



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 Talking Points 2023

Human Trafficking

- **Human Trafficking** is modern-day slavery and is defined by Florida statute (725.01(d)) as “transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing maintaining, purchasing, patronizing, procuring or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.”
- “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. Traffickers maintain coercion by gifts, drugs, alcohol, by withholding identification or pay, and by demanding that the victim commit crimes for the trafficker.

Human Trafficking in Florida

- **Florida** is considered a leader in attacking the human trafficking crisis, however according to Shared Hope International <https://sharedhope.org/>, Florida along with California and Texas rates a C grade in 2022 which is the highest grade awarded to states. While the category of Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response received an A grade, Criminal Provisions received a failing grade and Identification and Response to Victims received a D grade. Other criteria are C or above.
 - **Criminal Provisions criteria:** “Policy goals accomplished in areas related to third party control, foreign national victims, screening through child welfare and juvenile justice system, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain in areas related to non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-familial trafficking cases.”
 - **Identification and Response to Victims criteria:** “Policy goals accomplished in areas related to third party control, foreign national victims, screening through child welfare and juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, and *child abuse definitions*. Gaps remain in areas related to expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-familial trafficking cases.”
- **Human trafficking victims are children and adults**, male, female and LGBTQ+. Women are disproportionately affected. Black people are disproportionately affected. Trafficked victims can be forced to traffic others.
- **Florida ranks 3rd in the 50 states** for the most human trafficking calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, behind California and Texas. The National Human Trafficking Hotline
 - Florida had 781 cases of human trafficking identified in 2021 with 1,253 victims, the latest statistics available from the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Many more human trafficking perpetrators were charged with other crimes since proving human trafficking

could not be proved without the victim/survivor testifying.
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/florida>

- **More is needed to combat trafficking.** Increased public awareness. Increased funding for sheriff's SVU's, increased monitoring of foster children, children in group homes and other out of parent care.
- **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.

SB 166 / HB 59 HUMAN TRAFFICKING/HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION SUPPORT

SPONSORS: SEN. LORI BERMAN CO-INTRODUCER: ROSALIND OSGOOD / REP. KELLY SKIDMORE

Senate Referrals: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal

House Referrals: Criminal Justice, Judiciary, Justice Appropriations subcommittee, Criminal Justice

This bill includes the alcohol as one of the controlled substances that traffickers can coerce victims. It increases criminal penalties for engaging in human trafficking will help to increase punishment for traffickers and safeguard victims.

SB 326/HB 651 HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORT

SPONSORS: SEN. ROSALIND OSGOOD, CO-SPONSORS: SEN. LINDA STEWART, LAUREN BOOK / REP: FELICIA ROBINSON

Senate Referrals: Criminal Justice, Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, Fiscal Policy

House Referrals: Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, Judiciary

Human Trafficking: Revising definitions and defining terms; revising criminal penalties to include fines of certain amounts for violations of specified offenses; requiring the Department of Education and Department of Health, in conjunction with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, to establish an awareness training program and community partnership on human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and child trafficking; requiring each state attorney to ensure prosecutors receive certain mandatory semiannual educational training, etc. House bill requires prosecution of specified offenses under Florida RICO.

This bill has increased penalties for traffickers, training for prosecutors and adopting a pro-prosecution stance. Fines are increased to \$100,000. Age appropriate awareness training in educational and health settings required.

SB 486 / HB 431 SOLICITATION OF MINORS TO COMMIT LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS ACTS SUPPORT

SPONSORS: SEN. JENNIFER BRADLEY / REP. JESSICA BAKER

Senate Referrals: Criminal Justice, Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Fiscal Policy

House Referrals: Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Justice Appropriations, Judiciary

Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Acts: Prohibits person 24 years of age or older from soliciting person 16 or 17 years old in writing to commit lewd or lascivious act. A new subsection making it a 3rd degree felony.

More Information

AAUW's Quick Facts on Human Trafficking – 1-pager that can be left with legislators

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/08/Human-Trafficking-Quick-Facts-Jan-2022.pdf>

Center for the Study of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (UCF)

<https://ucfglobalperspectives.org/htms/welcome/> Look under Resources for Myths and Facts

National Human Trafficking Hotline Florida statistics for 2021, the most current

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/florida/>

TiP Lab – Trafficking in Persons-Risk to Resilience Lab at University of South Florida
<https://tiplab.cbcs.usf.edu/>