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**CALL FOR SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**CONFERENCE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING THRU RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

The University of Houston has issued a call for speakers and topics for the three-day ***Conference to Combat Human Trafficking: Research and Technology***.

The University of Houston and the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute (BTI Institute), *a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence*, will host the 2nd annual “***Conference to Combat Human Trafficking: Research and Technology***,” to be held **September 25-27, 2023**, at the Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington Boulevard, Houston, Texas.

The purpose of the conference is two-fold:

1. To present new research and innovative technologies that may be used in efforts to halt human trafficking; and
2. To identify areas for future research and to develop viable solutions through technologies and enhanced capabilities to counter human trafficking and smuggling.

We ask for all nominations for speakers and topics by 5:00 pm (Central), Friday, **23 June 2023**.

* Speakers should provide their name and contact information (telephone and email address), a short (no more than ten sentence) synopsis of their recommended topic, with an accompanying professional photo, 500-word biography and requisite release form.
* Suggested topics should include a title and 5-8 sentence synopsis. We also solicit nominations of recommended, highly qualified subject matter experts to participate in the panel.

The Conference is a joint effort involving the University of Houston and the following strategic partners: U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Office of the Secretary of State for the State of Texas; the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Texas; the Texas Department of Public Safety; the Houston Police Department; Sam Houston State University’s Institute for Homeland Security; Texas Hotel & Lodging Association; and the Harris County Department of Education.

Interested researchers and technology solution providers may contact Kevin Clement, Executive Director Strategic Partnerships, at KClement@uh.edu or 512.626.5413.