Human Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation Response

A Resource for Sexual Assault Victim Advocates
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Introduction
This resource packet includes all the primary tools and guidance for responding to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in Maine. The first part of the packet contains a history of trafficking efforts in Maine, an overview of the human rights framework, and context for adapting sexual assault services to fit the needs of trafficking victims/survivors. In the second half of the document, you will find tools and statewide protocols for statewide trafficking response.

This is a living document that is updated regularly as points of contact and funding sources change. Please use the online version of this guide or email Jess to ensure you have the most up-to-date information.

Human Trafficking in Maine
Over the past decade, human trafficking has become an increasingly visible issue, and victim rights movements, law enforcement, and communities grapple with how to identify and respond to survivors. Communities and providers are also creating strategies for awareness and prevention.

The response to human trafficking can be challenging for several reasons. The issue is newer to our communities, and we are still developing a best practice response. We may be asked to work with partners we have not engaged with previously, some of whom may be new to victim services. Even among long-time partners, there may be philosophical differences in the best way to approach the issue. Meeting the needs of survivors is complex and may require significant time and effort (and/or change to our typical practices), without additional resources to do so.¹

Human trafficking is also an easily sensationalized topic. The fact that it is rooted in vulnerabilities like poverty, lack of economic opportunity, unstable housing, non-permanent immigration status, previous trauma or child sexual abuse, and other forms of oppression (like sexism and racism) is often overlooked. Human trafficking can be the result of the failure of many systems, and the intersection of many forms of violence and oppression. For this reason, it can be one of the most complicated issues we work on.

Definitions and Intersections with Sexual Violence
Human trafficking is the act of compelling someone into labor (including commercial sex work) through force, fraud or coercion, for the economic gain of a trafficker. Any minor in commercial sex work is a victim of human trafficking. Our definition of human trafficking is rooted in state and federal laws, which can be found at mainesten.org.

Commercial sexual exploitation is the abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust to profit monetarily, socially, or politically from the commercial sex work of another. Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation can happen to US citizens and non-citizens and people of any gender, class, age, culture, or race.

Human trafficking and sexual assault are both traumatic crimes, premised upon the power, control, abuse, and exploitation of another human being. Though sexual violence is most commonly associated with sex trafficking, it can occur in almost every type of trafficking situation, including cases of forced labor. Traffickers use sexual violence as both a physical and psychological means to compel labor of all kinds (including sex work).

Not all who work in the sex industry are trafficked. However, anyone trading sex for something of value is vulnerable to sexual assault, violence and exploitation. Because commercial sex is so stigmatized, this violence goes underreported and tends to be minimized. We think of commercial sex as a spectrum ranging from choice to circumstance to coercion. Anyone on this continuum may need support and services that can be addressed by sexual assault support center outreach and advocacy.

A History of Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Maine
The first statewide initiative to examine human trafficking in Maine was a legislatively-established trafficking work group, facilitated by the Attorney General’s Office in 2005. The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, along with partners such as the Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, and migrant labor services participated. The group suggested several statutory changes to Maine’s law (some of which were enacted) and the group continued by legislative mandate until 2010. At that time, the group decided to continue without a legislative mandate to maintain a statewide coalition dedicated to these efforts.

MECASA has participated in the Attorney General’s work group since 2012. In addition to this statewide effort, local initiatives have arisen, beginning with the Greater Portland Coalition Against Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in 2011, now part of a network of local teams across Maine (information about which can be found at mainesten.org). The local and statewide efforts strive to stay connected to one another through shared membership in local MDTs and the Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network (Maine STEN) Provider Council, a group staffed and facilitated by MECASA.

Philosophy: The Human Rights Framework
As a movement we know where we stand on the issue of sexual violence, we have developed and instituted best practices, and we continue to evolve from a common foundational philosophy. However, anti-trafficking efforts – especially those that involve partners we may not have previously worked with – may not have the same shared set of beliefs. Additionally, some emerging responses to human trafficking may conflict with or challenge core concepts of anti-sexual violence work. It’s important for sexual assault service providers to consider their individual and organizational philosophies regarding trafficking and exploitation and the intersections with sexual violence.

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Several philosophies, values, and practices come together within the anti-human trafficking movement. We have found it helpful to begin with the philosophies of anti-sexual violence advocacy when creating policies, training, and services that may impact survivors of human trafficking and exploitation. The model of voluntary, non-judgmental assistance with an emphasis on self-determination to best meet a survivor’s needs\(^5\) is considered a “human-rights based approach.”

The human rights framework generally supports decriminalization of prostitution (due to a belief that criminalizing people for their circumstances is harmful). The human rights framework views sex work as different from sex trafficking, and considers confusing the two harmful. This framework also includes the belief that all labor (including sex work) happens by choice, circumstance, or coercion. This is an acknowledgment that it is possible for a person to choose to engage in sex work freely and that sex work is not inherently exploitive or harmful. It is also possible that a person could engage in sex work as a result of their circumstances (for example, a person trading sex for a place to stay). These circumstances might be exploitive, as with other types of labor. Finally, the human rights framework acknowledges that people can engage in sex work by force. Forcing, coercing, or defrauding someone into trading sex is sex trafficking.

Freedom Network USA, a national partner and technical assistance provider, shares this:

*Our years of work with trafficked persons have shown that those served using a rights-based approach tend to regain trust, safety, and self-sufficiency, and more fully recover from their crime than those who do not. In contrast, those who are treated like criminals instead of victims, who feel that their needs are not being considered, that their stories are not believed, or that their decisions and actions are being judged, are more likely to abandon services and the criminal justice process altogether. This leads to poorer justice outcomes and increases the risk that the individual will return to the trafficker or will face other challenges to safety and well-being.*

*Trafficked persons are trapped not only by the actions of their traffickers, but also by the structural inequalities that create fear and vulnerabilities. Poverty, discrimination, weak worker protections, restrictive immigration policies, distrust of government institutions and shame are all manipulated by traffickers to entrap those who see no better or safer option. Laws, policies, and community attitudes can foster freedom and empowerment or repression and dependency.*\(^6\)

MECASA uses the following guiding principles\(^7\) regarding victim services and training/awareness efforts:

- Human trafficking violates a person’s human rights.
- There are many conditions that foster human trafficking, including: poverty, forced migration, racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and classism.
- The intersections of oppression (gender, immigration status, ability, history of abuse, economic status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, etc.) increase vulnerability to trafficking and present barriers to accessing services.


\(^7\) Adapted from the Wisconsin Human Trafficking Protocol and Resource Manual, 2012.
• Individuals and organizations alone cannot end the conditions that promote human trafficking, and a broad community response is necessary to make social and institutional change.

Victim services should be:
• Trauma-informed, evidence-informed, and based on the empowerment model of service provision and recovery. An empowerment model of service provision is strengths-based, comprehensive, and respects an individual’s autonomy and self-determination.
• Connected formally and informally with a victim-centered, multi-disciplinary response, and informed by organizational policies and protocols. In a victim-centered approach, the victim's wishes, safety, and well-being take priority.

Training and awareness efforts should be:
• Built on existing statewide and/or regional training efforts and curricula.
• Reliant on local expertise and information and connected with local experts as well as statewide infrastructure such as the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Work Group.
• Strategically aimed at audiences where there is the highest risk for exploitation or the greatest opportunity for identification and referral.
• Inclusive of survivors in the development and implementation of programming.

MECASA and Local Sexual Assault Support Center Work
Maine’s sexual assault support centers and coalition are a part of this work to support victim/survivors of trafficking and exploitation because of the many intersections between human trafficking and sexual violence, the advocacy skills and knowledge held by our movement, and because too many survivors are unserved for us to stand on the sidelines. So instead of “Do we have the capacity to do this work?” we ask ourselves, “How much can we take on now, where might it be a natural fit, and what is our plan for building our capacity?” Additionally, we may have to explore questions such as “Are there ways that our work must change in order to more effectively meet the needs of these clients?” or “Are there partners I am prepared to disengage with if we have fundamental differences in opinion regarding effective response?” Anti-trafficking response is an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to systems-level anti-violence work, which intersects with many social concerns – but it may present us with more questions than answers in this early stage.

Multidisciplinary Teams
Sexual assault support centers and Sexual Assault Response Team advocates have long been key participants in a multidisciplinary response to sexual violence. Sex trafficking and sex exploitation are forms of sexual violence in which survivors intersect with the criminal justice system as both victims and defendants. Throughout the state, sexual assault support centers’ facilitation of local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary teams is an extension of our long-standing commitment to systems-level coordinated community response. There are several multidisciplinary anti-trafficking teams in Maine. These teams create locally-led anti-trafficking services and protocols and are the foundation of Maine’s anti-trafficking response.

Direct Services
Many trafficking survivors have already experienced sexual abuse and trauma outside of what may have occurred throughout a trafficking situation. This creates a long history of sexual victimization which can
normalize the experience, increase vulnerability to trafficking, and decrease a survivor’s ability to eventually seek help or stability outside of the trafficking situation. Sexual assault advocates understand and can respond to any previous sexual violence or child sexual abuse experienced by a victim/survivor of exploitation.

The vulnerabilities faced by people who experience trafficking are often like those faced by victims/survivors of sexual violence. These vulnerabilities may complicate their lives and make accessing and receiving services more challenging. They include unstable housing, immigration status, age, isolation, and a mistrust of the criminal justice system. All of these may be an issue for victims/survivors of any type of trafficking.

Empowerment-based advocacy can be beneficial for trafficking victims/survivors but often additional intensive case management is necessary. Support is often needed for longer periods of time than we generally provide to sexual violence survivors. People who have experienced trafficking or exploitation might have unique or heightened needs for services like medical care, dental care, tattoo or brand removal, substance use treatment and recovery, or mental health treatment.

 Trafficking victims/survivors may also have criminal records that need to be addressed or create barriers to employment, (related to being trafficked or otherwise). Working with defense attorneys who represent survivors may be a new experience for many local sexual assault programs. Additionally, the multiple traumas experienced over long periods of time by trafficking victims/survivors make for new and complex cases with which advocates may not have had experience.

In addition to typical advocacy services, a victim/survivor of forced or exploitative labor may seek services that can address workplace rights violations, workplace sexual harassment, possible protections from deportation (including U and T visas – specific to crime victims (U) or trafficking victims (T)), access to medical services, and support for current or previous sexual violence.

The advocacy model teaches us that each individual has a right to decide how to approach, define, and heal from their victimization. Individuals who experience trafficking or sex exploitation may identify as survivors of trafficking, sexual assault, both, or neither. Our job is not to decide or define what happens to a victim/survivor or how they name their experience. We provide the resources a survivor asks for or find someone who can. This can be a place to come together with system partners, our member programs, and organizations serving trafficking survivors.

Outreach
Outreach to trafficking victims can mirror approaches our movement has taken with many underserved populations and is based in education and relationship building. Having conversations in our communities about rights and ways we can support trafficking victims/survivors with civil and legal remedies create opportunities and space for self-identification. These approaches open the door for conversations and disclosures of debt bondage, forced labor, forced sexual servitude, ongoing sexual harassment, and rape within their place of work and/or place of living, and other concerns. Outreach is about making sure people know their rights and know that they can access services without
judgment of their circumstances or background, and so they can make informed decisions for themselves about their own lives.

During outreach it is possible that you will encounter community members who want to get involved in trafficking efforts. The attached document, Appendix C, entitled “Supporting Trafficking Efforts in Maine” outlines some ways folks can get involved in this work.

**Prevention**

Sex trafficking and exploitation prevention efforts overlap with sexual violence prevention work. Specifically, the prevention of child sexual abuse and a cultural shift towards healthy sexuality and teaching consent are key components of trafficking prevention.

Many factors make someone vulnerable to trafficking, such as child sexual abuse, family trauma, and poverty. Programming that help people address these vulnerabilities and traumas, such as child sexual abuse, sexual assault prevention, and programming supporting at-risk youth are preventative in nature. Additionally, providing targeted, education-based intervention with at-risk youth by trained clinicians, advocates, and survivors is an effective means of prevention.

**My Life My Choice**, a 10-week educational program for female identified youth, seeks to prevent sex trafficking of minors by reducing risk factors and strengthening resilience for participants. To learn more about certified facilitators of this program in your area, contact Jess Bedard.

**Supporting Maine Callers to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center**

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**

- The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) is a project of Polaris. NHTH receives urgent and non-urgent calls and makes referrals to Maine providers as needed.
- While the NHTH may contact you as the experts for local referrals, they are also available for you to find out more about trafficking and exploitation laws, tools, and resources.

**Types of Calls from NHTH**

- In 2014 the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Workgroup determined that the NHTH protocol will be to refer after-hours callers to local sexual assault support centers or domestic violence resource centers.
- If calls have an element of danger, law enforcement (not advocates) will be the primary contact for the NHTH.
- In recent years, examples of the kinds of calls that come to Maine include:
  - A service provider in Maine working with a client who might be a victim of human trafficking and looking for ways to support them;
  - A law enforcement officer who has come across a victim of human trafficking asking for referrals for shelter;
A victim of human trafficking who is not ready or able to leave, but wants to know about their options for if/when they do; or
A victim who needs a safe place to stay while they explore options.

Taking the Call
- Calls will usually be from an NHTH call specialist, who will then patch you through to the caller or supply their information.
- “Urgent” contacts are usually calls seeking referral (often shelter) or accompaniment, not support and advocacy.
- “Non-urgent” contacts may come through e-mail.
- In many cases, callers may have developed a rapport with the NHTH call specialists and may choose to use them as the primary contact (so conference calls or call patching may occur).
- If there are any delays, unexpected barriers, or challenges, please contact Jess at MECASA or Samaa at MCEDV. We will use statewide channels to ensure that we can connect you with a provider who can support the client’s need.

Meeting the caller’s needs
- NHTH callers have similar needs to victims of sexual or domestic violence. Advocates will:
  - Provide support.
  - Validate their experiences & feelings.
  - Let them identify their own needs.
  - Help them explore their options.
  - Offer resources & referrals to more services.
- Connect with your agency’s human trafficking point of contact.

Human Trafficking Points of Contact
The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) receives urgent and non-urgent calls and makes referrals to Maine providers as needed. To increase warm referrals and referrals from other disciplines, the sexual assault support centers and domestic violence resource centers have identified one advocate per agency to be the point of contact for referrals. In York and Cumberland Counties Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Services is the referral agency for trafficking cases during business hours.

Refer to your local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary team for an after-hours protocol or call NHTH –1-888-373-7888

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**Roles and Expectations for Human Trafficking Points of Contact**

As the human trafficking point of contact for your region, you are the first contact at your agency for daytime referrals. Referrals would come from sexual assault support centers and domestic violence resource centers in your catchment area and other parts of the state and participants of local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary teams. The list of human trafficking points of contact will be maintained by MECASA and MCEDV and distributed through the Maine Provider Council.

**Use of Point of Contact Protocol**

- Use this as a protocol in catchment areas with no rapid response protocols coordinating and securing the appropriate services.
• In catchment areas with established rapid response protocols, defer to those protocols for referrals and case coordination.

**Point of Contact Responsibilities**

• Make initial contact with the victim/survivor and assess for immediate needs.
• Coordinate and secure the appropriate services.
• If necessary, contact law enforcement.
• Convene a meeting of appropriate MDT members via phone or in person to coordinate care for the victim/survivor.
• Until MDT is convened, the point of contact is the identified case coordinator.

**Point of Contact Expectations**

• Be reasonably available by office or cell phone to answer a call during business hours.
• If not available to answer the phone, call the person making the referral back within 2 hours.
• Be able to make first contact with the victim/survivor within 24 hours of receiving the initial call.

**When Minors are Involved**

• Make mandated reports as applicable.

**Funding**

The Maine Human Trafficking Survivors Fund is available to meet the immediate needs of trafficking survivors in Maine. To learn more about who is qualified and how to apply, visit [www.mainesten.org/htfund](http://www.mainesten.org/htfund). The Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund is also available for limited survivor needs, see Appendix E for further reference on how it can be used.

**Training**

Maine uses a shared training on human trafficking that was developed collaboratively by Preble Street, MECASA, and MCEDV. The “Human Trafficking in Maine: Identification and Response” training is available for community members and partners upon request from their local anti-trafficking multi-disciplinary teams. This is a “101” training on human trafficking in Maine.

**Additional Resources**

**Freedom Network**

Freedom Network promotes a human-rights based approach to human trafficking. Their website offers resources on topics like the intersections between Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, the impact of the “End Demand” Campaign, and the merits of a rights-based approach to trafficking.

**Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS)**
Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) is specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. GEMS has helped hundreds of young women and girls, ages 12-21, who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking.

**Maine Human Trafficking Needs Assessment**
A report on the prevalence of human trafficking in Maine in 2015 and the service structures serving trafficking victims.

**Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network**
The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network provides training, technical assistance, and resources to direct service providers engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in Maine, as well as community awareness and public policy support. The effort is supported by a statewide Provider Council, and it is a program of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Sign up to receive monthly resource-round-ups on trafficking in Maine by emailing Jess Bedard.

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**
1.888.373.7888
The NHTH is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. NHTH receives calls from a wide range of callers including, but not limited to: potential trafficking victims, community members, law enforcement, service providers, hospitals, churches, businesses, and others.

**Polaris Project**
The Polaris Project has information about anti-trafficking policy and prevention, with numerous resources for providers and law enforcement regarding red flags and questions to ask survivors.

**MECASA Resources**

**Human Trafficking Screening Tool**
Appendix A
This screening tool for adults helps identify red flags that could be indicators of human trafficking. Use this guide to help prompt personal conversations with potential victims of trafficking.

**Supporting Anti-trafficking Efforts in Maine**
Appendix B
A guide for community members who are looking for ways to support local anti-trafficking efforts. This is a great guide to share with church groups, trainees, and interested community members!

**2015 Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Media Guide**
Appendix C
This is a guide for people working in the media on how to report on trafficking & exploitation.
Other Resources

Human Trafficking Power & Control Wheel
Appendix D
An adaptation from the domestic and sexual violence wheels that illustrates who power and control are used throughout human trafficking victimization.

Trafficking Victim Assistance Program
Appendix E
This fund is for minor victims of human trafficking who are not U.S. residents to pay for case management services.
Appendix A:
Human Trafficking Screening Tool
Maine Human Trafficking Identification and Response Screening Guide

Human trafficking, as defined by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing, or obtaining of a person, through force, fraud, or coercion, for labor services or commercial sex - OR any commercial sexual activity by a minor.

INTRODUCTION

Some indicators of trafficking can be observed during one encounter with a client, while others may be observed over time. The following tool may help to assess whether trafficking is present and to provide supportive questions you may consider asking to find out more. This tool is intended for service providers who have had training in recognizing victims of human trafficking and exploitation.

INDICATORS/VULNERABILITIES:

GENERAL AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Referral from law enforcement or community partner with suspicion of trafficking.
- No access to personal identification, especially passports for foreign nationals.
- Mentions of quota or debt in reference to employer/family member/partner.
- Travel across state lines (without known resources to do so).
- Frequenting hotels or areas known for criminal activities.
- Unexplained physical injuries or signs of untreated illness of disease.
- Disconnected or cut off from any family or support system.
- Works excessively long hours or usual hours and is unpaid, paid very little or paid only through tips.
- Cannot identify address or residence.
- Not allowed to speak for themselves—a 3rd party speaks or translates for them.
- Untreated medical needs (including STIs and a history of pregnancies).
- Evidence of a controlling, abusive or dominating employer, partner or older adult.

SEX TRAFFICKING

All of the above, as well as:

- Indicates involvement in commercial sex work (or witnessed by others or prostitution arrest).
- History of involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice system.
- Evidence of brands or tattoos.
- Drug charges/substance abuse.
- Unexplained expensive items (cell phones, clothing, etc.).
Maine Human Trafficking Identification and Response Screening Guide

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS:
The following questions may support you to better understand a client’s circumstances, in order to better address their needs and plan for safety.

- Does someone control, supervise or monitor what you do?
- How did you meet this person/how did you find out about this job?
- Is your communication (calls, emails, conversations) ever restricted or monitored?
- Do you have access to all your identification/personal documents?
- Do you have access to any money or the money that you earn? Does anyone take all or some of your money?
- What did you expect of this situation/relationship? Has it been as promised?
- What would happen if you didn’t do what this person asked of you?
- What would happen if you left this person/situation?

HOW TO RESPOND:
If the indicators or assessment questions above lead you to suspect that trafficking or exploitation is occurring:

- Follow your internal agency protocol and/or
- Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 24-hour hotline at 1-888-373-7888. The hotline can help you to safety plan, and connect you with Maine’s local anti-trafficking service network.
- If the individual is a minor, mandatory reporting procedures may apply, and the Dept. of Health and Human Services can be reached at 1-800-452-1999

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Polaris Project – www.polarisproject.org
  Information on trafficking assessment, data and statistics, and response resources.

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center - 1-888-373-7888
  Connection with local resources, as well as support for victims/survivors and providers.

- Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services - 1-800-452-1999
  Mandatory reporting for minors, connection and referral with child welfare services.

- Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network – www.mainesten.org
  Information on Maine laws, local resources, a victim fund, and other tools.

Maine’s Human Trafficking Response
National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
1-888-373-7888

Adapted by the Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network from Polaris Project and the US Department of Health and Human Services
Appendix B:

Supporting Anti-trafficking Efforts in Maine
Supporting Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Maine:
Volunteer opportunities for organizations & groups who want to join
anti-trafficking efforts in their communities

Human trafficking is a complex issue that requires a community-wide response. If you
are a community-based group interested in being a part of these efforts, here are some
recommendations for how to contribute in a meaningful way to work that is
currently happening here in Maine.

**Educate Yourself**
Before hosting an awareness night or starting a fundraiser, do some homework on the issue
to learn what is happening in Maine and the basic dynamics of human trafficking. Resources for that
include:

- **Human Trafficking in Maine: Identification and Response Training**: Maine’s local multidisciplinary
  anti-trafficking teams offer a statewide victim-centered and empowerment-based training, and
  include interactive, skills-building sessions informed by Maine-based expertise and resources. You
  can request a training for your agency or group through this site.
- **Sex Trafficking in Maine Video Series** and the first **Maine Human Trafficking Needs Assessment**
  (both found at mainesten.org)
- **Labor Trafficking in the United States**: Visit the Polaris website for additional resources.
- Reach out to your local anti-trafficking team to find out the needs are specific to your community
  and what next-steps they would recommend. Email **info@mecasa.org** for contact information.

**Volunteering**
*Intervention*
Since there are very few trafficking-specific organizations in Maine and many confidentiality and safety
concerns, the opportunities to work directly with survivors are few. That said, every domestic violence
resource center and sexual assault support center in Maine works with survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation and many immigrant serving organization works with individuals vulnerable to labor exploitation and/or trafficking. They may be seeking volunteers for their hotlines, but also might have internships or placements for college students. While this may not be exclusively anti-trafficking work, the issues and root causes intersect.

**Prevention**
Many factors lead can increase an individual’s vulnerability to trafficking, such as child sexual abuse, family trauma, poverty, political or social unrest and lack of economic opportunities and lack of a support system. Agencies and programs that work to alleviate these vulnerabilities, like mentoring and supporting at-risk youth, are preventative in nature. Volunteering as a mentor or at drop-in centers with homeless and street involved youth or with New Mainer communities are trafficking prevention efforts.

**Administrative**
The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network and many other local providers in our network can often use administrative support to keep contact lists updated, edit the website, keep track of volunteer requests and layout e-newsletters.

Reach out to [info@mecasa.org](mailto:info@mecasa.org) to be connected with any of these organizations in your area.

**Fundraising**
Survivors of human trafficking and commercial sex exploitation experience an almost total loss of financial, educational, physical, and emotional autonomy. Individuals engaged in trafficking are treated as a commodity or property, and are often reliant on their trafficker, an employer, or an intimate partner to meet their basic needs. They may have limited or no access to the money that they earn; as a result, their ability to forge an independent, safe, and self-reliant life is severely undermined. Maine currently has limited specialized resources to meet these needs.

**Monetary donations**
Currently there are two statewide funds available to all service providers and law enforcement working with victims of human trafficking. One is the [Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network Victim Support Fund](mailto:info@mecasa.org). This fund can be used by any victim of human trafficking and/or exploitation for the purposes of safety and/or stability. For more information on the Victim Support Fund and how to make donations contact info@mecasa.org.

If you choose to host an event to raise money reach out to your local providers for input on how they would like to be involved with the event. Consult the [Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Media Guide](mailto:info@mecasa.org) when creating your event invitations and outreach materials.

**Donations of goods**
Below is a list of needs identified by local service providers working with victims of human trafficking. A donations drive would be a great way to meets the needs of some victims.

- Phone cards (Straight Talk, TracFone)
- Grocery gift cards (Hannaford, Shaw’s)
• Walmart gift cards
• Bus pass cards (10 ride cards since they can be used month to month)
• First Aid supplies (Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, sunscreen, chapstick, gloves, etc.)
• Toiletries (nail clippers, tweezers, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, razors, etc.)
• Underwear and bras
• Personal hygiene products (tampons, pads, wipes, etc.)
• Makeup
• Bags (backpack, large tote, etc. For women who are in shelter, this is huge for helping them stay organized/keep their things safe.)
• Winter Accessories (hats, scarves, gloves)
• Organizational tools (monthly planners, calendars, notebooks, etc.)

Local agencies doing anti-trafficking work would welcome monetary and donations of goods directly. Contact the chair of the anti-trafficking multidisciplinary team in your area to be connected to local providers. You can find their information on mainesten.org or reach out directly at info@mecasa.org.

Raising Awareness

Human trafficking is an easily sensationalized topic and its connection to basic vulnerabilities like poverty, lack of economic opportunity, unstable housing, non-permanent immigration status, previous trauma or child sexual abuse and other forms of oppression (like sexism, gender identity and racism) can be overlooked. Below are some recommended formats to raise awareness in your community, and to start conversations about what human trafficking looks like here in Maine and what we all can do to address it.

Awareness Events

We recommend consulting with local providers and survivors when planning an awareness program. They may offer training that you could incorporate into your event, but also offer feedback on what sort of awareness efforts would be supportive of current work happening in Maine.

Screening of a film followed by a panel discussion is one way to have a conversation about human trafficking in Maine. We recommend films that discuss how human trafficking looks in the United States and then extending the conversation to what it may look like in Maine, what resources are available to victims and how we can all be part of the solution.

• Very Young Girls (free online)—sex trafficking and exploitation.
The film takes you into the work of a former sexually exploited youth-turned-activist named Rachel Lloyd, who started the New York City organization GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) to help victimized young women escape their pimps and find another way of life. You meet teen aged girls at different stages of this transition.

• Food Chains—labor trafficking and exploitation.
There is more interest in food these days than ever, yet there is very little interest in the hands that pick it. Farmworkers, the foundation of our fresh food industry, are routinely abused and robbed of wages. In extreme cases they can be beaten, sexually harassed or even enslaved – all within the borders of the United States.

Possible panel participants: Members of the local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary team (service providers,
law enforcement and medical providers), people involved in faith-based anti-trafficking efforts, professors who specialize in human trafficking or an intersecting topics like sociology or women and gender studies, advocates within immigrant and refugee communities, survivors*.

Possible panel questions (you could use this after a movie screening or as a stand-alone panel):
1. What is your role in responding to human trafficking in Maine?
2. What do you want the community to know about human trafficking in Maine?
3. What vulnerabilities did traffickers and/or employers exploit in order to trap people in an exploitive situation?
4. What tactics did traffickers and/or employers use to keep people in their exploitive situations?
5. What resources do people need during or after trafficking and exploitation?
6. What role can community members play in supporting victim/survivors and anti-trafficking efforts?

*Survivors play a key role in elevating understanding and awareness of human trafficking, improving service delivery, and informing policy. If survivors are part of your awareness events, they should be playing the role of expert in the response to trafficking and not just there to tell their story of exploitation. As such, offer to pay for their time and transportation costs.

Visit mainesten.org or email info@mecasa.org for contact information for local providers.

**Outreach materials**
Identifying victims of human trafficking victims and letting them know there are services and support available is a large part of awareness building. The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network and the Blue Campaign have outreach materials that you could distribute throughout your community. In collaboration with your local service providers place posters or palm cards in locations like family planning and medical clinics, churches, community centers, WIC/GA offices, laundromats, local coffee shops and cafes and nail salons. Contact info@mecasa.org or the Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign.
Appendix C:

2015 Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Media Guide
2015 SEX TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION MEDIA GUIDE
The media shapes public debate and discourse, playing a critical role in what type of policy is created on national, state and local levels. The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network (Maine STEN), in collaboration with providers from across the state, developed these guidelines for reporting on human trafficking to provide clarity and support for journalists with the most up-to-date resources for readers and the Maine community.

Exploitation and trafficking exist on a spectrum; many exploitive behaviors may not meet legal definitions of trafficking. Related activities such as various forms of commercial sex, may be illegal under Maine law, and yet not entail exploitation or trafficking. This guide is intended to inform the reporting on cases where individuals are being trafficked or exploited through force, fraud, coercion, or manipulation, and to distinguish between those cases and all incidents of sex work. It is not an in-depth analysis of the dynamics of trafficking or exploitation. Finally, no conversation about these issues is complete without acknowledgement that for many individuals, commercial sex work is the result of structural barriers, such as poverty, lack of opportunity, and myriad forms of inequality.

Definitions

Sex trafficking

**Definition:** In Maine, “aggravated sex trafficking” is a felony, perpetrated when an individual “compels” a person to enter into, engage in, or remain in prostitution. Compelling includes many different behaviors, including force, fraud, coercion, or any time an individual (the victim) is a minor or suffers from a “mental disability.” Human trafficking under federal law occurs when a person requires someone to engage in commercial sex via force, fraud, or coercion. A “commercial sex act” as any sex act where anything of value is given to or received by any person.

**How we talk about it:** Sex trafficking is perpetrated when a third party benefits from the sale of a person for sex acts, through force, fraud, coercion, threats, and/or manipulation or when the person is a minor.

**Additional considerations:** Maine also has a non-felony sex trafficking statute, formerly known as “promotion of prostitution” that addresses any promotion of commercial sex. Many cases may include elements of compulsion, yet law enforcement officers charge the lesser offense due to investigative barriers. However, it can be difficult to know whether cases include compulsion or not.

Sexual exploitation

**Definition:** Abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

**How we talk about it:** The exchange of sex or sex acts for anything of value where an individual is coerced or manipulated into the arrangement through addiction or desperation. A third party may not be involved and money may not change hands (e.g.: the exploiter requires sex acts in exchange for drugs or a place to stay). Not all sexual exploitation meets the legal definition of trafficking.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children

**Definition:** The use of a child for sexual purposes in exchange for cash or in-kind favors between a customer, intermediary or agent and others who profit from the trade in children for these purposes.

**How we talk about it:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children is perpetrated when individuals buy, trade or sell sexual acts with a child.

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1 17 MRSA §852
2 22 U.S. Code § 7102
Statistics & Sex Trafficking in Maine

Maine providers indicate that existing data does not accurately reflect the scope of what we know to be trafficking or exploitation. Many behaviors which are exploitive do not necessarily constitute a trafficking situation. We know that sex trafficking and exploitation are closely linked with sexual violence, which is the most underreported violent crime in the United States. While awareness of sex trafficking victimization in Maine grows, underreporting and inconsistent screening, identification, and data collection contribute to a gap in Maine-based data. We are currently engaged in a statewide needs assessment on this issue, and more data will be available in fall of 2015.

All data from the resources below indicate that the vast majority of Maine trafficking victims are individuals who were born in Maine or the United States, rather than foreign nationals.

- Best available estimates indicate that between 70-90 percent of commercially sexually exploited youth are survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- Between 2007 and March 2015, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline has received over 240 calls from Maine and identified at least 41 cases where trafficking was likely perpetrated.
- Of the 80 homeless and street-involved women and youth surveyed by Preble Street Teen Center in its 2012 study, 24 percent reported they had been offered drugs in exchange for sex with a stranger, and 26 percent reported they had been asked by someone to have sex with a stranger for payment.
- Maine providers indicate that many more of their clients than previously believed are victims of sex trafficking or exploitation. In the first year of a federally-funded anti-trafficking grant in York and Cumberland counties, 64 individuals have been identified and provided with services as trafficking victims.

Maine Law

Public policy is changing rapidly as we become aware of human trafficking, as we better understand the needs of victims, and as we identify potential victims through law enforcement and community-based partnerships. We keep our website updated with changes to Maine and national legal frameworks. Visit mainesten.org/state-laws for more information.

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## Language Considerations

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<tr>
<th>Instead of...</th>
<th>Use...</th>
<th>Because...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child prostitute/</td>
<td>Commercially sexually exploited child</td>
<td>Child prostitute/prostitution or underage prostitute/prostitution doesn’t</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underage prostitute</td>
<td>Commercial sexual exploitation of children</td>
<td>convey the severity of a commercially sexually exploited child’s experiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child prostitution</td>
<td>Trafficking victim (when force, fraud, or</td>
<td>The term prostitute tends to “convey choice, agency, and criminality to the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>coercion are present or when the individual is a minor) or Sex worker (where force, fraud, or coercion are not present and when the individual is not a minor)</td>
<td>reader.”¹⁰ In cases where there are charges related to trafficking, it’s important to accurately reflect that the person (allegedly) trafficked is an alleged victim of a crime. Some individuals and organizations prefer “prostituted individuals” in instances of exploitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>In the vast majority of sex trafficking cases in Maine, there is no one single act of recovery or rescue. Use terms that describe a long-term process of recovery and healing.</td>
<td>Victims may not wish to be “rescued” from their situation and it may not be safe for them to leave. Perpetuating the idea that trafficking victims need someone to save them simplifies a complex crime, ignores conditions that could put a victim in serious danger, and ignores that leaving the situation is only the first step of a very significant recovery effort.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slavery</td>
<td>Sex trafficking Human trafficking Sex</td>
<td>The term slavery has traditionally meant an institution or system of oppression, and implies a form of captivity that may lead readers to expect conditions that are only rarely reflected in Maine.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exploitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pimp</td>
<td>Trafficker Exploiter</td>
<td>The use of the term pimp minimizes the crime allegedly perpetrated. Given its use in popular culture, it also promotes a culture that celebrates sexual violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock imagery</td>
<td>Consider pull-out quotes or data points,</td>
<td>While some trafficking may involve physical captivity, in Maine it is more frequently characterized by coercive tactics such as emotional and physical abuse, addiction and social factors such as poverty. These images create a perception of captivity, and misdirect the public understanding of the issue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>containing chains, handcuffs, or other images connoting imprisonment.</td>
<td>charts or graphs, empowering images of individuals, or no images.</td>
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Additional Considerations

Trafficking vs. Prostitution
These issues are complicated and often depend on how a victim identifies, how the law defines the acts allegedly committed, whether there is a trafficker involved, etc. In general, if sex trafficking or aggravated sex trafficking is charged in a case, assume that it is a case involving coercion or force. In cases where prostitution is charged, there may still be coercion or force at play, but law enforcement officers may not be aware of extenuating circumstances. Additionally, just because someone is charged with prostitution without the presence of coercion or force, does not mean we understand whether or not there is an element of exploitation. A lack of economic opportunity, marginalization, and the inability to access basic resources can contribute to a person’s involvement in the sex trade.

Naming the Victim
Victims of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children are victims of crimes, including sexual violence. As most news organizations agree, every attempt to conceal a sexual violence victim’s identity should be made out of respect for the victim unless the victim wishes to be identified. This includes information that may identify her/him in a small community, and any photos of the victim. Sometimes a victim of sex trafficking may also have criminal charges related to their exploitation.

Policy Resources
National organizations can be important resources for background information and trends, however Maine’s policy landscape is complex and it is best to rely on local expertise and information related to Maine law. When using out-of-state resources, connecting with local experts is essential to ensure that journalists are presenting the most accurate picture of Maine policies, local efforts and services.

Labor vs. Sex Trafficking
Federal law defines sex and labor trafficking in the same way: it is the use or obtaining of a person for the purposes of sex or labor through the means of force, fraud or coercion. There is a close relationship between sex trafficking and labor trafficking, and the two may overlap. Though the identification of sex trafficking victims currently appears to be more prevalent in Maine, many experts agree that as we explore labor trafficking and exploitation in more depth, the known prevalence will likely rise.

Prevention
It’s important to include prevention strategies when possible, especially when so much of the focus on trafficking tends to be about crisis response. Many factors make an individual vulnerable to trafficking, such as child sexual abuse, family trauma, and poverty. Programming that alleviates these vulnerabilities, such as child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence prevention, as well as programming supporting at-risk youth, are preventative in nature. Additionally, providing targeted, education-based intervention with at-risk youth by trained clinicians, advocates and survivors is an effective means of prevention. Statewide and local resources are available to provide more information. Child sexual abuse and sexual and domestic violence prevention programs are also part of effective anti-trafficking efforts.

Shirttail
A suggested shirttail to include in articles related to sex trafficking and exploitation is:

To reach the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to BeFree (233733). This free and confidential 24-hour service is accessible from anywhere in Maine and is a direct link to local services in Maine.

“I am a survivor and I am in recovery. I am living proof that people change and life can be so much better than the darkness so many live in.”
– Maine sex trafficking survivor
Contact

The Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network provides training, technical assistance and resources to direct service providers engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in Maine, as well as community awareness and public policy support. The effort is supported by a statewide Sex Trafficking Provider Council, and it is a program of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault. A call or email to the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault can connect you with information about current policy efforts and systems, as well as referrals to local multidisciplinary efforts serving trafficking victims in Maine.

Destie Hohman Sprague, Program Director
destie@mecasa.org
207-626-0034

Katie Kondrat, Program Coordinator
katie@mecasa.org
207-626-0034

Resources

Maine Service Providers
There are numerous efforts arising in Maine to respond to the issue of human trafficking. Local multi-disciplinary teams are at the heart of the Maine service structure, and these teams may engage in tandem service delivery, creation of referral protocols, local resource guides, shared law enforcement procedures and training. Other efforts, such as the establishment of shelters and safe homes for victims, and a statewide response for minor victims through Child Protective Services, are underway. Visit mainesten.org/maineresources for a listing on Maine providers. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline - 1-888-373-7888 - is the single point of contact for all referrals for direct services in Maine.

Polaris Project
Polaris Project is committed to strengthening the anti-trafficking movement through a comprehensive approach. They provide client services, policy advocacy, a national human trafficking hotline, training and technical assistance, public outreach and communications, and fellowship and international opportunities.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is the leading national nonprofit organization in the U.S. working with law enforcement, families and the professionals who serve them on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children.
Appendix D:

Human Trafficking Power & Control Wheel
Appendix E:

Trafficking Victims Assistance Program
ABOUT USCRI
Since 1911, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) has strived to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and support their transition to a dignified life.

ABOUT TVAP
The Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for foreign national (non-U.S. citizen, non-legal permanent resident) survivors of human trafficking and their qualified family members. USCRI administers this program in 32 states as well as other select areas. The program is designed to support survivors in their transition to safe, healthy, independent lives, including the pursuit of immigration status and connection to federal benefits.

Becoming a Partner
USCRI partners with many different types and sizes of organizations under TVAP with the goal of establishing a national network that can provide trauma-informed services to survivors of human trafficking.

USCRI offers funding to TVAP partner agencies that are working with eligible clients. For each enrolled client, partners receive both an administrative and client expense budget. In order to ensure 100% geographic coverage to serve clients regardless of their location, we offer funding per client, which is reimbursed on a monthly basis.

In addition to funding, USCRI provides TVAP partners with training and support to equip them with the tools they need to provide the highest quality service. TVAP staff is available for case consultations, technical assistance, and training. For more information, please contact traffickingvictims@uscridc.org or:

| Program Staff Contact | Paloma Martinez  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
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FY16 Service Provider Budget per Month

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<th>Allowable Amount* (varies by client status)</th>
<th>Administrative Expenses (per Client)</th>
<th>Client Budget (per Client)</th>
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<td>$250-$670</td>
<td>$250-$670</td>
<td>$200-$650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>