



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.



Human trafficking is complex and requires a united and coordinated approach to address it. No single organization, corporation, or government can end the scourge of this heinous crime alone—our best hope is an approach that engages all of society. At the *Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking* event, businesses, experts from the private sector, representatives from non-governmental organizations, and federal, state, and local entities spoke about their efforts to eliminate human trafficking.

Stefan J. Marculewicz, shareholder and co-chair of the Business and Human Rights Practice Group at Littler Mendelson P.C., kicked off the event saying that businesses play a critical role in detecting and remedying forced labor in supply chains and combating sex trafficking.

Glenn Spencer, senior vice president of the Employment Policy Division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, talked about the activities of the organization's Task Force to Eradicate Human Trafficking. The task force is an advisory group made up of members who work with the federal government and private sector to develop commonsense solutions on how to prevent this heinous crime and speak with one voice.

Kirsten Best, CEO and executive director of Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST), engaged in a conversation with Daniel Emr, founder and executive director of Worthwhile Wear Inc., and Geri-Louise Dimas, co-director and fellow, the Stopping Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery Project (STAMP) Research Lab at the Institute for the Quantative Study of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (QSIDE), on risk identification.



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

BEST educates companies and non-governmental organizations on ways to prevent this heinous crime and has developed a best practices toolkit for businesses that employ survivors. STAMP Research Lab, in conjunction with Redcompass Lab, builds financial algorithms to identify and disrupt human trafficking activities. For survivors seeking wraparound services, Worthwhile Wear offers safe housing and vocational training and employment.

Michael Hartley, managing director of business and cyber intelligence at The Next Solutions Group, interviewed Arthur Nelsen, a sergeant in the Organized Crime Division, Human Trafficking Unit at the Austin Police Department, and Thomas M. Fattorusso Jr., a special agent in charge at the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Unit in New York.

Nelsen highlighted the wide-ranging resolution adopted by the Austin City Council to explore new resources for aiding trafficking victims, educating and collaborating with the community, and supporting law enforcement activity. The Next Solutions Group is providing strategic counsel to Austin in this endeavor.

Fattorusso spoke about the IRS' role in detecting perpetrators as the criminal unit traces the illegal flow of money to and from organizations behind this criminal activity. The agency investigates an average of 20 human trafficking cases each year, which accounts for an estimated \$10 million in laundered funds.



Prior to introducing the director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Thomas Ruck, senior engagement manager at DHS' Blue Campaign, emphasized the long-standing relationship between the Chamber and the federal government.

The Blue Campaign is the center's national public awareness campaign to educate the public, law enforcement, and partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to respond.

James C. Harris III, director of the Center for Countering Human Trafficking at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said, "Public-private partnerships are crucial in preventing and detecting human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and ensuring that critical services are offered to the victims of what is without a doubt one of the most devastating crimes that DHS investigates."

"Public-private partnerships are crucial in preventing and detecting human trafficking."

James C. Harris III, director, Center for Countering Human Trafficking, U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

Amanda M. Stylianou, Ph.D., LCSW, CEO of Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage (HEAL) Trafficking, led a conversation with Kimberly Williams, CEO of Faith Collaborative; Abbe Horswill, director of human rights and social impact at Marriott International; and Katherine Chon, director at the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) in the Administration for Children & Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

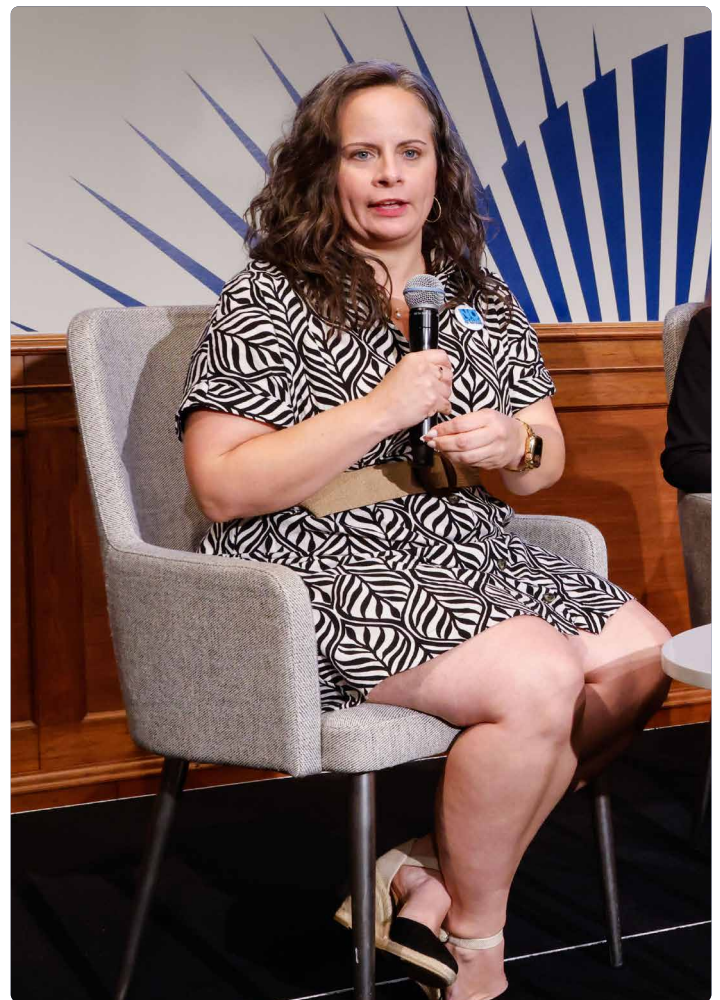
Panelists discussed the importance of training health care professionals to identify the signs of trafficking and how to provide appropriate care to victims. Horswill and Williams spoke about the partnership between Marriott International and Faith Collaborative in the greater Houston area to ensure that survivors are provided medical and dental care prior to seeking employment.

Eliza McCoy, vice president of programs and impact at the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) Foundation, provided an overview of the No Room for Trafficking initiative. This initiative is a commitment by the hospitality industry to offer prevention training to hotel employees and empower survivors through its Survivor Fund.

She stressed the importance of developing market-based solutions:

The AHLA Foundation represents on our membership side 80% of the hotel and lodging industry in the U.S., including the major brands, management companies, independent owners, and management. Our industry is focused on the combination of creativity and innovation when we are thinking about solutions.

Tsvetelina Thompson spoke about her journey as a survivor to leading the nonprofit Twentyfour-Seven Organization to help those in need. Twentyfour-Seven has developed a QR code that is placed in trafficking hotspots. Representatives from Hard Rock International and the Houston Airport System discussed the placement of these QR codes in their hotels and airports to assist law enforcement.



“Our industry is focused on the combination of creativity and innovation when we are thinking about solutions.”

Eliza McCoy, vice president of programs and impact, American and Hotel and Lodging Association Foundation



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

Sara Armstrong, vice president and managing director of the Federation Relations and Grassroots Advocacy Division at the U.S. Chamber, works with state and local chambers across the country to promote their initiatives on a national scale.

She moderated a conversation with officials from the attorneys general offices from Nebraska and Virginia, the secretary of state of Mississippi, and the president and CEO of the Nebraska Bankers Association. The association established the industry's first-ever HALT Human Trafficking Fund and is in the process of awarding grants to community-based organizations to leverage technology and data. The speakers emphasized the need to engage with the business community when shaping state and local policy as business leaders are the eyes and ears on the ground.



“It’s the people who act on the data provided that are really much more important than us.”

Fred Hefer, co-founder and managing partner, Pomerol Partners

Ashleigh Chapman, founder and CEO of Engage Together, interviewed Fred Hefer, co-founder and managing partner at Pomerol Partners. Engage Together works with Pomerol Partners to provide a community assessment and mapping tool to strengthen insights, strategies, partnerships, and resources to combat human trafficking across Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wyoming.

Hefer said, “We built a dashboard; we told the story. We are just enablers. The people who act on the data provided are really much more important than us.”



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

Reiterating the importance of partnership, Chapman said, “It’s a marriage made in heaven ... this combined capability of Qlik, Pomerol, and our work with everyone on the ground. You go from thinking that you have 25 to 50 efforts actively addressing trafficking in a community and all of a sudden we unearth 3,000, and they all just knew a handful of each other. It’s about bringing all of this together but bringing all the data together in a way that changes things. This could not happen with us working separately.”



“We have everyone from the IRS to experts in technology. You put this together and you are unstoppable.”

Lt. Col. James D. Wiley (Ret.), chief operating officer, Counter Forced Labor Technologies

Lt. Col. James D. Wiley, USMC Ret., chief operating officer at Counter Forced Labor (CFL) Technologies, gave an overview of how the Global Risk Assessment Technology™ developed by the firm helps businesses examine forced labor in their supply chains. CFL empowers corporations as well as small and medium-size businesses to mitigate forced labor in their supply chains by providing AI-powered, data-driven technology products to identify and manage supply chain risks.

Wiley praised the efforts of aligning business interests with the community. “If you look around, we have an ecosystem that is amazing. We have everyone from the IRS to experts in technology. You put this together and you are unstoppable.”

Wiley introduced U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Cindy Dyer from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) at the U.S. Department of State. Dyer highlighted the key areas of the *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report* and discussed how the State Department is addressing forced labor and mitigating human trafficking in supply chains. She stated that the business community has a significant role in detecting and ameliorating supply chain risks.



Bolstering Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

July 29, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

Stefan Marculewicz engaged in a conversation with federal government officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) and Rob Lederer, CEO of the Responsible Business Alliance, regarding the implementation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA).

CBP enforces a rebuttable presumption that goods that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the Xinjiang region or produced by entities identified on the UFLPA Entity List are prohibited from being imported into the U.S.

As members of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force, DHS and ILAB coordinate efforts to conduct investigations and facilitate the placement of companies on the Entity List. The federal government has identified these high priority sectors for enforcement: apparel, cotton and cotton products, silica-based products, tomatoes and downstream products, polyvinyl chloride, aluminum, and seafood. Since implementation, CBP has reviewed nearly 8,500 shipments of goods and apprehended nearly \$3.4 billion in suspected goods produced with Uyghur forced labor.

Lederer underscored the difficulties that businesses face when complying with this law as firms lack the resources to examine each tier in their supply chains and bad actors knowingly engage in illegal activity through transshipment.

Shamere McKenzie, chief executive officer at Sun Gate Foundation, provided the closing keynote. She was lured into sex trafficking when she was 21 and a student at St. John's University in New York after she got involved with a man who later became her pimp. She calls herself a liberator—not a victim or survivor—and has worked in the anti-human trafficking field for over 13 years.