well as workshops on continued presence in collaboration with SC Legal Services. Finally, resource materials will continue to be developed in various languages to be distributed to community members with limited English-speaking proficiency throughout the State.

## Chair and Co-chair:

- » Abdalis Toro, State Monitor Advocate, SC Dept. of Employment & Workforce
- » Lucyana Roldan, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist, US Department of Labor

To contact the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, please email [Aryaa Regmi](mailto:Aryaa.Regmi@scag.gov), Human Trafficking Program Coordinator at [aryaaregmi@scag.gov](mailto:aryaaregmi@scag.gov).

A brown sticker with a globe icon. Text: "Were you forced to surrender documents to your employer? If yes, you may be a victim of labor trafficking. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE 888-373-7888 (text 233733) SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE".

Were you forced to surrender documents to your employer?  
If yes, you may be a victim of labor trafficking.  
NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-373-7888**  
(text 233733)  
SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

A green sticker with a hand holding a bill icon. Text: "Did you have to pay someone in order to work? If yes, you may be a victim of labor trafficking. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE 888-373-7888 (text 233733) SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE".

Did you have to pay someone in order to work?  
If yes, you may be a victim of labor trafficking.  
NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-373-7888**  
(text 233733)  
SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

## Law Enforcement Subcommittee

### Purpose:

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee for the State Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to the eradication of human trafficking in South Carolina. Through diligent effort, strategic partnerships, and unwavering dedication to justice and human rights, the Subcommittee aims to create a safe and secure community by collaborating with and assisting law enforcement and social services agencies across the state with ongoing human trafficking investigations, training, and public outreach.



### 2023 Highlights

The Subcommittee invited state-level law enforcement officials from the eight southeastern states for a convening on human trafficking. Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Mississippi were invited to attend. Attendees were greeted by a reception at the Governor's Mansion followed by a day-long roundtable in downtown Columbia. The meeting served as an opportunity to collaborate with other states and strengthen the ability of officers to work in the anti-trafficking field.

The State Law Enforcement Subcommittee also strengthened its partnership with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. The collaboration focused on enhancing human trafficking trainings provided to law enforcement officers across the state by equipping them with knowledge and resources to identify, investigate, and respond effectively to human trafficking cases.

### 2024 Goals

In 2024, the Law Enforcement Subcommittee will focus on increasing efforts to identify and recover victims of human trafficking; refine data collection and analysis; enhance sector-specific law enforcement trainings; and foster new and existing collaborations with governmental and non-governmental agencies.

### Co-chair:

» Chair Connie Sonnefeld, Captain, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

» Jade Roy, Lieutenant, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

*To contact the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please email James Massie, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, [jamesmassie@scag.gov](mailto:jamesmassie@scag.gov).*



## 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.



### 2023 Highlights:

The Legal Innovations Subcommittee established the name R.I.S.E. Court to embody the mission and values of a specialized court for youth who have experienced or are at-risk of experiencing sex and labor exploitation. The court name stands for Restorative Interventions to Strengthen and Empower. In 2023, the Legal Innovations Subcommittee efforts were led by the Chair, Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan, Criminal Practice Clinic Director at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Contributing members included Judge Michelle P. Forsythe and staff from the State Task Force.



To accomplish the vision of the R.I.S.E. Court, the core members of the Legal Innovations team developed relationships with several courts across the nation for guidance, resources, and key insights. In May 2023, members from the team organized a visit to H.O.P.E. Court in Savannah, Georgia, where recommended practices were shared for the development, daily operations, and effective implementation of a specialized court for youth.

During the 2023 year, the R.I.S.E. Court initiative was focused on gathering data and researching best and emerging practices related to system-involved minor victims of human trafficking. This approach ensures that our efforts will continue to align with the principles of empowerment, restoration, and effective intervention for trafficked victims. The subcommittee commitment remains steadfast in its purpose to influence and coordinate services for minor victims of trafficking.

### 2024 Goal

In 2024, the primary focus will be to foster increased collaborations with local and state partners to create a robust Multidisciplinary Team that is essential in facilitating the successful development of this court. Members will be instrumental in coordinating various aspects and ensuring a cohesive approach with the legal framework. A protocol for the R.I.S.E. Court will be established with an implementation plan for launching a pilot. Furthermore, The State Task Force Legal Innovations Subcommittee will focus on identifying appropriate funding. This funding will be pivotal in acquiring the necessary resources, staffing, and infrastructure essential for the effective functioning of this court.

### Chair:

»Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan, Director, Criminal Practice Clinic, USC School of Law

*To contact the Legal Innovations Subcommittee, please email James Massie, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, jamesmassie@scag.gov.*

# Community Outreach Subcommittee

## Purpose:

The Community Outreach Subcommittee coordinates prevention, awareness, and outreach efforts for all regional human trafficking task forces. The subcommittee targets the public with the goal of providing accurate information and consistent messaging related to anti-human trafficking efforts.



## 2023 Highlights:

This year, the State Task Force recognized the need to clarify the distinction between general awareness activities and evidence-based prevention education. Therefore, the Community Outreach Subcommittee was repurposed to coincide with the State Task Force prevention education initiatives. Additionally, the State Task Force developed a Prevention Education Working Group to focus on efforts related to TraffickProofSC, composed of subject-matter experts related to prevention education.

The Subcommittee enhanced its member representation from each of the ten regional task forces and convened regular meetings to understand how each conducts community presentations and develops plans for human trafficking awareness month. The Subcommittee also gathered information from each regional task force about their use of evidence-based programming and community outreach activities. Members also finalized core components to include in a basic human trafficking 101 awareness presentation to ensure consistent messaging.

## 2024 Goals:

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will work with the State Task Force to distribute a presentation guideline and provide subcommittee members with a PowerPoint template for community presentations. The subcommittee will also finalize a universal evaluation form for community outreach presentations and create a process for statewide data collection of awareness presentations. Community Outreach and Interfaith Subcommittees will coordinate to provide a Train the Trainer for members who provide community presentations. The subcommittee will obtain human trafficking awareness materials and display items specific to the regional task forces for use at community events.

## Chair:

» Dr. Pam Imm, Community Psychologist,  
The Courage Center

*To contact the Direct Services Adult Focus Subcommittee, please email Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, [mandybowden@scag.gov](mailto:mandybowden@scag.gov).*

“Within many communities, there are networks, coalitions, and groups that can be approached to share information, create new partnerships, and identify resources, skills, and good practices for enhancing a community response to human trafficking. Task forces can collaborate with such groups to create effective community-wide strategies to combat human trafficking.”

— US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Assistance Center



# Higher Education Subcommittee

## Purpose:

The Higher Education Subcommittee's mission is to collaborate with post-secondary institutions to coordinate a collegiate strategy and response to human trafficking with an emphasis on awareness, education, training, and resource development.



## 2023 Highlights:

This year, State Task Force staff began identifying individuals at higher learning institutions across the state who have demonstrated an interest in the anti-human trafficking field. Components for a pledge package were drafted to include displaying awareness materials; ensuring campus law enforcement is trained; hosting training for faculty, students, and staff; supporting the creation of student-led clubs; and holding a yearly human trafficking awareness campus event. In addition, the State Task Force partnered with the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention (SAVIP) office of the University of South Carolina to attend three tabling events in the fall at the University. Human Trafficking hotline marketing materials were created with college students in mind, including an awareness flyer targeting the age group.

## 2024 Goals:

State Task Force staff will be finalizing the membership for this subcommittee in the coming year and will be seeking their input on the drafted pledge components. The subcommittee will work with the graphic designer to create a comprehensive pledge package that will include awareness materials targeting the college age group. The subcommittee will engage colleges and universities to commit to comprehensive human trafficking efforts within their institutions and campuses.

To contact the Higher Education Subcommittee, please email Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, [mandybowden@scag.gov](mailto:mandybowden@scag.gov).



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

**Definition:**  
Human trafficking is when an individual, under force, fraud, or coercion, is made to perform commercial sex acts or forced labor, or when the individual induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years old.

**That's a little sus...**

- A romantic relationship is overwhelming, fast-moving and unbalanced.
- Messages for dancing, singing, modeling, and influencer engagements.
- A job opportunity that appears too good to be true.
- Someone isolates you from friends, loved ones, and college life.
- Someone asks you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable "just this once" or to "help me out."

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**  
**Text 233733**

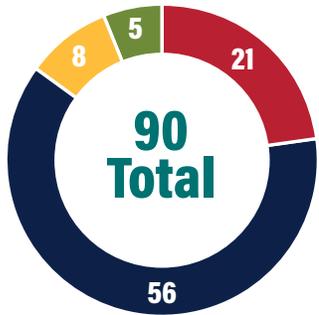
**Gaslight, Gatekeep, Manipulate, and Deceive.**

**South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force**  
[humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov)

# National Human Trafficking Hotline Data

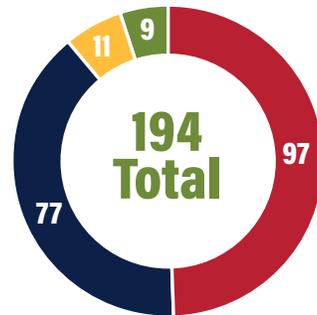


**Form of Trafficking**



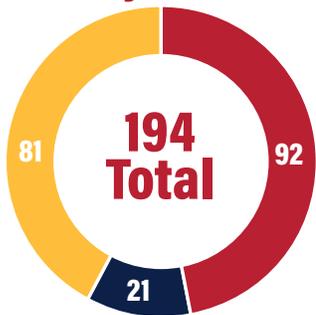
● Labor ● Sex and Labor  
● Sex ● Other/Not Specified

**Victims by Form of Trafficking**



● Labor ● Sex and Labor  
● Sex ● Other/Not Specified

**Gender of Likely Victims**



● Female ● Unknown & Gender Minorities  
● Male

**Top 5 Recruiter Relationship to Victim**

1. **Employer**

---

2. **Smuggler**

---

3. **Intimate Partner**

---

4. **Labor Recruiter/Contractor**

---

5. **Family/Caregiver**

### **Top 5 Recruitment Methods**

- 1. False Promises/Fraud**
- 2. Job Offer**
- 2. Smuggling**
- 3. Abduction**
- 4. Intimate Partner**
- 5. Familial**

### **Top 5 Exploiter Relationship to Victim**

- 1. Employer**
- 2. Smuggler**
- 3. Intimate Partner**
- 4. Familial**
- 5. Recruiter**

### **Top 5 Labor Trafficking Victims by Venue**

- 1. Hospitality**
- 2. Janitorial**
- 3. Construction**
- 4. Domestic Work**
- 5. Food Service**

### **Top 5 Sex Trafficking Venues by Victim**

- 1. Residence-Based**
- 2. Illicit Massage**
- 3. Internet-Based**
- 4. Street-Based**
- 5. Pornography**

## **Top 5 Counties for Reported Situations**

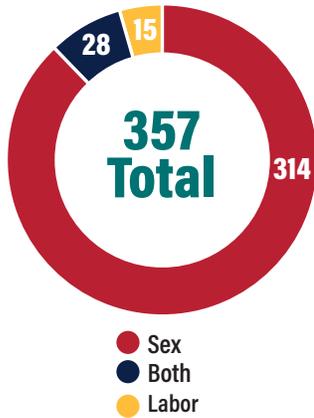
- 1. Greenville 16**
- 1. Horry 16**
- 2. Charleston 10**
- 3. Richland 7**

- 3. Spartanburg 7**
- 4. Aiken 4**
- 5. Lexington 3**
- 5. Orangeburg 3**

The National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics depicted here are from 2022 data. It takes Polaris a year to clean the information.

# South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Data

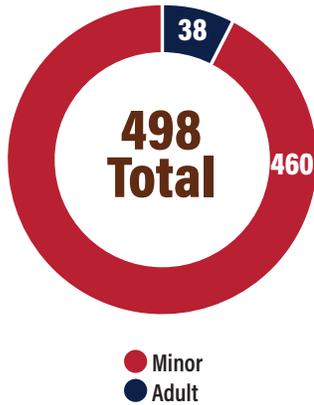
## Cases Opened in 2023



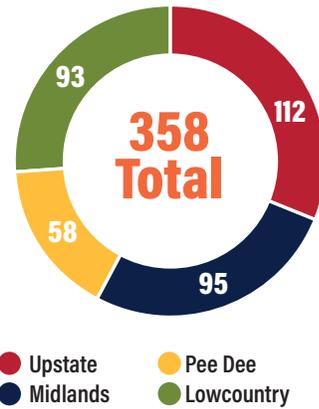
## Cases by County

ABBEVILLE	2	DARLINGTON	3	MARION	3
AIKEN	24	DORCHESTER	18	MARLBORO	3
ANDERSON	6	EDGEFIELD	1	NEWBERRY	5
BAMBERG	1	FLORENCE	9	OCONEE	4
BARNWELL	1	GEORGETOWN	2	ORANGEBURG	4
BEAUFORT	8	GREENVILLE	34	PICKENS	4
BERKELEY	23	GREENWOOD	4	RICHLAND	43
CALHOUN	1	HAMPTON	4	SPARTANBURG	21
CHARLESTON	21	HORRY	24	SUMTER	5
CHEROKEE	7	JASPER	6	UNION	5
CHESTER	2	KERSHAW	2	WILLIAMSBURG	1
CHESTERFIELD	5	LANCASTER	4	YORK	13
CLARENDON	3	LAURENS	5		
COLLETON	6	LEXINGTON	21		

## Adult and Minor Victims



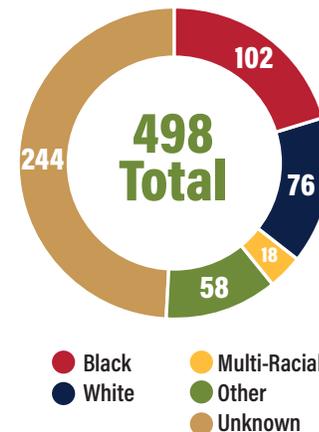
## Cases by Area



## Male and Female Victims



## Race of Victims



SLED data is current as of December 15, 2023.

**As 2023 closes, 31 different defendants have a total of 65 charges pending for human trafficking in the South Carolina State Courts.**

Twelve human trafficking charges were closed in 2023, five charges pled to human trafficking, 5 charges pled to other charges related to the trafficking, and the trafficking charges were dismissed. One charge was dismissed for federal prosecution of the same charge and the final was a dismissal of the charge. In 2023, 46 new charges of trafficking were opened reflecting 21 separate defendants. The majority were trafficking of minors under 21 and included both labor and sex trafficking. Several related charges were for knowingly using a business for trafficking and six charges involved human trafficking of adults.

The strong focus on human trafficking statewide led to the biggest year of charging and prosecuting

of human trafficking cases across the state. Of note, Jason Pope pled guilty on the day of trial to 5 counts of human trafficking of minors under the age of 18 and numerous related criminal sexual conduct charges. The investigation and prosecution was ongoing since before 2019 and involved multiple county and state law enforcement agencies cooperating to lead to the identification of the victims and arrest of the defendant. The victims remained involved throughout the process and many of them received services from the involvement of victim advocates, law enforcement, and community providers.

2024 should bring more movement of cases, justice for victims, and a better understanding of the scope of the crime across our state as more law enforcement become increasingly aware of cases in their jurisdictions.

**31 Total Pending Defendants by County**

Berkeley	4
Charleston	4
Dorchester	2
Florence	1
Greenville	1
Horry	3
Lancaster	2
Lexington	1
Marion	1
Marlboro	2
Oconee	1
Orangeburg	2
Richland	9
Sumter	2

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

**21 Defendant Cases Opened in 2023 by County**

Berkeley	1
Charleston	2
Dorchester	2
Florence	1
Greenville	1
Horry	2
Lexington	1
Marlboro	2
Oconee	1
Orangeburg	2
Richland	7



## 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

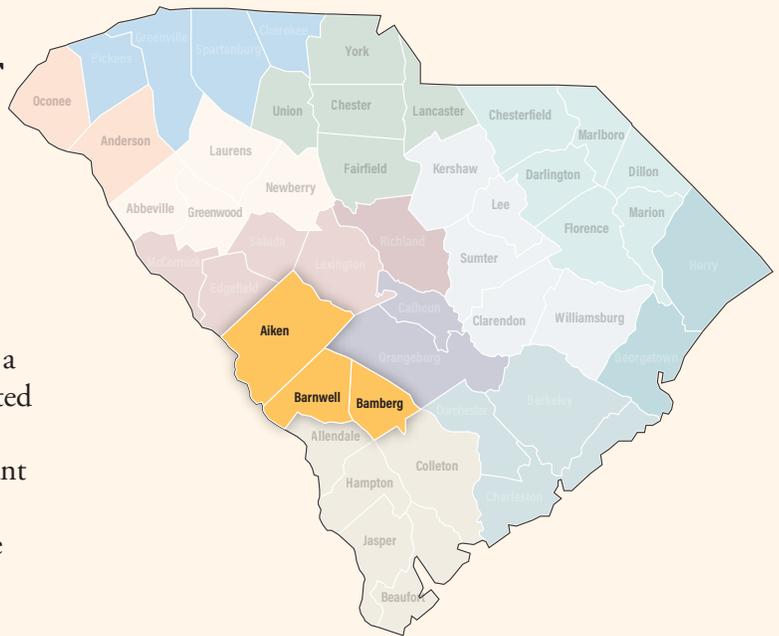
### 2023 Highlights:

Meetings have been held bi-monthly, in-person at the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County with a virtual option. An interactive spreadsheet was created to organize and store task force member contact information. The task force has also made significant progress tracking and distributing hotline posters and using its spreadsheet to coordinate efforts. The task force has continued to promote OnWatch, a free, self-paced, online human trafficking training developed by Safe House Project and the Malouf Foundation. The modules are designed to provide basic, ongoing human trafficking training as a tool to educate professionals and the public.

A human trafficking awareness month proclamation event was held by the regional task force in January that included City of Aiken Mayor, Rick Osbon. The 2nd Judicial Circuit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force also hosted its TraffickProofSC backpack giveaway event at the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken in August. During the event, the regional task force provided refreshments and presented an educational video that was developed by their members to bring awareness to the children and family members in attendance. It also hosted the regional, faith-based trunk-or-treat event in Aiken at the First Baptist Church of Montmorenci during the month of October. In November, WJBF-Augusta, GA aired a one-hour special as part of a series on human trafficking. Task force chair Maryann Burgess was interviewed along with other area professionals who assist victims of trafficking.

### 2024 Goals:

The Task Force will continue to grow its listserv to include as many agencies as possible within the region; recruit additional subcommittee chairs; and engage local college students in awareness events.



### Chair:

» Maryann Burgess, mburgess@cacofaiken.org

### Subcommittee Chairs:

» Community Outreach: Nina Spinelli,  
nina.spinelli@outlook.com

» Direct Services: Samantha Gray,  
sgray@cacofaiken.org

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 8, May 9, August 8, November 14

## Aiken County ranked

# #4

in reported  
situations  
to the National  
Human Trafficking  
Hotline



Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Aiken Barnwell Mental Health	●	●	●	●							●					●	Aiken, Barnwell
Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County	●	●		●				●		●	●				●	●	Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda
Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons	●		●	●		●		●	●		●		●			●	Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

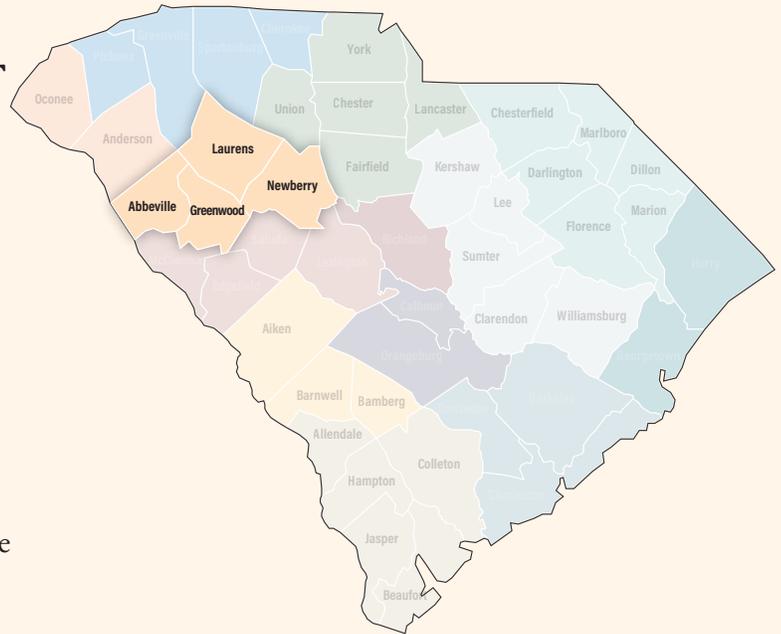
<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



## 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE



### 2023 Highlights:

The 8th Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force launched on April 13th, 2023, at the Greenwood County Courthouse. The Regional Task Force is co-chaired by Elizabeth Wise, Victim Services Manager at Beyond Abuse, and Windy Chappell, Investigator at the 8th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. Since the launch of the Regional Task Force in April, the listserv has surpassed 100 members and counting. Meetings have been held in person at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, as well as, virtually, with over 50 members present at each meeting. Alongside Solicitor David Stumbo, all four sheriffs from Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and Newberry counties have been present at each meeting. Meeting presentations have included Human Trafficking 101 and an overview of Homeland Security Investigations in South Carolina. The 8th Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force hosted its TraffickProofSC backpack giveaway event in collaboration with the 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office and the Greenwood Lion's Club. The event was held in the gazebo on Main Street in Ninety Six, SC in late July. The 8th Judicial Circuit Task Force, led by its Community Outreach Subcommittee, also hosted the regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event at the Main Street United Methodist Church during the month of October.

### 2024 Goals:

The Task Force will continue to grow its listserv to include as many agencies as possible within the region; provide additional service provider presentations from more counties within the region; and build upon each of the four subcommittees. The Task Force intends to have four quarterly meetings, with one being a special event during Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January.

### Co-Chairs:

- » Elizabeth Wise, Victim Services Manager at Beyond Abuse. [ewise@beyondabuse.info](mailto:ewise@beyondabuse.info)
- » Windy Chappell, Investigator at Eighth Circuit Solicitor's Office. [Wchappell@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:Wchappell@greenwoodsc.gov)

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Community Outreach: Catie Maffett Young, [cyoung@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:cyoung@greenwoodsc.gov)
- » Direct Services: 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@gwdcity.com](mailto:reynolds.satterfield@gwdcity.com)

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 8, April 11, July 11, October 10





Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Department of Children's Advocacy, Guardian Ad Litem	●	●		●				●							●		Laurens
Beyond Abuse	●		●	●				●			●				●	●	Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens
SCDMH/Beckman Center for Mental Health Services	●	●	●	●							●				●		Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



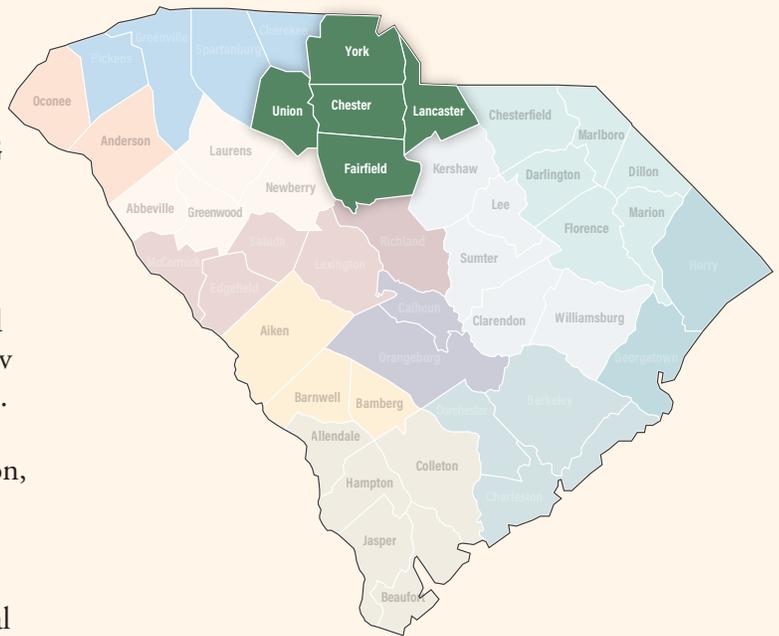
## CATAWBA AREA REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

The Catawba Area Regional Task Force relaunched on May 4, 2023, under new leadership. The listserv has rapidly grown since then to over 130 members. Meetings have been held bi-monthly, rotating locations to include Rock Hill PD, Catawba Nation, and Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Meeting presentations have included Human Trafficking 101, an overview of The Catawba Nation, and overviews from local service providers. The regional TraffickProofSC event was held at Clinton College in partnership with a back-to-school event in August. The regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event was held in Rock Hill in late October. The chair of the Community Outreach subcommittee reactivated the Facebook page with regular posts and photos. The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has been meeting to coordinate operations targeting illicit massage businesses and commercial sex operations.

### 2024 Goals:

The Task Force will continue to grow its listserv to include as many agencies as possible within the region; provide additional service provider presentations from more counties within the region; increase distribution of human trafficking hotline posters in the community.



### Co-Chairs:

- » Brandon Avidon,  
Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com
- » Lisa Glazebrook, Lglazebrook@safepassagesc.org

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Community Outreach: Brian Collins,  
BCollins@lancastersc.net
- » Direct Services: Melissa Foster,  
melissa.foster@catawba.com
- » Healthcare: Jessica Stillwell,  
Jessica.Stillwell@tenethealth.com
- » Law Enforcement: Brandon Avidon,  
Brandon.Avidon@cityofrockhill.com

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

January 18, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21



“It has been an honor to co-chair the CARHTTF and be apart of the task force’s relaunch and its ongoing awareness and education efforts to combat human trafficking.”

— Brandon Avidon, Co-chair Catawba Area Regional Task Force



Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
A21 USA, Inc.	●	●	●	●				●	●					●	●	●	Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, York
Born to Fly International, Inc.														●	●	●	Statewide
Keystone Substance Abuse Services	●	●	●	●							●	●					York
Lancaster County EMS	●	●	●	●										●	●		Lancaster
Lancers Against Sexual Trafficking (LAST)															●	●	Lancaster
Palmetto CASA	●		●	●				●									Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster
Safe Passage, Inc.	●		●	●				●			●						Union, York
York County All On Board Coalition																●	York

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.

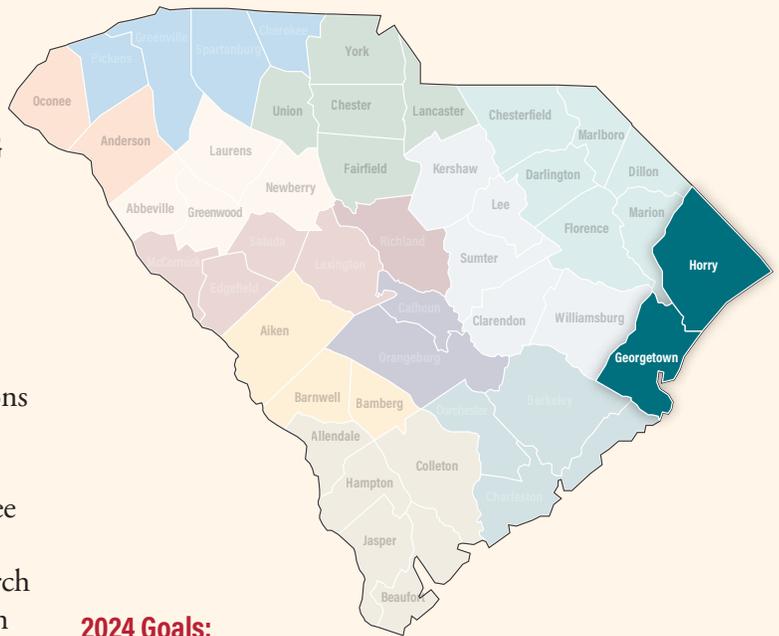


## COASTAL REGION REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

The Coastal Regional Task Force had a successful year with numerous community events. The task force gave human trafficking awareness presentations to seven churches, two rotary clubs, and a homeowners association throughout Horry and Georgetown counties. The Interfaith Subcommittee participated in a week-long human trafficking program with Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church during its Vacation Bible School. At the conclusion of the week-long program, the regional task force members led a human trafficking presentation to the parents and children.

The Interfaith Subcommittee also participated in three different community trunk-or-treat events, distributing over 700 bags filled with candy and resources related to human trafficking. Additionally, two separate events were held to promote and bring awareness to TraffickProofSC. The first event was held in Andrews, SC on July 15 at Spirit Filled Ambassadors for Christ Church. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office provided snow-cones for everyone in attendance. The second event was held on July 29 at the Loris Community Park, in Loris, SC. The task force distributed over 500 bags to children in Horry and Georgetown Counties combined. The South Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association donated \$500 to purchase school supplies that were distributed with the backpacks. This year, the task force continued to partner with the 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Intervention Program. Members of the regional task force provided information and presentations bi-monthly to participants in the Pre-Trial Intervention Programs for Adults and Juveniles. Members of the law enforcement subcommittee also spoke to at-risk-runaway juveniles about the dangers of human trafficking.



### 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Coastal Regional Human Trafficking Task Force plans to expand a mobile application to assist all law enforcement officers in Horry and Georgetown Counties. The application will allow citizens to get information and provide tips. Also, the task force will work with local non-profit organizations to identify potential human trafficking victims and offer referral assistance; and expand membership and prevention education in Georgetown County.

### Co-Chairs:

» Captain Sherri Smith, Horry County Sheriff's Office, [Smithsh@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:Smithsh@horrycountysc.gov)

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Interfaith: Shelbia Wiley  
[swiley@engagingmindsservices.org](mailto:swiley@engagingmindsservices.org)
- » Law Enforcement: Lt. Chris Graham  
[grahamc@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:grahamc@horrycountysc.gov), and Det. Hank Carrison, [hcarrison@gtowncountysc.gov](mailto:hcarrison@gtowncountysc.gov).
- » Direct Services: Shelbia Wiley,  
[swiley@engagingmindsservices.org](mailto:swiley@engagingmindsservices.org), Angela Brown, [browna@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:browna@horrycountysc.gov), and Beverly Wilhelm, [bwilhelm@coastal.edu](mailto:bwilhelm@coastal.edu).
- » Public Education and Prevention: Charles Williams, [cswilli5@coastal.edu](mailto:cswilli5@coastal.edu)
- » Healthcare: Natalie Darby,  
[nursing4nat@gmail.com](mailto:nursing4nat@gmail.com)

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 15, May 16, August 15, November 14



## Horry County tied with Greenville County for

**#1** in reported situations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline



Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
McLeod Health	●	●	●							●				●	●	●	Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



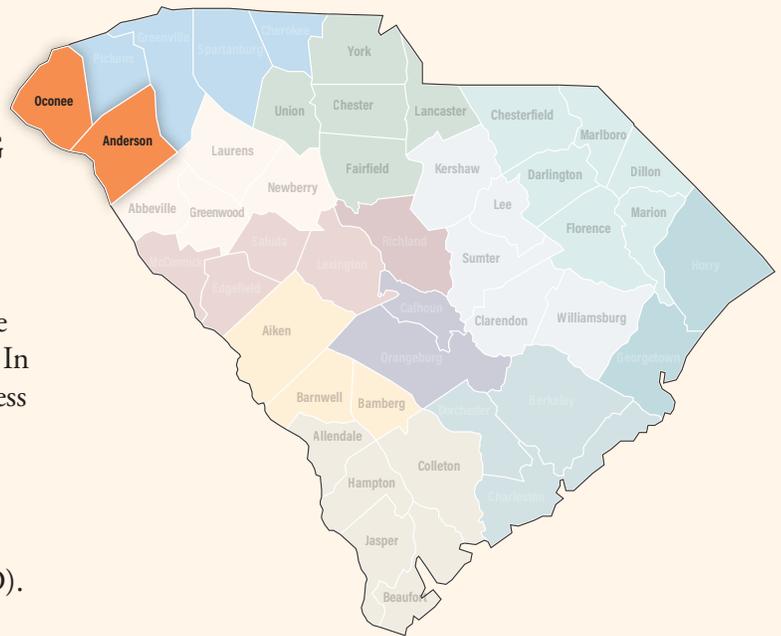
## FOOTHILLS REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

The highlights of the Foothills Regional Task Force focused on trainings, special events, and outreach. In 2023, the regional task force facilitated 13 awareness presentations, including a Human Trafficking 101 to the members of Anderson County Council. They also organized a training for the Anderson City Police Department with support from The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Additionally, the regional task force distributed hotline posters and resources during the Anderson Hispanic Festival. It supported the TraffickProofSC initiative by distributing backpacks to youth and teens at the Anderson County Farmer's Market in August. During the last quarter of the year, the regional task force's interfaith subcommittee hosted four trunk-or-treat events in Anderson and Oconee Counties.

### 2024 Goals:

To recognize anti-trafficking awareness month, the Foothills Regional Task Force plans to hold a Shine the Light Event with four presenters from various agencies around the State. In addition, the regional task force will continue to expand upon its list of faith-based organizations and services offered in the region by developing a resource map. Lastly, the task force hopes to fill vacant subcommittee chair positions and strengthen each subcommittee with increased membership.



### Chair:

» Maria Torres-Green, Founder of Blue Dragonfly,  
foothillshhttf@gmail.com

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Community Outreach and Prevention Education:  
Maria Torres-Green  
Maria.Torres-Green@BlueDragonflysc.org
- » Direct Services: Michelle Bendzin:  
inspiredwingscoaching@gmail.com
- » Interfaith Committee: Denise Loggins:  
denise@rejuvenatechurch.com
- » Labor Trafficking: Haymee Giuliani:  
haymee.giuliani@sjccs.net
- » Healthcare: Vacant
- » Law Enforcement: Vacant
- » Legal Innovations: Vacant

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

January 9, April 18, July 25, November 7



Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Blue Dragonfly	●	●	●					●							●	●	Statewide
The Asher House	●		●			●	●	●			●				●	●	Statewide

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults  
<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.  
<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program  
<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum  
<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking  
<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



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

### 2023 Highlights:

The LEMS (Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda) Regional Task Force has been meeting bi-monthly at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport with a virtual option. Meeting presentations have included language access programs, labor trafficking, and an overview of Columbia Metropolitan Airport Department of Public Safety. The regional task force targeted the ten small airports within the region to ensure they had hotline posters. In addition, a school representative worked to have hotline posters placed in all high school and middle school restrooms in the district. The regional task force also secured a booth at the Palmetto Sportsmen’s Classic in March to display human trafficking awareness materials. The regional TraffickProofSC event was held in Red Bank in July with additional backpacks distributed at Lexington Community Fun Day in August. The regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event was held in Lexington in October with additional items distributed at the airport.

### 2024 Goals:

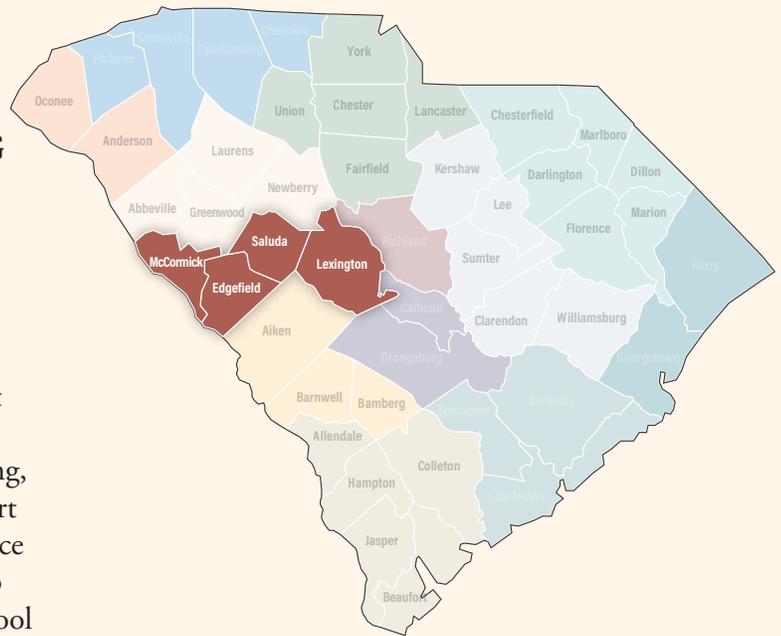
The task force will continue to grow its listserv to include as many agencies as possible within the region, continue participation in the Sportsmen’s Classic event, and explore other community opportunities for engagement.

### Co-Chairs:

- » Chief Daniel Ruggiero, [d.ruggiero@flycae.com](mailto:d.ruggiero@flycae.com)
- » Kristin Dixon, [kristind@pathwaystohealing.com](mailto:kristind@pathwaystohealing.com)

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Community Outreach: Lisa Kejr, [Lisa@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:Lisa@lighthouseforlife.org)
- » Healthcare: Gina Dyer-Goss, [Gina.DyerGoss@prismahealth.org](mailto:Gina.DyerGoss@prismahealth.org)
- » Law Enforcement: Pablo Carvajal, [pcarvajal@lcsd.sc.gov](mailto:pcarvajal@lcsd.sc.gov)



### 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 13, April 9, June 11, Aug 13, October 8, December 10





“The State Task Force is grateful to outgoing chair, Eric Russell, for his leadership since the launch of the LEMS Regional Human Trafficking Task Force in December 2020. We appreciate his support in bringing awareness of human trafficking in the community.”

— Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator

Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center	●	●		●							●					●	Edgefield, Lexington, McCormick, Saluda
PAINE Project	●	●	●					●	●						●	●	Aiken, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda
Sistercare															●		Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
Zonta Club of Columbia															●	●	Lexington, Richland

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



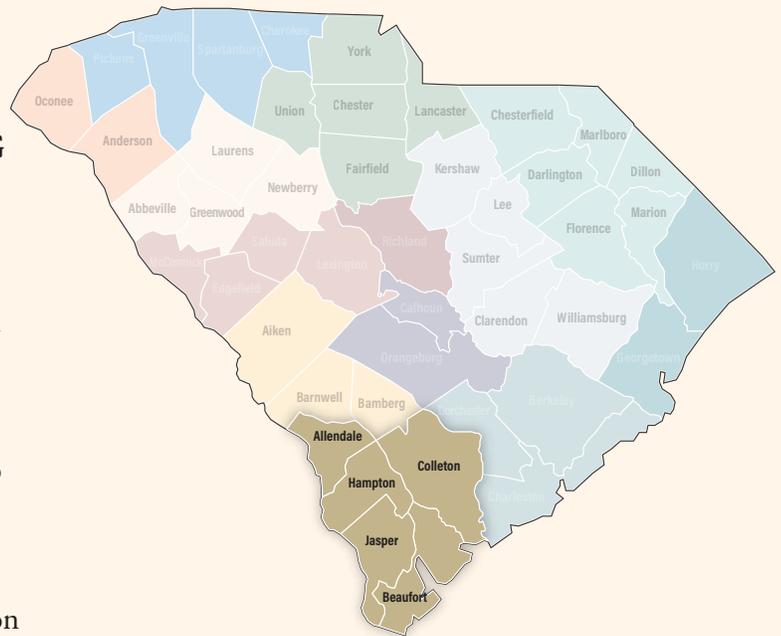
## LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

In 2023, the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force expanded its online presence by launching a Facebook page in January 2023 to keep its community informed about regional task force meetings, events, and trainings. The task force also actively engaged with the community through various events, including the Annual Community Address at the Hardeeville Recreation Center for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, participation in the national #WearBlueDay campaign, and one of the regional task force's chairs served as a guest speaker at The Helianthus Project's inaugural dinner in Beaufort, SC. The regional task force hosted a TraffickProofSC backpack event at the Hampton Police Department's National Night Out event in Hampton, SC. The regional task force raised awareness at events like the Colleton County First Responders National Night Out. Its Interfaith Subcommittee targeted outreach efforts at the Kingdom Touch Ministries with the Interfaith Subcommittee Event in Ridgeland, SC, and the St. Stephen AME Church in Hardeeville, SC. Additionally, members from the regional task force also collaborated in the federal conviction of individuals involved in human trafficking.

### 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force aims to advance human trafficking awareness by providing training opportunities for law enforcement and regional task force members. Additionally, the Lowcountry Regional Task Force plans to identify chairs for Community Outreach, Direct Services and Healthcare Subcommittees.



### Co-Chairs:

- » Michelle Fraser, Director of Victim Services  
14th Circuit Victim Services Center  
mfraser@scsolicitor14.org
- » JoJo Woodward, Investigator  
Jasper County Sheriff's Office  
jwoodwardjr@jaspercountysc.gov

### Meeting dates:

January 29, April 29, August 26, October 28





“We know that human trafficking is occurring in every community in our state; the Lowcountry is no exception. Understanding and tackling this complex crime requires many community partners, all collaborating. It’s our hope the state’s first Family Justice Center offers not only a platform to encourage collaboration, but provide a place where members from the prosecutor’s office, nonprofits, victim service providers, social services, clergy, local, state and federal law enforcement, healthcare professionals, civic organizations and others can come together to receive training or provide assistance to those in need.”  
 — Solicitor Duffie Stone, 14th Judicial Circuit

Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Fresh Start Healing Heart	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Statewide
Hopeful Horizons	●	●	●	●				●			●						Allendale, Beaufort Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
14th Circuit Victims Services Center	●		●	●						●					●	●	Allendale, Beaufort Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults  
<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.  
<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program  
<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum  
<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking  
<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



# RICHLAND COUNTY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

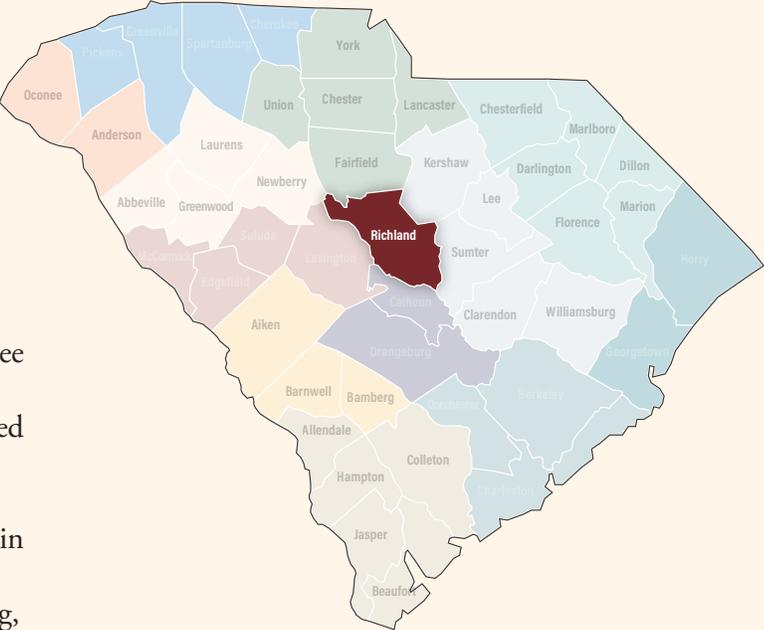
The Richland County Regional Task Force met bi-monthly in Columbia. In 2023, a new subcommittee chair was selected to lead the education and awareness efforts. The regional task force also selected a new law enforcement subcommittee co-chair to coordinate separate meetings for law enforcement and identify additional contacts from agencies within the county. Meeting presentations have included sexual violence and trafficking, gangs and trafficking, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children services, and child labor. The regional task force recognized Human Trafficking Awareness Month by a “canvass the county” initiative. Hotline posters were distributed to applicable 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. The regional faith-based trunk-or-treat event was held in Columbia at the Fall Festival at the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road in October.

### 2024 Goals:

The Regional Task Force is looking to increase its community awareness activities in 2024. Efforts include working on an interfaith event for January, as well as some events later in the year that will involve partnering with area schools and universities. Trainings will continue to be provided at each meeting, including topics such as forensic interviewing protocols, the Polaris Survivor Study, and human trafficking’s impact on vulnerable populations.

### Chair:

- » Jennifer Mason,  
mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov



### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Education & Awareness: Jennifer Douglass,  
jennifer2001\_10@msn.com
- » Law Enforcement: Eli Hess, ehess@rcsd.net, and  
Heidi Jackson, hjackson@rcsd.net
- » Survivor Support: Jennifer Mason,  
mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov
- » Interfaith: Roger Acton, roger@scvan.org,  
Ida Thompson, rewt255@gmail.com
- » Legislation & Advocacy: Robert Healy,  
rhealy@legislativeroundtable.org

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

January 24, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 15





Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Bikers Against Trafficking															●	●	Statewide
The Family Resource Center	●		●	●				●							●	●	Kershaw, Lee
The Hive Community Circle	●		●	●				●		●			●		●	●	Statewide
Lighthouse for Life	●		●	●	●			●	●						●	●	Statewide
Pathways to Healing	●		●	●				●		●				●	●	●	Clarendon, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Sumter
Prisma Health Midlands	●		●	●						●					●	●	Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Sumter
Richland County CASA	●	●		●				●					●		●	●	Richland
SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	●	●	●	●									●		●		Statewide
SCVAN	●	●	●	●									●				Statewide

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

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<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.



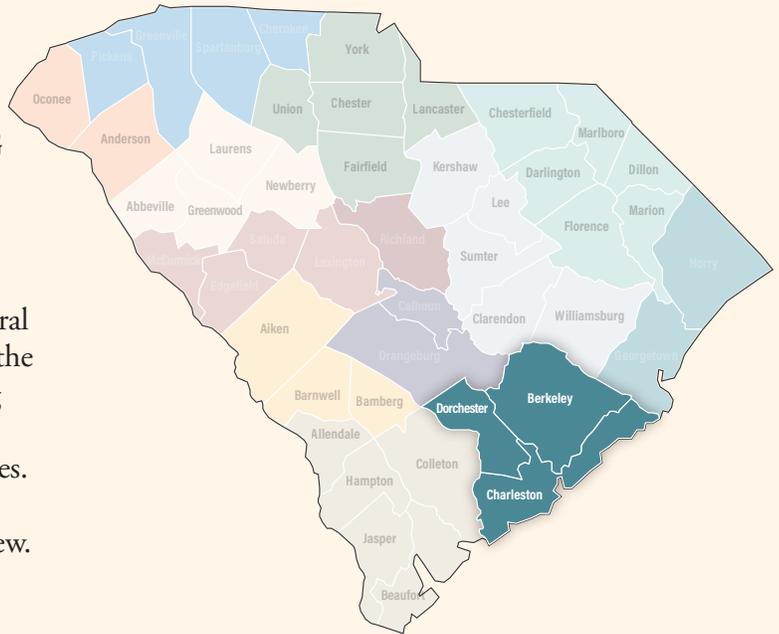
## TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

The Tri-County Regional Task Force achieved several milestones in 2023, marked by the completion of the Inaugural Executive Summary & Report, detailing the accomplishments, recommendations, and deliverables of the Task Force and its subcommittees. The report, accessible at [www.tricountyhttf.org/inaugural-report](http://www.tricountyhttf.org/inaugural-report), serves as a comprehensive overview. Collaborating with Charleston International Airport, the Task Force raised awareness during Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Multiple proclamations for the awareness month were secured from Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, and the Town of Summerville. The Data and Research Subcommittee showcased human trafficking findings at national criminal justice conferences, while the Refugee Subcommittee contributed at the Charleston Latin Exchange and participated in a unique consulate event with consulates from six Latin and South American countries. A significant achievement includes the Howard G. Buffett Foundation awarding a 5-year grant to the Task Force for a Multidisciplinary Team response to adult victims and labor trafficking. This grant represents a public-private collaboration in South Carolina, providing funding for investigations and prosecution efforts against human trafficking.

### 2024 Goals:

In 2024, the Tri-County Regional Task Force aims to strengthen operational communication through formalized protocols, emphasizing a public health approach. The focus will be on resource identification, with each subcommittee setting specific goals for the remaining 18 months of its leadership term. Subcommittees plan to conduct certified training for mental health professionals annually, forge connections with foster parent licensing agencies, and host a youth summit.



Additionally, efforts will be dedicated to building and refining the regional task force's sustainability through the enhancement of the Task Force Operations Manual.

### Chairs:

- » Brooke Burris, Co-Chair,  
[bburris@tricountyhttf.org](mailto:bburris@tricountyhttf.org)
- » Lauren Knapp, Co-Chair,  
[lknapp@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:lknapp@charlestoncounty.org)

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 9, May 10, August 9, November 8





## Charleston County ranked

# #2

in reported situations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●			●						Berkeley, Charleston
Medical University of South Carolina	●	●	●	●						●					●		Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
The Formation Project	●	●	●			●		●	●						●	●	Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
Medical University of South Carolina Child Abuse Pediatrics	●	●		●						●							Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
Khourigroup										●					●		Statewide
Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●		●	●			●	●		Berkeley, Charleston
I AM VOICES INC.	●	●	●		●		●	●	●					●	●	●	Statewide
Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●		●	●				●	●	Berkeley, Dorchester
Doors To Freedom	●		●	●	●		●	●	●						●		Statewide

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

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<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.

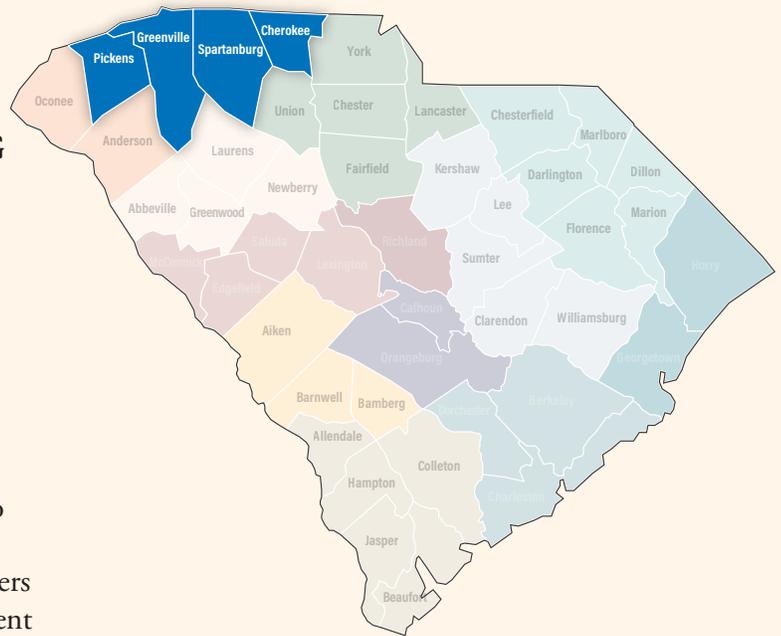


## UPSTATE REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

### 2023 Highlights:

Since its inception in 2014, the Upstate Regional Task Force has successfully increased community collaboration, awareness, and education regarding human trafficking in four Upstate counties: Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, and Cherokee. This has been done through numerous trainings to Upstate faith leaders (in two different languages), teachers, school bus drivers, city bus drivers, partners at the 13th Circuit Solicitor's office, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, hospitals, and detention centers. The regional task force continues to partake in several events throughout the community. In October, the Task Force held its third annual Walk for Freedom event in partnership with international agency A21. The walk brought in over 200 participants from around the Carolinas, with several getting involved with the regional and State Task Forces by signing up for the SCHTTF newsletter or joining the regional task force meeting listserv.

Shine the Light on Human Trafficking (Upstate) took place during Awareness Month in January. The task force encouraged people to put blue lights outside of homes and businesses to promote human trafficking awareness. The regional task force also focused on awareness events by distributing education materials and posters at four community events. Furthermore, Human Trafficking presentations were given at two Hispanic Houses of Worship, and a Human Trafficking Youth Summit was held in April engaging middle and high school students on this topic. The regional task force hosted four regional faith-based trunk-or-treat events held throughout October and November bringing in youth from all four counties served by the regional task force. Events were hosted in places of worship, law enforcement agencies, and other community spaces in Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties.



### 2024 Goals:

In the upcoming year, The Task Force will transition under new leadership followed by increased recruitment for subcommittee members. The legislative subcommittee will continue its focus on getting two bills passed in the 2024 legislative session. The Task Force aims to increase engagement with youth and families through community and awareness events.

### Co-Chairs:

- » Diana Kindley, [upstatehttaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:upstatehttaskforce@gmail.com)
- » Michelle Cunningham, [michelle.cunningham@dss.sc.gov](mailto:michelle.cunningham@dss.sc.gov)

### Subcommittee Chairs:

- » Community Outreach: Krystal Nierman, [ktrainer424@gmail.com](mailto:ktrainer424@gmail.com)
- » Direct Services: Mandy Learo, [mandy@jasmineroad.org](mailto:mandy@jasmineroad.org)
- » Healthcare: Jessica Weingartner, [jessica\\_weingartner@bshsi.org](mailto:jessica_weingartner@bshsi.org)
- » Legislative: Dena Rapp, [denarapp@gmail.com](mailto:denarapp@gmail.com)
- » Labor Trafficking: Greg Sommers, [gregory.somers@eeoc.gov](mailto:gregory.somers@eeoc.gov)
- » Law Enforcement: Vacant

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

January 12, March 8, June 14, October 11



## Greenville County tied with Horry County for

**#1** in reported situations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline



Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Switch	●		●	●				●							●	●	Greenville
Safe Harbor	●		●			●											Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens
Jasmine Road	●		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Greenville
Pickens County Advocacy Center	●		●	●				●			●		●		●	●	Pickens
Prisma Health	●	●	●	●						●							Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System	●	●	●					●		●					●	●	Greenville

<sup>1</sup> Aging out population, adults

<sup>2</sup> Basic needs/supplies, victim advocacy, case management, etc.

<sup>3</sup> General clinic, SANE/P-SANE program, dental program

<sup>4</sup> Criminal, Civil, Immigration, Guardian Ad Litem

<sup>5</sup> Consisting of more than one session as part of an established curriculum

<sup>6</sup> One session on basics of human trafficking

<sup>7</sup> Walks, tabling events, awareness materials, etc.

# Statewide Regional Service Provider Guide

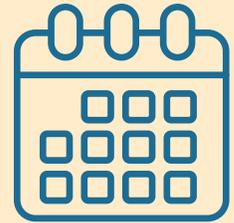
Regional Service Providers	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	Counties Served
Aiken Barnwell Mental Health	●	●	●	●							●					●	Aiken, Barnwell
Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County	●	●		●				●		●	●				●	●	Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda
Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons	●		●	●		●		●	●		●		●			●	Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda
Department of Children's Advocacy, Guardian Ad Litem	●	●		●				●							●		Laurens
Beyond Abuse	●		●	●				●			●				●	●	Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens
SCDMH/Beckman Center for Mental Health Services	●	●	●	●							●				●		Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda
A21 USA, Inc.	●	●	●	●				●	●					●	●	●	Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, York
Born to Fly International, Inc.														●	●	●	Statewide
Keystone Substance Abuse Services	●	●	●	●							●	●					York
Lancaster County EMS	●	●	●	●										●	●		Lancaster
Lancers Against Sexual Trafficking (LAST)															●	●	Lancaster
Palmetto CASA	●		●	●				●								●	Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster
Safe Passage, Inc.	●		●	●				●			●						Union, York
York County All On Board Coalition																●	York
McLeod Health	●	●	●							●				●	●	●	Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg
Blue Dragonfly	●	●	●					●							●	●	Statewide
The Asher House	●		●			●	●	●			●				●	●	Statewide
Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center	●	●		●							●					●	Edgefield, Lexington, McCormick, Saluda
PAINE Project	●	●	●					●	●						●	●	Aiken, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda
Sistercare															●		Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
Zonta Club of Columbia															●	●	Lexington, Richland

<b>Regional Service Providers</b>	Serves sex trafficking	Serves labor trafficking	Serves adults	Serves minors	Residential	Emergency Shelter	Independent Living Program <sup>1</sup>	Community Based <sup>2</sup>	Transportation	Specialized Healthcare <sup>3</sup>	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Substance Use Disorders Services	Legal Services <sup>4</sup>	Prevention Education <sup>5</sup>	Awareness Presentations <sup>6</sup>	Outreach <sup>7</sup>	<b>Counties Served</b>
Fresh Start Healing Heart	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Statewide
Hopeful Horizons	●	●	●	●				●			●						Allendale, Beaufort Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
14th Circuit Victims Services Center	●		●	●						●					●	●	Allendale, Beaufort Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
Bikers Against Trafficking															●	●	Statewide
The Family Resource Center	●		●	●				●							●	●	Kershaw, Lee
The Hive Community Circle	●		●	●				●			●		●		●	●	Statewide
Lighthouse for Life	●		●	●	●			●	●						●	●	Statewide
Pathways to Healing	●		●	●				●			●			●	●	●	Clarendon, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Sumter
Prisma Health Midlands	●		●	●						●					●	●	Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Sumter
Richland County CASA	●	●		●				●					●		●	●	Richland
SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	●	●	●	●									●		●		Statewide
SCVAN	●	●	●	●									●				Statewide
Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●			●						Berkeley, Charleston
Medical University of South Carolina	●	●	●	●						●					●		Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
The Formation Project	●	●	●			●		●	●						●	●	Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
Medical University of South Carolina Child Abuse Pediatrics	●	●		●						●							Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
Khourigroup										●					●		Statewide
Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●		●	●			●	●		Berkeley, Charleston
I AM VOICES INC.	●	●	●		●		●	●	●					●	●	●	Statewide
Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center	●	●		●				●		●	●				●	●	Berkeley, Dorchester
Doors To Freedom	●		●	●	●		●	●	●						●		Statewide
Switch	●		●	●				●							●	●	Greenville
Safe Harbor	●		●			●											Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens
Jasmine Road	●		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		Greenville
Pickens County Advocacy Center	●		●	●				●			●		●		●	●	Pickens
Prisma Health	●	●	●	●						●							Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System	●	●	●					●		●					●	●	Greenville

# 2024 Human Trafficking Task Force Initiatives

## Training and Event Calendar

The State Task Force has worked to develop an online training and event calendar that includes sector specific professional development opportunities, statewide and regional meetings, special events, and prevention education training. Given the recent recurring financial appropriation from the South Carolina General Assembly, the Task Force was able to hire Melanie Williams in 2023 as the new Program Assistant for Training and Outreach.



In 2024, Melanie will be coordinating training for law enforcement, other first responders, healthcare, prosecution, and direct service providers. She will also be organizing special presentations on topics related to trauma, cultural considerations, human trafficking and substance use disorders, services for boys and men, and the intersection of Violence Against Women Act crimes. The State Task Force hopes to provide a variety of educational opportunities that will benefit stakeholders in the anti-trafficking movement in South Carolina while also providing possibilities for continuing education credits.

## Certification of Human Trafficking Providers

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under a legislative mandate, will begin to certify agencies that provide services to human trafficking victims and survivors. This will be conducted through a third-party contracted to specifically support agencies as they obtain and sustain their certification. The third party will be responsible for certifying specialized providers, including residential and community-based organizations. The Task Force will work with other providers who meet criteria for supplemental certification.



## Online Resource Directory

In 2024, the Task Force will develop a resource guide, as required under South Carolina law. While the law dictates that the resource guide be disseminated to the family court bench and bar as well as law enforcement, the State Task Force will make the guide available on its website for all stakeholders to access when working with victims and survivors. It will be provided on an interactive map with services noted by county. Those who obtain specialized and supplemental certification will be listed on the resource map. The Task Force will include healthcare providers who have obtained the Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence Designation through the South Carolina Forensic Nurse Coordinators Task Force. It will also work with the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to include locations with designated Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Coordinators.



## Task Force Podcast

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force will develop a new podcast that will highlight efforts in our state to prevent and respond to this crime. Topics will include advocacy work, legislation, and special initiatives. The Podcast will also highlight the work of survivors in the movement, innovative ideas, and what is next in prevention and awareness. The Task Force hopes to provide a resource that continues to strengthen the anti-trafficking community by adding value to existing resources and allowing listeners to engage on the topic when and where they have time.



### Vulnerable Populations

The State Task Force will support stakeholders working with particularly vulnerable populations to provide better access to referrals through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. This will include partnering with homeless shelters that serve youth and adults, providers working with young people aging out of foster care, those supporting systems involved youth, and agencies providing treatment for substance use disorders. The Task Force will also provide resources translated into languages other than English to better position foreign national victims to access much needed support services.



### Gang Facilitated Human Trafficking

As South Carolina sees growth in gang facilitated human trafficking cases, the State Task Force will enhance its focus on providing information regarding their recruitment tactics, marketing of victims, and methods used to control victims. The Task Force hopes to better inform law enforcement, victim advocates, and service providers about how best to investigate these cases while adequately supporting victims. This is increasingly critical given the violent nature of gangs and their involvement in other criminal activities, the latter making them more proficient in human trafficking.



### TravelWatchSC

In January, the State Task Force will launch TravelWatchSC by partnering with Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and Myrtle Beach International Airport. The airports will run digital signs featuring the National Human Trafficking Hotline contact information. Each location will also share Hotline posters and stickers as well as educational brochures that include information about regional task forces. The State Task Force will develop additional resources for each location throughout the year. The larger initiative will also continue with a focus on partnering with others working within the transportation and tourism sectors. The goal is to increase traveler knowledge about the signs of human trafficking, how to report a suspected incident while in South Carolina, and how victims can access services. The Task Force plans to expand the initiative to include bus stations, train stations, rest stops, hotels and motels, trucking, and similar stakeholders.



### Media Toolkit

In July 2021, the State Task Force and the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission hosted a seminar, *Brainstorm a Better Way: Responsible News Reporting About Sex Trafficking*, to inform journalists about accurate and responsible reporting on the issue. A similar event is planned to occur in 2024 with the inclusion of labor trafficking. Additionally, the Task Force will create a media toolkit to assist reporters in developing their stories about human trafficking, the State Task Force, and the efforts of regional task forces. The Media Toolkit will be available on the South Carolina Attorney General's website within the State Task Force section. The Task Force will notify media outlets about its availability once posted online.



## 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.



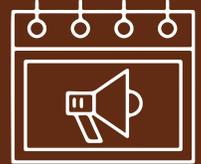
7

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 2023 Annual Report by the following people:**

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

Christina Lee, Data Systems Manager

**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 2023 Annual Report.**

If you have questions about the 2023 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:

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