

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS RIGHTS ACT

to protect sexually-exploited children and others

In 2013, the Kentucky General Assembly will consider legislation that would increase protections for victims of human trafficking.

1. Protect Child Victims of Human Trafficking

- Create a “Safe Harbor” for children forced into commercial sex. Treat them as victims rather than as criminals.
- Require appropriate Kentucky government agencies to develop a coordinated plan to deliver comprehensive care to serve and protect minor victims of trafficking.
- Clarify that buying children for sex is a felony crime with an enhanced penalty and fines that ‘johns’ cannot hide.
- Prevent pimps and other traffickers from hiding that victims are minors by creating penalties for document fraud in cases where they force or obtain a false identification for minor victims.
- Require that Child Sex Trafficking cases be investigated by Child Sexual Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs).
- Require that Victims of Human Trafficking be advised of their rights.

2. Target the Ill-Gotten Gains of Human Traffickers

- Create a Human Trafficking Victims Fund from fines and asset forfeiture/seizure provisions to fund programs that serve victims of human trafficking.
- Extend the Statute of Limitations for civil suits for victims of child sex trafficking to enable them to sue traffickers once they reach adulthood.
- Allow victims of forced labor or services to sue their traffickers for unpaid wages and receive punitive damages (triple the amount of wages and over-time compensation due) and reasonable attorney’s fees.

3. Provide Law Enforcement Effective Tools to Combat Human Trafficking

- Attach asset seizure and forfeiture provisions to human trafficking statutes to provide additional funding for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.
- Provide training for new law enforcement agents on human trafficking, including trafficking of minors.
- Designate a specialized unit within Kentucky State Police to provide support on human trafficking investigations statewide.

Protect Kentucky children who are victims of sex trafficking!

- Up to 300,000 US citizen children are trafficked in the US each year, with 12-14 being the average age of entry into prostitution.

Source: Shared Hope International

- Child victims of human trafficking are more likely to be arrested than are the child sex traffickers or client sex offenders.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

- In Kentucky, 138 victims of human trafficking have been served by the Rescue & Restore campaign. 53% of those were trafficked as children.

Source: Rescue & Restore Coalition

**Kentucky
Legislative
Message Line:
800-972-7181**



For more information, contact:

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP)

502-226-2704

munderwood@kasap.org

www.kasap.org