

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • [pcsw@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pcsw@cga.ct.gov) • [www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/)

CONTACT: Christine Palm, Communications Director at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

## FOR RELEASE 2-22-2011

HARTFORD – The state-mandated Trafficking in Persons Council, convened and chaired by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, provided public awareness and training to more than 12,000 people in 2010, and last year provided services to 170 victims of human trafficking in the state.

The 26-member Council, which consists of State officials and members of the public, consults with government and non-governmental organizations to develop recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims, and prosecute traffickers. The Council also identifies criteria for providing services to adult trafficking victims and their children, and reports annually on progress in the prevention of human trafficking.

Collectively or individually, the groups conducted statewide trainings on subjects ranging from internet safety to combating exploitation. In addition, they screened 200 persons for possible victimization, and identified 170, of whom at least 50 were children. The groups then provided services, including housing, for many of these victims and arranged for hotline referral services.

The organizations providing the awareness training to parents and youth, law enforcement personnel, first responders, social service agencies, social workers, high schools, churches and medical personnel were: the Barnaba Institute, the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, the Connecticut Women's Consortium, Project Rescue of the International Institute of Connecticut, the Women's and Family Center of Meriden, the State Department of Children and Families, and the Paul & Lisa Program, Inc.

*See complete report, attached.*

*About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state's women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women's issues.*