

TEXAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ART CONTEST

Human Trafficking Ends Here High School Art and Writing Contest

Every year, men, women, and children in Texas are exploited for forced labor or commercial sex. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, but traffickers seldom use bars or chains. Trafficking victims are lured by their traffickers through force, fraud, or coercion into working in various industries or into commercial sex. They are given false promises of love, security, or profit, only to later learn that they have lost control over their lives and often have no safe way out.

Nationwide, Texas has the 2nd highest number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Despite its prevalence, this crime is underreported, in part due to myths about human trafficking. You can learn about the realities of human trafficking at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>. Everyone can help combat trafficking when they know the facts.

Help us send the message that no one in Texas is for sale. The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force is launching an art and writing contest for high school students to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking. All high school students in the state of Texas are eligible to participate. The contest will run for the month of January, in honor of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.


Participants are required to submit an original work, in one of these categories: creative writing, poetry, drawing, painting, or photography. Submissions must be received by **January 31, 2022**.

Contest Details

Submissions will be accepted in the following five categories:

- Creative Writing (not to exceed 1500 words)
- Poetry (not to exceed 1500 words)
- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography

Please submit a piece that addresses the realities of human trafficking from your perspective. We encourage you to research this topic as we will not be accepting sensationalized submissions. All work must be your original creation.



Submission Instructions

We will begin accepting submissions on January 1, 2022. **All submissions must be emailed to txhhtaskforce@oag.texas.gov no later than 11:59 PM on January 31, 2022.**

Creative writing and poetry submissions (not to exceed 1500 words) should be emailed in **PDF format**.

To submit artwork for consideration, students must email a **high-resolution photo** (minimum 2400 x 2400 pixels) of their work. Photos will be accepted as JPEG, JPG, or PNG files.

If you would like your physical artwork to be considered for display at future Task Force human trafficking awareness events, please mail the piece to:

Human Trafficking Division, Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711

*Please note: Mailed artwork will **not** be returned. To maintain uniformity in judging, all visual pieces will be judged **based on the photo** submitted to the Task Force email address, regardless of whether the artist has also mailed their physical work.*

Winning Submissions

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of Task Force judges. One winner per category will be selected, and the winning submissions will be featured on the Task Force website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking-section/texas-human-trafficking-prevention-task-force>. The artists and their schools will also be recognized at a Task Force event during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April 2022.

In addition to the winning submission from each category, further submissions may be recognized and considered for use at future human trafficking awareness events.

Dissemination Disclaimer

By submitting your work for consideration, you are consenting to further use and distribution of your work by the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force for any non-commercial purpose. All submissions, not just those selected as contest winners, will be considered for display on Task Force social media and at Task Force events. Should students wish for their work to remain anonymous, they must indicate so on the Contact Preferences section of the application form, and they should not sign their work.

The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force cannot be held liable for any loss, damages, or misappropriation of artwork that is mailed to the address given above. Should you choose to mail your physical work to the Task Force at the above address, you are releasing the Task Force from responsibility for any loss, damage, or misappropriation that occurs during or following submission of the piece. Once mailed, artwork will not be returned.

