



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CODES
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Human Trafficking

PURPOSE: To examine the current scope of assistance, services, and protections available to victims of human trafficking in New York State

**Thursday
November 30, 2023
10:00 am
Assembly Hearing Room
250 Broadway, 19th Floor,
New York, New York**

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

There are two types of human trafficking recognized under New York State Law – sex trafficking and labor trafficking. According to the most recent statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there were 404 identified cases of human trafficking in New York State in 2021, with over 600 victims involved in such cases. In addition, there were more than 1,600 contacts made to the hotline from New York during such time, including 671 signals from victims and survivors of human trafficking. Further, according to the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, 344 cases were referred to New York State from law enforcement, social services providers, and legal services providers that year. Of these referrals, 295 cases were confirmed throughout the state, including 127 in New York City, 52 in the Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley regions, and 116 in the rest of the state. Of these cases, 73% were categorized as sex trafficking, 22% were categorized as labor trafficking, and the remaining 3% represented both types.

However, since 2021, three significant pieces of legislation were signed into law to strengthen protections for victims of human trafficking. These laws include: permitting victims of human trafficking to bring a civil action against their perpetrator to recover damages, attorneys' fees, and/or other appropriate relief and extending the statute of limitations on such actions from ten to fifteen years; allowing victims of human trafficking to bring a motion to vacate any criminal conviction where such offense was a result of having been a victim of human trafficking, and providing additional confidentiality to victims during such process; and requiring law enforcement and district attorney's offices to advise human trafficking victims of available social and legal services.

Given these recent updates, the Committees and Subcommittee are interested in examining the scope of assistance, services, and protections currently available to human trafficking victims throughout New York State in order to determine whether existing laws and services provide adequate safety, security, and justice to the victims and survivors of these crimes. Testimony should identify any potential gaps, roadblocks, and legislative solutions for enhancing and expanding such assistance, services, and protections.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees and Subcommittee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes duration. Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees and Subcommittee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Committees and Subcommittee, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to State Legislature facilities and activities.

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of the Assembly
Chair, Committee on Codes

Maritza Davila
Member of the Assembly
Chair, Committee on Social Services

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
Member of the Assembly
Chair, Subcommittee on Human
Trafficking

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing to examine the current scope of assistance, services, and protections available to victims of human trafficking in New York State are requested to complete this reply form by November 28, 2023 and return by mail, email, or fax to:

Hannah Gauthier
Analyst
Assembly Standing Committee on Codes
Room 513, Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: gauthierh@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4313
Fax: (518) 455-7250

I plan to attend the public hearing to examine the current scope of assistance, services, and protections available to victims of human trafficking in New York State to be conducted by the Committees and Subcommittee on November 30, 2023.

I have been invited to make a public statement at the above hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE / FAX: _____