



2026 Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force

Work Group 1 – Community Awareness and Education is focused on increasing awareness and understanding of human trafficking among both the public and professionals across multiple disciplines who may encounter trafficking in their work. Work Group 1 works to identify gaps in anti-trafficking education across the trafficking continuum and addresses them through curated training, educational materials, and outreach initiatives. Projects developed by Work Group 1 address all forms of human trafficking and serve individuals of all ages and demographics, with the goal of improving recognition and promoting informed, appropriate responses statewide.

- **Meeting day and time:** 2nd Tuesday of every month from 1 – 3pm - virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply to WG1:** The most important attribute of a member is having a heart for education. Work Group 1 projects change from year to year based on the mix of disciplines represented by its members. Therefore, a prospective member of any discipline who wants to focus on education initiatives would find a place in this Work Group.
- **Past and/ or current projects:**
 1. **2026 FIFA Hotel Training Initiative:** In partnership with the City of Atlanta's 2026 FIFA preparedness efforts, Work Group 1 assisted in developing the Hotel Training Curriculum that will be used to train identified hotels ahead of the games, with several members serving as trainers. The group also created Front of House and Back of House Hotel Staff Tip Cards, available in English and Spanish, highlighting trafficking red flags and response guidance to better equip hospitality professionals across Georgia to recognize and respond to potential trafficking situations.
 2. **Conversations with an Expert Programs:** These one-hour online educational programs are designed for victim services providers, members of law enforcement, activists, and community members to dive deep into narrow topics pertinent to human trafficking.
 3. **Training Compendiums:**
 - a. **Human Trafficking Training Compendium:** Developed a general compendium connecting professionals and community members to available human trafficking prevention and awareness training tailored to their specific industry and needs.
 - b. **Faith-Based Training Compendium:** Developed a training compendium of available resources specifically curated for faith-based organizations.

4. ***Georgia University Campaign:*** Work Group 1 is launching a statewide university campaign that will partner with colleges and universities to build capacity through targeted training, prevention curriculum, and practical resources addressing gaps in human trafficking awareness and survivor support. A University Advisory Board and Student Ambassador initiative will help ensure efforts are student-centered, sustainable, and impactful across campuses.
5. ***Medical Professionals Outreach:*** Research shows that 70–80% of trafficking victims access healthcare during exploitation without being identified. Consistent education is essential to improving healthcare professionals' ability to recognize and respond to victims of human trafficking. As a result, WG1 has begun the development of targeted education and resources, while also engaging the appropriate stakeholders involved in nursing licensure — including initial licensure and renewal processes — to explore opportunities to embed human trafficking education into those requirements.
6. ***Mobilizing Local Communities Around Human Trafficking:*** WG1 is developing a comprehensive community toolkit to help local partners prevent, identify, and respond to human trafficking. It will provide victim-centered, trauma-informed resources, training materials, legal guidance, and collaboration strategies to strengthen coordinated community engagement.

Work Group 2 – Prevention and Safety is focused on preventing human trafficking before exploitation occurs by reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors. The group advances practical, prevention-focused strategies that create safer individuals, organizations, and communities. This work includes promoting actionable changes in behavior, policy, environments, and systems through tools such as prevention training, safety protocols, policy guidance, and support programs. Projects address all forms of human trafficking and populations, with the shared goal of stopping harm before it happens.

- **Meeting day and time:** 3rd Monday from 10am – 12pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply to WG 2:**
 - Victim service agencies/advocates working with youth
 - Education: teachers, counselors, school resource officers, administrators
 - Community based programs that serve: YMCA, Boy and girls clubs, etc.
 - Faith based communities
 - Ultimately any individuals or agencies working youth in any capacity
- **Past or current projects:**
 1. ***Digital Online Safety:*** Work Group 2 is partnering with the Department of Education to send out an anonymous 25-question survey that will capture middle

schoolers' real online experiences — including exposure to strangers, online pressure, exploitation, and potential human trafficking recruitment tactics — and how they respond or seek help. Findings will directly shape data-driven internet safety and anti-trafficking education, equip educators, counselors, and families with shared intervention tools, and inform state-level prevention strategies grounded in authentic student input.

2. **DFCS Caregiver Curriculum Assistance:** Work Group 2 is partnering with Georgia DFCS Caregiver Recruitment and Retention unit to enhance its Caregiver CSEC Training Curriculum — equipping foster and kinship caregivers with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to recognize, respond to, and prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, while expanding access to supporting training and resources for this critical population.
3. **Parent/Community Engagement:** Work Group 2 is connecting with community partners (YMCA, Parks and Recreational facilities) who interface with parents and caregivers at the local level to integrate human trafficking prevention education into existing programming, and to brainstorm strategies that better equip local communities to educate parents and children on this issue.
4. **Youth Empowered: Preventing Trafficking Recruitment Toolkit:** a comprehensive resource aimed at equipping at-risk youth who may be on the path to becoming traffickers and/or trafficking their peers. By understanding the vulnerabilities and risk factors that can lead individuals down this dangerous path, the toolkit aims to intervene early and provide support and resources to prevent exploitation and victimization. Through targeted education, intervention strategies, and community support, the toolkit seeks to break the cycle of trafficking by addressing the root causes and empowering all youth to make positive choices and build healthy relationships.
 - a. **Train the Trainer Guide:** to accompany the *Youth Toolkit* to enable individuals to effectively train others on how to utilize the toolkit and deliver its content.

Work Group 3 – Deterring Traffickers and Buyers is focused on disrupting the systems that allow human trafficking to persist by increasing risk and reducing profit for traffickers and buyers. Work Group 3 approaches trafficking as a profit-driven crime fueled by low risk, high reward, systemic inequities, and gaps in enforcement resources. The group develops projects that support and strengthen enforcement and accountability efforts by identifying gaps, addressing resource limitations, and promoting strategies that deter exploitation. Efforts may include demand-reduction initiatives, policy and practice recommendations, and data-informed approaches to disrupt trafficking operations.

- **Meeting day and time:** 2nd Thursday of every month from 11am – 1pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG3:**
 - Victim service/ advocates
 - Law Enforcement: local, state, and federal agencies
 - Legal: prosecution, judges, other legal personnel
 - Education: university partners, academics, teachers, research intensive agencies
 - Businesses/ consultation: supply chain experts/ consultants
- **Past and/ or current projects:**
 1. ***Dimensions of “Demand” - Research Study:*** Work Group 3 assisted in a research study that looked at how service providers in Georgia understand the demand for human trafficking in Georgia. Access the report [here](#).
 2. ***Understanding Buyers of Commercial Sex Research Brief:*** Work Group 3 conducted research in 2025 examining the risk exposure and opportunity landscape of buyers of commercial sex — with the goal of addressing CSEC from the demand side. They are currently developing a research brief that highlights the 10 buyer typologies identified, key motivations driving purchasing behavior, and evidence-based strategies to strengthen awareness, prevention, and intervention efforts.
 3. ***Demand Reduction and Intervention Project:*** Work Group 3 conducted a Buyer-focused research project in 2025 examining buyer arrests and interventions within a CSEC framework. The study aimed to understand the sequence of events when victims receive assistance, identify gaps in current processes and training, and inform future policy, legal actions, and best practices.
 4. ***Buyer Diversion Program:*** Building on the Buyer-focused research, Work Group 3 is conducting a 2026 study of Buyer Diversion programs across the United States to identify promising practices and modalities that could be adapted for Georgia. The Work Group plans to engage with state and local law enforcement, local district attorney offices, and judges to identify gaps in training, process and ultimately select a pilot county for implementing and tailoring a program of this type.

Work Group 4 – Keeping At-Risk Youth Safe is focused on preventing the exploitation of youth who are at higher risk of trafficking, including those in foster care, the juvenile justice system, or experiencing homelessness, sexual abuse, gang involvement, or family dysfunction. Using a trauma-informed, youth-centered approach, WG4 develops prevention and awareness strategies tailored to these specific high-risk populations. Initiatives include direct outreach and education to equip youth with the knowledge and tools to: 1) define and identify human trafficking, 2) recognize vulnerabilities traffickers may exploit, and 3) know how to seek help for

themselves or others at risk. The work group emphasizes youth-facing training and programs, with a focus on prevention within these vulnerable demographics.

- **Meeting day and time:** 4th Wednesday from 1pm - 3pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply For WG 4:**
 - Victim Service for Youth: victim advocates, CSEC service programs, residential programs, foster homes
 - Government agencies serving youth: DFCS, DJJ
 - Community based programs serving youth (YMCA, Boys and Girls clubs)
 - Education: teachers, counselors, school resource officers, administrators
 - Faith based communities
 - Ultimately, any professional who has a passion for serving and protecting youth
- **Past or current projects:**
 1. ***Human Trafficking Peer -to- Peer Youth Curriculum:*** This curriculum is comprised of 4 modules, Introduction to Human Trafficking, Social Media Safety, Cultural Aspects of Human Trafficking, and Finding Courage in the Face of Human Trafficking. The curriculum is centered around giving at – risk youth information and tools to identify and define what human trafficking is and how to seek help if they or someone they know is at risk. The curriculum can be used to facilitate youth conferences, as well as small group instructor-led workshops. It has also been adapted for virtual facilitation, if necessary.
 - a. ***Train the Trainer Guide:*** to accompany the Human Trafficking Peer-to Peer Youth Curriculum to enable individuals to effectively train others on how to deliver the modules.
 2. ***Youth Focused Public Awareness Campaign:*** Work Group 4 is also developing a public ad campaign targeted towards youth around the topics of Human Trafficking 101, Sextortion, Safe Adult, Familial Trafficking, Gang – Affiliated Trafficking, and Social Media/ Online Safety. The team intends to partner with public and private agencies (government and community partners, transportation groups, restaurants) in Fulton County that either interface with youth or are areas where youth congregate or pass through in order to disseminate these materials and measure the messages overall effectiveness in raising awareness about human trafficking and the related themes.

Work Group 5 – Apprehending, Investigating, and Prosecuting is focused on strengthening Georgia’s capacity to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases by addressing gaps in resources, training, and education for professionals in the field. The group focuses on the exploitation aspect of trafficking, equipping law enforcement, prosecutors, and other front-line professionals with the tools and knowledge to identify, respond to, and support victims during their exploitation. Work group 5 provides guidance, training, and resources to help professionals apply evidence-based methods and foster collaboration across agencies to improve case

outcomes. Projects emphasize a multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed, and victim-centered approach, ensuring investigative and prosecutorial strategies prioritize survivor safety and best practices.

- **Meeting day and time:** last Thursday of every month from 12 – 2 pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG 5:**
 - Law Enforcement: local, state, and federal agencies
 - Legal: prosecutors, judges, and other related legal personnel
 - Victim service/ advocates
 - Other professionals working closely with law enforcement with a passion to improve best practice and guidance in these professions
- **Past or current Initiatives:**
 1. **GPSTC Basic Mandate Training Update:** Work Group 5 is partnering with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) to update and enhance the current mandated basic training on Human Trafficking. This one-hour course is required training for all Georgia peace officers and will be updated to reflect current best practices, emerging trends, and evidence-based strategies in the identification and response to human trafficking.
 2. **Human Trafficking Response Guide:** This guide will provide professionals in the field (law enforcement, first responders, prosecutors, medical professionals, and victim service providers) the knowledge and guidance on how to respond to human trafficking cases appropriately and effectively in our state.
 3. **Human Trafficking Training & LEO Liaison and Resource Connection Project:** In an attempt to foster statewide collaboration and resource connection among LEO's and Prosecution, Work Group 5 is partnering with Georgia Chiefs of Police and Governors Office of Highway Safety to conduct human trafficking training across the state at various district meetings. The goal is to increase knowledge and foster connection by identifying at least one contact from either of those disciplines in each county that will help statewide collaboration on human trafficking issues, updates, training, and resources.

Work Group 6 – Foreign-Born and Labor Trafficking is focused on raising awareness of labor trafficking and the unique challenges faced by foreign-born victims. Its mission is to prioritize these underserved populations and strengthen prevention, identification, and response efforts. Work Group 6 develops projects that equip professionals with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to recognize and respond to labor trafficking effectively. Through targeted educational materials, training, and outreach initiatives, this group supports both professionals

and the community in preventing exploitation and ensuring these vulnerable populations receive proper protection and assistance.

- 1) **Meeting day and time:** third Tuesday from 1 – 3pm, virtually.
- 2) **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG 6:**
 - a) Victim Serving Agencies: serving victims of labor trafficking and/or foreign born victims
 - b) Community based programs serving labor trafficking and/or foreign born victims
 - c) Law Enforcement: local, state, and federal agencies working with immigrant/ foreign born issues and labor trafficking
 - d) Legal: prosecutors, judges, and other legal personnel working in areas of labor and foreign born issues
 - e) Business/ Consultants: chambers of commerce, supply chain experts/ consultants
 - f) University/ academics: research partners
 - g) Other professionals working closely with labor and foreign born issues (ie. Department of Labor, OSHA, Inspectors)
- 3) **Past or Current Initiatives:**
 1. ***Georgia Business's Against Trafficking Toolkit:*** Work Group 6 is in the process of developing a toolkit that will support the businesses known to be vulnerable to labor trafficking in Georgia and provide training and awareness about labor trafficking and the resources to address and combat labor exploitation and trafficking within their processes and practices with the end goal to empower businesses to engage in anti-labor trafficking practices. Currently, Work Group 6 has partnered with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office in support of its Business Against Human Trafficking Campaign. Work Group 6 provides strategic guidance as the campaign is implemented, and the toolkit will serve as a primary resource made available to participating businesses through the initiative.
 - a. **Municipality Anti-Labor Trafficking Prevention Initiative:** Through this initiative, Work Group 6 is partnering with municipalities to leverage the Georgia Business Anti-Trafficking Toolkit within their existing regulatory, licensing, and code enforcement authority — providing training, resources, and technical assistance to build a more coordinated community response to labor trafficking. The Task Force is currently conducting intake calls with interested municipalities to tailor the toolkit to each community's specific needs.
 2. ***Code Enforcement Project:*** In partnership with the Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety, Work Group 6 has developed

a draft protocol outlining trafficking indicators, internal referral processes, and resource guidance to ensure OCI inspectors have clear next steps when human trafficking is suspected. We are also coordinating with OCI's training team to host two regional inspector trainings to provide an overview of human trafficking, support preparedness efforts related to the FIFA World Cup, and formally roll out the protocol. Additionally, an indicator tip card is being developed as a supplemental field resource for inspectors.

3. Past Reports on Labor Trafficking in Georgia and related efforts to enhance the State's antitrafficking efforts:
 - a) [Georgia Labor Trafficking Roundtable Report](#)
 - b) [Georgia's Labor Trafficking Update Report](#)

Work Group 7 – Survivors Supported and Protected is focused on aiding survivors of human trafficking, including those still experiencing exploitation and those beginning the withdrawal and healing process. The group addresses the critical period between exploitation and reintegration into society, a time when many survivors face gaps in services, are at risk of recidivism, and may not feel adequately supported or protected. The mission of Work Group 7 is to identify and address these gaps, providing professionals and systems with the tools, resources, and strategies needed to guide survivors toward withdrawal, stabilization, and long-term healing. Projects emphasize creating pathways that help survivors move safely from exploitation toward recovery and reintegration.

- **Meeting day and time:** third Thursday from 10:30am – 12:30 pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG 7:**
 - Survivors
 - Victim service providers serving all demographics and forms of trafficking, other victimizations
 - Community outreach workers
 - Faith based communities
- **Past or current Initiatives:**
 1. ***Standards for Survivor-centered Anti-Trafficking Marketing Guide:*** The goal of this guidebook is to provide specific recommendations and considerations on how anti- trafficking organizations can execute outreach campaigns that accurately represent human trafficking and respect survivors (including the diversity of their stories and experiences). Work Group 7 partnered with Brenau University to conduct formal research on survivor perspectives and recommendations that will influence the development of this guide.

Work Group 8 – CSEC Survivors Recovering and Thriving is focused on supporting youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation, whether they reside in residential programs or within the community (home or foster care). The group works alongside survivors and the professionals who support them, providing resources, guidance, and programs that promote personal growth, life skills, and long-term stability. Through workshops, mentoring, and

collaborative initiatives, Work Group 8 empowers sexually exploited youth to progress safely through recovery and move toward resilient, thriving lives.

- **Meeting day and time:** first Tuesday from 1pm – 3pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG 8:**
 - Survivors
 - Victim Services specific to youth: DFCS, CSEC serving programs, residential programs, foster care/ homes
 - Community based programs serving youth
 - Faith based agencies
- **Past and current initiatives:**
 1. ***Envision Project with CSEC Residential Programs:*** Work Group 8 has partnered with the Envision Project to plan and implement several workshops for sexually exploited youth who are currently residing in one of Georgia’s CSEC residential facilities that focus on personal growth, life skills, career support, etc.
 2. **Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®):** In partnership with Global Impact International, Work Group 8 will introduce, reinforce, and expand the TBRI® model within the Task Force and across its broader network, as well as plan and execute general and discipline-specific TBRI® Practitioner training for Task Force members and affiliated organizations serving youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. The first training is anticipated to launch in October 2026.

Work Group 9 – Supporting Adult Survivors of Sex Trafficking is focused on adult sex trafficking in Georgia, with an emphasis on the withdrawal and recovery process. The group prioritizes assisting adult survivors and equipping the professionals who work with them with the knowledge, tools, and guidance needed to support survivors safely and effectively. Projects include developing educational resources, training programs, and collaborative initiatives that help professionals guide survivors through healing and reintegration. Work Group 9 aims to improve outcomes for survivors while strengthening the capacity of the systems and professionals that serve them.

- **Meeting day and time:** third Wednesday from 10am - 12pm, virtually.
- **Suggested disciplines to apply for WG 9:**
 - Survivors
 - Victim Services: providing services and residential for adult victims
 - Community based programs working with adults
 - Faith based agencies
- **Past and/or current Initiatives:**

1. ***Standards of Care for Agencies Serving Adult Victims of Trafficking:***

Work Group 9 of the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is collaboratively developing standards of care designed to guide and strengthen agencies supporting adult survivors of human trafficking in Georgia. Covering hotlines, residential programs, and community/system-based services, these standards will reflect best practices across multiple service environments. The group brings together anti-trafficking specialists and lived-experience experts who are leveraging research and cross-organizational models to ensure Georgia's service standards are both evidence-driven and survivor-centered.