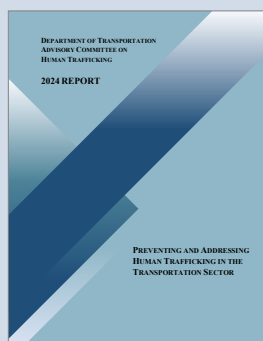


DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (AHT) develops triennial reports with recommendations and best practices on countering human trafficking in the transportation sector. The 2024 AHT report includes 123 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. The AHT was established in 2018 as mandated by Sec. 5(a) of the 2018 Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act and rechartered in 2022 as a requirement of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P. L. 117-58).

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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Select Recommendations

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

FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS

Protect Employees: Enact legislation that protects employees from retaliation for reporting suspected human trafficking activities.

Facilitate Reporting: Enact legislation to close the loophole in the 2022 Human Trafficking Prevention Act by requiring transportation owners and operators to place the National Human Trafficking Hotline in the restrooms of aircraft, airports, over the-road buses, bus stations, passenger trains, passenger railroad stations, and commercial vessels operating within the United States.

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 STATES

Increase Funding: Increase multiyear funding for State DOT counter-trafficking efforts, including support for modal grants, modal initiatives, training, public awareness, research, and victim and survivor support.

Increase State DOT Leadership: Establish and expand comprehensive counter-trafficking programs with dedicated staff.

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.

FOR USDOT

Increase Funding: Pending congressional appropriations, increase funding for transportation stakeholder efforts across all of the Operating Administrations, including training, public awareness, research, and victim and survivor support.

Develop Modal Counter-Trafficking Policies and Best Practices: Develop mode-specific counter-trafficking policies that include partnerships, reporting protocols, training, public awareness, research and information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

Develop Due Diligence Tool: Develop a multimodal due diligence tool that includes mandatory due diligence laws, resources, sample policies, and tools to support the prevention and mitigation of forced labor in supply chains for goods and services across the transportation industry.

Increase TLAHT/BLI Partnerships: Continue to foster Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking and USDOT/DHS Blue Lightning Initiative partnerships with private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, NGOs, technology companies, and labor unions.

Encourage Increased Awareness Surrounding Major Events: Encourage augmented and extended public awareness campaigns throughout and along vulnerable routes, cities, and locations during major events including conventions, trade shows, sporting events and concerts.

Create Evaluation Tools: Develop evaluation tools for transportation stakeholders to utilize to ensure that survivor-informed training objectives are met and to measure public awareness campaigns by measuring outputs and outcomes.

FOR OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Facilitate Identification and Tracking of Transport-Related Human Trafficking: The DOJ should undertake a feasibility study to determine how best to support the integration of transportation-related trafficking convictions to support the tracking of transport-related human trafficking crimes across existing federal data collection platforms.

FOR PRIVATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES

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, how to respond if approached by an individual being subjected to human trafficking, points of contact for employees to report violations without retaliation, and clear reporting protocols.

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.

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.

Facilitate Reporting: Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline in vehicles, trains, vessels, aircraft, and in and around all public and commercial transportation hubs and facilities.

Increase Passenger Awareness: Leverage digital displays and in-app platforms in and around vehicles, trains, vessels, aircrafts, and facilities to show passengers and individuals being subjected to human trafficking their rights and provide a seamless connection to authorities.

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.

Facilitate Access to Transportation: Donate credits, points, and vouchers to organizations that directly serve survivors of trafficking and encourage customers to do the same.

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

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.

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.

FOR ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOS

Expand Research: The Transportation Research Board should increase survivor-informed modal research on the scope, scale, and nature of human trafficking, including its impact on underrepresented and understudied industries, and develop a report of survivor-informed recommendations on how existing data collection mechanisms within the sector can be utilized to better understand trafficking trends and risk factors, and how to align and harmonize research to avoid duplication and streamline progress.

FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

Block Access: Algorithms, guidelines, reporting protocols, and responsiveness should clearly aim to block technology platforms from being used to recruit or facilitate human trafficking.



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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