

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Issue No. 6 | August 2020

# NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME

As we celebrate the one year anniversary of this newsletter, we want to thank our Task Force members for their continued dedication to the mission of the State Task Force and the anti-human trafficking movement at large: to protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and prevent the crime altogether.

We are particularly grateful for your commitment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to present new challenges to all in the field. To assist Task Force members in responding to the ongoing crisis, the State Task Force has developed new resources and initiatives.

First, the State Task Force has now launched the Online Resource Library, which is designed to be a repository for publicly accessible fact sheets, resources, and information. As presentations and trainings continue to be virtual, the Attorney General's Office is committed to assisting Task Force members and the public in accessing educational materials. Some of these resources are also

dedicated to promoting online safety for youth as schools utilize online or hybrid models. Please see the sidebar for the Online Resource Library link.

The State Task Force is also redeveloping both the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee and the Labor Trafficking Initiatives. As part of this effort, the Task Force has included labor trafficking-specific materials in the Online Resource Library and will be releasing the first webinar on labor trafficking in the near future. Please see below for information on the new Labor Trafficking Subcommittee Chair.

Furthermore, the State Task Force will host the 2020 VSP-HT trainings in late September and early October. The Task Force will also begin its partnership with the University of South Carolina to develop an in-depth member survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay healthy and safe in the coming weeks and we look forward to meeting virtually on Sept. 4th.

## RELEVANT ARTICLES AND REPORTS

- U.S. Department of State—**2020 Trafficking in Persons Report**
- U.S. Department of Justice —**Blythewood Man Arrested and Charged with Nine Counts of Human Trafficking and Three Counts of Narcotics Violations**
- United Nations—**World Day against Human Trafficking spotlights essential role of first responders**
- Human Trafficking Legal Center—**Importing Freedom: Using the U.S. Tariff Act to Combat Forced Labor in Supply Chains**
- Polaris—**Labor Trafficking Red Flags in Latest Work Visa Program**
- National Institute of Justice—**Gaps in Reporting Human Trafficking Incidents Results in Significant Undercounting**
- USA Today—**Fact Check: Home goods retailer Wayfair is not involved in child sex trafficking**
- New York Times—**QAnon Followers Are Hijacking the #SaveTheChildren Movement**
- Polaris—**How Unproven Trafficking Stories Spread Online and Why Stopping Them Matters**

## CURRENT ISSUES IN THE FIELD

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose unique challenges to the anti-human trafficking field. The resources below are designed to assist the continued challenges that anti-human trafficking efforts face as a result of the pandemic.

### COVID-19 and Human Trafficking

- Office on Trafficking in Persons—**COVID-19 Resources, Services, and Support**
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime—**Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons**
- Sanctuary for Families—**A COVID-19 Guide for Sex Trafficking Survivors**
- Security.org—**A Parent's Guide to Protecting Their Kids Online**
- National Center for Victims of Crime—**Crime Victims Community in COVID-19**
- National Human Trafficking Hotline—**NHTH and HHS Online Trainings**

The State Task Force also wants to recognize the importance and impact of racial justice and anti-racism work during this time. Race and human trafficking are intertwined, with people of color often facing disproportionate vulnerabilities and victimization to human trafficking. The State Task Force is committed to engaging in anti-racism efforts, studying the nexus between human trafficking and race, and continuously supporting victims and survivors of color.

### Racial Justice and Human Trafficking

- Polaris—**Racial Disparities, COVID-19, and Human Trafficking**
- Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law—**The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking**
- Reuters—**Victims and villains: anti-trafficking movement urged to tackle racial bias**
- Love146—**Let's Talk About Race and Human Trafficking**
- McCain Institute—**Fighting for Racial Equality and Combatting Human Trafficking go hand in hand**

## SPOTLIGHT: NEW SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

The State Task Force is excited to welcome two new chairs to the Labor Trafficking and Healthcare Subcommittees, Colin Trimble and Stephanie Armstrong.

### Colin Trimble—Labor Trafficking Subcommittee Chair

Colin Trimble is the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Wage and Hour Division's Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist in the Columbia District Office, which covers all of South Carolina. In this role, Colin builds and maintains relationships with stakeholders in the regulated community and with organizations representing workers affected by the laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division.

Colin was a Wage and Hour Investigator in Ohio from 2010-2018. Prior to joining USDOL, he was a Peace Corps volunteer and worked in financial services. Colin earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Ohio University in 2007 and a Master of Business Administration degree from John Carroll University in 2014.

### Stephanie Armstrong—Healthcare Subcommittee Chair

Stephanie Armstrong, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), specializing in human trafficking, diversity and inclusion, and women's health. An experienced educator and researcher, Dr. Armstrong teaches interprofessionally and has published and presented her research at local, national, and international conferences.

Dr. Armstrong has been an active member of HEAL Trafficking since 2015 and serves on several of their committees while also remaining involved with the South Carolina State and Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Forces. She has provided subject matter expert reviews for numerous training materials and scholarly journal articles, as well as advocacy and consultation on proposed human trafficking legislation to Representatives on Capitol Hill.

In 2019, Dr. Armstrong founded HT Response Solutions to support the growing need for human trafficking awareness, education, and response development. She frequently serves as a consultant, advocate, and presenter on the intersection of healthcare and human trafficking.

## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### Congratulations to Doors to Freedom for receiving \$500,000 from the OVC FY 2020 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking!

Doors to Freedom will provide transitional housing for female survivors of sex trafficking. The project will serve, at a minimum, 20 survivors a year. Join the State Task Force's virtual meeting on Sept. 4 to hear Executive Director Sharon Rikard discuss Doors to Freedom's plans for the grant.

## FOLLOW US

Website: [humantrafficking.scag.gov](https://humantrafficking.scag.gov)

Email: Megan Rigabar, Program Assistant: [megarigabar@scag.gov](mailto:megarigabar@scag.gov)

Facebook: [@SCHumanTraffickingTaskForce](https://www.facebook.com/SCHumanTraffickingTaskForce)

Twitter: [@SC\\_HTTF](https://twitter.com/SC_HTTF)

## STATE MEETING AND UPDATES

Due to COVID-19, the State Task Force Meeting will be held virtually on Sept. 4 at 10AM. Register here: <https://attendee.got-owebinar.com/register/7846103290209195791>

Attorney General Alan Wilson will be speaking. Jenny Sell from Polaris' National Human Trafficking Hotline and Rob Spectre from childsafe.ai will also be presenting.

The State Task Force has launched the Online Resource Library. To access resources, please visit the State Task Force website at <http://humantrafficking.scag.gov/resources/online-resource-library/>

The VSP-HT will run from Sept. 22 to Oct. 6 (five 3-hour training sessions). For approval and to register, email Kathryn Moorehead at [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov). To determine eligibility, please visit <http://humantrafficking.scag.gov/resources/>

## REGIONAL MEETINGS AND UPDATES

### Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

Elizabeth Rummel is the new Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator. See the feature below for more information.

The next meeting will be Sept. 18 from 10AM-12PM via Zoom. The link will be emailed. Anyone who wants to attend that is not currently on that list can email Elizabeth Rummel at [rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.org](mailto:rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.org)

### Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 10AM. Details will be released closer to October.

### Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force

The upcoming meeting is scheduled for October 21 from 10AM-12PM via Zoom. RSVP is required and may be done at [slchttf@gmail.com](mailto:slchttf@gmail.com).

### Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force

The Formation Project has begun services for adults and aging out youth, providing a Reach, Connect, Equip Model of services: emergency response coordination, wrap-around case management, employment assistance, and rapid rehousing.

Charleston Pro Bono also hired a full time staff attorney dedicated to serving human trafficking victims, Pam Larson. Contact her at [plarson@charlestonprobono.org](mailto:plarson@charlestonprobono.org)

The Charleston County SRO Human Trafficking Zoom Training will be held in late August.

### Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force

The Amber Alert Training in October will be postponed due to COVID-19. The training is moving online and new details will be emailed.

The Coastal Region Task Force is active on Facebook. Visit "SC Coastal Region Task Force on Human Trafficking" and stay tuned for monthly "ask and answer" sessions on the third Wednesday of every month.

## FEATURE

### Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force hires new Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator

Elizabeth Rummel is the new Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator for Richland County.

She graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Psychology and went on to obtain her Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She has spent the last 10 years fueling her passion to empower vulnerable populations, allowing her to gain knowledge and experience working with survivors of human trafficking. She has served in a variety of organizations, including state agencies and non-profits. Elizabeth has helped develop a long term restorative program model for survivors of sex trafficking. She has knowledge from national level trainings focused on trauma-informed care, policy and legislation, and community engagement and recognizes the importance of a community wide response to atrocities of human trafficking.