



The members of the NY Anti-Trafficking Network have provided direct services to over 400 survivors of trafficking and advocated on issues of trafficking in persons since 2002. As the first coalition in New York to engage in advocacy on issues relating to trafficked persons in New York, the Network aims to bring together the voices of those who have first-hand experience of the injustices of human trafficking, who work consistently to meet the needs of trafficked persons, and who advocate for a more humane and responsive policy towards trafficked persons. **Our membership currently includes over 90 organizations and individuals advocating on behalf of survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence.**

It is critical that state legislation be **comprehensive** in addressing criminal and civil remedies; **provide services and facilitate immigration and other benefits** for trafficked persons to which they have a right; and be **effective** in preventing the problem of human trafficking. **New York State legislation that addresses human trafficking must include the following protections:**

- *Include a comprehensive definition of involuntary servitude that is tied to and correlates with current New York State law, and focuses on the crime of human trafficking;*

New York State anti-trafficking legislation must include language that is narrowly tailored to the crime of trafficking in persons. There is a real danger that overly broad language leaves such legislation vulnerable to legal challenges. We urge the adoption of definitions that are, to the extent possible, tied to existing terms in New York State law, such as coercion and restraint. This will provide more clarity for law enforcement and prosecutors who must ultimately enforce the law.

- *Provide for appropriate training of law enforcement and service providers;*

New York State anti-trafficking legislation must provide resources to train those most likely to come into contact with a victim of human trafficking.

- *Ensure social and legal services to victims of human trafficking regardless of the trafficked person's immigration status, cooperation during an investigation, or on the prosecution or conviction of the trafficked person's trafficker(s).*

Every survivor of trafficking deserves access to necessary supports to become self-sufficient. The unconditional provision of social and legal services will assist survivors of trafficking to rebuild their lives.

- *Include an immigration assistance provision that provides for documentation from state and local law enforcement that will allow trafficked persons to seek federal benefits and immigration remedies; and*

In order to apply for immigration relief or trafficking-related federal services, it is a requirement of the federal regulations that survivors of trafficking have proof that they are cooperating with law enforcement.

- *Offer a victim an independent private right of action, allowing a civil lawsuit against a trafficker.*

In order to ensure that every survivor of trafficking has access to the full range of remedies available, including the right to pursue civil rights of action.

For more information, go to www.ny-anti-trafficking.com or contact:

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