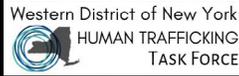


NEW YORK STATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS EVENT 2021



Overview of Human Trafficking Task Forces

January 25-27, 2021

For information and to register, please visit: <http://www.BrooklynDA.org/HTAwareness2021/>

The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force

The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force (BKHTTF) is currently co-led by the Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP) at Safe Horizon and Kings County District Attorney's Office. The BKHTTF members include local, state and federal law enforcement, city, state and federal government agencies) and numerous service providers (including lawyers, social workers, therapists, trainers) that span the five boroughs of New York City and work with thousands of victims every year.

BKHTTF meets monthly to discuss best practices, trends, victim needs, and coordinated responses to the anti-trafficking work done in New York City. The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force published the "[COVID-19 Effect on Human Trafficking Responses](#)" which details the effect COVID-19 had on BKHTTF member organizations and their change of operations.

In 2020, ATP served 263 victims of human trafficking, providing them with financial assistance including gift cards for food, personal care items and transportation, rental and medical bill assistance, immigration relief, case management and supportive counseling, and trauma-focused therapy. ATP also conducted 8 trainings, 17 presentations and hundreds of outreach activities to stakeholders in the anti-trafficking field. During the same period, KCDA's Human Trafficking Unit identified 49 potential victims of trafficking and opened over 60 investigations in Brooklyn, NY. The Human Trafficking Unit also conducted 14 trainings on human trafficking for law enforcement, community members, healthcare professionals, academics, and experts in the anti-trafficking field.

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Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI) Task Force

Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI) is a group of multidisciplinary professionals and stakeholders formed by Suffolk County Police Department and Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI) in November 2018. The task force includes Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Suffolk County District Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Probation, U.S. Attorney's Office, Homeland Security, FBI, Department of Social Services, local not for profits, drug rehabilitation programs and faith-based organizations. Its mission is to support the prosecution of traffickers, to prevent, identify, and support victims through a collaborative approach, and to educate the community and create awareness on issues of human trafficking.

Findings from SCATI's 2020 report show that Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) identified 52 human traffickers in Suffolk County, and there were 258 convictions.

SCPD confirmed 133 survivors and 23 potential survivors of human trafficking.

Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI) provided counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, and case management services to 186 survivors of human trafficking in 2019 and 2020.

SCATI partners trained 1,743 individuals in 2019 and 2020 about preventing, identifying, and supporting survivors of human trafficking.

The SCATI task force continues to grow and strengthen. SCATI members are dedicated to a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach when investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and providing services to victims to end human trafficking in Suffolk County.

Molly England, MSW

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Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force

The Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force is one of three task forces across the country to be consistently funded since its inception in 2006. Since 2006, approximately, 1500 survivors have received specialized support services from collaborative NGO partners after escaping from exploitative sex and labor trafficking situations in the Western District of New York.

NGO funding in Western New York has expanded in relation to the growing needs of this unique population, resulting in trauma-informed services for at-risk and trafficked youth, foreign-national adults, and survivors identified through human trafficking intervention courts.

Federal, state and local law enforcement membership in task force operations continues to rise as data shows an increase in survivor identifications and referrals by both experienced and newly trained law enforcement agencies across the region.

In June of 2020, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York indicted its first forced labor trafficking case. (There were only nine forced labor cases charged in the US in 2019, 2020 stats not available.)

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