

The Blue Campaign Newsletter

Issue 2, December 2011

Acquisitions Anti-Human Trafficking Training Now Available

The entire U.S. Government acquisitions workforce now has access to a new anti-human trafficking training related to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The training teaches the acquisition workforce how to use the FAR to ensure contractors are not engaging in human trafficking and how to respond when they do encounter human trafficking by contractors. The acquisitions workforce includes anyone who writes or administers contracts with private companies on behalf of the Federal Government. The full training is available to all contracting officers and their representatives on the [Federal Acquisition Institute Training Application System](#). A trailer for the training is available [here](#) on www.fai.gov.



How to Detect Human Trafficking: First Responders

Human trafficking is largely a hidden crime. Victims are not always able to come forward due to force, fraud or coercion; however, there are clues – or indicators – that may help you identify a potential human trafficking victim. The DHS Office of Health Affairs (OHA) and the DHS/FEMA United States Fire Administration (USFA) have developed new Blue Campaign materials specifically targeted toward first responders.

In particular, a new [poster](#) and [indicator card](#) were created to highlight the indicators that first responders might see to alert them that someone may be a victim of human trafficking.

Some indicators of human trafficking first responders may encounter include the following:

- Bruises in various stages of healing caused by physical abuse
- Scars, mutilations, or infections due to improper medical care
- Urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, pregnancy, or rectal trauma caused from working in the sex industry

- Chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems resulting from forced manual labor in unsafe conditions
- Poor eyesight and/or eye problems due to dimly lit work sites
- Malnourishment and/or serious dental problems
- Disorientation, confusion, phobias, or panic attacks caused by mental or physical abuse, or culture shock

While a person displaying one or more of these indicators may not necessarily be a trafficking victim, having an awareness of human trafficking indicators can help first responders better identify potential human trafficking situations when they are encountered. If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) tip line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423). The first responder indicator materials are available in limited quantity. Please email bluecampaign@dhs.gov for more information.

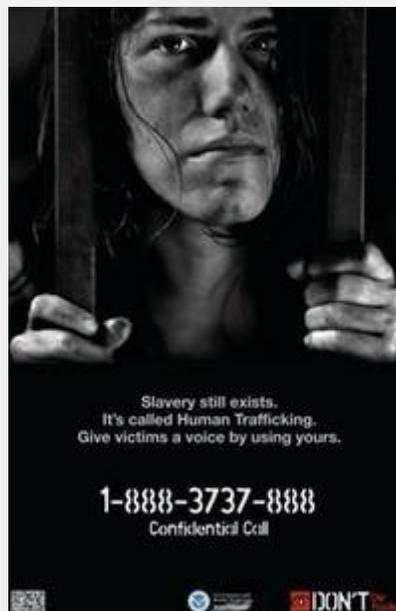
Update on ICE ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’ Public Service Announcement Initiative

ICE continues its public outreach initiative to raise awareness and combat human trafficking nationwide as part of the Blue Campaign. ICE has focused its efforts to educate the public about the plight of human trafficking victims by designing and placing anti-trafficking messages in foreign language newspapers across the United States. The advertisements are appearing in 122 different newspapers in languages including English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Thai. The goal of the campaign is to alert the public about the existence of human trafficking in communities nationwide and to prompt a call to action for individuals who encounter possible victims. You may view the campaign’s public service announcement video [here](#). If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, you may call the ICE tip line anonymously at **1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423)**.

“Don’t Be Fooled” Public Awareness Campaign

U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s “Don’t Be Fooled” public awareness campaign aired two TV public service announcements designed to educate citizens and encourage public vigilance to combat human trafficking within local communities and invite others to join the fight.

Titled “[Masquerade](#)” and “[Bird Cage](#),” the PSAs have been broadcast since late July in four key media markets: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and the Washington, D.C. metro area. All announcements provided a phone number that citizens may call to report suspicious activity. The campaign also features [print PSAs and billboards](#).



Final Defendant Pleads Guilty in Michigan Dance Club Human Trafficking Case

In September 2011, the final defendant in an ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) case pleaded guilty to crimes related to an international conspiracy to compel women to work in exotic dance clubs in the Detroit-area. Veniamin Gonikman, 56, who became a fugitive in 2005, was apprehended by ICE HSI special agents. He is the ninth and final member of the charged conspiracy to be convicted.

According to the investigation, between September 2001 and February 2005, Gonikman, together with his son, Aleksandr Maksimenko, a U.S. citizen, and Michael Aronov, a Lithuanian national, operated Beauty Search, Inc., a business that brokered and managed Eastern European women who performed in exotic dance clubs in the Detroit-area. The three men recruited a number of these women in Ukraine, facilitated their illegal entry into the United States, and then harbored them for commercial advantage and private financial gain. In 2001, Gonikman facilitated the smuggling of two young Eastern European women from Ukraine, through Mexico, into the United States, and ultimately to Detroit, where the women were compelled to serve as exotic dancers. For more information, please see the ICE [press release](#).

Screening for Victimization Upon Apprehension

As part of a detention reform initiative under the Obama Administration, ICE is developing a risk assessment classification tool which is intended, in part, to identify individuals with special vulnerabilities, including those who may have been subject to human trafficking. This will assist ICE in determining whether an individual should be detained. Based upon information obtained and the circumstances of the case, ICE may then refer potential victims to investigators to support ongoing law enforcement investigations against their perpetrators as well as to victim service providers for follow up.

Debarment for Human Trafficking

ICE recently became the first U.S. Government agency to debar an individual involved in trafficking in persons. Federal agencies cannot provide financial assistance, grants, or contracts to any company or individual who has been debarred. In one case, a woman tricked young girls into illegally entering the United States and exploited them for work in her company. She was caught, convicted of multiple felonies, and sent to prison. ICE debarred the woman and all of her companies from receiving federal contracts, grants or financial assistance.

ICE HSI Provides Human Trafficking Training to Members of the Association of Club Executives (ACE) around the United States

ICE has helped to train hundreds of staff and independent contractor dancers of adult clubs to recognize the indicators of human trafficking via ACE's anti-human trafficking initiative titled Club Operators Against Sex Trafficking (COAST). ICE offices around the country offer anti-human trafficking training to large, interested groups from a variety of industries as resources allow. To request training, please email: ICEHumanTrafficking.HelpDesk@dhs.gov.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Hits 10,000 U Visa Cap

USCIS has approved 10,000 petitions for U nonimmigrant status, also referred to as the U visa, for the second straight year. On an annual basis, 10,000 U visas are set aside for victims of crime who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and

are willing to help law enforcement authorities investigate or prosecute crime. Due in large part to public education and partnerships forged with law enforcement agencies and service providers, USCIS reached the statutory maximum of 10,000 U visas per fiscal year in fiscal year 2011 for the second year in a row since it began approving U visa petitions in 2008. It is a significant milestone for the program created by Congress to strengthen law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes while offering protection to victims. More than 45,000 victims and their immediate family members have received U visas since the implementation of this program. For more information, please see the USCIS [press release](#).

New Forensic Interview Specialist Joins ICE Victim Assistance Program (VAP)

ICE HSI VAP recently hired a new Forensic Interview Specialist. Diane Siegel joins Ale Levi as the team's second full-time specialist, where she will conduct developmentally appropriate, victim-sensitive, legally defensible interviews of child, adolescent, and special needs victims. Forensic interviews may be used in a range of different investigations, but are especially useful in cases involving human trafficking, child pornography, child sex tourism, and other exploitation crimes. Diane and Ale conduct forensic interviews for HSI both domestically and internationally and are also available for case consultation, coordination, and technical assistance. Forensic interviews can be conducted by the interviewers in both English and Spanish. For more information, please contact VAP Section Chief Marie Martinez at marie.martinez@dhs.gov.

National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting

On October 6, 2011, the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) delivered a presentation at the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials' Annual Meeting on the DHS Blue Campaign, as part of the Department's continued efforts to reach out to new and diverse populations that may come into contact with human trafficking victims. Bill Seifarth, OHA EMS Program Manager, discussed human trafficking and recognizing potential indicators to state EMS agency representatives. State EMS agencies are responsible for the overall planning, coordination, and regulation of the EMS system within the state, as well as licensing local EMS agencies and personnel.

Gang Member Sentenced to Life in Prison for Child Sex Trafficking

As the result of investigative work conducted by the ICE HSI Gang Unit, with assistance from the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, Jose Ciro Juarez-Santamaria was convicted by a federal jury on July 28, 2011, for conspiracy, sex trafficking, and transportation of a minor for prostitution. A 24-year old El Salvadoran national and MS-13 gang member, Juarez-Santamaria was sentenced to life in prison for prostituting a 12 year-old female to clients throughout northern Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. "Mr. Juarez-Santamaria and his MS-13 accomplices had no regard for the human dignity of the young victim in this case," said John P. Torres, special agent in charge of the ICE HSI field office in Washington, D.C. "Cases like this demonstrate the importance of steadfast dedication by ICE HSI and the law enforcement community to protect the people of the D.C. metro area from transnational gangs and the criminal activity they perpetrate." For the full story on this case, please view the ICE [press release](#).

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC)

Host Seventh Maritime Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking Conference

The HSTC and the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center co-sponsored the Seventh Maritime Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking Conference on September 20-22, 2011. This year's theme addressed the globalization of maritime migration, human smuggling and trafficking. The conference addressed the successes and challenges associated with intelligence support to law enforcement and policy makers in combating transnational criminal organizations.

More than 70 participants attended the conference from U.S. law enforcement and intelligence organizations, other federal agencies, and foreign governments that support maritime migration issues. Conference speakers included representatives from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including USCG, ICE, and CBP. The conference also benefitted from presentations by officials from the Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Navy Maritime Forces Pacific, and Communications Security Establishment Canada. Alice Hill, the Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Chair of the Blue Campaign, was the keynote speaker.

Don't forget!

You can also stay tuned to the latest DHS Blue Campaign news and see pictures from recent meetings and outreach events at our **Facebook page**. Anyone may access the page (even those without an account) at www.facebook.com/bluecampaign.