



Report Cards on  
**Child & Youth Sex  
Trafficking**

*State Action. National Change.*

**2021**  
T O O L K I T

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>MAP OF STATE GRADES</b> . . . . .	<b>4</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b> . . . . .	<b>6</b>
<b>SHIFT IN FRAMEWORK FOCUS</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b> . . . . .	<b>8</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS</b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
<b>KEYSTONE STATUTES</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK</b> . . . . .	<b>14</b>
<b>1. CRIMINAL PROVISIONS</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>
<b>2. IDENTIFICATION OF &amp; RESPONSE TO VICTIMS</b> . . . . .	<b>17</b>
<b>3. CONTINUUM OF CARE</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>
<b>4. ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS</b> . . . . .	<b>22</b>
<b>5. TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>
<b>6. PREVENTION AND TRAINING</b> . . . . .	<b>26</b>
<b>EXTRA CREDIT</b> . . . . .	<b>28</b>
<b>2021 STATE GRADES</b> . . . . .	<b>32</b>
<b>ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY</b> . . . . .	<b>34</b>
<b>RANKED BY SCORE</b> . . . . .	<b>40</b>
<b>RANKED BY ISSUE</b> . . . . .	<b>41</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> . . . . .	<b>45</b>

## © 2021 Shared Hope International

The information and links provided in this report are solely for educational and informational purposes and do not constitute legal advice. Shared Hope International grants permission for copies of the information in this report to be made, in whole or in part, by not-for-profit organizations and individuals, provided that the use is for educational, informational, noncommercial purposes only, and provided that each copy includes this statement in its entirety in the legend: "Reprinted by permission of Shared Hope International."

# HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

**THIS TOOLKIT IS INTENDED TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT CARDS** on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking materials available online at [reportcards.sharedhope.org](https://reportcards.sharedhope.org). These materials are organized by state and by the six areas of law analyzed under the advanced legislative framework. These materials are designed to be printed and used in conjunction with the Toolkit to compile a customized analysis for your state and your key issues. To identify the important issues for your state, review your state's Analysis Report, which includes recommendations for addressing legislative gaps under the advanced legislative framework.

## RESOURCES BY STATE

---

### REPORT CARDS

Each report card includes an overall score, individual scores for each of the six issue areas, and highlights describing areas of strength and weakness. It also provides links to state-specific resources and information on seeking technical assistance.

### ANALYSIS REPORTS

Analysis Reports thoroughly review each state's laws under the components of the advanced legislative framework and provide recommendations for addressing gaps. Analysis Reports are written for each state and updated annually to reflect legislative changes.

## RESOURCES BY AREA OF LAW

---

### ISSUE BRIEFS

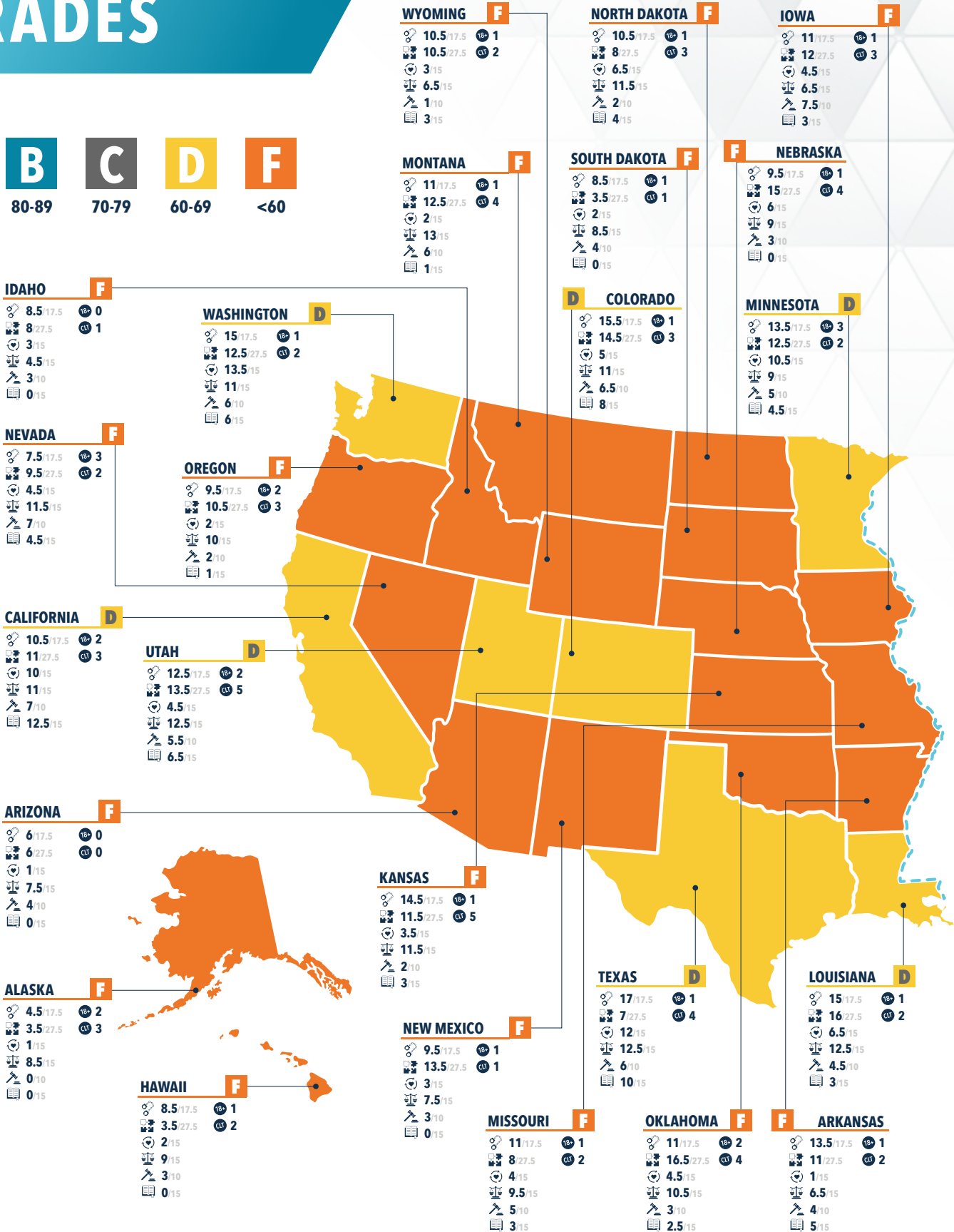
The advanced legislative framework is made up of 40 policy goals. An Issue Brief is available for each of these policy goals to provide insight on the significance of the policy goal, issues to consider when drafting legislation, and links to related resources.

### NATIONAL STATE LAW SURVEYS

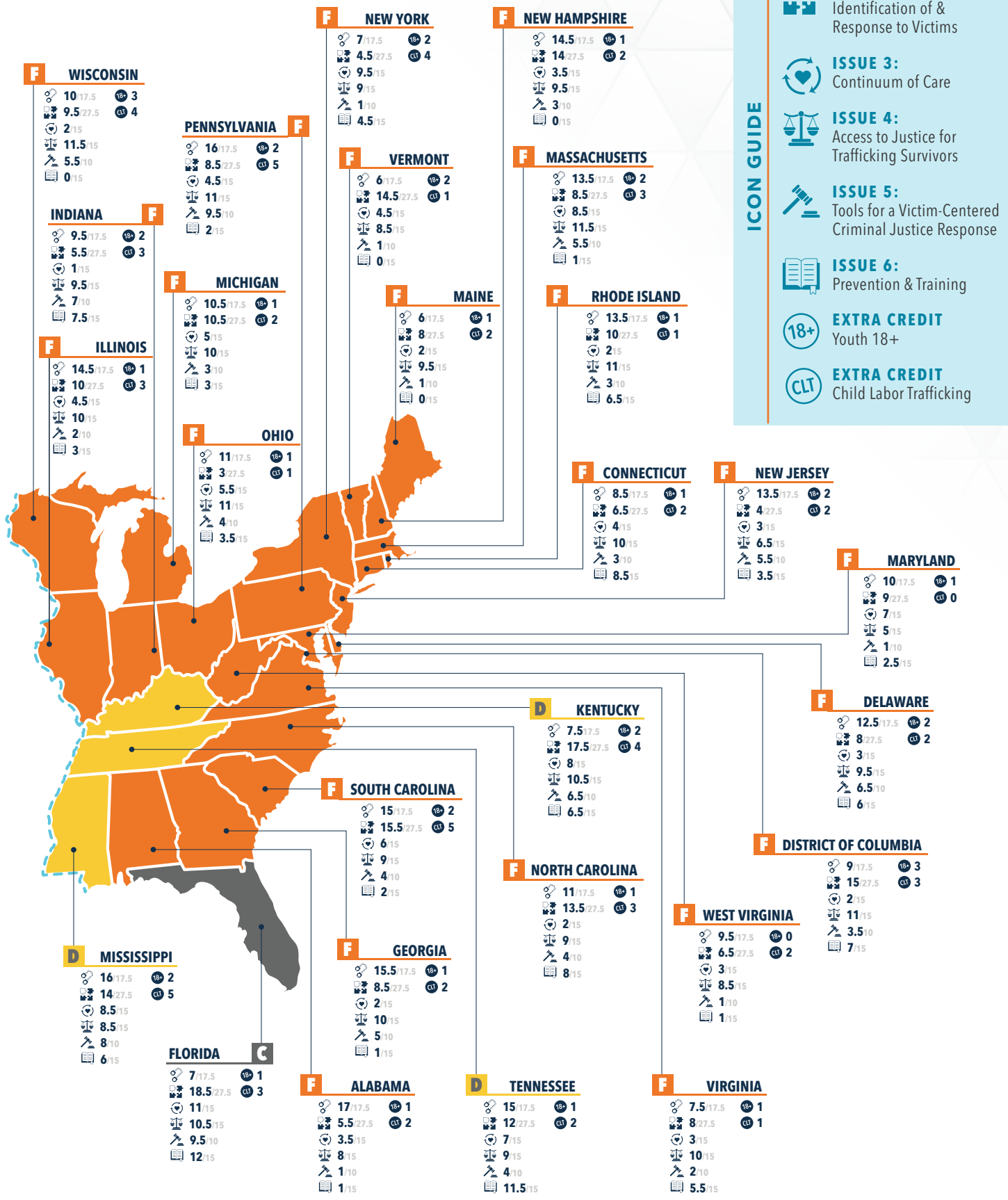
National State Law Surveys identify state-by-state progress in enacting laws that address specific issues analyzed under the advanced legislative framework, providing a snapshot of the nation overall in a chart.

► **CUSTOMIZE YOUR TOOLKIT AT [REPORTCARDS.SHAREDHOPE.ORG](https://reportcards.sharedhope.org)**

# MAP OF STATE GRADES







**ICON GUIDE**

- ISSUE 1:** Criminal Provisions
- ISSUE 2:** Identification of & Response to Victims
- ISSUE 3:** Continuum of Care
- ISSUE 4:** Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors
- ISSUE 5:** Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response
- ISSUE 6:** Prevention & Training
- EXTRA CREDIT** Youth 18+
- EXTRA CREDIT** Child Labor Trafficking

# PURPOSE

## **A DECADE AGO, SHARED HOPE DEVELOPED THE NATION’S FIRST LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

that challenged states to enact laws that comprehensively address the crime of child sex trafficking. When we launched the Protected Innocence Challenge—and issued the inaugural State Report Cards—the majority of states received an “F” grade, reflecting the reality that many states’ laws failed to even recognize the crime of child sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have been working to lay the foundation for transformational policy, practice, and cultural change by supporting state legislators and stakeholders to enact the minimum fabric of laws needed to address these heinous crimes. Ten years later, no state received an “F” grade, and a majority of the country received an “A” or “B.”

Comprehensive and accessible victim protections are, undoubtedly, the most crucial components of a strong response to child sex trafficking and, yet, as a nation we continue to fall behind.

The Protected Innocence Challenge project was Shared Hope’s vision for mobilizing collective state action to ensure national change. Ten years of grassroots mobilization, advocacy, technical assistance, and consistent collaboration allowed this vision to become reality. All states now have a child sex trafficking law and collectively, the country has made exciting progress to provide imperative

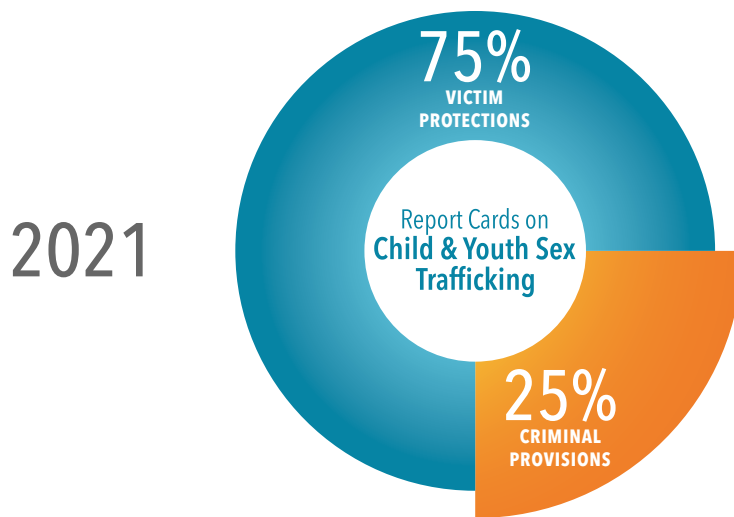
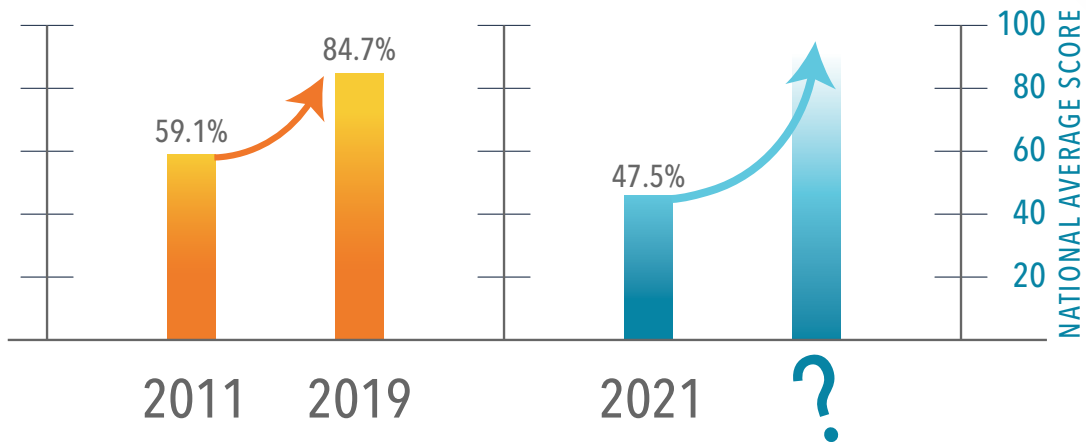
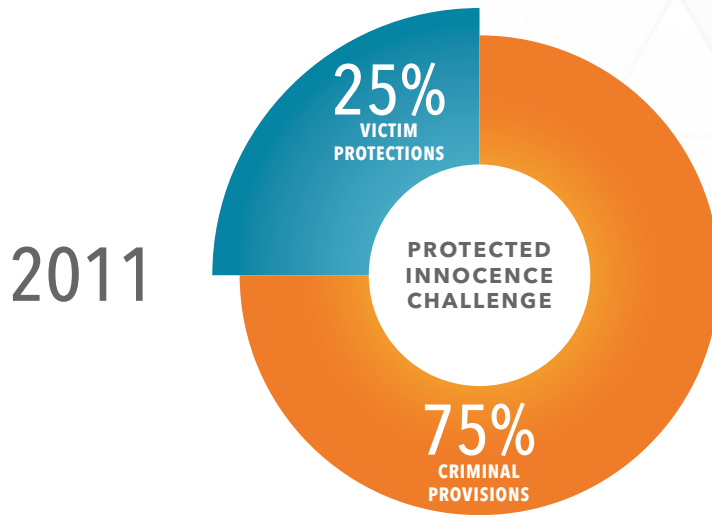
protections and access to specialized services for child survivors. However, 10 years has also led to new research and opportunities to listen to survivors, providing waves of information that require us, as a nation, to confront where we are and where we should be going. The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework will build on the original Protected Innocence Challenge Framework, preserving the most fundamental components while including new policy priorities that reflect feedback and research from the field. Specifically, this advanced legislative framework focuses largely on victim protection laws, including policies pertaining to specialized service responses and access to justice. Comprehensive and accessible victim protections are, undoubtedly, the most crucial components of a strong response to child sex trafficking and, yet, as a nation we continue to fall behind.

Importantly, this framework also acknowledges the intersection of child sex trafficking with child labor trafficking and the unique challenges faced by youth age 18+. As such, several components of the advanced legislative framework are eligible for receiving

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework will build on the original Protected Innocence Challenge Framework, preserving the most fundamental components while including new policy priorities that reflect feedback and research from the field.

extra credit when state law extends the protective policy to child victims of labor trafficking and/or youth age 18+. For a complete list of eligible components, please see the Extra Credit section of the framework below.

# SHIFT IN FRAMEWORK FOCUS



# METHODOLOGY

**BUILDING UPON 10 YEARS OF FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH UNDER THE PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE (PIC)**, Shared Hope International undertook this re-imagining of the PIC Framework to include advanced policies and practices designed to shape the next 10 years of policy development at the state level. Through expert convenings, the JuST Response Council, and a nationwide survey, Shared Hope drew on the expertise of individuals in the field to identify challenges as well as promising practices related to victim protections. Specifically, the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework was developed with the input of the Research to Action Stakeholder Workgroup and supported by in-depth vector outreach to state attorneys general, governors, and state agency human trafficking coordinators.

## **RESEARCH TO ACTION STAKEHOLDER WORKGROUP**

---

In April 2019, Shared Hope convened over 60 leaders in the anti-trafficking movement from around the country, hosting a gathering in Phoenix, Arizona, to engage in conversation around the implementation and enforcement of state laws. Attendees divided into workgroups based on their fields of expertise (e.g., law enforcement, service providers, state agencies, and policy stakeholders), each tasked with identifying gaps and emerging trends based on their collective experiences. Attendees then reconvened for a larger group discussion on steps to move the nation closer to ending the scourge of child sex trafficking.

Following the Arizona convening, Shared Hope distributed a nationwide survey, seeking a broad range of perspectives on the challenges and successes of implementing laws that combat child sex trafficking and address the needs of survivors. This outreach was critical for developing the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework as it connects Shared Hope's policy work with emerging and established promising practices from a diverse field. Over 200 responses were collected and considered.

In October 2019, Shared Hope once again convened state stakeholders from around the country in Cincinnati, Ohio, this time moderating panels on victim-centered prosecutions and service responses, which were carefully designed to generate robust discussion and to create a space for sharing ideas for tackling barriers that currently impact the field. Panelists shared the challenges and successes in their jurisdictions, and individual attendees were encouraged to share what they had observed as promising practices in the field.

Based on the wealth of information shared by Research to Action participants, Shared Hope drafted the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework. The draft framework took into consideration, and addressed, many of the challenging issues identified through the breakout sessions, panel discussions, and nationwide survey. As a final step, Research to Action stakeholders were consulted to review and provide feedback on the draft framework.

## VETTOR REVIEW

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework has undergone several rounds of review to ensure that the next stage of policy development at the state level will be informed by the experiences of those who regularly tackle the challenge of responding to child sex trafficking and observing the implementation of states' laws as intended. Those invited to vet the framework included Research to Action stakeholders and Shared Hope's JuST Response Council, a group of over 30 experts from around the country who collaborate to improve responses to child sex trafficking victims, including policy advocates, government officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, judges, academics, and service providers, many of whom are themselves survivors of sex trafficking. State attorneys generals, governors, statewide coordinators, and task force supervisors were also asked to review and advise on the framework.

# Report Cards on **Child & Youth Sex Trafficking** **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

The resulting Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework is comprised of 40 policy goals for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. These laws are group into the following six issue areas:



### ISSUE 1:

Criminal Provisions



### ISSUE 2:

Identification of &  
Response to Victims



### ISSUE 3:

Continuum of Care



### ISSUE 4:

Access to Justice for  
Trafficking Survivors



### ISSUE 5:

Tools for a Victim-  
Centered Criminal Justice  
Response



### ISSUE 6:

Prevention & Training

This framework is designed to provide a consistent measure of state progress while simultaneously operating as a dynamic tool to account for ever-evolving practices that are informing and shaping system responses to child sex trafficking victims. As such, the framework will be able to adapt to incorporate the expanded knowledge that comes from implementation.

## GRADING

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework assigns a point value of 0 to 2.5 for each of the 40 critical policy goals included under the six issue areas noted above. That score is based on a written point allocation scheme. Those scores will be added together to determine the total score, which translates to the corresponding letter grade.



After receiving full credit for achieving the policy goal set out in an applicable policy goal, states will be eligible for extra credit if that same protective policy is provided to youth age 18+ and/or child labor trafficking victims. Extra credit only applies to the policy goals listed in the extra credit section of the framework. States can earn up to 1 point of extra credit per policy goal with a max of 5 points for protections extended to youth age 18+ and a max of 5 points for protections extended to child labor trafficking victims (i.e. a max of 10 points total).

## **TIER RANKING**

---

Another way the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking will measure progress is through a Tier system that will help states understand how they are doing compared to other states. Especially at this stage where grades are clustered at lower levels, the Tiers help to show states where they are on a spectrum. This provides another way for states to evaluate the progress they make beyond changes to their letter grade.

### **THE TIERS ARE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:**

- ▶ **TIER 1 = TOP 10 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 2 = MIDDLE 31 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 3 = BOTTOM 10 SCORES**

It is important to note that the point allocation rubric looks solely at enacted statutes in a given state and their *de jure* compliance with the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework at the time of review. This analysis does not review caselaw interpretation, agency rules or regulations, or implementation and enforcement of state law. While not analyzed for purposes of the report cards, Shared Hope acknowledges the critically important role that implementation and enforcement play. For that reason, we regularly consult with the field on application of the laws analyzed under the framework and factor these considerations into our technical assistance.

# DEFINITIONS

**CHILD:** This term refers to any person under the age of 18.

**CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM:** The term “child sex trafficking victim” includes any child who has experienced commercial sexual exploitation, regardless of whether anyone is charged or prosecuted in connection with their victimization and regardless of the prosecuted offense.

**COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC):** CSEC refers to an array of criminal conduct involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a person under 18 for the financial benefit of the person or the provision of anything of value, including non-monetary items, in exchange for a sexual act with or performance by a person under 18.<sup>1</sup>

**DOMESTIC CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM:** The term “domestic child sex trafficking victim” includes any child who is trafficked within the borders of the United States, regardless of their nationality or country of origin.

**NON-CRIMINALIZATION:** Non-criminalization laws should prohibit arresting, detaining, charging, and prosecuting minors for prostitution offenses and, instead, direct child and youth survivors to services and care. Non-criminalization laws should also prohibit criminalizing child sex trafficking survivors for other crimes committed as a result of their victimization.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED:** This term refers to policies, programs, or practices that reflect an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, placing priority on restoring the survivor’s feelings of safety, autonomy, and control.<sup>2</sup>

**VICTIM/SURVIVOR:** This term refers to any person who has been subjected to conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. This report uses “victim” and “survivor” interchangeably to align with statutory language and cross-agency terminology. Shared Hope recognizes that individuals who have experienced trafficking are survivors at all stages of their abuse and recovery and are not defined by their victimization. Shared Hope also recognizes that people with lived experience with trafficking may refer to themselves in many ways, which may or may not include the terms “victim” and/or “survivor.”

**VICTIM-CENTERED:** This term refers to policies, programs, or practices that prioritize the needs and interests of survivors while safeguarding against re-traumatization.<sup>3</sup>

**VICTIM-OFFENDER (VO):** For purposes of this report, “victim-offender” refers to an individual who has been subjected to sex trafficking victimization and is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. However, any discussion of VOs in this report may also have application to cases involving trafficking victims charged with other serious crimes that are not trafficking but are, nevertheless, related to their trafficking victimization.

**VICTIM-OFFENDER INTERSECTIONALITY (VOI):** For purposes of this report, this term refers to the phenomenon of sex trafficking victims alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. Under this definition, the trafficking violation could involve a broad range of conduct, including recruitment, transportation, advertising, and harboring.

**YOUTH:** For purposes of this report, this term refers to any person between 18 and 24 years of age (i.e. 18 to 23 year olds).

**SAFE HARBOR:** The term “safe harbor” has no clear, singular meaning. Current “safe harbor” laws range from affirmative defenses with no clear path to services to comprehensive service responses that reduce or eliminate criminalization of commercially sexually exploited children and mandate access to specialized services. Accordingly, Shared Hope avoids using the term “safe harbor” when discussing services responses since the responses vary widely and not all “safe harbor” laws are necessarily safe or effective.

- 
- 1 *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/commercial-sexual-exploitation-children> (last visited Nov. 17, 2020).
  - 2 Glossary, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME <https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/5/glossary.html> (last visited Nov. 11 2020).
  - 3 *Id.*

# KEYSTONE STATUTES

- ▶ **State laws addressing child sex trafficking**
- ▶ **State laws addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)**

**LIKE THE KEYSTONE THAT PROVIDES STABILITY AND STRUCTURE TO A BUILDING,** state laws that criminalize child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) create the infrastructure for combatting child sex trafficking and protecting child victims. These keystone statutes have ensured that state laws specifically criminalize trafficking of all minors under 18 for CSE without requiring force, fraud, and coercion and criminalize the entire range of potential CSEC conduct. They provide the essential foundation on which the provisions within the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking are built. When Shared Hope first commenced the Protected Innocence Challenge (PIC) in 2011, many states lacked these fundamental laws. In fact, many states did not have a child sex trafficking statute, let alone a robust set of laws that appropriately addressed the complexity and nuances of the crime. Presently, all states have child sex trafficking laws and the vast majority have at least one CSEC statute. Accordingly, these components of the PIC framework have been fulfilled and will no longer be graded as a part of the advanced legislative framework. Instead, these keystone statutes will be analyzed from a historical perspective as they provide the foundation for the critical next steps that will drive the next 10 years of state action and national change.

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

**6** ISSUE AREAS IDENTIFIED:

CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

IDENTIFICATION OF & RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

CONTINUUM OF CARE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

PREVENTION & TRAINING

**40** POLICY GOALS ANALYZED:

**110** TOTAL POINTS AWARDED:

States earn up to 2.5 points per policy goal

Extra credit: Protections for labor and youth 18+

100 possible points

plus up to 10 points

**FINAL LETTER GRADES ASSIGNED:**

**A** | 90-110   **B** | 80-89   **C** | 70-79   **D** | 60-69   **F** | <60



# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 1. CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

Clear criminal laws, including those that criminalize buyers of sex with children, are needed to ensure all sex trafficking offenders can be held accountable.

**POLICY GOAL 1.1:** The child sex trafficking law is expressly applicable to buyers of commercial sex with any minor under 18.

---

Mirroring the federal law, state child sex trafficking statute(s) should unequivocally apply to the conduct of buyers by criminalizing the act of “purchasing” or “patronizing” a minor for sex, regardless of the child’s age. States with existing ambiguous language (i.e. “obtains,” “causes,” or “procures”) should mitigate the risk of prosecutorial or judicial misinterpretation and add clear buyer conduct to the child sex trafficking statute(s).

**POLICY GOAL 1.2:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws specifically criminalize purchasing or soliciting commercial sex with any minor under 18.

---

In addition to using the child sex trafficking law to prosecute buyers, law enforcement and prosecutors should also be able to investigate and charge a wide range of buyer conduct under state CSEC laws. These laws must clearly apply to buyers by criminalizing the act or attempt to solicit, purchase, or patronize a minor for sex without requiring an additional and limiting actus reus (e.g., use of computer to solicit the minor, transporting the minor). Historically, CSEC laws did not provide protections for older minors; to ensure this inadequacy is addressed, states should not limit buyer-applicable CSEC laws to younger minors.

**POLICY GOAL 1.3:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws apply to traffickers and protect all minors under 18.

---

Child sex trafficking cases are complicated to investigate and prosecute, making it imperative for law enforcement and prosecutors to have a variety of offenses in addition to the trafficking offense that cover an array of exploitive conduct. State CSEC laws should protect all minors under 18 without requiring an additional and limiting actus reus (e.g., use of computer to solicit the minor, transporting the minor).

**POLICY GOAL 1.4:** Mistake of age is not an available defense under sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws.

---

The harm caused by buyers and traffickers is not mitigated by the offender’s apparent ignorance regarding the child victim’s age, and the offender, not the child victim, should bear the risk of that

mistake. As such, all state child sex trafficking and CSEC laws should clearly prohibit buyers and traffickers from asserting a mistake of age defense in a prosecution for those crimes in all cases involving minor victims who are under 18 years of age.

**POLICY GOAL 1.5: Use of a law enforcement decoy is not an available defense in child sex trafficking cases.**

---

Permitting law enforcement to pose as a minor for the purpose of investigating sex trafficking is essential to fighting the crime without risking actual harm to children. Child sex trafficking laws should expressly prohibit buyers and traffickers from raising a defense that the person solicited was not an actual minor.

**POLICY GOAL 1.6: The trafficking law expressly allows for business entity liability and establishes a business-specific penalty scheme.**

---

Child sex trafficking laws that clearly provide for business entity liability support law enforcement and prosecutors' ability to investigate and prosecute offending entities that may not be directly involved in trafficking conduct but, instead, aid, assist, or enable the trafficking enterprise for purposes of financial gain. To ensure accountability, states should establish a business-specific penalty scheme that provides meaningful consequences for these types of offenders.

**POLICY GOAL 1.7: State law mandates that financial penalties are levied on sex trafficking and CSEC offenders and are directed to a victim services fund.**

---

Financial penalties may function as both a deterrent for offenders and a victim services funding stream, the latter providing a valuable resource for ensuring much needed services are adequately funded and available statewide. Accordingly, state asset forfeiture laws should direct a percentage of a sex trafficking or CSEC offender's forfeited assets toward a victim services fund. Additionally, states should assess a mandatory fee against sex trafficking and CSEC offenders that is directed toward a victim services fund. The fee should apply to the original charge of sex trafficking or CSEC, not the final judgement or conviction.

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 2. IDENTIFICATION OF & RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

States' laws must identify all commercially sexually exploited children as victims of trafficking and provide for a protective, rather than punitive, response.

**POLICY GOAL 2.1:** The definition of child sex trafficking victim in the criminal code includes all commercially sexually exploited children without requiring third party control.

It is imperative that all CSE minors are rightfully identified as victims of child sex trafficking. This legal designation importantly facilitates a victim's ability to access opportunities for protection, services, and justice that are specifically designed for child sex trafficking victims. As such, the core child sex trafficking law should include all minors who experience commercial sex, regardless of whether the minor has, or identifies, a third party controller.

**POLICY GOAL 2.2:** State law provides policy guidance to facilitate access to services and assistance for trafficked foreign national children.

State statutory responses to child sex trafficking should protect all victims regardless of immigration status; however, foreign national victims of child sex trafficking are regularly barred from accessing critical services, benefits, and protections provided for under state law. As such, state law should provide policy guidance for stakeholders who interact with and serve foreign national children to facilitate access to care and benefits and mitigate the collateral consequences of working with this population (e.g., under-identification, punitive immigration proceedings).

**POLICY GOAL 2.3:** State law mandates child welfare agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening for children at risk of sex trafficking.

Under federal law, child sex trafficking victims fall under the definition of abuse and neglect and are entitled to specialized services through child welfare. Additionally, children already involved in the child welfare system are disproportionately more likely to have experienced or be at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. To ensure identification of victimization and the provision of specialized care, as well as the prevention of future harm, child welfare agencies should adopt trauma-informed CSEC screening measures to screen children at risk of sex trafficking.

**POLICY GOAL 2.4:** State law mandates juvenile justice agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening of children at risk of sex trafficking.

Commercially sexually exploited minors are disproportionately more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system for offenses related to their trafficking victimization or offenses committed as a result of other life circumstances. Juvenile justice, as a rehabilitation and child serving entity, plays an important role in identifying and providing an appropriate, service-based response to all

CSE children in its care. To ensure identification of victimization and the provision of specialized care, as well as the prevention of future harm, juvenile justice agencies should be mandated to adopt trauma-informed CSEC screening measures to screen children at risk of sex trafficking.

**POLICY GOAL 2.5: State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses.**

---

Commercially sexually exploited minors are not prostitution offenders; contrarily, all minors who experience commercial sex are victims of sex trafficking and should be identified and responded to as such. The state prostitution statute should be clearly inapplicable to persons under 18 years of age, regardless of whether a finding of trafficking victimization is made.

**POLICY GOAL 2.6: State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.**

---

Recognizing that many child sex trafficking victims are forced or compelled to engage in other criminal conduct as a result of their victimization, state non-criminalization laws should extend to offenses beyond prostitution, including status offenses as well as misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed pursuant to trafficking victimization.

**POLICY GOAL 2.7: State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenses, including accomplice and co-conspirator liability, committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.**

---

Aligning with their underlying victimization, child sex trafficking victims should not be charged as sex trafficking offenders or as accomplices alongside their exploiters. Prohibiting the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization accounts for the actual dynamics of trafficking, the nature and extent of control exerted by sex traffickers, and the influence of trauma on the decision-making process and behavior of sex trafficking survivors.

**POLICY GOAL 2.8: State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.**

---

A sex trafficking-specific affirmative defense allows sex trafficking victims accused of engaging in criminal conduct as a result of their victimization to assert a defense to prosecution and potentially avoid criminal liability if successful. Due to the forceful nature of violent felonies and the oftentimes severe harm caused to the crime victim, an affirmative defense is likely a more appropriate route than providing non-criminalization protections because an affirmative defense would shift the burden to the accused to establish that they should not be held criminally liable for the harm caused. Accordingly, a child sex trafficking victim would need to establish their victimization and prove the nexus between the violent felony and their own victimization to benefit from this protection.

**POLICY GOAL 2.9:** Juvenile court jurisdiction aligns with international human rights standards.

---

To ensure the provision of a developmentally appropriate response, all minors under 18 should be afforded the child-centered and rehabilitative-focused services that are connected to the juvenile justice system. This policy further protects CSE minors who have disproportionately higher rates of juvenile justice involvement for offenses related to their victimization or offenses committed as a result of other life circumstances.

**POLICY GOAL 2.10:** State law defines child abuse to include child sex trafficking for purposes of accessing child welfare services.

---

Federal law requires that child sex trafficking be defined and treated as a form of child abuse. However, state and local child welfare systems have historically been prohibited or underutilized in coordinating and/or providing a specialized response in child sex trafficking cases. To ensure that all reports of child sex trafficking are investigated or assessed and that all victims are afforded access to child welfare services, states should expressly identify child sex trafficking as a form of child abuse.

**POLICY GOAL 2.11:** State law clearly defines child welfare's role in responding to non-familial child sex trafficking through an alternative specialized response that does not hinge on caregiver fault.

---

Child welfare's ability to respond in child sex trafficking and CSEC cases should not hinge on whether a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare is responsible for the child's harm. Accordingly, state law should provide for an alternative response in non-familial trafficking cases based on a trafficking-specific risks and services assessment, ensuring access to appropriate services for the child and their family.



# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 3. CONTINUUM OF CARE

To break the cycle of exploitation, state laws must provide victims access to funded, trauma-informed services.

### **POLICY GOAL 3.1:** State law provides child sex trafficking victims with access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.

---

The availability and provision of specialized services outside of a punitive response is imperative for addressing previous harm and preventing future exploitation. State law should mandate that all CSE minors are connected to specialized services without having to be directed into a punitive system or restrictive placement and regardless of what state or local system(s) they are involved in. To facilitate the provision of such services, state law should also have a clear process for connecting the minor to services without relying on arrest or mandatory court-involvement.

### **POLICY GOAL 3.2:** State law provides for a survivor-centered multi-disciplinary team response to child sex trafficking cases.

---

A specialized multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach in child sex trafficking cases ensures a coordinated response that addresses the holistic needs of survivors throughout the criminal justice and service response processes. Through MDTs, law enforcement, service providers, advocates, and other professionals work collaboratively to prioritize the wellbeing of the survivor and provide trauma-informed support and services.

### **POLICY GOAL 3.3:** State law requires the juvenile justice system to provide access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth.

---

State law should ensure juvenile justice-involved trafficking victims have access to specialized services and care. Such services are imperative for addressing past harm while ideally preventing future exploitation. Additionally, specialized services and care should be accessible to all identified victims, regardless of whether they participate in a diversion process.

### **POLICY GOAL 3.4:** State law extends foster care services to older foster youth.

---

Youth age 18-22 years old are acutely vulnerable to exploitation. Frequently barred from accessing services and care specific to children, youth are forced, oftentimes overnight, to coordinate the provision of their own basic needs with little support. To mitigate vulnerabilities, ensure a continuum of care, and provide a bridge between adolescence and adulthood, state law should extend foster care services to youth under 23 years of age.

**POLICY GOAL 3.5:** State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.

---

Over the past 10 years, state legislatures have made significant changes to state laws addressing care and protection for child sex trafficking victims. However, such advancements cannot be fully implemented without adequate funding; as such, state legislatures should make appropriations to specifically support specialized CSEC services and a continuum of care through community-based services or non-governmental organizations.

**POLICY GOAL 3.6:** State funding is appropriated to support child-serving agencies with providing specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children.

---

Funding remains one of the greatest barriers to ensuring child sex trafficking victims receive the services and support necessary to promote healing. As such, state legislatures should make appropriations to specifically support specialized CSEC services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children through child serving agencies (i.e. child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice).

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 4. ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

A range of civil and criminal justice remedies must be available for victims under the law.

### **POLICY GOAL 4.1:** State law allows trafficking victims to seek emergency civil orders of protection.

---

Presently, most states provide opportunities for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault to seek emergency orders of protection against their offenders. These protections are imperative for documenting violence, identifying offenders, and insulating victims from future harm, regardless of whether there are criminal charges pending against their offenders. To ensure this same opportunity for justice and protection, state law should allow victims of sex trafficking to pursue and receive *ex parte* civil orders of protection.

### **POLICY GOAL 4.2:** Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.

---

Crime victim compensation (CVC) is a valuable tool for receiving support to offset the financial impact experienced by crime victims, including costs associated with receiving physical and mental health care or lost income. However, many states' CVC laws prohibit the provision of financial awards or reduce the amount based upon a number of factors, including the timeliness of a victim's report to law enforcement and cooperation in a related investigation, the victim's contributory fault, and CVC filing deadlines. However, these factors are incompatible with the realities of trafficking victimization. To ensure CSE minors have access to critical financial support to increase stabilization and healing, CVC laws should provide specific exceptions to all ineligibility factors for victims of sex trafficking and CSEC.

### **POLICY GOAL 4.3:** Sex trafficked children and youth may vacate delinquency adjudications and criminal convictions for any offense arising from trafficking victimization.

---

Sex trafficked children and youth are commonly compelled to commit juvenile and criminal offenses. In addition to harms caused by criminalization, related records present detrimental challenges and barriers to seeking safe housing, meaningful employment, and educational opportunities. To prevent ongoing discrimination and harm, state law should allow sex trafficked children and youth to seek vacatur relief for adjudications or convictions received as a result of their trafficking victimization.

**POLICY GOAL 4.4:** State law mandates restitution for child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses.

---

Restitution is critical for survivors' attainment of justice and for providing a meaningful form of punishment for offenders. In addition to serving as a financial penalty, requiring restitution orders as a part of child sex trafficking and CSEC sentences can support survivors' ability to obtain comprehensive services without being left with significant out-of-pocket costs.

**POLICY GOAL 4.5:** State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.

---

The ability to pursue civil remedies against trafficking perpetrators is an important and practical aspect of justice. State law should provide victims of child sex trafficking with a specific opportunity to pursue civil relief to support full restoration for damages suffered.

**POLICY GOAL 4.6:** Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.

---

Eliminating both criminal and civil statute of limitations (SoL) for child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses is a necessary and trauma-informed approach to supporting survivors' access to justice. Importantly, the elimination of SoLs recognizes the complexity of identifying and reporting victimization as well as the challenges of investigating and building successful cases against offenders.

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 5. TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Criminal justice procedures for the benefit and protection of victims must be provided under the law.

**POLICY GOAL 5.1:** State law provides a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception that applies to non-testimonial evidence to reduce reliance on victim testimony.

Child sex trafficking cases present an array of evidentiary challenges, including the difficulty of corroborating allegations of a crime that is oftentimes hidden. However, child victims often make out-of-court statements to trusted adults in their lives that, per states' evidentiary rules, may be barred from being admitted in proceedings against their offenders. To overcome this challenge, states should enact hearsay exceptions, allowing a victim's non-testimonial out-of-court statements to be admitted into evidence.

**POLICY GOAL 5.2:** State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.

Oftentimes, victim-witness testimony is the link between an allegation of sex trafficking and a successful conviction of the offender. Yet, the act of testifying, particularly in the presence of the perpetrator, can be a highly traumatic process. To mitigate the risk of re-traumatization and support the child's ability to provide accurate testimony regarding their exploitation insulated from the influence of fear, state law should allow all child sex trafficking victims, regardless of the prosecuted offense or the child's age, with alternatives to live, in-court testimony, including testimony by closed circuit television or videotaped deposition.

**POLICY GOAL 5.3:** Child sex trafficking victims have access to victim protections in the criminal justice system.

Reporting a crime and participating in a resulting investigation and prosecution can be daunting for any crime victim; however, it is particularly intimidating for child victims of sexual violence, including child sex trafficking. To lessen the presence and impact of fear, state law should ensure that child sex trafficking victims are afforded access to victim protections during the criminal justice process, including court record confidentiality, courtroom supports, and a victim advocate. The availability of these victim protections can also play an important role in supporting a positive rapport between the child victim and law enforcement, ultimately contributing towards more successful investigations and prosecutions.



**POLICY GOAL 5.4:** State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.

---

Trust is an essential component of a productive child-case worker relationship. When trust is established, child victims often disclose aspects of their victimization that, if made available to others, could adversely impact the child, including disclosure of criminal conduct. However, that trust can be broken when caseworkers are compelled to divulge to law enforcement, or in the course of a prosecution, sensitive and/or potentially incriminating statements made by the child. To protect the child, foster productive child-caseworker relationships, and ultimately promote healing, states should enact child sex trafficking-specific caseworker privilege laws that protect a child sex trafficking victim's communications with a caseworker from being disclosed during the prosecution or investigation related to the child's trafficking victimization.

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 6. PREVENTION AND TRAINING

To help prevent trafficking and promote more just responses to child sex trafficking victims, training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education for students, must be required by law.

### **POLICY GOAL 6.1:** State law mandates statewide training for child welfare agencies on identification and response to child sex trafficking.

---

Child welfare agencies play an important role in identifying exploitation, caring for victims, and preventing future harm. However, statewide training on child sex trafficking is critical for empowering a strong and appropriate child welfare response. At a minimum, and in compliance with federal law, state law should require the provision of statewide training on child sex trafficking identification and response for all child welfare employees.

### **POLICY GOAL 6.2:** State law mandates statewide training for juvenile justice agencies on identification and response to child sex trafficking.

---

Research demonstrates that child sex trafficking victims are over-represented in the juvenile justice system, oftentimes unbeknownst to the agencies themselves. To facilitate identification and the provision of appropriate care, state law should mandate the provision of training on identification and appropriate responses to child sex trafficking for all juvenile justice agency personnel.

### **POLICY GOAL 6.3:** State law mandates ongoing, trafficking-specific training on victim-centered investigations for law enforcement.

---

Law enforcement's response to child sex trafficking has a tremendous impact on the well-being of the child victim and the trajectory of the case. Law enforcement are often the first to encounter a child sex trafficking victim, making it critically important that they have the knowledge, skills, and resources to deliver a safe and trauma-informed response. Law enforcement can facilitate strong prosecutions when equipped with the information and tools necessary for conducting a comprehensive, victim-centered trafficking investigation. As such, state law should mandate the provision of training on child sex trafficking at both the academy and continued in-service training levels.

### **POLICY GOAL 6.4:** State law mandates trafficking-specific training on victim-centered investigations and prosecutions for prosecutors.

---

Prosecutors have an enormous potential to positively impact the lives of child victims and secure justice against their offenders. Prosecutors also face particular challenges as they may be both in the position of working with child sex trafficking victims as victim-witnesses and also in the position of prosecuting child sex trafficking victims for crimes committed as a result of sex trafficking vic-

timization. To support prosecutors' role in ensuring child victims' access to justice in the criminal justice process, state law should mandate the provision of training on child sex trafficking to facilitate appropriate charging and plea-bargaining decisions and support victim-centered prosecutions.

**POLICY GOAL 6.5: State law mandates child sex trafficking training for school personnel.**

---

School personnel, including teachers and school counselors, who understand the dynamics of child sex trafficking are more likely to identify trafficking exploitation and will be better equipped to respond appropriately. State law should require the provision of such prevention education training in all public schools.

**POLICY GOAL 6.6: State law mandates child sex trafficking prevention education in schools.**

---

A developmentally and age-appropriate child sex trafficking curriculum can serve as a valuable tool for supporting students' ability to recognize and safely report suspected or known personal exploitative experiences or the experiences of their peers. State law should require the provision of such prevention education in all public schools.

# ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## EXTRA CREDIT

In recognition of the impact that specific policies have on youth age 18+ and/or on minors who experience sex and labor trafficking polyvictimization, several components are eligible for receiving extra credit if state law extends the same protection to youth age 18+ and/or child victims of labor trafficking.

**AFTER RECEIVING FULL CREDIT FOR ACHIEVING THE POLICY GOAL SET OUT IN AN APPLICABLE policy goal, states will be eligible for extra credit if that same protective policy is extended to youth age 18+ and/or child labor trafficking victims. Extra credit only applies to the policy goals listed below. States can earn up to 1 point of extra credit per policy goal with a max of 5 points for policy goals extended to youth age 18+ and a max of 5 points for components extended to child labor trafficking victims (i.e. a max of 10 points total).**

## EXTENSION TO YOUTH AGE 18+

In its landmark decision in *Roper v. Simmons*, the United States Supreme Court recognized that “[t]he qualities that distinguish juveniles from adults do not disappear when an individual turns 18.”<sup>1</sup> This statement shows an important acknowledgment that the transition into adulthood is not an immediate and singular moment that occurs at the point of turning 18 but, instead, a gradual transition that can take place over many years. This is supported by neurobiology, which has revealed that a person’s brain does not fully develop until their early to mid-twenties.<sup>2</sup> It is also supported by a growing body of research showing that 18 to 24-year-olds share many developmental characteristics with those under 18.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, according to a Congressional Research Service Report, youth up to age 24 are still transitioning to adulthood due to cultural and economic trends that have extended adolescence.<sup>4</sup>

In recognition that youth, and in particular vulnerable youth, face barriers and continued vulnerability beyond the age of 18, federal anti-trafficking legislation and programming have created mechanisms for response to youth age 18+. The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014) provided states with the option of including any young person up to age 26 within child welfare’s policies and procedures addressing screening, documentation, and service response for child sex trafficking victims or those at risk of victimization.<sup>5</sup> The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (2015) also allowed states to define the term “child” to include persons under the age of 24, allowing states to receive funding for child abuse prevention and treatment programs for youth of that age.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the importance of policy that specifically addresses youth age 18+ and offers support and protections to this population is acknowledged not only in federal law but also by the U.S. Supreme Court and is supported by neurobiology and research on developmental characteristics.

Further, it is particularly important for state lawmakers to consider the close connection between commercially sexually exploited children and youth. The commercial sexual exploitation of children

is inherently linked with the sex trade at large.<sup>7</sup> According to a national survey of survivors of child commercial sexual exploitation conducted by THORN, the majority of participants entered the commercial sex industry at age 15; one in six entered before the age of 12.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, many adults active in the commercial sex industry entered as children.<sup>9</sup>

Vulnerabilities that increase risk of initial victimization and revictimization do not disappear at 18, and, in fact, these vulnerabilities could be exacerbated by a decrease in supports and protections for those over 18 years of age. Importantly, the trauma resulting from sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation also does not stop at age 18. As a result, supports and protections that are offered to child sex trafficking and commercially sexually exploited children in state law, including screening and identification efforts, non-criminalization responses, funding, non-punitive service responses, and victim protections, should be extended to youth age 18+.

### ELIGIBLE COMPONENTS:

<b>2.3</b>	State law mandates child welfare agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening for children at risk of sex trafficking.
<b>2.4</b>	State law mandates juvenile justice agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening of children at risk of sex trafficking.
<b>2.5</b>	State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses.
<b>2.6</b>	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
<b>2.8</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
<b>2.9</b>	Juvenile court jurisdiction aligns with international human rights standards.
<b>3.1</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.
<b>3.2</b>	State law provides for a survivor-centered multi-disciplinary team response to child sex trafficking cases.
<b>3.5</b>	State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.
<b>3.6</b>	State funding is appropriated to support child-serving agencies with providing specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children.
<b>4.2</b>	Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.
<b>4.5</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.
<b>4.6</b>	Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.
<b>5.1</b>	State law provides a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception that applies to non-testimonial evidence to reduce reliance on victim testimony.
<b>5.2</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.
<b>5.3</b>	Child sex trafficking victims have access to victim protections in the criminal justice system.
<b>5.4</b>	State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.



## EXTENSION TO CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

The intersection of sex trafficking and labor trafficking victimization is important for state lawmakers to understand and consider as they develop mechanisms for protecting and supporting vulnerable populations. One direct intersection, as multiple studies have shown, is that some minors and young adults experience sex and labor trafficking polyvictimization. Commercially sexually exploited (CSE) children have also been forced and coerced into various forms of labor, such as drug dealing, working in flea markets, commission-based sales jobs, driving other youth, and other sex-trade related labor.<sup>10</sup> This polyvictimization often occurs simultaneously but also may occur at different points in time. A study completed on children with sex and labor trafficking allegations investigated through child welfare revealed that 14.7% of children with a history of labor or sex trafficking allegations had subsequent investigations for alleged sex trafficking victimization.<sup>11</sup> The frequent intersection between child sex and child labor trafficking highlights the importance of implementing state-level responses for both of these vulnerable populations.

States should also consider affording many of the same protections to child labor trafficking victims based on the similar dynamics between sex and labor trafficking. Factors that create vulnerability to victimization as well as trauma and the psychological impact of child labor trafficking victimization can resemble those for child sex trafficking. Labor and sex traffickers often target people “who are disproportionately affected by poverty, the lack of access to education, chronic unemployment, discrimination, and the lack of economic opportunities.”<sup>12</sup> Individual risk factors such as a history of sex abuse and mental health issues also increase risk for both forms of trafficking.<sup>13</sup> In the aforementioned study on children with human trafficking allegations, data showed that, similar to CSE, children with labor trafficking allegations had extensive abuse histories but actually had higher rates of additional forms of abuse or neglect co-occurring with their trafficking victimization.<sup>14</sup>

Additionally, coercive and fraudulent recruitment tactics often look similar for both sex and labor trafficking; coercive tactics by the trafficker may also continue throughout the trafficking and victims of both labor and sex trafficking may bond with their traffickers.<sup>15</sup> As with sex trafficking, love, community, family, and well-being can be used as mechanisms for control in some forms of labor trafficking; these coercive tactics can result in trauma and serious psychological harm.<sup>16</sup>

Accordingly, supports and protections that are offered to child sex trafficking and CSE children in state law, including non-criminalization responses, funding, non-punitive service responses, victim protections, and access to justice, should be extended to child labor trafficking victims.

### ELIGIBLE COMPONENTS:

<b>2.6</b>	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
<b>2.8</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
<b>2.10</b>	State law defines child abuse to include child sex trafficking for purposes of accessing child welfare services.
<b>3.1</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.

<b>3.5</b>	State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.
<b>4.1</b>	State law allows trafficking victims to seek emergency civil orders of protection.
<b>4.2</b>	Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.
<b>4.3</b>	Sex trafficked children and youth may vacate delinquency adjudications and criminal convictions for any offense arising from trafficking victimization.
<b>4.4</b>	State law mandates restitution for child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses.
<b>4.5</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.
<b>4.6</b>	Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.
<b>5.1</b>	State law provides a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception that applies to non-testimonial evidence to reduce reliance on victim testimony.
<b>5.2</b>	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.
<b>5.3</b>	Child sex trafficking victims have access to victim protections in the criminal justice system.
<b>5.4</b>	State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.

- 1 Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551, 574 (2005).
- 2 Frances E. Jensen, MD & Amy E. Nutt, *The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults* (1st ed. 2015).
- 3 Karen U. Lindell, Esq. & Katrina L. Goodjoint, Esq., RETHINKING JUSTICE FOR EMERGING ADULTS: SPOTLIGHT ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (2020) <https://jlc.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-09/JLC-Emerging-Adults-9-2.pdf> (last visited Nov. 11, 2020).
- 4 Vulnerable Youth: Background and Policies, Cong. Res. Serv., RL33975 (updated Jan. 30, 2018).
- 5 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PSTSFA) of 2014, Pub. L. No. 183, 128 Stat. 1919 (2014).
- 6 Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22, 129 Stat. 227 (2015).
- 7 Debra Haak, *Re(def)ining Prostitution and Sex Work: Conceptual Clarity for Legal Thinking*, 40 Windsor Rev. Legal & Soc. Issues 67, 97 (2019).
- 8 Dr. Vanessa Bouché, *Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, THORN (2018) <https://www.thorn.org/survivor-insights/> (last visited Nov. 16, 2020).
- 9 Maureen O'Hara, *Making Pimps and Sex Buyers Visible: Recognising the Commercial Nexus in Child Sexual Exploitation*, 39 Critical Soc. Pol'y 108, 115 (2019). A review of recent studies reveals that globally, nearly half of study participants were minors when they entered the commercial sex industry. In the UK, anywhere from 32%-64% of adults had entered the commercial sex industry as minors. Maddy Coy, *Joining the Dots on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women: A Way Forward for UK Policy Responses*, 36 Critical Soc. Pol'y 572, 574 (2016).
- 10 Deborah A. Gibbs, Sue Aboul-Hosn & Marianne N. Kluckman, *Child Labor Trafficking Within the US: A First Look at Allegations Investigated by Florida's Child Welfare Agency*, J. OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, Apr. 2019 at 6; Laura T. Murphy, *Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth* 4-8 (2016).
- 11 Gibbs et al., *supra* note 10, at 10.
- 12 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464.
- 13 Murphy, *supra* note 10, at 8.
- 14 Gibbs et al., *supra* note 10, at 10.
- 15 Elizabeth Hopper, Ph.D. & Jose Hidalgo, M.D., *Invisible Chains: Psychological Coercion of Human Trafficking Victims*, IHRLR, June 2006, at 187. <https://www.stu.edu/Portals/Law/docs/human-rights/ihr/r/volumes/1/185-209-ElizabethHopperandJoseHidalgo-InvisibleChainsPsychologicalCoercionofHumanTraffickingVictims.pdf> (last visited Nov. 13, 2020).
- 16 Murphy, *supra* note 10, at 28.

# 2021 STATE GRADES

## TIER 1

1. FLORIDA
2. TEXAS
3. MISSISSIPPI
4. CALIFORNIA
4. WASHINGTON
6. COLORADO
7. KENTUCKY
8. UTAH
9. TENNESSEE
10. LOUISIANA

## TIER 2

11. MINNESOTA
12. PENNSYLVANIA
12. SOUTH CAROLINA
14. OKLAHOMA
15. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
15. MASSACHUSETTS
17. KANSAS
18. NORTH CAROLINA
19. MONTANA
20. DELAWARE
21. NEVADA
22. IOWA
23. ILLINOIS
23. RHODE ISLAND
25. NEBRASKA
25. NEW HAMPSHIRE
27. NORTH DAKOTA
28. WISCONSIN
29. GEORGIA
29. INDIANA
29. MICHIGAN
32. ARKANSAS
33. CONNECTICUT
33. MISSOURI
35. NEW YORK
36. NEW JERSEY
36. OHIO
36. OREGON
39. ALABAMA
40. NEW MEXICO
41. VIRGINIA

## TIER 3

42. VERMONT
42. WYOMING
44. MARYLAND
45. WEST VIRGINIA
46. MAINE
47. HAWAII
48. SOUTH DAKOTA
49. IDAHO
50. ARIZONA
51. ALASKA



**FLORIDA**  
72.5 Points | Grade C

STATES PER LETTER GRADE

**A**  
90-110

**0 STATES**

**B**  
80-89

**0 STATES**

**C**  
70-79

**1 STATE**

**D**  
60-69

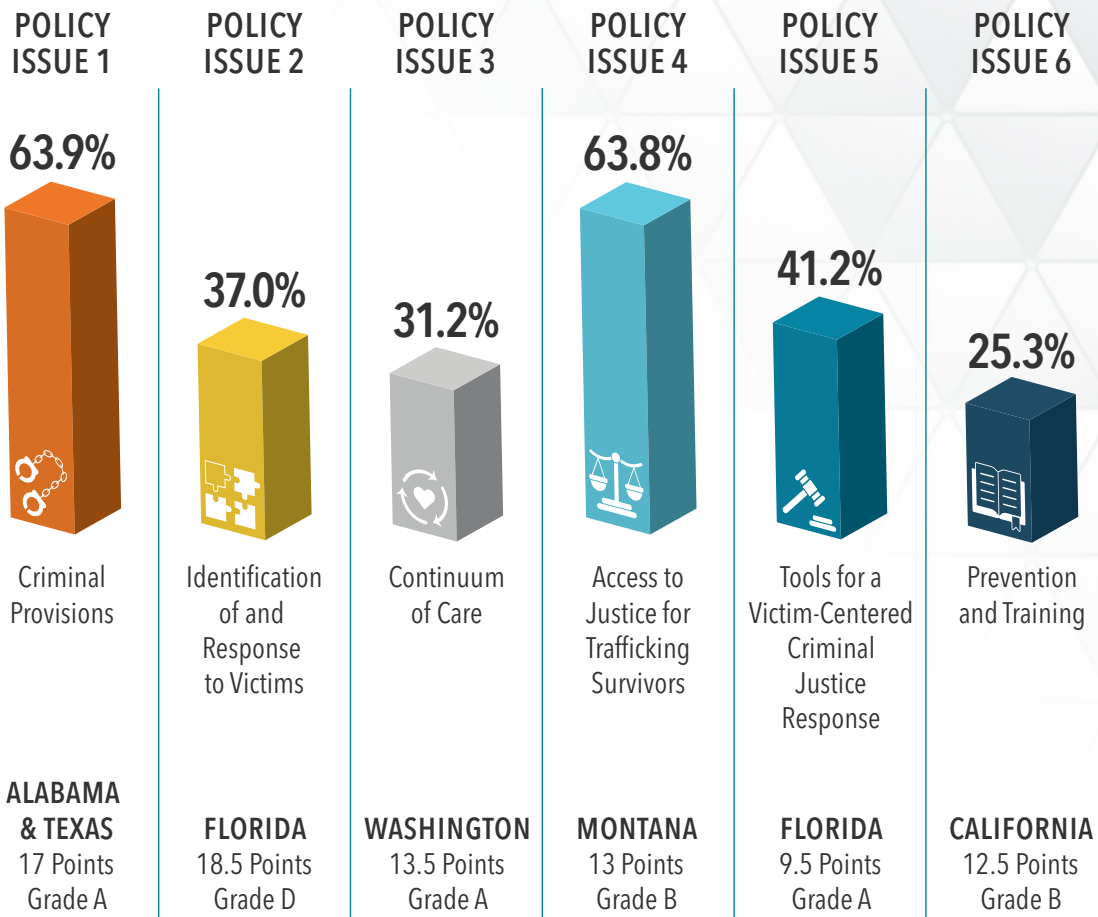
**10 STATES**

**F**  
<60

**40 STATES**

**AVERAGE  
SCORE  
PER ISSUE**

**TOP STATE  
2021  
PER ISSUE**



**8** states fully meet the definition

**20** states & D.C. partially meet the definition

Non-criminalization laws should prohibit

**ARRESTING, DETAINING, CHARGING, & PROSECUTING**

minors for prostitution offenses and, instead, direct child & youth survivors to

**SERVICES & CARE.**

**17** states expand non-criminalization

Non-criminalization laws should also prohibit criminalization of child sex trafficking survivors for

**OTHER CRIMES**

committed as a result of their victimization.

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## F ALABAMA

TIER II

$\frac{17}{17.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## D CALIFORNIA

TIER I

$\frac{10.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{11}{27.5}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 3

## F ALASKA

TIER III

$\frac{4.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{0}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 3

## D COLORADO

TIER I

$\frac{15.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{10}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## F ARIZONA

TIER III

$\frac{6}{17.5}$	$\frac{6}{27.5}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 0 0

## F CONNECTICUT

TIER II

$\frac{8.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F ARKANSAS

TIER II

$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{11}{27.5}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F DELAWARE

TIER II

$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{10}$	$\frac{6}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 2



# 2021 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## F DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TIER II

$\frac{9}{17.5}$	$\frac{15}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{3.5}{10}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 3 3

## F ILLINOIS

TIER II

$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{10}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## C FLORIDA

TIER I

$\frac{7}{17.5}$	$\frac{18.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{10}$	$\frac{12}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## F INDIANA

TIER II

$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 3

## F GEORGIA

TIER II

$\frac{15.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F IOWA

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{12}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## F HAWAII

TIER III

$\frac{8.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F KANSAS

TIER II

$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{11.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 5

## F IDAHO

TIER III

$\frac{8.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 0 1

## D KENTUCKY

TIER I

$\frac{7.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{17.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{10}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 4

# 2021 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## D LOUISIANA

TIER I

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{16}{27.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{4.5}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## D MINNESOTA

TIER II

$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{12.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 3 2

## F MAINE

TIER III

$\frac{6}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## D MISSISSIPPI

TIER I

$\frac{16}{17.5}$	$\frac{14}{27.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{8}{10}$	$\frac{6}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 5

## F MARYLAND

TIER III

$\frac{10}{17.5}$	$\frac{9}{27.5}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{2.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 0

## F MISSOURI

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{4}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F MASSACHUSETTS

TIER II

$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 3

## F MONTANA

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{12.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{13}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 4

## F MICHIGAN

TIER II

$\frac{10.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{10.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F NEBRASKA

TIER II

$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{15}{27.5}$	$\frac{6}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 4

# 2021 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## F NEVADA

TIER II

$\frac{7.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 3 2

## F NORTH CAROLINA

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{13.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## F NEW HAMPSHIRE

TIER II

$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{14}{27.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F NORTH DAKOTA

TIER II

$\frac{10.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{4}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 3

## F NEW JERSEY

TIER II

$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{4}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 2

## F OHIO

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{3}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 1

## F NEW MEXICO

TIER II

$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{13.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 1

## F OKLAHOMA

TIER II

$\frac{11}{17.5}$	$\frac{16.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{2.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 4

## F NEW YORK

TIER II

$\frac{7}{17.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 4

## F OREGON

TIER II

$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{10.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 3

# 2021 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## F PENNSYLVANIA

TIER II

$\frac{16}{17.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{10}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 5

## D TENNESSEE

TIER I

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{12}{27.5}$	$\frac{7}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F RHODE ISLAND

TIER II

$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{10}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 1

## D TEXAS

TIER I

$\frac{17}{17.5}$	$\frac{7}{27.5}$	$\frac{12}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 4

## F SOUTH CAROLINA

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{15.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{6}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 5

## D UTAH

TIER I

$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{13.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 5

## F SOUTH DAKOTA

TIER III

$\frac{8.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 1

## F VERMONT

TIER III

$\frac{6}{17.5}$	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 2 1

# 2021 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

## ICON GUIDE



**ISSUE 1:**  
Criminal Provisions



**ISSUE 2:**  
Identification of & Response to Victims



**ISSUE 3:**  
Continuum of Care



**ISSUE 4:**  
Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors



**ISSUE 5:**  
Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response



**ISSUE 6:**  
Prevention & Training



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Youth 18+



**EXTRA CREDIT**  
Child Labor Trafficking

## F VIRGINIA

TIER II

$\frac{7.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 1

## F WISCONSIN

TIER II

$\frac{10}{17.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 3 4

## D WASHINGTON

TIER I

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{12.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{13.5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{6}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F WYOMING

TIER III

$\frac{10.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{10.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 1 2

## F WEST VIRGINIA

TIER III

$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	EXTRA CREDIT 0 2



# 2021 STATE GRADES

RANKED BY SCORE

	1. Criminal Provisions		2. Identification of & Response to Victims		3. Continuum of Care		4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors		5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		6. Prevention & Training		Extra Credit: Youth 18+		Extra Credit: Child Labor Trafficking		TOTAL	GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	17.5	27.5	15	15	10	15	5	5	100 (+10)	A								
FLORIDA	7	18.5	11	10.5	9.5	12	1	3	72.5	C								
TEXAS	17	7	12	12.5	6	10	1	4	69.5	D								
MISSISSIPPI	16	14	8.5	8.5	8	6	2	5	68	D								
CALIFORNIA	10.5	11	10	11	7	12.5	2	3	67	D								
WASHINGTON	15	12.5	13.5	11	6	6	1	2	67	D								
COLORADO	15.5	14.5	5	11	6.5	8	1	3	64.5	D								
KENTUCKY	7.5	17.5	8	10.5	6.5	6.5	2	4	62.5	D								
UTAH	12.5	13.5	4.5	12.5	5.5	6.5	2	5	62	D								
TENNESSEE	15	12	7	9	4	11.5	1	2	61.5	D								
LOUISIANA	15	16	6.5	12.5	4.5	3	1	2	60.5	D								
MINNESOTA	13.5	12.5	10.5	9	5	4.5	3	2	60	D								
PENNSYLVANIA	16	8.5	4.5	11	9.5	2	2	5	58.5	F								
SOUTH CAROLINA	15	15.5	6	9	4	2	2	5	58.5	F								
OKLAHOMA	11	16.5	4.5	10.5	3	2.5	2	4	54	F								
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	9	15	2	11	3.5	7	3	3	53.5	F								
MASSACHUSETTS	13.5	8.5	8.5	11.5	5.5	1	2	3	53.5	F								
KANSAS	14.5	11.5	3.5	11.5	2	3	1	5	52	F								
NORTH CAROLINA	11	13.5	2	9	4	8	1	3	51.5	F								
MONTANA	11	12.5	2	13	6	1	1	4	50.5	F								
DELAWARE	12.5	8	3	9.5	6.5	6	2	2	49.5	F								
NEVADA	7.5	9.5	4.5	11.5	7	4.5	3	2	49.5	F								
IOWA	11	12	4.5	6.5	7.5	3	1	3	48.5	F								
ILLINOIS	14.5	10	4.5	10	2	3	1	3	48	F								
RHODE ISLAND	13.5	10	2	11	3	6.5	1	1	48	F								
NEBRASKA	9.5	15	6	9	3	0	1	4	47.5	F								
NEW HAMPSHIRE	14.5	14	3.5	9.5	3	0	1	2	47.5	F								
NORTH DAKOTA	10.5	8	6.5	11.5	2	4	1	3	46.5	F								
WISCONSIN	10	9.5	2	11.5	5.5	0	3	4	45.5	F								
GEORGIA	15.5	8.5	2	10	5	1	1	2	45	F								
INDIANA	9.5	5.5	1	9.5	7	7.5	2	3	45	F								
MICHIGAN	10.5	10.5	5	10	3	3	1	2	45	F								
ARKANSAS	13.5	11	1	6.5	4	5	1	2	44	F								
CONNECTICUT	8.5	6.5	4	10	3	8.5	1	2	43.5	F								
MISSOURI	11	8	4	9.5	5	3	1	2	43.5	F								
NEW YORK	7	4.5	9.5	9	1	4.5	2	4	41.5	F								
NEW JERSEY	13.5	4	3	6.5	5.5	3.5	2	2	40	F								
OHIO	11	3	5.5	11	4	3.5	1	1	40	F								
OREGON	9.5	10.5	2	10	2	1	2	3	40	F								
ALABAMA	17	5.5	3.5	8	1	1	1	2	39	F								
NEW MEXICO	9.5	13.5	3	7.5	3	0	1	1	38.5	F								
VIRGINIA	7.5	8	3	10	2	5.5	1	1	38	F								
VERMONT	6	14.5	4.5	8.5	1	0	2	1	37.5	F								
WYOMING	10.5	10.5	3	6.5	1	3	1	2	37.5	F								
MARYLAND	10	9	7	5	1	2.5	1	0	35.5	F								
WEST VIRGINIA	9.5	6.5	3	8.5	1	1	0	2	31.5	F								
MAINE	6	8	2	9.5	1	0	1	2	29.5	F								
HAWAII	8.5	3.5	2	9	3	0	1	2	29	F								
SOUTH DAKOTA	8.5	3.5	2	8.5	4	0	1	1	28.5	F								
IDAHO	8.5	8	3	4.5	3	0	0	1	28	F								
ARIZONA	6	6	1	7.5	4	0	0	0	24.5	F								
ALASKA	4.5	3.5	1	8.5	0	0	2	3	22.5	F								

\*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



## ISSUE 1: CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>A</b>
ALABAMA	17	A
TEXAS	17	A
MISSISSIPPI	16	A
PENNSYLVANIA	16	A
COLORADO	15.5	B
GEORGIA	15.5	B
LOUISIANA	15	B
SOUTH CAROLINA	15	B
TENNESSEE	15	B
WASHINGTON	15	B
ILLINOIS	14.5	B
KANSAS	14.5	B
NEW HAMPSHIRE	14.5	B
ARKANSAS	13.5	C
MASSACHUSETTS	13.5	C
MINNESOTA	13.5	C
NEW JERSEY	13.5	C
RHODE ISLAND	13.5	C
DELAWARE	12.5	C
UTAH	12.5	C
IOWA	11	D
MISSOURI	11	D
MONTANA	11	D
NORTH CAROLINA	11	D
OHIO	11	D
OKLAHOMA	11	D
CALIFORNIA	10.5	D
MICHIGAN	10.5	D
NORTH DAKOTA	10.5	D
WYOMING	10.5	D
MARYLAND	10	F
WISCONSIN	10	F
INDIANA	9.5	F
NEBRASKA	9.5	F
NEW MEXICO	9.5	F
OREGON	9.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	9.5	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	9	F
CONNECTICUT	8.5	F
HAWAII	8.5	F
IDAHO	8.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	8.5	F
KENTUCKY	7.5	F
NEVADA	7.5	F
VIRGINIA	7.5	F
FLORIDA	7	F
NEW YORK	7	F
ARIZONA	6	F
MAINE	6	F
VERMONT	6	F
ALASKA	4.5	F



## ISSUE 2: IDENTIFICATION & RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>A</b>
FLORIDA	18.5	D
KENTUCKY	17.5	D
OKLAHOMA	16.5	D
LOUISIANA	16	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	15.5	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	15	F
NEBRASKA	15	F
COLORADO	14.5	F
VERMONT	14.5	F
MISSISSIPPI	14	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	F
NEW MEXICO	13.5	F
NORTH CAROLINA	13.5	F
UTAH	13.5	F
MINNESOTA	12.5	F
MONTANA	12.5	F
WASHINGTON	12.5	F
IOWA	12	F
TENNESSEE	12	F
KANSAS	11.5	F
ARKANSAS	11	F
CALIFORNIA	11	F
MICHIGAN	10.5	F
OREGON	10.5	F
WYOMING	10.5	F
ILLINOIS	10	F
RHODE ISLAND	10	F
NEVADA	9.5	F
WISCONSIN	9.5	F
MARYLAND	9	F
GEORGIA	8.5	F
MASSACHUSETTS	8.5	F
PENNSYLVANIA	8.5	F
DELAWARE	8	F
IDAHO	8	F
MAINE	8	F
MISSOURI	8	F
NORTH DAKOTA	8	F
VIRGINIA	8	F
TEXAS	7	F
CONNECTICUT	6.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	6.5	F
ARIZONA	6	F
ALABAMA	5.5	F
INDIANA	5.5	F
NEW YORK	4.5	F
NEW JERSEY	4	F
ALASKA	3.5	F
HAWAII	3.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	3.5	F
OHIO	3	F

\*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



## ISSUE 3: CONTINUUM OF CARE

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
WASHINGTON	13.5	A
TEXAS	12	B
FLORIDA	11	C
MINNESOTA	10.5	C
CALIFORNIA	10	D
NEW YORK	9.5	D
MASSACHUSETTS	8.5	F
MISSISSIPPI	8.5	F
KENTUCKY	8	F
MARYLAND	7	F
TENNESSEE	7	F
LOUISIANA	6.5	F
NORTH DAKOTA	6.5	F
NEBRASKA	6	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	6	F
OHIO	5.5	F
COLORADO	5	F
MICHIGAN	5	F
ILLINOIS	4.5	F
IOWA	4.5	F
NEVADA	4.5	F
OKLAHOMA	4.5	F
PENNSYLVANIA	4.5	F
UTAH	4.5	F
VERMONT	4.5	F
CONNECTICUT	4	F
MISSOURI	4	F
ALABAMA	3.5	F
KANSAS	3.5	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3.5	F
DELAWARE	3	F
IDAHO	3	F
NEW JERSEY	3	F
NEW MEXICO	3	F
VIRGINIA	3	F
WEST VIRGINIA	3	F
WYOMING	3	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2	F
GEORGIA	2	F
HAWAII	2	F
MAINE	2	F
MONTANA	2	F
NORTH CAROLINA	2	F
OREGON	2	F
RHODE ISLAND	2	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	F
WISCONSIN	2	F
ALASKA	1	F
ARIZONA	1	F
ARKANSAS	1	F
INDIANA	1	F



## ISSUE 4: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
MONTANA	13	B
LOUISIANA	12.5	B
TEXAS	12.5	B
UTAH	12.5	B
KANSAS	11.5	C
MASSACHUSETTS	11.5	C
NEVADA	11.5	C
NORTH DAKOTA	11.5	C
WISCONSIN	11.5	C
CALIFORNIA	11	C
COLORADO	11	C
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	11	C
OHIO	11	C
PENNSYLVANIA	11	C
RHODE ISLAND	11	C
WASHINGTON	11	C
FLORIDA	10.5	C
KENTUCKY	10.5	C
OKLAHOMA	10.5	C
CONNECTICUT	10	D
GEORGIA	10	D
ILLINOIS	10	D
MICHIGAN	10	D
OREGON	10	D
VIRGINIA	10	D
DELAWARE	9.5	D
INDIANA	9.5	D
MAINE	9.5	D
MISSOURI	9.5	D
NEW HAMPSHIRE	9.5	D
HAWAII	9	D
MINNESOTA	9	D
NEBRASKA	9	D
NEW YORK	9	D
NORTH CAROLINA	9	D
SOUTH CAROLINA	9	D
TENNESSEE	9	D
ALASKA	8.5	F
MISSISSIPPI	8.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	8.5	F
VERMONT	8.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	8.5	F
ALABAMA	8	F
ARIZONA	7.5	F
NEW MEXICO	7.5	F
ARKANSAS	6.5	F
IOWA	6.5	F
NEW JERSEY	6.5	F
WYOMING	6.5	F
MARYLAND	5	F
IDAHO	4.5	F

\*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



## ISSUE 5: TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	10	A
FLORIDA	9.5	A
PENNSYLVANIA	9.5	A
MISSISSIPPI	8	B
IOWA	7.5	C
CALIFORNIA	7	C
INDIANA	7	C
NEVADA	7	C
COLORADO	6.5	D
DELAWARE	6.5	D
KENTUCKY	6.5	D
MONTANA	6	D
TEXAS	6	D
WASHINGTON	6	D
MASSACHUSETTS	5.5	F
NEW JERSEY	5.5	F
UTAH	5.5	F
WISCONSIN	5.5	F
GEORGIA	5	F
MINNESOTA	5	F
MISSOURI	5	F
LOUISIANA	4.5	F
ARIZONA	4	F
ARKANSAS	4	F
NORTH CAROLINA	4	F
OHIO	4	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	4	F
TENNESSEE	4	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	3.5	F
CONNECTICUT	3	F
HAWAII	3	F
IDAHO	3	F
MICHIGAN	3	F
NEBRASKA	3	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3	F
NEW MEXICO	3	F
OKLAHOMA	3	F
RHODE ISLAND	3	F
ILLINOIS	2	F
KANSAS	2	F
NORTH DAKOTA	2	F
OREGON	2	F
VIRGINIA	2	F
ALABAMA	1	F
MAINE	1	F
MARYLAND	1	F
NEW YORK	1	F
VERMONT	1	F
WEST VIRGINIA	1	F
WYOMING	1	F
ALASKA	0	F



## ISSUE 6: PREVENTION AND TRAINING

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
CALIFORNIA	12.5	B
FLORIDA	12	B
TENNESSEE	11.5	C
TEXAS	10	D
CONNECTICUT	8.5	F
COLORADO	8	F
NORTH CAROLINA	8	F
INDIANA	7.5	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	7	F
KENTUCKY	6.5	F
RHODE ISLAND	6.5	F
UTAH	6.5	F
DELAWARE	6	F
MISSISSIPPI	6	F
WASHINGTON	6	F
VIRGINIA	5.5	F
ARKANSAS	5	F
MINNESOTA	4.5	F
NEVADA	4.5	F
NEW YORK	4.5	F
NORTH DAKOTA	4	F
NEW JERSEY	3.5	F
OHIO	3.5	F
ILLINOIS	3	F
IOWA	3	F
KANSAS	3	F
LOUISIANA	3	F
MICHIGAN	3	F
MISSOURI	3	F
WYOMING	3	F
MARYLAND	2.5	F
OKLAHOMA	2.5	F
PENNSYLVANIA	2	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	2	F
ALABAMA	1	F
GEORGIA	1	F
MASSACHUSETTS	1	F
MONTANA	1	F
OREGON	1	F
WEST VIRGINIA	1	F
ALASKA	0	F
ARIZONA	0	F
HAWAII	0	F
IDAHO	0	F
MAINE	0	F
NEBRASKA	0	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	F
NEW MEXICO	0	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	F
VERMONT	0	F
WISCONSIN	0	F

\*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.

**SHARED HOPE LEADS GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH, PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO** elected officials and policy advocates, and equips change-agents with promising practices from across the country to prevent child sex trafficking and protect survivors. Shared Hope convenes the JuST Response Council, a body comprised of over 30 experts from an array of disciplines who contribute to our innovative research by providing comprehensive field representation and subject matter expertise. As the nation’s only comprehensive survey of state laws addressing child sex trafficking, the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking include timely and effective reports, surveys, and recommendations. Armed with these tools, our Policy Team supports state efforts to counter demand and increase survivor protections and access to specialized, trauma-informed services. Finally, Shared Hope continues to lead national conversations to influence legislative change at the federal level to ensure that survivors are met with protective responses, access to justice, and empowering opportunities.

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND RESOURCES



This report provides guidance to states on developing a protective response to juvenile sex trafficking that encompasses statutes, system protocol, and implementation to promote access to services and outcome measurements that evaluate effectiveness in identifying, responding to, and preventing further harm.



This report examines the phenomenon of sex trafficking survivors entering the criminal justice system for allegedly engaging in sex trafficking conduct and provides tools for criminal justice stakeholders to assist in identifying and responding to these cases in a trauma-informed manner.



Seeking Justice is a comprehensive resource for understanding the various statutory approaches states have taken to eliminate a minor’s criminal liability for prostitution and other offenses related to their victimization. This report also examines the importance of incorporating a trauma-informed service response.

## CAMPAIGNS

The Advocacy Action Center is an online resource that allows individuals to join the fight against child sex trafficking either through legislator engagement or by signing a petition.



Tweet and email your legislators, letting them know you want greater protections for child sex trafficking victims and increased accountability for their exploiters.



Sign a petition to show your support for issues that advance justice for child sex trafficking survivors.



Help end the criminalization of child sex trafficking survivors! Several states can still criminalize child sex trafficking victims for prostitution. Sign the petition to show your support for changing these laws.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework was reviewed by experts in the anti-trafficking field, and their comments contributed to the final analysis—thanks to all those who participated in our Research to Action Stakeholder Workgroup and to Shared Hope’s JuST Response Council members who devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure the next stage of policy development at the state level will be informed by those at the forefront of seeing that states’ laws are implemented as intended.

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework was drafted under the direction of Christine Raino, Esq., Sarah Roberts, J.D., LL.M., Sarah Bendtsen, J.D., and Samantha Healy Vardaman, Esq. and was greatly assisted by Maria Kearn, J.D., Amanda Lopez, J.D., Amy Louttit, J.D., Camryn Peterson, Elissa Polley, Esq., LexisNexis Cares, and Regent University School of Law’s Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law. The following Shared Hope law and policy fellows contributed to the report: Susannah Ayers, Meredith Behrens, Leea Collard, Shaina Daquioag, Savanna McElroy, Sarah Stefaniak, Emily Tegley, Deja Williams, and Wendy Wrobel. Shared Hope also thanks Phil Raino and Christina Goodman for their services in designing this report and related materials.

