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**AAHOA Joins Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce**  
*Brings Vast Experience and Network to Community Awareness & Education Workgroup*

ATLANTA, Ga, Feb. 15 – AAHOA, the nation’s largest hotel owners association, announced its membership with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s (CJCC) Human Trafficking Task Force to combat criminal trafficking efforts in the state. AAHOA represents over 18,500 hoteliers nationwide, including over 800 in Georgia. The association is part of the Task Force’s Community Awareness and Education Workgroup.

AAHOA Interim President and CEO Rachel Humphrey said, “AAHOA is proud to bring our knowledge of and expertise in anti-trafficking education and prevention to the CJCC’s Human Trafficking Task Force. Education and cooperation are key to combating the traffickers who exploit the most vulnerable in our society, and we are committed to working with law enforcement and our state’s elected officials to keep these criminals out of our communities. We look forward to continuing the fight against trafficking in Georgia.”

The Task Force’s mission is to protect Georgians from perpetrators and systems of sexual exploitation while working to support victims’ recovery to ensure that they are ready a successful future. The Task Force operates by a targeted, strategic framework which consists of nine Work Groups to address the five elements of the trafficking continuum: Vulnerability - Recruitment - Exploitation - Withdrawal – Reintegration. AAHOA is a member of Work Group 1 which focuses on awareness and education.

AAHOA’s efforts to combat trafficking in the hotel industry include partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security, the Blue Campaign, Polaris, and Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking (BEST). The association worked with Polaris and BEST to create two free online and on-demand trainings and certifications for members and their employees that educate them about trafficking, how to identify its signs, and how to respond to potential trafficking situations.

For more information about AAHOA’s Human Trafficking Awareness Training, please visit <http://www.aahoa.com/htat>.

**About AAHOA:**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world. The over 18,500 AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States. With billions of dollars in property assets and hundreds of thousands of employees, AAHOA members are core economic contributors in virtually every community. AAHOA is a proud defender of free enterprise and the foremost current-day example of realizing the American dream.*

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