"CIRCLE OF HOPE" CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKET

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

AMARA LEGAL CENTER
Since 2013, the Amara Legal Center has provided free legal services to survivors of sex trafficking and other individuals harmed by the commercial sex industry. Our dedicated staff provide a trauma-informed and holistic approach to representing our clients while informing them of their legal rights and navigating the legal system on their behalf. We work with a network of social service providers to connect our clients to support services that help them in their healing and improve their life circumstances. We also train different sectors of the community to create awareness of sex trafficking in the region and to help professionals, who may come in contact with survivors, be better equipped to identify survivors to prevent criminalization and re-victimization and to connect them to supportive services. We advocate on behalf of our clients through our education efforts, meeting with key stakeholders, decisionmakers and policymakers to increase awareness and address the barriers that negatively impact our clients’ lives and hinder their opportunities for success.

The business community can join us in our efforts by becoming a “Circle of Hope” sponsor to support our work! As a Justice Sponsor, you can invest in our trauma-informed legal program to help survivors and those harmed by the commercial sex industry navigate the legal system. As an Education Sponsor, you can help Amara increase awareness about sex trafficking through our trainings and educational events, and as an Advocacy Sponsor, you can help us fight for an equitable criminal legal system and for policies that decriminalize our clients.

As a valued corporate partner, we invite you to lend your support today and help uplift the voices of survivors. You can change the lives of some of the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Check out our sponsorship packet to learn more about Amara’s work and our sponsorship packages and benefits. We also can customize a package for your company.

Thank you!

Carole Bernard
Chief Executive Officer
The Amara Legal Center looks at its work through a racial justice lens to provide free trauma-informed legal representation, access to support services, and advocacy for a more equitable legal system for individuals impacted by sex trafficking or involved in sex work in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. In fact, Amara is the only legal services organization in the Washington, DC-metro area solely dedicated to providing trauma-informed services to survivors of sex trafficking. Since its founding in 2013, Amara has provided legal services in nearly 800 case matters for over 500 clients. In 2021, our attorneys worked with more than 100 clients to address over 250 case matters, doubling the number from 2020.

Amara’s clients are predominantly U.S.-born Black cis- and trans-women between the ages of 13 and 29 who are marginalized in society and face complex legal issues. Our staff address the multitude of legal barriers that our clients face by educating and empowering them to make informed choices that are often unique to their individual circumstances, histories and legal issues.

"Amara is the only legal services organization in the Washington, DC-metro area solely dedicated to providing trauma-informed services to survivors of sex trafficking and sex workers."

The Amara Legal Center envisions a society where our clients are free from stigma, violence, oppression, exploitation, and criminalization.
According to the CDC, sex trafficking is a type of human trafficking. Human trafficking occurs when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, fraud, or coercion to make them perform commercial sex or work. Sex trafficking is defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act." It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to make an adult engage in commercial sex acts. However, any commercial sexual activity with a minor, even without force, fraud, or coercion, is considered trafficking.

Although many believe that sex trafficking occurs only overseas, sex trafficking can be found in communities throughout the United States, and the Washington, DC-metro area is no exception. Often, traffickers or pimps lure individuals into the sex trade through force, fraud and coercion, or promises of love, shelter, clothing, and food. Once the victim has been hooked, the trafficker steadily subjects the victim to severe forms of abuse, including rape, beatings, emotional and verbal abuse, and other forms of manipulation.

Due to its unique geographic location on the I-95 corridor and close proximity to a number of casinos, airports and professional sports venues, the Washington, DC-metro area is a magnet for sex trafficking. Amara estimates that, annually, roughly 500 individuals seek services due to victimization and harm caused by sex trafficking and the commercial industry. However, since most individuals in our client population do not self-identify as victims and do not seek legal, social service or mental health assistance, we can conclude that the actual number of individuals who are in need of our assistance is significantly higher.
*Poverty, sexual and physical abuse, involvement in the child welfare system and discipline inequities in the school system are the leading vulnerability factors contributing to sex trafficking among marginalized and minority populations.

Alarmingly, the FBI identified Washington, DC as one of 14 cities in the United States with the highest incidents of commercial sexual exploitation of children and that “Black girls, compared to their racial counterparts, are more likely to be trafficked at a younger age.” According to the FBI, 57.5% of all juvenile prostitution arrests in the United States are Black children.

Amara provides representation for some of the most common legal needs for sex trafficking survivors and sex workers: criminal record sealing, criminal defense, family law, child custody, child support, divorce, civil protection orders, and victim-witness advocacy.

### OUR SERVICES

#### CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS
Obtaining restraining orders for our clients against abusers, including traffickers and/or buyers.

#### FAMILY LAW
Helping clients regain custody of their children, who may be in the custody of pimps, family members, or the state and representing clients in divorce cases from their abusers.

#### VICTIM-WITNESS ADVOCACY
Working with clients to navigate the criminal justice system and preparing them for testifying in court; serving as a witness advocate for our clients in criminal cases against their pimps or buyers; and providing representation as a criminal defense attorney for our clients who have had charges brought against them.

#### POST-CONVICTION RELIEF
Assisting clients in filing petitions of expungements, as many of our clients have criminal records for prostitution or related charges, even if their involvement in the commercial sex industry was against their will. These records can restrict survivors from finding legal employment, receiving publicly funded housing, and from other social services.

### CASE MANAGEMENT & REFERRALS
Throughout the legal process, Amara connects our clients to partner legal services organizations, mental health professionals, and social services agencies to ensure that they can be in the best position to lead their lives free of the stigma, harm, and destruction they have endured.

### FY 2021 AMARA STATS BY CASES

- **Expungement**: 45.9%
- **Name Change**: 7.5%
- **Domestic Abuse**: 12%
- **Custody/Visitation**: 13.5%
- **Victim-witness Advocacy**: 21.1%
Amara’s clients are sex trafficking survivors and sex workers, predominantly U.S.-born Black cis- and trans-women between the ages of 13 and 29 who are marginalized in society and face complex legal issues. Many experience poverty, housing insecurity, and severe trauma as result of their victimization while being trafficked.

Additionally, whether by choice or necessity, individuals who trade sex are often victims of crime. However, the actual number of D.C. residents who trade sex is difficult to estimate and more resources are needed to research and obtain data for this silent population. Studies have shown that approximately 80% of street-based sex workers have experienced an act of violence—and Trans, Black, and Latina women are the most affected. In D.C., the majority of trans women are Black or Latina and trans women of color are more likely to engage in sex work. Of those surveyed in the DC’s Trans Coalition Need Assessment, more than half of trans women of color had engaged in sex work in comparison to 12% of their White counterparts.
Last year, we helped “April,” a child sex trafficking survivor, regain custody of her one-year-old daughter. For April, leaving her daughter in an aunt’s care was necessary until she got herself clean and found suitable housing for her and her daughter. Unfortunately, when April returned a few months later to take her daughter home, her aunt refused to give her daughter back. Although April contacted the police, they were unresponsive due to her criminal record. Thankfully, April was working with a partner service provider who was providing her emotional and case management support, and her case manager contacted Amara.

An Amara attorney met with April to assess her case. Because April’s aunt did not have legal custody of her daughter, we contacted the police who went to the aunt’s residence, retrieved the child, and that same night reunited April with her daughter. Our staff attended the reunification meeting, provided the client with a ride home, took April to purchase groceries, and coordinated donations of clothing, a stroller, and other items. We are happy to report April and her daughter are still together and moving forward with their lives.

At 21 years old, “Lisa” was pregnant with her trafficker’s child when she was arrested for prostitution. Her assigned public defender reached out to Amara because he thought Lisa might be a sex trafficking survivor. Indeed, prosecutors had missed the red flags in the charging document: Lisa told police that her male “co-defendant” hit her and he “shared” her earnings; a gun was found under the bed of the hotel room where Lisa was arrested.

While four women were found in the hotel room that day, only the two black women were arrested and charged; unfortunately for Lisa, she was one of those women. Fortunately, Lisa’s assigned public defender had received training from an Amara attorney on identifying survivors of sex trafficking and referred Lisa to Amara. Amara was able to represent Lisa. With Lisa’s permission, we shared her trafficking experience with the prosecutor and pointed out the red flags. The prosecutor dropped the case, and we were able to assist Lisa in expunging the case from her record. While ultimately Lisa had a “successful” result, she should never have been charged.
CORPORATE PARTNERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Support the Amara Legal Center and our clients
Visibility at Fall event
Exposure to advocates in the human trafficking arena
Opportunity to connect with a broad and diverse audience

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

SUPPORT AMARA'S PROGRAMS

ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
(based on sponsorship level)

Speaking opportunities throughout the year
An array of electronic Media Exposure through Amara’s dedicated website, e-Newsletter and social media
Complimentary attendee registration(s) to Amara events
Promotions via e-invitation
Promotion via press release and media outreach

Become an Amara Sponsor and Make a Difference!
### Sponsorship Opportunities

Support Amara at any of the sponsor levels below as a Justice, Education or Advocacy Sponsor and receive the benefits below!

#### JUSTICE SPONSOR
Supports Amara’s free, trauma-informed Legal Program

- **Platinum - $3,001-$5,000**
  - Company listed as an Event Honorary Sponsor in 2022
  - 2 Speaking opportunities throughout the year (recorded or live)
  - Create a video PSA from your company representative to be shared on Amara’s YouTube channel, social media platforms, newsletters & website
  - Interview in Amara newsletter & posted on Amara website
  - Company logo posted on Amara website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 4 Social media shout-outs in 2022
  - Amara badge for your website

- **Gold - $2,501-$3,000**
  - Create a video PSA from your company representative to be shared on Amara’s YouTube channel, social media platforms, newsletters & website
  - Interview in Amara newsletter & posted on Amara website
  - Company logo posted on Amara website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 4 Social media shout-outs in 2022
  - Amara badge for your website

- **Silver - $1,001-$2,500**
  - Interview in Amara newsletter & posted on Amara website
  - Company logo posted on Amara website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 2 Social media shout-outs in 2022
  - Amara badge for your website

- **Bronze - $501-$1,000**
  - Company logo posted on Amara’s website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - Amara badge for your website

- **Friend - $100-$500**
  - Company logo included on e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - Amara badge for your website

#### EDUCATION SPONSOR
Supports Amara’s trainings & outreach events

- **Platinum - $3,001-$5,000**
  - Company logo posted on Amara’s website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 6 Social media shout-outs in 2022
  - Amara badge for your website

- **Gold - $2,501-$3,000**
  - Company logo posted on Amara website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 4 Social media shout-outs in 2022
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- **Friend - $100-$500**
  - Company logo included on e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - Amara badge for your website

#### ADVOCACY SPONSOR
Supports Amara’s legislative & policy education efforts

- **Platinum - $3,001-$5,000**
  - Company logo posted on Amara’s website
  - Company logo included on event press releases
  - Company logo included on event e-invites
  - Company listed in 2022 Annual Report
  - 6 Social media shout-outs in 2022
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The Amara Legal Center welcomes your support as a sponsor! Corporate matches are also greatly appreciated.

Amara is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

Please visit our website to become a sponsor at www.amaralegal.org

*Please send company logo to carole.bernard@amaralegal.org*