



MARYLAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

JANUARY 2026

VOL. 01

WWW.MDHUMANTRAFFICKING.ORG

New year, new look!

Same mission, new makeover. Our website has been refreshed to make finding information and resources easier, faster, and more intuitive. Think cleaner layout, smoother navigation, and a space that better reflects the work happening across our network.

Take a look around the updated site and be sure to submit the Resource Guide form so your organization's services are included.

Questions or need more info? Candace or Danielle are happy to help.



Gearing up for January? Check out our events calendar!

January is a busy month for awareness, learning, and connection. Organizations across Maryland and beyond are hosting trainings, events, and virtual opportunities focused on education, prevention, and strengthening response efforts.

Check out the Event Calendar on the website to see what's coming up this January and find ways to get involved, whether in person across the state or through virtual trainings you can join from anywhere.



Radio One Partnership

The Public Awareness Subcommittee is partnering with Radio One to amplify human trafficking awareness across Maryland's Capitol Region in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Public service commercial spots are airing throughout January on 104.1, 93.9, 1450 AM, 102.3, 92.7, and 1340 AM, including a Spanish-language station to help reach a broader and more diverse audience.

In addition, two radio interviews will air during the second weekend in January, offering deeper conversation on trafficking prevention, identification, and available resources. The Task Force is grateful for the opportunity to partner with Radio One and appreciates their commitment to using their platform to elevate awareness and education across our communities.



Plunge for Purpose

Members of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Public Awareness Subcommittee are taking the icy dive to support Maryland's Special Olympics and to raise awareness about human trafficking. Every splash helps empower athletes and amplifies our message of safety and dignity.

Interested in donating or joining our team? Click the logo above to swim on over to our team page and support this meaningful effort.



Transportation Against Trafficking: Maryland Coalition Build - 1/7/26

Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Anne Arundel County are collaborating to build a coordinated Maryland coalition in partnership with Transportation Against Trafficking. This multi jurisdiction effort brings together stakeholders from across the region to strengthen awareness, prevention, and response efforts within transportation systems, recognizing the critical role transportation plays in both identifying and preventing trafficking.

The coalition aims to align local strategies, share best practices, and create consistent messaging and response pathways across counties. An in person coalition building event will take place on January 7, 2026, in Crownsville, offering partners an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and begin shaping a unified approach to transportation focused anti trafficking efforts statewide.

Red Sand Project

BWI Cell Phone Lot Thursday, January 15th @ 11 a.m.

Join the MDHTTF Public Awareness Subcommittee as we use red sand to fill cracks in the sidewalk to represent individuals who are often overlooked or exploited. It is a visual way to raise awareness and start conversations about human trafficking during human trafficking awareness month. RSVP at the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#)





The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act Officially Signed into Law!

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act (TSRA) marks a significant step forward in addressing the long term impacts of trafficking on survivors involved in the criminal legal system. Recently signed into law by the President in December 2025, the TSRA recognizes what advocates and survivors have long known: many criminal charges and convictions are a direct result of exploitation and coercion, not criminal intent.

At its core, the TSRA creates a pathway for survivors of human trafficking to seek relief from certain federal convictions tied to their victimization. This includes the ability to petition the court to vacate convictions, reduce sentences, or obtain resentencing when offenses were committed as a result of being trafficked. The legislation helps remove barriers that often follow survivors for years, including challenges related to housing, employment, education, and access to services.

The passage of the TSRA represents a shift toward a more survivor centered and trauma responsive legal framework at the federal level. By acknowledging the realities of exploitation and the lasting consequences of criminalization, the Act promotes healing, restoration, and long term stability. Advocates and service providers across the country view this legislation as a critical tool in supporting survivors' paths forward and reducing systemic harm within the justice system.

As implementation guidance becomes available, stakeholders will continue monitoring how the TSRA is applied in practice and what it may mean for survivors seeking relief. This legislation underscores the importance of continued collaboration between policymakers, service providers, and survivor leaders to ensure laws translate into meaningful, accessible change.

