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Progress and Next Steps Discussed at Blue Campaign Anniversary

Marking the one-year anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security's anti-human trafficking Blue Campaign, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano yesterday joined CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar and other DHS officials in a discussion of achievements and next steps with a group of anti-trafficking stakeholders.

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CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar, left, joins ICE Director John Morton, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano and other DHS officials at an anti-human trafficking stakeholder event.

Photo Credit: Barry Bahler

The roundtable meeting with non-governmental organizations and victims' service leaders covered enforcement, prosecution and educational outreach accomplishments of the last year, including CBP's recent No Te Engañes, or Don't Be Fooled, public service messages.

To communicate about this modern-day slavery in our country, "we should be out in the faith-based community, we should out in our communities," said Napolitano.

"The more we put a public light on human trafficking," Napolitano added, "the more momentum it will create from a prosecutorial standpoint."

Aguilar emphasized the value of working with the assembled non-governmental leaders as "partners and peers" in the anti-human trafficking efforts. "We all know the law enforcement creed: To protect and to serve," said Aguilar. "That is exactly what you are doing. You are protecting, you are serving the victims. You are serving the country and you are assisting us tremendously."

The deputy commissioner sought input on how to build on the campaign's achievements, suggesting increased outreach and education with local and state law enforcement and partnerships with airlines to train personnel on how to spot trafficking. Other ideas that resulted from the discussion included increasing collaborations with foreign consulates, health care providers, the faith-based community and other federal departments.

The other DHS officials represented on the panel were U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement Director John Morton, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Director Connie Patrick, and Blue Campaign Chair Alice Hill.

—*Susan Holliday*
Office of Public Affairs