

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) was established in January 2017 as authorized by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–183). The Committee advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Attorney General on practical and general policies concerning improvements in the Nation’s response to the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States. Duties also include:

## Advising on practical and general policies concerning the cooperation of

- Federal, State, local and tribal governments
- Child welfare agencies
- Social service providers
- Physical health and mental health providers
- Victim service providers
- Federal, State, and local police
- Juvenile detention centers
- State or local courts with responsibility for conducting or supervising proceedings relating to child welfare or social services for children and their families
- Runaway and homeless youth programs
- Schools
- Gaming and entertainment industry
- Businesses and organizations that provide services to youth

## Advising on the development and implementation of

- Successful interventions with children and youth who are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable to, or victims of sex trafficking
- Recommendations for administrative or legislative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources owned, operated, or funded by the Federal Government to provide safe housing for children and youth who are sex trafficking victims and provide support to entities that provide housing or other assistance to the victims

## Advising on best practices and recommendations for States including

- Sample training materials, protocols, and screening tools to prepare individuals who administer social services to identify and serve children and youth who are sex trafficking victims or at-risk of sex trafficking
- Multidisciplinary strategies to identify victims, manage cases, and improve services for all children and youth who are at risk of sex trafficking, or are sex trafficking victims, in the U.S.
- Sample protocols and recommendations that provide for effective, cross-system collaboration
- Criteria and guidelines necessary for establishing safe residential placements for foster children who have been sex trafficked as well as victims of trafficking identified through interactions with law enforcement
- Training guidelines for caregivers that serve children and youth being cared for outside the home

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## Cross-system collaboration protocols and recommendations shall include:

- Strategies to identify victims
- Strategies to collect, document, and share data across systems and agencies
- Strategies to help agencies better understand the type of sex trafficking involved, the scope of the problem, and the needs of the population to be served
- Strategies to address the demand for trafficked children and youth
- Strategies to increase prosecutions of traffickers and purchasers of children and youth
- Information on the degree of victim interaction with multiple systems

The Committee will coordinate with the National Governors Association, Secretary, and Attorney General to ensure that State Governors and child welfare are notified on a quarterly basis of the best practices and recommendations. The Committee will notify states six months in advance that the Committee will be evaluating the extent to which states adopt the Committee’s recommendations.

Timeline	Activity
By January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop two tiers of recommended best practices for states to follow in combating the sex trafficking of children and youth:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tier I shall provide states that have not yet substantively addressed sex trafficking of children and youth with an idea of where to begin and what steps to take.</li> <li>○ Tier II shall provide states already working to address sex trafficking of children and youth with examples of policies already used effectively by other states to address sex trafficking.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
By January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit Committee’s interim report to the Secretary, Attorney General, Senate Finance Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee. The interim report shall be posted online and be publically available.</li> </ul>
By January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit Committee’s final report to the Secretary, Attorney General, Senate Finance Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee. The final report shall be posted online and be publically available. The report shall describe what each State has done to implement the recommendations of the Committee.</li> </ul>

The Committee meets at least twice each year at the call of the Secretary. The HHS Administration for Children and Families supports the Committee and maintains Committee records at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/the-national-advisory-committee>.