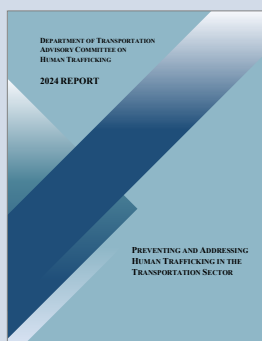


DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2024 REPORT: LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (ACHT) develops triennial reports with recommendations and best practices on countering human trafficking across the transportation sector, including law enforcement. The 2024 ACHT report includes recommendations for the U.S. Congress, USDOT, other Federal agencies, States and State DOTs, private and local transportation entities, law enforcement, associations, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and technology companies.

Committee recommendations address:

Leadership & Funding: A top-level commitment to combat human trafficking with dedicated funding to prevent and address human trafficking across all modes of transportation, including policy development, training and awareness, data collection, information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

Policies & Reporting: Zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies with a comprehensive approach, including firm leadership, dedicated funding, strong partnerships, clear reporting protocols, impactful training and awareness, consistent report tracking, and solid survivor support.

Partnerships: Effective public and private partnerships to increase identification, share information, and maximize their collective impact.

Training & Awareness: Effective training and public awareness for transportation employees and travelers that facilitate their recognition and reporting of suspected instances of human trafficking using free, survivor-informed materials that are trauma-informed, person-centered, and culturally responsive.

Research, Data & Information-Sharing: Tracking and sharing reports of human trafficking that intersect with the transportation sector and expanding research on each mode of transport.

Victim & Survivor Support: Strategic placement of survivor-informed public awareness materials, integration into corporate social responsibility programs, providing travel vouchers to support individuals being subjected to human trafficking in their escape and survivors in their recovery, and offering dedicated employment opportunities.



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Contact: trafficking@dot.gov



Select Recommendations

While most of the 123 recommendations in the 2024 ACHT report apply to every mode of transportation, following are select recommendations with law enforcement equities:

FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS

Facilitate Cross-Border Cooperation: Authorize and fund the DOJ to develop a report of recommendations on how to harmonize federal and State laws to combat human trafficking and enhance cross-border cooperation, including transnational threats of technology-facilitated trafficking.

Safeguard Victims and Survivors: Enact legislation to safeguard individuals being subjected to human trafficking and survivors of human trafficking from incarceration, fines, or penalties for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking.

FOR USDOT

Foster Public-Private Partnerships: Expand coalitions between government agencies, private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, NGOs, academia, and technology companies to facilitate stronger, more coordinated counter-trafficking efforts and reporting.

FOR STATES

Expand Counter-Trafficking Task Forces: Establish and increase funding for counter-trafficking task forces to expand survivor-informed training, awareness, reporting, and data collection on the intersection of human trafficking and transportation. Participants should include survivor, service provider, State DOT, State motor vehicle departments, law enforcement, and prosecutor representation.

Foster Public-Private Partnerships: Increase and expand coalitions with federal, State, and local agencies, private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, NGOs, academia, and technology companies to facilitate stronger, more coordinated counter-trafficking efforts and reporting.

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

FOR PRIVATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES

Increase Partnerships: Increase and expand coalitions with federal, State, and local agencies, private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, and NGOs, to facilitate stronger, more coordinated counter-trafficking efforts and reporting; including signing the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking pledge.

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

Increase Access: Install call button in private areas within facilities such as restroom stalls and showers for individuals being subjected to human trafficking to discreetly connect with law enforcement when they are alone.

FOR ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOS

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS

Increase Partnerships: Increase and expand coalitions with federal, State, and local agencies, private and local transportation organizations, NGOs, and local service providers to facilitate stronger, more coordinated counter-trafficking efforts and reporting.

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT *CONTINUED*

LEADERSHIP & FUNDING

Increase Leadership Efforts: Police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and other law enforcement leaders should consider human trafficking as a priority and devote the resources and attention needed to combat it.

Increase Funding: Establish and expand counter-trafficking programs with funded counter-trafficking experts, including trauma-informed survivors and advocates, that include partnerships, policies, training, public awareness, data tracking, and victim and survivor support.

POLICIES & REPORTING

Expand Counter-Trafficking Policies: Establish and expand zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies with mandatory survivor-informed employee training on identifying and reporting sex and labor trafficking, points of contact for employees to report violations without retaliation, and clear reporting protocols. Policies should prohibit employees who report suspected incidents of human trafficking from sharing sensitive or detailed information outside of management or law enforcement. Policies should also encourage the reporting of loopholes and/or loose standards of procedure in current operating practices that make online forms of trafficking difficult to track.

Ensure Clean Supply Chains: Ensure organizational procurement policies prohibit human trafficking, and require vendors, suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors to sign a Code of Conduct on ethical business practices.

Review and Refresh Policies: Counter-trafficking policies and programs should undergo regular reviews to update protocols, procedures, and relevant technologies to ensure accuracy and efficacy.

Maintain Vigilance During Crises: Strengthen existing policies during times of natural disaster, economic crises, and major national health emergencies so as not to divert resources from counter-trafficking initiatives, because incidents rise as human traffickers exploit vulnerabilities.

TRAINING & AWARENESS

Require Counter-Trafficking Training: Implement mandatory initial and annual survivor-informed counter-trafficking training for all employees to learn how to recognize and report sex and labor trafficking, evaluate pre and post training knowledge, and provide a certificate of completion. Trainings should include how to successfully build cases against traffickers, even when individuals being subjected to human trafficking cannot participate.

Continue/Expand Awareness Materials: Continue and expand multimodal counter-trafficking public awareness campaign to encompass recent best practices, including person-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive signage and resources.

Facilitate Employee Reporting: Distribute pocket cards for all frontline employees that include modal indicators to facilitate recognizing and reporting the crime.

Leverage Materials: Utilize transport-related counter-trafficking training and public awareness materials that are multilingual and include USDOT QR code (that links to an overview on the intersection between human trafficking and transportation, highlights reporting methods, and includes indicators for each mode of transportation), 911 in the event of an emergency, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Increase Awareness Surrounding Major Events: Augment and extend public awareness campaigns throughout and along vulnerable routes, cities, and locations during major events including conventions, trade shows, sporting events and concerts.

RESEARCH, DATA & INFORMATION-SHARING

Improve Data Collection: Law enforcement agencies and fusion centers should track all human trafficking cases, including transport-related connections, and consistently report non-duplicative information through existing data collection avenues, including the federal Uniform Crime Reporting program.

Increase Cooperation Mechanisms: Expand cooperation mechanisms with other law enforcement agencies for more proactive intelligence gathering and sharing, and data analysis that can help to identify high-risk routes and trafficking hotspots to allow for more targeted enforcement.

VICTIM & SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Engage Survivors and Victim Service Providers: Engage with survivors and service providers to inform counter-trafficking policies and awareness materials and hire trauma-informed advocates trained on the unique needs of individuals being subjected to human trafficking.



Additional Resources

The 2024 ACHT report includes several counter-trafficking resources and tools, including:

MODEL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

A tool for transportation leaders to adapt and implement within their organizations for a comprehensive approach to counter-trafficking inclusive of leadership and funding, partnerships, legal compliance, social responsibility, employee responsibilities and reporting protocols, education and training, public awareness and outreach, data collection and information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCLAMATION

A model proclamation for transportation entities to adopt as a demonstration of their commitment to combating human trafficking.

LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

For transportation industry leaders to take a stand against human trafficking as an example for their employees and stakeholders.

SAMPLE TRAINING & AWARENESS MATERIALS

For transportation employees and travelers to learn how to recognize and respond to human trafficking, including USDOT's bilingual, modal awareness training and public awareness materials.

INDICATORS

General and mode-specific indicators of human trafficking that transportation employees and travelers can use to recognize and report suspected instances of the crime.

QUICK IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES

Actionable mode-specific steps that State, local, and private transportation industry stakeholders can take to implement a robust, organization-wide comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking.

STATE & TERRITORY HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS INTERSECTING WITH TRANSPORTATION

Transport-specific counter-trafficking legislation in U.S. States and territories, including data collection, training requirements, and the posting of the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

STATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES

An overview of states with human trafficking task forces, including a few with transport representatives and one with transport-related efforts.

SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL MODAL CONVICTIONS

Mode-specific examples of successful convictions in cases involving human trafficking.

REPORTING HOTLINES

An overview of services provided by the primary national hotlines that receive human trafficking tips.



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