



## **“ARE YOU OK WITH THAT?!”**

In November 2011, Shared Hope International will release report cards revealing every state’s readiness to fight sex trafficking of children through its laws (see [Protective Innocence Initiative](#)). This comprehensive research performed by the American Center for Law & Justice and Shared Hope International will set a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. It will provide a blueprint for policy makers to establish the foundational policies needed in each state to create a safe environment for children. Changes are needed in every state to better protect the innocent and punish the perpetrators.

You can shape the changes needed! With your help, your state legislators can know how important your state’s grade is to you and that you want them to improve the grade before next year’s assessment.

### **JOIN US IN THIS 3-STEP STRATEGY!**

#### **STEP 1—SPONSOR A BILLBOARD IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

You choose the general location—we will negotiate the contract with an outdoor advertising company and relay the cost to you. Once we have your funds for that billboard, our team will do the rest of the work for you, ensuring that the image is perfectly displayed. The message will be the same across the nation: “This man wants to rent your daughter.”

If you represent a group, ***your logo can be added with Shared Hope’s on “your” billboard.***

Contact Ruth to order your billboard: [ruth@sharedhope.org](mailto:ruth@sharedhope.org); 360-693-8100.

**Want to educate people on the issue? Suggest they read *Renting Lacy*.**

*Renting Lacy – A Story of America’s Prostituted Children*, written by President and Founder of Shared Hope International, Linda Smith, tells the story of “Lacy”, an American girl prostituted in the United States. The reader will gain a thorough understanding of domestic minor sex trafficking and be equipped to take action. A leader’s guide will be ready in October! Order online at [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org) or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Talk about the billboard campaign to raise awareness about sex trafficking.**

Think of the many spheres of influence you and your like-minded friends have: book clubs, Rotary groups, Soroptimists groups, church groups, PTO, athletic clubs—and so many more! Small or large gatherings, everyone needs to know about this danger to our kids. Men: arrange a [Defenders](#) gathering in your community. Shared Hope can provide [resources](#) to help you.

#### **STEP 2— IN NOVEMBER MOBILIZE YOUR COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO YOUR STATE’S GRADE.**

You could...

### **Distribute flyers inviting people to respond.**

Early in the month, join with other like-minded people in your community to post/distribute flyers inviting people to contact their legislators ([www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml)) after the grades are released to express their opinion of their state's grade. Shared Hope will provide templates with the billboard's design for a half-sheet and full-sheet flyer with information on when and where to learn their state's grade online.

**Do You Know Lacy t-shirts** (men's and women's cuts) can be ordered from our website. Picture your group handing out flyers at your local grocery store wearing the same shirts!

### **Share the news on Facebook, Twitter, or your blog.**

Once the grades are announced the last week of November, advertise your state's grade to mobilize a team of activists. Not only can you share this information on your social networking pages, but you can post to your Governor, Attorney General, or local state representative's page. Imagine these leaders receiving messages from hundreds of people!

Here's a short sample message: "Hey (insert name of Governor, Attorney General or state representative), I am not OK with our state's grade on laws to fight sex trafficking. I look forward to seeing you make this a priority this year."

### **Start a petition.**

Anyone can create an online petition. There are several sites to choose from. Fill out their template. Identify your legislators and tell them you are not OK with your state's grade. It is imperative that the innocent are protected and the perpetrators are punished. You want them to make sure kids are safe in your community.

### **Create a "Release Party"**

Host an informal or formal gathering with other community members, NGO representatives or law enforcement leaders in the anti-trafficking movement. Invite your area representatives or lawmakers to attend. This is an opportunity to discuss your concerns about the grade, celebrate your successes, and define a plan of action to pursue.

## **STEP 3—FOLLOW-UP WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS.**

Select a leader to contact your legislators on your group's behalf to politely request an update on his/her action since learning of your concern last November. "What can I tell our group regarding your action?" An ideal date for this would be January 11th, Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

### **Share your experience with us at Shared Hope!**

Email your story, event photos, short videos, and media coverage to [savelives@sharedhope.org](mailto:savelives@sharedhope.org). We want to add your story to others from around the nation on our website or Facebook page.

Thank you for being part of this movement to eradicate sex trafficking!