



# Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery 2023 Legislative Agenda

The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT) was Iowa's first and remains the only statewide volunteer non-profit organization devoted exclusively to ending human trafficking in all its forms. The NAHT believes that human trafficking is modern slavery where vulnerable people are forced or coerced into involuntary servitude for the purpose of financial profit for traffickers. For children under age 18, force or coercion does not need to be shown for the minor to be considered a victim of sex trafficking.

## **The NAHT Has Adopted Three 2023 Legislative Priorities:**

### **Adopt Safe Harbor Law**

NAHT requests the Iowa Legislature adopt a Safe Harbor Law, protecting **minors** against prosecution for prostitution and other non-felony offenses while they were trafficked and directs victims to non-punitive specialized services. This legislation will greatly reduce the **harmful and re-traumatizing effects** of arrest, detention, and prosecution for crimes committed pursuant to trafficking victimization.

### **Increase Victim Services Funding**

NAHT requests the Iowa Legislature to allocate an **additional \$5M** in Justice System Appropriations for Victim Services and to amend the victim service budget line item to **include human trafficking, homicide, and other violent crimes**. Currently \$5M is allocated to victim services.

### **Expungement for Trafficking Survivors**

NAHT requests the Iowa legislature enact an expungement process for survivors of human trafficking who were compelled or forced to commit illegal acts.

#### **NAHT Policy Statements on Other Issues:**

- NAHT supports adopting legislation requiring schools to provide child sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents, and school employees as requested by Prevent Child Abuse in Iowa.
- NAHT supports adopting legislation to prevent cell phones and tablets from accessing or displaying material that is harmful to minors using safe filter technology.
- NAHT supports exceptions for survivors of trafficking and other victims of violence and assault, from the \$150K restitution law.

#### **For more information, contact:**

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