



AAUW Florida Priority: Human Trafficking- Support

The American Association of University Women of Florida has over 10,000 members and supporters statewide. We advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Human Trafficking and Proposed Florida Legislation 2022

Human Trafficking

- **Human** trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Labor trafficking occurs significantly less than sexual trafficking.
- “Traffickers tend to prey on people who are economically or socially vulnerable like children and youth,” who often live in poverty, “on the streets, or experience physical or sexual abuse, or addiction.” Traffickers often “pose as a friend, offering to meals, gifts, or just a sympathetic ear. In some cases, traffickers may use another young person to befriend and recruit their victims.” (thecapitolist.org Dec 15, 2021) Traffickers are grooming victims online.

Human Trafficking ([SB 760/HB 521](#)), Sponsors: Sen. Lori Berman, Rep. Kelly Skidmore

- **Revises** the definition of the term “coercion”
- **Provides criminal penalties** for engaging in human trafficking or benefiting financially by receiving value from human trafficking using the labor or services or commercial sexual activity of an adult
- **Prohibits facilitating** or enabling the receiving of persons in any place, structure, building, or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation, or facilitating or enabling any person to remain there for such purposes
- **Provides increased criminal penalties** for specified prohibited acts relating to prostitution, lewdness, or assignation, etc.

Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs ([SB 652/HB](#)), Sponsor: Sen. Janet Cruz

- **Provides criminal penalties** for engaging in human trafficking or benefiting financially by receiving value from human trafficking using the labor or services or commercial sexual activity of an adult
- **Prohibits facilitating** or enabling **the receiving of persons in any place, structure, building, or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation**, or facilitating or enabling any person to remain there for such purposes
- Requires the employer of each athletic venue, entertainment venue, and convention center with a certain capacity to **display a human trafficking public awareness sign in a conspicuous location** that is clearly visible to the public and employees
- **Amends statute 787.29**, F.S. which required posters in hospitals, massage parlors and other venues
- **Provides a noncriminal violation** and makes technical changes

Prostitution, Lewdness, Human Trafficking and Public Lodging ([SB 772, 1852/HB 1439](#)), Sponsors: Sen. Manny Diaz, Jr., Co-sponsor: Sen. Keith Perry, Reps. Jackie Toledo, Demi Busatta Cabrera Cosponsor: Rep. Daisy Morales

- **Prohibits operator of public lodging establishment or vacation rental from offering hourly rate for accommodation**
- **Requires guest of public lodging establishment or vacation rental to provide positive proof of identification to operator at time of occupancy**
- **Increases criminal penalties for soliciting or procuring another person to commit prostitution or other specified offenses or purchasing services of person engaged in prostitution**

- **Human trafficking victim expunction of criminal history records does not apply to specified offenses**
- **Removes requirement for specific evidentiary standard when determining human trafficking victim status in absence of official documentation**
- **Creates Statewide Data Repository for Anonymous Human Trafficking**

Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims ([SB 756/ HB](#)), Sponsor: Sen. Manny Diaz, Jr.

- Making confidential personal identifying information of a victim of human trafficking in a petition victim expunction and in all pleadings and documents related to the petition and exempt from public records requirements; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

Human Trafficking in Florida

- **Florida** has taken some great first steps enacting the **National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, Safe Harbor Laws and Vacatur Laws**. **Florida** is considered a leader in attacking the human trafficking crisis.
- **Human trafficking victims are children and adults**, both male and female, although mostly female.
- **Florida ranks 3rd in the 50 states** for the most human trafficking calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, behind Texas and California. (thecapitolist.com, Dec 15, 2021) **Central Florida ranks third in number of cases** behind Miami and Tampa. (www.osceolasheriff.org)
- Florida had 896 cases of human trafficking in 2021. Many more human trafficking perpetrators were charged with other crimes since proving human trafficking could not be proved without the victim/survivor testifying.
- **More is needed to combat Trafficking**. Increased public awareness. Increased funding for sheriff's SVU's.
- **What is needed for survivors/victims?** Emergency housing, legal assistance, specialized healthcare, counseling, immigration relief, job training, education and long-term housing are crucial to helping survivors achieve lives free from exploitation.

For more information: AAUW's Quick Facts on Human Trafficking

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Quick-Facts-Human-Trafficking-nsa.pdf>

National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics for 2020

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Florida%20State%20Report%20For%202020.pdf>