

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BREAKOUT SESSION: LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
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Heather prepared for the Forum by researching laws currently used for prosecuting human trafficking and by reviewing information provided by Michele Trampe regarding bills moving through the General Assembly (during this current "short" session). The discussion she led brought out the following:

- Currently, unlike most states, Virginia does not have a comprehensive law that can be used by prosecutors to combat human trafficking.
- HB 1964 is a stand-alone bill that has been introduced by Delegate Hugo and Senator Obenshain in the current legislative session. This legislation, in its present form, contains a provision for "mandatory" incarceration, which could result as an impediment to its passage. Those who are interested should read the bill and consider advocating for it if they feel led to do so.
- **AS INDIVIDUALS, WE EACH HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOBBY FOR LAWS THAT PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.**
www.richmondsunlight.com is one way to keep up with individual bills and their status, plus the names of their legislative sponsors, as well as summaries of content. There is no down-side to more protective legislation.
- **AS A CHURCH, WE SHOULD FORM A WORK GROUP TO FORMULATE A SINGLE PAGE "TRAINER" FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS WHO MIGHT COME IN CONTACT WITH TRAFFICKED INDIVIDUALS.**

If we do this and produce it, we were assured they would be welcomed by those "with boots on the ground." **The "trainers" are needed and could be distributed as soon as they are ready.**