

HR4323/S2255: The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act

Victims of human trafficking are too often forced to commit crimes while under the control of their exploiters. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act (TSRA) **creates a federal pathway for criminal record relief**, ensuring survivors can access justice and the rehabilitation they need to rebuild their lives.

THIS LEGISLATION WILL:

1

VACATE CONVICTIONS AND EXPUNGE RECORDS

Allow survivors with federal convictions for non-violent crimes, which were committed as a direct result of their trafficking, the ability to clear their records.

2

EARLY LEGAL PROTECTION

Enable victims to use their trafficking experience as an affirmative defense at the beginning of the criminal justice process.

3

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

Authorize Department of Justice grants to fund legal representation for survivors, including proceedings related to vacatur, expungement, and other post-conviction relief measures.

WHY IS THIS CRITICAL?

48 states offer some form of criminal record relief for trafficking survivors; however, there is no comprehensive federal legal framework. This gap leaves survivors vulnerable to unjust criminalization, creating everyday barriers such as finding housing or employment.

A National Survivor Study conducted by *Polaris* found that 42% of all respondents reported having a criminal record. **90% of those with records, reported that all, or some, of their arrests were related to their exploitation.** ¹

1. "Polaris (2023). Punishing the Victim: Recovery Barriers for Survivors with Criminal Records," <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Punishing-the-Victim-Recovery-Barriers-for-Survivors-with-Criminal-Records.pdf>