

## Resource Round-Up

March 2019

*A monthly e-newsletter of news, training, and resources in support of anti-trafficking efforts in Maine.*

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### RESOURCES & TRAININGS

#### Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Conference

East Auburn Baptist Church  
March 21st, 2019: 9-3:30

This conference supports efforts to establish a coordinated community response to trafficking and exploitation in the Tri-County area. Presentations will focus on the ways in which law enforcement and the Department of Corrections may have contact with individuals involved in sex trafficking and exploitation. Participants will hear from speakers, law enforcement and survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, to enhance knowledge and identification, further illustrated by the use of a regional case study. This conference is a collaborative effort between [Safe Voices](#), [SAPARS](#) and local law enforcement in partnership with Federal agencies.



#### Effective Collaboration Between Anti-Trafficking & Domestic Violence Programs

March 28th, 2019 3-4

This webinar, hosted by Freedom Network, will explore domestic violence shelters as resources for human trafficking and enhance participants' understanding of how to effectively advocate for survivors.

#### Human Trafficking Awareness Conference

Eastern Maine Community College - Johnston Gym  
April 19th, 2019: 9-3:30

This conference is open to the community, healthcare providers, law enforcement, advocates, and anyone with a willingness to learn. The agenda includes presentations from members of the Penobscot-Piscataquis Sex Trafficking multi-disciplinary team.



#### My Life My Choice Spring Training Series

Trainings that will be offered this Spring include:  
Understanding and Responding to Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation  
April 9th: 9:30-4 - Boston

Preventing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Adolescent Girls: A Training for Facilitators on Using the My Life My Choice Curriculum  
May 20th-21st: 10-4 - Boston

## Myths and Misconceptions

Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force



Check out [this resource](#) for busting myths and misconceptions about human trafficking. There are many myths and misconceptions that surround human trafficking. Media representation, lack of concrete data, and social stereotypes have deeply influenced the narratives about the crime. Make sure you are representing this issue as accurately as possible.

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## NEWS



Martin Gerding of Lewiston, left, attends his initial appearance in 8th District Court in Lewiston in October 2018 on a charge of aggravated sex trafficking. (Sun Journal photo by Daryn Slover)

### Alleged victim in sex trafficking case of Lewiston man reported dead day before trial

Lewiston Sun Journal - March 11, 2019

"Police wrote in an affidavit that Gerding had boasted to an undercover police officer posing as a prostitute in downtown Lewiston one night in September that he provided protection for some of the prostitutes in the area. He said he had two 'girls' working the streets. He said he wasn't afraid to get physical with some or 'put a gun in someone,' according to the affidavit."

### Bill proposed to decriminalize prostitution

WABI 5 - March 7, 2019

"One bill would decriminalize prostitution and change the law from using the word prostitute to 'prostituted person.' Another bill would prevent law enforcement from charging minors for prostitution. Supporters contend sex workers are often victims of human trafficking."

Bill proposed to decriminalize prostitution



### Interview with Catherine Wilson from Stop Trafficking US

WGAN - February 24, 2019

Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of Stop Trafficking US, talks about her experiences of trauma and healing in this radio interview. Her Maine-based organization works to educate the public on the connection between child sexual abuse and sex trafficking.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Services in Hiring!

Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Services (ATS) is currently seeking a Caseworker to work as part of the Anti-Trafficking Services team. The primary responsibilities of the ATS



Caseworker will include providing intensive case management services to survivors of human trafficking, conducting outreach and providing trainings, and collaborating with community partners in support of increasing awareness of and providing services to survivors. [Click here](#) to see the job description.

For referrals to Maine services or to report a tip:  
The National Human Trafficking Resource Center  
1-888-373-7888

The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network provides training, technical assistance, and resources to direct service providers engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in Maine, as well as community awareness and public policy support.

Maine STEN is a program of the [Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#).

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