



Homeland Security Blue Campaign

December 10, 2010

Executive Summary

Blue Campaign Stakeholder Meeting with Senior Counselor Alice Hill

Background

On December 10, 2010, Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, hosted a meeting with stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking.

The meeting was the second stakeholder meeting of the DHS Blue Campaign to combat human trafficking, launched in July of 2010. The Blue Campaign's mission is "To harness the authorities and resources of the Department of Homeland Security to deter human trafficking by increasing awareness, protecting victims, and contributing to a robust criminal justice response." The meeting focused on current projects of the Blue Campaign as well as future deliverables. Invitees included representatives from throughout the federal government, state and local law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, foreign governments, the United States Congress, the private sector, and the general public.

On behalf of Secretary Napolitano, Counselor Hill conveyed support and appreciation for the stakeholders present. Over 150 stakeholders from thirty states and a variety of employment sectors accepted the invitation to attend in person, by phone, or by webinar. Counselor Hill stated that such diverse participation is an important driver for the kind of vigorous dialogue DHS stakeholder meetings strive to engender.

To provide updates on Blue Campaign activities and to facilitate the stakeholder discussion, Counselor Hill introduced the following panel of DHS subject matter experts:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):
 - Angie Salazar, Senior Special Agent and Program Manager, ICE Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit
 - Katerina Karousos, Unit Chief for Exploitation Crimes, ICE Office of International Affairs
 - Marie Martinez, Section Chief, ICE Victim Assistance Program
 - Mary Loiselle, Principal Deputy Associate Director, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):
 - Rose Hartmann, Adjudications Officer and T visa expert, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy
 - Scott Whelan, Adjudications Officer and U visa expert, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP):
 - Matt Davies, Program Manager, CBP Office of Field Operations, Admissibility and Passenger Programs
 - Roberto Campos, Program Manager, CBP Office of Field Operations, Admissibility and Passenger Programs
 - Laurel Smith, Director of Communications and Outreach
- DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL):
 - Margo Schlanger, DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
 - Amy Cucinella, Immigration Policy Advisor, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC):
 - Kevin Livingston, Deputy Assistant Director for Washington Operations

Announcements

New Public Service Announcement

The Blue Campaign partnered with Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher to produce a public service announcement (PSA) to raise awareness about human trafficking. The PSA introduces human trafficking as a form of modern slavery that exists within the United States, asks viewers to consider a number of indicators of human trafficking, and encourages the public to report suspected trafficking to law enforcement.

Computer-Based Training for Law Enforcement

DHS is conducting live trainings of the computer-based human trafficking training for law enforcement, which was released in summer, 2010. Live symposiums have been conducted in Ohio, Texas, and Florida; the next live symposium is scheduled for Alabama. DHS is also translating the training into Spanish to share with Spanish speaking foreign law enforcement counterparts.

Hidden in Plain Sight

The “Hidden in Plain Sight” public awareness campaign, which ICE has conducted annually since 2008, launched in September, 2010 in foreign language newspapers across the United States. The advertisements highlight some of the indicators of human trafficking and encourage the public to report suspected instances of trafficking. The advertisements ran in Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish, and Thai in 50 different newspapers with readership totaling 5,000,000 persons.

Greater Victim Confidentiality

USCIS has implemented greater victim confidentiality protections for victims with pending or approved applications for immigration relief. The Central Index System database now has a specific code that will allow DHS employees to verify quickly whether an individual is covered by the confidentiality provisions associated with VAWA self-petitions or T or U nonimmigrant status petitions. DHS staff will be educated and trained on the addition to the system in the coming months.

USCIS VAWA Report to Congress

In October, 2010, USCIS presented to Congress a “Report on the Operations of the Violence Against Women Act Unit at the USCIS Vermont Service Center.” USCIS has posted the report on www.uscis.gov. The report focuses on the operations, composition, and duties of the VAWA Unit at the Vermont Service Center, which is the sole center that adjudicates VAWA self-petitions, T and U nonimmigrant status, and T and U adjustment of status. The report concludes, among other things, that the VAWA Unit has rigorous training and mentorship requirements, a high degree of staff seniority, and relatively low staff turnover; and that the VAWA Unit has grown in size to reduce processing times and to accommodate new workloads.

USCIS Video Message

USCIS is planning to produce a video message on human trafficking and the types of immigration relief available to trafficking victims. This video will likely feature the story of a human trafficking survivor as well as highlighting the importance of the available immigration relief for victims. USCIS envisions the video to be 2-3 minutes in length and available in several languages. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact T_U_VAWATraining@dhs.gov to provide feedback on the format and style of the video message.

Enhanced Training for DHS Personnel

CRCL is working with FLETC, the USCIS Ombudsman’s Office and other DHS components to develop new computer-based training for DHS employees. Two trainings are currently under development: Human Trafficking Awareness, and VAWA Confidentiality and Immigration Remedies. The trainings are due to be released in summer, 2011. The USCIS Ombudsman’s Office is currently soliciting input from stakeholders on the VAWA Confidentiality and Immigration Remedies training, and CRCL plans to solicit input on the Human Trafficking Awareness training in the near future.

Medical and EMS Community Engagement

As a direct result of stakeholder comments at the June 22, 2010 stakeholder meeting, the Blue Campaign held a call on November 30 with representatives from the medical, public health, and EMS communities to discuss how DHS could expand its work with these groups to fight human trafficking. Participants on the call included representatives from the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Association of State EMS Officials, the Christian Medical Association, and the Institute of Medicine. The Blue Campaign is integrating the ideas received on November 30 into human trafficking training and outreach activities.

Discussion Summary

Discussion Question 1: Are you seeing any new trends or developments in your work with human trafficking victims?

Victim service providers expressed that they are seeing more trafficking of persons who entered the United States with documentation. Specifically, participants reported increased inquiries from A3 and G5, H2A and H2B, and J1 visa holders.

Discussion Question 2: What are some of the most innovative and effective practices that you have seen in the areas of awareness, victim relief and rehabilitation, and the criminal justice response?

Participants reported many creative ways to train new audiences on human trafficking, including via continuing medical education credit, multi-lingual posters in strategic urban areas, webinars, high school and middle school forums, clinical psychologist outreach efforts in schools, and citizen watch and homeowner associations. Stakeholders also expressed support for ICE's continued use of dedicated victim specialists to assist trafficking victims during enforcement and rescue operations.

Discussion Question 3: Are you aware of vulnerable populations in the U.S. that are not being reached by U.S. government efforts?

Stakeholders reported multiple vulnerable populations in need of targeted outreach including unaccompanied children at the border, students traveling to the United States on student visas, the LGBTQ community, and teenage runaways.

Discussion Question 4: What are some examples of particularly effective partnerships between state/local and federal governments? How would you recommend enhancing or expanding state/local partnerships with DHS? Please be specific.

Stakeholders suggested expanded partnerships with professional societies—including apartment management associations, national restaurant associations, and hotel associations—and youth organizations; the use of social media to promote awareness and provide alternative reporting opportunities for trafficking victims; and partnerships to build market-based approaches to combating human trafficking by influencing supply and demand factors.

Next Steps

The DHS Blue Campaign Steering Committee will review stakeholder comments and incorporate feedback into Blue Campaign activities. The next stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for summer, 2011.

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: hotlinefollowupI918I914.vsc@dhs.gov
- To request T and U visa training, or to provide feedback on the USCIS video message: T_U_VAWATraining@dhs.gov
- For specific policy questions on T visas: Rosemary.Hartmann@dhs.gov
- For specific policy questions on U visas: Scott.Whelan@dhs.gov
- Law enforcement access to the DHS human trafficking training for federal, state, and local law enforcement: <http://www.fletc.gov/training/programs/human-trafficking-training-program>
- DHS civic engagement website: <http://ourborder.ning.com/group/unitedagainsthumantrafficking>