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

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**DATE:** January 17, 2019

**TO:** Secretary Alex M. Azar  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**THROUGH:** Katherine Chon  
Designated Federal Officer  
National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States

**FROM:** J.R. Ujifusa  
Chair  
National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Recommendations to Strengthen the Nation's Response to the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States

## INTRODUCTION

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) envisions a comprehensive response to the sex trafficking of children and youth where federal, state, tribal, and local efforts effectively ensure victims are identified

and cared for, perpetrators are held accountable, and conditions that foster trafficking are eradicated. The Committee recognizes the importance of strengthening the nation's response to all forms of human trafficking, although the Committee's mission is focused on child and youth sex trafficking in accordance with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-183).

Child and youth sex trafficking can be characterized as one of the most complex and least understood forms of child abuse. Traffickers take advantage of the societal, community, relationship, or individual vulnerabilities to exploit children and youth for monetary gain. Sex buyers exploit children and youth, providing demand and fueling the exploitation. Once trafficked, children often experience significant mental, physical, and sexual trauma due to their exploitation. A child's victimization can last days or years but the consequences can be severe and prolonged, regardless of the duration.

To effectively address the sex trafficking of children and youth, states must adopt a comprehensive approach that prioritizes trauma-informed practices to meeting victims' needs as well as ensuring offender accountability. This report provides a preliminary outline of recommendations for states to improve their efforts to combat the crime of child and youth sex trafficking. Regardless of a state's current response level or model, every state can benefit from a periodic, objective assessment of their response.

## KEY PRINCIPLES

The following principles are critical to supporting a comprehensive response to the sex trafficking of children and youth and should be incorporated into all efforts to identify and care for victims and hold offenders accountable. The Committee will further define these principles in its next report.

- Survivor informed
- Inclusive of child and youth voice
- Victim centered
- Gender informed
- Strengths based
- Child and youth centered
- Trauma informed
- Culturally and linguistically responsive
- Comprehensive response across federal, state, tribal, and local government and nongovernment sectors
- Collaborative input
- System evaluation, enhancement, and sustainability

## SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee organized recommendations for training, policy and procedures, implementation, data and evaluation, and funding and sustainability across 11 categories:

1. Multidisciplinary Team Response
2. Screening and Identification
3. Service Provision
4. Caregivers
5. Housing
6. Law Enforcement and Prosecution
7. Judiciary
8. Demand Reduction
9. Prevention
10. Legislation and Regulations
11. Data

## OUTLINE OF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Response**

Build and strengthen a collaborative systemic response—at the case, community, and state levels—that engages various government and community stakeholders to meet the complex needs of victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

#### *a. Training*

- i. Clarify MDT participants' roles and responsibilities (establish state and/or local MDT toolkits).
- ii. Provide training on the goals, principles, and protocols of multidisciplinary collaboration.
- iii. Ensure a consistent, shared foundational understanding of child and youth sex trafficking (e.g., definitions, trauma-informed response).
- iv. Identify ways to incentivize training for professionals who are likely to encounter victims of trafficking and populations at risk of trafficking.

#### *b. Policy and procedures*

- i. Ensure state laws define every commercially sexually exploited child as a victim of child and youth sex trafficking.
- ii. Ensure state laws, policies and procedures of all MDT participants enable them to respond to all cases of child and youth sex trafficking (e.g., ensure child welfare is able to respond to trafficking cases in which the perpetrator is not a parent or caregiver).
- iii. Establish a statewide response that incorporates promising practices and ensures that trafficked and at-risk children and youth will receive a consistent response while providing regional flexibility.
- iv. Ensure comprehensive representation in the MDT response by including representatives from juvenile and criminal justice, child welfare, medical and mental health care sectors, victim services agencies and organizations, social services agencies, survivor groups, schools, and culturally specific groups.
- v. Consider authorizing state funding to support local MDT responses for child and youth sex trafficking.

#### *c. Implementation*

- i. Develop (and update as necessary) Memoranda of Understanding, including shared principles, membership terms, confidentiality policies, written protocols, and other guidelines.
- ii. Determine reporting measures, procedures, and frequency of reporting.
- iii. Consider cross-membership among MDTs to link the work of multiple state and local MDTs (e.g., Governor's Council, city and county task forces, faith-based and community coalitions).

- iv. Consider establishing a sex trafficking specific MDT or a modified MDT approach to address the complexity of child trafficking cases.
- v. Collaborate among law enforcement, prosecutors, and child advocacy centers to establish a modified response model and forensic interview protocols specific to child sex trafficking.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Design a data collection system for process and outcome measures.
- ii. Conduct a community mapping and needs assessment to identify availability of and gaps in MDT member representation and service provision.
- iii. Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation based on an implementation evaluation plan informed by victim and survivor feedback.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Identify existing federal, state, and private resources that could contribute to the work of MDT responses.
- ii. Consider opening up state grant opportunities to implement local MDT responses.

**2. Screening and Identification**

Build and strengthen the systemic capacity to identify sex trafficked children and youth and those at risk of trafficking. Despite growing awareness of child and youth sex trafficking, it is difficult to recognize. To improve the timeliness of intervention, professionals must systematically look for signs of trafficking among all vulnerable children and youth.

***a. Training***

- i. Provide training on the dynamics of child and youth sex trafficking, risk factors and indicators, and the impact of trauma on exploited youth.
- ii. Include information on the unique vulnerabilities of boys, the LGBTQ community, Native populations, and other under-identified groups.
- iii. Identify ways to ensure cultural and linguistically appropriate interactions with children, youth, and families.
- iv. Provide guidance on the use of screening tools.
- v. Educate on trauma-informed communication with children and youth that incorporates the principles of “minimal facts” interviews.
- vi. Discuss roles and responsibilities in response to screening outcomes.

***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Use validated screening tools in child welfare, juvenile justice, and other settings that serve vulnerable children and youth.
- ii. Legally define child and youth sex trafficking to be consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act definition and aligned with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

- iii. Share information on missing children cross-jurisdictionally.
- iv. Adopt a standard multi-systemic protocol for post-identification response.
- v. Incorporate relevant federal and state reporting requirements into response protocols.
- vi. Incorporate child trafficking into state mandatory reporting laws, and ensure child welfare is able to respond to trafficking cases in which the perpetrator is not a parent or caregiver.

***c. Implementation***

- i. Use standardized screening tool(s), followed by a comprehensive assessment.
- ii. Establish an environment that supports screening, assessment, and response.
- iii. Facilitate appropriate responses to identified and suspected child trafficking.
- iv. Conduct a community assessment to identify available services and gaps in services.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Collect key metrics on screened children and youth and share data across systems.
- ii. Monitor and evaluate identification and screening activities and modify activities as needed.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Train management and supervisors to provide oversight for screening activities.
- ii. Regularly train and provide technical support to professionals serving high-risk populations.
- iii. Collect data and engage in ongoing evaluation.

**3. Service Provision**

Establish, implement, and evaluate strategies to effectively provide immediate and sustained services to trafficked children and youth and those at risk of trafficking as well as to their caregivers. States should have a coordinated response for service provision to ensure that all children and their families are able to receive immediate and sustained services to address their trauma and other identified needs.

***a. Training***

- i. Provide education on holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches to service provision, including specific engagement strategies.
- ii. Include information on the specific needs of trafficked children and youth and those at risk of trafficking.
- iii. Provide training on a cross-system coordinated response.
- iv. Increase knowledge of state and federal reporting requirements.

### ***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Offer services to all trafficked children and youth and those at risk of trafficking, including those who are not involved in systems.
- ii. Ensure policies, procedures, and practices are trauma informed.
- iii. Develop internal policies and procedures that allow for information sharing and collaboration among external partners.
- iv. Support the confidentiality and safety of trafficked children and youth.
- v. Establish a statutory framework for consistent service responses that are sustainable and statewide.
- vi. Adopt child welfare policies, practices, and procedures that enable child welfare to accept and serve all trafficked children and youth and those suspected of being trafficked, including trafficking cases in which the perpetrator is not a parent or caregiver.

### ***c. Implementation***

- i. Increase services capacity to meet the basic and holistic needs of trafficked children and youth, including under-identified and underserved groups.
- ii. Address underlying vulnerabilities, including past trauma, that increase the risk of sex trafficking.
- iii. Coordinate services through a team or individual who can work across systems and jurisdictions.
- iv. Provide youth with life skills, training, and mentoring to assist with transition to adulthood.

### ***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Collect key metrics on served youth and share data across systems.
- ii. Monitor and evaluate services and modify services as needed.
- iii. Collect feedback from children and youth and incorporate feedback into service provision.

### ***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Train managers and supervisors to provide oversight for service activities.
- ii. Provide ongoing training and technical support.
- iii. Collect data and engage in ongoing evaluation.
- iv. Make flexible funding available.
- v. Develop a robust grant writing program.
- vi. Identify and explore private/public partnerships.

## **4. Caregivers**

Establish, implement, and evaluate services and supports for caregivers of children and youth who are at high risk of trafficking and/or who have experienced trafficking.

Caregivers include relatives, foster parents, residential treatment providers, and other individuals who formally or informally care for children and youth. A critical part of addressing the needs of children and youth who are victims of or at risk of sex trafficking is ensuring that caregivers are adequately able to meet the needs of and support children in their care.

***a. Training***

- i. Provide foundational training to foster care providers and residential child care and other care providers on the dynamics of child and youth sex trafficking, risk factors and indicators, and the impact of trauma on exploited children and youth.
- ii. Establish baseline knowledge of trauma-informed approaches to engaging trafficked children and youth.
- iii. Promote understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the systems involved in child and youth sex trafficking interventions and investigations.
- iv. Ensure knowledge of the rights of trafficked children and youth and the services available to help meet their needs and the needs of caregivers.

***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Require training on child and youth sex trafficking for licensed providers and offer training to others.
- ii. Develop and expand support to families of trafficked children and youth.
- iii. Incorporate two-generation/whole family principles in service provision.

***c. Implementation***

- i. Provide information and services to caregivers through one-on-one or group support.
- ii. Use case manager/management teams to assist caregivers in accessing services for themselves and the children and youth in their care.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Collect feedback from caregivers and share data across systems.
- ii. Monitor and evaluate services.
- iii. Collect and incorporate feedback from caregivers.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Provide ongoing continuing education and support to caregivers.
- ii. Ensure flexible funding is available to provide services and support to caregivers.

**5. Housing**

Develop and implement criteria and guidelines necessary for establishing safe housing for trafficked children and youth. Housing is one of the most immediate and critical needs for those who are unable to stay with or return to their families of origin. A variety of housing

options within and outside the foster care system must be available to meet the unique needs of trafficked children and youth.

***a. Training***

- i. Provide foundational training on the dynamics of child and youth sex trafficking, risk factors and indicators, and the impact of trauma on exploited youth.
- ii. Establish baseline knowledge of trauma-informed approaches to engaging trafficked children and youth.
- iii. Promote understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the systems involved in child and youth sex trafficking interventions and investigations.
- iv. Ensure knowledge of the rights of trafficked children and youth and the services available to help meet their needs.

***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Provide housing in the least restrictive environment appropriate to a child's or a youth's needs.
- ii. Require training on child and youth sex trafficking for licensed providers and offer training to others.
- iii. Develop a wide array of housing options, including options outside of foster care, for male survivors, and other underserved populations.
- iv. Increase the capacity of existing housing providers to meet the needs of trafficked children and youth.
- v. Adjust procedures to allow access to housing for youth with a criminal history or other issues that may serve as barriers.
- vi. Ensure the confidentiality and safety of trafficked children and youth.

***c. Implementation***

- i. Assess and regularly reassess each child's/youth's specific needs to determine the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.
- ii. Prioritize family-based housing over congregate care, allowing for flexibility in therapeutically appropriate situations.
- iii. Ensure housing is available, accessible, and acceptable for all genders and sexual orientations.
- iv. Ensure adequate and affordable emergency and transitional housing for youth who become legal adults.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Collect key metrics on housing and share data across systems.
- ii. Monitor and evaluate housing and modify housing as needed.
- iii. Collect feedback from children and youth and incorporate feedback into housing programming.



*e. Funding and sustainability*

- i. Ensure sustainable funding for consistent, appropriate housing for all trafficked children and youth.

**6. Law Enforcement and Prosecution**

Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to increase rates of criminal investigation, arrest, and prosecution and improve outcomes. The law enforcement and prosecution response is extremely complex and often involves multiple agencies and jurisdictions. Positive outcomes require collaboration, consistency, data and information sharing, and nontraditional efforts to hold offenders accountable and to support victims. Due to the nature of child and youth sex trafficking dynamics, law enforcement and prosecution must proactively identify, investigate, and prosecute offenders while maintaining a trauma-informed and victim-centered response.

*a. Training*

- i. Develop and/or facilitate initial and ongoing foundational training for all sworn law enforcement officers and prosecutors.
- ii. Provide a strong emphasis on fostering a paradigm shift regarding how victims are viewed, treated, and identified.
- iii. Identify concrete tools and resources that can be used to support law enforcement when cases are identified.
- iv. Facilitate advanced training for personnel assigned to investigating and prosecuting cases of child and youth sex trafficking.
- v. Establish special training for defense attorneys and defense investigators to focusing on awareness, the needs of victims, and the importance of collaboration.
- vi. Provide training for first responders that emphasizes how to better identify and respond to potential victims of sex trafficking.

*b. Policy and procedures*

- i. Develop statewide investigative protocols/guidelines for law enforcement to facilitate consistency in responding to cases of child and youth sex trafficking across jurisdictions.
- ii. Outline best practices and clearly establish the roles of each professional in the criminal justice system.
- iii. Establish a Specialized Investigative Unit or Designated Investigator to investigate and assist in the prosecution of offenders.
- iv. Establish a cross-jurisdictional prosecutor or designated prosecutor—at the federal, state, and tribal levels—to prosecute offenders.
- v. Ensure policies and procedures support culturally and linguistically appropriate investigations and prosecutions.
- vi. Establish and enforce asset forfeiture laws and processes.

### ***c. Implementation***

- i. Support implementation of response protocols and practices at the state and/or county level.
- ii. Identify members of a task force or investigators in each region who have jurisdictional authority and can assist in cross-jurisdictional investigations.
- iii. Actively cross-collaborate with members of specialty units such as drug, gang, domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault units, to better identify and prosecute offenders.
- iv. Consider a task force model that includes a victim assistance coordinator.
- v. Develop a steering committee on child and youth sex trafficking at the executive levels to facilitate leadership, consistency, and commitment.

### ***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Assess current data collections systems and criteria to determine efficacy and gaps.
- ii. Establish basic data collection that accounts for the number of potential victims identified, the age of the victims, and the method of exploitation.
- iii. Ensure methods for data collection and sharing do not disclose confidential information.
- iv. Seek standardized criteria and/or definitions to maintain the accuracy of crime data and reporting, including victim identifications by non-law enforcement partners.

### ***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Secondary to restitution for the victim(s), consider establishing statutory asset forfeiture laws that infuse funding back into investigations and prosecutions.
- ii. Develop a robust grant writing program.
- iii. Identify and explore private/public partnerships.

## **7. Judiciary**

The judiciary's position is unique because of its contact with many stakeholders and its authority in criminal, civil, and juvenile matters that impact and address individuals throughout the continuum of child and youth sex trafficking. Judges in state and tribal courts have the opportunity and the ability to convene multidisciplinary collaborations and work across jurisdictions to effectively respond and deliver services to trafficked children and youth.

### ***a. Training***

- i. Provide foundational training to all judicial staff and courthouse employees on the dynamics of trauma related to child and youth sex trafficking, associated risk factors, indicators, victim and exploiter identification, and federal and state laws related to criminal fines and restitution.

- ii. Train juvenile and family judges on their unique ability to retain oversight and apply therapeutic court models to proceedings involving children and youth at risk of trafficking.

***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Establish specialized court practices to respond to sex trafficking.
- ii. Provide continuing education and evaluation of practices regarding sex trafficking.
- iii. Ensure policies and procedures about the use of child witnesses, depositions, closed circuit cameras, victim advocates, and other related protection and safety measures are consistent and up to date with federal and state laws and best practices.

***c. Implementation***

- i. Ensure federal, state, tribal, and local court rules adequately address court dynamics related to child and youth sex trafficking.
- ii. Provide mandatory funded training for the judiciary and staff.
- iii. Establish and use appropriate performance measures for quality assurance purposes.
- iv. Develop community partnerships to provide resources that can support the safety and well-being of children and youth who may be victims of trafficking or at risk of sex trafficking.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Establish protocols in the juvenile justice system for sharing and receiving data from child welfare and other systems about sex trafficking victims who are before the court.
- ii. Collect key metrics of victims of child and youth sex trafficking who appear before the court, evaluate how to improve services to those individuals, and identify trends and ways of improving services for this population.
- iii. Collect key metrics about at-risk children and youth who appear before the court to assess and evaluate potential prevention and intervention strategies.
- iv. Protect personal privacy and safety of children and youth involved in trafficking.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Provide funding and access to resources for judges to receive continuous training and education on human trafficking.

**8. Demand Reduction**

Identify, implement, and evaluate strategies to address the demand for sex trafficking to include prevention, identification, arrest, and prosecution. To comprehensively address the crime of child and youth sex trafficking, states and society at large must address the issue of demand. If the demand for sex with children did not exist, child trafficking would not exist.

***a. Training***

- i. Train law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on the importance of holding buyers accountable under the law.
- ii. Provide information on current and potential demand reduction efforts taking place locally and in other jurisdictions, including applicable information for the business community and private sector stakeholders.

***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Establish a comprehensive demand reduction strategy that targets the arrest and aggressive prosecution of buyers.
- ii. Develop law enforcement strategies to address potential high-demand events.
- iii. Place individuals who purchase sex with a minor on the sex offender registry.
- iv. Eliminate the mistake of age defense for buyers of sex acts with minors.
- v. Establish laws that make it a felony crime for buyers to promote the exchange of sex for money among other potential buyers.
- vi. Use demand reduction enforcement as a tool to identify and prosecute traffickers, locate potential victims, and promote community safety.
- vii. Foster a climate where businesses support values to combat sex trafficking and create an environment where buying is not tolerated.
- viii. Engage in public awareness and outreach focused on ending demand.
- ix. Ensure that demand reduction is part of all prevention education programs.

***c. Implementation***

- i. Implement laws already in existence to address the illegal purchasing of sex from children.
- ii. Prioritize stings that target buyers, as opposed to arresting victims and persons engaged in prostitution activities.
- iii. Focus on the arrest and prosecution of buyers who frequently purchase sex from children.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Collect basic demographic and offense-related data on individuals who purchase sex from children and youth, and share data across systems.
- ii. Monitor and evaluate demand reduction activities and modify activities as needed.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Secondary to restitution for victims, utilize funds obtained from asset forfeitures, fees, and fines to support demand programs.
- ii. Develop private/public partnerships to support demand reduction efforts.

## 9. Prevention

Develop, implement, and evaluate tailored strategies to eliminate child and youth sex trafficking and remove the vulnerability factors at the individual, family, community, and societal levels. In addition to providing direct services to confirmed victims, efforts must be taken to prevent human trafficking so that the crime of child and youth sex trafficking does not occur in the first place.

### *a. Training*

- i. Train child welfare, educators, primary care providers, and other providers who regularly engage with and could potentially intervene with children on the fundamentals of child trafficking.
- ii. Explain the public health approach that defines and differentiates primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.
- iii. Include information on the socioecological model for prevention.
- iv. Identify connections between human trafficking and adverse childhood experiences.
- v. Include information on the intersection of sex and labor trafficking victimization and the intersection of sex trafficking with other forms of violence.
- vi. Emphasize the roles technology and social media play in recruitment and victimization.
- vii. Include information on Internet safety, how to seek help, and bystander response.

### *b. Policy and procedures*

- i. Integrate human trafficking into other violence prevention efforts (e.g., gangs, bullying, child abuse and maltreatment).
- ii. Identify and resolve barriers to implementing school-based and/or community-based prevention and education curriculum for children and youth.
- iii. Ensure state law addresses demand reduction initiatives as part of primary prevention.

### *c. Implementation*

- i. Identify target audiences for community-based trainings (e.g., truckers, hospitality/tourism industry staff, caregivers, educators, school resource officers and nurses, and children and youth).
- ii. Consider implementing established human trafficking prevention education curricula and/or adapting existing resources for trauma-informed and age-appropriate education or curriculum on human trafficking (e.g., resources on healthy relationships and online safety).
- iii. Ensure prevention efforts are focused on skill-building in addition to knowledge increase.

- iv. Ensure children and youth at the highest risk of trafficking receive prevention education.
- v. Ensure implementation is done in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Conduct a needs assessment to determine communities, populations, and industries at disproportionate risk of sex trafficking (e.g., based on different vulnerabilities such as poverty, social disconnection, and exposure to violence).
- ii. Gather and analyze data on high-risk populations in child welfare, truancy, runaway and homeless, juvenile justice, and other systems-involved and non-systems involved youth to ensure prevention efforts meet the unique needs of these populations.
- iii. Monitor and evaluate prevention efforts and modify efforts as needed.
- iv. Collect feedback from children and youth and incorporate feedback into prevention efforts.

***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Identify federal, state, tribal, and private resources to fund prevention efforts.
- ii. Work with funders to integrate human trafficking into related violence prevention and health funding.
- iii. Identify partnerships with schools, health educators, child welfare, juvenile justice, community organizations, and others to implement prevention initiatives.
- iv. Secondary to restitution for victims, consider leveraging funds from court fines and asset forfeiture to support prevention efforts.

**10. Legislation and Regulations**

Develop and implement administrative and legislative changes to effectively prevent and address child and youth trafficking.

***a. Training***

- i. Provide foundational information on human trafficking to relevant administrators and legislators.
- ii. Collect and disseminate statewide and local data on the issue of child and youth sex trafficking.
- iii. Focus on breaking stereotypes and myths of human trafficking specific to local communities.
- iv. Engage local subject matter experts and leaders in educational efforts.
- v. Refer to government and nongovernment reports and research on human trafficking victimization trends, programs, and policies to identify gaps and inform areas that can be strengthened.

## ***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Ensure state laws define every commercially sexually exploited child as a victim of child and youth sex trafficking.
- ii. Ensure state laws and regulations enable child welfare to respond to cases of child and youth sex trafficking, including trafficking cases in which the perpetrator is not a parent or caregiver.
- iii. Do not arrest and charge children with the crime of prostitution.
- iv. Do not unfairly criminalize child and youth victims for offenses committed as a result of their victimization, and allow for affirmative defenses.
- v. Provide post-conviction remedies for children and youth who are charged with and convicted for offenses committed as a result of their victimization.
- vi. Remove barriers to access housing for youth who are legal adults with criminal records and other issues.
- vii. Support and strengthen remedies for foreign national children, including access to legal and social services and due process.
- viii. Examine and coordinate state, county, city, and tribal laws and policies to strengthen prevention, prosecution, and protection related to human trafficking.
- ix. Eliminate the mistake of age defense for buyers of sex acts with minors.
- x. Establish laws that make it a felony crime for buyers to promote the exchange of sex for money among other potential buyers.
- xi. Place individuals who purchase sex with a minor on the sex offender registry.
- xii. Establish state mandates for training law enforcement, prosecutors, child welfare providers, and other first responders.
- xiii. Implement public policies that address systemic injustices that increase children and youth's risk of trafficking, and enhance the social safety nets available for children and their families.

## ***c. Implementation***

- i. Carefully consider the timeline to implement new legislation and regulations, including adequate preparation time (e.g., training, process changes, and budgeting).
- ii. Include ongoing data collection and evaluation for new legislation and regulations.
- iii. Consider establishing standards of care and conduct for independent groups engaged in investigations and/or service provision.

## ***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Invest in data collection to make progress toward a cost-benefit analysis to inform the development of legislation.
- ii. Define reporting mechanism on actions taken as a result of legislation.

#### ***e. Funding and sustainability***

- i. Address funding issues required for implementation (e.g., consideration of waivers, flexibility in funding, health care payment models, funding models that follow the individual, and public-private partnerships).
- ii. Regularly monitor impact of state legislation and regulations and determine need for continuous amendments.
- iii. Increase victim compensation, restitution, fines, and other forms of financial support for survivor services.

### **11. Data**

Develop, implement, and evaluate multidisciplinary strategies for collecting and sharing data for cases of suspected sex trafficking of children and youth.

#### ***a. Training***

- i. Provide foundational information on the importance and value of data collection, research, and evaluation.
- ii. Explain key concepts such as differences in individuals vs. aggregate data, qualitative vs. quantitative data, and so on.
- iii. Include information on confidentiality, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and other related laws and regulations.
- iv. Promote the importance of privacy and data security.

#### ***b. Policy and procedures***

- i. Consider establishing or adopting universal minimum data standards for quantitative and qualitative data collection.
- ii. Define who is responsible for data reporting, collection, maintenance, quality assurance, analysis, and so on.
- iii. Establish a data governance organization structure at the state level.
- iv. Provide guidance on the interoperability, sharing, and exchanging of data.
- v. Establish policies, guidance, and training on privacy and data security (e.g., HIPAA, Criminal Justice Information Services, and state data practices).

#### ***c. Implementation***

- i. Define the purpose of data collection, research, evaluation, surveys, and so on.
- ii. Determine the source of the data (e.g., law enforcement, health, and child welfare).
- iii. Define frequency and terms for analyzing data.
- iv. Use data to inform policy and practices and report on publicly funded programmatic results.

#### ***d. Data and evaluation***

- i. Monitor data collection efforts and modify as needed.



*e. Funding and sustainability*

- i. Partner with think tanks, academic institutions, and professional associations to strengthen data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- ii. Identify federal, state, and private funding for evaluating programs and developing and maintaining data collection related to human trafficking.
- iii. Engage and compensate survivors who participate in data collection efforts—including designing data collection methods, responding to surveys, and so on—through monetary or nonmonetary means (e.g., citing survivor contributions).
- iv. Adapt community-based, participatory research best practices.

## NEXT STEPS

The Committee will share this outline of preliminary recommendations with state governors, child welfare agencies, HHS regional offices, DOJ task forces, and other stakeholders in coordination with the National Governors Association, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General. The Committee will submit a full report, including a glossary of terms, in January 2020. The Committee will also establish a schedule to inform state governors and child welfare agencies on best practices and recommendations on a quarterly basis and notify states 6 months in advance of the Committee’s evaluation of states adopting the recommendations.

## ATTACHMENTS

- A. Fact Sheet: National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States
- B. Members of the National Advisory Committee
- C. National Advisory Committee Letter to Congress, dated November 13, 2018