



NEWS RELEASE
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**Ohio Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report:
*Human Trafficking and Civil Rights in Ohio***

Ohio, by some measures, is one of the five worst states in the nation for human trafficking. The Ohio Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) has released a [report](#) following a series of panel discussions on civil rights and trafficking in the state. The Committee examined the impact of human trafficking on individuals and communities targeted because of their race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, and/or disability.

The Committee heard testimony from law enforcement, government officials, academic experts, legal professionals, community leaders, advocates, and trafficking survivors. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns, including: the continued perception or treatment of trafficking victims as criminals; insufficient mental health support to address the psychological impact of trauma associated with trafficking; insufficient or incomplete data collection; insufficient legal protection for children involved in sex trafficking; and a lack of public awareness and cooperation between law enforcement and community groups to most effectively identify victims and connect them with the appropriate support services. The Committee also formulated a number of recommendations to help remedy some of these concerns moving forward.

Committee Chair Diane Citrino said, “Human traffickers exploit vulnerable members of our community. Our report exposes the evils of human trafficking and looks at what we can do in Ohio to work together for solutions to this hidden problem.”

The report can be viewed at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/06-15-Human-Trafficking-and-Civil-Rights-Ohio.pdf>

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. Advisory Committees to the Commission conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning state and local civil rights issues. Appointees to the Committees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated. For more information about the work of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).