

Subject: [Records Center] Public Information Request :: R021040-012224
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 at 3:35:05 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: TEXAS AG Public Information
To: AO Records

EXTERNAL SENDER

Attachments:

[RE_conference_thank_you_connections.pdf](#)
[RE_Borders_Trade_and_Immigration_Institute_-_New_Academic_Center_of_Distinction_to_Counter_Human_Trafficking.pdf](#)
[FW_TEXAS_LABOR_TRAFFICKING_CASE.pdf](#)
[Binder1.pdf](#)
[RE_REQUEST_PRESENTATION_at_the_2023_Conference_to_Combat_Human_Trafficking_December_12-13_2023_.pdf](#)
[Binder2.pdf](#)

--- Please respond above this line ---

January 29, 2024

Mehreen Rasheed
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Re: Public Information Request No. R021040

Dear Mehreen Rasheed:

This e-mail is in response to your public information request to the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG"), received by the OAG on January 22, 2024.

The OAG has reviewed its files and has located the attached documents that are responsive to your request. Although the Public Information Act allows a governmental body to charge for providing documents in certain circumstances, the attached documents are being provided to you at no charge. Please note the OAG has redacted a personal e-mail address from the attached documents pursuant to section 552.137 of the

Government Code and the previous determination issued by the Open Records Division. See Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009) (governmental bodies may withhold certain information without necessity of requesting decision from Open Records Division). Additionally, with your permission, we have redacted information that identifies a victim of human trafficking that would be excepted from disclosure on the basis of common-law privacy.

If you have any questions, please contact publicrecords@oag.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Lauren Downey
Assistant Attorney General
Public Information Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Public Records Center](#)

GovQA logo

From: [Brody Burks](#)
To: [Jessica Sanchez](#)
Subject: Fwd: Agenda for Conference to Combat Human Trafficking
Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 8:32:44 AM
Attachments: [agenda-conference-to-combat-human-trafficking-10-17-2023.pdf](#)

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From: Kevin Clement < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:40:55 PM
To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: Agenda for Conference to Combat Human Trafficking

Brody -

We look forward to your presentation on December 12th. Agenda attached.

Best regards,
Kevin
512-626-5413

https://urldefense.us/v2?url=https-3A__uh.edu_btj_-5Ffiles_agenda-2Dconference-2Dto-2Dcombat-2Dhuman-2Dtrafficking-2D10-2D17-2D2023.pdf&d=DwIFAg&c=Z_mClsqOcfBCM1ZptXokOssX_UluAisagocM28CycwX02GIBNlc3R_dT8R7Wyc&r=di778WkxR4Iq81WGZuPiOIo1L_xaQfQN2kN-e0ZUA0&m=jdXECZslopCnGsunpOnSez1LGo0lz2Anj3KkOsM2mrgty1TxacHL6QiiYaLYylM8&s=WYRo172IPVfi7U5U9YljJQfgKjnzYVpIhjq6TMdIaw&e=

Sent from my iPhone

2023 Conference to Combat Human Trafficking

AGENDA

Day 1, December 12, 2023

- 8:00 am** **Registration** **Daeja Washington**
- 8:30 am** ***Welcome*** **Mike Aspland**
Director
Institute for Homeland Security
Sam Houston State University
- 8:50 am** ***Introductions and Conference Overview*** **Kevin Clement**
- 9:00 am** ***The DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking***
Synopsis: *The DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking is the U.S. government’s first-ever integrated law enforcement operations center directly supporting federal criminal investigations, victim assistance efforts, intelligence analysis, and outreach and training activities related to human trafficking and forced labor. Based in Washington and led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the center is staffed with law enforcement officials from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and subject matter experts and support staff from 16 DHS components—all focused on the “4 Ps” of the center’s mission: prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.*
Presenter:
Doug Gilmer
Senior Law Enforcement Liaison
DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
Email: Douglas.Gilmer@dhs.gov
- 9:30 am** **Break**
- 10:00 am** ***Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: Challenges and Lessons Learned***
Synopsis: *A prosecutor’s perspectives on the legal challenges and difficulties in attempts to prosecute cases involving human trafficking. This presentation provides lessons learned, best practices, and considerations for law enforcement officers in the field.*
Presenter:
Brody Burks
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Texas State Attorney General
Office: 512.466.4191
Email: Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov

11:00 am ***Panel: Developing Effective Legislation to Prosecute Human Traffickers***

Synopsis: *Best practices in legislation to counter and prosecute human trafficking.*

Speaker:

Shea M. Rhodes, Director/Co-Founder, Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Shea.Rhodes@law.villanova.edu

Panelist: Brody Burks, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Texas State Attorney General

Panelist: Frank Russo, Associate General Counsel, Conservative Political Action Coalition (CPAC)/ Director of the CPAC Foundation's Center for Combating Human Trafficking

12:00 am **Lunch**

1:30 pm: ***Exploitation of Unaccompanied Alien Children: The Vetting Process***

Synopsis: *Tara Lee Rodas served as a federal employee for more than 20 years. While serving at the Pomona Fairplex Emergency Intake Site in Pomona, California, Tara volunteered to help place Unaccompanied Children with Sponsors in the United States. Tara saw, firsthand, how lack of transparency, lack of oversight, flawed policies, and deficiencies in HHS' Unaccompanied Children Program resulted in children being placed with suspicious Sponsors and suspected trafficking rings throughout the United States.*

Ms. Rodas testified as a whistleblower before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement on how open-border policies enable the exploitation of Unaccompanied Alien Children.

Presenter:

Tara Lee Rodas

Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)

2:00 pm ***Unaccompanied Alien Children (Policies, Effectiveness, Accountability)***

Synopsis: *A candid discussion of the processing, health and welfare, movement and accountability of Unaccompanied Alien Children entering the United States.*

Moderator: Jessica Vaughn, Director of Policy Studies, Center for Immigration Studies

Panelist: Richard Mantei, Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida

Panelist: Ammon Blair, Senior Fellow, Texas Public Policy Foundation

3:00 pm **Break**

3:30 pm ***Waiting for You Online: Media Platforms and Human Trafficking***

Synopsis: *Online recruitment has existed for as long as there has been widespread access to internet platforms. The National Human Trafficking Hotline has recorded recruitment in all types of sex and labor trafficking on social media platforms. Traffickers may build an intimate relationship with a victim through social media. Traffickers will often share their exploits, as well as other useable evidence on their social media. This discussion will focus on using their social media to exploit their behavior and hold them criminally accountable.*

Presenter:

Joseph Scaramucci

Director of Law Enforcement Engagement

Skull Games, Inc

leo01@skullgames.io**Day 2 – December 13, 2023****8:00 am Case Study: Nonprofit Collaboration to Combat Human Trafficking (Virginia)**

Synopsis: *While many organizations have been formed to mitigate the social problem of human trafficking, little is known about how nonprofit organizations collaborate to combat human trafficking. The purpose of this qualitative single case study is to examine how nonprofit organizations collaborate in the state of Virginia to combat the social problem of human trafficking. The research questions center on best practices for and barriers to collaboration of nonprofit organizations to combat human trafficking.*

The theoretical foundation that underlies the current study is Pfeffer and Salancik's 1978 resource dependence theory. The unit of analysis is the specific organizations that collaborate with other nonprofits, businesses, individuals, and governments to combat human trafficking in the state of Virginia. The implication is that the research may inform nonprofit organizations about the best practices for and barriers to collaborating with other organizations when seeking to combat human trafficking.

Presenter:**Eric J Reed**, MPA

Doctor of Education (EdD) Student

Leadership and Innovation (Administration)

St. Thomas University

Miami Gardens, Florida

EricJReed001@gmail.com | 252.739.0947**9:00 am The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Anti-Trafficking Efforts**

Synopsis: *In recent years, there has been a surge of research interest in using big data, machine learning (ML), and artificial intelligence (AI) in anti-trafficking efforts. Data science techniques, with the power of data and computational analysis, can potentially assist anti-trafficking agencies in investigation, prosecution, and victim identification. Based on these theoretical advancements, hundreds of technological interventions have been designed and deployed to combat human trafficking.*

However, little consideration has been given to the societal and ethical challenges of those technology-based anti-trafficking tools despite their potential risks and harms, such as bias in datasets, privacy risks, surveillance of other at-risk groups, and issues concerning potential misuse. This research attempts to conduct an overview of the application of AI in anti-trafficking tools and analyze ethical challenges arising from the design, development, and deployment of this technology based on ethical AI and rights-based frameworks.

Presenter:**Thao Do**

Doctoral Student

University of Bath

Tnd32@bath.ac.uk

10:00 am Break

10:30 am **Pathway – Centralized Access to Human Trafficking Services**

Synopsis: *The Pathway Referral Network, a United Against Human Trafficking program, is a cloud-based platform connecting trafficked individuals to service providers through one central system, paving a pathway to coordinated care where inter-agency collaboration is celebrated. Entities are vetted before being placed on the Pathway. This technology is allowing the human trafficking survivor services to cast a wide net that extends nationally.*

Presenter:

Ken Henry

Chief Communications and Partnerships Officer
United Against Human Trafficking
KHenry@UAHT.org | 832.324.2369

11:30 am Lunch

1:00 pm **The Traverse Project: Combating Human Trafficking using Cybersecurity and Intelligence Analyst Tools and Techniques**

Synopsis: *Human trafficking producer nations are often developing and do not have the resources to combat the organizations that traffic humans globally. Methods used to combat human trafficking need to be focused, data driven, coordinated, measurable, and intelligence-based because the networks that fuel global human trafficking are constantly getting better at avoiding detection. Traverse Project is approaching the problem from a different perspective; we are utilizing skill sets of cybersecurity professionals and intelligence analysts to focus their work to combat trafficking. Our Civil Cyber Defense volunteers and university students utilize data analytics, academic resources, and intelligence gathering tools to identify, map, and disrupt the transnational networks that support human trafficking.*

Presenters:

Tiffany Strauchs Rad (BS, MA, MBA, JD)

Adjunct Instructor, University of Maine and U.C. Berkely
trad@berkeley.edu | 202.507.9441

Austin Shamlin

CEO and Founder, Traverse Project
Austin.Shamin@traverse.org | 240.498.6004

2:00 pm Break

2:30 pm **Human Trafficking and Seafood Slavery in Southeast Asia**

Synopsis: *Dr. DiGeorgio discusses the issue of human trafficking and seafood slavery in Southeast Asia and the multiple conditions/factors that perpetuate this activity. Also, she draws connections to our own US markets and the connection to fish as a multi-billion*

dollar a year industry. She will examine some of the mechanisms in place to combat seafood slavery and ways to engage to raise awareness about this modern day form of human trafficking.

Presenter:

JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, Ph.D.

Department Head and Professor of Political Science

Department of Liberal Studies

Texas A&M University at Galveston

P.O. Box 1675, Building 3007

Galveston, TX 77554

Digeorgj@tamug.edu | 409.740.4463

3:30 pm

Combating Human Trafficking: Future Research Needs

Synopsis: *The closing session is an open discussion between law enforcement operators, NGO representatives, and prospective researchers on technology and research needs that would assist operators in combating human trafficking.*

Facilitator:

Kevin Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships

Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute

KClement@uh.edu | 512.626.5413

From: [Brody Burks](#)
To: [Clement, Kevin M](#)
Cc: [Jessica Sanchez](#)
Subject: RE: Agenda as Requested
Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 3:03:51 PM
Attachments: [UofH - Burks.pptx](#)
[image001.png](#)

Kevin –

I just wanted to send you my powerpoint ahead of time so you have it. I will have my own laptop tomorrow to connect, but if it's easier for you to preload we can do that too!

I'll see everyone at The Woodlands Center at SHSU tomorrow. I'm having to drive in an out due to a schedule obligation later this week, but should be there by 930 at the latest!

Best,

Brody



Brody Burks
Assistant Attorney General
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548
(512) 305-8882
brody.burks@oag.texas.gov

This message may be confidential and/or privileged under Government Code sections 552.101, 552.103, 552.107, and 552.111 and should not be disclosed without the express authorization of the Attorney General.

From: Clement, Kevin M <kclement@Central.UH.EDU>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 7:44 AM
To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: Agenda as Requested

Kevin M. Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships
Director, 2024 Port of the Future Conference

Borders, Trade and Immigration Institute

University of Houston

(713) 743-1676 | (512) 626-5413 | kclement@central.uh.edu
www.PortoftheFutureConference.com

"Always do right; it will gratify some and astonish the rest."

From: Clement, Kevin M
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Yim, Harriet <HHYim@Central.UH.EDU>
Subject: PDF as Requested

Kevin M. Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships
Director, 2024 Port of the Future Conference

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"Always do right; it will gratify some and astonish the rest."

TEXANS ARE NOT FOR SALE

Human Trafficking Ends Here.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

Agenda

- **What is Human Trafficking**
- **Myths vs. Realities of Human Trafficking**
- **Trafficking and Social Media**
- **Case Presentation Difficulties**
- **Trauma as a Barrier**

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking Defined

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- ▶ **Human trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting a person for forced labor, services, or commercial sex.**
- ▶ **Key Elements of Human Trafficking:**
 - (1) Force,**
 - (2) Fraud,**
 - (3) Coercion, or**
 - (4) Sexual exploitation of a minor under 18.**



Photo by Molly Belle on Unsplash

Texas Human Trafficking Penalties

Trafficking of a Child for Sex

1st Degree Felony

No parole unless agreed

Sex Offender Registration

Trafficking of a Child for Labor

1st Degree Felony

No parole unless agreed

Trafficking of an Adult for Sex

2nd Degree Felony

3G

Sex Offender Registration

Trafficking of an Adult for Labor

2nd Degree Felony

3G

1st degree felony :

- If the victim or an unborn child dies as a result of trafficking.
- If victim was recruited, enticed, or obtained from shelter or treatment.
- If the defendant obstructs breathing or circulation.

Human Trafficking Hides in Indictments

- **Assault / Family Violence**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution**
- **Possession of Child Pornography**

SB 1527 v SB 129

SB 1527	SB 129
3F: 1 – 9 images	3F: 1 – 99 images
2F: 10 – 49 images	2F: 100 – 499 images
1F: 50 + Images	1F: 500+ Images
1F: A video of sexual assault of a child	1F: An employee of a child care facility residential treatment facility, shelter, or receives state funds
If possession with intent to distribute, enhancement to 1F or 15 year minimum	1 Degree enhancement if child under 10 years of age, or a 15 year minimum

Myths vs. Realities of Human Trafficking



Myth:

Trafficking involves smuggling people across a border.

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Photo by Giorgio Trovato on Unsplash

TX-AG-24-0031-A-000017

Reality:

- Trafficking is compelled labor or commercial sex; no movement is required.
- Trafficking victims can be citizens or non-citizens.
- Trafficking is a crime against a victim's human rights.
- Smuggling is a separate crime of transporting a willing person across the border illegally.



Myth:

Traffickers snatch up unsuspecting victims and lock them in cages and with chains.

Reality:

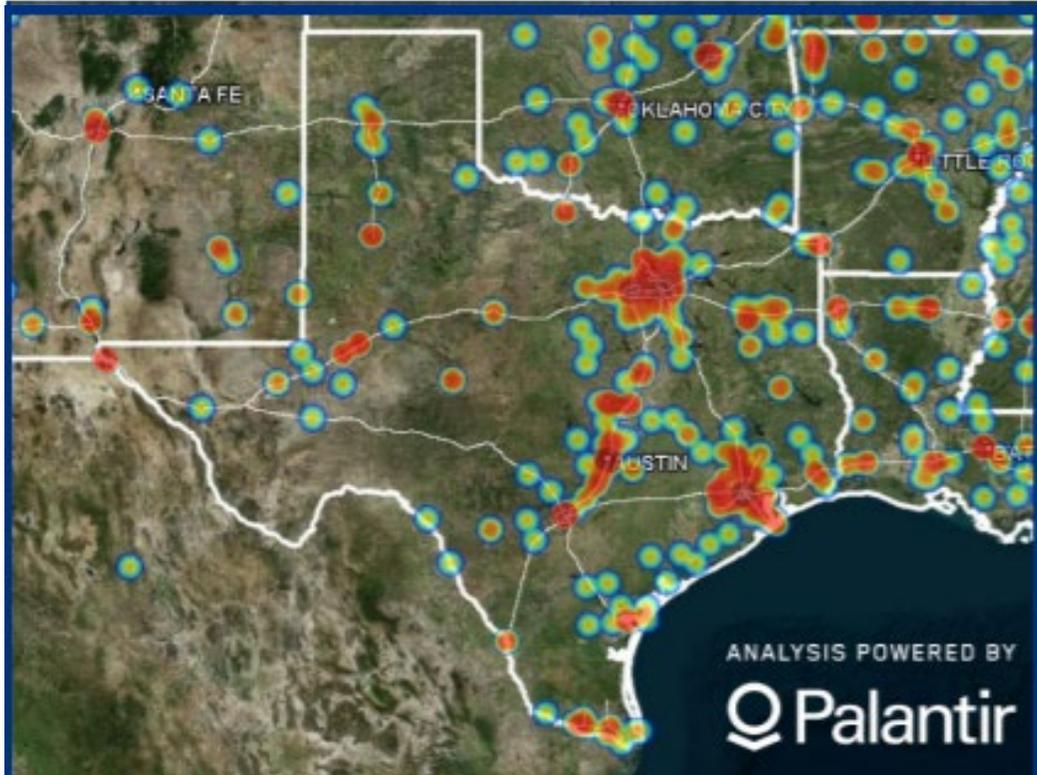
- **Traffickers obtain victims by making false promises of safety, income, or love. They maintain control over victims through emotional and physical abuse and manipulation.**
- **Victims can be trafficked by family members or people that they know.**

Myth:

Trafficking doesn't happen in my community.

Reality:

LOCATIONS OF REPORTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING



- Trafficking occurs throughout Texas.
- In 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified:
 - 3,534 calls/contacts from Texas
 - 1,124 Texas victims
 - 917 trafficking cases identified
- Texas has the 2nd highest number of calls to the hotline.

Trafficking and Social Media



Sextortion

A rising problem targeting girls for more CSAM and boys for economic gain.



1. Create extra time.
2. Have an exit plan.
3. Know that there's help.
4. Commit to stopping the spread.

Take It Down.

Having nudes online is scary,
but there is hope to get it taken
down.

This service is one step you can take to help remove
online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos
and videos taken before you were 18.

Get Started +



Recruiting Through Social Media

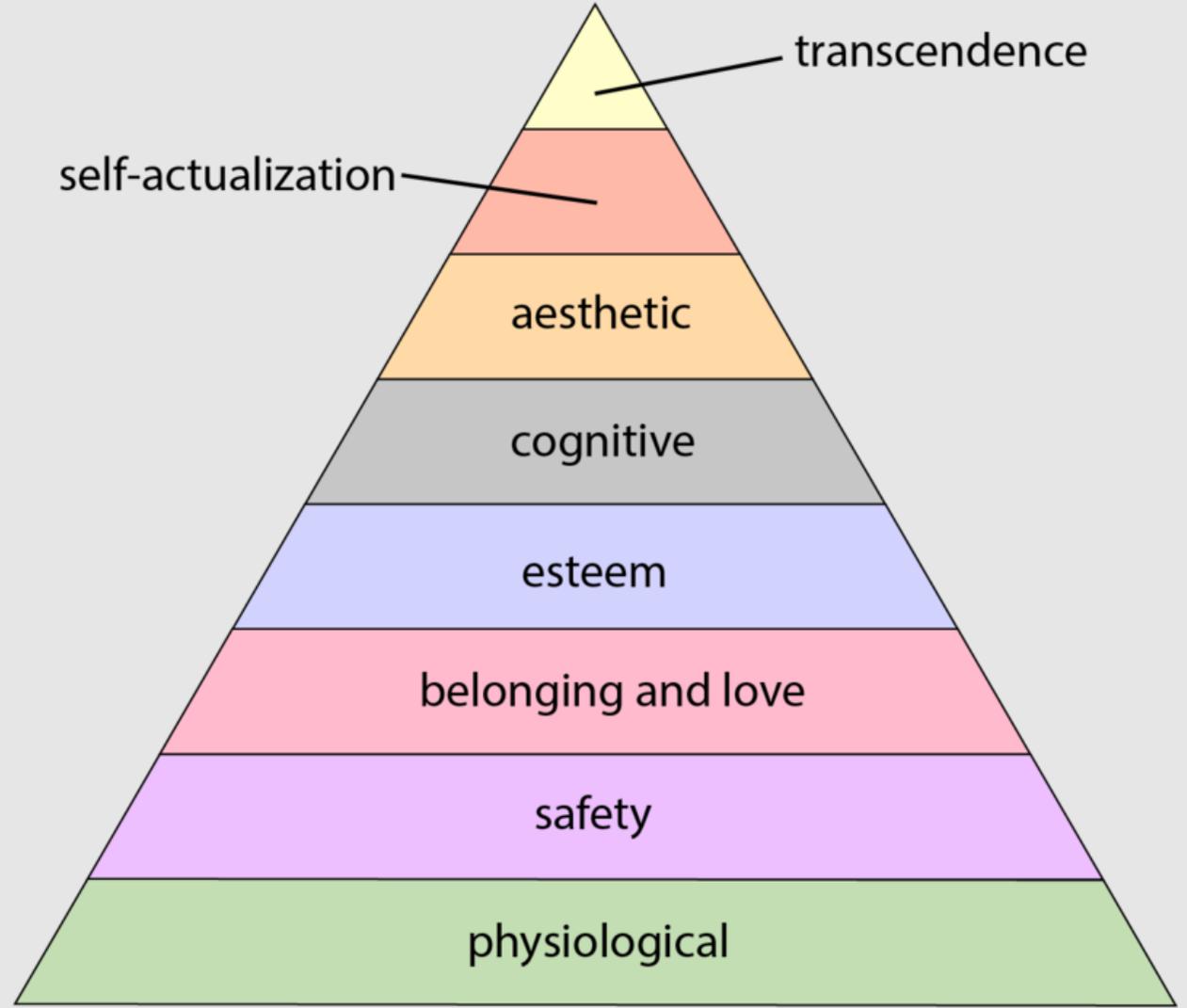
- More sophisticated criminals.
- Bad criminal history/violence.
- Use technology to commit crimes.
- Social media is important on the streets.

3 primary ways pimps use social media:

1. Recruit victims/customers
2. Brag about their success.
3. Front for their money.

Tactics

Groomers seek out children who have unmet needs low on the pyramid and then hit those needs *hard*.





Mobile Platforms



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TX-AG-24-0031-A-000030

Reddit

Recruiting and Bragging

- **CONSTANT** contact to reinforce a perceived relationship. Traffickers will mirror language, engaged in “pick up artist” tactics, and will absolutely share information about what tactics work best.
- Grooming victims isn’t **JUST** about breaking down barriers, but it’s also about building barriers to disclosure (“You know that they don’t understand you...”)
- Traffickers may use students to recruit other students – schools are target rich environments for vulnerable populations and one high school student talking to another high school student isn’t a red flag.

Recruiting and Bragging

Cole July 11, 2012: Sup gorgeous

Cole July 16, 2012: 8626684686

Cole July 19, 2012: I'm not gonna front I wanted you since I first saw you I'll take you shopping get you a car an apartment whatever it takes cuz that's how bad I want you at least hit me up and tell me no babygirl

Victim: Ummmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

Cole: Dead ass babygirl you know what I do I'm not cold hearted I'm sure (another minor female) has told you that so I'm not gonna mess you over but I'm like that poster in the army recruiter office we want you lol

So like I said you work for me I got you you make this agreement I will take you on a \$500 shopping spree off the rip

Victim: No im good

Cole: Ok well thanks for your time babygirl you have a good one

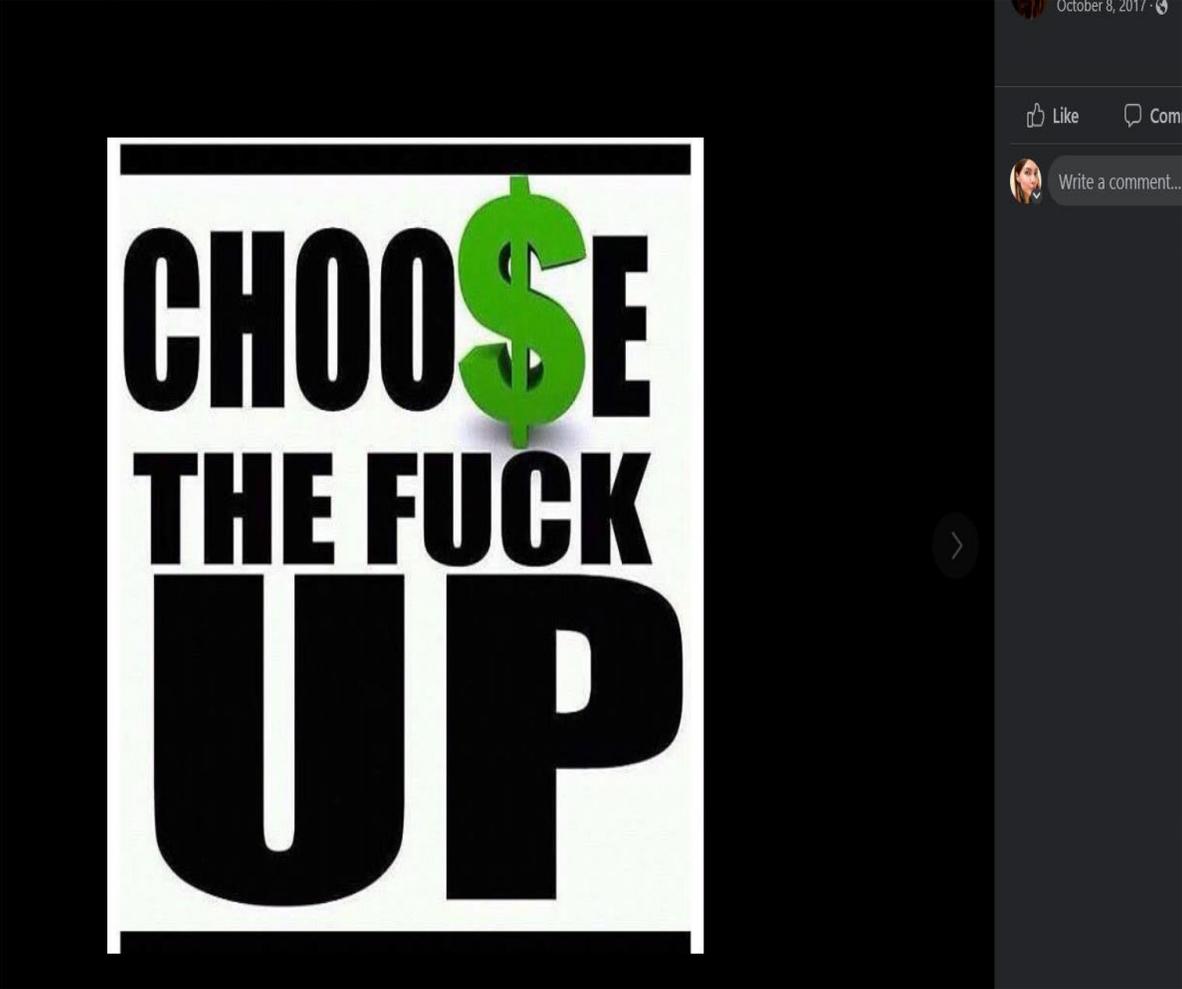
Victim: okk ad u do tha same

Cole: Aww your so sweet lol I'm always here if you ever needanything and change your mind

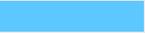
Victim: koo

Cole: And you guaranteed to go home with \$500 in your pocket everytime you work k I'm done now lol

Recruiting and Bragging



Difficulties in HT Cases



Family Trafficking

**Younger kids,
different red flags,
harder to detect and
intervene.**

HT Cases are Hard

- **Limited forensics**
- **Rare eyewitness testimony**
- **Victims with a criminal history**
- **Reluctant victims**
- **Jurisdictional issues**
- **Technological admissibility and**
- **People you don't know testifying about something you didn't see for a crime you don't know anything about**
- **The defendant chooses the victim**

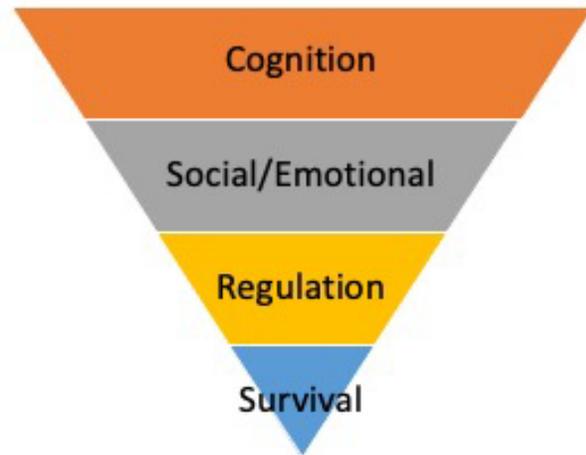
Jury Selection Issues

- **Law enforcement attitudes**
- **Child victims**
- **Victims and witnesses with criminal histories or other issues**
- **Sexual assault**
- **Sex work**
- **No force/fraud/coercion requirement for child victims**

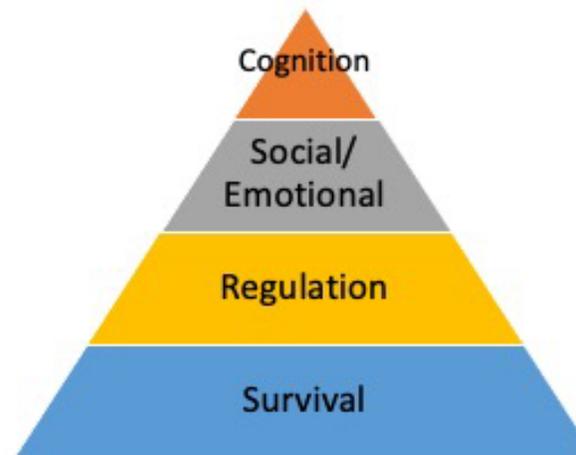
Trauma as a Barrier

Trauma alters brain development and need prioritization

Brain Development, No Trauma

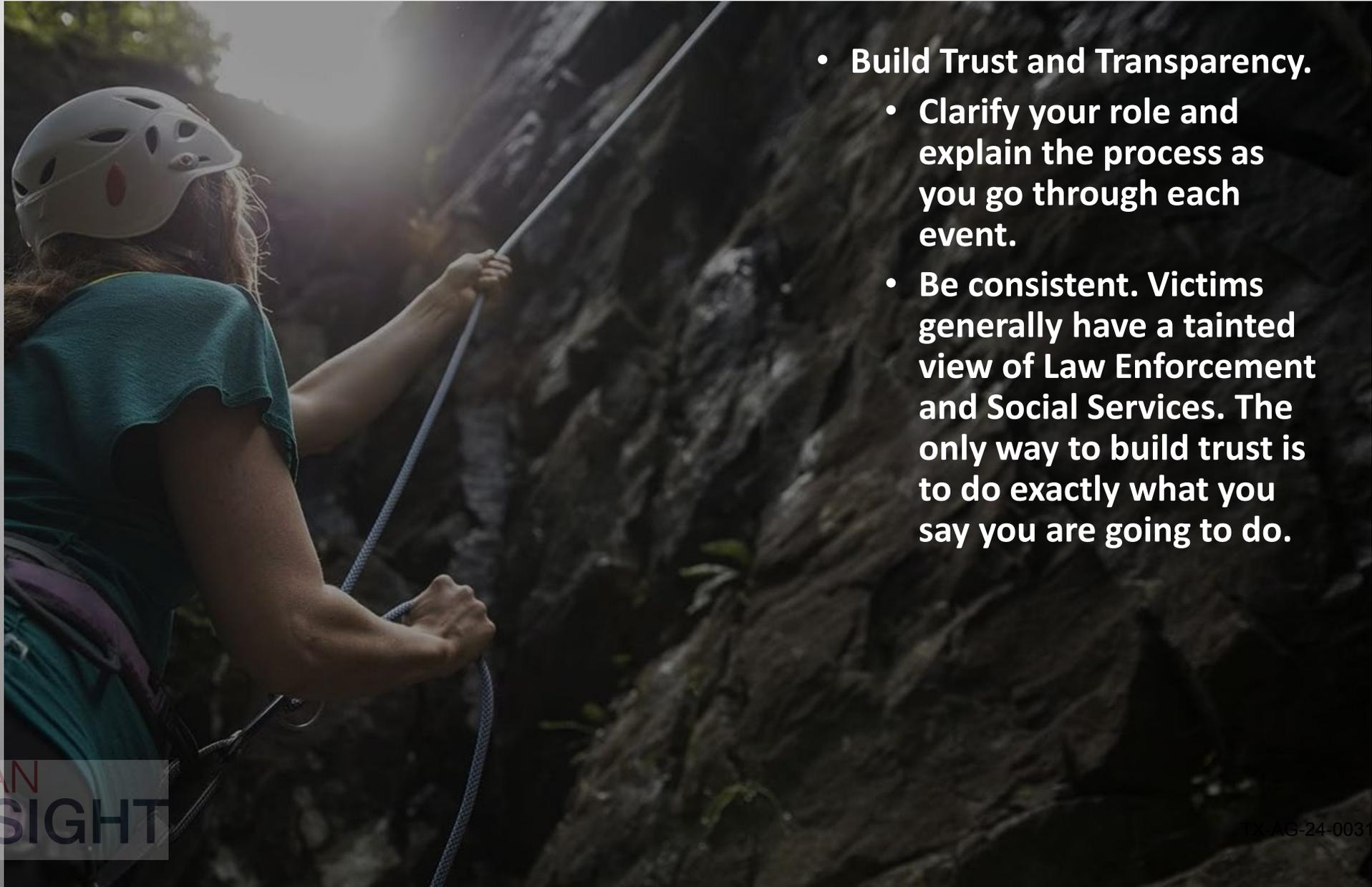


Brain Development, With Trauma



Adapted from Holt & Jordan, Ohio Department of Education

Provide a Victim Centered and Trauma Informed Response



- **Build Trust and Transparency.**
 - **Clarify your role and explain the process as you go through each event.**
 - **Be consistent. Victims generally have a tainted view of Law Enforcement and Social Services. The only way to build trust is to do exactly what you say you are going to do.**

Conduct Victim Centered Interviews

- **Remember that your victim may not self-identify as a victim.**
- **Be patient. Your victim may not disclose all or any of the trafficking details during the first interview.**
- **Understand that victims often form trauma bonds with their traffickers and may feel a sense of loyalty to them.**
- **Memory loss, lack of focus, emotional reactivity, and multiple versions of a story can all be signs of trauma exhibited during interviews.**
- **Give your victim a voice and let them tell their story.**
- **Ask open-ended questions that allows your victim to continue at their own pace.**

Connect the victim with organizations to help with victim resources



TEXAS
Health and Human Services



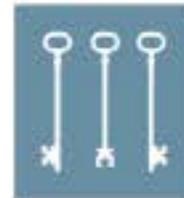
ALLIES

AGAINST SLAVERY



TEXAS CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



UNBOUND

WACO

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

Questions?

Need assistance?

Humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov

brody.burks@oag.texas.gov

From: [Amy Meredith](#)
To: [Brody Burks](#); [Allan Jones](#); [Kevin Fretwell](#)
Cc: [Jessica Sanchez](#); [John Hunt](#)
Subject: FW: TEXAS LABOR TRAFFICKING CASE
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:31:38 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-0ymxioz3.jpg](#)
[MRS THERESA'S CASE- SEND TO POLARIS.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Including Kevin on this one too-

Amy Meredith
Division Chief of the Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Division
512-971-3508



From: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov
Cc: [Jessica Sanchez](mailto:Jessica.Sanchez@oag.texas.gov) <Jessica.Sanchez@oag.texas.gov>; Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: TEXAS LABOR TRAFFICKING CASE

This woman stood up during my presentation in Houston the other day and talked a little bit about this. I told her to send me an email, and she did so yesterday. I haven't thought through it yet, but it does need to be logged as a tip. The fact that the victim isn't here is... difficult.

From: Ochuko Joy Agbeyegbe <joy@end-trafficking.org>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:13 AM
To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: TEXAS LABOR TRAFFICKING CASE

Dear Brody,

Trust this email finds you well. We met last week at BTI Institute's Conference to Combat Human Trafficking. I stopped by the conference just to get a chance to connect with you or someone from your office.

I am the Founder and President of End Trafficking International, a New York based non profit that works to assist victims of human trafficking regain freedom. Throughout my legal career, I have masterminded the freedom of several West African sex and labor trafficking victims across Europe, Africa and Middle Eastern countries.

Sometime in 2019, I received information about a Nigerian woman who was trafficked

to Texas as a live-in nanny. When I received the facts of the case, I immediately knew the elements of labor trafficking were all met. I immediately called the National Human Trafficking Hotline to report the case but nothing was done. The trafficker immediately ensured he returned the victim back to her home country in order to avoid prosecution but I'm positive that with the help of the ICE and other agencies, we can get the victim back into the country to testify against her trafficking. The victim is very willing to speak up and testify against her trafficker which is very uncommon among most victims from West Africa.

Although I was able to gain more insight into the difficulty in prosecuting most of these cases during your presentation, I strongly believe we would succeed in this case considering the fact that we have a willing victim who has a pretty good memory of the events.

I have attached the facts of the case sent to me by the victim's daughter years back which was sent to Polaris Project. Kindly review and let me know if this is something we can open.

Kind Regard,



Ochuko Joy Agbeyegbe, LL.B, B.L, LL.M
Founder & President
End Trafficking International
Website: www.end-trafficking.org
Email: joy@end-trafficking.org
Tel: +18623064326

From: [Brody Burks](#)
To: [Amy Meredith](#); [John Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Borders Trade, and Immigration Institute - New Academic Center of Distinction to Counter Human Trafficking
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 10:04:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Yep! They were the host for the Conference to Combat Human Trafficking that I spoke at in Houston back in December (that same week we did our Corpus training). There's a little bit of a political edge to some of their partners, but it's interesting in that it's associated with a higher ed institution and they've got access to lots of students who are doing research at the masters / phd level. I spoke to a couple students after. They'd probably be best working with someone like Allies and their Lighthouse data source, but I could see some good cross training / HTU opportunities out of it. Happy to talk about it more!

From: Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 8:23 AM
To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>; John Hunt <John.Hunt@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: Borders Trade, and Immigration Institute - New Academic Center of Distinction to Counter Human Trafficking

Clearly this is more of a investigative group but was curious if you knew anything about them Brody?

Amy Meredith
Division Chief of the Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Division
512-971-3508



From: Clement, Kevin M <kclement@Central.UH.EDU>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 6:34 AM
To: Robert Sunley <Robert.Sunley@oag.texas.gov>
Cc: Brian Rasmussen <Brian.Rasmussen@oag.texas.gov>; Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Borders Trade, and Immigration Institute - New Academic Center of Distinction to Counter Human Trafficking

Thank you!

Would you like to set a date/time to discuss how best the BTI Institute should coordinate/integrate with OAG to support your efforts?

V/R

Kevin

512-626-5413

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:40 PM, Robert Sunley <robert.sunley@oag.texas.gov> wrote:

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Bobby

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Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:55 AM

To: Robert Sunley <Robert.Sunley@oag.texas.gov>

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Captain Sunley -

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In December, DHS designated the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute (led by the University of Houston) as the first Academic Center of Excellence (Distinction) to Counter Human Trafficking

We seek OAG input as to how best to support the State of Texas' ongoing law enforcement efforts.

Please refer me to the appropriate person/office.

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Thank you,

Kevin

Kevin M. Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships

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A DHS Center of Excellence led by the University of Houston

(713) 743-1676 | (512) 626-5413 | kclement@central.uh.edu

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From: [Brody Burks](#)
To: [Amy Meredith](#); [John Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Borders Trade, and Immigration Institute - New Academic Center of Distinction to Counter Human Trafficking
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 10:04:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Yep! They were the host for the Conference to Combat Human Trafficking that I spoke at in Houston back in December (that same week we did our Corpus training). There's a little bit of a political edge to some of their partners, but it's interesting in that it's associated with a higher ed institution and they've got access to lots of students who are doing research at the masters / phd level. I spoke to a couple students after. They'd probably be best working with someone like Allies and their Lighthouse data source, but I could see some good cross training / HTU opportunities out of it. Happy to talk about it more!

From: Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 8:23 AM
To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>; John Hunt <John.Hunt@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: Borders Trade, and Immigration Institute - New Academic Center of Distinction to Counter Human Trafficking

Clearly this is more of a investigative group but was curious if you knew anything about them Brody?

Amy Meredith
Division Chief of the Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Division
512-971-3508



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Cc: Brian Rasmussen <Brian.Rasmussen@oag.texas.gov>; Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
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From: [Jared Mason](#)
To: [Brody Burks](#); [Gregory Sikowski](#)
Subject: RE: conference thank you/connections
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:53:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Greg,

It is very nice to meet you! I have been in some discussions with Allies and am happy to help in any way that I can.

Brody, thanks for the intro. I hope you are doing great!

Thanks,
Jared

From: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Gregory Sikowski <gregsikowski@tamu.edu>; Jared Mason <Jared.Mason@oag.ok.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: conference thank you/connections

Greg –

Thank you so much for attending! It was great to see the turnout, and I'm glad that you got some solid takeaways from it. I've included on this email Jared Mason with the Oklahoma Attorney General's office – they're really focusing on data collection and service implementation for human trafficking victims. He's the best reference I've got for you, and hope that you two can connect!

I don't have a personal connection, but do know that the Broward County / FBI task force in Florida has been very successful. Their listed contact information is Sergeant Atina Johnson (Ajohnson@lauderhill-fl.gov)

Hope that's helpful, and don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything else I can do.

Best,

Brody Burks



Brody Burks
Assistant Attorney General
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548
(512) 305-8882
brody.burks@oag.texas.gov

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and 552.111 and should not be disclosed without the express authorization of the Attorney General.

From: Gregory Sikowski <gregsikowski@tamu.edu>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 9:37 PM

To: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>

Subject: conference thank you/connections

Mr. Burks,

I'm one of the A&M graduate students who was at the Conference to Combat Human Trafficking earlier this week. Thank you for presenting! "Trafficking hides in other indictments," how trauma affects cognition, and kids creating extra time/having an exit plan all stuck with me. It was refreshing to hear an expert actually speak about this issue after I've sat at a computer reading so many articles.

I'm wondering if you know of any individuals or organizations in North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, or Colorado, who are also making significant contributions to combat human trafficking.

My graduate capstone group is working with Allies Against Slavery to conduct a national policy scan of human trafficking legislation, and this spring, we're going to perform case studies on the states mentioned by doing interviews with leaders in those areas. If you could connect us with anyone, we would be immensely grateful. Again, thank you for teaching us about prosecuting human trafficking cases! It's a perspective we haven't examined much yet.

Also, if you're interested in learning more about the work we are doing with Allies Against Slavery, you can read our executive summary [here](#).

Respectfully,
Greg Sikowski

From: [Clement, Kevin M](#)
To: [Brody Burks](#); [Amy Meredith](#)
Cc: [Jessica Sanchez](#)
Subject: RE: REQUEST PRESENTATION at the 2023 Conference to Combat Human Trafficking (December 12-13, 2023)
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:17:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Tell me what you want me to change. K

10:30 am ***Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: Challenges and Lessons Learned***

Synopsis: *A prosecutor's perspectives on the legal challenges and difficulties in attempts to prosecute cases involving human trafficking. This presentation provides lessons learned, best practices and considerations for law enforcement officers in the field.*

Presenter:

Brody Burks

Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Texas State Attorney General

Office: 512.466.4191

Email: Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov

Kevin M. Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships

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"Always do right; it will gratify some and astonish the rest."

From: Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:16 AM

To: Clement, Kevin M <kclement@Central.UH.EDU>; Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Sanchez <Jessica.Sanchez@oag.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: REQUEST PRESENTATION at the 2023 Conference to Combat Human Trafficking (December 12-13, 2023)

Absolutely! I'm available on Friday the 15th or Tuesday the 19th. I've looked at the proposed agenda and it won't be any trouble at all to keep training focused on "lessons learned, best practices and considerations for law enforcement officers in the field." For this presentation 50 minutes is probably best, as I like to try and take as many questions along the way as I can answer. My title and contact information are in my signature below, and I've also added my TCOLE bio.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything else, and I look forward to chatting with you soon.

Best,

Brody



Brody Burks
Assistant Attorney General
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P.O. Box 12548
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(512) 466-4191
brody.burks@oag.texas.gov

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From: Clement, Kevin M <kclement@Central.UH.EDU>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov>
Cc: Josh Reno <josh.Reno@oag.texas.gov>; Jessica Sanchez <Jessica.Sanchez@oag.texas.gov>; Brody Burks <Brody.Burks@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: REQUEST PRESENTATION at the 2023 Conference to Combat Human Trafficking (December 12-13, 2023)

Thank you all!

I want to ensure this is focused training per my original message.

Brody, send me a time/date convenient to you to meet. In the interim, please send your title, and contact information.

Thanks,
Kevin
512-626-5413

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 13, 2023, at 10:27 AM, Amy Meredith <Amy.Meredith@oag.texas.gov> wrote:

Good morning Kevin. We will be happy to attend the event and look forward to it!
Brody Burks oversees our trainings and will be your speaker. I have included him and

his legal assistant, Jessica, so you all can coordinate dates and times.

Thank you so much for reaching out!

Amy

From: Josh Reno <Josh.Reno@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:44 AM
To: Clement, Kevin M <kclement@Central.UH.EDU>
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Subject: RE: REQUEST PRESENTATION at the 2023 Conference to Combat Human Trafficking (December 12-13, 2023)

Kevin,

My apologies for not actually including Ms. Meredith on my previous email. She is our Human Trafficking Transnational Organized Crime Division Chief. Please coordinate with Amy regarding the event so she can assign the presentation to one of our subject matter experts. Looking forward to the event.

JTR

<image001.png>

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Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice

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The event will be held in the Ballroom at the University of Houston Student Center South, 4430 University Drive, Houston, 12-13 December 2023.

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I ask for Amy's full title and contact information. If you would like to amend the synopsis, please do and return to me.

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Cases: Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Synopsis: A prosecutor's perspectives on the legal challenges and difficulties in attempts to prosecute cases involving human trafficking. This presentation provides lessons learned, best practices and considerations for law enforcement officers in the field.

Presenter: Josh Reno, Office of the Texas
State Attorney General

Office: | Mobile:

Email:

Are you the individual who will be presenting?
Would you like 50 minutes or 30 minutes?

Happy to discuss further. I can be reached at
512.6256.5413

V/R
Kevin

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