



## Rhode Island Human Trafficking Statistics

### RHODE ISLAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ In a 2011 report by anti-trafficking NGO Shared Hope International, Rhode Island's Sex trafficking of minors law reaches the actions of buyers, traffickers, and facilitators, though the state lacks adequate victim identification laws, and deficiencies in victim protections may deter vulnerable victims from pursuing justice.
- ❖ Rhode Island is still lacking in such categories of victim assistance and safe harbor for minor victims.
- ❖ In 2015: Rhode Island reported 8 cases of human trafficking and 40 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM RHODE ISLAND

RI announces new human trafficking protocols (Turn To 10, January 27, 2016) - Rhode Island police, hospitals and community groups are working under new protocols to help victims of sex trafficking and exploitation. It's a collaboration between many groups, including Day One, DCYF, Rhode Island State Police, as well as Hasbro Children's Hospital. The protocol guidelines, which were developed by a human trafficking task force that formed in 2013, will streamline what do to in suspected or confirmed cases of sex trafficking. It also includes better screenings for first responders to recognize victims.

<http://turnto10.com/news/local/ri-announces-new-human-trafficking-protocols>

Hotel sex sting nets arrest of 7 men (Providence Journal, December 18, 2015) - COVENTRY, R.I. -- Suffice to say, "she" probably wasn't what any of them were expecting. Seven men showed up Thursday at a hotel on the Coventry-West Greenwich line, all responding to what police say were advertisements for escorts on backpage.com. The men didn't know that the suggestive ads had been placed by undercover detectives, or that the women waiting to meet them were also wearing badges. One man after another found out, in rendezvous that ended with their arrests.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20151218/NEWS/151219265>

RI State Police arrest 8 for sex trafficking, solicitation of a minor (Go Local News, July 24, 2015) Eight Rhode Island residents have been arrested for crimes allegedly exploiting children. On March 23, the Rhode Island State Police Computer Crimes Unit received a CyberTip from the NCMEC regarding a possible sexual assault of a 14 year old juvenile female. At the time the victim was located, Paul Monteiro, 30, was arrested by HIS and charged federally with human trafficking. Hugo Ortiz, 31, is charged with sex trafficking of a minor. Edwin Urizar, 31, sex trafficking of a minor and procurement of sexual conduct, Aaron Navarro, 20, indecent solicitation of a child. Ryan Shea, 25, and Geraldo Rodrigues, 24, charged with electronically disseminating indecent material to minors, Brian Meyer, 19, and Oriani F. Gonzalez, and Justin Burgess, 21, indecent solicitation of a child.

<http://www.golocalprov.com/news/ri-state-police-arrest-8-for-sex-trafficking-solicitation-of-a-minor>

#### State Grade

**D**

\*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

**11 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. 11 of the 15 flash points are found in Rhode Island.

#### Tier

**2 of 4 (Yellow)**

\*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 2 indicates the state has made nominal laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Rhode Island meets 6 of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking

[www.warinternational.org](http://www.warinternational.org) - [info@warinternational.org](mailto:info@warinternational.org) - 616-855-0796

Trafficking Tip Line: 1.877.END.SLAVERY

National Trafficking Hotline 1.888.373.7888

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

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM RHODE ISLAND

Human trafficking operation busted in Providence (ABC 6, September 7, 2012) Four women were held against their will in a Providence apartment for months, victims of human trafficking. Up the stairs and inside unit 8, police say four women from Massachusetts were sexually assaulted, forced into prostitution, and held against their will for months by 27-year-old Javann Hall. Police say the women were constantly threatened with harm to themselves and their children if they went to the police, or attempted to contact any friends, or escape. The women were between the ages of 18 and 22.

<http://www.abc6.com/story/19388382/human-trafficking-operation-busted-in-providence>

Boston man accused of running sex ring in Providence (*The Boston Globe*, August 30, 2012) According to court records, some of the women may have originally been recruited by Hall, willing to work for money. But then he allegedly kept them captive. One told authorities that once she moved in with Hall, “everything changed, as he took all her money, constantly threatened to harm her and her family if she went to police or attempted to contact friends for help/escape.” Another woman told police she was unwilling all along — that she was kidnapped at gunpoint and that “he pulled out a black firearm and pointed it at her, ordering her into his vehicle.”

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/08/29/man-charged-with-sexual-exploitation-four-women-allegedly-held-against-their-will-providence/PjJEg8oRdsvEGXOctrYzGK/story.html>

EWG student taking the fight to sex trafficking in Rhode Island (SRIN, April 6, 2012)

Not every 17-year-old takes a public stand on a social issue. Yet Ashley Reese, a senior at Exeter-West Greenwich High School, did just that last Wednesday afternoon at the Statehouse. Reese, in partnership with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking, spoke before a crowd of people about how, despite laws, the sex trafficking industry can still pull in women and children in Rhode Island. As a minor herself, Reese believes she has a voice to speak out on behalf of the victims in Rhode Island. In an interview with the Times, she explained that she has done a considerable amount of research for this project. As she read the stories, she said, “I was shocked.”

<http://www.ricentral.com/content/ewg-student-taking-fight-sex-trafficking-rhode-island>

RI targets human trafficking (*The Call*, October 24, 2011)

Like any other commodity, sex would not be sold if there was no one to buy it. That’s why the RI Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT) is pointing an accusatory finger at men who patronize prostitutes as the real source of suffering and degradation. There is a cause and effect relationship, the group says, between men paying for commercial sex acts and traffickers exploiting victims. There is a cause and effect relationship, they add, between an man purchasing a sex act from an 18, 25 or 35-year-old “and a pimp who stakes out a neighborhood, ready to prey upon the next runaway he can coerce into prostitution in exchange for food and a place to stay.”

<http://www.woonsocketcall.com/node/3713>

New Jersey sex offender indicted in Rhode Island in child sex case (Immigration and Customs Enforcement Press Release, May 4, 2011)

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - A New Jersey man with three previous convictions in New Jersey for crimes against children was indicted by a federal grand jury in Providence Wednesday for a variety of federal felony sex crimes. The charges include interstate travel to engage in illicit sexual acts with a minor, enticement of a minor, and distribution of child pornography. Donald J. Jones, III, 46, of Pemberton, New Jersey, was named in a six-count indictment announced by U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha. Jones was arrested in Providence last month as he exited a bus from New York after traveling from his home in New Jersey to Rhode Island in an alleged scheme to have sex with a minor.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1105/110512providence.htm>