

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
Community Awareness Projects
April 19 - 25, 2015

"Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims."

CAP TIPS is a series of periodic messages to assist in the planning and implementation of NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. Please feel free to send your individual questions or requests for assistance to Anne Seymour at annesey@atlantech.net.

CAP TIP #8

To Improve Public Awareness

Human Trafficking: Resources and Response

Introduction

In the Community Awareness Program webinar sponsored by NAVAA in December 2014, the results of the "quick poll" of the types of CAP Tips that would be *most helpful* to you indicated "human trafficking" as the top priority.

Human trafficking reaches across our Nation and around the world, with devastating consequences for victims and communities that are affected by crimes which are often difficult to detect, and that pose significant challenges to reach victims with help and hope. Most communities are unaware of the scope and impact of human trafficking that may occur right in their jurisdiction, and can be educated about these horrific crimes and engaged to support collaborative efforts that help victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Many victims of human trafficking are literally trapped in "slavery" situations and cut off from access to their families, friends or supportive services that can help them escape. "Empowering victims" is a goal of anti-trafficking initiatives as well as the 2015 NCVRW theme.

This CAP Tip defines human trafficking, and features information about many resources available from the Federal government to prevent and respond to these crimes, and to assist victims and survivors. It also includes ten tips to "engage communities and empower victims of human trafficking" during 2015 NCVRW and throughout the year.

What is Human Trafficking?

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain..... Human trafficking is a hidden crime,

as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement.

Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victim or ask for help, even in highly public settings. Traffickers often operate by:

- Using violence or threatening the person or the person's family members
- Harming or depriving the person of basic necessities, such as food, water or sleep
- Making false promises of love or companionship
- Making false promises of a good job and home
- Restricting contact with friends or family
- Limiting freedom of movement
- Controlling the person's identification documents
- Threatening deportation or law enforcement action
- Garnishing the person's salary to pay off alleged debts
- Preventing the victim from attending religious services

(Department of Homeland Security website; last published date 12/22/14)

Our Federal Government's Response

National and international efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking are a priority for the U.S. government which, for many years, has promoted partnerships to address trafficking and assist its victims. Examples of key initiatives include are those sponsored by the following six agencies:

- Human trafficking crimes require a collaborative response at all levels of government and communities. The USDOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) sponsors the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Initiative that, since 2004, has funded 42 Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces that create permanent partnerships for prevention and response. Information about the Initiative's programs, funding and training and technical assistance can be accessed at https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=51.
- The Office for Victims of Crime and BJA have published an "Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations e-Guide," which provides resources and guidance to support effective Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force operations, including task force formulation and structuring, and strategies and lessons learned from the anti-trafficking field. It also provides a centralized link to trainings and other tools and resources. The Guide can be accessed at <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/>.
- OVC recently launched a new website, "OVC Initiatives to Expand Services to Human Trafficking Victims," that summarizes victim assistance, training and technical assistance and other resources. It can be accessed at http://www.ovc.gov/news/human_trafficking.html.

- The U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons offers many resources to address prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships; and publishes the annual “Trafficking in Persons Report.” This website can be accessed at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/>.
- The Department of Homeland Security sponsors the Blue Campaign, whose mission is “One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.” The Blue Campaign website features resources for reporting crimes; awareness training; getting help; and strategies for law enforcement. This website can be accessed at <http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation offers a brochure entitled “Help for Victims of Human Trafficking,” which can be accessed at http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/victim_assistance/traffick_vic.

Ten Tips to Engage Communities and Empower Victims

The following tips feature resources and creative ideas to promote effective human trafficking prevention and response in conjunction with National Crime Victims’ Rights Week:

1. During 2015 NCVRW, the Iowa Attorney General’s Office – with support from a CAP grant – is sponsoring an awareness campaign about human trafficking at the world’s largest truck stop on Interstate 80 in East Central Iowa. On a weekend day, they will staff a display that provides information about how to recognize human trafficking and how to contact the national hotline. Four hundred travel mugs with the NCVRW logo and contact information for the national hotline will be handed out free to truckers.
2. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) – <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/> -- has myriad resources to help you learn more about and address human trafficking, including excellent strategies for developing a public awareness campaign. CAP programs can:
 - Publicize the NHTRC hotline for reporting tips or requesting services, available 24/7/365 in over 200 languages: the toll-free telephone number is 888.373.7888; and SMS is 233733 (text “HELP” or “INFO”).
 - Promote linkages to the NHTRC Referral Directory (searchable by geography, and victim’s gender, age, nationality and type of trafficking) for reporting incidents of human trafficking and seeking services; it can be accessed at <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/training-resources/referral-directory>.
 - Get great ideas on how to conduct a public awareness campaign about human trafficking at <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/human-trafficking-public-outreach-campaigns>, which includes:
 - Research the issue
 - Identify goals
 - Target your audience
 - Determine delivery methods
 - Develop messages
 - Analyze outcomes

3. It's also a great idea to learn about human trafficking statistics specific to *your state*. The NHTRC features an online database that provides this information, which can be used for public awareness during NCVRW. It can be accessed at <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>.
4. Futures Without Violence has compiled an excellent online resource directory (<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/Resources-on-Anti-Human-Trafficking-Links-by-Topic-Final-1.pdf>) that is a great "one stop shopping" place to start when seeking resources about human trafficking. The ten-page directory includes resources about (but not limited to):
 - Victim/survivor advocacy
 - Legal advocacy
 - Law enforcement advocacy
 - Collaboration
 - U.S. government efforts
 - Anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations
 - Native Americans and human trafficking
 - Multi-lingual resources
 - Outreach and awareness materials
5. Statistics about human trafficking can be included in 2015 NCVRW victim and public awareness activities. The 2015 NCVRW Resource Guide features a statistical overview about human trafficking that can be accessed at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2015/pdf/StatisticalOverviews.pdf>; and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center has a report that addresses human trafficking trends in the United States between 2007 and 2012, which can be accessed at <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview/human-trafficking-trends>.
6. The U.S. Department of State "Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014" features many fact sheets that can be easily adapted for CAP public awareness efforts, including an excellent one page overview, "What is Trafficking in Persons?" that describes sex trafficking; child sex trafficking; forced labor; bonded labor or debt labor; involuntary domestic servitude; and forced child labor. It can be accessed at http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/?utm_source=NEW+RESOURCE:+Trafficking+in+Persons+R.
7. There are a number of truly powerful posters that can help generate public awareness about human trafficking and reach out to victims and survivors, for example:
 - The 2014 NCVRW Resource Guide has a poster to generate awareness about labor trafficking that can be personalized with information specific to your organization or community, available in English (http://victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/ncvrw2014/2014ncvrw_labortrafficking_eng-clr.pdf?sfvrsn=2) and Spanish (http://victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/ncvrw2014/2014ncvrw_labortrafficking_esp-clr.pdf?sfvrsn=2).
 - The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has a poster, "Don't be Afraid to Ask for Help" that is geared toward trafficking victims and survivors, which can be accessed at <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Humanitarian%20Based%20Benefits%20and%20Resources/Resources%20for%20Victims%20of%20Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Other%20Crimes/tuvawa-poster-10-15-12.pdf>.
8. There are several highly moving public service announcements and videos that demonstrate the scope of human trafficking crimes and the plight of victims:

- OVC's 60 second video PSA, "The Faces of Human Trafficking," features survivors and advocates that humanize the crime, and provides referral information about the national human trafficking hotline: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxBiINt-PiU>.
- A 30-second video PSA produced by the California Crime Victim Compensation Program promotes awareness of human trafficking and encourages reporting (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_v1xgdDz54I).
- A four-minute video montage developed by a student as a school project highlights misconceptions, facts and definitions about human trafficking in the U.S. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAgEU55D6XU>).

(NOTE: www.youtube.com features approximately 184,000 videos, documentaries and PSAs related to human trafficking)

9. A victim and public awareness brochure about how to identify and assist victims of human trafficking can be easily developed with facts and information provided by the U.S. Department of State at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm>.
10. The Founder and Chair of the U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman Judge Ted Poe, has been at the national forefront of efforts to combat human trafficking. His eloquent words, along with Federal legislation he has introduced, can offer you inspiration for effective messaging about trafficking during 2015 NCVRW and throughout the year: <https://poe.house.gov/search?q=human+trafficking>.

For More Information

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