

SOUTH CAROLINA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Issue No. 10 | June 2021

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

In late April, the State Task Force partnered with the South Carolina Trucking Association and other agencies to launch the Highway Heroes campaign. This effort aims to bring awareness to the over 100,000 commercial driver’s license (CDL) holders across South Carolina. As summer approaches, bringing an increase in tourism, we are eager to have additional eyes and ears on the roads to help report tips to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. CDL holders can become a certified Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT)-trained driver by registering and watching the training video [here](#). The State Task Force will be holding many additional trainings this summer. First, the Task Force will partner with North Carolina to host a law enforce-

ment training on the illicit massage industry. The Task Force will also host a training for journalists and public information officers, the first of its kind, facilitated by the Irina Project at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. We encourage all Task Force members to continue their efforts to educate community members on both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Resources will be added throughout the coming months to the resource library to support these efforts in communities across the state. If anyone would like to be mailed National Human Trafficking Hotline posters to distribute in their community, please email Megan Rigabar at meganrigabar@scag.gov.

RELEVANT ARTICLES, REPORTS, & RESOURCES

- Attorney General Wilson announces launch of SC Highway Heroes Campaign to combat human trafficking
- ‘The most heinous cases:’ How the pandemic has increased human trafficking in South Carolina
- Survivors of sex trafficking in South Carolina share their stories of how trafficking happens
- New leadership to head up regional human trafficking task force
- Law professor examines lower prosecution rates of labor trafficking
- Court: Black man made to work without pay entitled to \$546K
- Is Human Trafficking Worse Because of COVID-19?
- Polaris**—The Significance of Context: How Survivor-Led Collaborations can Inform Anti-Money Laundering Efforts
- National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center Report**—Listening Sessions on Men and Boys Meeting Minutes
- Office for Victims of Crime Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center**—Practical Guide: Survivor-Informed Services
- Polaris**—Countering QAnon: Understanding the Role of Human Trafficking in the Disinformation-Extremist Nexus

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- OVC FY 2021 Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking
 - OVC FY 2021 Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking
- Visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html> and search “human trafficking” to find the details of each grant.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Please see below for updates on the status of legislation discussed at the March State Task Force meeting.
- S. 223: Victim of Domestic Violence Designated Address (Address Confidentiality)**
Author: Shealy, Lexington
Status: Senate Judiciary
 - S. 230: Trafficking Victims**
Author: Shealy, Lexington
Status: Senate Floor, Third Reading Pending
 - H. 3237: Drug Schedules (Date Rape Drugs; GHB and Rohyphnol)**
Author: King, York
Status: House Judiciary (Similar to H. 3572, Thigpen)
 - H. 3425: Unlawful Dissemination of Sexually Explicit Materials (Revenge Porn)**
Author: Garvin, Richland
Status: House Judiciary (Similar to H. 3285, McKnight)
 - H. 3424: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Act**
Author: Garvin, Richland
Status: House Judiciary
 - H. 3485: Confidentiality of Victims Identify (Address Confidentiality)**
Author: Robinson, Greenville
Status: House Judiciary (Similar to H. 3468, Moore)
 - H. 3572: Reschedule Flunitrazepam and Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid as Schedule II Controlled Substances (Date Rape Drugs)**
Author: Thigpen, Richland
Status: House Judiciary (Similar to H. 3572, King)

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- This May was Mental Health Awareness Month. Understanding the impact of human trafficking on victims and survivors’ mental health is key to developing quality services and prevention strategies that are tailored to victims and survivors’ lived experiences. Below, please find resources related to human trafficking and mental health as well as general resources for anybody who is experiencing mental health challenges.
- If you or someone you know is suicidal or in emotional distress, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). If the situation is potentially life-threatening, get immediate emergency assistance by calling 911. To obtain general information on mental health and locate treatment services in your area, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Referral Hotline to speak to someone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.
- National Institute of Mental Health:** Help for Mental Illnesses
 - Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center:** Mental Health Needs
 - Mental Health First Aid:** Mental Health Resources
 - Administration for Children and Families:** Resources Specific to Victims of Human Trafficking
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline:** Human Trafficking Awareness for Mental Health Professionals
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** Treating the Hidden Wounds—Trauma Treatment and Mental Health Recovery for Victims of Human Trafficking
 - Polaris: Promising Practices**—An Overview of Trauma-Informed Therapeutic Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking

STATE MEETINGS

The next South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Meeting will be held on June 4 at 10AM. The meeting will be in a hybrid format with most members needing to attend virtually. Please register [here](#).

The focus of the meeting will be discussing the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States’ Best Practices and Recommendations for States. The corresponding state assessment will be completed by June 23rd per the request from the committee. We will continue to solicit input from those in professional fields that intersect with the recommendations.

Access the State Task Force Online Resource Library [here](#).

REGIONAL MEETINGS AND UPDATES

For Regional Task Force contact information, click [here](#).

Foothills Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting on June 24th

Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting on July 21. To sign up, email slchtff@gmail.com.

The Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force elected two new co-chairs, Michelle Fraser and JoJo Woodward, during its April meeting.

Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT)
Meeting on July 16 from 10AM-12PM.

The RCAHT is coordinating a community resource fair in the fall. If an agency is interested in participating they can contact Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov.

The RCAHT is also collaborating with the COMET bus system on a human trafficking awarness campaign.

The RCAHT thanks the students and faculty at Benedict College who collected and assembled care bags for the Richland County Sheriff’s Department to support survivors of trafficking .

Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting on August 13 at 10AM.

The Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force is hosting the Charleston County Americans & Latinos Community Safety Event on Sunday, June 27th. Contact bburris@tricounyhttf.org for more details.

Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting on July 16 at 10AM.

Greenlink (Greenville City Public Transportation) will resume their three-phase human trafficking training, Put The Brakes On Trafficking, in June.

One of the Upstate Task Force members, Rivers of Justice, has eight human trafficking awareness billboards in the Upstate. This is their seventh year of billboard campaigns.

2nd Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting on June 23 at 10AM.