



# UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## IMPACT REPORT

 Center to Combat  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** A Crisis Around the World & Around the Corner
- 5** United Way's Critical Role
- 8** Diversity, Equity, and Survivor Leadership:  
Placing Lived Experience in the Center  
of our Work
- 10** Public Engagement: Educating Communities  
and Raising Awareness
- 12** Collective Impact: Building Better  
Communities for All
- 20** Catalyzing Action: Building a Stronger  
Anti-trafficking Movement

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

Eradicating human trafficking might seem impossible. It is a hidden crime, with tens of millions of victims, generating massive profits. It targets people who have little social, financial, or political power to fight back. It robs people of their dignity and hope, as well as their labor and wages. It is one of the greatest human rights violations of our generation.

Solving challenges like this is exactly why United Way exists and why the United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking was created. Our focus has always been to unite communities to confront intractable problems. The only way we can hope to conquer trafficking is through united action. There is no silver bullet to end human trafficking, and it won't happen overnight. But a concerted effort from all levels of society to combat this evil is our best hope to end it.

In this report you will see the many ways our Center is making an impact. From innovative projects that fill gaps in the social safety nets of U.S. cities to support trafficking victims and survivors, to global advocacy that is helping the anti-trafficking movement grow and collaborate, our aim is to build a united front. Traffickers can be defeated if we are united to stop them.

We extend our gratitude first to our primary funder and partner in this work, UPS and the UPS Foundation. Without them, none of the work detailed in this report would be possible. We also wish to thank the many local United Ways, survivor leaders, dedicated researchers, and tireless activists who are already demonstrating that human trafficking is a problem we can solve. To those who are new to the cause, we hope you, too, will unite with us.



Mara Vanderslice Kelly  
Executive Director, United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking



“Our focus has always been to unite communities to confront intractable problems. The only way we can hope to conquer trafficking is through united action.”

# THANK YOU TO UPS

UPS is a global corporate leader in the fight against human trafficking. Since 2016, the company has extended awareness training to more than 100,000 employees, provided systemic program investments, connected to local community-based partners and convened public-private partnerships around the nation. [The UPS Foundation](#), which leads the global citizenship programs for [UPS](#), has also allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct support for nonprofit organizations leading the fight to combat human trafficking and support those who are affected.

Additionally, for the past three years, UPSers have been fueling the movement to end human trafficking by partnering with and supporting the work of the United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking. The efforts we have relayed in this report – the education of thousands, the development of community-based programs, and the global research that lays the foundation for increased impact – has been possible because of their generosity.

Together, UPS and United Way are powering a movement to end human trafficking.



*Mara Vanderslice Kelly with UPSers*

“We are proud to support and partner with the United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking. Together, we’ve launched a growing effort to engage, empower, and train community leaders to provide critical services and support in the fight against human trafficking.”

– **Nicole Clifton, President, Social Impact and The UPS Foundation**

# A CRISIS AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Human trafficking is the act of compelling someone to work, or engage in commercial sex, for little or no pay, through force, fraud, or coercion. It is illegal in every country but happens across the world — and in all 50 states and territories of the United States.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TAKES MANY FORMS

- A homeless youth forced into commercial sex by someone pretending to care in Atlanta.
- A migrant locked in a house, compelled to cook and clean in Qatar.
- A family in a brick kiln working to pay off generational debts but never receiving an actual paycheck in India.
- A man with a mental health disability laboring in a rural poultry processing plant for no pay in Iowa.
- A child removed from school and forced to work on dangerous fishing boats in Ghana.



# EXAMPLES OF TRAFFICKING

A trafficking victim may be forced to work across many of these categories. They are not exclusive to one another, but rather are ways to understand the type of exploitation that people may face.



Forced Labor



Bonded Labor



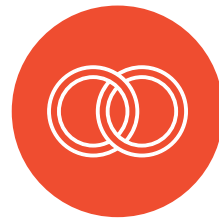
Sex Trafficking



Domestic Servitude



Child Labor



Forced Marriage



**\$150  
BILLION**

Profits per year for traffickers worldwide



**40 MILLION**

People in forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriages



**25% CHILDREN**

1 in 4 victims are under 18

# UNITED WAY'S CRITICAL ROLE



[United Way](#) fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. With global reach and local impact, we're making life better for 48 million people annually. United Way is the world's largest privately funded nonprofit, working in 95% of U.S. communities and 40 countries and territories.

Human trafficking is a complex issue that requires a united and coordinated approach on behalf of those working to end it. No single organization, corporation, or government can end this systemic injustice alone – our best hope is an approach that unites all stakeholders.

## Center to Combat **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The **United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking** was founded in 2015 as a **global center to accelerate action**. We are innovating where needed, uplifting good work already being done, elevating survivor leadership, and utilizing the United Way network to catalyze the anti-trafficking movement.

We are working to create effective community-based solutions, galvanize collaboration across sectors, and build public and political will to scale strategies across the world that find, stop, and prevent human trafficking.





OUR VISION



# BUILDING A BIGGER, STRONGER, SMARTER ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

Strengthen the anti-trafficking movement and catalyze global action to end human trafficking around the world.

Our strategy brings anti-trafficking projects to scale by energizing, coordinating, and mobilizing the many organizations already working on the front lines. To create a truly effective movement, the Center is improving research, influencing policy, increasing philanthropy, filling gaps, engaging corporate stakeholders, promoting diversity and survivor inclusion, and advancing public awareness.



# OUR IMPACT AREAS

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

### PLACING LIVED EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

The world's best experts on human trafficking are survivors who have lived through it. Too often, their expertise is missing from the anti-trafficking field, along with that of leaders of vulnerable populations, like communities of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and migrant communities.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### EDUCATING COMMUNITIES + RAISING AWARENESS

Creating communities that are resilient to human trafficking requires an understanding of the issue and its complexities, as well as deep engagement and leadership by those with lived experience of it. Meanwhile, myths and falsehoods are commonplace. We are educating the public and raising awareness of the complexity of the issue, while debunking myths and falsehoods.

## COLLECTIVE IMPACT

### BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

A lack of access to education, health care, and financial stability are root causes of human trafficking that limit opportunity and create systemic vulnerabilities for individuals and communities. Knowing that the needs of each community is different, we are piloting individualized plans to detect, stop, and prevent human trafficking and build capacity to support survivors.

## CATALYZING ACTION

### STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

Anti-trafficking organizations have accomplished remarkable progress in the past 20 years, but much more remains to be done. Through advocacy, research, and our convening power, we are strengthening and expanding the anti-trafficking movement's impact.

# SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP IS KEY TO ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

While human trafficking can happen to anyone, it disproportionately affects people of color and members of groups who suffer systemic discrimination and marginalization because of their race, ethnicity, tribe, caste, sex, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. In recognition of this, the Center aims to align the anti-trafficking movement with the foundational values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This approach will ensure that the communities most at risk of trafficking are at the forefront of shaping strategies intended to protect them.

The Center has partnered with survivor leaders and survivor-led organizations to create new opportunities for those with lived experience of trafficking to lead the way. There is much to be done, and we will continue to build upon this work in the coming years.

## OUR IMPACT

- In partnership with Polaris, we are supporting the first ever [National Survivor Study](#) in the US to document human trafficking's effects from a survivor perspective and to aggregate advice from survivors on how to combat trafficking.
- We are integrating anti-trafficking work into the diversity, equity, and inclusion field through work that examines the intersection of racial justice and human trafficking.
- We are expanding avenues for survivors' professional development and economic empowerment through our fellowship program with Survivor Alliance and our *Rising United Leadership Program* with Rising Worldwide.



“Survivor Alliance is very glad to be in partnership with United Way through multiple projects. We are so grateful to the Center for co-sponsoring our World Congress, hosting Survivors LEAD student placements, and for supporting us to co-develop a fellowship program for survivor leaders to deepen their work in the anti-trafficking sector.”

— **Minh Dang, Executive Director, Survivor Alliance**

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

# SURVIVOR ALLIANCE WORLD CONGRESS



Believing that people with lived experience have the expertise needed to lead this movement. The Center sponsored the first-ever Survivor Alliance World Congress.

The week-long event **brought together 200 survivors** to set the agenda for the next decade of survivor leadership. Allies joined survivor leaders to begin drafting an action plan to shift the paradigm of leadership in the anti-trafficking sector over the next 10 years. Working groups focused on policy development, survivor capacity-building, research, direct services, fundraising and philanthropy, and media representation.

There is an urgent need for survivors to be represented in decision-making roles. As the sector progresses toward that goal, there's a need for increased survivor representation, with a focus on inclusive, intersectional representation in paid positions at all levels of the movement.

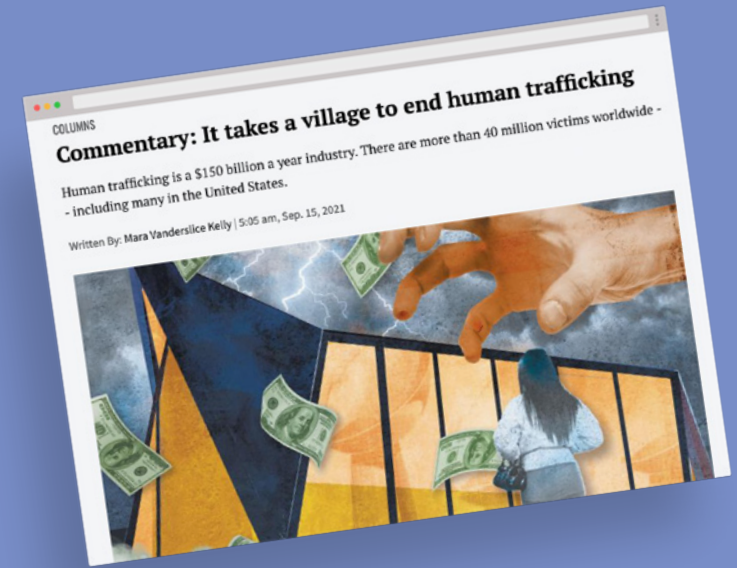
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

# EDUCATING COMMUNITIES AND RAISING AWARENESS

Through our trainings, social media campaigns, op-eds, and blogs, the Center is educating millions of people about the complexities of human trafficking and how to end it.



NEWSPAPER OP-EDS  
ACROSS AMERICA



## It Takes a Village to End Human Trafficking

*By Mara Vanderslice Kelly, Executive Director  
United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking*

“There is no silver bullet to end human trafficking, and it won’t happen overnight. However, a concerted effort from all levels of society to combat this evil is our best hope to end it.”

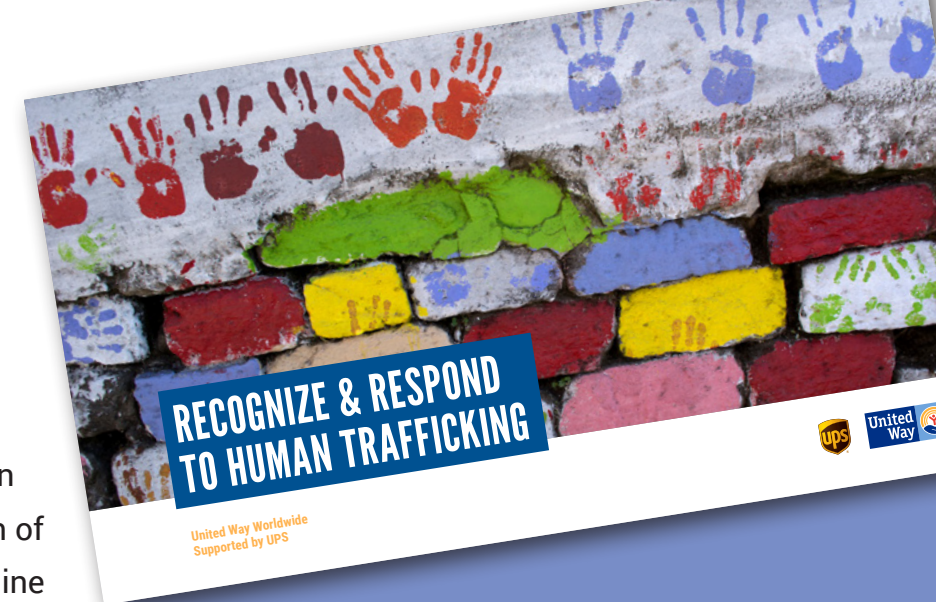
# TRAINING: UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

The Center's training program has reached thousands of people through local United Ways and their partners.

The training focuses on fundamentals such as the types of trafficking, tips for recognizing it, and techniques for getting community institutions to do something about it. These trainings have had incredible impact, showing participants how they can join the movement to confront trafficking in their own backyards.

Moving forward, our partnership with Rising Worldwide will increase survivor leadership in the anti-trafficking education space. Survivors are being prepared to lead the Center's Live

Learning Sessions through a customized badge training program for facilitators. It's an important evolution for the movement. Much of the focus to date has been to educate front-line workers and service providers on how to assist survivors. Now, survivors will transition from beneficiaries to educators.



“A young woman came in [to our United Way] looking very frightened and very alone. Because of the training that you all have given to us, we were able to look at her and recognize that something wasn't quite right. We realized this young woman was being trafficked. Because we had been taught what to do, we were able to keep her safe and get her back home to her mother who had been desperately looking for her.”

— Christine Benero, President & CEO of Mile High United Way

COMMUNITY IMPACT



# COMBATING TRAFFICKING WHERE IT STARTS

Human trafficking is a global issue, but it always starts in individual communities with unique vulnerabilities.

In some cities, housing disparities or a lack of services for displaced youth pose challenges. Some communities lack training for healthcare providers to recognize trafficking victims who end up in hospital emergency rooms. In other communities, legal and policy gaps need to be addressed, or service providers aren't properly networked. The Center's Community Impact Programs with local United Ways are piloting individualized plans to detect, stop, and prevent human trafficking and build capacity to support survivors.

As this work continues, we are using the findings from each project to build a comprehensive blueprint of best practices for communities to combat human trafficking.

*Perfect Aroma Nail & Spa*

Manicure · Pedicure · Waxing · UV Gel

211-213 First Ave.

Tel: (212) 473-9815

## SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: CASE MANAGEMENT DELIVERS RESULTS

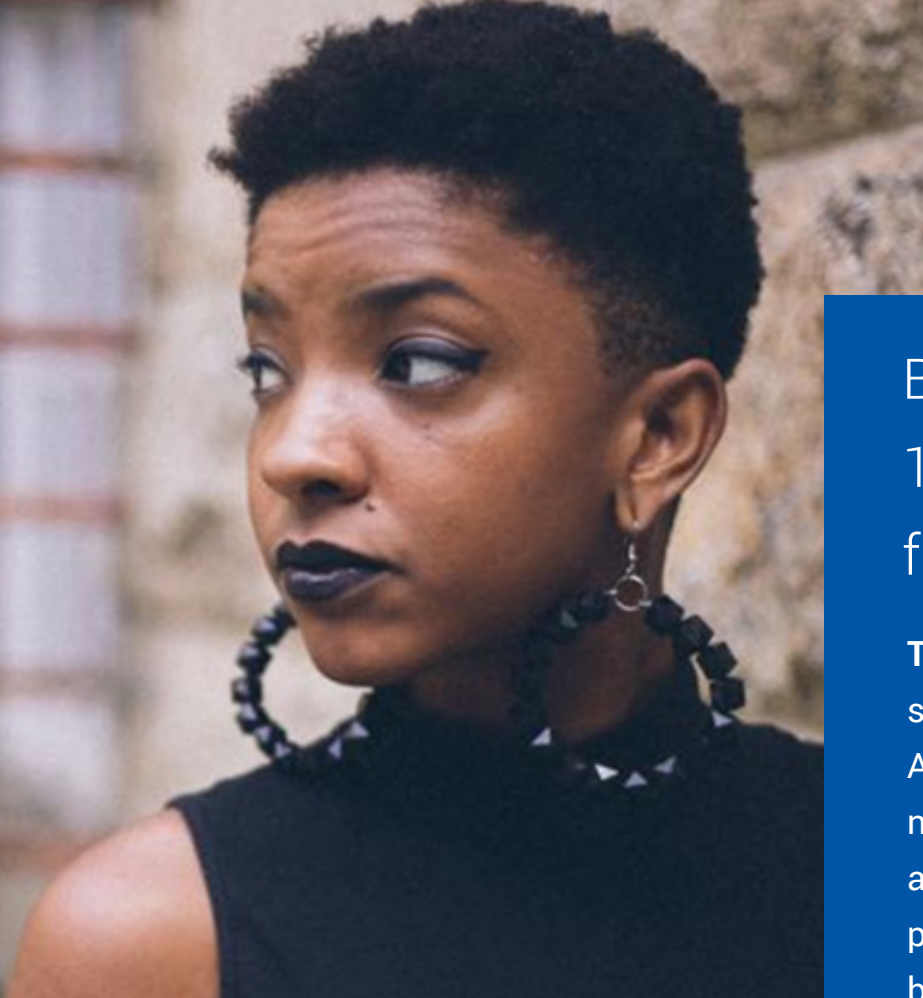
The **United Way of Greater Atlanta's** Case Management Training Academy has trained more than 400 staffers from over 160 agencies on how they can assist trafficking survivors — from first contact to successful resolution.

**Trafficking survivors need well-coordinated medical, psychological, legal, and financial support. What happens after someone is removed from their trafficking situation can be just as important as making sure they are freed in the first place.**

Because local United Ways are networks of vital community-based organizations, they provide unparalleled opportunities to ensure that trafficking survivors can find the services they deserve. Integrating human trafficking activities into other programs supported by United Way ensures that victims and survivors get the help they need.

This has included staffers from both public and private organizations, including social workers, teachers, health care workers, case managers, advocates, behavioral health professionals, and agency managers. The program was also offered virtually to staffers outside Atlanta, including California, New York, Texas, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. The anti-trafficking curriculum was integrated into existing social service training programs, demonstrating the intersectionality of trafficking and other community issues. Hundreds of front-line workers became anti-trafficking experts while sharpening their other skills.





## HUMAN IMPACT SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

Brianna, who had been trafficked since the young age of 13, experienced a history of physical and verbal abuse from various men in her life.\*

**The United Way of Greater Atlanta** supports the Wellspring Women’s Academy to provide skill-building and networking support for women being assisted by a range of community programs funded by United Way. She began the academy’s career track after graduating from high school. During 10 weeks of training, she gained professional skills and her Microsoft Word Certification. She then moved to the apprenticeship track and worked diligently for 12 weeks to put her skills to practice.

During this time, Brianna lived with a male relative, but their strained relationship was

difficult to manage. As she gained full-time employment, she started looking for a place to call her own. With the support of United Way’s housing voucher funding, Brianna was able to secure a safe and beautiful apartment.

She now works full time at a prestigious law firm in Atlanta. When she first entered the program as a human trafficking survivor, Brianna said she simply wanted to gain stability in her life. In just one year, she has come remarkably closer to recovery and self-determination.

*\*Names, photos, and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals in this report.*



# SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: NEW LAWS TARGET TRAFFICKERS AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS

Addressing the challenge of sex trafficking is a complicated conversation in Nevada, with legalized brothels located across much of the state. But the newly formed Nevada Policy Council on Human Trafficking, convened by **United Way of Southern Nevada** in partnership with Impact NV, is strengthening the state's legal framework to confront forced sexual exploitation. **The Council's 28 partner organizations created a monthly forum for key actors to discuss proposed legislation.**

The Council includes trafficking survivors and nonprofit service providers, along with representatives from healthcare, law enforcement, government, lodging, hospitality, and transportation. It has seen remarkable success — seven bills supported by the Council were approved and signed by the governor during Nevada's 2021 legislative session.



## LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

### AB 143

Creates an online directory of services for trafficking victims; develops a statewide plan or delivering services to trafficking victims; forms the State of Nevada Human Trafficking Coalition; designates a human trafficking specialist within the Division of Child and Family Services

### AB 182

Extends criminal responsibility to a person who owns, leases, or operates a business or property where illegal sex work is conducted

### AB 113

Increases the statute of limitations to six years for sex trafficking

### AB 64

Grants the Attorney General additional authority to prosecute the facilitation of sex trafficking

### SB 45

Requires the Ombudsman for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to assist victims of human trafficking and provide public education on human trafficking

### SB 164

Creates a special committee to conduct a study of sex trafficking

### SB 274

Licenses and certifies shelters for commercially sexually exploited children

## SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: BUILDING A STRONGER NETWORK

Combatting human trafficking takes teamwork. Survivors require a wide range of services to recover and regain control of their future. Everyday needs can become insurmountable obstacles if programs aren't linked to provide a consistent continuity of care. The **United Way of Southern Cameron County** has established a holistic support network to help survivors with legal, medical, psychological, and housing assistance. The

network convenes monthly to improve the identification and response to trafficking, to increase an understanding of available resources in the community, to identify needs and fill gaps in services, and to improve coordination and collaboration between social service groups and law enforcement professionals. The network offers specialized training for local police and nonprofit frontline workers.



# OVER 3500

Participants in specialized training workshops including



Law Enforcement Officials

Homeless Coalitions

Veteran's Coalitions

Medical Providers

Trauma Counselors

Legal Assistants

Housing Advocates

Nonprofit Front-line Workers





## HUMAN IMPACT SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

Juana was 24 and pregnant when she fled the violent situation in her home country of Guatemala. After crossing the border, her smuggler kept her prisoner inside a house in Texas, forcing her to cook and clean without pay.\*

Her documents were seized. Her family back home was extorted to send money and told she would be harmed if they did not pay. She was not even allowed to go outside.

Juana went into labor earlier than expected, forcing her traffickers to drop her at a local hospital. That's when Juana made the courageous decision to tell emergency room workers her story. Fortunately, they knew just what to do. The **United Way of Southern Cameron County's** network kicked into action.

A social worker from Refugee Services of Texas secured emergency shelter for Juana and her newborn infant in a safe hotel.

The social worker spent long hours with them, providing the first-time mother with emotional support and ensuring their needs were met. She has moved into transitional housing and her baby is healthy.

In addition, the network found Juana an immigration attorney, and an investigation of her trafficker was opened at the Department of Homeland Security. A special visa application for trafficking survivors was filed so that she can remain in the U.S. Juana is now receiving trauma-informed counseling, which has allowed her to feel more empowered and less fearful in cooperating with the trafficking investigation.

*\*Names, photos, and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals in this report.*

## SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: UNCOVERING THE SCOPE OF TRAFFICKING

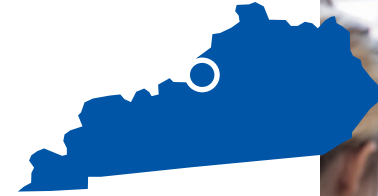
Human trafficking thrives when the scale of the problem is unknown and systems to combat it are fragmented or uneven. It's vital that social service providers understand the root causes of trafficking in their communities and take a systemic approach to strengthening prevention, awareness, training, assessment, service provision, public policy, and organizational procedures.

**Metro United Way** in Louisville has been investigating ways to bring best practice solutions to the city's entire social safety net. The research team was surprised by how little some organizations knew about trafficking in comparison to others. These pockets of knowledge were creating a fragmented response across the region. Survivors recounted ways that some programs were especially helpful, while also communicating ways in which others needed improvement. The team interviewed a wide range of community partners and trafficking survivors to document

the local dynamics of trafficking and to develop a systems-focused approach to raise the level of response inside the metro area. The research uncovered how youths were falling through the social safety net and showed how important housing assistance and trauma-informed mental health services are for rebuilding lives.

Based on this landscape analysis, **Metro United Way** is now leveraging the connections made during the research process to mainstream collaborative solutions for human trafficking prevention, screening, and intervention throughout their entire community. The research included roughly 300 people from diverse communities and backgrounds.

- 49 in depth interviews with community partner organizations
- 4 focus groups with youth and the service providers supporting them
- 6 steering committee meetings
- 204 responses to online survey



“The goal [of this research] was to uncover and shine a light on the landscape. The hope is that the community can learn about what exists, and from there, build collaborative solutions for prevention, screening, and intervention. There are so many opportunities in Louisville to get this right. It is up to the community to take these learnings and craft systemic solutions to stem the tide and assist survivors in healing and being successful.”

### – Human Trafficking in Louisville: Surveying the Landscape

# COMMUNITY IMPACT: AFRICA



Many parts of Africa were deeply afflicted by the transatlantic slave trade more than a century ago. Systemic challenges like poverty, unemployment, unstable governance, and inadequate awareness contribute to the prevalence of human trafficking in African nations.

The **United Way's Africa Region** has conducted an in-depth landscape analysis through extensive evaluations in four African countries to determine where targeted action can have the most impact. Researchers engaged 275 individuals from 76 organizations, including 49 survivors. The analysis outlined a holistic strategy that works with in-country partners to design and implement comprehensive approaches that integrate a focus on survivors, institutions, and communities to advance recovery, synergy, and prosperity.

Based on this research, the Center is expanding its community impact work to the African continent, with a focus on:

- Increasing access to education, health, and economic mobility programs to trafficking victims and survivors
- Coordinating and collaborating with frontline workers and local anti-human trafficking coalitions to upscale ongoing prevention strategies
- Sponsoring joint stakeholder consultative forums and survivor-led public education efforts
- Piloting innovative and sustainable public-private partnerships

Researchers engaged **275** individuals from **76** organizations, including **49** survivors

## NIGERIA

Human trafficking here is fueled by poverty, illiteracy, and criminal gangs. There are substantial gaps in government services for victims and the vulnerable that need to be filled.

## GHANA

Child labor trafficking is widespread in fishing communities along the Atlantic coast and the inland reservoir of Lake Volta. Currently, there's little consequence for the traffickers who offer cash to impoverished parents in exchange for sending their children away.

## KENYA

As a major transit point, sex tourism and migration-related labor exploitation are significant challenges here. Survivors must be supported and their voices amplified to advocate effectively for a national plan of action.

## SOUTH AFRICA

The use of drugs and the manipulation of spiritual traditions to coerce victims are driving extensive sex trafficking. Greater capacity for rescue operations through public-private partnerships need to be developed.

BUILDING A STRONGER ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

# POLICY AND ADVOCACY



Traffickers make 1,000x times more in profit than we fund to stop trafficking.

WITH BOLD AMERICAN LEADERSHIP THIS IS A FIGHT WE CAN WIN. THAT'S WHY WE'RE CALLING THE NEXT PRESIDENT TO JOIN GENERATION FREEDOM.

GENERATION FREEDOM

Through our movement-building and leadership we are working to create a bolder, broader, and more coordinated anti-trafficking field.

## GENERATION FREEDOM

The Center launched and coordinated the Generation Freedom campaign, which was supported by more than 150 organizations and garnered over 183,000 individual signatures on our petition to the 2016 presidential candidates. The campaign built public and political will against human trafficking by asking presidential candidates to commit to significant increases in funding for federal programs.

## US FEDERAL POLICY

Since the Center has launched, our congressional advocacy work has seen increased federal anti-trafficking appropriations by hundreds of millions of dollars. But **the anti-trafficking field remains vitally underfunded** at home and abroad. There is still much more to do.

The Center is a member of the [Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking](#) (ATEST) and provides crucial financial support to the organization. We partner with ATEST to advocate for anti-trafficking legislation and funding with the White House and Congress. This work includes the critical re-authorization of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which is the cornerstone of America's federal anti-trafficking response.

A PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA FOR ENDING MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2021-2024

ATEST Alliance To End Slavery & Trafficking

ATEST Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking

April 27, 2018

The Honorable John M. Loefer, Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano, Chairman House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Chairman House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations

The Honorable Jeanette Rosenblatt, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Dear Chairs Curbishley and Rosenblatt:

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and the undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to fund important programs to combat human trafficking and forced labor in the FY 2019 Commerce, State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill and to include related language. The U.S. State Department and USAID play vital roles in fighting this despicable crime.

Dear C:

The AI

ATED

FY2019 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Requests Summary

Agency	Program	Request
State Dept	End Modern Slavery Initiative	\$37,500,000
	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)	\$500,000
	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)	\$12,500,000
	Office of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)	\$42,000,000
	Child Protection Centers	\$10,000,000
	Migration and Refugee Assistance Program on Migration	\$5,000,000
	Global Human Trafficking Hub	\$500,000
USAID	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)	\$10,000,000
	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)	\$10,000,000
	Global Labor Program (GLP)	\$10,000,000
	Revolving Fund and Integrated Programming Transparency on Human Trafficking and TIP Integrated Funding and Activities	\$10,000,000
		\$10,000,000

# RESEARCH: THE COST OF GLOBAL FREEDOM



International  
Labour  
Organization



**REFLECT**  
**Research on Forced Labour Elimination Cost**  
Factsheet: July / 2020

According to the latest global estimate, in 2016 over 25 million individuals were victims of forced labour including forced labour in the private economy, forced sexual exploitation and state-imposed forced labour (ILO, Walk Free and IOM). The research behind the estimates was conducted as a contribution to a global effort to eradicate forced labour, human trafficking, child labour and modern slavery by 2030.

**Progress made so far**  
193 UN member states have committed to this effort as well as part of the global agenda to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since the release of the global estimates, much effort has been put forth by stakeholders to accelerate action toward ending forced labour, and human trafficking



Forced labour has the highest prevalence in Asia and the Pacific where four out of every 1000 people are in forced labour..

for forced labour. However, it is clear that not enough is being done to move the needle on reducing global prevalence and preventing vulnerable individuals from falling into this trap<sup>1</sup>. It is also more essential than ever to understand how to scale these efforts and resources in order to make progress toward our goal, in line with ILO Recommendation 203.

**Way forward**  
To assist political actors committed to stepping up levels of engagement in the fight against forced labour, in a targeted, evidence-driven way, the following questions must be addressed:

1. How much does it cost to end forced labour?
2. How do costs differ between countries and for various types of interventions?
3. Where can policy actors direct resources, domestically and internationally, in order to make the biggest impact on eradication?

The ILO, in a research project supported by United Way Worldwide, is trying to answer these questions aiming to produce regional and global costing estimates on the cost to eradicate forced labour. Estimates will be tailored to cost interventions to tackle specific forms of forced labour within multiple industries and regional contexts.

<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 may further complicate this goal by subjecting many more to the conditions of vulnerability known to be associated with risk of labour exploitation.

## What will it cost to free the world's 40 million trafficking victims, help them restart their lives, and ensure that no one is trafficked in the first place?

In partnership with the United Nations International Labour Organization, the Center is conducting [groundbreaking research](#) to better understand the actual costs of interventions required to eradicate forced labor. The project is called REFLECT - Research on Forced Labour Elimination Cost. The team is developing a formal economic model and field testing it in five countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe to determine the cost of ending human trafficking at scale.

This first-of-its kind modeling will be used to strengthen our advocacy for substantial increases in anti-trafficking funding. The findings, which are scheduled for release in late 2022, will allow the movement to augment the moral case for combating trafficking by including economic assessments of how much should be invested to end it.

BUILDING A STRONGER ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

# CONVENINGS AND EVENTS



## FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY FORUM

The Center has funded the annual **Freedom from Slavery Forum**, a global gathering that brings together anti-trafficking leaders from around the world to share best practices, develop strategies, forge coalitions, and strengthen the movement's collective voice. The Forum has developed the Bangkok Statement of Principles to guide governments, businesses, civil society organizations and unions in effective anti-trafficking work.

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENINGS

The Center has also hosted several convenings that brought together leaders from business, nonprofit, and governmental backgrounds to share innovations and best practices to combat human trafficking, including:

- **Business and Technology Leadership Forum** in San Francisco – 2016
- **The Business Leaders Forum to Combat Human Trafficking** in Washington, D.C. – 2017
- **Scaling Solutions to End Human Trafficking Leadership Roundtable** in Singapore – 2019

Occurring around the world, these conferences facilitated important conversations across sectors, allowing for collective learning and analyses, peer-to-peer networking, and the development of concrete steps to increase public-private coordination in the fight against trafficking.





**WE ARE INNOVATING WHERE NEEDED, UPLIFTING  
GOOD WORK ALREADY BEING DONE, ELEVATING  
SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP, AND UTILIZING  
THE UNITED WAY NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN  
THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT**

**UNITED WE CAN END HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

**JOIN US.**



[unitedway.org](http://unitedway.org)



---

 Center to Combat  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

[unitedway.org/endtrafficking](http://unitedway.org/endtrafficking)

[HTCenter@unitedway.org](mailto:HTCenter@unitedway.org)