

recognize signs of human trafficking and the development of materials for such persons.

(h) Consultation

With regard to the development of programs under the Blue Campaign and the implementation of such programs, the Director is authorized to consult with State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, and experts.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title IV, § 434, as added Pub. L. 115–125, § 2(a), Feb. 14, 2018, 132 Stat. 315; amended Pub. L. 117–81, div. F, title LXIV, § 6407, Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2403.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Paragraphs (9) and (10) of section 7102 of title 22, referred to in subsec. (a), were redesignated pars. (11) and (12), respectively, of section 7102 of title 22 by Pub. L. 115–427, § 2(1), Jan. 9, 2019, 132 Stat. 5503.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (e)(6). Pub. L. 117–81, § 6407(1), substituted “developing and utilizing, in consultation with the Blue Campaign Advisory Board established pursuant to subsection (g), resources” for “utilizing resources,” in introductory provisions.

Subsecs. (f) to (h). Pub. L. 117–81, § 6407(2), added subsecs. (f) to (h).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF OTHER FUNCTIONS RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Pub. L. 117–322, § 6, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4436, provided that:

“(a) BLUE CAMPAIGN.—The functions and resources of the Blue Campaign located within the Office of Partnership and Engagement on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2022] are hereby transferred to CCHT [Center for Countering Human Trafficking].

“(b) OTHER TRANSFER.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may transfer the functions and resources of any component, directorate, or other office of the Department of Homeland Security related to combating human trafficking to the CCHT.

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before executing any transfer authorized under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives of such planned transfer.”

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Pub. L. 115–125, § 3, Feb. 14, 2018, 132 Stat. 316, provided that: “Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Feb. 14, 2018], the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance required under section 434(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [6 U.S.C. 242(d)], as added by section 2 of this Act, the integration of information technology systems utilized within the Department to record and track information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking (as such term is defined in such section).”

§ 242a. Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking

(a) Establishment

(1) In general

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall operate, within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations, the Center for Countering Human Trafficking (referred to in this Act as “CCHT”).

(2) Purpose

The purpose of CCHT shall be to serve at the forefront of the Department of Homeland Security’s unified global efforts to counter human trafficking through law enforcement operations and victim protection, prevention, and awareness programs.

(3) Administration

Homeland Security Investigations shall—

(A) maintain a concept of operations that identifies CCHT participants, funding, core functions, and personnel; and

(B) update such concept of operations, as needed, to accommodate its mission and the threats to such mission.

(4) Personnel

(A) Director

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall appoint a CCHT Director, who shall—

(i) be a member of the Senior Executive Service; and

(ii) serve as the Department of Homeland Security’s representative on human trafficking.

(B) Minimum core personnel requirements

Subject to appropriations, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that CCHT is staffed with at least 45 employees in order to maintain continuity of effort, subject matter expertise, and necessary support to the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(i) employees who are responsible for the Continued Presence Program and other victim protection duties;

(ii) employees who are responsible for training, including curriculum development, and public awareness and education;

(iii) employees who are responsible for stakeholder engagement, Federal inter-agency coordination, multilateral partnerships, and policy;

(iv) employees who are responsible for public relations, human resources, evaluation, data analysis and reporting, and information technology;

(v) special agents and criminal analysts necessary to accomplish its mission of combating human trafficking and the importation of goods produced with forced labor; and

(vi) managers.

(b) Operations Unit

The CCHT Director shall operate, within CCHT, an Operations Unit, which shall, at a minimum—

(1) support criminal investigations of human trafficking (including sex trafficking and forced labor)—

(A) by developing, tracking, and coordinating leads; and

(B) by providing subject matter expertise;

(2) augment the enforcement of the prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor through civil and criminal authorities;

(3) coordinate a Department-wide effort to conduct procurement audits and enforcement actions, including suspension and debarment, in order to mitigate the risk of human trafficking throughout Department acquisitions and contracts; and

(4) support all CCHT enforcement efforts with intelligence by conducting lead development, lead validation, case support, strategic analysis, and data analytics.

(c) Protection and Awareness Programs Unit

The CCHT Director shall operate, within CCHT, a Protection and Awareness Programs Unit, which shall—

(1) incorporate a victim-centered approach throughout Department of Homeland Security policies, training, and practices;

(2) operate a comprehensive Continued Presence program;

(3) conduct, review, and assist with Department of Homeland Security human trafficking training, screening, and identification tools and efforts;

(4) operate the Blue Campaign’s nationwide public awareness effort and any other awareness efforts needed to encourage victim identification and reporting to law enforcement and to prevent human trafficking; and

(5) coordinate external engagement, including training and events, regarding human trafficking with critical partners, including survivors, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, multilateral entities, law enforcement agencies, and other interested parties.

(Pub. L. 117–322, § 3, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4433.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is Pub. L. 117–322, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4433, known as the Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021, which enacted this section and section 242b of this title and provisions set out as notes under this section and section 242 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1 of Pub. L. 117–322, set out as a Short Title of 2022 Amendment note under section 101 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021, and not as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 which comprises this chapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

FORCED LABOR REQUIREMENTS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Pub. L. 117–347, title IV, § 406(b), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6209, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act [Jan. 5, 2023], the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a team of not less than 10 agents within the Center for Countering Human Trafficking of the Department of Home-

land Security to be assigned to exclusively investigate labor trafficking.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out paragraph (1) \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 to 2027, to remain available until expended.”

SENSE OF CONGRESS

Pub. L. 117–322, § 2, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4433, provided that: “It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the victim-centered approach must become universally understood, adopted, and practiced;

“(2) criminal justice efforts must increase the focus on, and adeptness at, investigating and prosecuting forced labor cases;

“(3) corporations must eradicate forced labor from their supply chains;

“(4) the Department of Homeland Security must lead by example—

“(A) by ensuring that its government supply chain of contracts and procurement are not tainted by forced labor; and

“(B) by leveraging all of its authorities against the importation of goods produced with forced labor; and

“(5) human trafficking training, awareness, identification, and screening efforts—

“(A) are a necessary first step for prevention, protection, and enforcement; and

“(B) should be evidence-based to be most effective.”

§ 242b. Reports

(a) Information sharing to facilitate reports and analysis

Each subagency of the Department of Homeland Security shall share with CCHT—

(1) any information needed by CCHT to develop the strategy and proposal required under section 4(a);¹ and

(2) any additional data analysis to help CCHT better understand the issues surrounding human trafficking.

(b) Report to Congress

Not later than 1 year after December 27, 2022, the CCHT Director shall submit a report to Congress that identifies any legislation that is needed to facilitate the Department of Homeland Security’s mission to end human trafficking.

(c) Annual report on potential human trafficking victims

Not later than 1 year after December 27, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) the numbers of screened and identified potential victims of trafficking (as defined in section 7102(17) of title 22) at or near the international border between the United States and Mexico, including a summary of the age ranges of such victims and their countries of origin; and

(2) an update on the Department of Homeland Security’s efforts to establish protocols and methods for personnel to report human trafficking, pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation, published in January 2020.

¹ See References in Text note below.