

How Texas Responds to Human Trafficking

OVC/BJA-Funded Task Forces and Coalitions – multidisciplinary; proactive and reactive human trafficking investigations. Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio

State-wide Anti-trafficking Task Force – headed by the Office of Attorney General

Unfunded Anti-trafficking Coalitions – El Paso, Waco, Midland

Outreach Coalition – Rescue and Restore – Houston

What Austin is doing?

Office for Victims of Crime program for foreign-born victims of trafficking – emergency response, case management, financial assistance for basic needs.

Bureau of Justice Assistance funded Human Trafficking Unit at the Austin Police Department.

Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking – multidisciplinary group working to identify victims, provide comprehensive services to victims and train professionals in the field. Members include social services, advocates, trainers, law enforcement, etc. www.ctcaht.org

Austin Human Trafficking Task Force – multidisciplinary group working to identify victims and prosecute traffickers through proactive and reactive investigations. This task force is headed by the U.S. Attorney's Office and consists almost entirely of law enforcement professionals.

What's Your Response – a local group working to involve the community in the anti-trafficking efforts through creative ideas and practical ways of being socially conscious. This group has a state-wide awareness campaign to increase the recognition of human trafficking as a local problem. www.whatsyourresponse.com

ALLIES – this is a new group in Austin open to anyone in the community who wants to gain education on human trafficking and help support the Central Texas Coalition. Contact: alliesctx@gmail.com

"I would like to go to counseling, because part of me has not overcome everything. But I do feel much stronger than before. If you all had met me before I received all the support from [the Coalition], I think you may have felt sorry for me. When I found out that in this country I had support, actually in this country I felt safer and more supported than I ever did in my own country. That is why I love you all so much. I do not know everyone that helped me, but in my heart I love them all." - Quote from a survivor of sex trafficking in Austin, TX.