



Texas Human Trafficking Statistics

TEXAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Texas still lacks proper victim protection, as minors are not statutorily immune from prosecution for prostitution and may face barriers to treatment and victims' compensation to fund their recovery.
- ❖ 25% of the United States trafficking victims enter through Texas.
- ❖ In Houston an estimated 6,000 children runaway each year, and one third of them will be lured into sex trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home.
- ❖ Through Texas runs Interstate 10, the number one route for human trafficking according the Department of Justice.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 433 cases; 1,731 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM TEXAS

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announces new unit to combat human trafficking (The Dallas Morning News, January 14, 2016) - AUSTIN—Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced a new unit within his office Thursday aimed at reducing human trafficking in Texas and prosecuting those responsible. Paxton described Texas as being “at the heart of trafficking” in the nation, second only to California in the number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Resources Center. Organizations including Children at Risk have said the sex trade nets about \$99 million a year in Dallas alone. <http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2016/01/texas-attorney-general-ken-paxton-announces-new-unit-to-combat-human-trafficking.html/>

Texas Wants More Human Trafficking Cases Prosecuted (CBS DFW, January 14, 2016) - AUSTIN (AP) – Texas wants more human traffickers prosecuted in the state’s latest attempt to put a dent into one of the biggest smuggling hotspots in the U.S. Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton said Thursday that a new team of prosecutors will work solely on getting convictions in trafficking cases. Lawmakers ordered the unit as part of sweeping border security bill last year that spent \$800 million on additional manpower and artillery. Houston led the nation in trafficking victims last year, according to the Polaris Project, a national advocacy group. More than 300 trafficking cases were reported statewide in 2015. <http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2016/01/14/texas-wants-more-human-trafficking-cases-prosecuted/>

Human trafficking victim speaks about new opportunities thanks to E. Texas organization (KTRE 9, July 27, 2015)

“I was taken, I was drugged, and I really didn’t know what was going on;” That’s what the girl now named “Maggie” remembers about a night almost three years ago. The PREP home is giving victims of human trafficking affordable housing and a fast-track to earning a college degree. Maggie graduated from this program. The program is rapidly expanding and now that the first home is complete with the help of donations and volunteers, they are already looking to expand. <http://www.ktre.com/story/29638391/human-trafficking-victim-speaks-about-new-opportunities-thanks-to-e-texas-organization>

State Grade **A**

*Shared Hope Report Cards grade each state on 6 key principles which set a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. Graded from A-F: ‘A’ being most protected, ‘F’ being least protected.

Flash Points **12 out of 15**

*Trafficking is a complex issue influenced by several underlying factors, such as transportation, entertainment, or tourism. Each state is assessed based on the 15 major factors that contribute to trafficking. These determine the influences present in each state that increase residents’ risk of being trafficked. 12 of the 15 flash points are found in Texas.

Tier **1 of 4 (Green)**

*Polaris Project rates all 50 states on a 4 tier scale based on 10 categories of laws which are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors. Tier 1 meets the most categories while tier 4 meets the least. Tier 1 indicates the state has made significant laws to combat human trafficking and should continue to take steps to improve and implement its laws. Texas scored 10 out of 12 points for the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

www.warinternational.org - info@warinternational.org - 616-855-0796

Trafficking Tip Line: 1.877.END.SLAVERY

National Trafficking Hotline 1.888.3737.888

U.S. Dept. of Justice Trafficking and Workers’ Exploitation Hotline 1.888.428.7581

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM TEXAS

Two suspects from Texas arrested for human trafficking in St. Louis (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 17, 2015)

A Texas couple has been charged and their bail set at \$750,000 after police say they forced a woman into prostitution at locations across the Midwest.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/two-suspects-from-texas-arrested-for-human-trafficking-in-st/article_db93f47a-5a5a-5457-8f26-8d0ed7bcad03.html

Witness Tampering Lands Convicted Sex Trafficker More Prison Time (FBI Press Release, June 26, 2013)

McDaniels and the others were charged and later convicted of operating commercialized sex businesses often disguised as legitimate businesses and recruited women and minors as young as 16 to work as prostitutes and perform commercial sex acts. The women were routinely beaten and threatened to instill fear in them and ensure their obedience. Some of the co-conspirators also had sexual intercourse with the minor females. Any proceeds the women received as a result of their sexual encounters were taken by the members of the enterprise, rendering the women dependent upon the defendants for basic necessities.

<http://www.fbi.gov/houston/press-releases/2013/witness-tampering-lands-convicted-sex-trafficker-more-prison-time>

Dallas woman gets 25 years for child sex trafficking after fleeing (Dallas News, June 17, 2013)

Jasmine Johnson wasn't in court Monday when a Dallas County jury voted to send her to prison for 25 years for forcing two 16-year-old runaways to turn tricks in exchange for living at her Pleasant Grove home. The two girls Johnson forced to work as prostitutes in 2012 had run away after being in the custody of Child Protective Services. One of the girls had a baby that was the product of incest after being sexually abused by her father, Lewis said. The baby had been taken from the girl after the girl was reported to authorities for neglect. Lewis said prosecutors "have reason to believe" the second girl was also sexually abused before meeting Johnson.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/headlines/20130617-dallas-woman-gets-25-years-for-child-sex-trafficking-after-fleeing.ece>

Houston women take on fight to end sex trafficking (ABC 13, May 21, 2013)

"Unfortunately, historically these children have been prosecuted and there have not been as many attempts to go after the pimps. And so that's one of the things we are trying to do, is change it," said Ann Johnson, an assistant Harris County district attorney. Johnson has been named the human trafficking specialist and after winning a landmark case, Johnson is taking an aggressive new approach. "The Texas Supreme Court recognized that child prostitutes do not get involved in this freely. They are victims, they are not offenders," she said.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=9110143>

Texas student arrested on human trafficking charge (KVUE, May 14, 2013)

A 17-year-old Nimitz High School student was jailed Tuesday on a charge of human trafficking. Irving police said Travis Lekas was arrested Monday after a 15-year-old Nimitz student told investigators she was allegedly held against her will under the influence of drugs and alcohol for three days. Police allege that Lekas tried to recruit other girls from Nimitz and Bowie Middle School "into committing acts of prostitution."

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Texas-student-arrested-on-human-trafficking-charge-207475271.html>

Couple Indicted for Sex Trafficking of a Minor and Production of Child Pornography (FBI Press Release, May 8, 2013)

Arieal J. Bishop, 28, and David J. Golson, 26, have been ordered detained pending trial on charges of sex trafficking and producing child pornography, United States Attorney Kenneth Magidson announced today. Testimony at the detention hearing today indicated that Bishop filmed Golson engaging in sex with a 17-year-old girl within a short time after meeting them. Bishop allegedly posted advertisements for commercial sex for both herself and the victim in Houston as well as other cities in Texas and in Louisiana. The victim allegedly traveled with Bishop to Louisiana where they met up with Golson and continued to post ads and engage in commercial sex, according to the information presented in court. The victim gave money she earned from commercial sex to Bishop who gave it to Golson.

<http://www.fbi.gov/houston/press-releases/2013/couple-indicted-for-sex-trafficking-of-a-minor-and-production-of-child-pornography>