

# Mississippians Against Human Trafficking

## Purpose and Activities

MSAHT has been established to foster collaboration and communication among service providers and law enforcement, to educate Mississippians about human slavery, to help individuals know how to recognize and report, to support those who serve victims of human trafficking, to assist with coordinating victim services, to promote victim safety and restoration, to support law enforcement officers in enforcing existing laws, and, ultimately, to prevent future incidences of trafficking in our state.

MSAHT's long-term priorities and focus areas will include:

1. Facilitate communication and collaboration among service providers, law enforcement, and other partners.
  - a. MSAHT will be an umbrella for victim services providers so that we can bring all providers to the table, see what each offers, design or discover systems for communication and collaboration, and determine what additional needs should be addressed.
  - b. MSAHT will not provide direct victim services, but will establish and support coordination of services among existing providers.
  - c. MSAHT will work with relevant groups to develop policies and procedures for operating a shelter, for providing victim services, for victim interviews, and for law enforcement operations.
  - d. MSAHT is committed to seeing a home for child victims of trafficking established in Mississippi.
2. Build awareness and provide educational opportunities to Mississippians.
  - a. MSAHT will launch a statewide awareness campaign to educate the public about human trafficking, including how to recognize the signs and report incidences.
  - b. MSAHT will offer training to groups that desire to know more about prevention and what to watch for in their respective fields.
3. Support victim service providers.
  - a. MSAHT will offer training and certification for victim service providers.
  - b. MSAHT will offer training and certification for victim advocates.
  - c. MSAHT will provide stipends, as funds are available, to current service providers for training opportunities.
  - d. MSAHT will develop a team of volunteers to provide emotional and other support for service providers.

MSAHT will work vigorously to write grants, raise private donations, utilize volunteers, and partner with other organizations to accomplish these goals.