



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Year in Review

(October 2022 to September 2023)



**Homeland
Security**

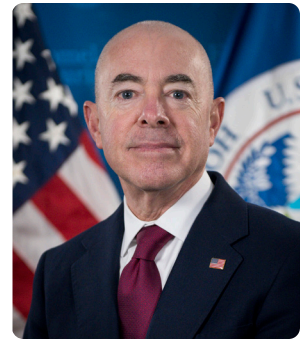


**Center for Countering
Human Trafficking**

Prepared by the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking | February 2024



A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY



As a leader in the worldwide fight against human trafficking, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) works with partners at every level to prevent trafficking crimes and bring traffickers, who exploit others with blatant disregard for their humanity, to justice. Our counter-trafficking work is an enduring priority and a dedicated homeland security mission – one that we carry out with keen awareness of the importance of supporting victims and holding traffickers accountable for their crimes.

Every day, DHS employees work diligently to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, pursue offenders, and prevent and detect sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and forced labor in our supply chain. We work to advance new technology that helps to identify and locate more victims. We raise awareness of human trafficking indicators and how to report suspected trafficking to law enforcement, within our own DHS workforce, in industry, academia, and the public. We train U.S. and international law enforcement personnel on promising practices in investigating human trafficking using a victim-centered approach. We do all of this through robust partnerships with local, state, and Tribal law enforcement as well as private industry, non-governmental organizations, and survivor-leaders.

As we reflect on the past year, we are confronted with the harsh reality that human trafficking persists in various forms, affecting countless lives across the nation. However, within the pages of this report, you will find evidence of our unyielding commitment to counteract these illicit activities and provide support to victims.

The counter-trafficking accomplishments reflected in this annual report are a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines our approach. Led by the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), our teams across 16 Components work collaboratively and aggressively to combat human trafficking in all its forms, guided by the [DHS Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation](#).

I am proud to serve alongside the many dedicated individuals of DHS who work in service to our nation, and I look forward to another year of accomplishments in pursuit of this critical and heroic counter-trafficking mission.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alejandro N. Mayorkas".

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DHS CENTER FOR COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING



On behalf of the Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), I am honored to recognize the critical importance of the work highlighted in this year's Countering Human Trafficking Year in Review.

At the CCHT, we work every day to combat sex and labor trafficking, and to enforce the prohibition on goods produced with forced labor entering the U.S. supply chain. Our experts in investigations, intelligence, training, outreach, and victim assistance are constantly seeking new ways to detect, deter, and investigate human trafficking crimes while keeping the victim at the center of all we do. We work as a unified Center that integrates the efforts of every Component within DHS involved in combating human trafficking. And we do this through robust, innovative partnerships with survivor-leaders, non-governmental organizations, industry, and state, local, and Tribal law-enforcement.

Over the past year, the CCHT has undergone a remarkable transformation, experiencing growth that has reshaped its trajectory and significantly expanded its capabilities. In December of 2022, the Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021 (CHTA) codified the Center into U.S. law. Through aggressive recruitment, we have staffed our team with subject matter experts from across the country, nearly quadrupling our number of permanent employees. The CHTA also realigned the Blue Campaign within the CCHT, allowing the Center to enhance and expand DHS human trafficking outreach efforts. To manage this growth, the CCHT created a comprehensive strategic plan that sets clear goals, priorities, and a path forward for the Center by realigning units and sections, better positioning us to achieve our strategic goals.

Our work is far from complete. The fight against human trafficking requires unwavering vigilance, adaptability, and a continual reassessment of our methods.

This *Year in Review* highlighting DHS counter-trafficking accomplishments in fiscal year 2023 was compiled by the CCHT in consultation with all DHS Components and offices. I am grateful to work with colleagues throughout the Department who are equally committed to this crucial mission.

Sincerely,



Cardell T. Morant
Director, DHS Center for
Countering Human Trafficking

The CCHT integrates the efforts of 16 DHS Component agencies and offices to advance counter human trafficking law enforcement operations, protect victims, and enhance prevention efforts by aligning DHS's capabilities and expertise.

Homeland Security Investigations

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement • Enforcement and Removal Operations

Transportation Security Administration | U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Customs and Border Protection | Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services | U.S. Secret Service



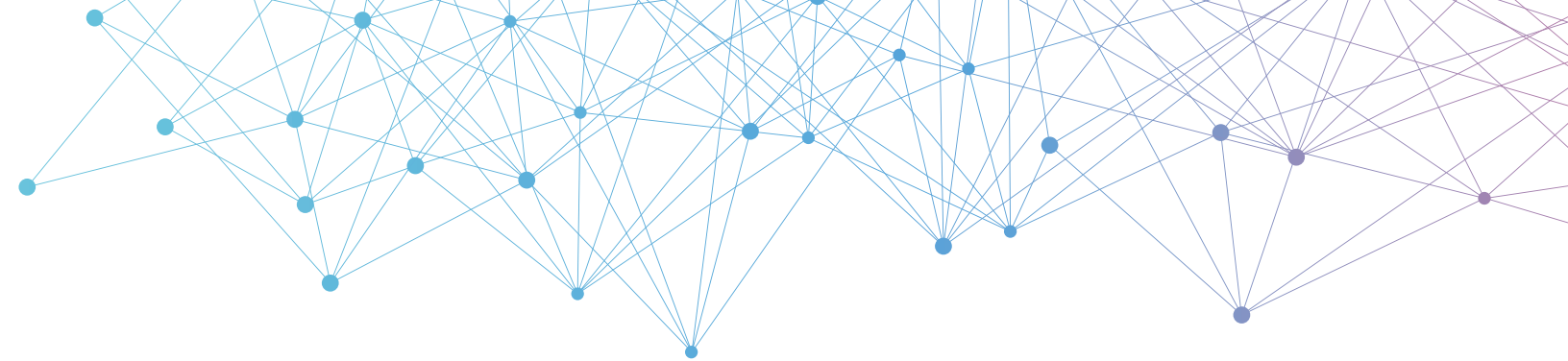
Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers | Management Directorate

Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties | Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

Office of Intelligence and Analysis | Science and Technology Directorate

Office of Inspector General | Office of Partnership and Engagement



.....

Countering Human Trafficking: Year in Review

.....

Table of Contents

6	FY 2023 Stats at a Glance
7	Introduction
8	DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
9	This Report
10	Identification and Screening
12	Victim Protection and Assistance
15	Investigations and Enforcement
21	Training, Outreach, and Engagement
29	Appendix: Acronyms
30	What You Can Do

FY 2023 Stats at a Glance:

The CCHT supports the work of these DHS offices and Components.

HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

731 human trafficking victims assisted



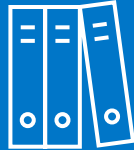
382 total Continued Presence approvals

♂ **216** male
♀ **166** female

67 sex trafficking
310 forced labor



117 published intelligence products on sex trafficking and forced labor



RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

1,282 CASES INITIATED



2,610 ARRESTS



135 CCHT training and outreach events with **14,350** participants



519 CONVICTIONS



1,044 INDICTMENTS



U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

256 shipments with a value of **\$6,973,349** stopped under a Withhold Release Order



BLUE CAMPAIGN

194 Blue Campaign trainings conducted with **19,626** participants



U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

T Nonimmigrant Status granted to **2,181** victims and **1,495** family members of victims

U Nonimmigrant Status granted to **10,000** victims and **7,889** family members of victims

63 New Blue Campaign partnerships

260,897 personnel trained on human trafficking through BLI partnerships



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS

3,100+ law enforcement officers received human trafficking awareness training

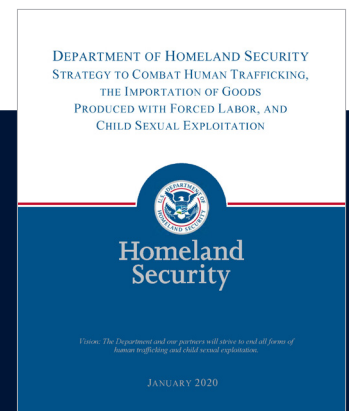







INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is the crime of exploiting another person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts, typically through force, fraud, or coercion, or by inducing a person under 18 into commercial sex. According to the United Nations' International Labour Organization, human traffickers victimize an estimated 27.6 million people worldwide; 77% subjected to forced labor and 23% in sex trafficking.¹ The United States is no exception. Many trafficking cases in the United States involve workers in agriculture, landscaping, construction, factories, in homes as nannies or other domestic workers, restaurants, elder care, massage parlors, and more — essentially in jobs with low pay and few legal protections in the underground economy. Sex traffickers are increasingly operating online to both recruit and advertise victims in addition to locations such as bars, massage parlors, street prostitution, and escort services.

Combating human trafficking is a top priority for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In 2020, the Secretary of DHS released the [*DHS Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation*](#) (“the Strategy”). It represents the DHS vision to end this urgent humanitarian issue, articulates the Department’s long-term approach for combating these crimes, and serves as a framework to prioritize our resources and monitor progress.

THE STRATEGY OUTLINES FIVE KEY GOALS:



-  **1 Prevention. Reduce the threat by providing information and resources to specific vulnerable populations, schools, and community groups.**
-  **2 Protection. Disrupt illicit activity by identifying and assisting victims toward stability and recovery.**
-  **3 Prosecution. Leverage DHS law enforcement and national security authorities to investigate, take enforcement action, and refer cases for prosecution.**
-  **4 Partnership. Build strong partnerships throughout the homeland security enterprise as force multipliers across the nation.**
-  **5 Enabling DHS. Harmonize and organize DHS programs to allow for maximum efficiency and effectiveness in addressing these threats.**

1. ILO 2021 *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*; https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf



DHS CENTER FOR COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The *Strategy* called for the department to integrate efforts within and among DHS Components to enhance their impact in the counter-trafficking mission space. Shortly after the release of the *Strategy*, the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) was established.

THE COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2021

Signed into law in December of 2022, the Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021 recognizes the critical role the CCHT plays as an integrator and enhancer of DHS efforts. The Act provides the structure and resources to grow the CCHT and further the DHS counter-trafficking mission. Every day the CCHT is leveraging DHS authorities to eliminate human trafficking.

The CCHT is DHS's first unified, cross-Department coordination center for countering sex trafficking and forced labor, including the importation of goods produced with forced labor. Led by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), it is a DHS-wide effort comprising 16 offices and Components. The mission of the CCHT is to advance counter human trafficking law enforcement operations, protect victims, and enhance prevention efforts by aligning DHS's capabilities and expertise.

Guided by the *Strategy*, the CCHT integrates the efforts of every Component within DHS involved in combating human trafficking. DHS efforts include criminal investigations, victim assistance, identifying and reporting human trafficking, external outreach, intelligence, and training. By integrating these many functions, the CCHT enhances every aspect of DHS's counter-human trafficking work.

The CCHT supports all of DHS by leveraging its subject matter experts to:

- Support criminal investigations of forced labor and sex trafficking through coordinated intelligence and evidence-based strategies.
- Seek improvements to the delivery of victim protections, including victim-based immigration benefits, the national Continued Presence (CP) program for law enforcement, and robust identification.
- Increase human trafficking victim identification through training, nationwide public awareness, and screening tools.
- Incorporate proven and promising victim-centered practices into DHS policies and protocols.
- Strengthen trade enforcement against the importation of goods produced with forced labor.
- Assist procurement implementation and enforcement efforts to prevent and deter human trafficking in DHS acquisitions and contracts.

THIS REPORT

The annual *DHS Countering Human Trafficking: Year in Review* report highlights achievements and advancements made by DHS offices and Components over the past fiscal year (FY). This report covers FY 2023 (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023).

As DHS's counter-trafficking actions fall into four primary areas, the achievements highlighted in this report are organized by these four functions:

- I. Identification and Screening.** Many DHS personnel hold public-facing jobs throughout the United States and are thereby well-positioned to witness indicators of potential human trafficking, interact with potential traffickers and victims, and report suspicions to HSI, the investigative arm of DHS. Continued improvements to identification and screening lead to holding more traffickers accountable and more victims who are safe, stable, and offered protections.
- II. Victim Protection and Assistance.** The Secretary and the *Strategy* call for all of DHS to institutionalize a victim-centered approach, which places the crime victim's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the victim. A victim-centered approach provides nonjudgmental assistance with an emphasis on self-determination, while assisting victims in making informed choices, ensuring that restoring victims' feelings of safety and security are a priority, and safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims.² DHS also offers victim protections in the form of immigration options, including CP, T visas, U visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile classification, and Violence Against Women Act benefits (available regardless of gender). In criminal investigations, specialized victim assistance personnel inform identified trafficking victims of their rights as crime victims and make referrals to local community services to assist in their recovery.
- III. Investigations and Enforcement.** DHS uses every available administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement authority to hold human traffickers accountable. This includes more than 1,000 criminal investigations initiated annually for sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and forced labor in imported goods. DHS also enforces the prohibition against the importation of goods produced with forced labor by issuing Withhold Release Orders and formal findings. DHS looks to ensure its own supply chain is clean by implementing contractual requirements, audits, and suspension and debarments within DHS acquisitions and contracts.
- IV. Training, Outreach, and Engagement.** DHS conducts a substantial amount of training for its employees worldwide as well as partners in local, state, federal, Tribal, territorial, and foreign law enforcement. The training ranges from general awareness and identification to advanced enforcement and protection sessions. DHS also administers the Blue Campaign, the federal government's flagship human trafficking public awareness campaign, all with the goal of increasing identification and reporting to law enforcement. As counter-trafficking is most effective when undertaken with partners, DHS also conducts an extensive amount of engagement within government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and survivors.

Please note this report also contains links to publicly available reports, resource guides, public awareness materials, program descriptions, press releases, and more. The goal is to help readers not only better understand the varied work of DHS, but also to utilize available resources in furtherance of their own counter-trafficking work.

2. This definition was adapted from the *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking*, [available at National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).

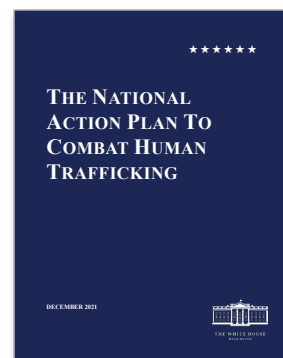
IDENTIFICATION AND SCREENING

DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Analytical Tool to Identify Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs)

Researchers from the DHS Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis Center of Excellence are working to develop tools to help identify IMBs involved in human trafficking and practices that endanger public health. In FY 2023, the research team began training a supervised machine learning model to analyze online advertisements, zoning information, business licenses, court records, and public census data to help uncover connections between IMBs through online networks linked to transnational criminal organizations. These efforts will help remove victims from danger and identify traffickers.

DHS Effort to Strengthen National Tip Lines' Response to Human Trafficking

In response to the [White House National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#), DHS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) established a working group on improving federal agency tip lines related to human trafficking. In FY 2023, the group met with key stakeholders to initiate its review and determine where there may be opportunities to streamline coordinated efforts and operations among tip lines.



DHS Multi-Year Effort to Work Toward Improved Screening Protocols

DHS, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and HHS continue to serve as co-chairs of a working group on improving human trafficking screening forms and protocols in response to the White House National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. In FY 2023, the group conducted a data call across more than a dozen federal agencies to establish a baseline of screening tools currently used by federal employees who may encounter human trafficking victims in the course of their duties. This analysis will be used to improve screening efforts across DHS and the broader U.S. Government.

In September 2023, DHS, in collaboration with DOJ, hosted a series of listening sessions with survivor experts to advance efforts to produce a victim-centered screening protocol for use in federal human trafficking enforcement operations in which DHS and/or DOJ is involved.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Screening of Financial Supporters

In January 2023, DHS launched a new process for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan citizens, and their immediate family members to come to the United States and stay temporarily for a two-year period of parole. Eligible participants must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay. To ensure the safety of those paroled into the country and to prevent supporters from using the parole process for human trafficking purposes, USCIS:

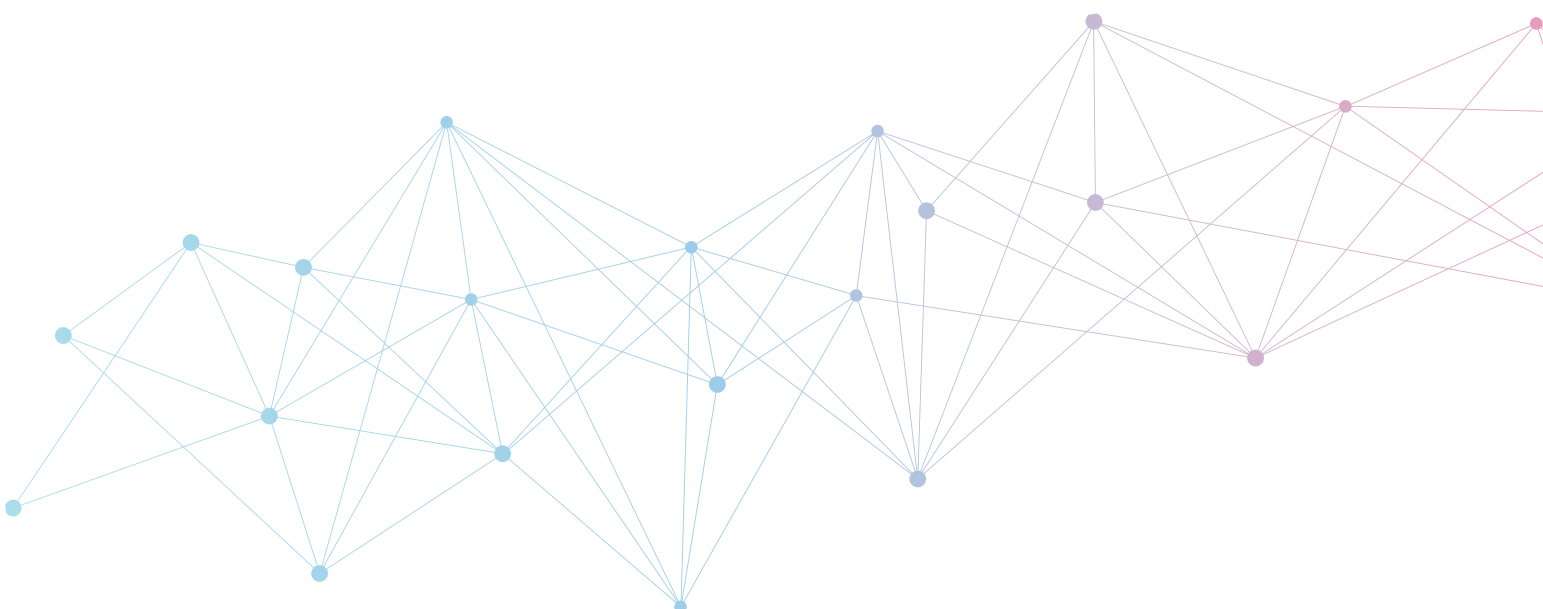
- Enhanced human trafficking screening of potential supporters by developing risk-based criteria, reviewing the results of background checks, creating a reporting process in coordination with HHS, and developing a questionnaire drafted by FDNS and shared with HHS staff, NGOs, and USCIS

community relations officers. Both the new reporting system and the questionnaire help HHS and NGOs alert USCIS about potential victims of human trafficking, with possible referral to law enforcement.

- Worked with DHS colleagues and international partners to develop webpage content and messaging to both supporters and beneficiaries to raise awareness of human trafficking.
- Through FDNS, screened more than 3,000 individuals in FY 2023 seeking to support beneficiaries of DHS parole processes, [Uniting for Ukraine](#), and the processes for [Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans](#).

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Screening for Potential Victims

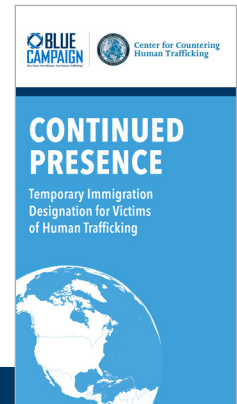
In FY 2023, the USCG screened 257 unaccompanied children encountered during migrant interdictions at sea for human trafficking and referred them to interagency partners for additional vetting. USCG approaches these encounters with the utmost care and attention to detect and prevent human trafficking in the maritime domain.



VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

Continued Presence

[Continued Presence \(CP\)](#) is a temporary immigration designation for individuals identified by law enforcement as human trafficking victims who may be potential witnesses or have filed federal civil actions against their traffickers. Recipients are eligible for federal benefits and services that provide victims with stability, a means of support, and protection from removal. When used by law enforcement, CP is a tool that helps increase the likelihood of success in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions.



In FY 2023, the CCHT approved 384 CP applications submitted by federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement nationwide, including 113 extensions of prior approvals. This represents an increase of 14% over FY 2022 approvals and a 99% approval rate.

The CCHT also:

- Transmitted to the new Congress an Office of Management and Budget-cleared legislative proposal on CP based on extensive listening sessions with law enforcement and victim service providers. The proposal highlights statutory changes to CP that would provide much needed clarification and reduce barriers to ensure that CP is fully available, accessible, and used by law enforcement and civil attorneys to assist noncitizen victims.
- Along with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of the Chief Information Officer, developed an online CP submission portal designed to streamline the application process and eliminate paper applications.

Continued Presence Portal

GOAL: To reduce CP application processing time so that victims receive CP more quickly.

USERS: The CP Portal will be available for all HSI Special Agents and task force officers to submit applications in support of their human trafficking criminal investigations or when requested by civil attorneys.

TIMELINE: Available to HSI field offices as of January 2024.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Victim Assistance Efforts

In FY 2023, HSI increased its number of victim assistance personnel, including Victim Assistance Program Specialists (VAPs), Forensic Interview Specialists (FISs), and program managers, to 152, a 63% increase over FY 2022. HSI identified and assisted 731 victims of human trafficking, and HSI VAPs provided them with a variety of victim services such as referrals for social services and medical care. Through this process, FISs elicited information that helped HSI special agents identify 45 additional victims.

Research to Action: The Victim-Centered Approach

The CCHT, in collaboration with DHS S&T, concluded a literature review of evidence-based and promising practices for implementing a victim-centered approach. The findings will help the CCHT further incorporate and institutionalize a victim-centered approach to human trafficking in policies, victim identification and screening, training, and law enforcement operations.

DHS Council on Combating Gender-Based Violence (CCGBV) Directive

DHS CCGBV published the “Preventing and Addressing Gender-Based Violence Through a Victim-Centered Approach” Directive, reinforcing DHS’s commitment to supporting individuals who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence. The CCHT provided written input and actively participated with Component and office partners in drafting the Directive. Human trafficking can be a form of gender-based violence, as it often involves other forms of gender-based violence. Traffickers may exploit gender dynamics to impose and maintain control over victims. The new Directive will continue to advance CCHT’s mission of protecting human trafficking victims and enhancing prevention efforts.

ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) Counsel and Training

ICE OPLA provided training to all new attorneys on immigration benefits and relief for noncitizen crime victims. In January 2023, OPLA also hosted nationwide training for Human Trafficking Prevention Month for all OPLA attorneys. The training focused on human trafficking, reporting suspicions to HSI, and handling CP and T visas in immigration court. OPLA maintained points of contact in 25 OPLA field offices to advise and assist attorneys with immigration court cases involving victim-based immigration benefits.

ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Protection of Victim Confidentiality

In FY 2023, ICE ERO worked with information technology teams to develop and implement an 8 U.S.C. § 1367 notification “banner” which flags records in 21 different ERO data systems. This banner alerts ERO officers that the individual’s information is protected from disclosure under [8 U.S.C. § 1367](#), providing much-needed confidentiality and safety for noncitizen victims of crime, including human trafficking.

DHS Process Enhancements to Assist Victims of Labor Trafficking and Labor Exploitation

In January 2023, DHS announced process enhancements to assist federal, state, and local labor agencies in supporting noncitizen workers who experience or witness labor exploitation, to include labor trafficking. The enhancements recognize that noncitizen workers are often afraid to report labor violations to authorities due to fear of immigration consequences or retaliation from employers. This initiative helps fill a critical gap by providing short-term immigration protection to individuals who may not yet have been identified as trafficking victims but fall within the scope of a labor agency investigation. Since this announcement, CRCL, ICE, and USCIS have conducted extensive outreach to educate labor agencies and workers’ rights organizations on this new, centralized process.

DHS S&T Research on Best Practices in Interviewing Minor Victims

Researchers from the DHS Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis Center of Excellence worked to develop training and guidelines on how to best interview potential minor victims of sex trafficking using a victim-centered approach. The study focuses on ways to interact with these unique and vulnerable victims to gather evidence which can be used to investigate and prosecute their traffickers. The research will provide analysis of law enforcement officer experiences, needs, and challenges, and findings will be available to stakeholders in the fourth quarter of FY 2024.

T and U Visas for Noncitizen Victims of Trafficking and Other Crimes

USCIS granted T nonimmigrant status to 2,181 victims of human trafficking in FY 2023, an increase of over 27% from FY 2022.

USCIS reached the statutory cap of 10,000 grants of U nonimmigrant status to victims of crime in FY 2023.³

T VISA

For victims of human trafficking

T VISA CONSIDERATIONS

- Must be in the U.S. on account of human trafficking
- Law enforcement declaration is encouraged but not required

U VISA

For victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, felonious assault, human trafficking, and other qualifying crimes

U VISA CONSIDERATIONS

- Qualifying crime must have occurred in the U.S. or violated U.S. law
- May apply from the U.S. or while abroad
- Must have law enforcement certification

VAWA

For victims of domestic violence and abuse

VAWA CONSIDERATIONS

- Have suffered battery or extreme cruelty perpetrated by your U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident spouse or parent or your U.S. citizen adult son or daughter
- Petitioners and perpetrators may be of any sex or gender

USCIS Public Fact Sheet on T Visa Applications

In February 2023, to provide greater public transparency, USCIS published the [Characteristics of T Nonimmigrant Status Applicants Fact Sheet](#), which provides data on the number of T visa applications received since 2008, as well as the age, gender, top countries of birth, and states of residence of approved applicants.

3. Congress set a cap of 10,000 U nonimmigrant visas per year. Only principal petitioners are counted against the cap; derivative family members are not counted toward the annual cap of 10,000 visas.

INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

HSI Human Trafficking Investigations

As the principal investigative arm of DHS, the mission of HSI human trafficking investigations is twofold:

1. To proactively identify, disrupt, and dismantle human trafficking organizations and minimize the risk they pose to national security and public safety.
2. To employ a victim-centered approach, where equal value is placed on the identification and stabilization of victims, and on the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of traffickers.

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL HSI COUNTER-HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS

HSI Norfolk: HSI, with assistance from the CCHT, investigated Magnolia Laundry Services for forced labor, resulting in the [conviction](#) of four co-conspirators, and a \$4.1 million restitution order. The traffickers at this commercial laundry business forced employees to work long hours in poor conditions to pay off smuggling fees and threatened them with deportation and/or physical harm to themselves or their families if they refused to work as directed. One victim reported being forced to work 11-hour overnight shifts before attending high school from age 14 through age 16.

HSI Phoenix: The CCHT coordinated with HSI in support of counter-trafficking operations focusing on sex trafficking in the Phoenix, Arizona, metropolitan area. This operation coincided with Super Bowl LVII, the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament, and the Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction. The operations resulted in the identification of five juvenile victims and one adult victim, 48 felony arrests, and the seizure of seven firearms. The CCHT funded travel and provided onsite personnel to provide subject matter expertise and increased analytical support.

HSI Houston: In October 2023, a 28-year-old Houston man was [sentenced](#) to 25 years in federal prison for sex trafficking a 13-year-old girl. The trafficker met his victim on Snapchat and told her he wanted her to have sex for money. He posted ads of her wearing lingerie to advertise her for commercial sex on Backpage. The trafficker drove his victim to hotels and would wait nearby until she finished engaging in commercial sex with the customers. The trafficker would then pick her up and take the money. He supplied her with drugs and had her “branded” with a tattoo of his initials. Tragically, the victim passed away in 2023 at the age of 18.

HSI Raleigh: In November 2023, a 62-year-old Durham, North Carolina man was [sentenced](#) to six concurrent life sentences after being convicted of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and using force, threats of force, fraud, and coercion to cause five victims to engage in commercial sex acts. Evidence at trial showed the trafficker ran a sex trafficking ring out of a three bedroom house he rented from July 2021 until late spring of 2022. He recruited women who were either homeless or suffering from substance abuse, promising them housing and drugs if they came to live at the residence. Once there, he photographed the women for online commercial sex ads and used violence and coercion. The defendant was also ordered to pay \$68,000 in restitution with additional hearings scheduled to determine further restitution. His co-defendant is scheduled to be sentenced in July 2024.

HSI Criminal Investigations Statistics

In FY 2023, HSI's efforts to counter human trafficking resulted in the initiation of nearly 1,300 investigations and more than 2,600 arrests, 1,000 indictments, and 500 convictions.

CCHT Support for HSI Human Trafficking Investigations

- The CCHT directly supported more than 125 HSI human trafficking investigations in FY 2023.
- CCHT intelligence analysts provided vital data analysis related to ongoing human trafficking investigations and produced 117 intelligence products during FY 2023, supporting a wide range of domestic and international sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and forced labor in the supply chain cases. One investigation led directly to the identification of 28 possible victims and four human traffickers in the Washington, D.C. area.
- The CCHT continued to support several high-profile criminal investigations of companies that are alleged to have knowingly imported goods produced with forced labor/prison labor into the United States. The CCHT also provided funding for HSI special agents' travel to conduct victim/witness interviews of factory workers abroad and coordinated extensively with DOJ's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU), CBP's Forced Labor Division, HSI International Operations, and NGOs.

Successful HSI Collaboration with International Law Enforcement



HSI Brussels: Beginning in November 2022, HSI Brussels participated in Operation Salvo, a multinational human trafficking investigation. The investigation dismantled a criminal network that lured victims from Central America to Europe with promises of a better life, only to force them into prostitution or low paying manual labor and service industry jobs. In February 2023, HSI agents assisted the Belgian Federal Police with the arrest of three traffickers and identification of 13 victims. HSI's support was critical in identifying and locating both the traffickers and the victims.



HSI Athens: HSI and the Hellenic National Police (HNP) conducted two large-scale human trafficking operations during FY 2023, resulting in the arrest of more than 30 individuals and the identification of more than 100 victims who had been recruited under false pretenses and trafficked into Athens from South America to work in commercial sex. HSI Athens and the HNP also expanded their relationships with anti-trafficking NGOs that provide support for victims.



HSI Bogota: During FY 2023, HSI, in cooperation with Colombian authorities, investigated a Colombian transnational criminal organization that committed sex trafficking and child exploitation violations. With assistance from the CCHT, HSI identified 35 minor victims as well as 12 individuals receiving child sex abuse material (CSAM). The primary defendant was arrested by Colombian officials for sex trafficking and CSAM production.



HSI Manila: During FY 2023, HSI, with CCHT and HSI Transnational Criminal Investigation Units, identified and assisted 10 minor sex trafficking victims in the Philippines. These organizations distributed CSAM through live streams with customers located worldwide, including in the United States. Four defendants were arrested for violations of Filipino law related to child sex trafficking.

Forced Labor Investigations Unit

In 2023, the CCHT stood up the Forced Labor Investigations Unit, with sections specializing in Forced Labor and Forced Labor in the Supply Chain to enhance HSI's labor trafficking investigations.

The unit provides dedicated support to HSI field offices, including:

- Developing and supporting case referrals for criminal investigations of forced labor and forced labor in the supply chain.
 - Designing and implementing effective training and outreach programs in support of domestic and international forced labor prevention efforts.
 - Coordinating and encouraging enforcement and prosecution in both domestic and foreign environments.
 - Fostering and enhancing relationships with key forced labor stakeholders in the private, government, and global sectors.
-
- The CCHT collaborates with other HSI Divisions to support forced labor investigations. In cases involving complex financial schemes, labor exploitation, fraud, debt bondage, or requiring victim services, the CCHT provides subject matter expertise. The CCHT also works with HSI's Global Trade Investigations Division to combat the importation of goods made with suspected forced labor. For example, in October 2023, HSI, in coordination with the CCHT, CBP, and HSI San Diego, conducted an operation at the Port of Otay Mesa targeting textile shipments. Fourteen samples were taken for testing, and one shipment was referred for possible duty evasion.
 - The CCHT continued its joint initiative with the HSI Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit to conduct investigations and outreach and to secure international cooperation in the investigation of human rights abuses and forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The initiative involves outreach to at-risk industries, encouraging companies and importers to be vigilant to prevent forced labor from entering their supply chains in violation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), [Public Law No. 117-78](#).
 - The CCHT is part of an interagency Forced Labor Initiative, the goal of which is to increase federal prosecutions of criminal forced labor violations. Under this initiative, the CCHT coordinates with DOJ's HTPU, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and DOL's Office of Inspector General, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Wage and Hour Division. Members meet monthly to identify significant investigations to support through specialized expertise and strategic guidance. The initiative has a substantial focus on forced child labor occurring in the United States and, for example, has been analyzing reports, complaints, and other indicators of potential trafficking of unaccompanied children to initiate and advance federal investigations. The initiative has yielded support for HSI investigations among U.S. Attorney's Offices.
 - Throughout FY 2023, the CCHT also participated in the [Healthcare and Public Health Critical Infrastructure Protection Partnership](#), an HHS led public/private partnership to inform, educate and help detect and deter forced labor within the public health sector supply chain. Goals include a compilation of current best practices, recommendations on anti-trafficking codes of conduct and policies for the healthcare sector, an [online resource tool](#) for healthcare professionals concerning forced labor in supply chains, and the development of health-sector specific recommendations on forced labor risk assessment and supply chain mapping.

- The CCHT engaged the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency’s (NOAA) Collaborative Accelerator for Lawful Maritime Conditions in Seafood public/private partnership.

Forced labor on fishing vessels harms fishermen and their families and disrupts the safety of seafood supply chains. Due to the nature of this working environment, labor abuses often go unreported, leading to a lack of support for the victims and a failure to prosecute the traffickers. The CCHT is collaborating on a joint outreach initiative aimed at highlighting labor trafficking crimes and educating victims on how to report them. The CCHT anticipates outreach materials to be released in FY 2024.



CBP Enforcement Efforts Against Forced Labor

In February 2023, in a coordinated effort to identify suspected human traffickers and their victims, CBP Vancouver’s Passenger Enforcement Roving Team, including HSI and the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), conducted Operation “All In 2,” in concert with Canadian foreign law enforcement partners, to interview and conduct secondary inspections on travelers who exhibited potential indicators of human trafficking while en route to the Super Bowl. The operation resulted in the initiation of several open, active investigations of human trafficking and other crimes.

Advancements in CBP’s Detection and Interception of Goods Produced with Forced Labor

WHAT IS A WITHHOLD RELEASE ORDER?

19 U.S.C. § 1307 prohibits the importation of merchandise produced wholly or in part by convict labor, forced labor, and/or indentured labor under penal sanctions, including forced or indentured child labor. CBP investigates allegations of forced labor in U.S. supply chains and issues Withhold Release Orders (WROs) that instruct personnel at ports of entry to detain shipments containing goods suspected of being made through forced labor. WROs are not outright bans. Pursuant to U.S. regulations, importers of detained shipments have an opportunity to demonstrate that the merchandise was not imported in violation of Section 1307 or to export or destroy their shipments.

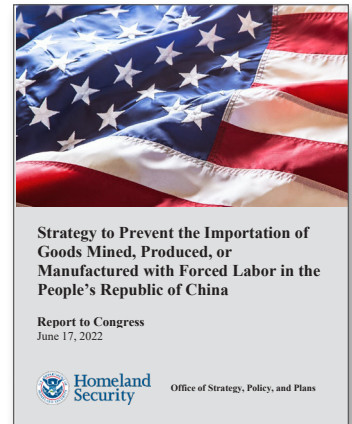


- In FY 2023, CBP stopped 4,415 shipments of goods, valued at over \$1.46 billion, suspected to have been made wholly or in part with forced labor. Of the shipments stopped, 4,053 shipments were subject to UFLPA reviews or enforcement actions. CBP denied 1,599 shipments valued at over \$292 million from entering U.S. commerce due to presumed UFLPA violations or importer’s failure to provide evidence to support the release of the shipments stopped for forced labor reviews. CBP released 1,648 shipments, and the remaining shipments were pending decision at time of publication.

- The overall number of shipments stopped for forced labor review in FY 2023 represent a 78% increase in value of shipments and a 21% increase in number of shipments compared to FY 2022.
- In FY 2023, CBP issued one WRO against Central Romana Corporation Limited (Dominican Republic) and issued modifications of three WROs: Sime Darby Plantations, YTY Industry Holdings and Smart Glove (all in Malaysia).⁴ Over the past three years, CBP’s forced labor enforcement efforts have resulted in the improvement of living and working conditions for tens of thousands of workers. In FY 2023, this included the repayment of approximately \$26 million in withheld wages and recruitment fees trapping workers in debt bondage.

Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF)

- [The interagency Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force \(FLETF\)](#), which is chaired by DHS and dedicated to monitoring enforcement of the prohibition on importing goods made with forced labor into the United States, added seven new entities to the [UFLPA Entity List](#) in FY 2023. Merchandise produced, wholly or in part, by entities on the UFLPA Entity List, or by entities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), are subject to a rebuttable presumption that they are prohibited by Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and are not entitled to entry to the United States. CBP is charged with the implementation and enforcement of the UFLPA rebuttable presumption.
- The DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans collaborated with the CCHT and other FLETF agencies to draft and submit to Congress the 2023 Updates to the [Strategy to Prevent the Importation of Goods Mined, Produced, or Manufactured with Forced Labor in the People’s Republic of China](#).



Both the report and updated UFLPA Entity List are available to the public via the [UFLPA website](#).

S&T Analytical Tools for Faster Human Trafficking Case Development

In FY 2023, DHS S&T digital forensic research and development provided DHS law enforcement with 45 analytic software tools, both new and updates to previously released versions. These tools generate human trafficking case leads, automating many manual processes for speech, text, and unstructured data analytics, computer vision triage capabilities, data visualization, and predictive models. HSI field offices using these tools reported a significant uptick in the number of investigations completed as a result.

The StreamView Tool provides HSI investigators with an automated means of rapidly searching massive amounts of unstructured livestream platform evidence related to online child exploitation, leading to much faster identification of perpetrators, recovery of victims, and reduction of time agents are exposed to disturbing material. Since 2021, StreamView has ingested and processed 15 warrants containing more than 6.3 million messages, 1.02 million media objects, and connections across 12,667 user accounts. It has contributed to the recovery of 65 minors and three adults. StreamView-based investigations have resulted in the dismantling of eight human trafficking networks, eight life sentences, and 44 arrests.

4. CBP issues modifications and suspends enforcement of WROs once it determines that the foreign entity subject to the WRO has remediated all indicators of forced labor. See CBP Factsheet on WRO Modifications at https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2023-Nov/How%20are%20WRO%20and%20or%20finding%20modifications_0.pdf

Prevention of Human Trafficking in DHS Contracts and Acquisitions

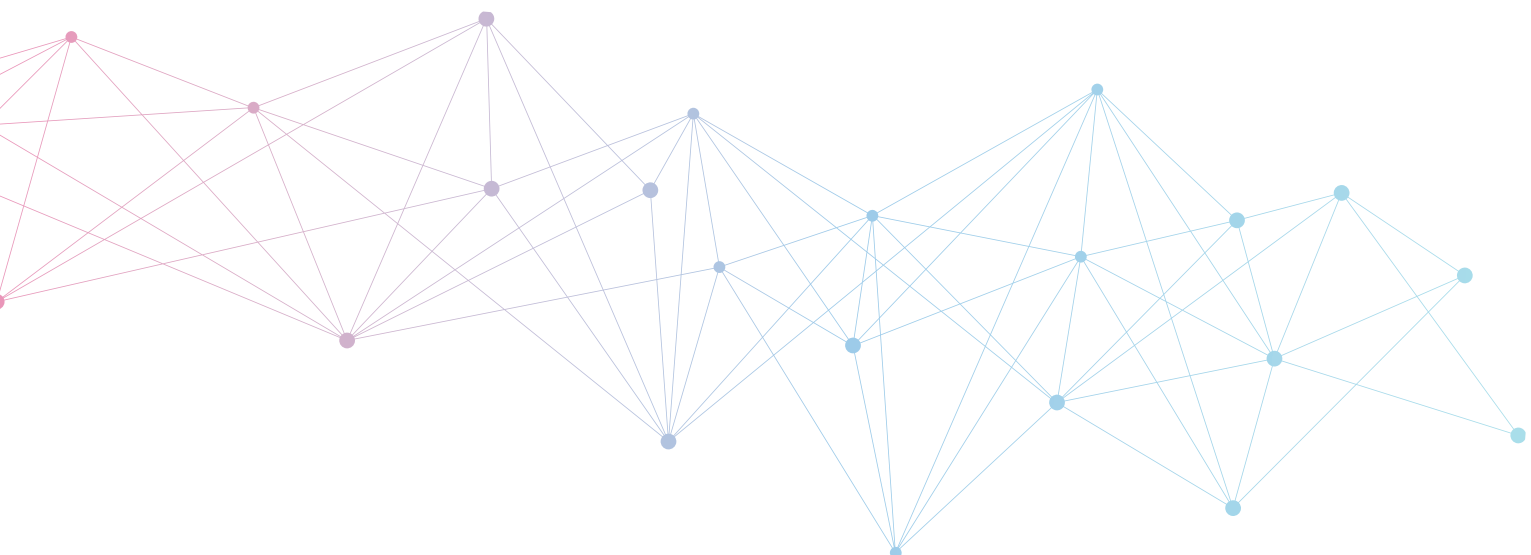
- The DHS Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), as the Senior Accountable Official for Preventing Human Trafficking in DHS Contracts and Acquisitions, established a functional working group of experts in acquisition, contract law, human trafficking, and suspension and debarment to create, maintain, and oversee the Department's implementation of related policies and best practices. In FY 2023, the working group revised procedures in the DHS Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Guidebook to ensure that CORs monitor day-to-day compliance with contract requirements and are actively engaged to prevent, report, and remedy any human trafficking or trafficking related activities in federal contracts.
- The CPO mandated that all members of the DHS Acquisition Workforce complete biennial training in combating trafficking in persons to maintain their Federal Acquisition Certification. During the current two-year training cycle, more than 6,100 acquisition workforce personnel have been trained, and the CPO expects to see all required personnel trained by May 2024.

DHS Office of General Counsel Debarment Actions

In FY 2023, DHS debarred 18 entities or individuals based on convictions of human trafficking offenses. Debarment refers to action taken by DHS suspension and debarment offices to exclude individuals and entities from participating in government contracts, loans, grants, and other federal assistance programs. It must be supported by information sufficient to warrant a reasonable belief that a particular act or omission has occurred, and it is a powerful tool to guard against violations of anti-human trafficking laws and regulations in DHS contracts, acquisitions, or financial awards. Although the debarred entities/individuals may not have been federal contractors when they committed the human trafficking offenses, once debarred, they are excluded from federal contracting as well as grants, loans, and insurance.

USCIS Language Support for Human Trafficking Investigations and Outreach

In FY 2023, USCIS language specialists assisted HSI by transcribing and translating recordings and other materials into English. This translation work provided HSI and prosecutors with critical evidence necessary to move forward with prosecuting human trafficking crimes. USCIS language specialists also translated human trafficking awareness materials into multiple languages to support outreach efforts.



TRAINING, OUTREACH, AND ENGAGEMENT

CCHT Training and Stakeholder/Interagency Engagement

In FY 2023, the CCHT hosted 135 training and outreach events, 99 domestic and 34 international, for approximately 14,350 stakeholders, more than doubling the number of participants from the prior year. Attendees included special agents, officers, program managers, analysts, victim assistance program specialists, forensic interview specialists, attorneys, HSI Attaché representatives, foreign service nationals, international law enforcement, and other personnel. Topics included advanced investigative strategies as well as general information for DHS employees to increase their awareness and understanding of countertrafficking efforts across the Department.

- In January 2023, the CCHT hosted its second annual DHS Human Trafficking Seminar — a two-day virtual training for DHS personnel who are part of the Department’s mission to end human trafficking and those interested in DHS’s counter-human trafficking efforts. The event featured more than 30 presenters and was attended by over 900 employees from across the Department.
- In August 2023, the CCHT hosted a three-day, in-person Advanced Human Trafficking Training for 80 investigators and others supporting human trafficking investigations. Topics included the state of HSI human trafficking investigations, sex trafficking and forced labor case studies, use of task forces in human trafficking investigations, courtroom strategies and preparation, victim interviewing, victims’ rights laws, the CP program, Blue Campaign resources, and engaging with victims and survivors. Presenters included HSI case agents and forensic interview specialists, Blue Campaign, Federal Air Marshals, HHS, DOL, CBP, DOJ’s HTPU, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), NGOs, and a human trafficking survivor with lived experience in labor trafficking.
- In September 2023, the CCHT provided training at the Victim Assistance Program Specialist Academy, a two-week training for new Victim Assistance Program Personnel nationwide. The CCHT instructed VAPSS on the CCHT, CP, and how the collaborative efforts of VAPSS and HSI Special Agents can assist victims and advance human trafficking investigations.
- The CCHT facilitated 34 training events for foreign stakeholders, including 14 training events in partnership with the Department of State International Law Enforcement Academies to train foreign counterparts in El Salvador, Hungary, Botswana, Ghana, Thailand, and Roswell, New Mexico.
- In FY 2023, the CCHT provided quarterly webinars on CP for law enforcement which have been widely attended by federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement and prosecutors. The webinars provide guidance on the importance of using CP to strengthen an investigation, how and when to apply for CP, and how CP supports the victim-centered approach.
- The CCHT also conducted two biannual webinars on CP for non-law enforcement including NGOs, victim advocates, immigration and civil attorneys, and other service providers.



- Overall, the CCHT conducted approximately 20 CP trainings during FY 2023 for more than 2,400 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, civil and immigration attorneys, service providers, victim advocates, and members of the public.

In addition to serving on the FLETF, the CCHT Director is the DHS representative to the interagency [Senior Policy Operating Group \(SPOG\)](#), which brings together federal agencies for a whole-of-government approach to countering human trafficking. The SPOG sponsors five standing committees and multiple *ad hoc* working groups to address substantive topics. During FY 2023, CCHT and DHS personnel served on or chaired several SPOG groups, including ones on Research and Data, Public Awareness and Outreach, Victim Services, Screening Forms and Protocols, and Procurement and Supply Chains, which developed useful guidance for government agencies and helped to advance the U.S. National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

CCHT Tribal Communities Engagement

In accordance with the DHS Secretary’s FY 2023 mission priority of strengthening relevant public-private partnerships, the CCHT engaged with Tribal communities throughout the year. CCHT staff:

- Joined the White House Council on Native American Affairs Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee, the DHS Consulting with Tribal Nations working group, and the DHS Working with Tribes mandatory training development working group.
- Featured a Native American speaker from the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition and DOJ’s Project Beacon at the CCHT’s January 2023 two-day virtual DHS-wide human trafficking seminar.
- Met with the Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council as well as federal and private agencies to inform on CCHT efforts and available resources related to Tribal communities and to seek out opportunities for collaboration.
- Attended Tribal events throughout the year to increase the CCHT’s cultural awareness and strengthen the Center’s relationship with Tribal communities.
- Provided consultation to the DHS Council on Combating Gender-Based Violence (CCGBV) on their development plan to engage Tribal communities and offer GBV training and resources.

The Blue Campaign is DHS’s national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the [indicators](#) of human trafficking and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. In FY 2023, as a result of the Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021, the DHS Blue Campaign transitioned from DHS’s Office of Partnership and Engagement to become part of the CCHT.

Blue Campaign Stakeholder Engagement, Outreach Materials, and Training



During FY 2023, the [Blue Campaign](#):

- Acquired 63 new partners in areas including industry, aviation, colleges and universities, youth serving organizations, and campus and school resource offices.

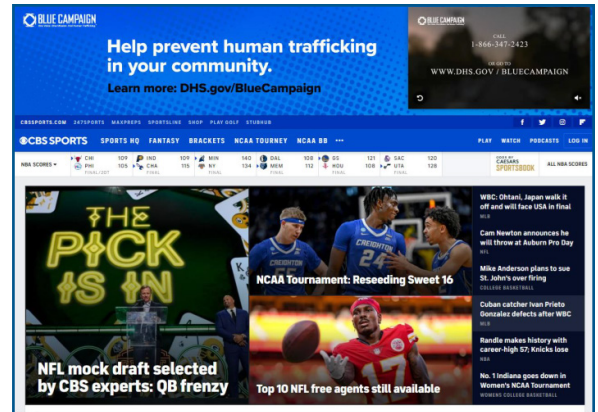
- Provided 194 human trafficking awareness presentations (a 66% increase from FY 2022) to more than 19,600 federal government, NGO, law enforcement, Congressional, and public attendees.
- Created additional outreach materials, including a two-part animated series for youth, a five-part video series featuring labor trafficking survivors, a casino training for front line employees, and a Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Toolkit.
- Created private industry indicator cards to provide indicators of potential victims and potential traffickers in the following industries:
 - Agriculture
 - Domestic Service
 - Financial
 - Hospitality
 - Maritime
 - Technology
 - Transportation
 - Working with Youth
- Added 27 new consultants to the Blue Campaign lived-experience expert consultant network, growing the network to 71 active consultants. Throughout FY 2023, Blue Campaign engaged with 54 consultants across in-person and virtual speaking engagements, written document reviews, research, and more.
- Hosted four virtual, seven in-person, and two hybrid events during Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Those included fireside chats with the DHS Secretary and CCHT Director, a Counter-Trafficking in Transportation event, a [Blue Lightning Initiative](#) aviation summit, virtual youth forum, and three human trafficking awareness webinars.

Blue Campaign Online and Ad Campaigns

- Blue Campaign’s digital ads resulted in 3.6 million clicks and 2,246 calls generated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and HSI Tip Line via Blue Campaign’s “Click to Call” campaign, whereby the tip line and hotline numbers appear in a Google search. With a single click, users can call either number from their mobile devices to report suspected human trafficking.
- The Campaign obtained 3.2+ million engagements on organic and paid social media content.
- In FY 2023, Blue Campaign executed 14 paid media campaigns, including:
 - A Native American campaign including billboards, digital panels, and posters reaching Native American youth and adults in Washington State, geographically targeted near Native American reservations and towns with high Native American populations, as well as audio PSA ads on radio stations reaching Alaska Native communities across the state of Alaska.



- A March Madness CBS campaign which ran through both live-streaming TV and on CBSsports.com, delivering educational messages to basketball fans and driving awareness of human trafficking and internet traffic to Blue Campaign’s main webpage during the highly watched NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. The live TV ads yielded 3.7 million completed views.
- Blue Campaign distributed 14 digital newsletters to reach the public with information about Blue Campaign activities, relevant news, CCHT updates, Blue Lightning Initiative highlights, and human trafficking recognition and response information. Subscribers to the newsletter increased by 1.1% in FY 2023, with over 112,000 contacts receiving the newsletter.
- In FY 2023 Blue Campaign processed 2,685 total orders for outreach materials, shipping more than 2.3 million individual items to requestors across the United States.



Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI)

The BLI is an element of the Blue Campaign led by the U.S. Department of Transportation and CBP. The BLI trains aviation personnel to identify potential traffickers and human trafficking victims and report their suspicions to federal law enforcement.

In FY 2023, the BLI:

- Expanded its partnership to 31 new partners for a total of 136 aviation industry organizations, including its first two official international partners.
- Trained over 260,897 individuals through its BLI awareness trainings.



USCIS Stakeholder Engagement

In FY 2023, USCIS held five engagements with external stakeholders highlighting T and U nonimmigrant status for victims of human trafficking and other qualifying criminal activity. The engagements covered program requirements, the role of law enforcement in the certification process, available USCIS resource guides, and answers to frequently asked questions. The events also referenced webinars and resources from the CCHT and Blue Campaign. The engagements reached over 600 stakeholders nationwide, including legal advocates, community-based organizations, state and local governments, the public, and law enforcement agencies.

CIS Ombudsman Engagement with Public and Victim Service Organizations

The Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman (CIS Ombudsman) serves as a liaison between the public and USCIS, helping individuals and employers resolve issues with USCIS, holding engagements to hear from the public about their experiences with USCIS, and identifying issues in the immigration system to make recommendations to USCIS for resolution.

In FY 2023, the CIS Ombudsman:

- Assisted 345 victims of human trafficking with their requests for immigration benefits from USCIS.
- Met with approximately 20 organizations that assist victims of human trafficking with immigration benefits.

USCIS FDNS Training Efforts

- In January 2023, USCIS FDNS provided an agency-wide virtual learning session on human trafficking awareness tailored for USCIS employees who regularly conduct in-person interviews, administer site visits at homes and businesses, and engage with members of the community. The session provided an overview of common indicators and how to report suspected human trafficking. Speakers from HSI and the HSI Victim Assistance Program shared their experiences and addressed participant questions. An estimated 600 USCIS employees attended.
- In August 2023, USCIS FDNS published a “Back to School” feature on human trafficking awareness developed with materials provided by the DHS Blue Campaign. The information was included in the FDNS Weekly newsletter to all USCIS personnel.
- During FY 2023, USCIS FDNS trained 118 FDNS officers attending the FDNS Officer Basic Training Program In-Residence (FOBTP-R) course. FOBTP-R includes a module titled “Interviewing for Criminal Investigators,” which teaches officers how to recognize indicators of human trafficking and includes a practical exercise using role players.

CBP Training and Outreach Efforts

- In June 2023, CBP Cairo coordinated a two-day BLI seminar for 75 aviation personnel from Egypt’s Civil Aviation Authority. The training focused on identifying suspected victims of trafficking and how to report suspicions to law enforcement.
- In July 2023, CBP’s Office of International Affairs developed a training module related to human trafficking and debt bondage and made it available to CBP attachés in Latin America and the Caribbean to share with international partners.
- In August 2023, the CBP Law Enforcement Representative for BLI provided an overview of human trafficking, indicators, reporting, and partnership to approximately 100 participants at the Global Business Travel Association annual conference in Dallas, Texas.
- Also in August 2023, the CBP Law Enforcement Representative for BLI participated in a panel at The International American Association of Airport Executives Conference of Americas in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The panel discussed human trafficking indicators, reporting, and partnership. Approximately 200 representatives from airports in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Ecuador, and Mexico attended.
- Throughout FY 2023, CBP Preclearance ports in Halifax and Montreal worked with U.S. and Canadian law enforcement partners to expand awareness of human trafficking. This has resulted in increased collaboration and identification of major trafficking networks operating throughout Canada and the United States and has led to several ongoing joint investigations by HSI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



CBP Outreach and Digital Tools to Increase Awareness of Forced Labor and UFLPA

In FY 2023, three key CBP initiatives were implemented to increase forced labor enforcement action transparency and awareness:

- In March 2023, CBP hosted the Forced Labor Technical Expo to allow industry to showcase the latest innovations in supply chain technology to help the international trade community improve trade transparency and compliance with trade laws, with an emphasis on compliance with laws against the importation of goods produced with forced labor and the UFLPA. Approximately 250 people attended in person and approximately 9,000 watched via livestream.
- Also in March 2023, CBP launched the [UFLPA Enforcement Statistics Dashboard](#) to the public. The interactive dashboard includes aggregated numbers and values as well as information on shipments, shipment counts, industry, countries of origin, and exam results for UFLPA enforcement actions.
- In FY 2023, CBP published several resources for importers on its website to provide clarity to importers and held over 500 engagements with industry, civil society, congressional, and other stakeholders to educate them on forced labor and the UFLPA.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Human Trafficking Training Initiatives

- In February 2023, TSA partnered with the BLI to provide virtual training to international airport and host government personnel. The virtual training allows TSA Attachés stationed throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and the Western Hemisphere to provide information to international stakeholders on how to identify human trafficking and report suspicions to federal law enforcement.
- In July 2023, TSA added in-person human trafficking awareness training to the required online training for Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service (LE/FAMS). The training was developed in cooperation with BLI and the CCHT. It educates LE/FAMS on the common indicators of human trafficking and how to respond to suspected cases, positioning LE/FAMS serving across various transportation domains as force multipliers in combating human trafficking.

S&T Research to Inform Future Blue Campaign Efforts

In FY 2023, S&T personnel published two papers documenting research on the DHS Blue Campaign:

- In June 2023, in the *Journal of Human Trafficking*, "[A Quasi-Experimental Intervention Trial to Test the Efficacy of a Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign: The Blue Campaign](#)," S&T documented findings on the effectiveness of specific videos developed as part of the Blue Campaign. The study found those who viewed Blue Campaign awareness videos significantly increased (two to four times) their knowledge of human trafficking compared to those who watched other videos.
- In August 2023, in the *Frontiers in Public Health* journal, "[Reframing human trafficking awareness campaigns in the United States: goals, audience, and content](#)," S&T documented its research with the Harvard School of Public Health evaluating the DHS Blue Campaign, identifying gaps in public awareness campaigns, reframing current approaches, and providing recommendations for future campaign efforts.

U.S. Secret Service (USSS) Education and Outreach to Combat Human Trafficking

The USSS increased the size of its [Childhood Smart](#) ambassador program to almost double in FY 2023, bringing the total to nearly 200 ambassadors. USSS ambassadors are trained by the NCMEC to bring education and awareness to children and adults on personal and internet safety, including topics related to the prevention of child sex trafficking.

In FY 2023, Ambassadors conducted 741 presentations and outreach events, reaching over 43,915 stakeholders, an increase of 122% over stakeholders reached in FY 2022.



Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) Training on Human Trafficking

FLETC trained more than 3,100 individuals in human trafficking awareness. The trainings provided front line law enforcement, support staff, and other stakeholders with the knowledge they need to recognize and properly respond to potential human trafficking situations.

IMAGE Program Training in Counter-Trafficking Awareness

HSI administers the [ICE Mutual Agreement Between Government and Employees \(IMAGE\)](#) program, which provides employers with solutions to foster workforce integrity and compliance with the law. All IMAGE partners receive an overview of key indicators of human trafficking and are encouraged to report suspected trafficking to authorities. In FY 2023, HSI, in cooperation with the CCHT, developed IMAGE posters for partners that now provide a QR code that links to the Blue Campaign website.

HSI Outreach in Mexico

HSI Guadalajara partnered with Mexican and international NGOs to plan and execute 31 days of human trafficking awareness events culminating on World Day Against Human Trafficking, July 30, 2023. Events took place each day in Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, and Chapala, considered human trafficking “red zones” by many international studies. The target audience included lawmakers, judges, law enforcement, first responders, civic leaders, social services workers, community activists, children, and other vulnerable members of the communities. Over 1,500 individuals were reached and provided with an overview of human trafficking indicators, HSI’s global role in countering human trafficking, and how to report suspected trafficking.

DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans UFLPA Outreach and Engagement

The DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans held 78 engagements regarding UFLPA during FY 2023, with civil society organizations (CSOs) and other NGOs, industry/trade associations, members of Congress, and foreign government representatives.

Among these was a hearing before the [Congressional-Executive Commission on China](#) on the FLETF's implementation of the UFLPA, and a CSO Workshop with more than 60 participants to discuss the FLETF's processes, challenges, and best practices in adding to the UFLPA Entity List.

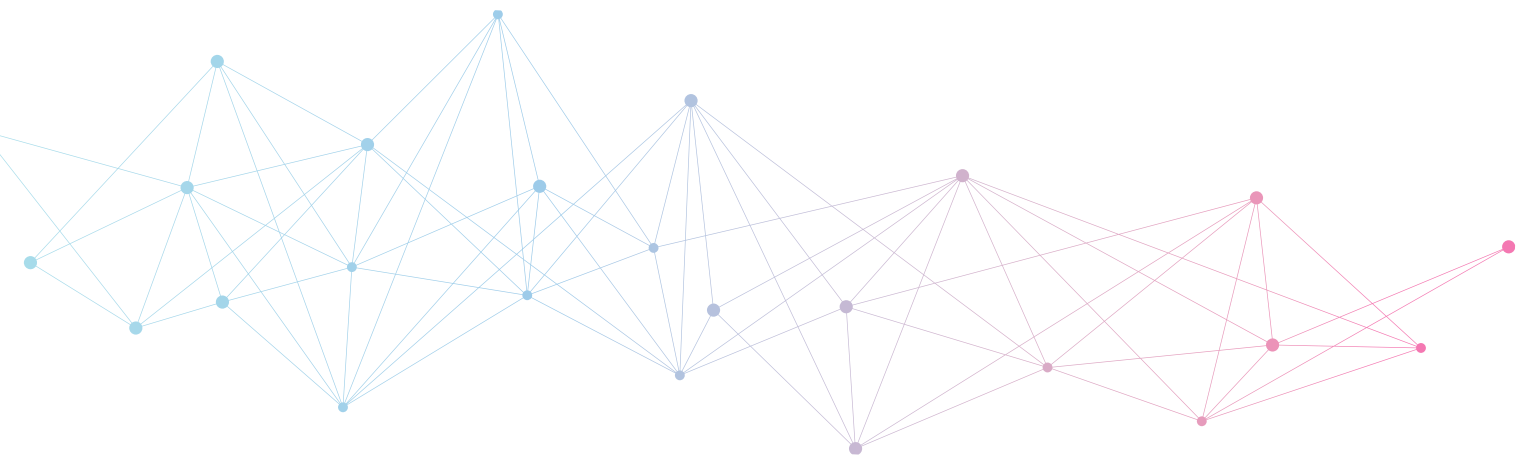
The DHS Undersecretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, as Chair of the FLETF, met with executive leaders of several top U.S. retailers to discuss due diligence on forced labor in supply chains.

USCG Training and Tabletop Exercise

- USCG Pacific Area planned and conducted its third forced labor and human trafficking tabletop exercise to hone the interagency response to the discovery of forced labor during inspection of a foreign fishing vessel outside of the [U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone](#). Participants included representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, DOS, DHS, and DOJ. Lessons learned from this exercise were leveraged to create a curriculum for a first-of-its-kind multinational maritime labor seminar in Montevideo, Uruguay in August 2023.
- In FY 2023, approximately 13,000 USCG personnel completed the DHS Blue Campaign Human Trafficking Awareness Training module to ensure they were best postured to identify potential indicators of human trafficking they may encounter while conducting maritime operations.

DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Training and Outreach

- In recognition of Human Trafficking Prevention Month, FEMA posted a blog entitled "[5 Ways We Can Work Together to Prevent Human Trafficking](#)." The article discusses how to recognize the indicators of trafficking to prevent human trafficking crimes.
- In January 2023, the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, in collaboration with DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement and FEMA, co-hosted the webinar, "[Preventing Human Trafficking in Disasters: What You Need to Know and How to Respond](#)" to provide information on adversely impacted communities after disasters and resources to help identify risk factors that may lead to human trafficking. More than 850 individuals registered for the webinar.
- Also in January, 2023, an Op-Ed written by the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Deputy Director, "[The Role of Community in Preventing Human Trafficking](#)," was published in *Christianity Today*, with a readership of 260,000, and featured on FEMA's Twitter feed.
- In September 2023, a [list of 5 tips](#) to help emergency managers build partnerships with faith-based organizations was published by the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



APPENDIX

ACRONYMS

CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CCHT	DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
ERO	Enforcement and Removal Operations
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLETC	Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
HSI	Homeland Security Investigations
ICE	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
LE/FAMS	Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service
NCMEC	National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency
OPE	Office of Partnership and Engagement
S&T	Science and Technology Directorate
TSA	Transportation Security Administration
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
USSS	U.S. Secret Service

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Report suspected human trafficking to DHS law enforcement by calling the HSI Tip Line at **1-866-347-2423.**



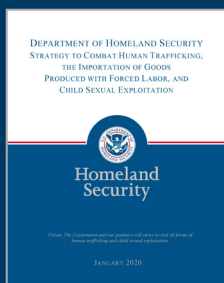
Visit the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking [website](#) to learn more about our Department-wide efforts to combat human trafficking.



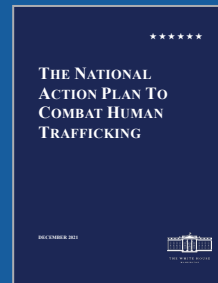
GET HELP from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling **1-888-373-7888** or texting **HELP** or **INFO** to **233733 (BEFREE)**.



Raise awareness of human trafficking in your community using DHS Blue Campaign resources on DHS.gov/BlueCampaign and follow DHS Blue Campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and X @DHSBlueCampaign.



Read the [DHS Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation](#).



Read the [White House National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#).

Stay informed about imported goods produced with forced labor at <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor> and report allegations of forced labor trade violations via <https://eallegations.cbp.gov/s/>.





Center for Countering Human Trafficking

2/2024