



MAKING THE GRADE:

Shared Hope International Launches the Protected Innocence Initiative *Oregon's "D" fails the state's children*

Vancouver, WA—Oregon receives a “D” as Shared Hope International launches the national Protected Innocence Initiative. Oregon’s laws have been analyzed using the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework for the level of protection provided to children in the state from domestic minor sex trafficking.

“Oregon’s laws show serious omissions in protective provisions for child victims, and the state lacks strong laws to prosecute the men who rent the bodies of other men’s children. There is no distinction in Oregon’s trafficking act between the trafficking of a minor or an adult,” 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 begins by establishing the base policies needed to assure a uniform state by state standard treatment of prostituted children as victims and the treatment of those who buy and sell that innocence as the serious criminals they are.”*

The Protected Innocence Initiative is a holistic strategy to promote zero tolerance of child sex trafficking based on more than five years of research conducted by Shared Hope International, published and submitted to Congress in 2009 as **The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**.

Under this initiative, Shared Hope International will release 51 (50 states and Washington D.C.) individual report cards based on the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework, an analysis of state laws, performed by Shared Hope International and the American Center for Law and Justice. Each State’s existing laws will be measured against a common standard that creates a safe environment for children. The state of Washington’s grade was the first announced, on Jan. 11, 2011, and Washington received a “C”.

The most prominent gaps in Oregon’s laws?

- The combination of the requirement to prove force in the sex trafficking of a minor and the lack of criminal provisions for the purchase of sex with a minor leaves Oregon with a sizable crack in the protection of children from those who buy and sell their innocence.
- Weaknesses in the unclear trafficking statute and lack of anti-demand provisions may fail to deter those who buy sex with minors. In addition, the trafficking in persons law is limited to cases in which force can be proven to have been used to cause the “services.”
- A child who is rescued from prostitution may not receive the correct identification as a trafficking victim because the trafficking in persons law does not specifically define use of a minor in commercial sex acts as trafficking in persons.
- Commercial sexual exploitation of children through pornography and the sale of children through prostitution are criminal offenses; however, the purchase of sex with a child is not a separate crime from solicitation of an adult.
- Offenders may assert a defense of mistake of age in certain sexual offense crimes and in child pornography prosecutions.
- The “rape shield” law fails to apply to victim-witnesses of compelled prostitution or sex trafficking, leaving these victims unprotected from re-traumatizing examination on the witness stand.



"We are calling on Oregon's legislature to craft laws that will ensure all children are kept safe from commercial sexual exploitation through prostitution, pornography and sexual performance, and when victimized by traffickers and people who buy sex from these children, assuring these criminals receive the justice they deserve," said Smith.

Evidence of domestic minor sex trafficking in Oregon demonstrates the need for comprehensive legislation:

- In January 2010, a Portland man was arraigned in Multnomah County Circuit Court on suspicion of prostituting a 14-year-old relative
- Lendrick Lee Thomas, 33, is facing compelling prostitution of a 14-year-old girl, and rape in the third degree charges. He was arrested at the Downtown Marriott where police conducted a sting June 25, 2010
- Deandre Travon Green, 25, of Aloha, Ore., was sentenced in 2008 to 70 months in prison and three years of supervised release for the crime of Transportation of an Individual for Illegal Sexual Activity. Green had forced an Oregon 15-year-old to make \$1,000 a day as a prostitute.

A complete PDF packet – containing the Oregon Report Card, analysis and recommendations, and Protected Innocence Methodology – is available for download at this location:
www.sharedhope.org/WhatWeDo/BringJustice/PolicyRecommendations.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 holistic strategy to promote zero tolerance for child sex trafficking. In partnership with the American Center for Law and Justice, Shared Hope International conducted a comprehensive analysis of Washington's existing laws based on six areas of law critical to protecting from and the responding to domestic minor sex trafficking. The results of this analysis laid the foundation for the Protected Innocence Report Card, which grades the level of protection in Washington. 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 Lagoon (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.