Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery

2026 Legislative Agenda

The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) was Iowa's first and remains the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to ending human trafficking: the unjust exploitation of sex or labor for profit.

Increase Funding for Human Trafficking Survivor Services

The NAHT requests an **increase in funding for trafficking survivor services from $150,000 to $1 million** to establish a Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund in the Judicial Services Budget. This fund will provide grants to non-profit organizations operating residential programs solely or primarily dedicated to providing comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking. Increased funding will strengthen and expand residential programs, restoration facilities, and wrap-around services that help survivors rebuild their lives.

Pass House File 1036

NAHT strongly supports the URGENT **passage of HF 1036** which passed the House unanimously in the 2025 session. Iowa's current human trafficking statutes lag best practices in other states, leaving critical gaps in protection, prevention, and prosecution. HF 1036 modernizes Iowa law and provides stronger safeguards for victims and survivors of trafficking.

The bill includes:

- Screening children for human trafficking using a standardized, trauma-informed tool
- Extending civil statutes of limitations for child victims
- Requiring an annual stakeholder meeting and report to the Governor and Legislature
- Expanding the definition of commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Referring minors in prostitution to protective services instead of prosecution
- Permitting deposition of victims in place of courtroom testimony
- Expanding restorative facilities and protective services, with DHHS planning and reporting requirements
- Ensuring restitution for survivors
- Strengthening investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases

These reforms are essential to ensuring Iowa's justice system provides meaningful protection and pathways to recovery for victims.

NAHT Supports the following Issues

In addition to the legislative agenda items, NAHT supports the following policy initiatives:

- **Age Verification to Access Online Obscene Material**
  NAHT supports legislation requiring online platforms to verify the age of users seeking to access obscene or sexually explicit content, helping protect children from online exploitation.
- **Licensing of Massage Therapy Establishments**
  NAHT supports legislation requiring licensing for massage therapy establishments and increasing penalties for illicit operations that serve as fronts for human trafficking.
- **Human Trafficking Education in Schools**
  NAHT supports requiring age-appropriate human trafficking education in schools, ensuring Iowa's children and teens are better equipped to recognize, avoid, and report trafficking.

For more information, contact us or visit our website at www.iowanaht.org

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LILA MAE'S HOUSE

Located in Sioux City, provides restoration housing for adult female survivors of sex trafficking.

WINGS OF REFUGE

Located in Ames, is a Christ-centered 501(c)(3) that provides long-term and transitional housing programs for sexually exploited adult women.

GARDEN GATE RANCH

Located near Des Moines, is a faith-based Christian organization that provides long-term and transitional housing for sexually exploited adult women with children under 5 years of age.

FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

Headquartered in Waverly, provides emergency shelter and rapid rehousing for survivors of human trafficking, among other crimes, and refer out for case management.

Residential Programs for Survivors of Human Trafficking in Iowa

YSS

Headquartered in Ames with locations across the state, provides crisis services and transitional living for youth.

CHAINS INTERRUPTED

Located in Cedar Rapids, is a driving force that empowers communities and contends for the freedom of youth from human trafficking and exploitation through Awareness, Prevention, and Advocacy.

BRAKING TRAFFIK

Located in Davenport, provides comprehensive services, including rapid housing to survivors of both labor and sex trafficking in Eastern Iowa.

FREEDOM HOUSE

Located near Pella, is a long term restoration home for minors affected by sex and/or labor trafficking.

DOROTHY'S HOUSE

Located in Des Moines, provides immediate crisis services, long-term residential housing, and transitional housing for participants who have completed their residential program.

NAHT and Slavery
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