Homeland Security Investigations Office of the Executive Associate Director

Enforcement and Removal Operations Office of the Executive Associate Director

U.S. Department of Homeland Security 500 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20536



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MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Agents in Charge

Field Office Directors

FROM:

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Homeland Security Investigations

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SUBJECT:

Standardization of Human Trafficking Reporting from Immigration

Courts

Issue:

Certain aliens appearing before the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) have displayed potential human trafficking indicators and have expressed fear of their sponsor or relating to their living and working conditions in the United States.

Purpose:

To provide timely assistance to aliens appearing before EOIR displaying indicators of human trafficking, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and EOIR will create a protocol by which tips reported to EOIR will be shared with ICE.

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip Line as the single point of contact (POC) for EOIR to report potential human trafficking victims.

Background:

EOIR's mission is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws.

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Certain aliens displaying potential human trafficking indicators have expressed to EOIR fear for their safety and well-being related to their sponsor and/or living and working conditions in the United States. It is therefore paramount to establish a process to promptly refer these potential trafficking victims to law enforcement for the safety of the victim(s), as well as the apprehension and prosecution of the trafficker(s).

In each of the 26 Special Agent in Charge (SAC) offices, HSI has Special Agents with human trafficking subject-matter expertise who handle human trafficking leads, address victim needs, and serve as POCs for local offices. To assist in the comprehensive needs of human trafficking victims, HSI relies on the support of the HSI Victim Assistance Program (VAP), through full-time Victim Assistance Specialists (VASs) assigned throughout the SAC offices. Special Agents lead enforcement activities, whereas VASs provide needed support. The HSI Human Trafficking Unit provides programmatic support to human trafficking activities and investigations in the SAC offices.

Coordination Process:

To ensure prompt and effective action, ICE and EOIR have agreed to establish a standard coordination process to promptly refer these potential trafficking victims to law enforcement for the safety of the victim, as well as for the apprehension and prosecution of the trafficker.

EOIR procedures are as follows:

The ICE process for EOIR purposes is as follows:

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