

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE US

- From 2000-2010, [service providers in the NYC metro area worked with nearly 12,000 human trafficking survivors](#) - many of whom were children. (*LifeWay Network*)
- At least [100,000 US-born children become victims of sex trafficking](#) every year. (*National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*)
- The [average age of entry into prostitution in the US is 12 years old](#). (*University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Study of Youth Policy*)
- Children are major targets of human traffickers because they are vulnerable, easier to control and are in high demand from the buyers.
- In 2017, the [NYPD rescued one person a week from sex slavery](#) and busted 228 pimps in 265 sex trafficking cases — more than double the number in 2016. (New York Post)
- The number of sexually exploited children in Rochester treated by the Center for Youth Services has [more than doubled since 2014](#). (Democrat and Chronicle)

NEW YORK STATE LAW PUTS THE ONUS ON CHILD VICTIMS

- New York is **1 of 2 states** that do not recognize prostituting a minor as sex trafficking.
- New York's anti-trafficking law **requires prosecutors to prove children were forced or coerced** into the sex trade - despite being legally unable to consent to sex.
- The **federal** Trafficking Victims Protection Act **does not require proof of coercion** in cases involving minors and recognizes children cannot legally consent to sex with adults.
- In New York State, **prosecutors cannot build strong cases against traffickers** of minors unless child victims provide physical evidence or testify in court.
- This puts the burden on exploited children and can lead to devastating effects for the child victim, including **psychological trauma and fear of retaliation**.

WE NEED TO PASS A. 6823-B TO PROTECT CHILDREN

- [Bill A. 6823-b / S 5988-A](#) would **lift the burden from sex trafficked children** of having to provide painful and humiliating details about their sexual exploitation and make it easier for prosecutors to bring strong cases against their exploiters.
- This bill brings **New York State anti-trafficking laws into alignment with federal law**, allowing prosecutors to indict those selling children for sex with human trafficking.
- Bill A. 6823-b / S 5988-A **creates an affirmative defense** to protect young trafficking victims up to age 19 who are induced to recruit other children for their traffickers.