



LOUISIANA #1 STATE IN THE NATION FOR PASSING LAWS TO FIGHT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

WASHINGTON, D.C., Louisiana is awarded the title of #1 state in the nation for its laws fighting domestic minor sex trafficking, according to an [annual State Report Card](#) released by [Shared Hope International](#) (SHI), the only U.S. NGO working in every state to end child sex trafficking through legal reform.

SHI started the annual report card—known as the Protected Innocence Challenge—six years ago, in 2011. That year, 26 states got Fs and 15 had Ds. This year, **Louisiana**, along with states across the nation, **enacted important laws:**

- Louisiana passed a law to reach buyers' conduct, SB 90, which adds 'purchases' and 'solicits' to its definition of trafficking, aligning to a recently clarified federal law, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA).
- In alignment with research recognizing development of the brain continues past age 18, SB 90 also expanded protections for young adults under the trafficking law by eliminating the requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion when the victim of trafficking is under 21.
- From 2011 to 2016 Louisiana Protected Innocence Challenge grade has gone up from a C to A.
- Louisiana's criminal laws make the actions of traffickers, buyers and facilitators subject to serious penalties, including substantial financial penalties that reach the profits that motivate these offenses.
- Victims of domestic minor sex trafficking have access to specialized services and housing.

Despite so much progress, SHI found **a critical gap** in **Louisiana** law:

- Louisiana is one of 31 states where children still can be charged and prosecuted for prostitution, in conflict with their status as victims of sex trafficking.

[Shared Hope International](#) is an anti-trafficking organization focusing on prevention, restoration and justice for victims of sex trafficking. Founded in 1998 by Congresswoman Linda Smith, Shared Hope is a trusted leader for training, research, restorative development, and legislative development.

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MEDIA MATERIALS

For media convenience, a variety of resources are available at www.sharedhope.org/press. Video clips, including sex trafficking survivor comments, are available at this location: <https://vimeo.com/user12564384/videos>. Videos are password protected, please enter password sharedmedia1 to access media clips.