

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

June 4, 2013

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Ohio State Advisory Committee to Hold Forum in Toledo Examining Human Trafficking in Ohio

CHICAGO, IL – The Ohio State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights will conduct a community forum on June 5 and 6 investigating the causes and responses to Ohio's being named, in some reports, as one of the five worst states in the nation for human trafficking. The forum will follow up and monitor changes made since Attorney General Mike DeWine reconvened the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission, which launched initiatives to address the problem.

The meeting will be held at THE HOTEL @ UTMC, 3100 Glendale Ave., Toledo, OH 43614 from 1:00 p.m. ET to 6:00 p.m.ET on Wednesday, June 5, and 9:00 a.m. ET to 1:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, June 6. An agenda is below.

An open session where the public will be given an opportunity to provide testimony on the record will be held at the end of each day.

Among those who are scheduled to present testimony are Ohio State Representative Teresa Fedor; First Assistant U.S. Attorney Carole Rendon; FBI Special Agent James Hardie; Ohio Attorney General's Director of Children's Initiatives Melinda Sykes Haggerty; Toledo Police Department Detective Peter Swartz; human trafficking survivor and advocate leader Lee Campbell; human trafficking survivor and author Theresa Flores; Program Director for Second Chance and Toledo Area Ministries Mary Schmidbauer; AO Legal Director Megan Mattimoe; Director of Investigations at Reed Elsevier, Brett Bogan; University of Toledo Professor Celia Williamson; former trafficker Deric Willoughby; Professor Anthony Talbott; DOMA Program/Executive Director Jessica Dallas; and Abolition International Shelter Association VP Jeffrey Barrows.

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan federal agency that conducts research and advises the President and Congress on civil rights issues. Its members, appointed by the President and Congress, are Chairman Martin R. Castro, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, David Kladney, and Michael Yaki.

Congress has directed the Commission to establish state advisory committees (SACs) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, whose members serve without compensation. The members of the Ohio State Advisory Committee are Chair Diane Citrino, Hal Arkes, Cassandra Bledsoe, Deborah Burstion-Donbraye, Subodh Chandra, Catherine Crosby, Sharon Davies, George Dent, Dilip Doshi, David Forte, Scott Gerber, Emerald Hernandez,

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Kevin McDermott, Robert Salem, Mark Strasser, Edith Thrower, and David Tryon. The SAC's reports to the Commission are wholly independent, and are not subject to Commission approval, fact-checking or policy changes.

AGENDA

OHIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE US COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS Human Trafficking in Ohio

Wednesday & Thursday
June 5 & 6, 2013

THE HOTEL @ UTMC
3100 Glendale Ave.
Toledo, OH 43614

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ohio Advisory Committee Business Meeting

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Fact Finding Meeting on Human Trafficking

Welcome and Opening Remarks

2:00 p.m. to 2:05 p.m.

Diane Citrino, Chair, Ohio Advisory Committee

Panel 1

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carole Rendon, First Assistant United States Attorney, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio

Melinda Sykes Haggerty, Director of Children's Initiatives, Ohio Attorney General
Mike DeWine

Celia Williamson, Ph.D., University of Toledo Professor of Social Work and Criminal Justice

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Break

3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Panel 2

3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Tony Talbott, University of Dayton College of Arts and Sciences

Jeffrey Barrows, D.O, VP of Education and Advocacy Director, Abolition International Shelter Association

Panel 3

4:45 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.

Special Agent James Hardie, Federal Bureau of Investigation Cleveland – Toledo RA, Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force
Detective Peter Swartz, Toledo Police Department and Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force

Open Session

5:40 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Panel 4

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Lee Campbell, Human Trafficking survivor and advocate leader

Theresa Flores, Human Trafficking survivor, Founder of SOAP, author,

Panel 5

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Megan Mattimoe, Legal Advocacy Director, AO

Mary Schmidbauer, Program Director, Second Chance and Toledo Area Ministries

Jessica Dallas, Program Director/Executive Director, DOMA

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Break

11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Panel 6

11:15 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

Hon. Teresa Fedor, Ohio 47th House District Representative

Brett Bogan, Director-Investigations, Reed Elsevier

Open Session

12:10 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Committee Discussion

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

1:00 p.m.