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HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE (SCATI)



Inaugural SCATI Memorial Service at the Riverhead Correctional Facility on September 30, 2021. (Lisa Czulinski/ECLI/VIBES)

SCATI CO-CHAIRS SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT (SCPD) AND EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE OF LONG ISLAND (ECLI/VIBES)

WHY IS JANUARY IMPORTANT

A message from Molly England, SCATI Task Force Coordinator

In times of uncertainty and difficulty, community and hope could not be more important. The Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI) is a task force of dedicated individuals and agencies working every day to address human trafficking on Long Island. January is a pivotal month to highlight the needs of a population that is often invisible. Unfortunately, the victims of human trafficking can be overshadowed, underreported, and at times silenced. Our goal is to empower survivors and support their growth and healing. January is *the* time to shout louder, reach higher, and ask for more to address the complex and vital needs of survivors. Too frequently we hear, "I had no idea this was happening in our community." Well, it is, but there's work being done and actions you can take. Get involved this January to move beyond raising awareness to help build empowerment and strength.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

-- Wilma Rudolph



Detective Lieutenant Frank Messana, Commanding Officer, Human Trafficking Investigations Unit SCPD; Jennifer Hernandez, Co-Founder ECLI, Executive Director ECLI/VIBES



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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH: JANUARY 2022

Mark your calendar with these exciting events from SCATI

- **SCATI** launches our first collaborative fundraiser to benefit human trafficking survivors! #ridefree Support the transportation needs of survivors by participating in the virtual SCATI 5K on Saturday 1/29. **Visit** <https://vibs.salsalabs.org/scatiridefree> to register and donate!
 - **Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI/VIBES)** provides crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and an array of support services that empower and transition clients toward independence. Join our expert panel on 1/26 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for the *Intersection of Immigration and Human Trafficking Symposium*. This event will be in person at **Touro College** and via Zoom, more details coming soon.
 - The **Sheriff Anti-Trafficking Initiative of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office** will light up the Riverhead Correctional Facility in blue for all of January to honor human trafficking awareness month.
 - **Suffolk County Department of Social Services' Family and Children Services (FCSA)** is acknowledging the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on 1/11 by wearing blue hearts and displaying and sharing information on human trafficking.
 - **Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign** is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. Blue is the international color of human trafficking awareness. On 1/11, wear blue and share a photo #WearBlueDay in recognition of human trafficking awareness. **Visit** <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
 - **Suffolk County Community College's Take Back The Night** planning committee is hosting *Walk for Human Trafficking Awareness* in person on 1/16 (rain/snow date 1/23) from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Hwy., Great River, NY 11739.
 - **Brentwood High School** is holding a Human Trafficking Parent Workshop on 1/26 in Spanish from 6 to 7 p.m. and in English from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and a Human Trafficking Awareness Art Contest for all students; the submission deadline is 1/31. Email wendy.gudema@bufsd.org for more information or **visit** https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EF6olxWYpN-Xj5CwyhMKTR1W_QOsJR_s?usp=sharing for event flyers.
 - Webinar *Criminal Justice Responses to Asian Women Caught in the Cross-Hairs of Exploitation and Human Trafficking* on 1/11 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SbY73FZ7SgWSldTJ6-nUpQ
 - The **Human Trafficking Survivor Advisory Board (SAB) for ECLI** has launched their new logo! Follow [@sablongisland](https://www.instagram.com/sablongisland) on Instagram for posts and events.
 - **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** invites you to participate in a webinar on 1/27 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
 - This webinar will include the following:
 - A brief overview of the T visa program
 - Best practices for applicants and law enforcement agencies and certifying officials
 - Resources for trafficking victims and interested stakeholders and more
 - **Visit the registration page to confirm your participation:** https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCIS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSCIS_514
 - Enter your email address and select "Submit"
 - Select "Subscriber Preferences"
 - Select the "Event Registration" tab
 - Complete the questions and select "Submit"
 - **Safe Harbour** and **Safe Harbour Mentoring** programs work with youth that are at risk, victims, and survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.
 - Virtual Events
 - **Brown Bag Lunches:**
 - The Grooming Process: Overview and Red Flags on 1/5 from 12 to 1 p.m.
 - The importance of a trauma-informed and empowerment approach on 1/19 from 12 to 1 p.m.
 - **Safe Harbour Workshop** on 1/13 from 10 to 11 a.m.
 - **Navigating Internet Safety for Caregivers and Professionals** on 1/17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
 - **Safe Harbour Mentoring Informational Session** on 1/25 from 6 to 7 p.m.
 - *Preregistration is required, please email stephanie.muller@eac-network.org; Visit here to learn more:* <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FQIL5diPleUxGah83gYqJTAZtakia80n?usp=sharing>
- For ALL of the latest event information, visit linktr.ee/scatlongisland and <https://tinyurl.com/3z7xf98d> and https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EF6olxWYpN-Xj5CwyhMKTR1W_QOsJR_s?usp=sharing.**



Pastor Kara Bocchino (from left) of Axis Church speaks at Inaugural SCATI Memorial Service; Jennifer Hernandez, Feride Castillo, Stephanie Frisz-Gioia the Executive Team ECLI/VIBES in Islandia, N.Y. (Lisa Czuliniski/ECLI/VIBES); Detective Sergeant James P. Murphy of SCPD and Molly England SCATI Task Force Coordinator speak at Mary Goggin's Runaway Princess Talk Back in New York City, N.Y., on October 10, 2021 (Karen Oprea/ECLI/VIBES).



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JANUARY 2022

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
<p>WE HAVE TO STOP PATHOLOGIZING HUMAN SUFFERING. - FERIDE CASTILLO (ECLI/VIBES)</p>				<p>SCATI 5K #RIDEFREE FUNDRAISER ALL MONTH & VIRTUAL 5K ON 1/29</p>	<p>BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ART CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINE 1/31</p>	<p>SHERIFF'S OFFICE BLUE LIGHTS ON RIVERHAD CF ALL MONTH</p>				
2	3	4	<p>SAFE HARBOUR: GROOMING</p>	5	6	7				
9	10	<p>DHS, DSS, SCATI #WEARBLUEDAY</p>	11	12	SAFE HARBOUR: WORKSHOP	13	14	15		
<p>SCCC-TBTN HT WALK</p>	16	SAFE HARBOUR: INTERNET SAFETY	17	18	<p>SAFE HARBOUR: EMPOWERMENT</p>	19	20	21	22	
<p>SCCC-TBTN HT WALK (RAIN/SNOW DATE)</p>	23	24	25	SAFE HARBOUR: MENTORING	26	ECLI/VIBES & TOURO SYMPOSIUM BRENTWOOD PARENT WORKSHOP	27	28	29	<p>SCATI VIRTUAL 5K #RIDEFREE</p>
30	31									

OUR IMPACT

SINCE 2019, SCATI HAS PROVIDED 19,495 UNITS OF SERVICE (APPROXIMATELY 4,874 HOURS) TO 311 HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS ON LONG ISLAND.

WE HAVE 14 ACTIVE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS, WHO HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO TRAIN 6,236 PROFESSIONALS AND PARTICIPATE IN 77 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS.

SCATI HAS WORKED TO ARREST OVER 50 INDIVIDUALS ON TRAFFICKING CHARGES, AND PROSECUTE 42 TRAFFICKERS.

SCATI HAS CREATED 3 PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH REPORTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY.



Detective Sergeant James P. Murphy (from left) and Detective Lieutenant Frank Messana of SCPD; Santhosh Paulus, MD, of Northwell Health; Nicole C., Shannon Jones, and Laura Mullen of the Human Trafficking Survivor Advisory Board for ECLI/VIBES in Bayville, N.Y., at the Cycling For Change Hope Walk/Ride on October 2, 2021 (Dry Plate Studios). Suffolk County Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr. and ECPAT-USA CEO Lori Cohen at Riverhead Correctional Facility for ECPAT-USA's Solidarity Ride on May 31, 2021 (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office).

A LOOK BACK AT 2021

Crucial collaborations for change

We kicked off 2021 with multiple events and campaigns for Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January; participants included the Human Trafficking Investigations Unit of the Suffolk County Police Department; Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI/VIBES), the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Axis Church, Northwell Health, and more. From statewide events to events at a local theater in Huntington, we educated professionals and the community about human trafficking. Additionally, 2021 marked the full first year of the Human Trafficking Survivor Advisory Board (SAB) for ECLI/VIBES; the first of its kind on Long Island. The SAB serves the community by coming together to embrace survivors and provide them with outlets designed to ensure safety and promote a healthy lifestyle as well as to educate professionals and community members about how to address human trafficking. In January ECLI/VIBES teamed up with New York Project Hope to provide COVID relief and support to local families.

In February, Suffolk County Department of Probation and SCATI partners provided an in-depth training for Emergency Medical Service providers. Additionally, the Honorable Judge Camacho and Laura Mullen, co-founder and president of the Human Trafficking Survivor Advisory Board for ECLI/VIBES, participated in Northwell Health's International Symposium hosted by Dr. Santhosh Paulus.

March marked the exciting merge of ECLI and VIBES. The Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI), a not-for-profit organization at the forefront of combatting human trafficking on Long Island, merged with the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, established in 1976 as a pioneer in the field of domestic violence awareness and intervention services for victims of rape and sexual assault, elder abuse, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking.

In April, we published our SCATI Resource Guide with a general and local version and SCATI Human Trafficking Information Sheet and SCATI Brochure in English and Spanish. These can all be accessed and shared here: <https://tinyurl.com/3z7xf98d>

May made way for ECPAT-USA's Solidarity Ride. ECPAT-USA is the nation's leading anti-child trafficking organization seeking to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children through awareness, advocacy, policy, and legislation. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office hosted the event at the finish line. SCATI members and supporters included ECLI/VIBES and the Survivor Advisory Board, Brentwood Union Free School District, and Northwell Health's HEART Program.

In July we (finally) revived in-person meetings with the modern flair of including our virtual attendees too and held our SCATI task force meeting face to face at SCPD headquarters; we then held our meeting at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and our last in person meeting of 2021 was at ECLI/VIBES where visitors took the grand tour of the new and expanded home of the now merged ECLI/VIBES. No meeting was without baked treats and hot drinks but most importantly bright smiles for thrilled SCATI members meeting in person (many for the first time).

September marked the Inaugural SCATI Memorial Service. This somber and heartfelt event reminded us all of the important work that we do and the strength of the individuals who are no longer with us but will always be in our hearts. Speakers included Acting Commissioner Stuart Cameron, Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr., District Attorney Tim Sini, Detective Sergeant James P. Murphy, Reverend Kara Bocchino, Honorable Fernando Camacho, Correction Officer Investigator Kellie Burghardt, El Schneider, Laura Mullen, family members of loved ones, and Alma Leticia. Additionally, Cycling For Change hosted their 5th Annual Golf Outing at the Muttontown Club.

On October 2, the Human Trafficking SAB for ECLI/VIBES joined Cycling For Change's 6th Annual Hope Walk/Ride to raise awareness about human trafficking. Together c4c, the SAB, SCATI, the Suffolk County Police Department, the Nassau County Police Department, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Clean Slate Living, and the community brought hope and inspiration to support anti-human trafficking efforts on Long Island. #iHateTraffick. Detective Sergeant James P. Murphy and Molly England journeyed to the big apple to speak at the talk back for Mary Goggin's award-winning show *Runaway Princess*. This was their encore event after the first show and talk back in January of 2021 held virtually by Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington.

In November, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation S.674/A.459, the START (Survivors of Trafficking Attaining Relief Together) Act. After years of advocacy work, NY is once again a leader in legislation that supports and strengthens protections for victims of labor and sex trafficking who are convicted of a range of offenses as a result of that trafficking.

Throughout the year SCATI trainings spanned audiences including attendees from the Office of Mental Health, Housing and Urban Development, Stony Brook and Long Island University, Suffolk County Community College, New York State educators, faith-based organizations, substance use treatment facilities, pregnancy and healthcare centers, local scout troops, parents and children, the courts, victim service providers, youth advocacy organizations, and more!

We look forward to the year ahead; a year filled with love, community, hope, and empowerment.



HAVE EMPATHY, DO NOT JUDGE, AND LEND A HELPING HAND
- DETECTIVE SERGEANT JAMES P. MURPHY (SCPD)