

SOUTH CAROLINA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Issue No. 5 | Special Edition: COVID-19

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Task Force is working hard to ensure that South Carolina's anti-human trafficking initiatives continue to run smoothly and victims and survivors receive the care they deserve.

As the coronavirus continues to impact communities across the state and many South Carolinians adapt to remote work, the Task Force has designed this newsletter to deliver resources that can aid the work of its members during this unprecedented time.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the full effects of the outbreak on human trafficking remain unknown, some patterns are beginning to emerge. First, service providers are learning to balance social distancing guidelines with the need to find secure and quality housing for victims.

Navigating these competing demands will continue to require collaboration between all agencies and organizations serving victims.

Furthermore, as public attention shifts

to the coronavirus and away from issues such as human trafficking, there is a growing need to teach the public how the crime remains a relevant topic to address during this time. The articles and resources below can help guide organizations doing anti-trafficking awareness work as they promote an informed conversation about human trafficking and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Everybody across the state continues to be impacted by COVID-19. It is important to take care of your physical and mental health during this stressful time.

Self care is not only one of the best practices for your overall wellbeing, but it will also benefit the victims and survivors you serve— directly or indirectly—through your work. Stay healthy and safe in the coming weeks, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

RELEVANT ARTICLES & REPORTS

- COVID-19 Updates from HHS: Letter from Director Chon:** <https://bit.ly/3aw0mr8>
- Polaris—The Effect of COVID-19 on Human Trafficking:** <https://bit.ly/2UR253H>
- Forced Labor in Surgical and Healthcare Supply Chains:** <https://bit.ly/2QWYTme>
- There is No Social Distance in Supply Chains Tainted by Forced Labor:** <https://bit.ly/39um39W>

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

The COVID-19 pandemic poses unique challenges to service providers. The following resources provide guidance on how to proceed with a variety of services, all of which may impact victims and survivors of human trafficking. Click on the titles to access the resources.

- Polaris—Essential Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- Office on Trafficking in Persons—COVID-19 Resources, Services, and Support**
- Tips for Service Providers—How to Operate as a Remote Workplace During a Public Health Crisis**
- Using Technology to Communicate with Survivors During a Public Health Crisis**
- CDC Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan & Respond to COVID-19**
- CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to COVID-19**
- CDC—What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about COVID-19**
- CDC Resources for Correctional and Detention Facilities**
- Infectious Disease Toolkit for Continuums of Care—Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease Within Shelters**
- Supporting Survivors' Access to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services During the COVID-19 Emergency**
- National Network for Youth—COVID-19 Resources for Youth Homelessness Providers**
- Beyond the Food Pantry—COVID-19 Response for Students Who Are Homeless or With Experience in Foster Care**

COVID-19 RESOURCES

For Survivors

The National Human Trafficking Hotline remains operational and is 24/7, free, and confidential. Call 1-888-373-7888 or text BEFREE to 233733.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline remains operational and is 24/7, free, and confidential. Call 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-799-3244 (TTY).

The National Sexual Assault Hotline remains operational and is 24/7, free, and confidential. Call 1-800-656-4673 or chat online at online.rainn.org.

Coronavirus—Survivors & the Workplace: <https://bit.ly/2UskV2g>

A Guide for Survivors of Sex Trafficking During COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/39B3hxn>

Julie Valentine Online Support Group: <https://bit.ly/39wLVC1>

Self Care & Mental Health

If you're feeling stressed or nervous right now, you are not alone. Please click on the article titles below to access resources that may be beneficial to you and your loved ones during this difficult time.

CDC Guidance on Stress and Coping During COVID-19

World Health Organization: Mental health and psychosocial considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak

How to #BeTheDifference for People with Mental Health Concerns During COVID-19

Talking with Children About Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children—South Carolina Department of Mental Health

Helping Children Cope During and After a Disaster—South Carolina Department of Mental Health

National Alliance on Mental Illness: COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide

American Psychological Association: Self Care Resource Center

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