

Prevention Starts Now / Prevention Is a Spectrum



2026

Human Trafficking

Prevention Month Toolkit

Cuyahoga County's Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

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Introduction

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a presidentially designated observance that raises awareness about human trafficking and calls on all sectors to take action to prevent exploitation before it occurs.

This toolkit is designed to support individuals, organizations, and coalition partners in advancing a **prevention-centered approach** to human trafficking. Rather than focusing solely on awareness or response, it emphasizes the importance of addressing root causes, strengthening protective factors, and building coordinated strategies that reduce vulnerability to exploitation.

Human trafficking does not occur in isolation. It is deeply connected to other forms of violence and harm, including sexual violence, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, online abuse, and economic instability. These forms of violence often share common risk factors and frequently occur within the same communities, households, or across the lifespan. Prevention requires us to **connect the dots** and move beyond siloed approaches.

Structured around four key focus weeks, this toolkit provides clear messaging and practical ways to engage throughout the month. Each week highlights how prevention operates across the **spectrum of prevention**—from individual knowledge and relationships to community conditions, systems change, and policy. Partners are encouraged to use the resources that best fit their role, capacity, and community context.

Goals

- Increase understanding of human trafficking as a preventable form of violence, not an isolated crime.
- Help individuals and organizations see their role in prevention, from building safe relationships to strengthening systems and policy.
- Highlight how human trafficking is connected to other forms of harm, including sexual violence, child abuse, economic instability, and social isolation.
- Promote upstream prevention strategies that reduce vulnerability and strengthen protective factors.
- Support coordinated action, including accurate reporting, survivor-centered referrals, and prevention-focused policy solutions.

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Welcome + How to Use This Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to support coalition partners during Human Trafficking Prevention Month by offering clear messages, resources, and opportunities to engage in prevention. Partners are encouraged to use the pieces that best fit their role, capacity, and community context—whether that means sharing information, attending a training, participating in an event, or supporting prevention-focused policy efforts.

Every action, at any level, helps raise awareness, strengthen prevention, and reduce harm.



Focus Weeks

This toolkit is organized around four focus weeks that reflect a prevention-centered approach to human trafficking. Each week builds on the last, moving from foundational knowledge to collective action. Partners are encouraged to engage in the weeks and activities that best fit their role and capacity.

Week 1: Prevention Starts with Knowledge

Focus: Human Trafficking 101, minors, consent, and the law

Purpose: Build shared understanding and reduce harm caused by misinformation

Week 2: Connecting the Dots

Focus: Prevention as a Public Health Strategy

Purpose: Highlight shared risk factors and the importance of a public health approach to prevention

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Week 3: Power, Demand, and Exploitation

Focus: Buyer accountability, misogyny, and cultural drivers of exploitation

Purpose: Address demand and the social norms that fuel trafficking

Week 4: Prevention Through Policy and Collective Action

Focus: Legislative solutions and systems change

Purpose: Advance prevention-focused policies and coordinated action



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

EVENT SCHEDULE

Collaborative to End Human Trafficking and partner events across
Cuyahoga County

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
Cuyahoga County's Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition				1 <div>Human Trafficking Prevention Month Kickoff</div> <p>Throughout January, we're lifting up prevention, education, and collective action.</p>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 10:00AM - 12:00PM <div>Data in Action: Using National and State Human Trafficking Data - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</div>	9 11:30AM - 1:00PM <div>Collaborative & OAESV Training: Public Health Approaches to Preventing Human Trafficking</div> <p>Collaborative to End Human Trafficking and OAESV training discussing public health approaches to preventing human trafficking.</p>	10
11 <div>Light the Terminal Tower Blue</div> <p>On Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Terminal Tower is lit blue to recognize anti-trafficking efforts in our region</p>	12 <div>Wear Blue Day</div> <p>Support Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts & Tag @Collaborative</p>	13 11:30AM - 1:00PM <div>Fundamentals of Human Trafficking 101 Training</div> <p>Fundamentals of Human Trafficking (CEU-Eligible)</p>	14 10:00AM - 12:00PM <div>Cuyahoga County's Anti- Human Trafficking Coalition Meeting</div> <p>In-Person Meeting – Location TBD</p>	15 10:00AM - 12:00PM <div>Serving Child & Youth Survivors: Updates on Ohio's response to human trafficking in the child protection system - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</div>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 10:00AM - 12:00PM <div>Supporting Survivors: Nonprofit Strategic Planning and Sustainability - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</div>	23 9:00AM - 10:00AM <div>NEW! Virtual: Monthly Coalition Update Call</div> 11:30AM - 1:00PM <div>Safeguarding Youth: Understanding Human Trafficking, Consent, and Prevention - Collaborative to End Human Trafficking & CRCC training</div>	24
25	26	27 11:30AM - 1:00PM <div>Legacies of Power: A Conversation with Yasmin Vafa</div> <p>Examining the historical and structural drivers of sex trafficking and effective prevention strategies.</p>	28	29	30 10:00AM - 11:00AM <div>Fundamentals of Human Trafficking 101 Training for Legislators</div> <p>By invitation only. Human trafficking 101 training for legislators and legislative staff.</p>	31

REGISTRATION LINKS FOR JANUARY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	REGISTRATION URL
January 8 10:00am - 12:00pm	<u>Data in Action: Using National and State Human Trafficking Data - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</u>	https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/02a80a97-9a0c-4be2-a530-0302f45d39d7@50f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2
January 9 11:30am - 1:00pm	<u>Collaborative to End Human Trafficking & OAESV Training: Public Health Approaches to Preventing Human Trafficking.</u>	https://collabtoendht.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/trainingevent/details/67
January 13 11:30am - 1:00pm	<u>Fundamentals of Human Trafficking 101 Training</u>	https://collabtoendht.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/trainingevent/details/63
January 15 10:00am - 12:00pm	<u>Serving Child & Youth Survivors: Updates on Ohio's response to human trafficking in the child protection system - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</u>	https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9e2cc2bd-7245-4512-b2c1-5af182de8c2b@50f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2
January 22 10:00am - 12:00pm	<u>Supporting Survivors: Nonprofit Strategic Planning and Sustainability - Human Trafficking Task Force Webinar</u>	https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/62a50f80-4028-4e48-8a13-b401015d6194@50f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2
January 23 9:00am - 10:00am	NEW! <u>Virtual: Monthly Coalition Update Call</u>	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85301303719?pwd=Bo9uR4Zwcj7dkF9AbzfsMDGm4LANFi.1
January 23 11:30am - 1:00PM	<u>Safeguarding Youth: Understanding Human Trafficking, Consent, and Prevention - Collaborative to End Human Trafficking & CRCC training</u>	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safeguarding-youth-understanding-human-trafficking-consent-prevention-tickets-1978301160024
January 27 11:30am - 1:00pm	<u>Legacies of Power: A Conversation with Yasmin Vafa</u>	https://collabtoendht.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/trainingevent/details/65
January 30 10:00am - 11:00am	<u>Fundamentals of Human Trafficking 101 Training for Legislators</u>	By invitation only

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Key Messages

1. Prevention starts long before exploitation — by addressing root causes, reducing harm, and strengthening protective factors.
 2. Prevention is a spectrum, from meeting basic needs and providing survivor-centered services to building safe relationships, changing systems, and advancing policy.
 3. Human trafficking happens through vulnerability, coercion, and harm — not “stranger danger.”
 4. Every sector has a role to play in preventing trafficking, from education and healthcare to community organizations, business, and government.
 5. Ohio has the opportunity to strengthen protections for all youth by prioritizing prevention, accountability, and survivor-centered policies.
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Social Media Sample Posts

Ready to copy + paste

1. General Awareness

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Prevention starts long before exploitation—by addressing root causes, reducing harm, and strengthening protective factors. Learn more and get involved: [link]

#PreventionStartsNow #HumanTraffickingPreventionMonth

2. General Awareness (Connecting the Dots)

Human trafficking does not happen in isolation. It is connected to other forms of harm, including sexual violence, online abuse, economic instability, and social isolation.



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Prevention means connecting the dots.

#PreventionStartsNow #ConnectingTheDots

3. Prevention Spectrum Explainer

Prevention is a spectrum—from meeting basic needs and providing survivor-centered services to building safe relationships, changing systems, and advancing policy. Every sector has a role to play.

#PreventionStartsNow #PreventionIsASpectrum

4. Wear Blue Day

Today we #WearBlue to raise awareness during Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Prevention takes all of us—and every action, at any level, helps reduce harm.

#WearBlueDay #PreventionStartsNow

5. Event Reminder – Training

Join the @CollaborativeToEndHT for a prevention-focused training on [date]. Learn how a public health approach can help prevent human trafficking and reduce harm. Register here: [link]

#PreventionStartsNow #HTTraining

6. Event Reminder – Power & Demand

Human trafficking is driven by demand, power, and exploitation. Join us on [date] for a conversation on how misogyny and entitlement fuel trafficking—and how prevention can disrupt it. Register: [link]

#PreventionStartsNow #EndExploitation

7. Partner Shout-Out

Prevention is strongest when we work together. Thank you to our partners across education, healthcare, advocacy, and community services for advancing prevention



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throughout Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

#PreventionStartsNow #Partner2Prevent

8. Policy & Collective Action

Prevention also happens through policy. Ohio has the opportunity to strengthen protections for all youth by prioritizing prevention, accountability, and survivor-centered solutions. Learn more: [\[link\]](#)

#PreventionStartsNow #EndTrafficking



Graphics Folder

- Human Trafficking Prevention Month Kickoff graphic
 - Prevention Spectrum graphic
 - Wear Blue Day graphic
 - Light the Terminal Tower Blue graphic
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Wear Blue Day Instructions

On January 12th:

- Wear blue
 - Take a photo
 - Post on social
 - Tag @Collaborative and use #WearBlueDay2025 + #PreventionStartsNow
-

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Action Menu for Partners

Choose the actions that best fit your role, capacity, and community.

SCHEDULE TRAINING WITH THE COLLABORATIVE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Discuss training options for your team, partners, or community

- Contact Director of Education & Training, Carolyn Arny at carny@collabtoendht.org to schedule training
-

PROMOTE AWARENESS

Help shift the conversation from awareness to prevention.

- Share key messages from this toolkit on social media or in newsletters
 - Use and reshare Prevention Month graphics
 - Add Human Trafficking Prevention Month to your organizational calendar
 - Include prevention-focused messaging in meetings or internal communications
-

ENGAGE YOUR TEAM

Build shared understanding and reduce harm through knowledge.

- Attend or promote Prevention Month trainings

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- Encourage staff to participate in Wear Blue Day
 - Host a lunch-and-learn or staff discussion using toolkit materials
 - Share one prevention-focused resource with your team
-

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Strengthen connections and protective factors.

- Share events and trainings with your networks
 - Invite partners or community members to attend a training
 - Amplify prevention messages from trusted partners
 - Incorporate prevention conversations into existing community spaces
-

SUPPORT PREVENTION & SERVICES

Help reduce vulnerability and increase access to support.

- Share information about local, survivor-centered services and resources
 - Promote trauma-informed, harm-reduction approaches
 - Strengthen referral pathways within your coalition
 - Identify ways your work can reduce harm or increase stability
-

ADVOCATE FOR PREVENTION

Advance systems and policy change.

- Share Human Trafficking Prevention Month legislative priorities
- **Attend Advocacy Day at the Statehouse on February 3, 2026 (in person)**
- Encourage colleagues and partners to attend Advocacy Day
- Engage policymakers on prevention-focused solutions that protect youth