



# SEX-TRAFFICKING: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

ECLi



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# SEX-TRAFFICKING: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

- Proud partnership with the Suffolk County Police Department Human Trafficking Unit, ECLI and Sayville Congregational Church to raise awareness as we educate and empower our communities across Suffolk County.
- There are many misconceptions about the scope of human trafficking and the methods needed to combat it. The most well-known form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation, however forced labor is also classified as human trafficking. Both involve exploitation of people through coercion. Our goal is to address systemic issues in Suffolk County that cause men, women and children to become victims of these heinous acts.
- It's in our communities throughout Suffolk County. SCPD Human Trafficking unit was established in March 2018 to specifically investigate Human Trafficking in Suffolk County. Since its inception the SCPD Human Trafficking unit has arrested 51 individuals for Sex Trafficking related offenses.
- Traffickers are targeting and manipulating young children and teens in our neighborhoods, schools, universities and other popular hangouts. The traffickers use love as a ploy to gain the trust of our youth. Specifically, runaways are frequent targets; however, youth in all types of family situations are vulnerable to the manipulations of traffickers.
- Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help; they may be forced or coerced through threats or violence; they may fear retribution from traffickers, including danger to their families; and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identification documents.

# TRAFFICKING IN NEW YORK STATE

- NYC has been identified as a hub for human trafficking.
- In 2019 alone there was 454 human trafficking cases reported in New York.
- A majority of calls to the hotline are from community members or NGO representatives. Only a small percentage is from victims of trafficking.
- Since 2007, there have been 9,007 contacts and 2,921 New York cases stemming from the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- State trafficking laws address factors and circumstances that can enhance criminal penalties for trafficking when the crimes are effectuated through aggravating circumstances like the use of violence, branding or drug addiction
- New York raised labor trafficking from a class D to a Class C felony when compelled by using a controlled substance to impair a person's judgement
- However, the main law in the United States surrounding sex trafficking is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

# LEGISLATION

- S.5524 Biaggi
  - Status: Currently in Social Services Committee
  - Summary: Requires all public facing employees of private transportation services complete a human trafficking recognition training program
- S.6892-A Lanza
  - **Status: Signed into Law by Governor on August 2018**
  - Summary: Requires all lodging facilities to provide information concerning services for human trafficking victims in certain public spaces of the lodging facilities.
- S.5444 Salazar
  - Floor vote 2019: Aye
  - Status: **Signed into Law by Governor on August 2019**
  - Summary: Includes victims of sexual offenses, stalking, and human trafficking in the NYS Address Confidentiality Program.
- Lanza S.5988A
  - Status: **Signed into Law by Governor on August 2018**
  - Summary: Established the crime of sex trafficking of a child

# RESOURCES

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/type-trafficking/labor-trafficking>

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers>

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

<https://scholarship.sha.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1000&context=honorstheses>



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