



MEDIA ALERT

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Why Are Victims Treated Like Criminals & Exploiters Escape Responsibility?

In the majority of states, minors can still be criminally charged for prostitution although federal law sees them as victims of sex trafficking. Abused by the brutal world of commercial sex, these children are then victimized by the judicial system.

What should states do to prosecute traffickers instead of the victims? What fuels this grotesque and widespread crime? Which states are best at providing a “protective response” and why?

On November 17 at 11:15 AM Shared Hope International (SHI) will launch its sixth annual *Protected Innocence Challenge* Report Card grading 50 states (plus DC) on legislative progress to prevent sex trafficking of minors.

Founded in 1998 by Rep. Linda Smith Shared Hope international is the only national group working in every state to strengthen protection for child trafficking victims.

Read the story of one girl who was [trafficked at 13](#) and with the help of Shared Hope escaped a nightmare and is rebuilding her life.

For more information about the project or interviews with Rep. Smith, survivors of sex trafficking and SHI legal experts, please contact:

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