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The Advocates for Human Rights releases new protocol guidelines to respond to labor trafficking of youth

New guidelines designed to help agencies and organizations that might come into contact with young victims

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (January 31, 2019) --- A construction worker is injured on the job, and instead of getting him medical help, his boss threatens deportation. A young woman works at a hotel, but has to give all her money to her boyfriend's family while enduring physical abuse. A young man goes to school during the day, but at night, he has to clean a restaurant for less than \$2 an hour.

Each of these cases involved youth victims of labor trafficking in Minnesota, but few people knew how to respond.

"Labor trafficking is a serious human rights violation that inflicts lasting physical and psychological harm on its victims, but it is widely under-identified in Minnesota," said Robin Phillips, Executive Director of The Advocates for Human Rights. "As The Advocates has increased our services for labor trafficking victims, we've seen how the lack of a comprehensive, coordinated response causes further harm. Without dedicated efforts to improve identification of victims and provide a holistic response focused on the victim's needs, Minnesota will allow this grave abuse to continue unabated."

The Advocates for Human Rights (AHR) today announced the release of new Labor Trafficking Protocol Guidelines designed to help communities throughout Minnesota identify and respond to victims of labor trafficking, especially youth 24 years old and younger.

The protocol guidelines are based on information collected from over 100 professionals and trafficking experts throughout Minnesota, and reflect the needs of rural, suburban, and urban communities in addressing labor trafficking.

Some of the highlights of the protocol guidelines include:

- Worksheets and tools to begin crafting a coordinated response;
- Guidance for screening and identifying victims of labor trafficking;
- An overview of services that victims may need;
- Information on criminal and civil penalties for traffickers;
- Special considerations for minors, foreign nationals, and victims with disabilities; and
- Guidance for key sectors including law enforcement, prosecutors, health care, victim advocates, housing, legal services, and the child welfare system.

A copy of the full report can be found at:

https://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/labor_trafficking_protocol_guidelines.html

As part of its dedication to improving outcomes for child and youth victims of human trafficking, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) asked AHR to create protocol guidelines to respond to youth victims of labor trafficking who are 24 years old or younger. MDH provided funding support through a federal grant.

The production of these Protocol Guidelines was supported by grant number 2016-MU-MU-K153, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in these Protocol Guidelines are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

About The Advocates for Human Rights

Envisioning a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace, The Advocates for Human Rights works to change systems and conditions that cause human rights abuses. The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents people seeking asylum; trains and assists human rights defenders; and develops partnerships and mobilizes volunteers to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

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