

Human Trafficking and Women in Maryland

Resources and Task Forces

Trafficking is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally. Human traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will.

(Adapted from <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking>)

Maryland Law Defines Human Trafficking as follows:

*To take, place, persuade, induce, entice, or encourage another to be taken to or placed in any place for prostitution;

*To receive consideration to procure for or place in a house of prostitution or elsewhere another with the intent of causing the other to engage in prostitution or assignation;

*To engage in a device, scheme, or continuing course of conduct intended to cause another to believe that if the other did not take part in a sexually explicit performance, the other or a third person would suffer physical restraint or serious physical harm; or

*Destroy, conceal, remove, confiscate, or possess an action or purported passport, immigration document, or government identification document of another.

In 2014, 396 survivors of Human Trafficking were identified and provided assistance in Maryland.

Information from: [Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force](#).

Resources for Services and Information

The [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in more than 200 languages. The Hotline's mission is to connect human trafficking victims and survivors to critical support and services to get help and stay safe, and to equip the anti-trafficking community with the tools to effectively combat all forms of human trafficking. The Hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help. **Call: 1-888-373-7888.** For more information, contact [Polaris](#).

[The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force \(MHTTF\)](#) is the state's primary organization that works to prevent trafficking, protect victims by providing services, prosecute traffickers and partner with organizations to eradicate the scourge of human trafficking from our communities. A fact sheet about human trafficking in Maryland and an annual directory of resources and services for victims, advocates and providers are available on this website along with other important information.

[Maryland Department of Human Services – Child Protective Services](#)

- [Human Trafficking – Know the Signs](#)
- [Sex Trafficking](#)

County and Local Task Forces Established to Combat Human Trafficking

- ***Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force***: The mission of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is to prevent and combat human trafficking (sex and labor exploitation) by encouraging, supporting and promoting public awareness and action within specific communities and counties throughout Maryland's eastern shore.
- ***Frederick County Human Trafficking Task Force***: Established in December 2016 to study issues associated with human trafficking in Frederick County, the main focus of the task force is to educate the public, identify and serve the victims of human trafficking, and increase prosecution of human traffickers.
- ***Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force***: The mission of the Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force is to “study the issues associated with trafficking in Howard County, to educate the public about human trafficking, to identify and serve victims of human trafficking and to increase prosecution of traffickers.”
- ***Montgomery County Human Trafficking Task Force***: Created in 2014, the purpose of the task force is to increase understanding of the issue in Montgomery County and to develop interagency coordination of strategies for response and prevention.
- ***Prince George's County Human Trafficking Task Force***: The County Task Force is an implementing Task Force comprised of more than 50 county government agencies, nonprofits, and individual experts who are brought together to combat human trafficking within Prince George's County by educating the public and training first responders, providing needed services to victims and survivors, and increasing state and federal prosecution of traffickers.



Maryland Commission for Women
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1034
Rockville, MD 20850
301-610-4523
www.marylandwomen.org
November 2017