SEX TRAFFICKING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NCJW and AAUW Message: NCJW and AAUW endorse and resolve to work for the recognition, prevention, and elimination of all forms of human trafficking. Women and children are the more likely victims of sex trafficking — sold into dangerous and abusive situations here in the United States. Combating sex trafficking requires a complex response that includes federal, state, and local policies addressing root causes of trafficking and the conditions that allow it to take place. This toolkit focuses on three key state policy priorities—National Trafficking Hotline posting requirements (page 3), safe harbor laws (page 11), and vacatur laws (page 19)—to identify and combat sex trafficking.

TALKING POINTS:

► Provide survivor centered and trauma informed services for sex trafficking victims. Trafficking survivors are the experts on their own experience and are crucial to informing service delivery, public policy, law enforcement, and advocacy efforts. Decisions made without the cooperation and consent of survivors are less likely to succeed and might even leave them more isolated, distrustful, and vulnerable to abuse. NCJW and AAUW support survivor-led efforts to help states and local governments develop and implement comprehensive survivor-centered programs and policies.

► Collect data on sex trafficking to truly gauge the magnitude in order to adequately address the problem. Statistics on sex trafficking are limited due to the crime’s hidden nature, limited awareness by law enforcement and social service providers, and lack of research. NCJW and AAUW support legislation that would require local, state, and federal governments to regularly report data on human trafficking crimes.

► Strengthen the child welfare system’s response to sex trafficking. Data suggest that the majority of trafficked youth in the US are in the child welfare system. In 2013, 60% of the child sex trafficking victims recovered as part of a FBI nationwide raid from over 70 cities were children from foster care or group homes. NCJW and AAUW support legislation requiring law enforcement to upload photos of missing youth into the National Criminal Information Center database and to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution. Another key policy concern is identifying, documenting, and determining services for children and youth connected to the foster care system who are at risk of being trafficked.

► Treat trafficked children as victims rather than criminals. Current federal law defines a commercial sex act in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age to be sex trafficking. However, too often children are convicted of prostitution and placed at the mercy of the criminal justice system. Children who fall victim to sex trafficking are victims of a crime and should not be treated as criminals. NCJW and AAUW support federal legislation requiring states to adopt “Safe Harbor” legislation prohibiting minors under the age of 18 from being prosecuted for prostitution.

► End demand for the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Children are kidnapped or easily lured by exploiters, and buyers can purchase them with ease, anonymity, and impunity. These sales can be executed quickly, conveniently, and privately over the Internet. NCJW and AAUW support efforts to enable law enforcement, courts, and anti-trafficking task forces around the country to effectively target the demand for children exploited for commercial sex.
STATE ADVOCACY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Sex Trafficking

**What is sex trafficking?** The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines sex trafficking as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. Transportation need not be a factor.

**Is sex trafficking a problem here in the United States?** Yes. The FBI reports that from 2008-2010, 83% of sex trafficking victims found within the US were US citizens. Further, children and teens living on the streets are often involved in commercial sex activity.

**What is the scale of the issue?** Due to a lack of data, the prevalence of sex trafficking in the United States is still unknown. We do know that sex trafficking happens in all 50 states. In 2015, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reported 4,136 cases of sex trafficking.

**Is this a new problem?** No. This is a criminal industry that has operated in the shadows. However, growing public awareness and the increased availability of state and national hotlines has exposed the magnitude problem. The NHTRC experienced a 259% increase in calls from 2008-2012.

**Who is at risk?** Anyone can become a victim, but certain populations are particularly vulnerable: undocumented migrants; runaway and homeless youth; survivors of sexual abuse; and marginalized groups and individuals. Victims have often run away or been “thrown-away” from abusive or troubled homes, including foster care placements. While there is not enough data to determine the average age of entry, a 2015 study by the NHTRC found that 44% of survivors surveyed estimated that they were 17 or younger when they first engaged in commercial sex. Traffickers specifically target these populations because they are vulnerable to recruitment tactics and methods of control.

**How do traffickers recruit and control victims?** Traffickers — sometimes parents or other family members — use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, drugs, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims in the sex industry. Further, traffickers often take their victims’ identity documents, including birth certificates, passports, and drivers’ licenses. Criminal networks transport victims and often provide them counterfeit identification to use in the event of arrest. If a victim is able to escape, they are often unable to access shelters and services or support themselves. As a result, survivors frequently return to their traffickers.

**What services do survivors need?** Traffickers keep victims isolated from support and opportunity. For many survivors, it can be difficult to enter the workforce after their escape. Survivors need to build skills that will allow them to be self-supporting and independent. In the short term, survivor-centered, trauma-informed, culturally competent services are needed, including emergency housing, legal assistance, specialized health care, and counseling. In the long term, immigration relief, job training, and long term housing are crucial to helping survivors achieve lives free from exploitation. However, without addressing the systemic issues that allow trafficking to exist, including lack of education and opportunities, we will never fully eradicate the problem.

**Who is penalized?** Punishment for traffickers and buyers is minimal. Buyers are rarely charged or convicted for solicitation or pandering, let alone statutory rape or child endangerment. Often, it is the sexually exploited child who ends up in jail for prostitution, despite not being of age to provide consent.
FACT SHEET: NATIONAL TRAFFICKING HOTLINE POSTING LAWS

NCJW and AAUW have identified three priority areas of focus for state anti-trafficking advocacy: (1) National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, (2) Safe Harbor Laws, and (3) Vacatur Laws. While there are many areas of need for survivors of trafficking, ensuring states have these laws on the books is a great first step. To learn what anti-trafficking laws exist in your state, visit the VS. State Guide used by the American Bar Association. This fact sheet highlights National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws.

What is The National Trafficking Hotline?
The National Trafficking Hotline is phone and text hotline operated by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The phone number is 1-888-373-7888 and the text number is 233733 (or BeFree). The hotline gives survivors a way to connect to crucial support services and provides law enforcement with critical information. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and is available in over 170 languages.

What is a National Trafficking Hotline Posting Law?
NHTRC Posting Laws require or encourage states to post or promote the hotline number within the state. An effective NHTRC Posting Law includes specific locations for the hotline to be posted, such as transportation hubs, sexually-oriented businesses, emergency care providers, job recruitment centers, hospitals, and entities found to be a nuisance for prostitution. Currently, 28 states and the District of Columbia have passed NHTRC Posting Laws.

Why are National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws Necessary?
Many states don’t have statutes mandating the posting of state or national numbers. As a result, sex trafficking victims and survivors in these states don’t have this critical resource to obtain support services or seek safety, and law enforcement do not have the data they need to address the problem.

What is the Impact of National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws?
Since 2007, the NHTRC hotline has fielded over 115,000 calls, identified over 58,000 potential victims, and delivered more than 3,500 tips to law enforcement agencies which led to the successful arrest and prosecution of many traffickers. States that have laws mandating hotline posting in public spaces increase the visibility and awareness of the hotline, leading to higher call volumes and greater access to services for survivors. Additionally, the hotline records serve as indispensable investigative and prosecutorial resources for law enforcement.

What States Have These Laws?
28 states (as well as the District of Columbia) have enacted state or national hotline posting laws: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

What Can I Do?
Work with your state lawmakers and coalition partners to introduce National Trafficking Hotline Posting legislation or strengthen the legislation that already exists in your state. Template legislation from Polaris and the Uniform Law Commission is available here.

For questions, contact Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
ACTIVITY GUIDE: NATIONAL TRAFFICKING HOTLINE POSTING LAWS

How to Use This Activity Guide

At NCJW and AAUW, advocacy is all about action. Advocates looking to advance and strengthen National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws can move forward by raising public awareness online and in person. Use the ideas below for inspiration!

Lobbying and Direct Advocacy

- Hold a meeting with your elected officials about passing a National Trafficking Hotline Posting Law.
- Check out AAUW’s resources on how to be a successful advocate.
- Host an issue forum with local state lawmakers on National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws to develop your relationships with lawmakers and raise awareness in the community.
- Organize a petition campaign to push for a new law.

Public Awareness Activities

- Raise awareness using social media. The National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws Social Media Guide is available as part of this toolkit and check out AAUW’s Social Media 101 and 201 guides.
- Host a press conference to urge the passage of National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws.
- Train volunteers to help implement National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws.
- Look into how to post information about human trafficking and the National Trafficking Hotline in the airport and other travel hubs in your state, even if your state doesn’t have a posting law. You may be able to create a public installation.
- Host a survivor of trafficking at local community event to share their experience and discuss the importance of National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws.
- Publish flyers with information about the National Trafficking Hotline to distribute.
- Include the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (1-888-373-7888) and text line (233733) in your e-mail signature.
- Post the hotline in your place of business, a community bulletin board, or a local coffee shop.
- Create customized bumper stickers that include the hotline to put on your car.

Learn More

- Write an op-ed, blog, or letter to the editor using our National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws Messaging Guide.
- Read examples of op-eds about National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws in the Stamford Advocate and the Sacramento Bee.
- Learn more about the National Trafficking Hotline by researching hotline statistics and BeFree text line statistics from Polaris.

Questions?

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW Public Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
MESSAGING GUIDE: NATIONAL TRAFFICKING HOTLINE POSTING LAWS

How to Use This Messaging Guide

Advocates looking to advance National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws can help raise awareness by writing and publishing op-eds, blogs, or letters to the editor. These are all great ways to engage a broad audience, respond to an opposing point of view in the public forum, and highlight key information for potential supporters. You can use the following messages to effectively write op-eds, blogs, and letters to the editor about passing or strengthening a National Trafficking Hotline Posting Law in your state.

Key Points

- National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are essential to provide lifesaving services to survivors of human trafficking.
- National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are invaluable resources to law enforcement in their efforts to combat human trafficking.
- Our principals for action emphasize peace, justice, human rights, and mutual security for all people. In this spirit, National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws provide critical knowledge to survivors of human trafficking and to law enforcement.

Supporting Points

National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are essential to provide lifesaving services to survivors of human trafficking.

- The National Trafficking Hotline is a phone and text hotline operated by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and operated by Polaris. The hotline serves as a lifeline for survivors, giving them a way to connect to crucial support services. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and is available in over 170 languages.
- States that have laws mandating hotline postings in public spaces increase the visibility and awareness of the hotline, leading to higher call volumes and greater access to services for survivors.
- Many states don’t have statutes mandating the posting of state or national numbers. When there is no mandate, it doesn’t happen, and sex trafficking victims and survivors don’t have this critical resource to obtain support services or seek safety.
National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are invaluable resources to law enforcement in their efforts to combat human trafficking.

- Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline has fielded over 80,000 calls, identified over 9,000 potential victims, and delivered more than 3,500 tips to law enforcement agencies which led to the successful arrest and prosecution of many traffickers.

- The hotline records serve as indispensable investigative and prosecutorial resources for law enforcement.

- The hotline records help illustrate the scope of human trafficking across the country, giving lawmakers a fuller context in which to make laws and empower law enforcement to take action.

Our principals for action emphasize peace, justice, human rights, and mutual security for all people. In this spirit, National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws provide critical knowledge to survivors of human trafficking and to law enforcement.

- NCJW and AAUW each have a longstanding history of speaking up about the issues that help us fulfill our obligation to pursue social justice. Education is a critical component in raising awareness in order to create change.

- By passing National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, state lawmakers will be raising awareness and providing education to survivors of human trafficking and law enforcement, empowering our communities with the knowledge and tools to help combat trafficking.

Pro Tips

- Make sure to personalize the piece with a relevant story, or your motivations for getting involved in this work. While you’re at it, share your story in the AAUW story bank.

- In your piece, make sure to include each of the three key points outlined above, and use the provided supporting points to back up your claims.

- For further guidance, check out AAUW's tips on writing op-eds and letters to the editor, as well as working with the media.

Questions?

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws Social Media Guide

Twitter

Twitter is a great way to spread your point of view to the widest possible audience. Make sure to follow @NCJW and @AAUWPolicy, our national partners (like @Polaris_Project and @SharedHope), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

SAMPLE TWEETS

TIP: Don’t forget to use the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking in your Twitter posts

National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws

- Need help? Report #sextrafficking or request services from National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-7888 #EndSexTrafficking
- In 2015, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center received 21,947 calls. It’s time to require hotline posting in [state] #EndSexTrafficking
- #sextrafficking occurs in all 50 states. All 50 states should mandate the posting of the trafficking resource hotline #EndSexTrafficking
- Over 1,600 survivors of #sextrafficking reached out for help in 2015. It’s time for [state] to require hotline posting #EndSexTrafficking
- Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE) to get help for victims and survivors of #sextrafficking or to connect with local services #EndSexTrafficking
- In 2015, the BeFree Textline received 1,472 SMS communications. Request services by texting HELP to 233733 #EndSexTrafficking
- Report #sextrafficking or request services from National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-7888 #EndSexTrafficking

Resources from EXODUS: NCJW’S Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative and AAUW

- See @NCJW resource: National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws http://bit.ly/1xSadze #EndSexTrafficking
- Check out human trafficking resources from @AAUWPolicy http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndHumanTrafficking #EndSexTrafficking
- See @NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Program Bank for inspiration http://bit.ly/142gDkd #EndSexTrafficking
- .@NCJW resource on Natl Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws & why they matter http://bit.ly/1xSadze #EndHumanTrafficking #EndSexTrafficking
Thanking and Encouraging State Lawmakers on Twitter

Tweeting at your lawmakers is an effective way to raise awareness about National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws. They pay attention to Twitter, as it helps them see what constituents are thinking. Composing a tweet to your state lawmaker is a simple and strategic way to call attention to National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws and help move legislation forward.

.Twitter Example .@StateLawmaker As a constituent and @AAUW member, thank you for your leadership on trafficking hotline posting laws! #EndSexTrafficking

TIP: Add something to the beginning of your tweet to personalize it and show your state lawmakers why #EndSexTrafficking is important to you! For example: (From a constituent…From a woman…From an @AAUW member…)

How to Find Your Lawmaker on Twitter

- **STEP 1:** Find your state lawmakers by entering your address at [Open States](http://www.openstates.org).
- **STEP 2:** Visit the [National Conference of State Legislatures’ social media resource](http://www.ncsl.org/) to find your state lawmakers’ Twitter accounts.

What to Tweet at Your State Lawmaker

- **Are they sponsoring or supporting a National Trafficking Hotline Posting Law?** THANK them for their support!
- **Are they opposing National Trafficking Hotline Posting legislation?** ENCOURAGE them to reconsider their position. Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.
- **Have they not commented on National Trafficking Hotline Posting legislation pending in the legislature?** ENCOURAGE them to speak out! Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.
STATE ADVOCACY

Facebook

Facebook is an excellent way to grow a large base of fans and supporters, and keep your existing advocates informed. Make sure to follow and tag NCJW and AAUW on Facebook, our national partners (like the Polaris Project and Shared Hope International), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

Tip: Facebook posts should be short and snappy. Include a link to an important article or resource to encourage your Facebook readers to learn more about trafficking. You can also encourage your members to “share” the post on their personal pages to increase visibility and awareness! And, don’t forget to use #EndSexTrafficking in your posts.

- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Hotline — 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733) — is a lifeline for survivors. National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are an easy and effective way to provide this service, but many states are still lacking this crucial legislation! For more information, visit http://bit.ly/2iWknV #EndSexTrafficking

- Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline has fielded over 115,000 calls! National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws are an easy and effective way to provide a critical lifeline for survivors, but many states are still lacking this crucial legislation. For more visit http://bit.ly/2iWknV #EndSexTrafficking
Graphics

A picture is worth a thousand words! Sharing graphics on social media often increases engagement, and thus, the likelihood that your message will reach a wider audience.

**TIP:** Post these graphics to Facebook or Twitter alongside one of the above posts, or one of your own, to give viewers more information on how to become involved! (And don’t forget to include the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking!)


For more graphics from EXODUS: NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative, visit [act.ncjw.org/trafficking](http://act.ncjw.org/trafficking) and navigate to the EXODUS Image Gallery.

**Questions?** Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
FACT SHEET: Safe Harbor Laws

NCJW and AAUW have identified three priority areas of focus for state anti-trafficking advocacy: (1) National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, (2) Safe Harbor Laws, and (3) Vacatur Laws. While there are many areas of need for survivors of trafficking, ensuring states have these laws on the books is a great first step. To learn what anti-trafficking laws exist in your state, visit the VS. State Guide used by the American Bar Association. This fact sheet highlights Safe Harbor Laws.

What is a Safe Harbor Law?
A complete Safe Harbor Law (1) prevents minors (any child under 18) from being prosecuted for prostitution and (2) directs juvenile sex trafficking victims to non-punitive specialized services.

Why is this Law Necessary?
Sex traffickers often target runaway and homeless youth, as well as children who have been abused or neglected. When minors are forced to engage in commercial sex, it places them at risk for prosecution under prostitution laws. Safe Harbor laws ensure that trafficked children are treated as victims, not criminals, and provide access to medical care, safe housing, remedial education, and counseling services.

What is the Impact of Safe Harbor Laws?
When child trafficking victims are convicted of prostitution, they are often transferred from the control of a trafficker to the control of the criminal justice system. Safe Harbor Laws protect child victims of sex trafficking from unjust criminalization. Further, because Safe Harbor Laws redirect arrested minors from juvenile delinquency proceedings to child protection proceedings, they give sexually exploited children access to specialized services. Safe Harbor Laws also promote the use of safe houses rather than juvenile detention for child survivors of sex trafficking.

Which states have passed Safe Harbor Laws?

**States that Direct Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims to Specialized Services**
Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas

**States that Protect Minors from Criminalization for Prostitution**

Note: Even if your state has passed one or both of these provisions, there may still be room for improvement.

What Can I Do?
1. Learn more about the legislation in your state. Visit Shared Hope International’s Protect Innocence Challenge to find your state’s report card (see specifically “Protective Provisions for Child Victims.”) See also Shared Hope International’s state law survey charts “Prohibiting Criminalization of Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims” and “Protective System Responses for Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims.”
2. Work with your state lawmakers and partners to introduce or strengthen Safe Harbor Laws. Template legislation from the Uniform Law Commission and Polaris is available here.

For questions, contact Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
**STATE ADVOCACY**

**ACTIVITY GUIDE: SAFE HARBOR LAWS**

How to Use This Activity Guide

At NCJW and AAUW, advocacy is all about action. Advocates looking to advance and strengthen Safe Harbor Laws can move forward by raising public awareness online and in person. Use the ideas below for inspiration!

**Lobbying and Direct Advocacy**

- Hold a meeting with your elected officials about passing a Safe Harbor Law.
- Check out AAUW’s resources on how to be a successful advocate.
- Host an issue forum with local state lawmakers on Safe Harbor Laws to develop your relationships with lawmakers and raise awareness in the community.
- Organize a petition campaign to push for a new law.

**Public Awareness Activities**

- Raise awareness using social media. The Safe Harbor Laws Social Media Guide is available as part of this toolkit and check out AAUW’s Social Media 101 and 201 guides.
- Host a press conference to urge the passage of Safe Harbor Laws.
- Host a workshop on domestic child sex trafficking and Safe Harbor Laws.
- Host a panel or community forum on child sex trafficking and Safe Harbor Laws. Include speakers that are state lawmakers, service providers, coalition partners, and academic experts.

**Learn More**

- Write an op-ed, blog, or letter to the editor using our Safe Harbor Laws Messaging Guide.
- Read examples of op-eds about Safe Harbor Laws and sex trafficking in the Baltimore Sun and the Jewish Journal.
- Learn more about Safe Harbor Laws. Visit Shared Hope International’s Protect Innocence Challenge to find your state’s report card (see specifically “Protective Provisions for Child Victims.”) See also Shared Hope International’s state law survey charts “Prohibiting Criminalization of Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims” and “Protective System Responses for Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims.”

**Questions?**

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
MESSAGING GUIDE: SAFE HARBOR LAWS

How to Use This Messaging Guide

Advocates looking to advance Safe Harbor Laws can help raise awareness by writing and publishing op-eds, blogs, or letters to the editor. These are all great ways to engage a broad audience, respond to an opposing point of view in the public forum, and highlight key information for potential supporters. **You can use the following messages to effectively write op-eds, blogs, and letters to the editor about passing or strengthening a Safe Harbor Law in your state.**

Key Points

» Child survivors of trafficking should not be treated as criminals.

» Safe Harbor Laws help ensure that we are treating child survivors of trafficking with the dignity and care they deserve.

» We must treat children who have endured the trauma of sexual exploitation with compassion and specialized social services, not criminalization.

Supporting Points

Child survivors of trafficking should not be treated as criminals.

» Safe Harbor Laws recognize that trafficked children are victims, not criminals.

» Safe Harbor Laws grant immunity from prosecution for prostitution-related offenses for any child under 18, and utilize safe houses rather than juvenile detention for survivors.

» While the prostitution of a child is considered human trafficking under U.S. federal law, many states still do not offer legal protections for minor victims or services to care for these severely victimized children. In many cases, trafficked children are treated as criminals or delinquents, further harming the child.

Safe Harbor Laws help ensure that we are treating child survivors of trafficking with the dignity and care they deserve.

» Safe Harbor Laws ensure access to medical care, safe housing, remedial education, and counseling services.

» When states enact Safe Harbor Laws, arrested minors are redirected from juvenile delinquency proceedings to child protection proceedings, giving them access to the specialized services they deserve.
STATE ADVOCACY

We must treat children who have endured the trauma of sexual exploitation with compassion and services, not criminalization.

- NCJW and AAUW believe every human being, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or any other factor is deserving of full inclusion and equal opportunity. A child who has been sexually exploited does not deserve to be criminalized; we must provide them the support they need to survive and thrive.

- By passing Safe Harbor Laws, state lawmakers will providing services and compassion to survivors of child sex trafficking, treating them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Pro Tips

- Make sure to personalize the piece with a relevant story, or your motivations for getting involved in this work. While you’re at it, share your story in the AAUW story bank.

- In your piece, make sure to include each of the three key points outlined above, and use the provided supporting points to back up your claims.

- For further guidance, check out AAUW’s tips on writing op-eds and letters to the editor, as well as working with the media.

Questions?

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielsen at nielsonk@aauw.org.
Twitter is a great way to spread your point of view to the widest possible audience. Make sure to follow @NCJW and @AAUWP, our national partners (like @Polaris Project and @SharedHope), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

**SAMPLE TWEETS**

*TIP: Don’t forget to use the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking in your Twitter and Facebook posts*

**Safe Harbor Laws**

- Safe Harbor Laws ensure access to medical care, remedial education, and counseling services for survivors of trafficking. #EndSexTrafficking
- Safe Harbor Laws recognize that trafficked children are victims, not criminals. #EndSexTrafficking
- 83% of #sextrafficking victims in US are US citizens & many are runaways from foster care. It’s time for [state] to #EndSexTrafficking.
- Can you believe there are states that criminalize children for being trafficked? We all need to pass Safe Harbor Laws. #EndSexTrafficking

**Resources from EXODUS: NCJW’S Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative and AAUW**

- Check out human trafficking resources from @AAUWP [http://bit.ly/2iIWknV](http://bit.ly/2iIWknV) #EndHumanTrafficking #EndSexTrafficking
- Check out EXODUS: @NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Action Kit at [https://act.ncjw.org/trafficking/](https://act.ncjw.org/trafficking/) #EndSexTrafficking
- See @NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Program Bank for inspiration [http://bit.ly/142gDkd](http://bit.ly/142gDkd) #EndSexTrafficking
THANKING AND ENCOURAGING STATE LAWMAKERS

Tweeting at your lawmakers is an effective way to raise awareness about Safe Harbor Laws. They pay attention to Twitter, as it helps them see what constituents are thinking. Composing a tweet to your state lawmaker is a simple and strategic way to raise the issue of Safe Harbor Laws to their attention and help move legislation forward.

TIP: Add something to the beginning of your tweet to personalize it and show your state lawmakers why #EndSexTrafficking is important to you! For example: (From a constituent…From a woman…From an @AAUW member…)

▶ How to Find Your Lawmaker on Twitter

- **STEP 1:** Find your state lawmakers by entering your address at [Open States](https://www.opensecrets.org/)
- **STEP 2:** Visit the National Conference of State Legislatures’ social media resource to find your state lawmakers’ Twitter accounts.

▶ What to Tweet at Your State Lawmaker

- **Are they sponsoring or supporting Safe Harbor legislation?**
  THANK them for their support!

- **Are they opposing Safe Harbor legislation?**
  ENCOURAGE them to reconsider their position. Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.

- **Have they not commented on Safe Harbor legislation pending in the legislature?**
  ENCOURAGE them to speak out! Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.
Facebook

Facebook is an excellent way to grow a large base of fans and supporters, and keep your existing advocates informed. Make sure to follow and tag NCJW and AAUW on Facebook, our national partners (like the Polaris Project and Shared Hope International), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

Survivors of sex trafficking in the US often lack necessary protections to keep them safe. Safe Harbor Laws recognize that trafficked children are victims, not criminals, and ensure access to medical care, safe housing, remedial education, and counseling services. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndSexTrafficking

Trafficked children are often arrested for prostitution and thrown into juvenile detention centers. NCJW and AAUW support Safe Harbor legislation prohibiting minors under the age of 18 from being prosecuted for prostitution. To find out more about Safe Harbor Laws, visit http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndSexTrafficking

Data suggest that the majority of trafficked youth in the US have been exposed to the child welfare system. To add insult to injury, many states continue to criminalize children who are sexually exploited rather than providing specialized social services. That’s why we need Safe Harbor Laws. To find out more, visit http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndSexTrafficking

TIP: Facebook posts should be short and snappy. Include a link to an article or resource to encourage your readers to learn more. You can also encourage your members to “share” the post on their personal pages to increase visibility and awareness! And, don’t forget to use #EndSexTrafficking in your posts.
GRAPHICS

A picture is worth a thousand words! Sharing graphics on social media often increases engagement, and thus, the likelihood that your message will reach a wider audience.

**TIP:** Post these graphics to Facebook or Twitter alongside one of the above posts, or one of your own, to give viewers more information on how to become involved! (And don’t forget to include the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking!)

![Graphic Image]


For more graphics from EXODUS: NCJW's Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative, visit [act.ncjw.org/trafficking](http://act.ncjw.org/trafficking) and navigate to the EXODUS Image Gallery.

**Questions?** Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at [leanne@ncjwdc.org](mailto:leanne@ncjwdc.org) or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at [nielsonk@aauw.org](mailto:nielsonk@aauw.org).
FACT SHEET: Vacatur Laws

NCJW and AAUW have identified three priority areas of focus for state anti-trafficking advocacy: (1) National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, (2) Safe Harbor Laws, and (3) Vacatur Laws. While there are many areas of need for survivors of trafficking, ensuring states have these laws on the books is a great first step. To learn what anti-trafficking laws exist in your state, visit the VS. State Guide used by the American Bar Association. This fact sheet highlights Vacatur Laws.

What is a Vacatur Law?
Vacatur Laws recognize that trafficking victims are not responsible for the criminal activity in which they have been forced to engage. They permit courts to vacate — legally rendering null and void — convictions for prostitution related offenses and other nonviolent crimes that victims of trafficking have been forced to commit.

Why are Vacatur Laws important?
Victims of sex trafficking are often prosecuted and convicted of crimes including prostitution and other related criminal activity. Because trafficking victims are coerced into criminal activity by their traffickers, they are not responsible for the crimes committed; however, the legal systems in most states do not pardon victims of sex trafficking for these convictions.

What is the impact of Vacatur Laws?
Vacatur Laws can help survivors of sex trafficking rebuild their lives. A criminal record creates a very real barrier for individuals seeking employment, education, housing, loans, and a host of other services. In addition, the stigma of having criminal convictions hinders the ability of sex trafficking survivors to reintegrate into their communities. Even if a trafficking victim is able to escape their trafficker, they are never truly free as their criminal record follows them wherever they go. A clean record enables survivors to have a second chance in life.

Which states have enacted Vacatur Laws?

What Can I Do?

1. Learn more about the legislation in your state. Visit the VS. State Guide, used by the American Bar Association, to see if your state has a Vacatur Law and determine what it says.

2. Work with your state lawmakers and coalition partners to introduce a Vacatur Law or strengthen the legislation that already exists in your state. Template legislation from Polaris and the Uniform Law Commission is available here.

For questions, contact Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
ACTIVITY GUIDE: Vacatur Laws

How to Use This Activity Guide

At NCJW and AAUW, advocacy is all about action. Advocates looking to advance and strengthen Vacatur Laws can move forward by raising public awareness online and in person. Use the ideas below for inspiration!

Lobbying and Direct Advocacy

- Hold a meeting with your elected officials about passing a Vacatur Law.
- Check out AAUW’s resources on how to be a successful advocate.
- Host an issue forum with local state lawmakers on Vacatur Laws to develop your relationships with lawmakers and raise awareness in the community.
- Organize a petition campaign to push for a new law.

Public Awareness Activities

- Raise awareness using social media. The Vacatur Laws Social Media Guide is available as part of this toolkit and check out AAUW’s Social Media 101 and 201 guides.
- Host a press conference to urge the passage of Vacatur Laws.
- Host a workshop on Vacatur Laws.
- Host a panel or community forum on Vacatur Laws. Include speakers that are state lawmakers, coalition partners, service providers, and academic experts.

Learn More

- Write an op-ed, blog, or letter to the editor using our Vacatur Laws Messaging Guide.
- Read examples of op-eds about Vacatur Laws and sex trafficking in the Baltimore Sun and CNN.
- Visit the VS. State Guide, used by the American Bar Association, to learn if your state has a Vacatur Law.

Questions?

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
MESSAGING GUIDE: Vacatur Laws

How to Use This Messaging Guide
Advocates looking to advance Vacatur Laws can help raise awareness by writing and publishing op-eds, blogs, or letters to the editor. These are all great ways to engage a broad audience, respond to an opposing point of view in the public forum, and highlight key information for potential supporters. You can use the following messages to effectively write op-eds, blogs, and letters to the editor about passing or strengthening a Vacatur Law in your state.

Key Points

▶ Survivors of trafficking should not be punished for the crimes of their traffickers.

▶ Vacatur Laws help survivors of trafficking rebuild their lives.

▶ It is unjust for survivors of trafficking to be punished for the crimes their traffickers forced them to commit; rather than holding survivors of trafficking responsible for their own exploitation, we must help them rebuild their lives.

Supporting Points

Survivors of trafficking should not be punished for the crimes of their traffickers.

▶ Vacatur Laws recognize that trafficking victims are not responsible for the criminal activity in which they have been forced to engage.

▶ Vacatur Laws permit courts to vacate — legally rendering null and void — convictions for prostitution related offenses and other nonviolent crimes that victims of trafficking were forced to commit.

Vacatur Laws help survivors of trafficking rebuild their lives.

▶ A criminal record creates a very real barrier for individuals seeking employment, education, housing, loans, and a host of other services.

▶ The stigma of having criminal convictions hinders the ability of sex trafficking survivors to reintegrate into their communities.

▶ A clean record will enable survivors to have a second chance to thrive.
It is unjust for survivors of trafficking to be punished for the crimes their traffickers forced them to commit; rather than holding survivors of trafficking responsible for their own exploitation, we must help them rebuild their lives.

- While survivors of sex trafficking have indeed engaged in prostitution, which is a crime, they do not deserve a criminal conviction. They were forced or coerced to engage in this criminal activity by a trafficker.

- A full Vacatur Law recognizes that survivors of sex trafficking are often coerced to engage in several types of crime by their traffickers, such as selling drugs or committing theft. It is unfair to hold them responsible for this.

- By passing Vacatur Laws, state lawmakers will be correcting an injustice.

**Pro Tips**

- Make sure to personalize the piece with a relevant story, or your motivations for getting involved in this work. While you’re at it, share your story in the AAUW story bank.

- In your piece, make sure to include each of the three key points outlined above, and use the provided supporting points to back up your claims.

- For further guidance, check out AAUW’s tips on writing op-eds and letters to the editor, as well as working with the media.

**Questions?**

Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.
Vacatur Laws Social Media Guide

Twitter

Twitter is a great way to spread your point of view to the widest possible audience. Make sure to follow @NCJW and @AAUWP, our national partners (like @Polaris Project and @SharedHope), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

**SAMPLE TWEETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIGHTS</th>
<th>NCJW @NCJW : Jan 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See @NCJW resource on vacating trafficking convictions laws &amp; why it’s impr bit.ly/1DygA0i #EndHumanTrafficking #EndSexTrafficking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TIP:** Don’t forget to use the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking in your Twitter and Facebook posts

Vacatur Laws

- Vacatur Laws recognize trafficking victims are not responsible for forced criminal activity. #EndSexTrafficking
- A criminal record creates barriers to employment, education & housing. Victims of #sextrafficking shouldn’t have one. #EndSexTrafficking
- A clean record = a second chance! Tell [state] to pass Vacatur Law for #sextrafficking survivors #EndSexTrafficking
- Trafficking victims are never truly free until their criminal records are vacated. #EndSexTrafficking
- Vacatur Laws help victims rebuild their lives by allowing courts to vacate unjust convictions. #EndSexTrafficking

Resources from EXODUS: NCJW’S Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative and AAUW

- See @NCJW fact sheet on Vacatur Laws & why they matter http://bit.ly/NCJVVacatingFacts #EndSexTrafficking
- Check out human trafficking resources from @AAUWP http://bit.ly/2iWknV #EndHumanTrafficking #EndSexTrafficking
- Check out EXODUS: @NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Action Kit at http://act.ncjw.org #EndSexTrafficking
- See @NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Program Bank for inspiration http://bit.ly/142gDkd #EndSexTrafficking
Thanking and Encouraging State Lawmakers on Twitter

Tweeting at your lawmakers is an effective way to raise awareness about Vacatur Laws. They pay attention to Twitter, as it helps them see what constituents are thinking. Composing a tweet to your state lawmaker is a simple and strategic way to bring the issue of Vacatur Laws to their attention and help move legislation forward.

*TIP: Add something to the beginning of your tweet to personalize it and show your state lawmakers why #EndSexTrafficking is important to you! For example: (From a constituent…From a woman…From an @AAUW member…)*

▶ How to Find Your Lawmaker on Twitter

- **STEP 1:** Find your state lawmakers by entering your address at [Open States](http://www.opensecrets.org/).
- **STEP 2:** Visit the [National Conference of State Legislatures’ social media resource](http://www.ncsl.org/research/social-media/social-media-resources.aspx) to find your state lawmakers’ Twitter accounts.

▶ What to Tweet at Your State Lawmaker

- **Are they sponsoring or supporting a Vacatur Law?**
  THANK them for their support!

- **Are they opposing Vacatur legislation?**
  ENCOURAGE them to reconsider their position. Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.

- **Have they not commented on Vacatur legislation pending in the legislature?**
  ENCOURAGE them to speak out! Use some of the educational tweets above to raise awareness about the issue.
Facebook

Facebook is an excellent way to grow a large base of fans and supporters, and keep your existing advocates informed. Make sure to follow and tag NCJW and AAUW on Facebook, our national partners (like the Polaris Project and Shared Hope International), and other local coalition partners engaged in this work. And, share this guide with colleagues and partners to help get the word out about this important law.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

TIP: Facebook posts should be short and snappy. Include a link to an article or resource to encourage your readers to learn more. You can also encourage your members to “share” the post on their personal pages to increase visibility and awareness! And, don’t forget to use #EndSexTrafficking in your posts.

▶ Sex trafficking victims are often prosecuted and convicted of crimes, despite the fact that they were coerced into criminal activity by their traffickers. Vacatur Laws help victims rebuild their lives by allowing courts to vacate these convictions. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndSexTrafficking

▶ Trafficking victims are never truly free when their criminal record follows them wherever they go. Survivors should not have to pay for the crimes that their traffickers forced them to commit, including prostitution. NCJW and AAUW support Vacatur Laws because a clean record is a second chance. To find out more, visit http://bit.ly/2iIWknV #EndSexTrafficking
A picture is worth a thousand words! Sharing graphics on social media often increases engagement, and thus, the likelihood that your message will reach a wider audience.

**TIP:** Post these graphics to Facebook or Twitter alongside one of the above posts, or one of your own, to give viewers more information on how to become involved! (And don’t forget to include the hashtag #EndSexTrafficking!)


For more graphics from EXODUS: NCJW’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiative, visit [act.ncjw.org/trafficking](http://act.ncjw.org/trafficking) and navigate to the EXODUS Image Gallery.

Questions? Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org or AAUW State Policy Analyst Kate Nielson at nielsonk@aauw.org.