



Homeland Security

Blue Campaign

DHS BLUE CAMPAIGN STAKEHOLDER EVENT SUMMARY – JANUARY 11, 2012

On January 11, 2012, The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) held a stakeholder event to recognize National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. As part of the event, federal agency officials from the Departments of Justice (DOJ), Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS), Transportation (DOT) and Homeland Security gave opening remarks, then yielded the floor for agency subject matter experts to participate in a moderated listening session on issues related to victim services and ongoing efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking. More than 150 individuals from federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, associations, local government and a foreign embassy attended the event. Representatives from more than 40 NGOs were present.

FEDERAL PARTICIPANTS

Senior Officials

David Aguilar

Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Roy L. Austin, Jr.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Dr. Alexander Garza

Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Alice Hill

Senior Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Kumar Kibble

Deputy Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Dr. Gabriela Lemus

Senior Advisor and Director of the Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Labor

Lori Scialabba

Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

George Sheldon

Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Marlise Streitmatter

Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Transportation

Quintan Wiktorowicz

Senior Director for Community Partnerships, White House National Security Staff

Federal Offices Represented by Subject Matter Experts

Department of State (DOS) Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
DOJ Civil Rights Division, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit
DOJ Office for Victims of Crime
DOL Employment and Training Administration
DOL Wage and Hour Division
DOL Office of the Inspector General
DOL International Labor Affairs Bureau
HHS ACF Family and Youth Services Bureau
HHS ACF Office of Refugee Resettlement
DOT Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Systems Operation Security
DHS U.S. Customs and Border Protection
DHS Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
DHS ICE Homeland Security Investigations, Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit
DHS ICE Homeland Security Investigations, Victim Assistance Program
DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
DHS Office of Health Affairs
DHS USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy
DHS USCIS Vermont Service Center
Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center

DHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary and Chair of the DHS Blue Campaign, announced new human trafficking trainings for the general [public](#) and the [U.S. Government acquisition workforce](#), developed by DHS in partnership with DOS. She asked that stakeholders share these trainings widely. Counselor Hill also announced the launch of human trafficking awareness training for DHS employees.

Lori Scialabba, Deputy Director of USCIS, announced an increase in T Visas issued in 2011 and that the annual cap of 10,000 principal applicant U Visas was met in 2011 for the second year in a row. USCIS also created a one-page document on T and U Visas to educate law enforcement officers as well as a video featuring trafficking survivors. The goal of the video is to encourage victims to seek help. The video is available [online](#) and on the [USCIS YouTube channel](#).

Kumar Kibble, Deputy Director for ICE, discussed progress made in combating trafficking in 2011. ICE enhanced its ability to serve victims by increasing the number of forensic interviewers and conducting more investigations than ever – over 700 investigations with a nexus to human trafficking and recorded more than 930 arrests, 400 indictments and 270 convictions.

David Aguilar, Acting Commissioner of CBP, announced the launch of the Blue Lightning Initiative in collaboration with the Department of Transportation. The Blue Lightning Initiative provides U.S. commercial airlines and their employees with training on how to identify potential human trafficking victims and a voluntary reporting mechanism to notify federal authorities through an in-flight reporting protocol.



Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, announced new awareness and outreach efforts to first responders – a group uniquely positioned to come in contact with vulnerable and exploited populations. The Office of Health Affairs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s U.S. Fire Administration collaborated to create an educational video, posters and wallet-sized indicator cards. This initiative was a direct result of feedback from the last Blue Campaign stakeholder event.

AGENCY REMARKS

Each senior official spoke about their department’s role in preventing and combating human trafficking and providing services to victims:

Marlise Streitmatter, Deputy Chief of Staff for DOT, highlighted DOT’s commitment to preventing human trafficking from happening on a bus, plane or train. DOT has partnered with DHS on the Blue Lightning Initiative and plans to train its own employees, raise awareness among state and local Departments of Motor Vehicles and expand its work internationally.

George Sheldon, Acting Assistant Secretary for HHS’s Administration for Children and Families (ACF), spoke about HHS’s responsibility to certify foreign victims of human trafficking and assist them in accessing services and benefits. He also discussed ACF’s role in providing resources to domestic victims including both runaway and homeless youth and those who have experienced domestic violence. He discussed HHS’ funding of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline, which serves both foreign and domestic victims and received 11,000 calls during 2011.

Roy L. Austin Jr., Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, spoke about DOJ’s victim-centered approach and its recognition of the need to ensure victims’ safety. Last year, DOJ prosecuted 117 defendants for human trafficking – more than ever before. It has also seen a 30% increase in defendants over the last three years.

Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Senior Advisor and Director of DOL’s Office of Public Engagement, spoke about DOL’s focus on labor-related aspects of trafficking. DOL is responsible for calculating restitution for victims, enforcing labor laws and guest worker certification rules, in addition to providing employment and training services to victims and working internationally to prevent trafficking through technical assistance projects, engagement, research and monitoring.

Quintan Wiktorowicz, Senior Director for Community Partnerships on the White House National Security Staff, announced his new office’s plans to prioritize combating human trafficking. The office aims to maximize the government’s ability to collaborate with individuals, families, civil society, the private sector, and all levels of government to prevent domestic violent extremism and promote other homeland security priorities such as combating human trafficking.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Stakeholders provided feedback to federal agencies on how they can support victims and focus outreach on additional target areas. Below is a description of the feedback received and the federal subject matter experts' initial responses:

Develop a government-wide process to create and maintain data on all victims encountered.

The Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center is reviewing internal processes to enhance accountability of victims and services provided to them, and to identify trafficking trends and methodologies.

DHS ICE Homeland Security Investigations is developing an internal victim database that will capture information on victims of federal crime encountered and assisted in HSI investigations.

Ensure that in-flight reporting protocols for suspected human trafficking are in place for airlines.

DHS and DOT are currently working with several airlines to finalize training and implement the standard in-flight protocols.

Partner with faith-based organizations to raise awareness.

DHS is working with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to increase its anti-trafficking outreach to faith-based organizations. On January 19th, DHS co-hosted a call to faith-based organizations with the White House, reaching over 200 participants. Using DHS and the White House will continue to work on victim support issues and how to partner with faith-based communities. Faith-based organizations are also encouraged to visit the Blue Campaign Website (www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking) to access materials they can use in their outreach efforts.

Build cultural sensitivity into awareness and victim outreach activities.

There are few materials available today that address cultural awareness, as it relates to understanding U.S. laws related to trafficking. The DHS-DOS general trafficking awareness training clearly outlines trafficking laws, and organizations are encouraged to use this training in their outreach. Agencies will explore integrating cultural sensitivity into new awareness materials.

Address the needs of domestic victims and work at the local level to make sure vulnerable populations are not overlooked.

DHS has a private sector toolkit to help businesses identify trafficking and take action to address the issue. DOL works with the business community to get reports of competitors who are victimizing workers, and act on them. DHS and DOL will work with interagency partners and the private sector to explore how to better target training and outreach to address domestic trafficking.

Improve law enforcement’s understanding of how and when to use Continued Presence.

DHS continues to work with state and local law enforcement to increase understanding of Continued Presence as a tool for law enforcement to keep trafficking victims in the U.S. temporarily in support of investigations and ensure it is used effectively and appropriately. DHS produced state and local law enforcement training last year. Included in the materials provided to all stakeholder participants was a brochure on Continued Presence that is distributed as part of DHS’ training and outreach and is available [online](#).

Hold issue-specific stakeholder meetings more frequently – and include a meeting on runaway youth and data collection.

HHS and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are working together to capture data about runaway youth. This information will be used to develop resources for runaway youth and a strategy to keep children safe.

Focus efforts on many different types of victims, rather than addressing only one category of victims.

DHS has developed materials for different audiences who may be in a position to detect trafficking. It has also made efforts to create materials for at-risk populations, and will continue to explore opportunities to expand outreach.

Increase outreach targeted towards those who have been detained.

ICE has created a new intake tool for all detainees. Every detainee will be asked questions regarding victimization, including with respect to human trafficking. This tool is in the pilot stages and will be rolling out over the coming months.

RESOURCES

- To access training materials, resources, and general information on DHS anti-human trafficking efforts: www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking
- To ask questions of DHS law enforcement experts: ICEHumanTrafficking.HelpDesk@dhs.gov
- To request training on T and U visas and the Violence Against Women Act: T-U-VAWATraining@dhs.gov
- For information and resources on immigration benefits for victims of human trafficking and other crimes: www.uscis.gov/humantrafficking
- To contact the DHS ICE Victim Assistance Program: victimassistance.ice@dhs.gov
- To request awareness materials or additional information about the DHS Blue Campaign and to sign up for updates and invitations to stakeholder meetings: BlueCampaign@dhs.gov
- To receive Blue Campaign updates, “Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluecampaign
- To find workforce services or locate a One-Stop Career Center in your neighborhood or across the country: <http://www.servicelocator.org/>
- For information sponsored by DOL about employment and training services and opportunities: <http://www.careeronestop.org/>
- To learn more about how to create or strengthen a multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking task force in your community: <http://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide>