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**Human Trafficking
Task Force**
of Southern Colorado

September 2026

Newsletter

**Alia Azaraiah of Safe
House Project**

**Tuesday, September 8th
5:45 pm**

**615 Wooten Rd. Suite 140
Colorado Springs, CO 80915
From Platte, turn at the
driveway PAST EDISON**

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/2 LCHT Public Awareness Training
- 9/8 Task Force Meeting
- 9/15 Walk in Hope - Reclaiming Hope Dinner
- 10/17-22 LCHT Hotline Training
- 10/21 Summit: Protecting Kids Online - free training in COS
- Register Now! January 23, 2027 is our Next Symposium

IN THE NEWS

- Task Force at Bakhita Annual Run
- FBI, EPSO & CSPD Announce New Task Force to Protect Children
- KRDO Report on Massage Parlors Prompts CSPD Action
- Meta Settles - Huge Victory for Kids

HOTLINES AND RESOURCES

Connect with us:

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ht-colorado.org

facebook.com/HTTFSC

x.com/HTTaskForceSCO Act r/23
[TESS0/21R](#)

Upcoming Events



Alia Azariah, Safe House Project

Join us Tuesday, September 8th when Alia Azariah will share exciting information on a new app called [Simply Report](#).

Alia Azariah is a nationally recognized expert in human trafficking, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, survivor aftercare, and trauma-informed systems change. A survivor herself, she brings both lived experience and professional expertise to shaping survivor-centered services, training, and policy. She serves as Director of Collective Impact at Safe House Project, where she leads national efforts to strengthen standards of care and expand effective services for survivors. Alia has trained more than 250,000 professionals nationwide and has advised public systems, service providers, and multidisciplinary leaders on best practices in care and response. Her work has included speaking at the U.S. Capitol, testifying before the UK Parliament, and serving as an expert witness in trafficking-related cases. In 2025, she was selected for the Obama Leaders USA Program's 2025-26 cohort, recognizing her as a national leader driving innovative social change..

[Check our website](#) for speaker information.

Directions are a little tricky:

From Platte Ave., turn north on Wooten Rd.

Turn right (east) at the driveway **past** Edison.

There are street closures north of Platte, so Platte is the easiest way to get there.

We are so grateful for our hosts at Reclaiming Honor! Please consider making a

We are so grateful for our hosts at Reclaiming Hope. Please consider making a [Hope Bag](#) donation.

Register and Attend Now! Wednesday, September 2nd

LCHT Public Awareness Training

LCHT has scheduled a virtual community-based training for anyone interested in learning about human trafficking and its impact in Colorado on Wednesday, September 2nd from 12:00-1:30pm. This is the [registration link](#).



Find out how sex and labor exploitation is showing up in our state — and what you can do about it.



Wednesday | September 2nd | 12 - 1:30 PM

About This Session

Human trafficking is all over the news right now — but what's actually happening in Colorado? **The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT)** operates the state's 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline and works to strengthen community response through training, research, and leadership development. Join us for a free 90-minute training session to learn where sex and labor exploitation shows up in our state, how to recognize it, and what you can do in your community.

Open to community members and professionals. No background knowledge required.

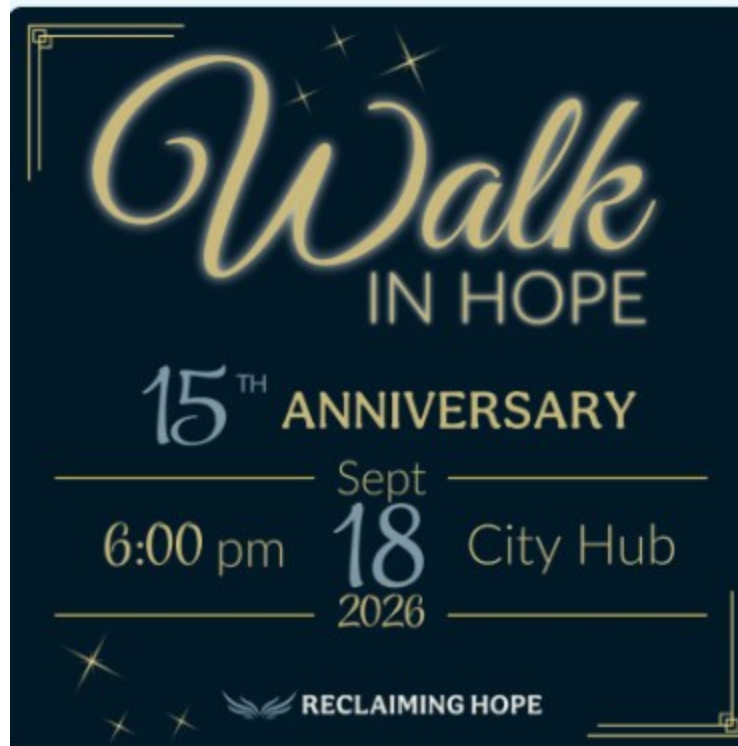
What You Will Learn

- *How sex and labor exploitation shows up in Colorado, including common forms and factors that increase vulnerability*
- *How to recognize it in everyday community settings*
- *Federal and local laws related to human trafficking*
- *How disclosure works and why survivors may not self-identify*
- *How to respond and connect people to help, including local resources and safe next steps*



REGISTER NOW



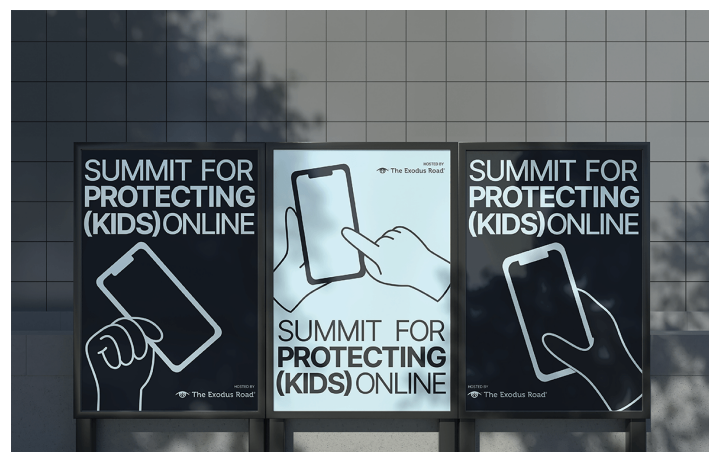


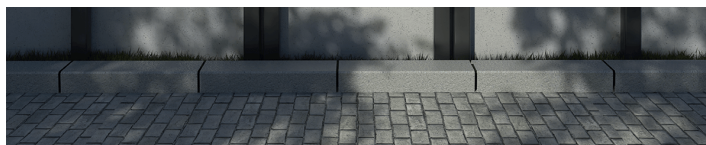
Dinner to Celebrate is Friday, September 18th

Reclaiming Hope Celebrates 15 Years!

Reclaiming Hope is celebrating a meaningful milestone, 15 years of impact!! Their dinner on September 18th will provide an opportunity to reflect on the journey, celebrate the lives that have been changed, and look ahead with vision and purpose for the future.

The evening will feature a special guest speaker, silent auction, and meaningful moments you won't want to miss, all centered around the powerful work of restoration happening every day. Get your tickets [here](#).





Free Event on Wed., Oct 21st

Summit for Protecting Kids Online

The digital landscape is changing rapidly—and the families, children, and survivors you support are navigating risks that look very different than they did just a few years ago. The pace is only increasing.

From online grooming and financial sextortion to AI-generated abuse material and emerging technologies, today's challenges require organizations to continually adapt their prevention, education, and support.

That's why The Exodus Road is hosting the Summit for Protecting Kids Online (SPKO) — a free one-day summit on October 21 in Colorado Springs at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum that will equip nonprofit leaders, advocates, and community organizations with practical strategies to better support the children, youth, and families they serve every day.

You'll leave with practical tools to:

Understand emerging online threats, evolving technologies, and the risks children and families are facing today.

Strengthen prevention and education efforts with practical, age-appropriate strategies you can bring back to your organization.

Equip your team with current insights and resources to better support children, youth, families, and survivors.

The needs of the communities you serve continue to grow. The knowledge and strategies supporting them should too.

Admission is free, and lunch is included, but seating is limited. [Register today!](#)

LCHT Training is October 17 to 22nd

The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT) will be holding its upcoming volunteer Hotline Advocate training virtually via Zoom and is now accepting applications from individuals across Colorado. The training will take place from 9am-5pm on Saturday 10/17 and Sunday 10/18 and then from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday 10/20 and Thursday 10/22. Please note that all training days must be attended in full to become an advocate. [Aspiring advocates can learn more and submit their interests here](#), and LCHT's Hotline Program Coordinator, Lauren Holsombeck, will be in touch.



Colorado Human Trafficking Hotline

Seeking Volunteer Hotline
Advocates to join the team!

***prioritizing Spanish bilingual**

2026 fall training dates

Oct. 17-18, 9am-5pm & Oct. 20 & 22 6-8pm

About the Training

Hotline Advocates field calls and texts remotely and are able to select shifts that fit with their lifestyle and schedule. Advocates are trained to handle a variety of call and text scenarios with a focus on safety, survivor choice and excellent resource referrals.

Bilingual, Spanish speaking advocates, BIPOC individuals, and those with lived experiences, are especially encouraged to apply.

Get Involved

- **Step 1:** submit our short inquiry form (QR code) to let us know you're interested!
- **Step 2:** submit longer application
- **Step 3:** interview with staff
- **Questions?** contact Lauren Holsombeck - Lauren@combathumantrafficking.org



Save January 23, 2027 and Spread the Word!

Registration is Open for Our Symposium!!

"Confronting Exploitation in Our Time" is the theme of the Human Trafficking Task Force 2027 symposium. We've got a great line-up of speakers to address

vital issues. [Register now](#) for Saturday, January 23, 2027 and look for more details in our monthly newsletters. If you would like to help with planning, contact kristin.hersh.2018@gmail.com.

Sponsorships!

We have sponsorship opportunities! This is a great way for local businesses to support the Task Force and reach community members. Write to htscos@gmail.com for information.

Free Training!

And remember that the task force offers training to any business, school, police department/first responder. To learn more or to book a free presentation, contact Kristin Hersh at 719-330-6424 or kristin.hersh.2018@gmail.com.

QR Code for Symposium Registration:



In the News





Kristin Hersh, Steve Glendenning, and Connie Stauffer represented our Task Force at Bakhita Mountain Home's Annual Walk in August..

FBI, EPSO & CSPD Announce Task Force to Protect Children in the Pikes Peak Region

[From El Paso County Sheriff's Office:](#)

FBI Denver, El Paso County Sheriff's Office and Colorado Springs Police Department are pleased to announce the formation of the FBI Southern Colorado Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, bringing local and federal investigators together to strengthen efforts to identify victims and hold offenders accountable.

Task force members are co-located in FBI space in Colorado Springs, allowing investigators to share intelligence and resources more quickly, coordinate investigations across jurisdictions, and jointly receive specialized training from the FBI. The task force model strengthens collaboration among agencies investigating internet crimes against children and child exploitation and human trafficking throughout southern Colorado.

The creation and co-location of this task force represent a significant step forward in southern Colorado's coordinated response to child exploitation and human trafficking. By operating as one team from a unified office, participating agencies can combine local knowledge, federal capabilities, specialized training and investigative resources to more effectively protect vulnerable individuals and pursue those who seek to exploit them.

Additional details [here](#).

Colorado Springs police crack down

Colorado Springs police crack down on illicit massage businesses after KRDO13 investigation

[KRDO Reporter Paige Reynolds](#)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KRDO) — Two months after a KRDO13 investigation exposed that enforcement of Colorado Springs' massage business licensing law had stopped, police are once again inspecting businesses and finding violations.

The Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office inspected 18 massage businesses during July and August, issuing 15 misdemeanor citations.

Of the 18 businesses inspected, only five were in full compliance. Three were operating without a license and another 10 were licensed but not following all licensing requirements.

The violations included having an unlicensed massage therapist on the premises, failing to display a license and allowing employees to live at the business.

One of the businesses inspected was a massage business on 8th Street that KRDO13 has previously investigated.

CSPD is not identifying the other locations inspected, telling KRDO13 Investigates it is withholding that information "to preserve the integrity of the judicial process for the criminal citations issued."

KRDO13 Investigates first exposed illicit massage businesses in Colorado Springs in 2019, finding businesses where sex was advertised for sale online. Our reporting helped push the city to pass a massage business licensing ordinance, giving police another tool to investigate and shut down illicit massage businesses.

But this summer, KRDO13 Investigates discovered enforcement had stopped. Our team found that CSPD issued 24 massage licensing citations in 2022 and two in 2023. Then, for more than two years, police issued none.

At the same time, our June investigation found sex was still being advertised for sale online at Colorado Springs massage businesses.

KRDO13 Investigates took the enforcement lapse directly to Colorado Springs Mayor Yemi Mobolade.

In response, Mobolade directed CSPD to conduct periodic enforcement operations focused on suspected illicit massage businesses.

Two months later, those operations are happening.

CSPD Chief Adrian Vasquez said the inspections are intended to enforce

licensing requirements while also allowing detectives to uncover more serious criminal activity.

Read more of the story by KRDO Reporter Paige Reynolds [here](#).

Meta Settles Suit by Attorneys General for \$17 billion

Aug. 26, 2026 (DENVER) - Social media giant Meta Platforms, Inc. will pay over \$17 billion and implement sweeping child-safety reforms on Instagram and Facebook under a nationwide settlement [Attorney General Phil Weiser announced today](#). The landmark multistate settlement with Meta is one of the largest state consumer protection settlements in history.

The agreement, subject to court approval, resolves claims by 47 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands, that Meta designed Instagram with addictive features, knowingly exposed young users to serious mental harms, and intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms, among other things.

Under the settlement, Colorado will receive close to \$615 million over nine years, which will go directly to protecting and restoring the mental health and safety of Colorado children. Attorney General Weiser said the settlement is a monumental victory for protecting America's children and will fundamentally transform how the entire social media industry designs products for kids and teens.

“The relief we are getting in this settlement is very meaningful and well beyond what any court has ordered or is likely to order,” Attorney General Weiser said. “The focus of this case was to protect our kids—stopping notifications and alerts at night and when they are in school, encouraging them to take breaks from social media, protecting them against harmful features, implementing age assurance technology, and more. Today’s action is an important step forward and I welcome Meta’s decision to accept responsibility and to collaborate with the multistate coalition to protect kids who deserve better.”

Attorney General Weiser also acknowledged that this problem extends well beyond one company and the settlement with Meta could set the standard for the industry.

The settlement requires Meta to implement a series of safety features on

Instagram and Facebook, including:

- Hard cap daily time limits and “Productive Pauses” for children: for Instagram and Facebook, a combined two-hour daily time limit with mandatory pauses after 15 minutes of continuous use and again at 60 and 90 minutes to interrupt endless scrolling. These limits remain in effect for five years. If Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube adopt comparable terms, the daily limit on each platform will drop to 60 minutes for 10 years.
- “Nighttime blocks” restricting children’s access from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Limited school-time access for children, eliminating push notifications on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the school year.
- Robust age assurance measures to more effectively verify the age of young users.
- Safer, age-appropriate content controls, including stronger safeguards against bullying, content promoting eating disorders, and content related to suicide and self-harm.
- Stronger, more user-friendly parental controls.
- Limits on social comparison features, including beauty filters and visible “like” counts, that have been linked to poor mental health outcomes in kids and teens.

Both the implementation and effectiveness of the features will be regularly assessed by an independent auditor and the settling states.

These are groundbreaking changes to Instagram and Facebook and more significant and comprehensive than previously ordered by any court. Perhaps most importantly, this settlement represents a down payment toward an industry-wide social media experience that allows kids to connect in a healthy way.

Read more of Attorney General Weiser's press release [here](#).

Donations are appreciated!

INFORMATION TO SAVE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINES AND RESOURCE GROUPS

Colorado's Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1-866-455-5075

Text: 1-720-999-9724

Colorado HT Hotline Resource Directory

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1-888-373-7888

Text: BeFree (233733)

Colorado Human Trafficking Council

Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking

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Human Trafficking Task Force CO, P.O. Box 784, Colorado springs, CO 80901, United States

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