

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

February 2011 Vol. 9 No. 2

This issue highlights how anti-human trafficking collaboratives facilitate the transformation of trafficked victims into trafficking survivors.

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The Impact of Partnerships

What Survivors Want

In May 2010 the Director of *Apne AAap Women Worldwide*, Ruchira Gupta, spoke at a hearing of the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She stated, "The victims and survivors of human trafficking that I represent see visibility, accountability and access to all civil, political, economic and social rights as the best way to combat trafficking."

"They want their slavery to be acknowledged as slavery. They want all forms of their enslavement, including prostitution, to be defined NOT as a choice, but to be acknowledged as the ABSENCE OF CHOICE. Nobody chooses to be born poor, female, of low caste, fairer or darker in color, or as an ethnic or religious minority."

"Victims and survivors of trafficking want us to not accept their slavery as inevitable by simply trying to mitigate its circumstances through the offer of beds in shelters or condoms in brothels. They want us to dismantle the very system of trafficking by bringing traffickers and users to justice. They want a world in which it is unacceptable to buy or sell another human being and to create an economy in which one is not forced to sell oneself. They want human rights principles to ensure their future." Ruchira Gupta

The Role of Anti-Human Trafficking Collaboratives

"Awareness of the crime of human trafficking has grown tremendously since the passage of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* in 2000. In the past decade, thousands of victims have been rescued with-

in U.S. borders from situations of sex and labor trafficking, with an increasing number of arrests and prosecutions of traffickers."

"The *Office for Victims of Crime* (OVC) began funding comprehensive services to assist foreign national trafficking victims in 2003. In 2005, OVC began a partnership with the *Bureau of Justice Assistance* (BJA) to establish multidisciplinary task forces designed to proactively identify victims and provide necessary services to them. Recently, we have expanded the scope of services through pilot projects to serve domestic minor and adult victims of human trafficking."

Joye E. Frost, Acting OVC Director

"Experience shows that a multidisciplinary response, consisting of close partnerships among state and local law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, and federal law enforcement officers, is essential in assisting victims as they move from identification, through prosecution, and on to long-term recovery." James H. Burch, II

Acting BJA Director



E-Guide Logo



Awareness

2 New 'E-Guide' Launched

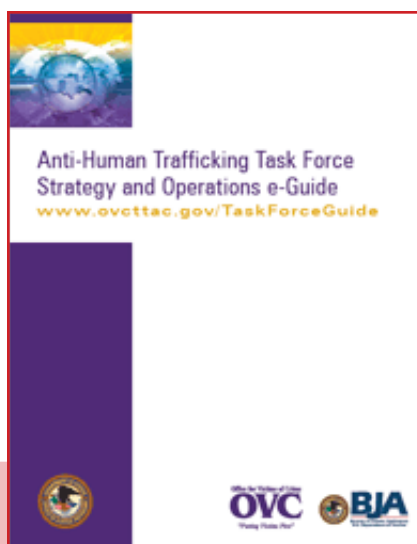
The 'Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations E-Guide,' developed in partnership by the Dept. of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is a new e-learning tool providing:

- Direction and development to form new anti-human trafficking Task Forces;
- Ideas to strengthen existing anti-human trafficking Task Forces;
- Creative strategies, examples, and lessons learned from existing Task Forces;
- Links to valued tools, trainings, and resources.

The *E-Guide* is a resource for both established and newly-formed Task Forces. Established Task Forces can use it to enhance existing operations or as a tool to assist in the revitalization of Task Force efforts and operations. The *E-Guide* is not offered as the definitive solution to Task Force development strategy and operations but rather as a useful tool that has been carefully screened and evaluated by anti-human trafficking victim service providers and law enforcement officials throughout the United States at all levels. It is anticipated that new practices and resources will become available that may further enhance the value of this *E-Guide*.

One advantage of a web-based publication is that, as new resources and tools become available, they can be easily incorporated into the *E-Guide*. Task Forces and participating organizations can share their valued tools, trainings, and resources. Submit content samples for consideration to:

humantrafficking@ovcttac.org



E-Guide Contents:

- Introduction
 - Promising Practices
 - Understanding Human Trafficking
 - Laws and Legislation
 - Forming a Task Force
 - Task Force Operations
 - Collaboration
 - Victim-Centered Response
 - Resources for Prosecutors
 - Resource Index
 - Acknowledgements
- (<https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/>)

Recognizing the Crime

The locations and settings where trafficking occurs do not always appear suspicious. For instance, trafficking could be occurring at places frequently visited by the public such as restaurants or hotels. Therefore, it is important to remember that the key indicators of this crime may not be in the setting itself, but in the conditions and circumstances of the labor involved.

Other crimes that law enforcement may respond to or investigate (and subsequently encounter human trafficking) include the following:

- Adult and child pornography.
- Arms trafficking (as "expendable" carriers).
- Criminal street gang activities.
- Domestic violence.
- Drug trafficking (as human "vessels").
- Kidnapping.
- Money laundering.
- Organized crime.
- Petty theft.
- Sexual assault.
- Traffic violations.
- Workplace violations.

Evidence that can be used against the trafficker includes the following:

- Airline and bus tickets.
- Advertisements.
- Bank records and receipts.
- Business ledgers and cards.
- Cell phones.
- Code books.
- Computers.

Crimes cont. pg. 3

"The anti-trafficking field has evolved in the decade since the passage of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* — developing intelligence-driven investigative techniques, delivering trauma-informed, culturally competent victim services, and building sophisticated strategies to ensure that traffickers are appropriately prosecuted. These strategies, techniques, and practices form the basis of the *Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations E-Guide* — a resource to share practical lessons, provide guidance, and centralize tools and resources that respond to human trafficking through a multidisciplinary task force model."

Asst. Attorney Gen. Laurie O. Robinson, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Dept. of Justice



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Benefits & Challenges of Partnerships

Service provider and law enforcement partnerships are crucial to the provision of a comprehensive and victim-centered response to human trafficking. Such organizations also may be key partners in reaching targeted populations in culturally sensitive and linguistically correct ways. Victim service providers also can be important consultants to law enforcement on subjects of trauma, emotional bonding, climate of fear, and other circumstances.

An increase in public awareness of the existence of human trafficking within communities often generates the interest and the benevolence of nontraditional supporters of law enforcement and service provider partnerships. Within many communities, there are networks, coalitions, and groups that share information, create new partnerships, and identify resources, skills, and good practices for enhancing a community response to human trafficking.

Some of the local, state, and national organizations and agencies providing victim services include: anti-human trafficking organizations; faith-based organizations; immigrant advocacy groups and legal service providers; law enforcement associations (e.g., state associations, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association); medical professionals including doctors, nurses, and dentists; professors, academics, or researchers with specialized knowledge of human trafficking; social and legal services agencies; and youth shelters and special services providers.

It is recommended that Task Force operations be conducted with some level of screened participation. Not all organizations add value or contribute to the mission of the Task Force. Members should have the capacity to actively contribute to the mission, vision, core values, and strategies, and not just attend meetings. Such conditions serve to enhance the focus of the group, develop and build upon key working relationships, and enhance trust and confidence among essential responder agencies and organizations. (*E-Guide* pg. 32-34)

Having formal *Memorandums of Understanding* (MOU) among participating agencies and organizations is an important step in defining and understanding expectations. The MOU also is a public statement of commitment and a guide for accountability. The MOU should clearly define roles, responsibilities, and responses to human trafficking that are within the agency or organization's normal capacity. (*E-Guide* pg. 42)

Both the *E-Guide* and the downloadable version include links to key documents that provide specific tools, trainings and video clips relevant to particular aspects of dealing with agencies, clients and the public. For example, the *Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking* (CAST) provided a one-sheet explanation entitled, *'The Benefits and Limitations to Human Trafficking Victim/Caseworker Privilege'*. Testimonial privileges permit a person to refuse to disclose and to prohibit others from disclosing confidential information in judicial proceedings.

The CAST fact sheet provides a brief background on this privilege and suggests best practices so that caseworkers do not inadvertently waive this privilege during a legal process involving the client. (*E-Guide*, Sec. 5.3 pg. 56)

Collaboration Is Vital

Recent research by *Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice* indicates that jurisdictions with active multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking Task Forces are more likely to discover human trafficking and achieve successful prosecution of perpetrators. *E-Guide*, pg. 25.

(http://www.humantrafficking.neu.edu/news_reports/reports/documents/Understanding_and_Responding_Full_Report.pdf)

Crimes *cont. from pg. 2*

- Contracts.
- Employment records.
- Identification documents (driver's licenses, Social Security cards, etc.).
- Immigration documents (passports, visas, green cards, etc.).
- Money wire transfers.
- Narcotics.
- Physical conditions of crime scene and victims.
- Pictures.
- Record of border crossing.
- Surveillance videos.
- Utility bills.

A crucial aspect of recognizing the crime is in discerning the elements of human trafficking from the apparently "normal" behaviors that disguise it. The more complicated cases appear to be unattached to any criminal behavior. Therefore, the more training, education, and experience a Task Force has, the less likely a case of human trafficking will go undetected or ignored. (*E-Guide* pg. 11-12)



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Collaboratives Formed to Fight Human Trafficking

The following is a small sampling of examples of regional task forces or coalitions that are actively working against human trafficking in their locales. For information about these organizations, please refer to their weblinks on pg. 6.

U.S. Government-Funded Task Forces

The U.S. *Department of Justice's* (DOJ) *Bureau of Justice Assistance* (BJA), in coordination with the *Office for Victims of Crime* (OVC), funds 40 task forces and service providers. They are: Anchorage, AK; Austin, TX; Bexar County, TX; Chicago, IL; Clearwater, FL; Collier County, FL; Colorado; Connecticut; Dallas, TX; District of Columbia; Erie County, NY; Fort Worth, TX; Harris County, TX; Hawaii; Homestead, FL; Independence, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Las Vegas, NV; Lee County, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Louisiana; Miami-Dade; Milwaukee, WI; Multnomah County, OR; Nassau County, NY; New Jersey; New York City, NY; Northern Marianas (Saipan); Oakland, CA; Orange County, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Pitt County, SC; Salt Lake City, UT; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; San Jose, CA; Seattle, WA; St. Louis, MO; St. Paul, MN and Suffolk County, NY.



One service provider, *Boston, MA* specializes in mental-health and crisis-intervention services and offers training and technical support on trauma and mental health. *Nashville, TN* and *Georgia* are service providers without a DOJ-funded task force. (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/262/human-trafficking-task-forces.htm>)

By June 30, 2008, the BJA/OVC-funded task forces had identified 3,336 persons as potential victims of human trafficking and had requested either continued presence (U-visa) or endorsed T-visa applications for 397 of those potential victims. The task forces also trained 85,685 law enforcement officers and others in identifying the signs of human trafficking and its victims. (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/httf.html>)

For a listing of *Department of Health and Human Services 'Rescue and Restore' Coalitions*, see the reference on pg. 6.

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

The BSCC is an alliance of over 60 government and nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and Latin America that



is convened along the U.S.-Mexico Border Region. The Coalition is committed to bilaterally preventing and intervening in the commercial and sexual exploitation of women and children while advocating for all exploited persons. BSCC is the only bilateral bi-national project that provides services in Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, CA. The website lists its partners.

May 11-13, 2011 in San Diego, CA BSCC will host a conference on how transportation influences human trafficking. The Conference is entitled "*Planes, Trains, Trucks, Boats & Automobiles.*" See the BSCC website for information (pg. 6).



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Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking

This *Coalition* is currently focused on the 41 counties in East Tennessee (especially Knoxville). CCAHT goals include:

1. Providing collaborative space for anti-trafficking work to flourish.
2. Raising overall awareness about the issue of human trafficking.
3. Facilitating training and equipping of first responders to human trafficking.
4. Assisting in the restoration of victims of human trafficking.

The website offers resources and lists its various partners.



Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition



The *Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition*, founded in July 2007, has over 90 members, comprised of both concerned citizens and those who represent social services, faith-based, medical and law enforcement organizations. There is a main Committee to oversee the organization and four sub-committees for the outreach: Legislation & Lobbying; Law Enforcement; Social Services; and Public Awareness. The Coalition website lists various events and resources that help raise awareness and get others involved. It also lists the many organizations that collaborate in the anti-human trafficking efforts.

New York Anti-Trafficking Coaliton

The Coalition has videos, press releases and media articles on its website to record

some of the campaigns against trafficking that took place in the New York area. The Coalition has downloadable materials and recommends some current books on the topic of human trafficking. The website also lists the many organizations that make up the Coalition.

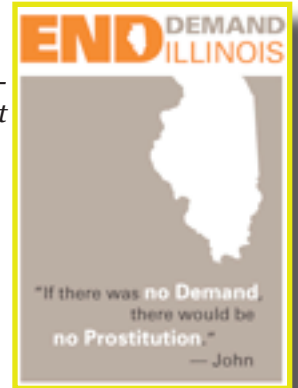


The End Demand Illinois Campaign

A campaign of the *Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)*, 'End Demand' is a multi-year organizing and advocacy effort to

transform Illinois' response to prostitution and sex trafficking, advocate for the creation of tools and resources for law enforcement to prosecute traffickers, pimps and those who profit from prostitution, deter men from buying sex, and create social supports and services for trafficked and prostituted individuals.

The websites of both organizations list a myriad of collaborators in the work of stopping sexual exploitation and trafficking within Illinois.



Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Founded in 2004 by Anna Rodriguez, the website of the FCAHT gives evidence of the extensive recognition the Coalition has received by way of awards, as well as the exhaustive list of community, coalition, government, law enforcement and media partnerships the FCAHT has established.

Although Florida is the second largest hub of human trafficking in the U.S., since 1996 only 14 cases of human trafficking have actually been brought to federal court.





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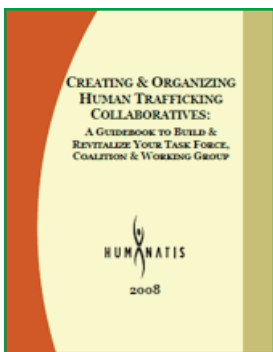
Rescue & Restore Coalitions

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the *Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking* campaigns in 2004.

The *Rescue & Restore* website (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/>) has many downloadable materials to help coalitions and concerned citizens educate others as to the signs of human trafficking and the ways to obtain help for its victims.

Visit the following link to see a partial list of partner coalitions: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/coalition_list.html

Helpful Manuals for Coalition Builders



'Creating and Organizing Human Trafficking Collaboratives: A Guidebook to Build & Revitalize Your Task Force, Coalition & Working Group'

authored by Kelly Heinrich and Nancy Hatamiya is a step-by-step guide to creating or revitalizing a task force, coalition, or working group for the purpose of countering human trafficking.

To read an abstract of the book, go to: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=250011>

'Facebook' Will Track Missing Youth

Facebook users can get bulletins of missing children on their newsfeeds now that the *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children* has partnered with Facebook to distribute localized AMBER alerts.

The AMBER Alert program, a voluntary partnership involving law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters, has been credited with the safe recovery of 525 children nationwide. A total of 53 new AMBER Alert Pages have been created, one for each state, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.



"With more than 500 million Facebook users this bold initiative will help us mobilize many more people and bring more missing children home," said Ernie Allen, President of *Missing Children Center*.

The announcement of this partnership was made on Jan. 13, 2011, the day before the 15th anniversary of the abduction and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, namesake of the national AMBER Alert Program.

For your localized feeds, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/AMBERAlert> (www.oregister.com/news/-283963-.html)

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888

Informative Web Sites:
(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations e-Guide

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/>

If you have any questions or experience technical difficulties, please contact OVC TTAC at HumanTrafficking@ovcttac.org or 1-866-OVC-TTAC (1-866-682-8822).

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (CA/Mex)

<http://www.bsccoalition.org/>

Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (TN)

<http://www.ccaht.org/>

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (OH)

<http://www.centralohiorescueandrestore.org/Home.php>

New York Anti-Trafficking Coalition (NY)

<http://www.stophumantraffickingny.org/>

End Demand Illinois

<http://www.enddemandillinois.org/>

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

<http://www.caase.org/alliances.aspx>

Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FL)

<http://www.stophumantrafficking.org/>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com

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