The Blue Campaign Newsletter

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The Department of Homeland Security is committed to combating the global crime of human trafficking. Through public outreach, victim protection, and law enforcement operations and training, the DHS Blue Campaign works diligently to prevent human trafficking before it occurs, to protect victims when it has occurred, and to minimize reoccurrence by conducting investigations to bring traffickers to justice. The DHS Blue Campaign newsletter serves to update stakeholders about information that is relevant to the work of the anti-human trafficking community.

1 Year Anniversary of the Blue Campaign

On August 3, Secretary Napolitano met with anti-human trafficking NGOs and victim service leaders to discuss DHS' progress in combating human trafficking. Secretary Napolitano joined Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas, Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner David Aguilar, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Director Connie Patrick and Senior Counselor Alice Hill to highlight the important work of NGOs committed to ending human trafficking by providing vital services to victims and supporting them as they integrate into their communities. For more information, see the DHS Blog post or the readout from the meeting.

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 11081061. (Posted 08/10/11)

New Blue Campaign Facebook Page and Video Message from Secretary Napolitano

This spring, the Blue Campaign launched a new Facebook page to engage our partners through social media—allowing us to share photos, human trafficking news, and information on the Blue Campaign, as well as a newly-released video message by Secretary Napolitano about DHS' efforts to combat human trafficking. Concerned individuals and stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking can now receive periodic Blue Campaign updates by "liking" the Blue Campaign on Facebook. The Facebook page is accessible to all web-users, including those without a Facebook account. Keep checking back for the Blue Campaign's latest updates, and if you like what you see, please share the page on your own profile!

Blue Campaign Hosts the 2011 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Heroes at DHS Headquarters

Members of the DHS Blue Campaign hosted the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Heroes at DHS headquarters to discuss their work to help fight human trafficking. Each year, the Department of State honors individuals around the world who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking.

"Meeting with all of you today, who work tirelessly and directly with victims across the globe, we are reminded that, yes, with commitment and passion each of us can make a difference," said Alice Hill,

Senior Counselor to Secretary Napolitano.

Read more about the meeting with the TIP Heroes on the DHS Blog .

New Tool Kit for Prosecutors

As part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) ongoing initiatives to strengthen coordination with state and local prosecutors, the agency has published a new tool kit to help prosecutors navigate situations in which a prosecutor requires that a foreign national remain in the United States for a period of time to assist with an ongoing investigation or to serve as a witness, victim, or defendant in a criminal case. The tool kit explains the protections available to victims of criminal activity, which in appropriate cases may enable victims to remain in the U.S. for an extended period and may ultimately lead to U.S. citizenship.

The tool kit is available for download at http://www.ice.gov/about/offices/leadership/osltc/tool-kit-for-prosecutors/index.htm .

3 Men Convicted of Harboring, Importing Minor Girls for Prostitution

On June 15, 2011, a federal jury convicted three men on charges for conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens to engage in prostitution, arising from an investigation conducted by ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

Juan Antonio Garcia-Garay was found guilty of importing aliens for prostitution, and Juan Ignacio Chavarria-Ontiveros and Antonio Martinez Jr., were convicted of conspiracy to harbor and harboring illegal aliens, following an investigation that arose from a routine traffic stop. On March 16, a Rio Grande City police officer stopped the men, accompanied by a 13-year-old girl, during the traffic stop and learned that the girl was in the country illegally. The officer then contacted U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Border Patrol and, while asking routine questions of the unaccompanied minor, CBP learned that the girl was being used for prostitution purposes.

Click here to read more.

Nigerian Woman Convicted by Federal Jury for Trafficking 2 Young Women and Forcing Them to Work as Nannies

On June 10, 2011, Bidemi Bello, a former resident of Suwanee, Ga., and a citizen of Nigeria, was

convicted on eight counts by a federal jury on charges of two counts of forced labor, two counts of trafficking for forced labor, one count of document servitude, one count of alien harboring, and two counts of making false statements in an application to become a United States citizen. The case was investigated by ICE HSI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service.

Bello separately recruited two victims to come to the United States to work as her nanny, with the promise that she would send the young women to school in the United States. The first victim, identified in court as “Laome,” traveled with Bello in October of 2001 using a fraudulent British passport the defendant had obtained for her. The second victim, identified in court as “Dupe,” traveled with an associate of Bello's to the United States in November of 2004 when she was 20, also using a fraudulent British passport.

Click here to read more.

"America’s Most Wanted" Features ICE Fugitive

The television program " America's Most Wanted " is famously known for helping law enforcement catch some of the country's most hardened criminals. On Saturday, June 11, John Walsh and his team highlighted one of ICE's most wanted fugitives, Eric Bell, during the show's "Be On the Look Out" (BOLO) segment. Eric Bell is wanted for sex trafficking a minor and producing child pornography, among other charges.

“Few crimes are more heinous than the sex trafficking of minor victims, which is why Bell is at the top of our 'most wanted' list,” said Susan McCormick, special agent in charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations in Tampa, Fla.”Seeing this case prosecuted is a top priority for my office and for our law enforcement partners on the Clearwater Area Task Force Against Human Trafficking. We are hopeful that someone saw the show and will provide details that lead to his arrest.”

Click here to read more.

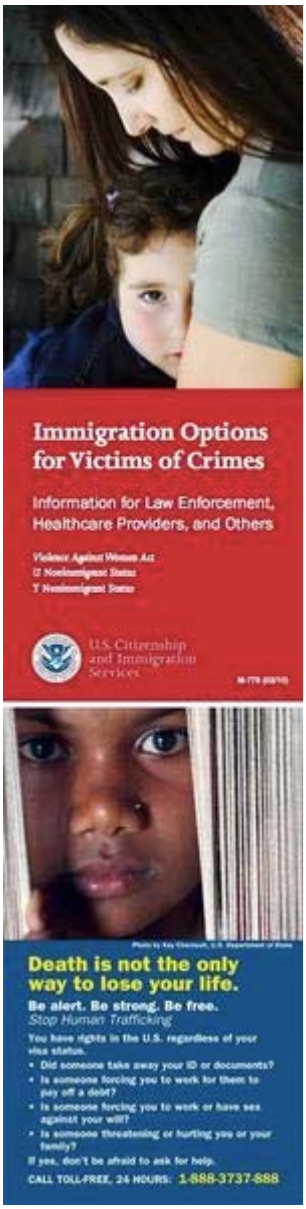
ICE Victim Assistance Program Puts Victims' Needs First

The ICE Victim Assistance Program continues to remind our partners that Victim Assistance Specialists are on call to assist victims encountered in any ICE investigation, from human trafficking and child exploitation to human rights abuse and white collar crime. The program’s 18 specialists have experience in social work, child welfare, human rights and counseling, and work to ensure that the rights of crime victims—including victims of human trafficking and child exploitation—are protected, that they receive immigration relief when necessary, and that they have access to services.

"We are the non-gun, non-badge carrying personnel who are dedicated to victims' rights and services. First and foremost, we are concerned about their safety and needs. We view them as partners in the criminal justice process, and they are much better equipped to participate actively and fully when they've been treated with respect and care,” said Marie Martinez, section chief for the

Victim Assistance Program.

Victims of crime and human trafficking who may be in the United States illegally often don't realize they have rights. These individuals are scared and alone, and have often experienced traumatic situations that may have long-lasting psychological effects. It is the role of the ICE Victim Assistance Specialists to provide critical assistance and guidance to help these victims. For more information on how to contact a Victim Assistance Specialist, please email victimassistance.ice@dhs.gov .



Victim Assistance Materials Now Available in More Languages

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) "Immigration Options for Victims of Crimes: Information for Law Enforcement, Healthcare Providers, and Others" pamphlet is now available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. The pamphlet is designed to assist front-line workers such as police officers, healthcare providers, judges, and prosecutors in providing information and assistance to those who have been victims of crimes. Immigrant victims of crimes such as abduction, rape, trafficking, false imprisonment, extortion, or domestic violence, may be eligible to apply for green cards or other visa statuses by themselves without anyone else needing to apply on their behalf. The pamphlet focuses on the Violence Against Women Act, U nonimmigrant status, and T nonimmigrant status.

Based on feedback from Blue Campaign stakeholders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has added Arabic, French Creole, Hindi, Chinese (traditional), and Portuguese to the list of available languages for victim assistance tear cards. These tear cards are available for distribution to potential human trafficking victims and vulnerable populations. Each pad has 50 paper tear cards that provide the 24-hour phone number for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; list four indicator questions; and explain that victims have rights in the U.S. regardless of visa status, which can be taken by individuals for later reference. The cards are also available in English, Chinese (simplified), French, Indonesian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

To order these and other DHS anti-human trafficking materials, email BlueCampaign@dhs.gov .

ICE and Local Law Enforcement Agents in Asia Trained to Combat Human Trafficking, Forced Child Labor, and Child Sex Tourism

In the spring, the ICE Office of International Affairs hosted an Asia regional training event on human trafficking, forced child labor, and child sex tourism for ICE agents and regional host-country counterparts. More than 80 people from ICE and the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Justice, Labor, and State, as well as NGOs and law enforcement organizations from member economy nations in the Pacific Rim, attended the training event.

The training was one of three regional biennial law enforcement trainings conducted by ICE. In addition to sharing best practices on prosecutorial methodology, victim assistance, money laundering and asset forfeiture, cyber crimes and other topics, ICE's three-day trainings provide an invaluable opportunity to build relationships among regional law enforcement and service provider partners. The next 3-day training is scheduled for September, 2011 in Rome, Italy.

New Report: Technology and Research Requirements for Combating Human Trafficking

In cooperation with the DHS Office of Science & Technology and the Department of Energy, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has produced a report on technology and research requirements to enhance communication, analysis, reporting, and information sharing related to human trafficking. PNNL examined information sharing gaps and unmet technology requirements of anti-human trafficking communities – DHS' federal, state, local, tribal and private sector partners – in the Pacific Northwest region. The report identifies and provides recommendations to address thirteen problem areas.

The full report is available on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory website.

We've Updated Our Fact Sheet!

The Blue Campaign is comprised of representatives from seventeen operational and support components from across DHS. Updated information on Blue Campaign resources for the public, training for law enforcement and DHS personnel, victim assistance efforts, and interagency, international and private sector partnerships and collaboration can be found in our updated Blue Campaign Fact Sheet . To receive automated email notifications of fact sheet and other website updates, visit www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking and click "Get e-mail updates when this information changes." You can also sign up for updates to separate resource pages for victims, concerned

citizens, law enforcement, community organizations, or the private sector.

For more information about the Blue Campaign or to share a success story from the field, email BlueCampaign@dhs.gov .

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