



## Building Coalition to Address Human Trafficking

**WHAT IS A COALITION?** The word coalition comes from the Latin word *coalitio*, meaning “to grow together.” It is a group of people from different backgrounds, joining together for a common goal or cause in order to present a united front to address a common issue. The group works collaboratively across the various disciplines to find common approaches, in essence, a unified voice to solve the problem or improve the situation. This group is community in action. The work of this group creates a culture in which law enforcement and social service agencies can do their job more effectively because the coalition helps educate businesses and the greater community.

### WHY?

- Human trafficking is so prevalent in the U.S. and throughout the world.
- Human trafficking is a hidden crime that impacts women and men, girls and boys everywhere.
- Human trafficking comes as a consequence of a culture that has lost respect for the dignity of each human person.
  - Therefore, no one person, no one group of persons can effectively impact the prevalence of this crime. It takes a “whole village” working together to make a difference.

### HOW?

- One or two individuals, with a passion to end human trafficking contact community partners and leaders to communicate intention and interest of forming a Coalition and get their involvement, consider:
  - Mayor or other civic leaders
  - Law enforcement – police, sheriff, state patrol
  - City council members and chambers of commerce
  - Survivors of human trafficking
  - Victim service providers – social services, shelters,
  - Hospitality managers/associations, including hotels, restaurants, transportation, etc.
  - Health care providers
  - Members of groups: Rotary, Kiwanis, Junior League, Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, other active men’s and women’s groups.
  - Members of churches in the area
  - Interested businesses
  - Others who are generous volunteers of their time
- Provide education about human trafficking for members of this group

- Discuss and decide how you want to go about fighting human trafficking. Identify specific areas. Examples include:
  - Legislation
  - Education
  - Victim Services Support
  - Hotel/Motel Project
- Provide a general human trafficking education opportunity for everyone in the area. At this event invite others to join the work of your group
- Write a mission statement; develop committees & goals
- Designate a leader or co-leaders in the group who will establish regular meetings, ensure committee effectiveness & accountability, evaluate the progress, delegate tasks, etc. in order to provide a united effort in addressing the mission and goals
- Ensure the group has policies and procedures implemented so that the group is sustainable regardless of any member or leader that may leave
- Consider funding possibilities for the sustainability of the coalition
- Include the media so that community awareness is built; e.g. Press Conference with the Mayor

#### **POSSIBLE PROJECT: THE HOTEL-MOTEL PROJECT**

- A project designed by The Coalition on Human Trafficking, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska
- The goal of the project is to train managers and all employees of all hotels and motels in a designated area.
- Why hotels and motels? Because it is estimated that 75% of all sex trafficking happens in hotels and motels.
- The Coalition on Human Trafficking has designed a comprehensive program to train employees of hotels and motels to:
  - REALIZE what sex trafficking is and that it is happening in their city, their county, *everywhere*
  - RECOGNIZE the signs of sex trafficking
  - RESPOND to appropriate authorities when one observes suspicious signs/behaviors
- The Coalition on Human Trafficking will provide your local coalition with:
  - Community readiness information
  - Volunteer training
  - A program notebook that includes all materials to make your local program and volunteers successful
  - Consultation to help you implement and maintain the program

For more information, contact:

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Please visit the Coalition website **NoTrafficking.org**