

Executive Summary

Protecting Farmworkers from Sexual Harassment and Human Trafficking: State Level Activities

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Sexual harassment and human trafficking are pervasive problems that impact people of all genders, races, ethnicities, and ages in the United States and worldwide. Surveys find that one in four women report workplace harassment in the United States and it is estimated that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally. These issues are often hidden and underreported because victims fear reprisal.

As a particularly vulnerable and economically disadvantaged group, migrant and seasonal farmworkers are especially likely to face sexual harassment and human trafficking. In this webinar, Jorge Acero, the State Monitor Advocate from Maine, shared his experiences on forming coalitions within the state to address issues related to sexual harassment and human trafficking and providing training. Some highlights from the webinar include:

- The prevalence of sexual harassment & human trafficking in the U.S. agricultural industry
- The driving force behind the WIOA regulation (§653.107 [b]) & Maine's initiative
- Sexual Harassment & Human Trafficking – Relationship to DOL's Mission
- How to lay the ground work & sustain the effort
- Challenges encountered, opportunities created, and impact
- How to set up collaborative networks at the state level

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