

State of Connecticut General Assembly



Trafficking in Persons Council

2008 Annual Report

Teresa C. Younger, Chair

Report prepared in January 2009 by

Connecticut General Assembly _____



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

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Trafficking in Persons Council Members and Designees

State Officials

Teresa C. Younger, PCSW Executive Director and Trafficking in Persons Council Chair
The Attorney General, represented by **Richard Kehoe**, Special Counsel
The Chief Public Defender, represented by **Deborah Del Prete Sullivan**, Legal Counsel
The Chief State's Attorney, represented by **Judith Rossi**, Executive Assistant State's Attorney and **Tracey Kelley**,
Witness Protection Coordinator
Child Advocate of Connecticut, **Jeanne Milstein**
The Commissioner of Children and Families, represented by **Buck Gregory**, Program Director- Hotline
The Commissioner of Labor, represented by **John A. McCarthy**, Legislative Liaison
The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, represented by **Valerie Leal**, Women's
Services Administrator
The Commissioner of Public Health, represented by **Nancy Berger**, Director, Office of Multicultural
Health and **Barbara Pickett**, Family Health Section
The Commissioner of Public Safety, represented by **Lieutenant Lucien St. Germain** and **Sergeant Paul Killoran**,
Connecticut State Police
The Commissioner of Social Services, represented by **Sylvia Gafford-Alexander**, Program Director,
Commissioner's Office, Special Projects and Multiculturalism
The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, represented by **Chief Nicholas Guerriero**, Winsted Police
Department
The Judicial Branch, represented by **Michael Mack**, Judge Trial Referee, Juvenile Court; **Linda J. Cimino**,
Director, Office of Victim Services; **Cynthia Theran**, Deputy Director, Court Support Services
Division
Victim Advocate of Connecticut, **Michelle Cruz** and **Hakima Bey-Coon**, Staff Attorney
The African-American Affairs Commission, represented by **Glenn Cassis**, Executive Director
The Commission on Children, represented by **Thomas R. Brooks**, Director of Policy and Research
Analysis
The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, represented by **Werner Oyanadel**, Principal Legislative
Analyst

Public Members

Cinda Cash, Director, Community & Provider Relations, Connecticut Women's Consortium
Mario Thomas Gaboury, Professor and Chair of Criminal Justice, University of New Haven
Kara Hart, Staff Attorney, Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Joyce Hamilton Henry, Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition
Lisa Holden and **Agnès Maldonado**, Executive Directors, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
Nancy Kushins, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
Shyamala Raman, Professor, Saint Joseph College
Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist New Americans, International Institute of
Connecticut

Support provided by the
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW):

Natasha M. Pierre, JD, MSW, Legislative Director
Michelle Noehren, Legislative Liaison

Report prepared by Natasha M. Pierre, JD, MSW, Legislative Director

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Introduction

The Trafficking in Persons Council was established through the passage of *Public Act 07-107, An Act Establishing a Trafficking in Persons Council*, codified as C.G.S. §46a-170. The Council consists of 26 members and is chaired and convened by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW). The Council consults with government and non-governmental organizations to develop recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims, and prosecute traffickers; identifies criteria for providing services to adult trafficking victims and their children; and provides updates and progress reports on trafficking prevention efforts and victim assistance. The Council reports annually to the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly; this report is for the 2008 calendar year.

Human trafficking is defined as:

... all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage (C.G.S. §46a-170(g)).

2008 Snapshot of Activities

of Trainings: **11**
of Participants in Trainings: **211**
of Victims Housed: **3**
of Public Awareness Activities: **16**

Progress in Connecticut

Over the past year, the Council and its members have worked on several initiatives to enhance the infrastructure, raise awareness and provide services to victims of human trafficking in Connecticut via:

- Collaborations
- Trainings
- Services to Trafficking Victims
- Public Awareness

Collaborations

There has been a significant increase in collaboration among law enforcement agencies at all levels, as well as between law enforcement agencies and service providers. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut established a trafficking task force consisting of that office and members of the state police, local police departments, social service agencies and the

Trafficking in Persons Council. Several members of the Council attend the quarterly meetings to share information and coordinate efforts on a case-by-case basis.

The Council has also been represented on the Department of Public Health's Human Trafficking Workgroup, which seeks to develop protocol and trainings for the medical community on the issue of human trafficking.

Council members entered discussions with the 211 hotline to establish it as the state-wide hotline number. As a result, the Connecticut Judicial Branch has entered a contract with the 211 to provide a hotline for trafficking victims. *Training funds spent for this initiative: \$5,000.*

Trainings

The goal of the training, which is provided by the Office of Victim Services (OVS) in collaboration with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, is to provide the community and its service providers with information needed to develop more effective programs to service trafficking victims and ensure existing and new programs are both responsive and effective in meeting the needs of trafficking victims. *Training funds spent for this initiative: \$2,554.*

OVS issued a Train-the-Trainer Request for Qualification in November 2007 to seek organizations that wished to become certified trainers on the issue of human trafficking. Six agencies submitted applications. Five organizations were granted awards and received training on June 17-19, 2008. In turn, these organizations will provide regional community-based trainings.

- **Barnaba Institute** – provides services in New London and Windham
- **Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS)** – provides services statewide
- **The Connecticut Women's Consortium** – provides services in New Haven and Litchfield Counties
- **International Institute of Connecticut** – provides services in Hartford, Tolland and Fairfield
- **Women's and Family Center for Meriden** – provides services in Meriden, Wallingford and Middlesex County

Services to Trafficking Victims

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) contracted with OVS to provide services for victims of human trafficking. CCADV will provide shelter and services on a temporary basis, not to exceed seven days, basic needs such as clothing and prescriptions, and assistance with permanent living arrangements. CCADV, through its network of sixteen domestic violence shelters, will: (1) accept immediate referrals and provide immediate access to safe and secure lodging, (2) provide services statewide, (3) provide services on a twenty-four hour basis, (4) assess victims for other needs they may have and assist them in accessing services to address those needs as necessary, (5) provide referral to hospital or health care as necessary, (6) provide access to multi-lingual translators, and (7) provide transportation for victims. *Shelter funds spent for this initiative: \$1,630.*

Public Awareness

The Office of Victim Services produced brochures, listing the 211 hotline as the contact number in English, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

Council members presented at the following events to raise public awareness on the issue of human trafficking:

- Connecticut Police Academy trainings, January 2008
- Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley and Simsbury Public Library, Simsbury, January 2008 (Teresa C. Younger, PCSW Executive Director)
- Trinity College Conference, Hartford, February 2008 (co-sponsored by the Council)
- Eastern Connecticut State University, February 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Tunxis Community College, March 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Connecticut Hospital Association, March 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Lutheran Church, Storrs, March 2008 (Sergeant Paul Killoran, CT State Police)
- Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International, April 2008 (Professor Shyamala Raman, St. Joseph College)
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House *Salon Series* with Krishna Patel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, April 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards – Eastern Regional Conference presentation, May 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Department of Public Health Human Trafficking Symposium, May 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Department of Public Health’s Symposium, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, May 2008 (co-sponsored by the Council)
- Nurses Week of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, *A Global Perspective on Human Trafficking: Systemic Issues*, May 2008 (Professor Shyamala Raman, St. Joseph College)
- Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Emergency Dept, June 2008 (Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist Americans, International Institute of Connecticut)
- Yale University Branford College, September 2008 (Professor Mario Thomas Gaboury, Chair of Criminal Justice, University of New Haven)
- *Body & Soul* reading, New Haven, November 2008 (Teresa C. Younger, PCSW Executive Director)



Senate Bill No. 398

Public Act No. 07-107

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Trafficking in Persons Council that shall be within the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women for administrative purposes only.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members: The Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families, the Child Advocate, the Victim Advocate, the chairperson of the Commission on Children, the chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission, three representatives of the Judicial Branch appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, one of whom shall represent the Office of Victim Services and one of whom shall represent the Court Support Services Division, and a municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a representative of any such member who has been designated in writing by such member to serve as such member's representative, and seven public members appointed as follows: The Governor shall appoint one member who shall represent Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. , the president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children, the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human rights issues, the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall represent the Asian-American community.

(c) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall serve as chairperson of the council. The members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The council shall: (1) Hold meetings to provide updates and progress reports, (2) identify criteria for providing services to adult trafficking victims, (3) identify criteria for providing services to children of trafficking victims, and (4) consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers. The council shall meet at least three times per year.

(e) The council may request data and other information from state and local agencies to carry out its duties under this section.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the council shall submit a report of its activities, including any recommendations for legislation, to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(g) For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

Approved June 11, 2007