

National Colloquium: Shelter and Services Evaluation for Action

On November 30, 2012 Shared Hope International, The Protection Project of The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and ECPAT-USA will convene experts from around the nation to assess our current capacity to address the needs of child victims of sex trafficking in the U.S. through the National Colloquium: Shelter and Services Evaluation for Action.

Voices from policy, philanthropy, child welfare, non-governmental organizations and survivor leadership will be heard as we host a dialogue amongst entities proficient in assisting this victim/survivor population. In the forum we will evaluate various service provider practices that can serve as a guide to others and document current capacity to respond to the needs of commercially sexually exploited children.

The Colloquium will be informed by complete surveys crafted under the guidance of agency, provider and survivor experts and intended to capture various shelter and service approaches currently being implemented in response to youth identified as sex trafficking victims. Concurrently, Shared Hope will perform a detailed law review and comparative analysis of the child welfare systems as they apply to trafficked children at both the state and national level. Individuals recognized as the leading voices in the field met in July 2012 at a precursor event to vet Colloquium goals and contribute to survey questions. A larger group of invitees will convene on November 30 in Washington, D.C. to identify emerging trends and challenges and craft recommendation for future policy development and approaches to service provision. This first annual evaluation will provide a platform for future dialogue.

Goals of Colloquium:

- Provide policy makers, government agencies, service providers and law enforcement a clear understanding of current domestic minor sex trafficking services and shelter delivery models.
- Design a framework of core principles in the creation and establishment of restorative shelter and services for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

In 2006 our three organizations led The Midterm Review on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., a path breaking forum that shaped the national conversation and policy response to domestic minor sex trafficking. Although there has been a broader national response in the intervening six years, the critical need for services and shelter continues to be at the forefront of most policy and advocacy conversations. In a time when a victim centered response must consider licensing, funding, therapy, safety and a host of other issues this urgently needed conversation has the potential to create the tipping point in our efforts to serve the needs of child victims of sex trafficking.

Details:

When: Friday, November 30, 2012, 8:30AM - 5PM

Where: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2237 | Washington D.C.

Limited live audience viewing is available. The entire program will be webcast on sharedhope.org.

