



Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team

Greetings,

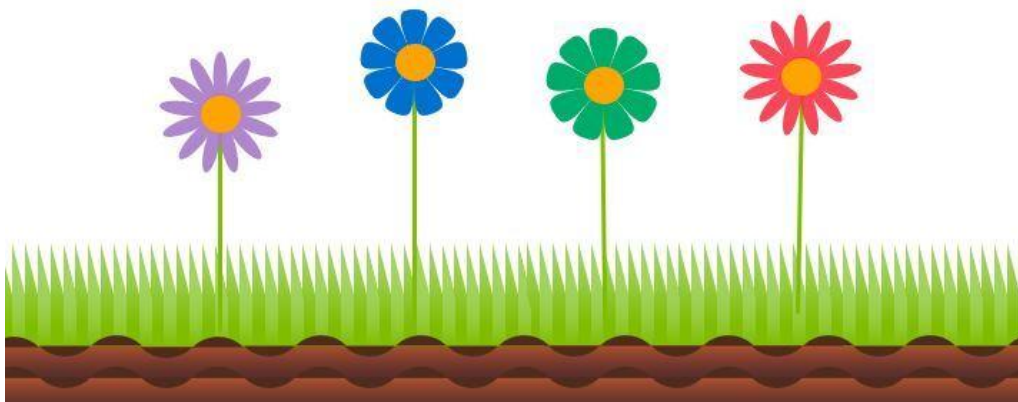
Welcome to the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT)'s March Newsletter. Bluebonnets can finally be seen across Texas! As nature renews this spring, so do our efforts to become a state where children and youth are truly free from sexual exploitation.

In this newsletter, you will find information about Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month, an exciting community spotlight out of West Texas, federal funding announcements, training opportunities, information about Crime Victims' Rights Week, publications from Polaris and the Human Trafficking Institute, and a wide array of resources.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the work you do on behalf of children and youth impacted by exploitation. Together, we will cultivate a safer and brighter future for Texas.

Sincerely,

The CSTT



**Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault
Awareness & Prevention Month**

April is around the corner, as is our observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month. There are strong intersections between child sex trafficking, child abuse, and sexual assault.

- **Child sex trafficking is a form of child abuse**, and is codified as such under [Section 261.001](#) of the Texas Family Code.
- **Child sexual abuse increases vulnerability to exploitation.** The [National Survivor Study](#), published by Polaris in 2023, found that of 450 trafficking survivors surveyed, a staggering 84% experienced sexual abuse in their childhood.
- **Sexual violence is present within human trafficking.** A global study published by the [Journal of Migration and Health](#) in 2021 found that 25% of female trafficking survivors experienced sexual violence during their exploitation. Additionally, the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) reported 12% of all sex trafficking victims identified through hotline contacts between 2015 and 2021 experienced sexual abuse as a method of control.

Next month, we proudly stand alongside survivors, organizations, and communities who work tirelessly to prevent child abuse and sexual assault. Click below to learn more about Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month and see the resources section of this newsletter for additional prevention information.

[Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

[Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month](#)

Community Spotlight



Truckers Against Trafficking | Midland, Texas

On February 14th, Truckers Against Trafficking, in partnership with oil field service companies SLB and Apache, Region 18 Education Service Center and the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, hosted a half-day human trafficking awareness event in Midland, Texas. The event brought together leaders from the energy industry and law enforcement for training, network-building, and to devise shared strategies to combat human trafficking. The convening focused on human trafficking in the Permian Basin, discussed engagement strategies for energy companies and their contractors, and featured presentations from a survivor-leader and law enforcement.

For more information on Truckers Against Trafficking and their programs, please visit their [website](#).

Funding Opportunities

OVC FY 2024 Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

The goal of this program is to provide services that address the needs of minor victims of sex and labor trafficking through a continuum of trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and gender-responsive services. [View Opportunity](#)

Grants.gov Deadline: 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, April 8, 2024

Application JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, April 22, 2024

OVC FY 2024 Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for victims of human trafficking, including those that provide trauma-informed services. [View Opportunity](#)

Grants.gov Deadline: 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, April 8, 2024

Application JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, April 22, 2024

OVC FY 2024 Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen a multidisciplinary approach to better respond to human trafficking. [View Opportunity](#)

Grants.gov Deadline: 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Application JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, May 6, 2024

NIJ FY24 Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons

With this solicitation, the National Institute on Justice, in collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), seeks to build upon its research and evaluation efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States.

[View Opportunity](#)

Grants.gov Deadline: 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Application JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, May 1, 2024

2024 National Crime Victims' Rights Week



Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has challenged the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime. During NCVRW, we celebrate the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement and reflect on how far we have come.

Every April, the Office for Victims of Crime leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW.

Join us April 21–27, 2024, as we observe NCVRW and elevate the theme,

How Would You Help? Options, Services, and Hope for Crime Survivors.

For more information about National CrimeFor resources and information for crime Victims' Rights Week and activities aroundvictims, please see the Office of the Attorney the country, visit the [OVC Website](#). General's [Crime Victims Webpage](#).

Training Opportunities

Highlighting Barriers to Human Trafficking Victim Identification

Crime Victims' Institute | Recorded Webinar

Dr. Cassandra Young from Sam Houston State University, Rebecca Cary from Hands of Justice, and Alyssa Linares from Children's Safe Harbor discuss human trafficking victimization and identification.

[Watch the Recorded Webinar](#)

Presenting Evidence in Child Forensic Interviews

National Criminal Justice Training Center | April 3-4, 2024

Explore how different types of evidence can be used in forensic interviews of children in abuse, witnessing violence and exploitation cases. Learn how to present different types of evidence in the context of a child-centered, trauma-informed, and legally defensible forensic interview approach. Practice techniques and develop skills to present different types of evidence in child forensic interviews.

[Register for this Training](#)

Following the Evidence in Child Abuse and Child Exploitation Cases

National Criminal Justice Training Center | April 10-11, 2024

Examine the importance of multidisciplinary team (MDT) case coordination and evidence corroboration in the investigation of child abuse cases. Learn how to evaluate evidentiary findings through crime scene images, interviews and case studies. Understand multidisciplinary team members' roles and responsibilities for protecting child victims and prosecuting offenders.

[Register for this Training](#)

Reports

In Harm's Way: How Systems Fail Human Trafficking Survivors

The National Survivor Survey is the largest and most significant effort to date to learn directly from survivors of sex and labor trafficking. This report uses the findings from this study to paint a detailed picture of the arc of trafficking – from the conditions that make people vulnerable, to barriers to healing when those same people break free after experiencing exploitation.

[View Report](#)



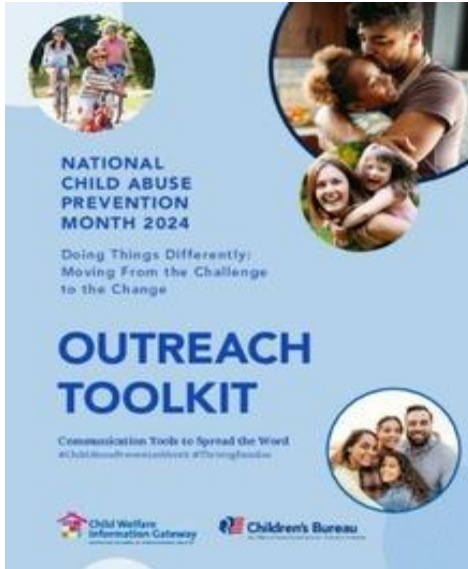
The 2022 Federal Human Trafficking Report

The Human Trafficking Institute publishes the Federal Human Trafficking Report each year as a tool for justice sector professionals, government agencies, and everyday advocates to understand the U.S. federal response to human trafficking and promote improvements. This project is essential to evaluating how well the United States prosecutes suspected traffickers. Check out the 2022 report at the link below.

[View Report](#)



Resources



2024 Outreach Toolkit: National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Spreading the word about child abuse prevention lets your community know they can take action to strengthen families and help them thrive. Use these free tools to engage your community this April!

[Download Outreach Toolkit](#)



Child Abuse Prevention: Mandatory Reporting, Training, & Reminders

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

TEA's "Child Abuse Prevention: Mandatory Reporting, Training, and Reminders Sheet" gives TEA resources and training options to support local education agencies with requirements concerning human trafficking education.

[View Resource](#)



End Child Trafficking Web Series

Love 146

Love146's free web series provides caregivers with critical information to protect youth from child sex trafficking. Love146 has almost two decades of experience in this field and has reached thousands of kids and caregivers through their trafficking prevention curriculum.

[View Prevention Series](#)



The Other Side of Trafficking

Traffick911

Trafficking happens because there is a demand for commercial sex. It is important to understand the whole picture of sex trafficking, which includes the issues of buyers and demand. Traffick911 provides the opportunity to learn about demand from former sex buyers, survivors, and anti-trafficking experts.

[View Resource](#)



Sexual Violence Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Sexual violence is a significant problem in the United States that can have a profound impact on lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being. CDC works to understand the problem of sexual violence and prevent it. Visit their website for a large collection of resources.

[Visit CDC Website](#)

Directories

Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors Online Directory

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force has assembled a [searchable on-line directory](#) containing up-to-date information about resources for survivors.

This service provider directory is searchable by organization name, services, and city. Search results may include local and statewide service providers. If you are unsure about which services are included under each category, please visit the [Service Definitions](#) page.

The National Human Trafficking Online Referral Directory

The online [Referral Directory](#) from the National Human Trafficking Hotline is made up of anti-trafficking organizations and programs that offer emergency, transitional, or long-term services to victims and survivors of human trafficking as well as those that provide resources and opportunities in the anti-trafficking field. *If you would like to add your organization to the directory, please review the [National Human Trafficking Referral Directory Guidelines and Expectations](#).*

Report Human Trafficking

If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

[iWatch Texas](#) – Tips made to iWatch are investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) – Call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Tips made to the hotline are reviewed and routed to local law enforcement. This hotline also offers 24/7 confidential support for survivors.

[Texas Child Abuse Hotline](#) - Report child neglect and abuse, including sexual exploitation of a child, to the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.



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