U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20529

Homeland Security
Blue Campaign

July 22, 2010

Executive Summary

Blue Campaign Stakeholder Meeting with Senior Counselor Alice Hill

Background

On July 22, 2010 Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, hosted a meeting with stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking. The meeting followed a press event to launch the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign—a Department-wide initiative to combat human trafficking through prevention, victim protection, law enforcement investigations, and partnership. The meeting focused on current projects of the Blue Campaign as well as future deliverables. Counselor Hill detailed DHS' anti-human trafficking public outreach materials. She then introduced a panel of DHS subject matter experts to facilitate a stakeholder discussion organized around outreach and public awareness, victim identification and benefits, and training.

Members of the panel:

- Jessica Remillard – Senior Immigration Officer, Vermont Service Center (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)
    - Area of expertise: T and U visas
- Katerina Karousos – Unit Chief for Multilateral Programs (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)
    - Area of expertise: International training and outreach, investigations and prosecutions
- Phyllis Coven – Detention Policy and Planning (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)
    - Area of expertise: Detention operations
- Matt Davies – Program Manager, Office of Field Operations (Customs and Border Protection)
    - Area of expertise: Unaccompanied alien children
- Kevin Livingston – Deputy Assistant Director for Washington Operations (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center)
    - Area of expertise: Law enforcement training

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 10090760. (Posted 09/07/10)

Principal Themes

- **Theme 1: Outreach and Public Awareness**

Discussion questions:

1) *Based on your experience, where do you see a need for greater outreach and awareness in your community?*
2) *DHS materials are available in many languages. Which are most useful? Are we missing any?*
3) *What role do you see for new web technologies in DHS's anti-TIP efforts?*

Participants expressed a need for increased outreach to medical professionals, the diplomatic community, migrant workers, and domestic workers, as well as increased child-specific outreach. Participants also suggested DHS pursue the publication of outreach materials in languages including Farsi, Urdu, Turkish, and Kurdish.

- **Theme 2: Victim Identification and Benefits**

Prior to the discussion, the panel addressed myths related to two forms of immigration relief for victims of human trafficking: Continued Presence (CP) and T visas.

Continued Presence Myth Busters

1. **FACT:** Case does not have to be accepted for prosecution by US Attorney's Office in order for the victim to be eligible for CP.
2. **FACT:** Eligibility for CP does not depend on what is charged – trafficking does not need to be charged.
3. **FACT:** Victims are not required to cooperate with law enforcement requests for assistance in order to receive CP.
4. **FACT:** CP does not require that the victim has suffered a violent form of human trafficking.
5. **FACT:** CP recipients are permitted to travel domestically and may have their family members join them in the U.S.

T Visa Myth Busters

1. **FACT:** An I-914B law enforcement supplement is NOT required to apply for a T-visa.
2. **FACT:** There does NOT need to be an investigation, prosecution, or conviction of trafficking for a victim to apply for or receive a T-visa.
3. **FACT:** Victims do NOT have to wait until a prosecution or investigation is complete in order to apply for a T-visa.
4. **FACT:** While the annual limit is set at 5,000 T1* visas each year, USCIS has received less than 3,000 principal applications since the inception of the program in 2002. On average, 70% of these applications are approved. (*T1 visas are for victims of human trafficking. T2 through T5 visas are for victims' family members.)
5. **FACT:** Smuggling is not trafficking, but an act of smuggling can turn into trafficking.

Discussion questions:

1) *How can DHS increase awareness about the forms of immigration relief offered by USCIS and ICE?*
2) *Are there gaps in information about CP and/or T and U visas? How can we help fill them?*

The discussion focused on the following measures to fill gaps in information regarding immigration relief and to ensure victims' needs are met: outreach to faith communities on immigration benefits for victims of trafficking, the relationship between law enforcement officers and victim service providers, the misperception that applications for CP are linked to applications for T/U visas, the role of the Department of Labor in law enforcement certifications for CP and T/U visas, DHS' relationship with state governments, and outreach efforts to detention centers to better ensure that human trafficking victims are not erroneously deported.

- **Theme 3: Training**

Discussion questions:

1) *How can DHS work with law enforcement to improve training for federal, state, and local officers?*
2) *Which other first responders should DHS work to reach?*
3) *How can DHS work with advocates and service providers to increase training and expertise on victim protection?*

Stakeholders discussed training conducted by and available to service providers. Counselor Hill noted that the new DHS interactive training for federal, state, local, tribal and campus law enforcement is available at no cost through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's web portal, and encouraged stakeholders to help spread the word to local law enforcement about the new training and its availability.

Next Steps

The DHS Blue Campaign Steering Committee will review stakeholder comments and incorporate feedback into Blue Campaign activities as appropriate. The next stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December, 2010.

Additional Resources

Additional resources for stakeholders:

- www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking
- Blue Campaign email: BlueCampaign@dhs.gov
- DHS hotline to report suspected trafficking: 866-347-2423
- ICE Human Trafficking and Smuggling Unit email: ICEHumanTrafficking.HelpDesk@dhs.gov
- Vermont Service Center hotline: 802-527-4888
- Vermont Service Center email: hotlinefollowupI914I918.vsc@dhs.gov
- Law enforcement access to the new DHS human trafficking training for federal, state, and local law enforcement: http://www.fletc.gov/elp-splash/
- DHS civic engagement website: http://ourborder.ning.com/group/unitedagainsthumantrafficking