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## **Oregon DOJ and DHS to release new data on human trafficking across Oregon**

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(Portland, Ore.) – The State of Oregon identified 746 victims of human trafficking across Oregon in a 12-month period between October 2018 and October 2019. The new data was collected by the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).

In commemoration of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, on Friday, Jan. 10, 2020 Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Rebecca Jones Gaston, director of the DHS Child Welfare Program, will honor the efforts of Oregonians who work to prevent human trafficking, including an award honoring an inter-agency team which stopped a trafficking ring in Lane County. The awards ceremony which is open to the media, will also help raise awareness about Oregon’s current intervention efforts and recognize the work of Oregonians who are taking a trauma informed and victim-centered approach to trafficking intervention.

“Human trafficking and the exploitation of minors, sadly, affects every corner of Oregon. The individuals and community members we are honoring on Human Trafficking Awareness Day represent the courage, trust, and strong inter-agency partnerships necessary to help keep our most vulnerable Oregonians, especially children, safe from traffickers,” said Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum

“DHS is proud to recognize the efforts of our Lane County and Clackamas Child Welfare awardees for their teamwork and collaboration,” said Jones Gaston. “Preventing human trafficking is not just one organization’s goal, it takes everyone to work together to make a difference in this issue, which is why the teamwork and passion exhibited by these awardees is so critical.”

Awards will be presented on Friday, Jan. 10 at the Oregon DOJ office at 100 SW Market Street in Portland, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Media is welcome to attend.

**Team Award:** Lane County Team

**Lane County Child Welfare Office:** Susan Lopez, Tanya Huff, Melissa Erickson, Kyle Belknap, Bridget Byfield, Chuck Nyby, Melissa McCormack.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation** –Special Agent Isabel Scharn, Special Agent Damara Schlitz, SOS Joseph Peoples, Victim Specialist Florence Mackey.  
**Lane County Department of Youth Services** Probation Officer Jordan Sies, DelBrico Kriner and MH specialist Martin Starr.  
**Eugene Police Department** – Detective Curtis Newell, Detective Jed McGuire.  
**Albany Police Department-** Officer Gabe Flores, Albany Police Department

**Above & Beyond Award**

Advocate: Tanel Tucker, Safety Compass  
 District Attorney: Mike Botthof, Multnomah County District Attorney  
 Law Enforcement: Officer Heather Hisel, Milwaukie Police Department  
 DHS: Kelly Walsh, Clackamas Child Welfare Office  
 Other: Tom Perez, EPIC

**STATISTICS\***

Victims Identified:

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Clackamas	138	Lane	120
Deschutes	48	Malheur	4
Douglas	16	Marion	94
Jackson	27	Multnomah	208
Klamath	9	Washington	82

Human Trafficking-Related Prosecutions:

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Clackamas	28
Multnomah	45

\*Statistics from October 2018 - October 2019

Victims of human trafficking can be any age, race, nationality, gender, or sexuality. If you are concerned that someone you know might be a victim of trafficking, call the Oregon Abuse Hotline – 1-855-503-SAFE (7233).

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