Anti-Trafficking Petition

Because Trafficking is the global practice of **exploiting** vulnerable women, men, and children for use as commodities in conditions of sexual and labor servitude. Traffickers use fraud, deception, coercion, threats and force to transport, harbor or obtain a person to perform commercial sex or labor acts against their will. The United Nations estimates criminal groups take in $7 billion annually on trafficking. The United States is the **second highest** destination in the world for trafficked women. An estimated **15,000 and 20,000 victims** of human trafficking are in the U.S. at any given time. New York State is consistently named as an area that traffickers use as both a point of entry into the U.S., transit location, and as a final destination point for their victims. According to the U.S. Justice Department New York City's JFK Airport is a main trafficking hub. Trafficking is not just an international problem. It is a New York State problem!

We the undersigned demand that NYS Legislators pass a comprehensive, meaningful law to stop the traffickers in their tracks. A good trafficking bill should include the following:

Meaningful penalties. Some of the proposed bills have proposed that the basic crime of human trafficking, absent aggravating factors, be classified as a D-nonviolent felony, a low-level felony for which almost no defendant ever serves jail time. We believe that this is simply too low a charge to reflect the serious harm inflicted by human traffickers, or to deter potential offenders in the face of huge potential profits.

A comprehensive definition. Traffickers use forms of coercion that may not look like the knife-at-the-throat situation typical in a street corner robbery and may not meet the legal definition of an imminent threat of force. Traffickers use fraud, intimidation, immigration abuse, and a wide range of techniques to control their victims. The crime of trafficking must be defined broadly enough to meet the experiences of real trafficking victims. A definition that is sufficiently broad yet sufficiently precise is one of the *most important* criteria for an effective law.

Address demand. Sex trafficking flourishes because there is a huge demand for commercial sex. An effective anti-trafficking law must raise penalties on those who patronize illegal commercial sex (prostitution, and especially underage prostitution).

Clarify the law on sex tourism. New York needs a strong law making it clear that, whatever the status of prostitution in other jurisdictions, sex tour businesses are prohibited from operating here.

A defense for victims. Victims of sex trafficking should not be subjected to arrest and prosecution for prostitution. A person's status as a trafficking victim should be a defense to prostitution charges.

Services. Survivors of human trafficking need a comprehensive set of immigration and social services to assist them in rehabilitating their lives.

Name(print)	Name(Signature)	Address	Phone/Email

Anti Trafficking Petition Return to NOW New York State, 1500 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205

Name(Print)	Name(signature)	Address	Phone/Email

Mail completed petitions to NOW New York State, 1500 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
Phone: 518-452-3944/Fax: 518-452-3861, www.nownys.org, Email: info@nownys.org