

The Virginia Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Committee

- The Virginia Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Committee was established by [Executive Directive No. 7 \(2013\), Comprehensive, Coordinated State Response to the Problem of Human Trafficking](#).
- The committee was established for the purpose of reviewing and coordinating the implementation of the recommendations in “Laying the Foundation for Virginia’s Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking,” and to identify additional actions and strategies to further strengthen the Commonwealth’s responses to human trafficking.
- The activities of the committee are coordinated by staff in the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Other participating agencies include the Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Education, Health, Health Professions, Professional and Occupational Regulation, Social Services, State Police, and Transportation, as well as the Virginia Employment Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.

Human trafficking affects agricultural growers, producers, and society at large

- According to a 2013 economic impact study by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, agriculture and forestry are two of Virginia’s largest industries, with a combined economic impact of \$70 billion annually. Agriculture generates more than \$52 billion per annum, while forestry induces over \$17 billion. The industries also provide more than 400,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.
- The [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture \(NASDA\)](#) reports that U.S. agricultural producers must rely on a workforce of domestic and foreign workers to meet their labor needs. NASDA reports that over 80% of hired farm workers are foreign-born, many of whom enter the country as temporary workers under an existing agricultural worker program, but producers have found that they are unable to supply their operations with the supplemental workforce they need.
- The unsettled labor market conditions provide an opportunity for unscrupulous individuals to engage in and profiteer from human trafficking. Consequently, VDACS encourages everyone to learn more about this insidious practice and about the resources that are available to victims of human trafficking.

Resources

- [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)

The center is a project of [Polaris](#), a non-governmental organization that focuses on human trafficking and promoting anti-human trafficking efforts. To report a tip about a

potential case of human trafficking, receive training and technical assistance on the issue, or find service referrals for victims of trafficking:

Call the toll center's toll free number: 1-888-373-7888

Send a text to BeFree (233733)

Send an email to NHTRC@polarisproject.org

- [National Runaway Safeline](#) (formerly known as the National Runaway Switchboard)

The mission of the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) is to help keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. To reach NRS:

Call the toll free number: 1-800 RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

Send an email to NRS Crisis Center at info@1800RUNAWAY.org

- [Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services](#)

The website on human trafficking maintained by the Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services provides information on applicable statutes; general information and research; resources for Commonwealth's Attorneys, law enforcement, and victim services.

- [US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery Initiative](#)