



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING & HOTELS

### Trafficking in Persons Council 2015 Annual Report Recommendation:

- Recommend further discussion and inquiry on prohibiting Connecticut hotels, motels, or similar lodgings from renting rooms hourly.

---

“Hotels are one of many venues that traffickers use to exploit their victims. As a result, industry leaders are increasingly recognizing the unique role they can play in preventing and disrupting this crime. Since 2007, 1,434 cases of human trafficking in hotels and motels have been reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) and Polaris’s BeFree texting helpline. We know that pimps and traffickers use hotel and motel rooms when setting up so-called “dates” between victims of sex trafficking and those individuals purchasing sex.

Traffickers are capitalizing on the lack of awareness around this issue within the hotel industry. All too often, they continue to exploit their victims unchecked because staff, managers, and executives do not know what to look for.”

-Polaris Project, March 2015

---

### Connecticut Law Related to Problem:

#### ❖ **Permitting Prostitution (53a-89):** *Class A misdemeanor*

- (a) A person is guilty of permitting prostitution when, having possession or control of premises which he knows are being used for prostitution purposes, he fails to make reasonable effort to halt or abate such use.

YEARS	ARRESTS (#)	CONVICTIONS (#)
2012-2013	1	1
2013-2014	11	6
2014-2015	5	5

## Connecticut liaison with the Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART)

“There was a case out of the Milford office wherein the housekeeping went in to clean the room and found a young girl (15/16) on the bed unconscious, used condoms around her on the floor, blood on her. She went to the hospital and she had been trafficked out of this hotel.”

“Our youth was kept in a hotel known for trafficking, against her will. She was held there for weeks and forced to have sex with numerous men. The police found her as we reported her missing. They were able to go in and get her, the next day she would have been sent to New Jersey. The man who held her is now in jail and his bond was set at 1 million dollars. That youth reported to us while she was at a hotel there were several other young girls from various states who were also being trafficked. The girls are often shuffled around from state to state in various hotels.”

## The Berlin Turnpike

- From 2012-2013, The Underground, a faith-based initiative that aims to transform and heal the culture of sexual exploitation, researched on-site activity specific to motels/hotels on Connecticut’s Berlin Turnpike.

- The number of motels/hotels in each city are as follows (entering Route 15 at Jordan Lane, Wethersfield); 36 Motel/Hotels, 14 mile road, spanning 4 cities:
  - Wethersfield, CT: 8 Motels – 2.3 Miles from Jordan Lane
  - Newington, CT: 10 Motels - 2.8-5.8 Miles from Jordan Lane – 3 mile span



- Berlin, CT: 12 Motels, 1 Strip Club: Centerfolds – 6.5-11.2 Miles from Jordan Lane – 4.7 mile span
- Meridan, CT: 6 Motels – 12-14 Miles from Jordan Lane – 2 mile span.

- Of the 36 motels on the Berlin Turnpike, we verified that 27 motels have hourly rates, 7 motels have no hourly rates (5 are corporate owned and operated), and 2 motels could not be verified because of no answer

- Examples of hourly rates:
  - \$40 Cash
  - \$45 for 4 hrs
  - \$45 flat rate
  - \$40 for 2 hours
  - \$35 for 2 hrs