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## **Uniform Act on Prevention and Remedies for Human Trafficking**

### **Uniform Act Summary**

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC) provides states with non-partisan, well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law. In 2013, the ULC adopted the Uniform Act on Prevention and Remedies for Human Trafficking ([the Act](#)) to combat the fast growing criminal industry of human trafficking by providing guidance to state legislatures. The Act integrates the strongest elements of existing state legislation and establishes a comprehensive, victim-centered approach to protecting and providing assistance to survivors of trafficking. ULC provisions include:

- Comprehensive criminal penalties for both labor and sex trafficking;
- Allow people charged with prostitution an affirmative defense that they were forced to commit the crimes because they were being trafficked;
- Immunity for minors from prosecution for prostitution or related charges as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking;
- Permit victims to vacate convictions for prostitution and other nonviolent crimes that were a direct result of being trafficked.

### **Why is this Act important?**

- The Act aids states' anti-trafficking efforts by establishing a comprehensive framework and offering recommended language for the passage of new legislation or the modification of existing policies.
- The Act was drafted in consultation with subject matter experts over three years including prosecutors, and has been endorsed by the American Bar Association.
- Passing legislation modeled after the Act will support the men, women, and children forced to provide commercial sex, labor, or services against their will.
- Victim-centered provisions, especially around not criminalizing victims, sends a strong message to states.
- Many of the provisions, if enacted, would increase the state's capacity to combat human trafficking and assist victims in the state.

### **Why should states enact similar legislation?**

Traffickers make billions in profits by using force, fraud, or coercion to rob victims of their freedom. Passing legislation modeled after the Act will protect trafficking victims and improve access to justice and comprehensive services.

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