

Resource Round-Up

December 2023

A quarterly e-newsletter of news, training, and resources in support of anti-trafficking efforts in Maine and the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#)

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a presidentially designated observance designed to educate the public about human trafficking and the role they can play in prevention and response.



[Maine legislature requires formation of CSEC committee](#)

Pursuant to LD 1092, Maine DHHS and MECASA are co-convening an ad hoc committee to explore primary prevention of and response to commercial sexual exploitation of children in the state. Meetings began in November, and the committee will submit a report with recommendations to the legislature by January 1st, 2025.

NEWS

[Governor signs law partially decriminalizing sex work](#)

Portland Press Herald - June 26, 2023

In Maine, people can no longer be arrested for selling sex (prostitution). However, trafficking and buying sex (as a "john") remains illegal. Additionally, people can now file to have former criminal charges for selling sex removed from their records. These legislative changes are significant for trafficking survivors, many of whom have experienced arrest and conviction for prostitution in the past (when often they were actually being trafficked).

[Lois Galgay Reckitt, activist and South Portland lawmaker, dies at 78](#)

Portland Press Herald - October 31, 2023

Reckitt spent her life advocating for the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community. A longtime director of Family Crisis Services in Portland (now known as Through These Doors), she spent 50 years as the driving force behind Maine's proposed Equal Rights Amendment. Additionally, she was the primary sponsor on the sex work decriminalization bills, which went into effect just days before her passing.



EVENTS

[Webinar: Supporting Survivors of Trafficking with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

Individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) are at a disproportionately higher risk of experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Unfortunately, due to the marginalization of individuals with ID, victims/survivors are often not recognized or offered appropriate support and services. The webinar will explore vulnerability factors facing the ID community and how organizations can work collaboratively to offer person-centered support to those who have experienced trafficking.

The webinar will be held from 2:00PM to 3:30PM on January 25th.

[Freedom Network USA Human Trafficking Conference](#)

Registration is open for FNUSA's annual Human Trafficking Conference! It will be held in Salt Lake City, UT from April 18th to April 19th.

RESOURCES

[COPS 2023 Labor Trafficking Report](#)

This report was developed in partnership between the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. It explores the complexity of labor trafficking cases from the beginning of an investigation through adjudication.

[Maine Human Trafficking Survivor Fund](#)

The Maine Human Trafficking Survivor Fund is a flexible, accessible, and timely source

of funds to support the immediate needs of survivors of trafficking and exploitation as they seek to increase their safety.

To support this work, you can make a donation [here](#). Contributions of any size are welcome and appreciated!

Want to support survivors of trafficking and exploitation?

We work hard to ensure that the Maine Human Trafficking Survivor Fund is there when people need it most.

You can help today.

Visit mainesten.org/survivor-support-fund to donate.



**For referrals to Maine services or to report a tip:
The National Human Trafficking Hotline
Call: 1-888-373-7888
Text: 233733**

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 MECASA on social media!



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