

State of Connecticut General Assembly



Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons

Senator Andrea L. Stillman, Chair

Report Prepared by the Permanent Commission
on the Status of Women

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Jennifer Bott and Kim Sokoloff, Court Support Services Division; Sarah Bowllan and Kathy Maskell, Justice for Children International; Rudy Brooks, Antonio Donis and William Rivera, Department of Children and Families; Nancy B. Cabelus, Forensic Nurse Educator Consultant; Lori A. Caswell, Child Advocate of Connecticut Intern; Dana Clark and Christine Rapillo, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Larry DeLong; Office of Adult Probation; Kathey Fowler, Windham Regional Community Council; Shaleen Horrocks, Gianna Johnston and Amy Linkovich, Paul & Lisa Program, Inc.; Tracy Kelley, Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Sharlene Kerelejza and Carissa Simpson, Women & Families Center; Sergeant Paul Killoran and Julie Mooney, CT State Police; Officer Jillian Knox and Detective Susie Simmons, New Haven Police Department; Valerie Leal, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Dorian Long, Department of Social Services; Jennifer Lopez, Interval House; Allison McConnell, International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.; Barbara Moynihan, Quinnipiac University; Sister Linda Pepe and Mary Alice Synkewecz, The Collaborative Center for Justice; Bridget Reilly and Nicole Steward, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; Bill Ruffeth, Catholic Charities; Tonya Stoute, E.C. Goodwin High School; and, Frank Sykes, African American Affairs Commission

Introduction

What is Human Trafficking?

The definition of human trafficking found in *P.A. 04-8, An Act Establishing an Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons*, and used by the Task Force as a basis for its research is:

... all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

While the Task Force was established to study the problem of human trafficking in Connecticut, members did review national and international trafficking data as a starting point. According to the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report produced by the U.S. Department of State, between 600,000 and 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year.¹ Of that number, it is estimated that 80% of the victims are female and up to 50% are children.² A majority of these victims were trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation.³ Approximately 14,500 – 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.⁴

Since January 2001, the Department of Justice has opened 555 investigations of federal human trafficking statutes. Of the 555 investigations, 58% were investigated for offenses under the Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as follows: 24% for forced labor; 23% for sex trafficking of children; 9% for trafficking slaves; and, 2% for unlawful conduct or general provisions. Between 2001 and 2005, 377 matters were closed and 146 suspects were prosecuted in these closed matters; 75 defendants were convicted under human trafficking statutes.⁵

Nature and Extent of Human Trafficking in Connecticut

The federal government has recognized that the United States is a “destination country” for traffickers. However, human trafficking is not a problem isolated to states with “major” U.S. cities. Connecticut possesses many attributes that make it an attractive location for traffickers. There are two interstate highways running between Boston and New York City, both prime

¹ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Publication 11335, June 2006, p. 6; accessed 12/06 at www.state.gov/g/tip.

² *Ibid*, p. 19.

³ *Ibid*.

⁴ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 2004.

⁵ Cite for paragraph: U.S. Department of Justice. “Federal Prosecution of Human Trafficking, 2001-2005,” October 2006, NCJ215248, accessed 12/06 at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/fpht05.htm>.

locations for trafficking, as well as an international airport. There are also three marine ports on Long Island Sound which could be utilized by traffickers.

Determining the extent of human trafficking in Connecticut and its impact on our residents and communities has continued to be one of the biggest challenges that the Task Force has faced. There is anecdotal evidence from service providers and law enforcement personnel that traffickers are transporting victims to Connecticut for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Members of the Task Force providing services to immigrants, sexual assault victims, and children who have been abused or neglected, suspect that they have encountered trafficking victims.

Connecticut's Response

Connecticut began to address the issue of human trafficking in 2003 when then-Representative Andrea L. Stillman (she has since been elected as a Senator) hosted a briefing and convened a Legislative Study Committee to further explore the nature and extent of human trafficking in Connecticut. As a result of the Legislative Study Committee's recommendations, the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons was convened in October, 2004 by then-Representative Stillman. The Task Force includes elected officials, law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, community-based advocates, and providers of services to victims. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), a non-partisan, legislative commission of the Connecticut General Assembly provides staff support to the Task Force.

In January 2006, The Task Force proposed six recommendations to the Legislature: enact a state-level anti-trafficking statute; increase public awareness; provide funding to service providers who assist victims; train law enforcement and social service providers; establish a data collection and analysis system; and, continue the Task Force to develop recommendations for victim services.

The Task Force's recommendations were proposed as bills during the Legislative Session and many passed in *PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking In Persons (sS.B. 153)*. Effective July 1, 2006, this law created a criminal statute to categorize trafficking in persons as a class B felony under state law. It also enhances civil penalties. This law authorizes the attorney general to file suit, at the labor commissioner's request, against an employer who employs workers he knows are being coerced by someone else to work for him. Violators may be fined up to \$10,000 for each violation. It also allows victims to file suit for either (1) their actual damages or (2) statutory damages up to \$1,000 for each day they were coerced to work or engage in prostitution. In either case, the trafficker must pay the victim's reasonable attorney's fees.

This law also continued the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons for another year, increased membership to include the Judicial Branch

and the Victim Advocate, and expanded the scope of issues that the task force must address to include developing recommendations to address access to rights, benefits and services for victims of trafficking. Finally, it provided funding to the Police Officers Standards Training Council and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to develop a training program and make it available to the Division of State Police, the Chief State's Attorney, local police departments and community organizations; to the Chief State's Attorney to provide protective services; and, to the Office of Victim Services to contract with community providers for services to victims.

Three committees, the Adult Forced Labor Committee, the Adult Sex Trafficking Committee, and the Children Services Committee were formed to develop recommendations to address access to rights, benefits and services for victims of trafficking. Committee reports are provided on page 13.

Since the Task Force's inception, there has been a significant increase in collaboration among law enforcement agencies at all levels, as well as between law enforcement agencies and service providers. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut established a trafficking task force consisting of that office and members of the state police, local police departments, social service agencies and the CT Task Force. This federal task force meets every two to three months and members coordinate efforts on a case-by-case basis. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut also provides training to state and local police departments on trafficking. Additionally, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) worked closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut to secure a federal grant in the amount of \$448,983 over three years provided by the U.S. Department of Justice to be used for investigative purposes and training.

There is federal funding to provide victim services and education and outreach. The International Institute of Connecticut, Inc. (IIC) received a \$500,000 grant from the US Department of Justice, via the Office of Victim of Crime, to provide services, and education and outreach over a three year period ending December 2008. IIC and the Women and Families Center of Meriden receive additional funding from the US Health & Human Services Department, via a subcontract with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, to provide services for victims after certification.

The State Refugee Coordinator distributes funds to Catholic Charities in Hartford, Interfaith in New Haven, IIC in lower Connecticut, and Jewish Family Services to assist refugees. Victims of trafficking are treated as refugees once they are certified by the federal government. Upon certification, victims are eligible to receive support services such as medical care, financial assistance, food assistance, work authorization assistance, housing assistance, transportation assistance, language training, and case management.

Final Recommendations

The following are five recommendations proposed by the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons:

1. ***Establish contractual relationships with other state agencies or non-governmental agencies to coordinate efforts to assist victims of trafficking.***

Once victims of trafficking are identified, a variety of resources will be needed to assist the victims on an emergency basis. If the state contracts with an agency and that agency becomes the main point of contact, it could compile information and resources that would allow law enforcement, legal services and social service providers to quickly access the appropriate resources. Additionally, it could oversee training, public awareness, and education and outreach efforts. A proposed statute is included in this report as Appendix D.

2. ***Establish interagency protocols and collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement, state and governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and non-governmental organizations.***

Effective provision of services to victims requires coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement, state and local governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and non-governmental organizations. No protocols exist to guide these entities in collaborating to develop a comprehensive approach to assist victims.

Initially, interagency collaboration should focus on developing: a model screening tool for identifying victims; a uniform curriculum to address rights and services for victims; an action plan once victims are identified; a list of emergency services; and, providing adequate mental health services.

3. ***Increase public awareness and outreach by training law enforcement, social service providers, and non-governmental organizations; and, developing a public awareness campaign.***

Public awareness and outreach are an important part of an over-all strategy to identify and assist victims of trafficking. The first phase of a public awareness and outreach campaign should entail training for all professionals who may have direct contact with victims of trafficking. The second phase of a public awareness and outreach campaign should entail developing a state-wide campaign to raise awareness in the general public.

4. Provide funding to service providers who assist victims.

Adequate funding will be essential to properly assist victims of human trafficking with basic needs, medical, legal, and translation services. Service providers, non-governmental organizations, and faith based organizations will be an integral part of providing these services. It is recommended that the funding provided to the Office of Victim Services in *PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking In Persons* be continued in order to reimburse community providers for victim assistance services; and the definition of services be broadened to including housing and translation services.

5. Establish a Trafficking in Persons Council.

Establish a Trafficking in Persons Council to continue the collaboration of the existing Task Force. An on-going Trafficking in Persons Council will allow for continued collaboration and progress, including but not limited to providing a forum for updates and progress reports as the anti-trafficking statute is enforced, developing mechanisms to ensure that victims are provided adequate services and representation in legal matters, and identifying the needs and services of children of the trafficking victims. Membership should continue to include members of the current Task Force, who are representatives from all state law enforcement agencies, local police, state and local governmental agencies, non-governmental service providers, and advocates for immigrant and refugee communities. A proposed statute is included in this report as Appendix C.

Committee Reports

The Adult Forced Labor Committee, the Adult Sex Trafficking Committee, and the Children Services Committee were formed to allow members of the Task Force and the public to focus on the areas in which they had expertise. The committees concentrated on developing recommendations to address access to rights, benefits and services for victims of trafficking; identifying criteria for providing victim services; and, implementing approaches to increase public awareness of trafficking.

The Committee reports outline the specific issues that each committee discussed. Detailed strategies are compiled on page 15.

Adult Forced Labor Committee Report

John A. McCarthy, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Labor, chaired the Adult Forced Labor Committee. Committee members include: Dana Clark, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Angel Feng, Greater Hartford Legal Aid; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Department of Social Services; Rich Kehoe, Office of the Attorney General; Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Office of the Chief Public Defender; and Cynthia Theran, Court Support Services Division.

The Adult Forced Labor Committee discussed the following issues:

- Need for training of field staff
- Need for public awareness and outreach and the development of public information materials
- Need for legal representation for all victims on a variety of legal issues, including criminal defense representation
- Need for a centralized agency to coordinate efforts when a suspected victim is identified
- Coordination between service providers and local, culturally-based community providers

Adult Sex Trafficking Committee Report

Lisa Holden, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, chaired the Adult Sex Trafficking Committee. Committee members include: Hakima Bey, Office of the Victim Advocate; Linda J. Cimino, Office of Victim Services; Dana Clark, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Angel Feng, Greater Hartford Legal Aid; Kathey Fowler, Windham Regional Community Council; Shaleen Horrocks, Paul & Lisa Program, Inc.; Tracey Kelly, Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Sharlene Kerelejza, Women and Families Center; Paul Killoran, Connecticut State Police; Jillian Knox, New Haven Police Department; Nancy Kushins, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; Valerie Leal, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Amy Linkovich, Paul & Lisa Program, Inc.; Dorian Long, Department of Social Services; Barbara Moynihan, Quinnipiac University; Jim Papillo, Office of the Victim Advocate;

Linda Pepe, Collaborative Center for Justice, Inc.; Barbara Pickett, Department of Public Health; Shymala Raman, Saint Joseph College; Jane F. Rodas, International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.; Mary Alice Synkewecz, Collaborative Center for Justice; and Cynthia Theran, Court Support Services Division.

The Adult Sex Trafficking Committee discussed the following issues:

- Points of entry for victims of trafficking
- Need for a public awareness campaign
- Need for a centralized agency to provide resources and materials to services providers when interacting with potential trafficking victims
- Need for legal representation for all victims on a variety of legal issues, including criminal defense representation
- Funding for the continuation of the Task Force, in the form of a state council, to conduct trainings, a public awareness campaign, and direct services.

Children Services Committee Report

Jeanne Milstein, Child Advocate of Connecticut, chaired the Children Services Committee. Committee members include: Jennifer Bott, Court Support Services Division; Sarah Bowllan, Justice for Children International; Rudy Brooks, Department of Children and Families; Nancy B. Cabelus, Forensic Nurse Educator Consultant; Lori A. Caswell, Office of the Child Advocate; Dana Clark, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Larry DeLong, Office of Adult Probation; Don DeVore, Department of Children and Families; Antonio Donis, Department of Children and Families; Paul Killoran, Connecticut State Police; Kathy Maskell, Justice for Children International; Allison McConnell, International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.; Christine Rapillo, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Renee Redman, American Civil Liberties Union Connecticut; Bridget Reilly, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; William Rivera, Department of Children and Families; Bill Ruffeth, Catholic Charities; Carissa Simpson, Women and Families Center; Kim Sokoloff, Court Support Services Divisions; Nicole Steward, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; Tonya Stoute, E.C. Goodwin High School; Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Office of the Chief Public Defender; Frank Sykes, African American Affairs Commission; and Cynthia Theran, Court Support Services Division.

The Children Services Committee discussed the following issues:

- Need for training individuals who work with children to identify victims
- Need for interagency collaboration of state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement to develop protocols, screening tools, action plans, and resource materials
- Need for a public awareness campaign and materials
- Need to consider the needs and services of children of trafficking victims

Task Force Recommendations and Strategies

The Adult Forced Labor Committee, the Adult Sex Trafficking Committee, and the Children Services Committee issued recommendations and several strategies to implement the recommendations.

1. *Establish contractual relationships with other state agencies or non-governmental agencies to coordinate efforts to assist victims of trafficking.*

Once victims of trafficking are identified, a variety of resources will be needed to assist the victims on an emergency basis. If the state contracts with an agency and that agency becomes the main point of contact, it could compile information and resources that would allow law enforcement, legal services and social service providers to quickly access the appropriate resources. Additionally, it could oversee training, public awareness, and education and outreach efforts. A proposed statute is included in this report as Appendix D.

Ideally, the agencies would be able to connect victims with more local, culturally-based organizations to begin to establish a sense of trust and safety for the victim. The Committees recommend a shared responsibility approach whereby the department would provide resources, materials, and technical assistance while the supporting organizations would disseminate materials and conduct trainings and outreach activities. A proposed statute is included in this report as Appendix D.

2. *Establish interagency protocols and collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement, state and governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and non-governmental organizations.*

A victim's point of entry for services may occur in a number of ways, including through law enforcement, state and local governmental agencies, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, non-profit victim assistance agencies, urgent care medical facilities, ethnic community-based organizations or groups, faith based organizations, schools, community recreational centers, child welfare agencies, and the juvenile justice system. These agencies should establish protocols to ensure collaboration and coordination of enforcement and services which are consistent with the legal rights of the victim.

When the victim's point of entry is law enforcement, the victim may be referred to the International Institute of Connecticut, Inc. The Institute works with law enforcement, as well as other social service providers, to coordinate a full range of services for trafficking victims in the State. The Committee recognized that it can take a great deal of time to develop trust and to build relationships with victims. The Committee further recognized that housing victims during the period of time required to develop said trust remains a challenge.

Domestic violence shelters may encounter victims of trafficking through the 24-hour hotline. These agencies provide housing, basic medical needs and legal services for family violence and immigration issues. Faith-based organizations have collaborated with shelters to provide housing and resources. Rape Crisis Centers may encounter victims through the 24-hour hotline or as a walk-in. Centers provide safety planning, medical services and interpreter needs. The Committee determined that there is a need for (1) staff training on screening trafficking victims, (2) additional interpreters and legal services, and (3) victim compensation for trafficking victims.

Common components of child trafficking are exploitation, forced sex, and forced labor. Children can be lured from their countries of origin under false pretenses or might fall victim to exploitation after they arrive in a foreign country. Children are exploited in many different ways, including prostitution, as drug mules, as domestic servants in sweatshops or restaurant work, through organized begging and pick-pocketing gangs, and as a result of forced marriage.⁶

Child victims are extremely difficult to identify because the trafficker, who uses fear to coerce victims to follow demands, also heavily supervises them. The trafficking victims' access to outside individuals is especially limited. Often child victims are overlooked because they present official documentation stating that they are adults when in fact they are well-coached minors. Child victims of international or domestic origin may be identified through schools, community centers, state and local governmental agencies, child welfare agencies or the juvenile justice system. It is speculated that some cases investigated as abuse and neglect may have actually involved trafficking.

Coordination of Efforts

Effective provision of services to victims requires coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement, state and local governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Law enforcement is the most likely to detect trafficking because it is often part of a larger criminal enterprise. Child welfare agencies are the most likely to detect child trafficking victims when investigating abuse and neglect complaints or interacting with the juvenile justice system. Other state and local governmental agencies, such as social service providers and field staff, and non-governmental organizations are the most likely to identify victims of trafficking that have not had contact with law enforcement or the child welfare system; and, the most likely to provide benefits and services to victims of trafficking.

No protocols exist to guide law enforcement, state and local governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, social service providers, and non-governmental organizations in collaborating to develop a comprehensive approach to assist

⁶ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Publication 11335, June 2006, p. 7; accessed 12/06 at www.state.gov/g/tip.

victims. Protocols must be developed to avoid jurisdictional conflicts between state and federal law enforcement, and the duplication of efforts by state and local social service providers and non-governmental organizations.

Ethnic community-based organizations and faith-based organizations are severely underutilized at this time. These organizations are more likely to encounter adult and child trafficking victims because the victims are within their communities. Often traffickers allow victims limited access to the community and churches. Therefore, education and training must begin in these environments.

Initially, interagency collaboration should focus on developing: a model screening tool for identifying victims; a uniform curriculum to address rights and services for victims; an action plan once victims are identified; a list of emergency services; providing legal services, and adequate mental health services.

3. *Increase public awareness and outreach by training law enforcement, social service providers, and non-governmental organizations; and, developing a public awareness campaign.*

Training on identifying victims should be provided to all professionals who may have contact with victims of trafficking to strengthen prevention, detection and prosecution of human trafficking in Connecticut.

Identifying Victims

Efforts must be made to screen vulnerable groups of people in order to identify victims of trafficking. Few victims are willing to identify themselves upon initial contact with law enforcement authorities or social service providers. They are fearful of real or imagined reprisals and are still undergoing trauma from their trafficking experience.

Target Audience

The target audience is broad: law enforcement; state and local governmental agencies, health care professionals, primarily in urgent care facilities; social service providers; schools; domestic violence shelters; rape crisis centers; non-profit victim assistance agencies; community-based organizations; the faith community; community recreational facilities; immigration attorneys; Connecticut Department of Labor field staff.

It is essential that trainers *partner* with local cultural community providers that may have access to victims. These providers have the personal and cultural knowledge to facilitate trainers in building trust in the communities.

Increase Public Awareness And Outreach

Public awareness will lead to an increase in the number of identified trafficking victims and will help those victims receive the benefits and services needed to live safely in the U.S.

The first phase of a public awareness campaign should target the audience listed in the previous section because these individuals are more likely to encounter victims on a daily basis. These individuals will be trained to recognize and assist victims of trafficking.

A multidisciplinary coordinated community response (CCR) is one of the best ways for communities to respond to help victims of trafficking. Developing a community response to human trafficking will require the collaboration of many persons, agencies and organizations. State agencies and community-based organizations that may come in contact with trafficked victims should provide the following services, resources and/or referrals:

- Produce and obtain materials in the primary language of identified victims.
- Produce a brochure that provides information about resources available for victims.
- Produce pocket cards with contact numbers to victim assistance agencies.
- Include information about trafficking, its victims and perpetrators in organization newsletters, on websites and through other communication vehicles.
- Provide orientation and training sessions, or collaborate with other organizations, including nonprofits, to host informational forums.
- Request and disseminate, both internally and in appropriate public places, posters, brochures and other materials that are produced and distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The second phase of a public awareness campaign should entail developing a state-wide campaign to raise awareness in the general public. Outreach to victims will be challenging as human trafficking is an “underground” crime and victims are not always given access to public places and media. A large-scale public awareness campaign will provide residents with knowledge and tools to recognize human trafficking.

4. Provide funding to service providers who assist victims.

Upon further research, the Committees discovered that several services are provided by state and local governmental agencies, social services providers, non-profit victim assistance agencies, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, urgent medical care facilities, community and faith based organizations, and legal services. Service providers often assist victims from existing limited funds. Although certain legal services are provided, there is a need for legal representation for all victims on a variety of legal issues, e.g. criminal defense, employment, immigration, and tax implication for undocumented labor.

Individualized plans will have to be developed to provide basic necessities, such as food, shelter, and financial assistance. Other essential services are medical, legal, employment, education and training, and translation services. Service providers, non-governmental organizations, and faith based organizations will be an integral part of providing these services.

While there is some federal funding available for victims of human trafficking in Connecticut, additional funds are needed to adequately assist these victims. Most federal funds are designated for international victims and cannot be utilized for domestic victims. While enactment of the State legislation was critical to eradicating trafficking, providing state funding for services demonstrates the state's continued commitment to ameliorate this attack on the human spirit. As recognized by the State legislation, trafficking is not just a crime to be addressed at the federal level.

Plans to address victim services must be individualized. The Committees hope to be able to identify reoccurring services from the information learned during the trainings, public awareness and outreach.

5. Establish a Trafficking in Persons Council.

Establish a Trafficking in Persons Council to continue collaboration of the existing Task Force members through 2010. Federal grant funding for many of the existing agencies that assist victims will expire in 2008 or 2009. An on-going Council will allow for continued collaboration and progress while federal funds are available.

On-going collaboration would include, but not be limited to, providing a forum for updates and progress reports as the anti-trafficking statute is enforced, developing mechanisms to ensure that victims are provided adequate services and representation in legal matters, identifying the needs and services of children of the trafficking victims, and continue discussions of whether certain conduct of victims of trafficking should be decriminalized.

Membership should continue to include members of the current Task Force, who are representatives from all state law enforcement agencies, local police, state and local governmental agencies, non-governmental service providers, and

advocates for immigrant and refugee communities. A proposed statute is included in this report as Appendix C.

Progress in Connecticut

Thirty-two states have passed anti-trafficking laws; Connecticut is one of six states that continued its task force after enacting anti-trafficking laws.⁷ Progress has been made over the past year regarding human trafficking in Connecticut through the work of this Task Force and committee members:

- Continued collaboration between governmental and non-governmental agencies
- Law enforcement training
- Victim services funding
- Raising public awareness

Continued Collaboration Between Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

There has been continued collaboration among law enforcement agencies at all levels, state and local governmental agencies, service providers, faith based organizations, and non-governmental organizations. All of the Committees had representation from each category.

The United States Attorney's Office, The Department of Labor, The Office of the Child Advocate, The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and the International Institute of Connecticut, Inc. worked together to present two workshops at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work Human Trafficking Conference in November 2006. The conference had over 250 attendees and almost 100 participants in the workshops. Additionally the federal anti-trafficking task force, CT Stop It, meets on a monthly basis with representation from state and federal law enforcement, social services providers, state agencies, and community providers.

Law Enforcement Trainings

PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking In Persons, allocated \$50,000 to the Police Officers Standards Training Council and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to develop a training program and make it available to the Division of State Police, the Chief State's Attorney, local police departments and community organizations.

The Police Officers Standards Training Council conducted four trainings on human trafficking in October and November 2006. Two sessions, entitled "Human Trafficking Awareness," covered the nature and scope of the human trafficking problem; the reason it exists; the different types of human trafficking; the importance of recognizing and using a victim-centered approach; the vital link between law enforcement and other services providers; and, the roles of the different agencies involved.

⁷ Polaris Project "U.S. Policy Alert, September 13, 2006," accessed 12/06 at www.polarisproject.org.

Eighty-three (83) police officers of all ranks attended the trainings from the following police departments: Bradley Airport, Bridgeport, Bristol, R.I., Brookfield, Connecticut State Police, Danbury, East Windsor, Enfield, Essex, Greenwich, Groton, Meriden, Mohegan Tribal, New Britain, New Haven, New London, New Milford, Plymouth, Roxbury, Seymour, Stafford, Stamford, Wallingford, Waterbury, Waterford, Western Connecticut State University, and Westport. There was also representation from the Office of Victim Services and the Division of Criminal Justice.

Two sessions, entitled "Human Trafficking Awareness: Train-The Trainer," were only open to participants from the above trainings. This training provided participants with the tools and materials to facilitate an awareness level class. Twenty-four (24) police officers of all ranks attended the trainings from the following police departments: Bridgeport, Bristol, R.I., Brookfield, Danbury, Essex, Greenwich, Groton, New Britain, New Haven, Plymouth, Stamford, Wallingford, Waterbury, Waterford, and Western Connecticut State University, and Westport. There was also representation from the Office of Victim Services.

The evaluations indicated an overwhelmingly positive response with a rating of 4.5 on a 5-point scale for the fundamental session, and 4.7 on a 5-point scale for the train-the trainer session. Several officers commented that the trainings were extremely informative, raised awareness levels, and gave tips and information to recognize trafficking.

Victim Services Funding

PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking In Persons, allocated \$25,000 to the Office of Victim Services to contract with community providers for services to victims.

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) established a pilot project with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) to provide services for victims of human trafficking, as referred by federal, state, or municipal law enforcement. The pilot will run from February 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007.

CCADV will provide shelter and services on a temporary basis, not to exceed seven days, basic needs such as clothing and prescriptions, and assistance with living arrangements past shelter. CCADV, through its network of sixteen domestic violence shelters, will: (1) accept immediate referrals and provide immediate access to safe and secure lodging, (2) provide services statewide, (3) provide services on a twenty-four hour basis, (4) assess victims for other needs that they may have and assist them in accessing services to address those needs as necessary, (5) provide referral to hospital or health care as necessary, (6) provide access to multi-lingual translators, and (7) provide transportation to victims.

Raising Public Awareness

Raising public awareness is an important part of an over-all strategy to identify and prosecute traffickers and to identify and assist victims of trafficking. Through participation in this Task Force, members have made this issue a priority in the work that they do. This has led to both formal and informal discussions about human trafficking with people across the state. Task Force and committee members have disseminated, both internally and in appropriate public places, posters, brochures and other materials that are produced and distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, some Task Force meetings were covered by CT-N, which brought additional exposure to this issue.

Appendices

A

Public Act 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking in Persons

B

Special Act 04-8, An Act Establishing an
Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in
Persons

C

Proposed Statute: An Act Establishing a Trafficking in Persons Council

D

Proposed Statute: An Act Authorizing Funding for Training and Outreach
to Prevent Human Trafficking

E

Available State, Local, and Federal Programs that Provide Victim Services



Substitute Senate Bill No. 153

Public Act No. 06-43

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) (a) A person is guilty of trafficking in persons when such person commits coercion as provided in section 53a-192 of the general statutes and the other person is compelled or induced to (1) engage in conduct that constitutes a violation of section 53a-82 of the general statutes, or (2) work.

(b) Trafficking in persons is a class B felony.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 53-394 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2006):

(a) "Racketeering activity" means to commit, to attempt to commit, to conspire to commit, or to intentionally aid, solicit, coerce or intimidate another person to commit any crime which, at the time of its commission, was a felony chargeable by indictment or information under the following provisions of the general statutes then applicable: (1) Sections 53-278a to 53-278f, inclusive, relating to gambling activity; (2) chapter 949a, relating to extortionate credit transactions; (3) chapter 952, part IV, relating to homicide; (4) chapter 952, part V, relating to assault, except assault with a motor vehicle as defined in section 53a-60d; (5) sections 53a-85 to 53a-88, inclusive, relating to prostitution; (6) chapter 952, part VII, relating to kidnapping; (7) chapter 952, part VIII, relating to burglary, arson and related offenses; (8) chapter 952, part IX, relating to larceny, robbery and related offenses; (9) chapter 952, part X, relating to forgery and related offenses; (10) chapter 952, part XI, relating to bribery and related offenses; (11) chapter 952, part XX, relating to obscenity and related offenses; (12) chapter 952, part XIX, relating to coercion; (13) sections 53-202, 53-206, 53a-211 and 53a-212, relating to weapons and firearms; (14) section 53-80a, relating to the manufacture of bombs; (15) sections 36b-2 to 36b-33, inclusive, as amended, relating to securities; (16) sections 21a-277, 21a-278, as amended, and 21a-279, relating to drugs; (17) section 22a-131a, relating to hazardous waste; [or] (18) chapter 952, part XXIII, relating to money laundering; or (19) section 1 of this act, relating to trafficking in persons.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) (a) No employer shall employ any person knowing that such person is being coerced by another person to engage in such employment in violation of section 1 of this act.

(b) The Attorney General, upon the request of the Labor Commissioner, may bring a civil action in the Superior Court to recover a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation of subsection (a) of this section and such injunctive or other equitable relief as the court may, in its discretion, order.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) Any person aggrieved by a violation of section 1 of this act may bring a civil action in the superior court for the judicial district where such person resides or the judicial district of Hartford against the person or persons who committed such violation to recover actual damages, statutory damages of not more than one thousand dollars for each day such person was coerced by another person in violation of section 1 of this act and a reasonable attorney's fee.

Sec. 5. Section 53a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2006):

(a) A person is guilty of prostitution when such person engages or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee.

(b) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that the actor was coerced into committing such offense by another person in violation of section 1 of this act.

[(b)] (c) Prostitution is a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2006) The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, in conjunction with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall develop a training program on trafficking in persons and make such training program available, upon request, to the Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety, the office of the Chief State's Attorney, local police departments and community organizations.

Sec. 7. Special act 04-8 is amended to read as follows (Effective from passage):

(a) There is established an interagency task force on trafficking in persons. For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members or their designees:

(1) The Attorney General;

(2) The Chief State's Attorney;

- (3) The Chief Public Defender;
- (4) The Commissioner of Public Safety;
- (5) The Labor Commissioner;
- (6) The Commissioner of Social Services;
- (7) The Commissioner of Public Health;
- (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families;
- (9) The Child Advocate;
- (10) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly on the judiciary;
- (11) The chairperson of the Commission on Children;
- (12) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women;
- (13) The chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission;
- (14) The chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission;
- (15) A municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;
[and]
- (16) Three representatives of the Judicial Branch appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, one of whom shall be a representative of the Office of Victim Services and one of whom shall be a representative of the Court Support Services Division;
- (17) The Victim Advocate; and

[[16]] (18) Seven public members appointed as follows: The Governor shall appoint one member who shall represent Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. ; the president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals; the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children; the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human rights issues; the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition; and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Asian-American community.

(c) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women or the chairperson's designee shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The task force shall

select a chairperson from among its membership. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall provide any necessary support staff or services for the task force.

(d) The task force shall:

(1) Collect and organize data on the nature and extent of trafficking in persons in the state;

(2) Investigate collaborative models for protecting victims of trafficking;

(3) Measure and evaluate the progress of the state in (A) preventing trafficking, (B) protecting and providing assistance to victims of trafficking, and (C) prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking;

(4) Identify available federal, state and local programs that provide services to victims of trafficking that include, but are not limited to, health care, human services, housing, education, legal assistance, job training or preparation, interpreting services, English as a second language classes, voluntary repatriation and victim's compensation;

(5) Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness of trafficking, and implement such approaches;

(6) Analyze existing state criminal statutes for their adequacy in addressing trafficking and, if such analysis determines that those statutes are inadequate, recommend revisions to those statutes or the enactment of new statutes that specifically define and address trafficking; [and]

(7) Consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers;

(8) Address access to rights, benefits and services for victims of trafficking including, but not limited to:

(A) Medical and related professional services;

(B) Legal services and protections;

(C) Safe housing and shelter;

(D) Voluntary repatriation;

(E) Victim's compensation; and

(F) Protection while in custody; and

(9) Identify criteria for providing victim services.

(e) All state and local agencies shall cooperate with the task force and provide such data and other information as the task force may require in carrying out its duties under this section.

(f) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes not later than January 1, [2006] 2007.

Sec. 8. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars is appropriated to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for purposes of section 6 of this act.

Sec. 9. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for purposes of section 6 of this act.

Sec. 10. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars is appropriated to the Division of Criminal Justice, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purposes of providing protective services in accordance with sections 54-82t and 54-82u of the general statutes to victims of the offense of trafficking in persons as provided in section 1 of this act.

Sec. 11. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars is appropriated to the Judicial Department, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to be administered by the Office of Victim Services for the purposes of contracting with a community provider to provide shelter and other services to victims of the offense of trafficking in persons as provided in section 1 of this act.

Approved May 8, 2006



Substitute House Bill No. 5358

Special Act No. 04-8

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) There is established an interagency task force on trafficking in persons. For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members or their designees:

- (1) The Attorney General;
- (2) The Chief State's Attorney;
- (3) The Chief Public Defender;
- (4) The Commissioner of Public Safety;
- (5) The Labor Commissioner;
- (6) The Commissioner of Social Services;
- (7) The Commissioner of Public Health;
- (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families;

- (9) The Child Advocate;
- (10) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly on the judiciary;
- (11) The chairperson of the Commission on Children;
- (12) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women;
- (13) The chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission;
- (14) The chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission;
- (15) A municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; and
- (16) Seven public members appointed as follows: The Governor shall appoint one member who shall represent Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. ; the president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals; the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children; the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human rights issues; the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition; and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Asian-American community.

(c) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women or the chairperson's designee shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The task force shall select a chairperson from among its membership. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall provide any necessary support staff or services for the task force.

(d) The task force shall:

- (1) Collect and organize data on the nature and extent of trafficking in persons in the state;
- (2) Investigate collaborative models for protecting victims of trafficking;
- (3) Measure and evaluate the progress of the state in (A) preventing trafficking, (B) protecting and providing assistance to victims of trafficking, and (C) prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking;

(4) Identify available federal, state and local programs that provide services to victims of trafficking that include, but are not limited to, health care, human services, housing, education, legal assistance, job training or preparation, interpreting services, English as a second language classes, voluntary repatriation and victim's compensation;

(5) Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness of trafficking;

(6) Analyze existing state criminal statutes for their adequacy in addressing trafficking and, if such analysis determines that those statutes are inadequate, recommend revisions to those statutes or the enactment of new statutes that specifically define and address trafficking; and

(7) Consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

(e) All state and local agencies shall cooperate with the task force and provide such data and other information as the task force may require in carrying out its duties under this section.

(f) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes not later than January 1, 2006.

Approved May 21, 2004

TITLE: An Act Establishing a Trafficking In Persons Council.

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective upon passage*) (a) There is established a Trafficking in Persons Council consisting of the Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addition Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families, the Child Advocate, the chairperson of the Commission on Children, the chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission, a municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, the Victim Advocate, three representatives of the Judicial Branch or a representative of each designated in writing to serve as such representative; and seven public members appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. Said Council shall be within the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women for administrative purposes only. Of the appointed members of the Judicial Branch, the Chief Court Administrator shall appoint one member who shall represent the Office of Victim Services, and one member who shall represent the Court Support Services Division. Of the persons appointed by the Governor and the Legislature, the Governor shall appoint one member who shall represent Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.; the president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals; the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children; the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human rights issues; the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition; and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Asian-American community. The Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall be the chairperson of the council. The council shall meet at least three times per year. The members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

(c) The council shall (1) hold meetings to provide updates and progress reports, (2) identify criteria for providing services to adult trafficking victims, (3) identify criteria for providing services to the children of the trafficking victims, and (4) consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

(d) The council may request data and other information from state and local agencies to carry out its duties under this section.

(e) The council shall report to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes not later than January 1, 2008 and each year thereafter.

Appendix D: Proposed Statute: An Act Authorizing Funding for Training and Outreach to Prevent Human Trafficking

TITLE: An Act Authorizing Funding for Training and Outreach to Prevent Human Trafficking.

Sec. 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) The state may contract with non-governmental agencies to develop a coordinated response system to prevent human trafficking.

(b) The responsibilities of the entity receiving the contract shall include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Developing a uniform curriculum to address rights and services for victims.
- (2) Developing information materials of resources and services for victims.
- (3) Actively seeking out quality training and education on how to identify and assist victims based on the victim's cultural context and needs.
- (4) Promoting and disseminating information on trafficking training and educational opportunities to emergency medical services, faith based communities, and the sexual assault service providers, domestic violence service providers, and state and local governmental agencies.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of \$100,000 dollars in FY 2007 and \$130,000 in FY 2008 shall be appropriated for the purposes of implementing the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

State

- Trafficking Hotline – 1.800.842.0200
- Witness Protection Program – This is a program run by the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney. The Chief State’s Attorney must certify a witness before they can participate in this program and the witness must cooperate with authorities, which usually involves providing a statement. The program offers assistance with food, medical needs and social service connections. Witnesses may be provided with temporary housing, typically at a motel. Twenty-four hour police security is available, but temporary housing is usually unsupervised. This program does provide funding to help relocate witnesses both in and out of state. Also, if the witness gets a job, the program can assist with permanent housing by providing a security deposit and the first month’s rent.
- Office of the Child Advocate – The Child Advocate has the authority to initiate or intervene in court cases on behalf of child victims of trafficking. Staff will ensure that the child has access to the necessary social services.
- Office of the Victim Advocate – The Victim Advocate is charged with monitoring and evaluating the provision of services to crime victims by state and not-for-profit entities comprising Connecticut’s victim services delivery system. The Office of the Victim Advocate takes complaints from crime victims regarding alleged violations of rights and deficiencies in the provision of services and can investigate those complaints. The Victim Advocate is authorized to intervene in criminal proceedings to protect the state constitutional and statutory rights afforded crime victims in Connecticut.
- Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS) – DPDS provides legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. Social workers employed by DPDS can assist those victims of trafficking who may be charged with violating state laws to access other state services.
- Department of Labor (DOL) – DOL investigates and facilitates enforcement of civil and criminal penalties regarding violations of state labor laws on wages and working conditions.
- State Agencies – There are several state agencies that are mandated to assist with the social well being of people in Connecticut. These agencies include:
 - Department of Social Services (DSS) – DSS provides funding for domestic violence and homeless shelters, as well as several other community-based organizations that assist people living in poverty.

- Department of Public Health (DPH) – DPH provides funding for several services that could be utilized by trafficking victims, including: the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, local community health centers, and clinics that provide testing for sexually transmitted diseases.
- Department of Children & Families (DCF) – DCF is mandated to intervene in matters involving child welfare and could provide assistance to child victims of trafficking.
- Office of Victim Services (OVS) - OVS provides the following services and programs: court-based victim services advocates, outreach and notification programs, a victim assistance center, direct services to victims through community-based non-profit agencies, services for families of homicide victims, and crime victim compensation.

However, it is important to note that these services have not been specifically targeted nor given additional funding to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Nonprofit Service Providers

- CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) – CCADV is a membership organization whose purpose is to work together to end domestic violence. The Coalition’s membership includes the 18 domestic violence shelter programs located throughout the state that provide safe accommodations for battered women and their children, as well as counseling and support services for victims. A list of CCADV member centers is on page 40 of this Appendix.
- CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS) – CONNSACS has 9 member centers throughout the state, each staffed by certified sexual assault crisis counselors. The services provided by these centers include a 24-hour hotline, short-term counseling, and accompaniment and advocacy through the medical, police and court systems. A list of CONNSACS member centers is on page 42 of this Appendix.
- International Institute of CT, Inc. – The International Institute of Connecticut, Inc. (IIC) is a community-based non-sectarian, social service agency with three offices located across the state. Several services are provided to the foreign born population of the state including legal services, immigration and citizenship counseling, refugee resettlement, employment and vocational assistance, and a 24-hour Emergency Interpreter Service with translators for 40 languages. Through a federal grant from the Department of Justice, IIC’s Project Rescue and Assist New Americans provides services to trafficking victims in the pre-certified

period. The Project also undertakes outreach and education on trafficking issues.

- **Legal Services** – Greater Hartford Legal Services (GHLA), CT Legal Services (CLS), and New Haven Legal Assistance (NHLAA) are not-for-profit law firms that advocate on behalf of the poor who have civil legal problems. The Legal Services programs represent immigrants regardless of their status. They provide many services including safety planning for domestic violence victims, and assistance with employment, housing and access to health care. The Legal Services programs also represent immigrant survivors of domestic violence in self-petition cases. Currently, GHLA has a specific initiative to provide services to immigrants, and intends to develop a system for assisting clients with obtaining U Visas and T Visas.
- **Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC)** – CIRC is a broad-based network of community agencies, religious groups, legal service providers and immigrant rights activists, committed to protecting the rights and welfare of refugee and immigrant communities in Connecticut. CIRC provides technical assistance to its members so that they may provide more effective services to immigrants and refugees.
- **Community-Based Groups** – Many cities and towns have non-profit or volunteer organizations that may not be members of CIRC but do provide information and services to immigrants, refugees and non-English speaking individuals in need.

Federal

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** – Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), DHHS is designated to assist victims in becoming eligible to receive benefits and services that will allow them to remain in the U.S. and rebuild their lives. DHHS runs the Campaign to Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking. This campaign is aimed at identifying victims and training health care providers, social service providers, and law enforcement. DHHS also provides a toll-free hotline that connects victims to non-governmental organizations that can help victims locally. Public Awareness and Outreach materials are available in numerous languages at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.
- **T Visa** – The T Visa is available through DHHS to all trafficking victims under the age of 18 and adult trafficking victims who meet the criteria for “severe forms of human trafficking” as defined in the TVPA. Victims must establish that they are victims of a “severe form of trafficking” through either an endorsement by a law enforcement agency or presentation of sufficient evidence. This requirement does not apply to minors who were induced to perform a commercial sex act. Victims must also comply with reasonable requests for assistance in the investigation or

prosecution of acts of trafficking. Again, this requirement does not apply to minors. The T Visa allows the victim to remain in the U.S. for three years at which time they can apply for lawful permanent residence. This visa also gives them access to social services and medical care, as well as the ability to obtain employment authorization so that they may get a job and work towards becoming self-sufficient.

- **U Visa** – The U Visa is available to victims of crimes, including trafficking victims. A law enforcement official must certify that the victim “has been helpful, will be helpful or is likely to be helpful” in the investigation of criminal activity. Local, state or federal law enforcement authorities can provide the certification. This visa also gives victims the right to remain and work in the United States for three years after which they can apply for lawful permanent residence.
- **Department of Justice** – The U.S. Department of Justice has grants to provide assistance to law enforcement and community organizations to assist pre-certified trafficking victims with technical immigration services, language assistance, and housing and employment services. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) worked closely with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut to secure a federal grant in the amount of \$448,983.00 over three years provided by the U.S. Department of Justice to be used for investigative purposes and training. Both DPS and the U.S. Attorney’s Office also worked with the International Institute of Connecticut and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to apply for another grant in the amount of approximately \$500,000.00 over three years offered by the U.S. Department of Justice for victim assistance.
- **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** – OVW is a federal program that sponsors grant programs to state, tribal and local governments, as well as community organizations working to end violence against women. However, funding from this program is limited.
- **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** – OVC is a federal program that assists victims between the time at which they are encountered by law enforcement and the time at which they are “certified” by DHHS to receive federal benefits. This is known as the “pre-certification” period. Services available include shelter, medical care, crisis counseling, legal assistance and advocacy. OVC also sponsors a toll-free hotline specifically for reporting cases of suspected human trafficking.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV)

90 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

Office: (860) 282-7899, Fax: (860) 282-7892

24 Hour Hotline Number 1-888-774-2900

Ansonia	Enfield
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The Umbrella
435 East Main Street
Ansonia, CT 06401
HOTLINE: (203) 736-9944
Office: (203) 736-2601
Fax: (203) 736-2910

Network Against Domestic Abuse
139 Hazard Avenue, Bldg. #3-9
Enfield, CT 06082-4583
HOTLINE: (860) 763-4542
Office: (860) 763-7430
Fax: (860) 763-7436

Bridgeport	Greenwich
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**The Center for Women & Families
of Eastern Fairfield County Inc.**
753 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
HOTLINE: (203) 384-9559
Office: (203) 334-6154
Fax: (203) 579-8882

Domestic Abuse Service
Greenwich YWCA
259 E. Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
HOTLINE: (203) 622-0003
Office: (203) 869-6501 x171
Fax: (203) 618-9464

Danbury	Hartford
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Women's Center of Gtr Danbury
2 West Street
Danbury, CT 06810
HOTLINE: (203) 731-5206
Office: (203) 731-5200
Fax: (203) 731-5207

Interval House
P.O. Box 340207
Hartford, CT 06134-0207
HOTLINE: (860) 527-0550
Office: (860) 246-9149
Fax: (860) 247-2042

Dayville	Meriden
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**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
P.O. Box 839
Dayville, CT 06241
HOTLINE: (860) 774-8648
Office: (860) 774-7243
Fax: (860) 779-1694

5 Colony Street, Suite 302
Meriden, CT 06451
HOTLINE: (203) 238-1501
Office: (203) 630-1638
Fax: (203) 237-1097

Middletown	Sharon
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New Horizons
P.O. Box 1036
Middletown, CT 06457-1036
HOTLINE: (860) 347-3044
Office: (860) 344-9599
Fax: (860) 347-6659

Women's Support Services
158 Gay Street
P.O. Box 341
Sharon, CT 06069
HOTLINE: (860) 364-1900
Office: (860) 364-1080
Fax: (860) 364-5767

New Britain	Stamford
Prudence Crandall Center, Inc. P.O. Box 895 New Britain, CT 06050-0895 HOTLINE: (860) 225-6357 Office: (860) 225-5187 Fax: (860) 826-4994	Domestic Violence Crisis Center 141 Franklin Street Stamford, CT 06901 HOTLINE: (203) 357-8162 Office: (203) 965-0049 Fax: (203) 323-0214
New Haven	Torrington
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**Connecticut General Assembly
Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons**

Staffed by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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