



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Annual Report 2021-2022

Please send comments concerning this report or direct any related inquiries to:

Angelo Onofri, Commissioner
Dawne Lomangino-Mauro, Commissioner
New Jersey Commission on Human Trafficking
c/o NJ Division of Criminal Justice
25 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

BACKGROUND

The New Jersey Commission on Human Trafficking (Commission) was created by the Legislature in 2013 as part of the Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection, and Treatment Act (P.L. 2013, c.51; see N.J.S.A. 52:17B-237). The Commission is composed of fifteen members from the fields of law enforcement, victim assistance services, health care and child advocacy, as well as members of the general public that have experience in, or have specialized knowledge of, human trafficking. As required by the enabling legislation, one Commission member shall be a survivor of human trafficking. The Commission members were nominated by the Governor, independently, or upon the recommendation of Legislature's leadership.

The Commission is charged with the duties of:

- a. Evaluating existing laws relating to human trafficking and making recommendation;
- b. Evaluating the enforcement of existing laws relating to human trafficking and making recommendations;
- c. Reviewing the cost, availability, and organization of victim assistance services for victims of human trafficking and making recommendations;
- d. Promoting a coordinated response by public and private resources to assist victims of human trafficking;
- e. Developing mechanisms to promote public awareness of human trafficking; and
- f. Reporting annually to the Governor and to the Legislature regarding the Commission's activities, findings, and recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

The Commission submits this summary of activities for 2021 through the end of 2022.

The Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection, and Treatment Act directs that the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) provide staff support to the Commission and DCJ continues to fulfill these responsibilities. DCJ also operates its own Human Trafficking Task Force and enforcement actions, not reflected in this report.

The Commission is pleased to present this report to the Legislature and the public.

YEAR IN REVIEW

During 2022, the New Jersey Human Trafficking Commission was unable to conduct official business due to a lack of quorum.

Member Name	Seat Name
1. Vacant	Public Member 1 – Child Advocacy Organization
2. Gina Cavallo	Public Member 2-Human Trafficking Survivor
3. Vacant	Public Member 3
4. Vacant	Public Member 4
5. Patricia Teffenhart	Attorney General Designee
6. Aldina Hovde	Health Services Recommendation of Senate Minority Leader
7. Vacant	Senate President Recommendation/Law Enforcement
8. Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro LCSW, RPT	Senate President Recommendation/ Victim’s Assistance
9. Vacant	Assembly Speaker Recommendation/ Law Enforcement
10. Vacant	Assembly Speaker Recommendation/ Victim Assistance
11. Timothy J. Gallagher	Commissioner of Human Services or designee
12. Bonny Fraser Alternate/designee - Brian Ross	Department of Children and Families
13. Angelo Onofri	County Prosecutor
14. Theresa Hilton	Member of NJHTTF
15. Ingrid Johnson	Recommendation of Assembly Minority Leader

Despite the lack of quorum and inability to conduct official business, the Commission met on two occasions in 2022.

On January 19, 2022, the Commission met virtually to discuss the report issued by Montclair State University concerning its research project on human trafficking data for the 2018-2019 timeframe. After interviewing various law enforcement, law enforcement stakeholders, and service providers, the Montclair team concluded that there was a lack of qualitative human trafficking data being collected throughout the state, 2018-2019 data was slim. However, there was an indication that statistical data collection was improving with increased attention on human trafficking issues. The Montclair team identified several data collection issues on the law enforcement side:

- a. Most agencies did not maintain data in an easily searchable/retrievable form.
- b. Data often stemmed from investigations, and it was raw, not verified.
- c. Data was not maintained consistently or in a uniformed manner.

The Montclair team gleaned, based on the statistics it received, that there was a much higher number of human trafficking cases than that which was identified by law enforcement agencies. The statistics showed girls and women were overwhelmingly identified as victim/survivors while men were predominantly identified as the perpetrators of human trafficking.

Regarding qualitative data, agencies involved and the Montclair team agreed on several recommendations such as:

- a. A need for increased collaboration and a sharing of expertise.
- b. A need for improved data collection and data sharing, possibly through a data collection portal.
- c. A need for increased resources for human trafficking and training.

The report concluded with the following recommendations:

- a. Regional Investigative Teams
- b. Intelligence and the Development of Diversionary Programs
- c. Development of Regional Task Forces and Case Management techniques/technology
- d. An annual statewide Human Trafficking Conference

During the meeting, Commission members were also advised that Rowan University CARES Institute was hosting a lecture series on recognizing and responding to trafficked youth and young adults.

On May 25, 2022, the Commission met, but again, due to lack of quorum, was unable to conduct or vote on official business. Notwithstanding, the Commission discussed several pieces of legislation.

In December 2022, Commission members Angelo Onofri and Gina Cavallo were presenters at the New Jersey Association of Counties Summit on Human Trafficking. Mr. Onofri was on a panel that addressed human trafficking as a criminal enterprise. Ms. Cavallo served as the keynote speaker.

The Commission looks forward to achieving full membership and the ability to make a meaningful contribution to ending the scourge of human trafficking.