



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes  
[afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov)  
(213) 894-3437

**Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Releases [Report](#) on Human Trafficking**

The Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a [report](#) examining human trafficking in the state. The report, informed by a series of public panel discussions, examined the impact of human trafficking in the agriculture, forestry, and illicit sex industries on individuals and communities targeted because of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, and/or disability. The Committee also examined the effectiveness of state and local agency programs administered to trafficking victims.

The Committee heard testimony from law enforcement, government officials, academics, legal professionals, community advocates, and trafficking survivors. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns including: disproportionate effects of trafficking of children on African American youth; lack of culturally specific and gender appropriate services to assist victims; insufficient or incomplete data collection on trafficking-related activities; the perception or treatment of trafficking victims as criminals; need for better communication methods amongst enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases; problematic H-2A and H-2B temporary guest worker visa programs characterized by rampant exploitation of foreign workers; and the need for public awareness on how to identify victims. In an effort to help remedy these concerns, the Committee developed recommendations directed to various federal and state agencies, the Oregon Legislature, and Governor Katherine Brown.

Committee Chair Thompson Faller said, "The underbelly of human trafficking is a significant issue in Oregon, especially in the agriculture, forestry, and illicit sex industries. While Oregon has made several efforts to address human trafficking, we believe there is still a long way to go before vulnerable communities receive justice and feel safe and supported. We hope the recommendations in our report help to shine light on this issue and offer actionable solutions."

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*