EndTrafficking Newsletter: February 2016

Published: February 2, 2016

Today's issue:

- Message from the OTIP Director
- President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Save the Date: Listening Session with HHS & HUD
- Regional Spotlight: Miami Forum Informs Public Health Approach
- Grantee Spotlights
- Partnership for Freedom: Rethink Supply Chains Finalists Will Compete for $300,000 in Remaining Prizes
- Fresh Resources

Message from the Director of the Office on Trafficking in Persons
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

On February 1, 1865, President Lincoln outlawed slavery by signing the resolution that would later become the 13th Amendment. It is fitting that almost 151 years later, President Obama proclaimed January 2015 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Just as abolition of chattel slavery in the historical development of the United States required a restructuring of society, long-term solutions to prevent and eradicate human trafficking will require changes in social norms and other deeply-rooted structures that enable modern forms of slavery. In the upcoming year, the Office on Trafficking in Persons commits to exploring partnerships to leverage the public health framework to strengthen data collection, better target public awareness and prevention campaigns, expand training to address the root causes of human trafficking, and empower survivors of trafficking.

As we close out National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, here are some highlights from our office. May we all continue to carry this momentum forward in 2016.

President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) Annual Meeting: January 5, 2016
The PITF kicked off 2016 with an annual meeting that brought 14 Federal departments and agencies together to continue coordinating the U.S. government-wide efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Here are some exciting announcements from that meeting:

- Valerie Jarrett announces new U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/16/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts) comprised of survivor leaders
- New HHS Task Force to Prevent and End Human Trafficking established to build the capacity of HHS to respond to human trafficking, initiate strategic opportunities to benefit victims of trafficking, and inform anti-trafficking policies and practices
- HHS will expand efforts to address the public health impact of human trafficking in 2016
- HHS will develop new human trafficking data standards
- HHS and USDA will partner to conduct outreach on human trafficking in rural America in 2016

View the transcripts and video here (http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/rm/2016/251006.htm). (The HHS Task Force is announced at minute 36.)

Save the Date: Listening Session with HHS & HUD

Wednesday, February 24 at 3 PM EST

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will host a national joint listening session to address the intersection of trafficking and the need for housing and social-services for survivors. The listening session will continue HHS and HUD's efforts by bringing together social-service and housing providers serving adult survivors of human trafficking in order to:
1. Understand the challenges facing housing and social-service providers in meeting the needs of adult (18+) survivors of human trafficking and those at risk of trafficking for safe and appropriate housing and support services,  
2. Recognize best practices in housing and support services for trafficking survivors, and  
3. Help identify potential changes in policy, technical assistance, outreach, or other areas to better assist housing and social-service providers effectively meet the needs of this population.

Please save the date and look for more information on registering for the call in the weeks to come.

Regional Spotlight: Miami Forum Informs Public Health Approach
HHS, in partnership with the Lovelight Foundation and the University of Miami, launched the first regional convening on public health and human trafficking in December. The convening brought together major stakeholders in Georgia and Florida to inform a national strategy to address human trafficking as a public health priority through public awareness, training, and data collection. The event's public forum emphasized the need for engaging survivor leaders and multiple systems of care – including health professionals – to address prevention, victim identification, and access to comprehensive services.

Grantee Spotlights

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) released its 2015 Hotline Statistics Report, referencing 21,947 calls and 5,544 cases of human trafficking reported, a 10 percent increase in total reported cases to the NHTRC since 2014. 1,600 survivors reached out for help in 2015, a 24 percent increase over 2014. Learn more about the NHTRC's year in their report and ACF guest blog post. You can call the hotline to report a tip, request services, or simply learn more about the human trafficking field in your area. Plug it into your contacts: 1-888-373-7888.

Update from Arizona

In 2014, the Pinal County Attorney's Family Advocacy Center was awarded a grant for training, outreach, and public awareness so Pinal County communities could better identify victims of human trafficking. Read more about their work on the ACF guest blog post.
pinal-county-arizona) by Pinal County Attorney, Lando Voyles. Find additional Rescue & Restore Regional Program (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/regional) contacts in your area.

Update from Ohio


Partnership for Freedom: Rethink Supply Chains Finalists Will Compete for $300,000 in Remaining Prizes

We’re thrilled to join the Partnership for Freedom in announcing five finalists in Rethink Supply Chains: The Tech Challenge to Fight Labor Trafficking (http://rethinksupplychains.org). The Partnership for Freedom launched the innovation competition in October 2015, seeking technological solutions to help identify and address labor trafficking in global supply chains.
“Forced labor in global supply chains is a systemic problem. The solutions surfaced by these finalists leverage technology to combat this problem by bringing transparency to global supply chains and elevating workers' voices across industries,” said Catherine Chen, director of investments at Humanity United (https://humanityunited.org/).

Congratulations to the finalists:

- Good World Solutions, Laborlink Trafficking Module: Capturing & Mapping Millions of Data Points to Eliminate Forced Labor
- IST Research, PULSE Deployable Labor Trafficking System
- Mobile Accord, Inc., Identifying Human Rights Issues In the Fishing Industry Through Mobile Surveys
- Sustainability Incubator and Trace Register, Building Trust in Fishing at Sea
- Ulula, SPARTACUS: A Global Mobile Platform for Empowering Migrant Workers to End Slavery

Want to learn more about the finalists and their solutions? Visit rethinksupplychains.org (http://rethinksupplychains.org).

---

**Fresh Resources**

- **The Power of Framing Human Trafficking as a Public Health Issue** (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/resource/publichealthlens) by Katherine Chon, Director, Office on Trafficking in Persons
- **Human Trafficking Awareness for Educators** (http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/human-trafficking-awareness-educators) webinar by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center

**Recent ACF Human Trafficking Blog Posts**


• Trafficking Survivor Shares Her Story to Protect Others (https://wayback.archive-it.org/8654/20170322133259/https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2016/01/trafficking-survivor-shares-her-story-to-protect-others)


Disclaimer: Reference in this e-alert to any specific commercial products, process, service, manufacturer, or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Government, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF is not responsible for the contents of any "off-site" web page referenced from this server or from private, third-party, pop-up, or browser-integrated software or applications.
Last Reviewed: February 15, 2016