

## Resource Round-Up

July 24, 2018

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

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### NEWS

#### [Prostitution arrest at South Portland motel opened window on sex trafficking](#)

Portland Press Herald - July 5, 2018

"Liu's defense attorney criticized the District Attorney's Office for prosecuting the case, contending Liu is a victim of sex trafficking and is not in control of her situation. He speculated the rationale for bringing charges was to convince her to identify the leaders of a trafficking ring."

SOUTH PORTLAND — In late January, a woman checked into a motel on Main Street. An employee described her as "very nervous."

She tried to leave, but was reportedly being watched by two men in the motel parking lot. They coerced her back into a room.



The Knights Inn on Route 1 in South Portland. Staff photo by Ben McCanna

A neighbor who reported the police, who searched the website advertisement for the address of the motel, found the address of the motel that was allegedly used because of an agreement with the Council allowed.

The woman, who is a resident of New

#### [Residential program and safe house celebrates anniversary of providing support to human trafficking survivors](#)

WABI - July 12, 2018

"Carey Nason, Director of Hope Rising, said, "We view human trafficking as an issue. It's important for everyone to come together and address this. This isn't just something for one group to take on or another group to take on but really for the entire community to be involved.""

#### [Hospitals Gear Up For New Diagnosis: Human Trafficking](#)

NPR - July 24, 2018

A look into the experience of trafficking survivors in hospitals and the importance of health care providers screening for trafficking. [Take a look here](#) for more information about the new diagnosis codes for human trafficking that will be available starting in October.

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### OPINIONS

#### [Letter to the editor: Victims of sex trafficking should not be prosecuted](#)

Portland Press Herald - July 16, 2018

A letter to the editor written by Aurora Linnea in response to the article posted above on the South Portland motel story. Linnea writes, "How much clearer does it need to be? Trafficked women are victims and should under no circumstances be prosecuted for their own exploitation. The same is true for women in prostitution who may not be 'actively being trafficked,' to quote the paraphrase, but who sell sex to survive in a male-dominated social context characterized by women's poverty, inequality and systematized subjugation."

#### [FOSTA-SESTA Threatens Sex Workers Livelihoods: What Mental Health Providers Should Know](#)

"Although sensationalist media outlets frequently use sex trafficking as a boogeyman to encourage tougher policing of sex work, research from New Zealand, Australia, and Spain shows that decriminalizing sex work has made the industry safer for workers and reduced incidents of trafficking." For more recent news on SESTA-FOSTA check out these articles: [Sex-Worker Advocates Sue Over Internet 'Censorship' Law](#) and [Trump Signs Bill Amid Momentum to Crack Down on Trafficking](#).

Bianca Palmisano

July 16, 2018

### FOSTA-SESTA Threatens Sex Worker Livelihoods: What Mental Health Providers Should Know

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On April 11, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (SESTA-FOSTA). SESTA-FOSTA is a set of bills that were ostensibly designed to hold website publishers accountable if their sites are used to facilitate sex trafficking. In response, websites such as Craigslist, CityVibe, and Nightshift, who hosted content from consensual sex workers advertising their services, have eliminated that content for fear of legal action.



SESTA-FOSTA makes it increasingly difficult for sex workers to advertise and screen clients safely, deeply

Sex workers already operate at the perilous

## RESOURCES

### [Perceptions of Justice](#)

Urban Institute - Justice Policy Center

The Justice Policy Center interviewed Maine providers including Maine STEN staff and survivors of trafficking to share these reflections on what justice means for individuals who have experienced trafficking. "Survivors of human trafficking experience very little control when it comes to legal proceedings against their traffickers. Their opinions of the criminal justice system may have been influenced by previous negative experiences with criminal justice system actors, and what "justice" means to them can differ from what "justice" means in the context of the law."

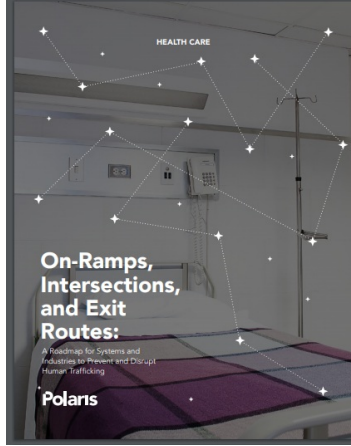
### [Rate That Rescue](#)

"A community resource for sex work, where everyone can add and review organizations that provide services. Like Yelp for sex work." Add your organization [here](#). This resource also has a host of articles to educate about the problems with the "rescue industry" and warnings about supporting efforts that can be harmful to those engaging in sex work (by coercion or otherwise).

### [On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking](#)

Polaris - July 2018

This report provides an in-depth look into the places that legitimate institutions are encountering human trafficking. Using data from Polaris' National Human Trafficking Hotline calls and by partnering with survivors, Polaris identifies trends and shares recommendations and opportunities for systematic response.



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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