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Louisiana best in nation at combating human trafficking, advocacy group says

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Shared Hope International has ranked Louisiana as the top state for combating human trafficking.

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By [Cole Avery, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)
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[Shared Hope International](#) has ranked Louisiana as the top state in the nation for cracking down on human trafficking.

Shared Hope grades states on 41 key legislative components that must be addressed in the states' laws to respond to minor sex trafficking crimes. Louisiana scored a 96, the highest in the country.

Shared Hope reached the score by analyzing Louisiana's laws on domestic minor sex trafficking, investigation and prosecution tools, criminal provisions addressing demand, and criminal provisions for traffickers and facilitators.

Louisiana has increased its grade on the Shared Hope report card from a C to an A in just three years because of strengthened human trafficking penalties and victim protections. The 2014 legislative session included new laws that allowed courts to create specialized human trafficking divisions, increased penalties for traffickers by allowing asset forfeiture, more protection for victims, and required abortion clinics to post the human trafficking hotline number.

"This report shows just how far Louisiana has come in our mission to eradicate human trafficking," said Gov. [Bobby Jindal](#) in a statement. "Make no mistake, we will stop at nothing to end human trafficking and put the perpetrators of these crimes behind bars."

Only three states received an A on the report card: Louisiana (96), Tennessee (94) and Washington (92.5).

Five states received an F. California received the lowest grade of 50 out of all the states. South Dakota (58.5), Maine (56.5) and Michigan (54) also received failing grades.

To read Louisiana's full report card, [click here](#).