

Challenges to Building a Cohesive Task Force

Illegal
Immigration,
Crime and
Public Policy
Symposium



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Challenges facing law enforcement agencies

- Territorial issues
 - Federal LE agencies questioning the involvement of local agencies
 - Possible “blue on blue”
 - SOLUTION – Changing the views of those who feel more LE involvement is a hindrance and taking steps to ensure officer safety



Challenges facing law enforcement agencies

- **HIDTA**





Challenges facing law enforcement agencies

- Perceptions that law enforcement agencies have of one another
 - SOLUTION – time and patience
- Resources available
 - Limited amount of personnel available to respond to these issues
- Jurisdictional limitations of local law enforcement



Challenges facing law enforcement agencies

- Local officials and trafficking
 - May feel that this is an immigration issue and they shouldn't be involved
 - State statutes on human trafficking
 - Lack of training
 - Personal views coming into play
 - SOLUTION – mandatory training and consistent responses from local LE agencies



Challenges facing law enforcement agencies

- Issues of trust – fear of another agency “stealing” a case
 - Past experiences can make inter-agency cooperation problematic
- Information sharing
 - SOLUTION – consistent points of contact within each respective agency



Law Enforcement and NGO relations

- Knowledge of services offered by each respective NGO
- Trust issues between LE and NGO
 - Faith that LE will properly investigate
 - Faith that NGOs will maintain the integrity of an investigation



Challenges for Law Enforcement and NGOs

- Knowledge of services offered by each respective NGO
- Trust issues between LE and NGO
 - Faith that LE will properly investigate
 - Faith that NGOs will maintain the integrity of an investigation
 - SOLUTION – immediately start with an open dialogue and establishing a working relationship



Challenges for Law Enforcement and NGOs

- Gaining the trust of those who have been victimized
 - Case example
 - Two undocumented Mexican immigrants (17 yr old male, 18 yr old female – 4 months pregnant) were held by two men who attempted to extort money from them.



Task Force Investigations

- 15 year old girl was being held until her family paid a ransom.

(Surveillance video)

[Video Clip](#)

- Call from an NGO partner led to the rescue of a 14 year old Honduran boy



Working Together to End Modern-Day Slavery