



Utah Human Trafficking Statistics

UTAH HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws do not include the crime of buying sex with minors, and solicitation laws do not differentiate between buying sex with an adult and buying sex with a minor, weakening criminal deterrence in Utah. Utah also lacks adequate law enforcement training and victim protections and assistance.
- ❖ The Salt Lake Police Department estimates that 10 percent of all prostitutes in Utah are minors controlled by traffickers.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 22 cases; 101 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM UTAH

Human traffickers could face execution under Utah bill (The Salt Lake Tribune, February 17, 2016) - Human traffickers could be sentenced to death if victims are killed in commission of the crime under a bill advanced Tuesday by a House committee. "I think we all know how heinous of a crime human trafficking is. We have kids that are being trafficked for sexual purposes, for labor," said Rep. Paul Ray, R-Clearfield, the sponsor of HB136. "We just think it's a good move to make this available to the prosecutors to have in their arsenal if they need to go at it." Ray's legislation makes engaging in human trafficking an aggravating factor that makes a homicide eligible for capital punishment.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/3491925-155/human-traffickers-could-face-execution-under>

Utah takes strides to combat human trafficking (The Daily Universe, January 29, 2016) - In the coming Utah legislative session, which starts on Jan. 25, legislators will discuss H.B. 105, a bill sponsored by Rep. Angela Romero, which adds a technical provision left out in last year's legislation. H.B. 105 provides that a human trafficking defendant cannot use his or her mistaken belief that a victim was 18 or older as a defense against the crime of human trafficking a child. Romero, along with other legislators, is currently drafting other anti-human trafficking bills.

<http://universe.byu.edu/2016/01/19/utah-takes-strides-to-combat-human-trafficking-sean-reyes-attorney-general/>

Utah Attorney General: Strike force gets \$1.2 million to fight human trafficking (Fox 13, Salt Lake City, December 8, 2015) - The Utah Attorney General's Office along with the Asian Association of Utah announced a \$1.2 million grant to go toward fighting human trafficking in the state. That federal grant money will allow the AG's Secure Strike Force to continue looking into reports of human trafficking. It will also provide money to help those who have been victimized, something which is sorely needed, according to the officers who work these cases. The Secure Strike Force began its mission roughly six years ago investigating crimes in our immigrant communities.

<http://fox13now.com/2015/12/08/utah-attorney-general-strike-force-gets-1-2-million-to-fight-human-trafficking/>

State Grade **B**

*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 **10 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. 10 out of 15 flash points are found in Utah.

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 3 indicates the state has made nominal efforts to pass laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Utah meets 4 of 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 UTAH

Child sex trafficking survivor shares his story with Utah's attorney general (2 KUTV, November 23, 2015) -

Jerome Elam is an author, lecturer, and human trafficking survivor. When he was 5-years-old Elam's stepfather started molesting him. Before long his stepfather started using him for child pornography and then introduced him to his pedophile ring. "I'll never know the experience of being a child laying in a field of grass looking up at the clouds imagining shapes, but I can fight so that every child has that right," said Elam.

<http://kutv.com/news/local/child-sex-trafficking-survivor-shares-his-story-with-utahs-attorney-general>

Colombian police in Utah to combat human trafficking (FOX 13, July 2, 2015)

Police from Colombia are in Utah working with law enforcement to learn new ways to combat human trafficking. The Utah Attorney General's office and the non-profit group, Operation Underground Railroad brought the agents here to Utah to learn best practices and new law enforcement and prosecutorial techniques to combat human trafficking.

<http://fox13now.com/2015/07/02/colombian-police-in-utah-to-combat-human-trafficking/>

Utah massage parlor owner sent to prison for human trafficking (Salt Lake Tribune, July 15, 2013)

A Salt Lake City massage parlor owner has been sentenced to prison for coercing a 17-year-old girl into being a prostitute. Luis Daniel Arano-Hernandez, 30, was originally charged with 10 felony counts, mostly charges of exploitation of a prostitute and human trafficking.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56598908-78/arano-hernandez-trafficking-crimes.html.csp>

Human trafficking bill passes Utah Legislature (Salt Lake Tribune, March 13, 2013)

Utah prosecutors will soon have more tools to combat human trafficking. The Senate voted 25-0 on Wednesday to pass HB163, and sent it to Gov. Gary Herbert for his signature. It would remove the statute of limitations on prosecuting suspects engaged in human trafficking, and bar the common defense claim that the age of a kidnapped person was not known to the suspects at the time of the crime. It also would increase the penalties for felony convictions of using children in prostitution or smuggling children for the purpose of slavery or sexual exploitation.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/55997841-90/human-trafficking-utah-bill.html.csp>

Sex trafficking in Utah? (The Digital Universe, March 8, 2013)

A report issued in 2009 by leading advocacy group Shared Hope International estimated that 83 minors were trafficked for sexual purposes in the Salt Lake City area from 1996 to 2008. Over 100,000 children are trafficked every year in the United States, and the average age a victim is first trafficked is 13, also according to Shared Hope. Sex trafficking is a hidden but present problem. Larsen said that after one Backyard Broadcast presentation at UVU a student came forward to say that she'd been sold by a family member since she was in third grade. A principal at Cottonwoods Heights High School knew of at least one victim in the student body there also, Larsen said.

<http://universe.byu.edu/2013/03/08/sex-trafficking-in-utah/>

Human trafficking in Utah (The Spectrum, April 14, 2012)

Brower said the practices of the FLDS Church are a prime example of human trafficking in Utah. He said he started looking into the practices of the FLDS Church eight years ago. He said he began his research on the church because he was investigating the alleged rape of a young boy within the FLDS community as well as the banishment of boys from the community. He said as his investigation progressed, he started to learn about marriages involving underage girls as young as 12. "The purpose is to raise them up and have a pool of brides for the older men, and that's the form human trafficking takes in this area," Brower said. He also said human trafficking does not necessarily have to involve the transportation of people, although he said the FLDS Church does move young girls between the United States and Canada. Brower expressed his feelings about the practice of marrying child brides. "It's not marriage. It's arranged sexual abuse," he said.

http://www.childbrides.org/sex_spec_human_trafficking_in_Utah_Sam_Brower_talk.html