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# Ariz. scores a 'C' in protecting victims of sex trafficking

by Bob McClay/KTAR (March 9th, 2011 @ 7:50am)



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PHOENIX - Arizona could be getting better grades in one area.

The group shared Human Rights International gives Arizona a 'C' grade when it comes to protecting minors who are victims of sex trafficking.

The groups founder, former Congresswoman Linda Smith, says part of the problem is Arizona's law against child prostitution carries tough penalties, but those who pay for sex are getting around the

"If the state cannot prove a buyer of child prostitution had knowledge of the 15 to 17 year old minors age, this can be reduced to a

class six felony, resulting in as little as 90 days in jail on the first offense."

Smith says part of the problem is that the issue isn't get much attention. "The good people of Arizona just don't know that the majority of traffic victims here are the middle school kids of Arizona and the rest of the I just don't think they know.

The group is calling for tougher penalties for buyers.

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