

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-8-26

WHEREAS California is committed to protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults from sex trafficking and exploitation and ensuring that survivors receive coordinated, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered support; and

WHEREAS California has invested in prevention, victim services, law enforcement partnerships, behavioral health, housing, child welfare, education, and community-based organizations that work every day to prevent exploitation and support survivors; and

WHEREAS sex trafficking is often preceded by identifiable vulnerabilities—including housing instability, family conflict, prior trauma, child sexual abuse, behavioral health needs, economic hardship, school disengagement, and involvement with multiple public systems—creating opportunities for earlier intervention before exploitation occurs; and

WHEREAS schools, social services agencies, child welfare agencies, behavioral health providers, health care systems, law enforcement, juvenile probation departments, community-based organizations, and local governments each play an important role in identifying risk factors, connecting individuals to services, and preventing exploitation; and

WHEREAS state agencies, local governments, tribes, survivor advocates, service providers, educators, law enforcement, juvenile probation departments, and community organizations identify systemic fragmentation—not lack of commitment—as an impediment to improving outcomes for vulnerable youth and survivors; and

WHEREAS strengthening coordination among state agencies, local governments, tribes, community-based organizations, and survivor-informed organizations can improve prevention, streamline referrals, strengthen accountability, and maximize the impact of existing resources; and

WHEREAS California's response to sex trafficking should continue to improve prevention, early identification, coordinated intervention, and survivor-centered services while respecting the authority and expertise of state and local partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of California, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The California Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Youth and Community Restoration, California Department of Social Services, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the California Department of Public Health shall, and the California Department of Education and the Department of Justice are requested to, identify and notify the Governor's Office and Office of the First Partner within 60 days, of opportunities within existing authority to strengthen prevention and early identification efforts.

Identifying these opportunities shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration of:

- a. strengthening referral pathways between community-based organizations, behavioral health and health care providers, schools and other public agencies;
 - b. improving awareness among youth-serving professionals and educators of trafficking indicators through existing training opportunities;
 - c. integrating trauma- and evidence-informed trafficking prevention strategies and awareness into existing behavioral health, child welfare, homelessness, youth-serving programs, and statewide Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) initiatives, where appropriate;
 - d. strengthening service coordination supporting youth experiencing multiple risk factors for exploitation; and
 - e. identifying opportunities to improve prevention for particularly vulnerable populations, including foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth, migrant and unaccompanied youth, runaway and homeless youth, Native youth, justice-involved and incarcerated youth, and other youth facing elevated risk.
2. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California Health and Human Services Agency, the California Victim Compensation Board, the California Department of Social Services, the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Health Care Services, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, the California Department of Developmental Services, and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency shall, and the California Department of Education and the Department of Justice are requested to, identify opportunities to improve coordination among state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, community-based organizations, survivor service providers including health and behavioral health providers, and the private sector, as appropriate, to prevent and identify and intervene as early as possible to stop sex trafficking and support survivors.

Identifying these opportunities shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration of:

- a. improving and aligning referral pathways and strengthening partnerships with culturally responsive organizations and survivor service providers;
 - b. increasing awareness of existing survivor services and resources, including through evidence-informed stigma reduction messaging for youth serving systems;
 - c. identifying and removing barriers, especially those that can be implemented administratively, that limit coordination and communication between agencies, local task forces, and community-based organizations, including as it relates to searching for missing youth; and
 - d. improving access to survivor-centered resources throughout California, including to confidential and youth-friendly help seeking pathways.
3. The California Health and Human Services Agency, the California Department of Social Services, the California Department of Health Care Services, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with external partners, shall, and the California Department of Education and the Department of Justice are requested to, identify opportunities to enhance

housing stabilization for youth and adults at risk of exploitation, community supports for prevention, and long-term recovery services for survivors of sex trafficking.

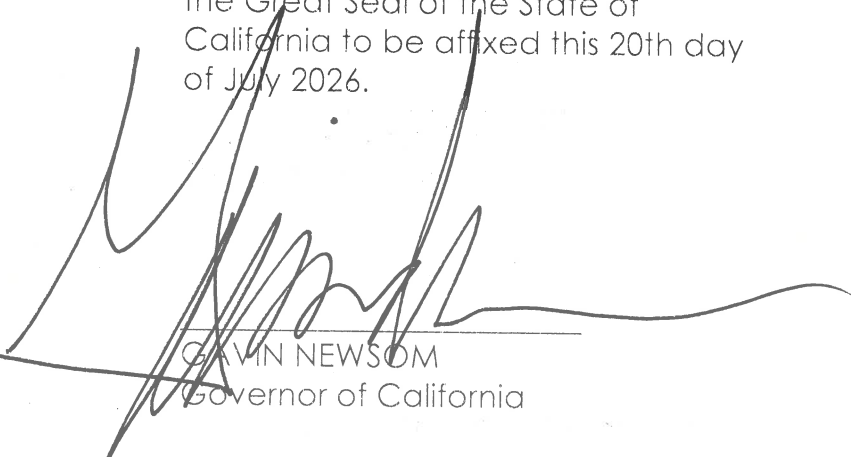
4. The California Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, California Department of Social Services, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Health Care Services, and the California Department of Public Health shall, and the California Department of Education and the Department of Justice are requested to, no later than November 30, 2026, develop a statewide roadmap to strengthen California's efforts to prevent and respond to sex trafficking. The roadmap shall:
- a. summarize implementation actions undertaken pursuant to this Order;
 - b. identify opportunities to strengthen prevention and early intervention;
 - c. recommend improvements to cross-system coordination;
 - d. identify opportunities for future policy, budget, and administrative action; and
 - e. recommend accountability and coordination structures to support continued statewide collaboration.

Participating agencies, offices, and departments shall provide implementation updates to the Governor's Office and Office of the First Partner at the end of every month, beginning August 2026 through October 2026.

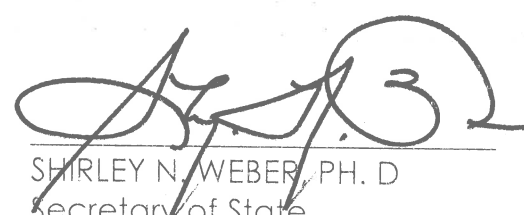
I FURTHER DIRECT that this Order be filed with the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 20th day
of July 2026.


GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:


SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State

