

## ACTION GUIDE

# Trafficking Prevention in San Diego's LGBTQIA+ Community

As part of our fight to reduce sex trafficking in 25 U.S. cities, Polaris is prioritizing the prevention of trafficking by expanding social safety nets for vulnerable populations. This includes helping organizations, advocates, and community groups to take action. This quick Action Guide is designed to help San Diego locals prevent trafficking in the city's LGBTQIA+ community.

In partnership with local experts, Polaris has identified 3 top actions that can be taken to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in the LGBTQIA+ community in San Diego, and the power brokers that could help achieve the necessary changes. These actions will not end trafficking in the city's LGBTQIA+ community completely, but they are an achievable first step that will have a fast impact.

**Here's how activists, advocates, and community groups can start today:**



### **BUILD A NEW LGBTQIA+ CENTER.**

Located in the 4th District and serving BIPOC communities, this center should include employment services, such as assistance for skills development and job placement, and legal services with emphasis on housing and employment law, and legal services for immigrants.



### **REVAMP AND EXPAND CURRENT HOUSING SERVICES.**

The current hotel voucher program in the county can be made more secure by shifting the existing motel options to accommodations that are in safer locations. Townspeople, a local nonprofit providing emergency housing vouchers, can reach more people in need by expanding their criteria to fit more LGBTQIA+ community members. Expansion of housing programs, such as tiny house communities or housing conversion could also greatly benefit the San Diego LGBTQIA+ community.



### **IMPROVE AND EXPAND EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR LGBTQIA YOUTH**

San Diego area high schools should have sex education classes with curriculums that include training on healthy sexual relationship, setting boundaries, red flags in conversations, and recognizing trafficking. Resources should include counseling services which should be provided by therapists who have training and expertise with serving the LGBTQIA+ community.

## San Diego Area Power Players: LGBTQIA+ Service Expansion

### CITY OR COUNTY OFFICE



*San Diego District Attorney's Office*

CONTACT:

Deputy District Attorney Casey French, [Casey.French@sdccda.org](mailto:Casey.French@sdccda.org)



*San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE)*

CONTACT:

Charisma De Los Reyes, [charisma.delosreyes@sdcoe.net](mailto:charisma.delosreyes@sdcoe.net) and  
Violeta Mora, [viomora@sdcoe.net](mailto:viomora@sdcoe.net)

*San Diego County Board of Supervisors*

CONTACT:

Vice Chair Nora Vargas, [District1community@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:District1community@sdcounty.ca.gov)

*San Diego County Board of Supervisors - Office of Racial Equity & Justice*

CONTACT:

Andrew Strong, Director, [andrew.strong@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.strong@sdcounty.ca.gov)

*San Diego County Sheriff's Office*

CONTACT:

Edith Sanchez Cruz, Community Representative, [Edith.SanchezCruz@sdsheriff.gov](mailto:Edith.SanchezCruz@sdsheriff.gov)

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ALLIES



*North County LGBT Resource Center - North County SD*

CONTACT:

Max Disposti, CEO, [maxrome@cox.net](mailto:maxrome@cox.net)



*Townspeople*

CONTACT:

Stacey Drew, Director of Supportive Services, [stacey@townspeople.org](mailto:stacey@townspeople.org)



= ACTIVE SUPPORTER