



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 3 Legislative Priorities:

Create Youth Safe Harbor Human Trafficking Task Force

NAHT requests the creation of a Youth Human Trafficking Task Force to establish the infrastructure needed to implement a **coordinated service system for trafficked children**. The goal of the program is to re-direct minor victims and survivors to consistent nonpunitive specialized trauma-informed residential care and therapy services. Ultimately, the objective is to **divert minors** from prosecution for prostitution and other non-felony offenses while they were trafficked.

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 of criminal records of **survivors of human trafficking** who were compelled or forced to commit illegal acts. This would include vacatur legislation to reverse the actual adjudication or finding of guilt.

NAHT Policy Statements on Other Issues:

- NAHT supports excepting survivors of trafficking and other victims of violence and assault from the \$150K restitution law.
- 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 Iowa.
- NAHT supports adopting legislation to require safe filter technology to prevent cell phones and tablets from accessing or displaying material that is harmful to minors.

For more information, contact:

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Statewide Iowa Victim Service Call Center: 800-770-1650

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-3737-888

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