

## Resource Round-Up

May 30, 2018

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

---

### NEWS

#### [Survivors of Sex Trafficking In Maine](#)

WABI - May 14, 2018

WABI is running a special report series on Survivors of Sex Trafficking in Maine ( [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)). The series shares voices of Maine survivors and highlights the work of local anti-trafficking & exploitation partners at [Hope Rising](#).



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### [New Labor Trafficking Legislation Passed in Maine](#)

The new legislation, LD 1740, creates the crimes of “forced labor” and “aggravated forced labor”, criminalizing labor trafficking when employers use force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone into labor or services. It recognizes the use of drugs or alcohol as a means of coercion. Previously, laws criminalizing trafficking only existed for sex trafficking or for labor & sex at the federal level.

The legislation also adds an ‘affirmative defense’ for both the new labor trafficking laws, and also the misdemeanor (non-compelled) version of sex trafficking. Under existing legislation, sometimes trafficking victims/survivors were being charged with the crime of trafficking, if they gave their friends rides to dates, helped set up dates, etc. This option allows that if they can demonstrate that they did so as part of their victimization, they have a defense.

It also now requires [posting of human trafficking awareness signs](#) in certain high risk businesses. (Maine Turnpike, Transportation Authority, and a range of business such as hospitals, career centers, etc.).

#### [New Trafficking & Special Projects Coordinator at MECASA](#)

Jess Bedard has taken over as Trafficking & Special Projects Coordinator at the Maine

Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Reach out to Jess, [jess@mecasa.org](mailto:jess@mecasa.org), to get connected to Maine STEN or other statewide trafficking efforts.

### **Hiring Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking Safe House Advocates**

Safe Voices is [hiring](#) for Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking Advocates for the upcoming opening of Safe House in the Auburn area.

---

## **RESOURCES**

### **First Federal Human Trafficking Report**

The Human Trafficking Institute released the first ever [2017 Federal Human Trafficking Report](#) detailing all civil and criminal cases handled by federal courts in the year 2017 totaling 783 active cases. They also released their new website, [Traffickingmatters.com](http://Traffickingmatters.com). Their [resource](#) page includes reports from agencies on trafficking all over the country.



### **Funding Opportunity for Work with Victims of Human Trafficking**

"OVC has released the FY 2018 Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking solicitation. OVC is seeking applicants to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist victims of human trafficking, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended."



---

## **EVENTS**

### **"Sisterhood for Change" - Public Talk**

June 14, 10am to 12pm - Bangor Public Library, Maine

Stacy Reed, Survivor Leader and Mentor, from [RIA House](#) in Framingham, MA, is giving a public talk on Thursday, June 14th at Bangor Public Library about human trafficking and the work of RIA House called "Sisterhood for Change." Doors open at 10, with talk to follow until 12pm. This talk is free and open to the community. Light refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by Hope Rising, St. Joseph Healthcare, PENQUIS START.

### **Press Conference & Celebration for Safe House**

June 28th, 2pm - Lewiston, Maine

Safe Voices, Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services & the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence are hosting a celebration for the upcoming Safe House for

survivors of Sex Trafficking & Exploitation. Safe House plans to open its doors in September 2018. Join the celebration, June 28th at 2pm in Lewiston, Maine. For information on the location and more, contact Hailey Virusso at [hvirusso@safevoices.org](mailto:hvirusso@safevoices.org) or at 857-366-0606

---

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](#).

**Want to stay updated on our work? Follow us on Facebook!**

