



SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSES NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN LOOK AT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING LAWS IN AMERICA

San Antonio, TX—More than 50% of the nation's states do not have laws that provide protection and justice to child victims of domestic minor sex trafficking, according to research released Dec. 1, 2011 by Shared Hope International.

Only 10 states received grades higher than a "C" under the **Protected Innocence Initiative**, the first comprehensive analysis of state legislative frameworks relating specifically to domestic minor sex trafficking. Four states—Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Washington—led the nation with "B" grades. Forty-one (41) states received grades of "D" or lower, including 26 failing grades.

"Each state's laws show omissions in protective provisions for child victims, and lack strong laws to prosecute the men who rent the bodies of other men's children," said Linda Smith, Founder and President of Shared Hope International. "Early in our research it was clear that responses to child sex trafficking must originate at the state level. The **Protected Innocence Initiative** establishes the essential legislative framework that attempts to harmonize the state's response to the treatment of prostituted children and emphasize the appropriate prosecution of the buyer."

Under the national **Protected Innocence Initiative**, in partnership with the American Center for Law & Justice, Shared Hope International conducted a comprehensive analysis of each state's existing laws based on six areas of law critical to protecting from and responding to domestic minor sex trafficking. The results of this analysis laid the foundation for the Protected Innocence Report Card, which graded the level of protection in each state.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Four states **do not have** human trafficking laws:
 - West Virginia, Maine, Wyoming, Virginia
- 10 states **do not have** sex trafficking laws:
 - Colorado, Hawaii, West Virginia, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Wyoming, Virginia
- Only four states have a full package of non-punitive child protective responses, including shelter and services:
 - Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Washington
- 19 states still **have no** commercial sexual exploitation of children law that makes it a crime to buy sex acts with a minor.
- Five states **have no law** making it a crime to use the Internet to purchase or sell sex acts with a minor:
 - District of Columbia, Iowa, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Wyoming
- Recent cases coming out of many states reflect growing confidence in using state human trafficking laws to prosecute traffickers and buyers.
- Developments in laws will be reflected in Protected Innocence Initiative 2012, and we expect to see significant grade advances.



MEDIA MATERIALS

To access the full Protected Innocence Initiative report – including individual state Report Cards, Analysis & Recommendations, and issue briefs, please visit:

www.sharedhope.org/reportcards.aspx

For media convenience, a variety of video clips and resources, including DMST survivor comments – are available at this location:

www.sharedhope.org/media/piimediadownloads.aspx

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ABOUT THE PROTECTED INNOCENCE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK: The Protected Innocence Legislative Framework is the legal analysis tool of the Protected Innocence Initiative, a comprehensive strategy to promote zero tolerance for child sex trafficking. In partnership with the American Center for Law & Justice, Shared Hope International conducted a comprehensive analysis of each state’s existing laws. The Protected Innocence Legislative Framework solely evaluates a state’s existing laws and does not evaluate enforcement or implementation.

The methodology was vetted by experts in the anti-trafficking field including Ambassador Mark Lagon (U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2007-2009) and directors from the following organizations: the National District Attorneys Association; American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law; the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies; ECPAT-USA; Children at Risk, Houston, Texas; and A Future Not a Past, Atlanta, Georgia.

ABOUT SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL: Shared Hope International was founded in 1998, by former U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith, and exists to rescue and restore women and children in crisis. We are leaders in a worldwide effort to prevent and eradicate sex trafficking and slavery using a three-pronged strategy: prevent, rescue & restore, and bring justice. For more information about Shared Hope International, and the *Protected Innocence Initiative*, go to www.sharedhope.org.

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

2011

	Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking	Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand	Criminal Provisions for Traffickers	Criminal Provisions for Facilitators	Protective Provisions for Child Victims	Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution	Total	Grade
Alabama	4.5	11	14.5	7	16.5	12.5	66	D
Alaska	3.5	5.5	10	9	17.5	10	55.5	F
Arizona	5	19	13.5	7	13.5	12.5	70.5	C
Arkansas	3.5	15	10.5	6	9.5	10	54.5	F
California	4.5	3	8	2	16	7.5	41	F
Colorado	2.5	18.5	11	3.5	15	7.5	58	F
Connecticut	6	6.5	12.5	4.5	14.5	3.5	47.5	F
Delaware	5	15.5	10.5	5	17	7.5	60.5	D
District of Columbia	5	16	8.5	6.5	16.5	5	57.5	F
Florida	4.5	17	14.5	5.5	18	12	71.5	C
Georgia	7.5	22.5	14	4.5	18.5	8	75	C
Hawaii	2.5	4	10.5	5	11.5	7	40.5	F
Idaho	5	14.5	11	3.5	8.5	10	52.5	F
Illinois	7.5	16	14	7	25.5	10	80	B
Indiana	3.5	13	10	3	18.5	14.5	62.5	D
Iowa	5	12	11	5.5	17.5	9.5	60.5	D
Kansas	5	8	11	5.5	13.5	7.5	50.5	F
Kentucky	7.5	11	14.5	5.5	16.5	10	65	D
Louisiana	5	20.5	12.5	9	15.5	7.5	70	C
Maine	2.5	15.5	12	2	12.5	7.5	52	F
Maryland	5	16	10.5	5.5	10.5	11	58.5	F
Massachusetts	2.5	10.5	8	4	10	10	45	F
Michigan	5	4	8.5	5.5	11.5	10	44.5	F
Minnesota	7.5	15.5	11.5	6.5	20.5	15	76.5	C
Mississippi	5	16	13.5	6	14	7.5	62	D
Missouri	7.5	22	12.5	8.5	20.5	11	82	B
Montana	3.5	14.5	12.5	6	12	7.5	56	F
Nebraska	5	14	10	3.5	10.5	9.5	52.5	F
Nevada	2.5	13	13.5	6.5	12.5	10	58	F
New Hampshire	7	10	13	2.5	11.5	7	51	F
New Jersey	6	17.5	11	6.5	16	5	62	D
New Mexico	5	15	9.5	4.5	12.5	9.5	56	F
New York	3.5	11.5	11	8.5	18.5	8.5	61.5	D
North Carolina	5	20.5	10	3	15	7.5	61	D
North Dakota	5	10.5	11	6.5	10.5	10	53.5	F
Ohio	3.5	18	11	4	11.5	12.5	60.5	D
Oklahoma	4.5	13.5	13.5	7	17.5	9.5	65.5	D
Oregon	2.5	12	13	4	17	12	60.5	D
Pennsylvania	2.5	16	9.5	3	12.5	12	55.5	F
Rhode Island	5	22	11.5	7	10.5	9.5	65.5	D
South Carolina	2.5	13.5	10	2.5	12.5	7.5	48.5	F
South Dakota	4.5	16	12.5	5.5	6.5	9.5	54.5	F
Tennessee	7.5	20	13	3.5	16.5	12.5	73	C
Texas	7	23	14	7	17.5	15	83.5	B
Utah	4.5	9.5	13.5	6	11	12	56.5	F
Vermont	5	13.5	10	5.5	23	7.5	64.5	D
Virginia	2.5	3.5	11.5	3.5	12	10.5	43.5	F
Washington	6	21.5	13.5	9.5	19.5	10	80	B
West Virginia	2.5	4.5	8.5	2	11.5	9.5	38.5	F
Wisconsin	5	21.5	10.5	6	14.5	7.5	65	D
Wyoming	2.5	4	9	2.5	9	2.5	29.5	F