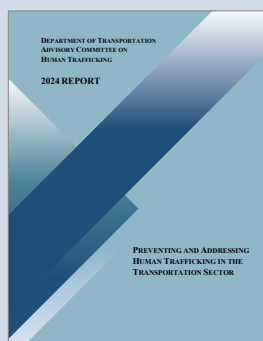


DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2024 REPORT: RESOURCES FOR STATE AGENCIES



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 across the transportation sector, including State agencies. The 2024 AHT 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.



Scan this code to learn more.

Visit: www.transportation.gov/stop-human-trafficking/acht

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 State agency 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.

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.

FOR STATES

LEADERSHIP & FUNDING

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.

Hire Counter-Trafficking Staff: Fund and staff positions dedicated to combating human trafficking to establish and expand counter-trafficking programming, including trauma-informed advocates trained on the unique needs of individuals subjected to human trafficking.

Leverage Available Funding: State DOTs should leverage the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program grant to bolster and expand their counter-trafficking prevention efforts.

Expand Leadership Efforts: Increase and expand State leadership on the issue of human trafficking, including speeches by governors and mayors, public roundtables, editorial media engagement, and encouraging State agencies, universities, and businesses to take a stand an active stance against the crime.

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

Recognize Exemplary Advocates: Recognize outstanding partner and advocacy efforts to highlight promising practices and inspire an increase in transport-related efforts.

PARTNERSHIPS

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.

FOR STATES *CONTINUED*

POLICIES & REPORTING

Expand Counter-Trafficking Policies: Establish and expand zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies at State DOTs and Departments of Motor Vehicles with mandatory survivor-informed employee training and clear reporting protocols. Ensure employees are aware that reporting may be anonymous to assuage reporting concerns.

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

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

Incorporate Technology-Based Solutions to Support Prevention, Identification, and Reporting Efforts: Increase support for technology-based solutions to enhance awareness efforts, identify individuals being subjected to human trafficking, and facilitate reporting of suspicions.

VICTIM & SURVIVOR SUPPORT

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.

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 subjected to human trafficking.

Provide Workforce Development Opportunities: Partner with State human service departments and local NGOs to provide paid internship opportunities for survivors and collaborate on workforce development opportunities while reducing unnecessary bureaucratic processes, such as minimum qualifications.

TRAINING & AWARENESS

Require Counter-Trafficking Training: Strongly recommend that transportation organizations and law enforcement train all employees, contractors, and transportation license holders to recognize and report sex and labor trafficking, including certified positions such as commercial motor vehicle drivers, pilots, for-hire drivers, transit operators, and police officers.

Continue/Expand Awareness Campaigns: Continue and expand multimodal counter-trafficking public awareness campaigns 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 transportation employees that include modal indicators to facilitate recognizing and reporting the crime.

Facilitate Reporting: Enact and expand legislation requiring the posting of the National Human Trafficking Hotline in and around all public and commercial transportation hubs and facilities.

Raise Public Awareness: Raise public awareness through roadway billboard signs with the USDOT Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking QR code, 911 in the event of an emergency, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline; utilize radio airtime for commercials; and post reporting information on websites, including hiring and weather web pages.

Leverage Materials: Leverage free, transport-related, survivor-informed counter-trafficking training and public awareness materials that are multilingual and include the USDOT Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking QR code and the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Encourage Increased Public Awareness: Encourage transportation organizations to conduct public awareness campaigns.

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 sporting events and concerts.

RESEARCH, DATA & INFORMATION-SHARING

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.



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.



Scan this code to learn more.

Visit: www.transportation.gov/stop-human-trafficking/acht

Contact: trafficking@dot.gov