

2020

2021

ADVOCACY AGENDA



MISSION

Providing life-changing services to human trafficking survivors and building community to advocate for equity and social change.

VALUES

- ▶ Stewardship that makes our vision possible
- ▶ Dignity of all
- ▶ Accountability in decision-making
- ▶ Diversity, equity and inclusion: everyone belongs here
- ▶ Wellness for all
- ▶ Learning and adapting
- ▶ Leadership in the anti-human trafficking movement
- ▶ A commitment to excellence that assures impact

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IMPACT STATEMENT

By 2025, CAST will create a bridge between practice and policy, where survivors are empowered and resilient, and working with practitioners to inform a survivor-centered policy agenda. This survivor-centered strategy leads to powerful systematic changes in, attitudes, actions and resources to end human trafficking.

CAST POLICY

Systemic change is at the core of Cast's mission. CAST has a proven track record of developing innovative partnerships that effectively advocate for policies that work to end human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives. Drawing from over 20 years of direct experiences with survivors, CAST has catalyzed first-of-its-kind legislation and has won the respect and partnership of a diverse group of policy leaders. CAST's 2021 agenda includes initiatives at the federal, state and county level. CAST and our coalition of partners are committed to both policy advocacy and implementation.

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

STATE POLICY

- 1. To ensure that California is effectively responding to COVID and plan for the recovery, CAST is working to:**
 - Secure \$30 million in one-time funding in the California Budget for increased emergency services for survivors and a statewide hotline and training to ensure trafficking is prevented.
 - In 2020-2021 Cast has pivoted from its original budget requests for continuing funding in response to the pandemic. Its priorities that it began to advocate for in 2015 will resume when the crisis has passed.
- 2. To ensure essential workers entering the U.S. on temporary visas are not vulnerable to human trafficking, CAST is working to update provisions in the foreign labor regulation system in CA originally created in SB 477 (Foreign Labor Contractors).**
- 3. To ensure criminal justice reform and increase racial equity in the anti-trafficking movement CAST is working to**
 - Examine its own data to show the disparate impact of trafficking and the criminal arrest of victims on communities of color.
- 4. On Hold Due to Pandemic: To ensure that child trafficking survivors are treated equally, identified early, and treated as victims not criminals, CAST is working to:**
 - Pass Safe Harbor provisions for all child trafficking victims so that every child is screened for trafficking crimes prior to being arrested.
 - Establish jurisdiction for Department of Children and Family Services in every human trafficking case, including labor trafficked children who are currently excluded in California's current approach.

5. On Hold Due to Pandemic: To Ensure CA government procurement policies prevent trafficking, CAST is working to:

- Pass legislation in CA that mirrors federal provisions preventing trafficking

6. To promote appropriate state agency action, CAST is working to ensure that new laws Cast has sponsored are implemented:

- That trafficking victims receive compensation from the California Crime Victims Compensation Board for lost income during their trafficking through implementation of AB 629 (Crime Victims Compensation);
- Court guidance and updated forms for SB 832 (Vacating Convictions for Victims of Human Trafficking);
- Judges and public defenders are educated about the new affirmative defense for trafficking victims created by AB 1761. (Human Trafficking: Affirmative Defense);
- The California Labor Commission enforces regulations for SB 477 (Foreign Labor Contractors), which provides information to foreign workers, creates a no-fees policy for labor recruitment, requires foreign labor contractors to register with the Labor Commission and post bonds, and creates an enforcement mechanism against employers who do not use registered foreign labor contractors;
- The California Attorney General's Office enforces SB 657 (California Transparency in Supply Chains Act) to allow consumers greater information about all slavery in supply chains;
- Effective implementation of SB 1193 (Human Trafficking Public Posting Requirements) and SB 630 (Enforcement for Hotline Posting)
- Monitor the mandatory training required by Prop. 35 for all CA law enforcement to ensure it is victim-focused and effective; and
- Work with the California Governor's Office and Department of Social Services to ensure that DCFS can respond appropriately to both child sex and labor trafficking victims.

COUNTY POLICY

100%

of urgent human trafficking cases during COVID-19 are homeless survivors of trafficking.

1. To ensure that trafficking survivors receive the comprehensive long-term services they need, CAST is working to:

- Secure Measure HHH funding for specialized services for human trafficking victims and ensure all homeless service providers receive appropriate training and resources on human trafficking .
- Secure funding for a county-wide prevalence study on all forms of human trafficking for Los Angeles County.

2. To protect children and transitional age youth who have been trafficked, CAST is working to:

- Coordinate L.A. County's response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and labor trafficked children, including: victim identification, crisis intervention, mental and physical health services, and legal assistance.
- Provide education and training on human trafficking to the Los Angeles Police Department, District Attorney's Office, L.A. City Attorney's Office and other first responders in L.A. County, especially focused on human trafficking for forced criminality, and the arrest of victims of color.
- Update the L.A. County first responder protocol to ensure it includes both child sex and labor trafficking victims.

3. On Hold Due to Pandemic: To best address human trafficking in our County, CAST is working to:

- On Hold Due to Pandemic: Secure funding for a county or city wide prevalence study which will help Los Angeles understand the dynamics of sex and labor trafficking in our own backyards.

FEDERAL POLICY

1. To advocate for national anti-trafficking legislation, CAST is working to:

- Introduce the Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021
 - ▶ Key CAST supported provisions will include:
 1. Ensure all child trafficking victims are treated equally in federal legislation designed to protect children who are trafficked in the child welfare system.
 2. Ensure immigration relief for trafficking victims is easier to secure by eliminating the “On Account of Standard” required for the T-visa.
 3. Ensure comprehensive federal legislation regulating foreign labor recruiters is enacted.
- Implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) in 2019, including recently enacted S. 1311 [Cornyn (R)] and S. 1312 [Grassley (R)], H.R. 2200 [Smith (R)], and S. 1848 [Corker (R)].
- Reintroduce and pass The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2017 [S.104, Gillibrand (D) Portman (R) and H.R. 456, Wagner (R) Gabbard (D)] to allow victims to expunge their federal criminal convictions directly related to the trafficking.
- Reintroduce and pass The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2014 [H.R. 4636, Bass (D) Marino (R)] to increase protections, resources and data tracking for trafficked children in the child welfare system and ensure that all trafficked youth are legally considered victims of child abuse and neglect and are eligible for appropriate services.
- Reintroduce and pass The Fraudulent Overseas Recruitment and Trafficking Elimination (FORTE) Act H.R. 3344 [Royce (R)] to increase access to information for workers lawfully entering the United States, prohibit workers from paying fees to foreign labor recruiters, require companies to utilize registered foreign labor recruiters to prevent cases of exploitation and modern-day slavery in the United States.

- Ensure trafficking victims fleeing trafficking in other countries receive protection in the United States, especially unaccompanied immigrant minors.
- Increase funding for services and law enforcement efforts to combat modern-day slavery in the U.S. and abroad for all trafficking survivors, men , women, and children, sex and labor, foreign national and U.S. citizens.

2. To promote appropriate federal agency implementation, CAST is working to:

- Implement the Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act (P.L. 114-22, sec. 115), which established the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to ensure survivors are treated as experts and have an appropriate forum to provide advice to federal agencies;
- Ensure that a new government wide Federal Strategic Action Plan on Human Trafficking is released by the new administration that is victim-centered and strong contains commitments for action and resources by all federal agencies;
- Ensure all Wage & Hour inspectors at the Department of Labor receive comprehensive, standardized training on human trafficking;
- Request U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) comply with federal statutory requirement to issue temporary employment cards to trafficking survivors while their T-visa application is pending;
- Ensure ongoing funding for family reunification for trafficking survivors;
- Ensure Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Education provide materials and guidance about all child trafficking cases to state child welfare agencies;
- Ensure the Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime releases protocols required by the TVPRA of 2019 to ensure victims of trafficking are not arrested and receive victim-centered services.
- Ensure the Department of Housing is removing barriers for survivors of trafficking to access federal funding.

3. To ensure that national anti-human trafficking legislation takes into account its most important constituents, CAST will:

- Support survivor-led advocacy in the human trafficking movement and policy recommendations made by survivors;
- Support the National Survivor Network federal policy agenda

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

| TITLE OF LEGISLATION | INTRO | ENACTED | TYPE/STATUS | IMPACT STATEMENT |
|---|-------|---------|------------------|--|
| SB 657: California Transparency in Supply Chains Act | 2009 | 2010 | CA State/Enacted | CAST was an original co-sponsor of this bill, which requires businesses with over \$100 million in annual gross receipts to declare the actions they are taking to eradicate slavery in their supply chains. |
| SB 1193: Human Trafficking: Public Posting Requirements | 2011 | 2012 | CA State/Enacted | CAST was an original co-sponsor of this bill, which requires public posting of the CAST 24-Hour Hotline and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline in public places. |
| Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act | 2011 | 2013 | Federal/Enacted | CAST played a lead role in advocating for this reauthorization, which increases protections and funding for victims of human trafficking. |
| SB 477: Foreign Labor Recruiters | 2013 | 2014 | CA State/Enacted | CAST was an original co-sponsor of this bill, which is the first of its kind legislation in the nation and is designed to protect temporary workers from being vulnerable to enslavement in California. |
| Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act (P.L. 114-22, sec. 115) | 2013 | 2015 | Federal/Enacted | CAST supported survivor-led advocacy efforts to ensure the creation of a national council of human trafficking survivors to advise the US government. In 2016 the president appointed the first council. |
| CA Budget: Secured \$10 Million For Specialized Services | 2015 | 2015 | CA State/Enacted | CAST's successfully secured \$10 million for specialized services for all victims of human trafficking in the California budget. The RFP for these funds was released in November of 2015. |

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

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| CA Budget: Secured \$10 Million For Specialized Services | 2016 | 2016 | CA State/Enacted | For the second year in a row CAST's successfully secured \$10 million for specialized services for all victims of human trafficking in the California budget. |
| AB 1761: Affirmative Defense for Victims of Human Trafficking | 2016 | 2016 | CA State/Enacted | CAST was the original co-sponsor of this bill, which was part of a comprehensive legislative package to ensure trafficking survivors are not arrested and convicted of crimes their traffickers force them to commit. |
| CA Budget: Secured \$5 Million For Specialized Services | 2017 | 2017 | CA State/Enacted | CAST successfully secured funding at the \$5 million level in the California budget for specialized services for all trafficking victim. This money ensured all funded service providers received continuing funding. |
| CA Budget: Secured \$10 Million For Specialized Services | 2018 | 2018 | CA/State/Enacted | CAST successfully secured 10 million for specialized services for all victims of human trafficking in the California budget. This money ensured that the 21 currently funded services providers were refunded in 2019. |
| Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) | 2016 | 2018 | Federal/Enacted | Every three years CAST and its national advocacy partners, the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and The Freedom Network, USA work to reauthorization the most important piece of federal anti-trafficking legislation. Starting in 2016, CAST and its partners helped shape this bill. During the 2017-2018 legislative cycle the TVPRA provisions were introduced and passed as four separate bills S. 1311, S. 1312, S.1862 and H.R. 2200. |
| AB 900/629: Lost Income For Human Trafficking Survivors from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund | 2016 | 2019 | CA/State Enacted | CAST was the original sponsor of AB 900 and then AB 629 which created first of its kind legislation in the country to ensure that both sex and labor trafficking victims can receive compensation from the CA Crime Victim's board for income they lost as a direct result of their trafficking. |

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

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| CA Budget: Secured \$10 Million in Continuing Funding for Specialized Services | 2014 | 2019 | CA/State/Enacted | CAST successfully secured 10 million for specialized services for all victims of human trafficking in the California budget. This \$ 10 million will be in the CA budget every year starting in 2020. |
| SB 630: Hotline Posting Enforcement | 2019 | 2019 | CA/State/Enacted | CAST was the original sponsor of a bill to increase enforcement mechanisms in AB 1193, a bill it originally sponsored in 2012, to ensure specified businesses post information on California and the National Human Trafficking hotline |
| AB 1735 Human Trafficking Caseworker Privilege | 2019 | 2019 | CA/State/Enacted | CAST was the original sponsor of AB 1735 which provided increased protections and requirements for the CA human trafficking caseworker privilege. |
| Final LA City Ordinance No. 186507 Implementing SB 630: Hotline Posting for LA City | 2020 | 2020 | CA/City Enacted | CAST was the original sponsor of SB 630 and worked with the LA City Attorney's Office to ensure LA City can fully enforced the hotline posting requirement. |