

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Issue No. 4 | March 2020

# NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME

Following Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the State Task Force has continued developing a number of targeted initiatives. In the 2019 Annual Report, the State Task Force identified an increase in labor trafficking cases in South Carolina. In response to this trend, the Task Force is working to develop labor trafficking-specific public awareness materials and resources. The Office of the Attorney General will also host its 2020 Labor Trafficking Roundtable in early May to convene key stakeholders statewide and discuss South Carolina's labor trafficking strategy moving forward.

The State Task Force is also developing and implementing a number of different trainings. First, in partnership with the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, the Task Force has trained seven of South Carolina's sixteen beer distributors. Throughout the spring, the Task Force will continue training the remaining nine.

Additionally, the Task Force is in the process of developing trainings for the South Carolina Department of Probation,

Parole and Pardon Services, that will be implemented this spring. The State Task Force is also working to develop and coordinate the 2020 VSP-HT trainings which will be held in the Upstate, Pee Dee, and Lowcountry regions.

Following the launch of the Interfaith Subcommittee, the State Task Force has written a comprehensive strategic plan outlining interfaith involvement in anti-human trafficking efforts. Interfaith Subcommittees have begun developing in regional task forces and multiple interfaith events are scheduled for later this month.

Finally, the Task Force is working to finalize the minimum standards for direct service provision. This document will elaborate on best practices for organizations serving trafficking survivors and will set standards for quality care that service providers must meet before being certified by the Office of the Attorney General. The State Task Force will post updates on the website and notify Task Force members regarding the release via email.

## RELEVANT ARTICLES & REPORTS

**-Number of South Carolina human trafficking victims increased 360 percent in 2019:**

<https://bit.ly/2vyDUh0>

**-SC beer wholesalers join campaign against human trafficking:** <https://bit.ly/387IEIF>

**-Jasmine Road partners with Upstate faith community to provide safe haven for SC human trafficking victims:** <https://bit.ly/2PyloNu>

**-The Comet receives grant to help in the fight against human trafficking:** <https://bit.ly/2T6Wu90>

**-Hurricanes & Human Trafficking: Natural Disasters Highlight the Vulnerability of America's Farm Workers:** <https://bit.ly/3af1Ghy>

**-Studies in Child Protection: Technology-Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking Report by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children:** <https://bit.ly/39eHwEw>

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**-Research & Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons (Posted):** <https://bit.ly/39afbz8>

**-Demonstration Grants to Strengthen Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities (Forecasted):** <https://bit.ly/334K44K>

**-Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services & Outreach (Forecasted):** <https://bit.ly/2JDNBzn>

## RESOURCES

The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) encourages local community organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers to engage in outreach and education efforts. To promote this public awareness, OVC has developed fact sheets, videos, and other resources to provide an introduction to sex and labor trafficking, information on the legal needs and rights of trafficking victims in the United States, details on the specific needs of minor victims, and best practices for building effective collaborations to combat the crime. Access these resources [here](#).

The National Human Trafficking Hotline identified around 800 individual victims of human trafficking from January 1, 2015-December 31, 2017 who were in the U.S. and working under temporary work visas. In response, Polaris released a report detailing how human traffickers are using H-2A, H-2B, and other temporary work visas to control victims. Read the report [here](#).

## CONTACT

**Website:** [humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SCHumanTraffickingTaskForce/>

**Email:** Megan Rigabar, Program Assistant: [meganrigabar@scag.gov](mailto:meganrigabar@scag.gov)

## STATE MEETINGS

**South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force**  
March 6 from 10AM-12PM

West Columbia Municipal Complex,  
200 12th Street, West Columbia, SC

June 5 from 10AM-12PM

West Columbia Municipal Complex,  
200 12th Street, West Columbia, SC

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

**Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force**

April 17th at 10AM  
United Way of Greenville

**Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force**

March 20 from 10AM-12PM  
2500 Decker Blvd., Columbia, SC

**Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force**

April 22 at 10AM  
RSVP to [slchttf@gmail.com](mailto:slchttf@gmail.com)

## TRAININGS & EVENTS

**Webinar—Human Trafficking and Tax Issues: Advocating for Trafficking Survivors Facing Tax Controversies**

Wednesday, March 11th from  
12PM to 1:30PM

To RSVP, please email  
[roxie@htlegalcenter.org](mailto:roxie@htlegalcenter.org)

**A Faith Response to Crime Victims: Meeting Needs-Healing Hearts**

Thursday, March 12 from 10AM-12PM  
Simpsonville Police Department  
Training Room: 405 East Curtis St.  
Simpsonville, SC 29681

**Foothills Awareness Event**

Friday, March 12 from 4-5PM  
Seneca Library: 300 E South 2nd St.  
Seneca, SC 296778

**Aiken Interfaith Meetup**

Thursday, March 19 from 6-8PM  
2285 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803

**Developing a Community Response to Child Sex Trafficking & Exploitation: Specialized Training**

March 26-27  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Use this link to register:  
<https://bit.ly/2vwc1qN>

**Upcoming**

Stay tuned to the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force website and Facebook page for information on our upcoming law enforcement, healthcare, and VSP-HT trainings.