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Edition: Human Trafficking Awareness

- [Latest Research & Statistics](#)
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Human Trafficking Defined

--from Trafficking In Persons Report, June 2021, Department of State

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (TVPA), defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subsection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. A victim need not be physically transported from one location to another for the crime to fall within this definition.

Human Trafficking

Modern Day Slavery

Trafficking In Persons

Sex Trafficking

Labor Trafficking

Organ Trafficking



Latest Research & Statistics: Human Trafficking.

-Compiled by Editors at The Journal of Nonprofit Innovation

"Female victims continue to be particularly affected by trafficking in persons. In 2018, for every 10 victims detected globally, about five were adult women and two were girls. About one third of the overall detected victims were children, both girls (19 per cent) and boys (15 per cent), while 20 per cent were adult men. Traffickers target victims who are marginalized or in difficult circumstances. Undocumented migrants and people who are in desperate need of employment are also vulnerable, particularly to trafficking for forced labour." - [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2020](#)

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Case Study 1: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Case Series of Male Pediatric Patients

From Jessica Moore, Meagan Fitzgerald, Timothy Owens, Brett Slingsby, Christine Barron, Amy Goldberg, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2021, Vol 36(23-24).



Introduction

“Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of children (<18 years old) who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, victimized within U.S. borders. The objective of the present case series was to describe the demographic, psychosocial, medical, and psychiatric characteristics of natal male participants (who did not identify as transgender) suspected of DMST involvement. Our case series demonstrates that male participants present for concern of sex trafficking and have complex behavioral, medical, and psychiatric concerns similar to what has been identified in research focused on female victims. Therefore, testing (e.g., sexually transmitted infection (STI)/HIV testing, urine toxicology screening), DMST screening, and interventions (e.g., STI prophylaxis, referrals to mental health counselors) should be completed in male patients.”

In this case study, participants had several common risk factors (e.g., running away, substance use), have medical needs (e.g., sexually transmitted infections [STIs], psychiatric diagnoses), and identify as gay or bisexual. In future research, it would be helpful to have a focus on male youth involved in DMST, 1) to better identify and specifically understand male victims of

DMST, 2) to raise awareness about the consequences of involvement, and 3) to provide prevention and intervention services designed specifically for males. Previous literature discovered that LGBTQ youth are at a heightened risk to become trafficking victims. “This may be in part because family conflicts correlate with runaway behavior, homelessness, and other high-risk factors connected to DMST involvement.”

Conclusion

This case series offers two elements to the existing body of literature. “First, males present for concern of DMST involvement to medical providers. Second, these youths have complex behavioral, medical, and psychiatric concerns similar to what has been identified in research focused on female victims.” Thus, there is a need for testing (e.g., STI/HIV testing, urine toxicology screening), DMST screening, and interventions (e.g., STI prophylaxis, referrals to mental health counselors) in male patients.

Note: Male participants should be screened for potential DMST involvement who present with **high-risk factors, such as running away, LGBTQ status, and substance abuse.**

Study 2: Modern-Day Slavery in the U.S.

By Isaac Burt, *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*, 2018, Vol 41, Iss 2.

Introduction

“This article focuses on increasing U.S.-based counselors’ awareness of human trafficking, forms of trafficking, prevalence in the U.S., assessment, and treatment for survivors.”

“Trafficked persons demonstrate a high level of posttraumatic stress, anxiety disorders, suicidal ideation, and physical conditions such as debilitating pain and dysfunction.”

Note: Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking show high levels of PTSD, Anxiety Disorders, Suicidal Ideation, Debilitating Pain and Dysfunction.

Study 3: Risk Factors for Domestic Child Sex Trafficking in the United States

By Lisa Fedina, MSW, Celia Williamson, PhD, Tasha Perdue, MSW, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 2019, Vol. 34(13) 2653 -2673

Abstract Summary

"This study retrospectively examines associations between multiple risk factors and domestic child sex trafficking. Two primary research questions are addressed: (1) What set of risk factors, prior to entering the commercial sex industry, are associated with domestic child sex trafficking and (2) what group differences, if any, exist in risk factors between current or former domestic child sex-trafficking victims and non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry?"

These are the suggested results that were significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking: childhood emotional and sexual abuse, rape, ever running away from home, having family members in sex work, and having friends who purchased sex.

Additional results indicate "that domestic child sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to have ever run away and to be a racial/ethnic minority than non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry." These findings can be used to inform state-level policies to protect children and in developing intervention and prevention responses to commercial sexual exploitation.

Consequences of Domestic Sex Trafficking in the United States

"Studies on adult women's and youths' involvement in pimp-controlled and street-based prostitution have been linked to a number of harms and consequences. Women engaged in pimp-controlled and street-based prostitution often experience **high rates of physical violence, sexual violence, and harassment and are at increased risk of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), Hepatitis, and other infectious diseases.**

Youth engaged in commercially sexual exploitation experience **physical and sexual violence** perpetrated by pimps, customers, and others engaging in the commercial sex industry. These youth are also at **high risk of HIV/AIDS, STIs, unintended pregnancy, and overall poor physical health.** "Research also suggests that commercially sexually exploited youth often face

complex and untreated mental health issues, such as depression and suicidal ideation."

"Without early intervention, children engaged in the commercial sex industry are at high risk of continued involvement in the commercial sex industry into adulthood, which can lead to long-term physical, mental, and behavioral health consequences."

Results

The following are "several significant risk factors associated with domestic child sex trafficking:

- **Running away** as a minor (ever) is significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking. Specifically, 62.6% of child-trafficking victims ran away as a minor compared with 27.2% of non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry. The odds are over 5 times greater for child-trafficking victims to have ever run away than for non-trafficked adults.
- **Childhood sexual abuse** was experienced by 44.6% of child-trafficking victims, compared with 27.7% of non-trafficked adults.
- **Childhood emotional abuse** was experienced by 40.9% of child-trafficking victims, compared with 28.2% of non-trafficked adults.
- **Rape** was experienced among 50% of child-trafficking victims, compared with 31.6% of non-trafficked adults.
- Having **family members involved in sex work** and having **friends who bought sex** were also significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking; that is, 35% of child-trafficking victims had family members engaged in sex work and 39.4% had friends who bought sex prior to entering the commercial sex industry, compared with 23.6% and 26.8%, respectively, of non-trafficked adults.
- Child-trafficking victims are **more likely to be non-White** (i.e., racial and ethnic minority), compared with non-trafficked adults. The odds are more than twice as high for child-trafficking victims to be a racial/ethnic minority than non-trafficked adults."

"Childhood sexual abuse, childhood emotional abuse, rape, having family members involved in sex work, and having friends who bought sex are not significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking."

Study 4: Prevalence and Correlates of Sex Trafficking among Homeless and Runaway Youths Presenting for Shelter Services

By Johanna K. P. Greeson, Daniel Treglia, Debra Schilling Wolfe, and Sarah Wasch, *National Association of Social Workers*, 2019

“Those who were sex trafficked were more likely than those who were not sex trafficked to be female, sexual minorities, or Latino and to have either dropped out of high school or obtained a GED.”

This study found that 17% (n =45) of participants reported that they were victims of domestic sex trafficking. This is a slightly higher percentage than in previous studies conducted with youths presenting for shelter services all around the United States.

Note: Findings from this study can inform service providers in their efforts to prevent sex trafficking and intervene to assist victims among the homeless youth population.



Study 5: Trafficking Experiences and Psychosocial Features of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims

By Jessica L. Moore, BA, Christopher Houck, PhD, Priyadarshini Hirway, ScM, Christine E. Barron, MD, Amy P. Goldberg, MD, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2020, Vol. 35(15-16) 3148 -316

Abstract

“Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is an increasingly recognized traumatic crime premised upon the control, abuse, and exploitation of youth. By definition, DMST is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” within domestic borders, in which the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The present study described the demographics, psychosocial features, and trafficking experiences (e.g., environments of recruitment, relationship to trafficker, solicitation) of DMST victims.

High rates of alcohol or substance use/abuse (92%), being placed in a group home or child protective services (CPS) custody (28%), a history of runaway behavior (60%), and/or exposure to other child maltreatment (88%) were identified. Our data indicated variation in reported trafficking experiences; however, patients commonly reported an established relationship with their trafficker (60%) and recruitment occurred primarily as a result of financial motivation (52%). Patients were prevalently recruited in settings where there were face-to-face interactions (56%), whereas the solicitation of sex-buyers occurred primarily online (92%). Victims who disclosed involvement in DMST had complicated psychosocial histories that may have rendered them susceptible to their exploitation, and reported a variety of DMST experiences perpetuated by traffickers. Although preliminary in nature, this study provided empirical evidence of the predisposing factors, motivations, and experiences of victimized youth uniquely from the perspective of patients who sought medical care.”

“Traffickers are skilled in identifying the weaknesses and needs of youth and exploit those vulnerabilities to lure, entrap, and control their victims. Although our cohort revealed that victims lived at home (18/25, 72%) with a parent/guardian and/or were accompanied to their medical visit by a parent (17/25, 68%), a large number of patients (22/25, 88%) in our study had experienced a form of child mal-treatment, including prior sexual abuse (12/25, 55%). These data are consistent with two previous studies that found approximately 70% of subjects self-reported a childhood sexual abuse history preceding their sex trafficking victimization. Based on these findings, it is not surprising that our patients (5/25, 20%) endorsed the need to escape their home life as reason for their involvement. Furthermore, the majority of our patients had run away from home (15/25, 60%) at least once

prior to their presentation for DMST. Children who experience maltreatment at home may feel the need to escape, consequently increasing their risk to engage in survival sex for money or shelter.”

Studies indicate the following areas are intrinsically linked to substance abuse:

- Runaway behavior,
- Child maltreatment,
- Exchanging sex for money, drugs, and general.

“Preexisting substance use can be a risk factor for youth involvement due to decreased inhibitions and impaired judgment, or a recruitment tactic by traffickers promising to supply their addiction.

Traffickers may use manipulative strategies to recruit youth into sexual exploitation; these strategies are termed “grooming techniques,” in which traffickers seduce victims with promises of money, lavish lifestyles and careers, and/or love and security. Many traffickers approach victims with the ability to earn money quickly.

Over half of our sample (13/25, 52%) stated that traffickers lured them to engage in DMST based on promises of economic opportunity. While no statistical differences were found, economic opportunity was more frequently reported as a means of recruitment by Black patients (6/9, 67%) as opposed to White patients (7/16, 44%), and patients living in a home (10/18, 56%) versus a group home (3/7, 43%).

Note: Financial reasons are found to be a primary motivator for entrance into sex trafficking.

Study 6: Structural Responses to Gendered Social Problems: Police Agency Adaptations to Human Trafficking

by Alicia L. Jurek, William R. King, *Police Quarterly* 2020, Vol. 23(1) 25-54

Abstract

“The identification and investigation of human trafficking cases has lagged behind what prevalence estimates of the scope of the crime have suggested. Previous research has identified the importance of formalized responses to human trafficking for the successful identification of these cases, but little is known about the factors predicting the creation of

specialized human trafficking units. The current study uses both primary and secondary data and a theoretical framework informed by structural contingency and representative bureaucracy to identify predictors of specialized human trafficking units in large municipal police departments in the United States. Penalized maximum likelihood estimation revealed only agency size and social disorganization were significant predictors of these specialized units. Directions for future research are included.”

“Although some of this research has found no relationship with size and overall levels of functional differentiation, Katz et al. (2002) reported older agencies were less likely to create gang units.”

Note: Older agencies will be less likely to create human trafficking units.



Results

“Of the responding agencies (n = 168), 13.69% had a human trafficking unit as of 2014. Most (75%) of these units were staffed with full-time employees, though 15% were staffed only part-time and 10% had both full-time and part-time employees. The average number of employees in the human trafficking units was 4.43, with a range from 0 to 15. When asked whether the department had a formalized procedure, protocol, or policy in place for the identification and response to human trafficking, 155 agencies responded, with only 32.08% responding affirmatively.

Specifically, larger agencies were more likely to have specialized human trafficking units than smaller agencies, and communities experiencing greater social disorganization were less likely to have a specialized human trafficking unit.”

Findings

“What we found was that of the variables included, only organizational size and social disorganization were significantly related to the creation of human trafficking units in this sample. **The most robust finding is that larger agencies are more likely to**

create specialized human trafficking units. Larger organizations may have greater capacity to change their structures (through greater people or monetary resources). Organizational size is also correlated with population size, and agencies located in larger cities were more likely to identify human trafficking cases than were agencies in smaller locales.

Future research should explore whether larger cities are more likely to have a higher prevalence of human trafficking (thus making it easier for police agencies to identify), whether larger agencies are better at identifying cases due to greater capacity or resources (or some other mechanism), or whether it is some combination of both.

Note: "Greater social disorganization in the community significantly decreased the odds of the police department having a specialized human trafficking unit.

Trafficking In Persons Report, June 2021

Direct Link: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/TIPR-GPA-upload-07222021.pdf>



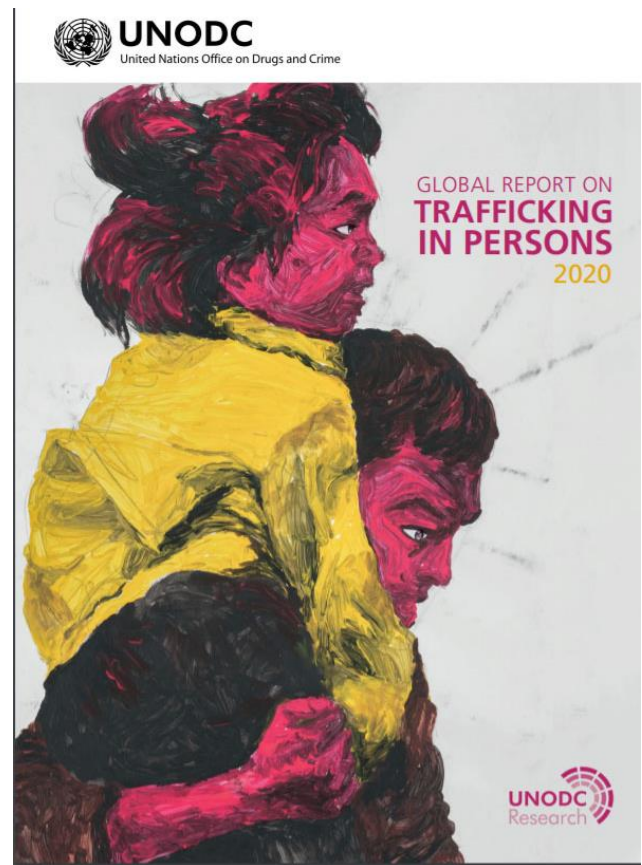
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

JUNE 2021



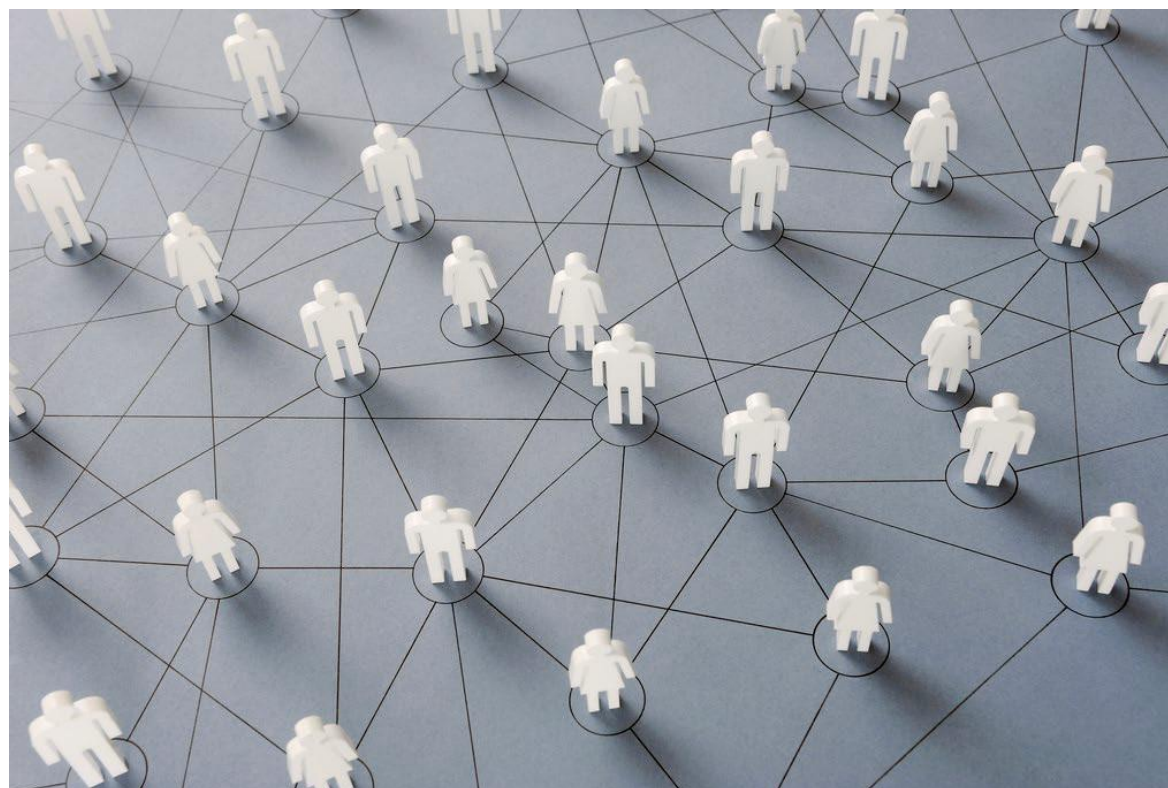
Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2020

Direct Link: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf



Articles: Human Trafficking

The Journal of Nonprofit Innovation



TITLE

Fighting Human Trafficking
by Better Understanding
Nonprofit Collaboration

Author

Angela Holzer, EdD

Topics

Human Trafficking,
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2020

INSIDE

Fighting Human Trafficking by Better Understanding Nonprofit Collaboration

-- by Angie Holzer, EdD

Abstract: This research study examines nonprofit organizations and how collaboration plays a part in the human trafficking efforts within the United States. A descriptive study was conducted analyzing data from a quantitative, survey-based research method. Using a sample of 29 nonprofit leaders working in fighting human trafficking, data was collected on 1) what challenges nonprofits face in collaborating, 2) what technology tools nonprofits use to collaborate, and 3) how many other groups a single nonprofit works with in combating human trafficking. The findings show that the main challenges are 1) limited time, and 2) competition and/or lack of trust.

Fighting Human Trafficking by Better Understanding Nonprofit Collaboration

By Angela Holzer, EdD

Introduction

The following research study was undertaken to better understand the challenges nonprofit organizations face as they combat human trafficking within the United States.

Research Questions

The following research question guided this study (RQ1): What are the similarities and differences in how nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, California and the Salt Lake Area, Utah collaborate in fighting human trafficking with other nonprofits and groups in their communities? There were also sub-research questions that continued to expand on the initial research question to better understand the workings of the collaboration that currently exists within these two areas of the United States.

RQ1a: What are the challenges nonprofit organizations face as they make an effort to collaborate with other nonprofit organizations?

RQ1b: What are the challenges nonprofit organizations face as they make an effort to collaborate with public or private sector groups?

RQ1c: What technology do nonprofits currently use in collaboration?

RQ1d: What other nonprofits and secondary groups are these nonprofit organizations collaborating with to help fight human trafficking (homelessness, foster care, addiction recover centers, law enforcement, corporations, etc.)?

RQ1e: What similarities exist between the two communities with collaboration?

RQ1f: What differences exist between the two communities with collaboration?

This study first established what was happening within one community, and then a comparison was made between the two communities. In making this comparison, there was a hope to see similar trends or different approaches that other communities can think about using in their own communities to fight human trafficking.

Literature Review

There were three areas that this literature review targeted to frame this study, 1) human trafficking, 2) nonprofit sector, and 3) collaboration.

Human Trafficking

In 2000, the United States passed the first federal law to address trafficking in persons called TVPA, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Vanek, 2019), and a 3P strategy

(prevention, prosecution, protection) was developed (U.S. Department of State, 2019). In 2009, an additional P for partnership was added (Foot, 2016). However, collaborative partnerships between state agencies and voluntary nonprofits are minimal (JHA, 2018). There are limited studies on human trafficking (Chen & Lu, 2017), and data are sparse on human trafficking crimes (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2018). This is due to human trafficking being a hidden population, where no sampling frame exists and there is unknown data with the size and boundaries of this population (Chen & Lu, 2017). A study in 2013 showed the greatest need for victims is housing (Baker & Grover, 2013).

Nonprofit Sector

The majority of nonprofits within the United States are small, making under a million a year (McKeever, 2016). These small nonprofits are overlooked, while larger nonprofits have more decision-making power (Proulx, Hager & Klein, 2014). Most agencies within a community responding to victims were not aware of each other and found out about each other through word of mouth (Baker & Grover, 2013). There is a gap in documentation how nonprofits collaborate within communities (Elrod, 2015).

Collaboration

Scholars do not agree on one definition of collaboration (Felix, 2011). There are different words that can be used to describe collaboration, such as partnerships, alliances, agreements, coalitions, and nonprofit business alliances (Rathi, Given & Forcier, 2014). Collaboration could also include sharing of resources and information (Wei-Ning & Change, 2018). Collaboration is defined in this study as "a method that can be used either formally or informally by a group of individuals who can work side by side to share concerns that can bring mutual gain" (Felix, 2011, p.14). Technology is becoming more involved with the collaboration process (Raghupathi, 2016), and is often a low-cost tool to help in sharing information and learning new things (Rathi, Given & Forcier, 2014).

Benefits.

The benefits for nonprofits to collaborate include new opportunities, new information and new social capital (Park, 2006). When collaboration increases, there can be an increase of effectiveness in outcomes (Abdulkadir, Suhariadi, Wibowo, & Hadi, 2017). Greater connections are built within a community when collaboration increases (Powell, Winfield, Schatteman, & Trusty, 2018). Collaboration also brings access to more funds and resources (Chang, Seetoo, Yu, & Cheng, 2016). Sharing of resources could involve pooling or sharing finances, skills, expertise, staffing and knowledge for a collaborative purpose (Rathi, Given, & Forcier, 2014).

Challenges.

Nonprofits experience challenges when they collaborate within their own nonprofit sector and with the public and private sectors (JHA, 2018; Chang, Seetoo, Yu, & Cheng, 2016). These challenges include having limited time and

limited resources to collaborate. Nonprofits often feel a sense of competition and lack of trust with those they collaborate with. Small nonprofits face being dissolved or losing autonomy (Proulx, Hager & Klein, 2014).

Methodology

The methodology and design of this study was a quantitative, descriptive research design that used a survey-based approach to gather the data. The sample population that was used in this research study were nonprofit organizations based in two locations within the United States. The first location was the San Francisco Bay Area in California focusing specifically on four counties: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda. The second location was the Salt Lake Area in Utah focusing specifically on four counties: Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah. A criteria sampling approach was used to find nonprofits who worked in the focus area of human trafficking or any related topic in three different categories; prevention, working with current victims, and aftercare services. There were 64 related NTEE codes out of the 400 codes from the IRS database that fit in the related focus areas. Out of the 36,638 nonprofits in these 8 designated counties (Table 1), only 2,015 fit in the focus areas. Another 40% were removed due to the inability to find contact information or these nonprofits no longer being in operation, leaving a total of 915 nonprofits.

Table 1
Nonprofit Sampling and Filtering Process

States	Total # of Nonprofits in Database	% Relevant After Applying NTEE Codes	Criteria Sample	Removal of Inactive Nonprofits or No Online Presence	Final Count: Related Fields Only
UT	7,720	7%	511	361 (Removed 29%)	255
CA	28,918	5%	1,504	848 (Removed 44%)	696
CA + UT	36,638	5%	2,015	1,209 (Removed 40%)	951

The data were collected through SurveyMonkey, an online data collection tool. The variables in this study were categorical variables, allowing for different types, kinds, and elements of collaboration to be analyzed. There are five categorical variables in this study, 1) nonprofit organizations working in fighting human trafficking, 2) Location (San Francisco Bay Area, CA and Salt Lake Area, UT), 3) number of nonprofits and other groups working with (or collaborating with) a single nonprofit in fighting human trafficking in their community, 4) different technology or tools to collaborate that are being used, and 5) frequency of collaboration that is happening. Calculations were used to see the mean, median, and mode as well as chi-square test to see if there is a strong relationship between categorical variables.

Results

There were 29 nonprofits who participated in the survey, 22 from California and seven from Utah. The California nonprofits have an even percentage of nonprofits and services in fighting human trafficking (see Figure 1), whereas Utah nonprofits lack in the areas of prevention and awareness (see Figure 2).

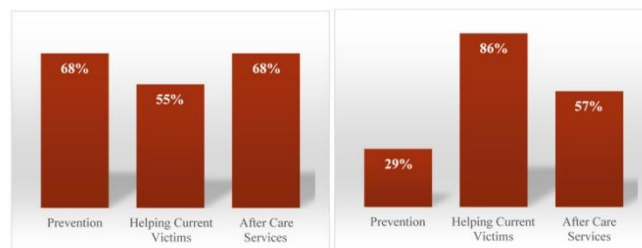


Figure 1. Percentage of California nonprofits who work in the three categories of human trafficking.

Figure 2. Percentage of Utah nonprofits who work in the three categories of human trafficking.

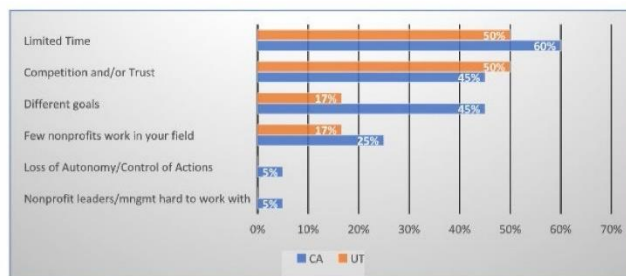
Size of Nonprofit vs Category

In California, the smaller nonprofits take on 67% of the efforts in prevention and awareness, 67% of the efforts in working with current victims, and providing 60% of the aftercare services. The large nonprofits in Utah take on most of the effort in all three categories.

Challenges

In California, 60% of the nonprofits stated that limited time was their number one reason they struggle to collaborate with other nonprofits. In Utah, 50% of the nonprofits indicated that limited time and competition/lack of trust with other nonprofits were the top reasons (see Figure 3). In California, most nonprofits felt they have different goals in working with other groups, while Utah shows there are few groups to work with in the same space.

Figure 3- Challenges Nonprofits Face when Working with Other Nonprofits



Technology

In California, 75% of participants stated email was the top tool they used to collaborate with other nonprofits. In Utah, 80% were most likely to use the phone when collaborating with other nonprofits.

Collaborating Groups

Out of the 57% of the smaller nonprofits in California, the organizations that earn less than \$50,000/year take on the majority of the collaboration. Both communities collaborated

mostly with community groups, and the least amount with large corporations.

Similarities and Differences

The similarities exist in the challenges both communities face as they collaborate. The differences exist in the tools they use to collaborate and limited number of nonprofits working in Utah to fight human trafficking.

Variables

Both in California and Utah, most nonprofits collaborate weekly with other nonprofits and monthly with collaborative network. The average number of other nonprofit organizations a single nonprofit collaborates with in California is 14.8 (see Table 2). There was no significant relationship found between variables.

Table 2
Sample Variance: How Many Other Nonprofit Organizations Does Your Organization Collaborate with to Pursue your Mission?

CALIFORNIA ONLY		UTAH ONLY	
Mean	14.8	Mean	22.33333333
Standard Error	2.592093241	Standard Error	8.281170073
Median	12	Median	14
Mode	20	Mode	#N/A
Standard Deviation	11.59219338	Standard Deviation	20.28464115
Sample Variance	134.3789474	Sample Variance	411.4666667
Kurtosis	3.404555163	Kurtosis	-1.894052027
Skewness	1.612693739	Skewness	0.729667182
Range	49	Range	45
Minimum	1	Minimum	5
Maximum	50	Maximum	50
Sum	296	Sum	134
Count	20	Count	6

Conclusion

As nonprofits face challenges of having limited time in collaborating with other nonprofits, improving the use of technology tools needs to be addressed to improve efficiency (Proulx, Hager & Klein, 2014). Nonprofits also face feelings of competition and lack of trust in collaborating with other nonprofits. Future research can be pursued in addressing why competition and lack of trust is present in collaboration and how to engage small nonprofits, specifically in Utah.

As communities combat human trafficking, county and statewide coalitions are formed. In California, the San Mateo County coalition services the people in their county and has an open group approach. All meetings are public, and all community members are encouraged to get involved. Utah (UTIP) has a task force to service all people in the state and has a closed group approach. Participants are approved by application and community members are not encouraged to participate without meeting the requirements established by the governing body. Further research could be done on the benefits and struggles of different collaborative models with human trafficking task forces and coalitions, and what is the best approach to meet the needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking. This effort is “people-based”, says Sergeant Juan Reveles, who runs the Orange County Human

Trafficking Task Force, one of the leading task forces in the nation (J.Reveles, personal interview, March 12, 2021). He states that it is important to learn to work together to help those victims and survivors of human trafficking.

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Are you interested in submitting an article, thought paper, or nonprofit spotlight for *The Journal of Nonprofit Innovation*? We are accepting submissions for our 2022 journals from researchers, nonprofit leaders and nonprofit experts in a variety of topics.

See the details here: <https://www.wikicharities.org/journal-of-nonprofit-innovation>

All submissions should be emailed to info@wikicharities.org with the subject line: JoNI Submission Request.



Human Trafficking: Timeline 2019-2021

Significant Happenings during 2019-2021 Fighting Against Human Trafficking

2019

February

R. Kelly is arrested and charged with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse (*See September 2021*).

July

Jeffrey Epstein was arrested again on federal charges for sex trafficking of minors in Florida and New York.

August

J. Epstein died in his jail cell. The medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.

September

GirlsDoPorn: Owners arrested on charges of sex trafficking after a search warrant was executed by the FBI. Garcia (employee) and Wolfe (owner) were arrested. Pratt (owner) fled the country. As of November 2021, Pratt is on the FBI's most wanted list. Wolfe was denied bail in October 2019, and again in May 2020.

October

GirlsDoPorn Owners and Employees Charged in Sex Trafficking Conspiracy. According to a lawsuit, women who responded to fake modeling advertisements on Craigslist were put into contact with "reference girls" who pretended to have had positive experiences shooting videos for the company.
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/girlsdoporn-owners-and-employees-charged-sex-trafficking-conspiracy>

November

PayPal stops supporting payments to Pornhub. PayPal's decision may have been influenced by two federal anti-sex trafficking laws that have broad implications for the tech industry, according to software engineer Alison Falk.

One of the measures — the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act — makes internet companies potentially liable if they knowingly facilitate activities that violate existing sex-trafficking laws.
<https://nypost.com/2019/11/15/paypal-turns-off-payments-to-pornhub-models/>

2020

July

Ghislaine Maxwell, British socialite, has been arrested by the FBI on multiple charges related to the serial sexual abuse of girls and young women by the late financier Jeffrey Epstein.

December

Dec 4 - **New York Times Article:** [The Children of Pornhub](#) by Nicholas Kristof



Dec 10 – **Mastercard and Visa** stop allowing their cards to be used on Pornhub

Lawsuit: GirlsDoPorn: December 2020, Garcia (employee) pled guilty to federal charges of sex trafficking by force, fraud, and coercion.

2021

January

Lawsuit: GirlsDoPorn: In January 2021, Gyi (employee) pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion. He lied to performers that their videos would not be posted on the internet.

February

The Canadian Parliament's Hearing Taking on MindGeek Executives

On February 1st, 2021, the Canadian House of Commons Ethics Committee launched their investigation into MindGeek, the parent company of Pornhub, for hosting videos of child sexual abuse, rape, sex-trafficking, and non-consensually distributed content.

April

Lawsuit: GirlsDoPorn: In April 2021, Moser (employee) pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion.

June

Lawsuit: GirlsDoPorn: On June 14, 2021, Garcia (employee) was sentenced to 20 years in custody, more than the prosecutors' suggested 12.5 years and the 7 years sought by his defense team. He will also be on supervised release for 10 years following the end of his custodial term.

Lawsuit: Pornhub parent company MindGeek faces U.S. lawsuit over exploitation allegations. An international law firm has launched a lawsuit in the U.S. against Canadian company MindGeek over alleged sexual exploitation videos on one of its websites, Pornhub. **Brown Rudnick LLP** says the suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, is on behalf of 30 victims of child pornography, rape, and human trafficking who the suit claims were exploited on Pornhub's site. **MindGeek**, which is based in Montreal, is under investigation by Canadian federal privacy watchdog.

September

R. Kelly convicted of sex trafficking and racketeering.

October

Lawsuit: Pornhub settles California lawsuit brought by 50 women, including Canadians.

Facebook whistleblower, Frances Haugen, testifies at the US Congress, accusing the social media company of serially misleading investors about its approach to safety, the size of its audience, and the company's harms. Ms. Haugen's claims — which were backed by internal documents that showed Facebook's services hurt some children's self-esteem and abetted **human trafficking**

Lawsuit: GirlsDoPorn: FBI Seeking Public's Assistance to Locate Michael James Pratt, Wanted for Sex Trafficking and Production of Child Pornography

LAST 2 MONTHS

December 2

[Stockton Man Sentenced to over 11 Years in Prison for Sex Trafficking of a Child](#)

[Nevada woman admits transporting minor to Montana for prostitution](#)

[Suburban Chicago Woman Charged in Federal Court in Connection With Alleged Child Sex Trafficking](#)

December 6

[Four Defendants Sentenced in Connection with Trafficking 13-year old Minor Victim](#)

December 8

[Cincinnati man who sex trafficked teen sentenced to more than 15 years in prison](#)

December 10

[Kent, Washington man sentenced to 12 years in prison for sex trafficking of a minor](#)

December 14

[Six individuals, including a Village of Brewster Police Officer, Charged in Sex Trafficking and Bribery Scheme](#)

December 15

[Milwaukee Man Indicted on Federal Sex Trafficking Charges](#)

December 17

[Suburban Chicago Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Violently Sex Trafficking Multiple Women](#)

December 20

[Council Bluffs Man Sentenced for Human Trafficking Offenses](#)

[Child Sex Trafficker and Armed Robber Sentenced to Decades in Federal Prison](#)

December 28

- [Omaha Man Sentenced for Child Sex Trafficking Offenses](#)

December 29

Ghislaine Maxwell on trial for sex trafficking
Verdict: Ghislaine Maxwell guilty of 4 counts of sex trafficking a minor

December 30

[Anchorage Man Sentenced to More Than 23 Years in Prison for Sex Trafficking and Drug Offenses](#)

2022

January 5

[Anchorage Man Sentenced to 35 Years in Prison for Sex Trafficking Minors, Child Pornography, and Illegal Possession of a Firearm](#)

[Essex County Man Charged with Sex Trafficking](#)

January 6

[Billings Man Admits Sex Trafficking, Firearms, and Prostitution-Related Crimes](#)

January 7

[FBI Human Trafficking Fugitive Captured](#)

[Man Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison for Sex Trafficking During Miami Super Bowl](#)

[Canton Man Pleads Guilty to Sex Trafficking](#)

Source: FBI – Press Room – Human Trafficking
<https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/press-room>

Nonprofit Spotlights



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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

AEquitas

Washington, D.C.

www.aequitasresource.org

www.justexits.org



Mission

AEquitas' mission is to improve access to and the quality of justice in gender-based violence and human trafficking cases through an informed, practical, and innovative approach. Named after the Roman goddess of equity and fairness, AEquitas was established to support prosecutors in their individual and collective efforts to achieve justice in gender-based violence and human trafficking cases.

Services We Offer

AEquitas is the go-to resource for the prosecution of human trafficking and related crimes of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and exploitation. We leverage our unparalleled staff expertise and broad network of professionals to empower prosecutors to more effectively respond to these crimes. In doing so, we are fighting to end impunity for offenders while prioritizing and enhancing support for the victims and survivors who are so often left behind in the fight for criminal justice reform.

We combine the best elements of prosecution practice with research and data to develop practical and accessible resources and provide customized training and assistance to prosecutors and their partners. With over 150 years of combined specialized expertise, AEquitas attorneys know how to implement best practices—while consistently measuring, assessing, and refining their approaches to better achieve justice.

How Our Approach Is Innovative

Key to our approach is being victim-centered, offender-focused, and collaborative. We develop and promote innovative strategies that inspire a paradigm shift from victim-blaming to victim-centered. We also consider the impact the criminal justice process has on victims, their families, and their communities. Ultimately, we strive to achieve case outcomes that hold offenders accountable while taking victims' experiences and perspectives into account.

We challenge prosecutors and allied professionals to develop and employ offender-focused strategies driven by accurate and unbiased case analyses and thorough understanding of applicable law. Offenders intentionally target victims whom they believe they can assault, shame, and intimidate. Our

approach ensures the protection of victims' rights while focusing on the offenders' actions, behaviors, characteristics, and intent.

Partnerships

We work jointly with line-level prosecutors and allied professionals to evaluate and refine our resources and curricula to respond to emerging issues and promote promising practices. Our partnerships help systems work collaboratively to provide a coordinated response, allowing more victims to access services and participate in the process, and more offenders to be held accountable – improving safety for communities and victims

Just Exits Initiative

AEquitas' [Just Exits Initiative](#) is particularly focused on closing on ramps to and maximizing off ramps from human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The work of the initiative is driven by the Just Exits Advisory Council which is made up of eight women with extensive expertise based on their professional and lived experiences.

[Just Exits](#) focuses on educating criminal justice professionals on exploitation dynamics, collaborating with communities to ensure survivor access to services, implementing best practices in pilot jurisdictions, and measuring data to make meaningful, continuous improvements

We know that prosecutors are uniquely positioned to be leaders within the criminal justice system and in their communities. They have the ethical duty to achieve justice and they have the inherent discretion that allows them to determine which cases move forward and how cases resolve. They also have the responsibility and duty to remedy past wrongs through criminal record relief and conviction integrity units. This piece is particularly important since we know that human trafficking survivors commonly have criminal records related to their exploitation and these records have lasting effects on their ability to build lives and livelihoods after exiting exploitation. A prosecutor's actions can end the cycle of exploitation—or they can perpetuate it.

Of all actors in the criminal justice field, prosecutors have the most influence over the system's response to a survivor. They decide whether and how to pursue charges. They have the power to offer plea deals and recommend sentences. Prosecutors are more than public officials who institute criminal proceedings. They are agents for change and advocates for their communities. By identifying marginalized individuals who are victims, making fair charging decisions, facilitating criminal record relief for survivors, and connecting victims and survivors with services and support, prosecutors can clear the way to a different life path.

Email Us at info@aequitasresource.org

Resources www.aequitasresource.org and www.justexits.org

WikiCharities Profile:

wikicharities.org/nonprofit/46-3614979

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Guardian Group

Bend, Oregon

www.guardiangroup.org



Mission

Guardian Group's mission is to prevent and disrupt the sex trafficking of women and children while enabling partners to identify victims and predators in the United States.

Services We Offer

Guardian Group's team utilizes the skills and expertise of elite veteran intelligence analysts to identify and locate women and minors who are victims of sex trafficking. Our support assists local, state, and federal law enforcement in recovering these victims. We provide training at no cost to law enforcement agencies in order to ensure they have the most up to date techniques used by sex traffickers. Further, we provide training to hotels, hospitals, and other venues in order to inoculate communities against sex trafficking.

Partnerships

Guardian Group partners with law enforcement agencies across the nation as well as the Department of Homeland Security, the Internet Crimes Against Children task force and numerous victim advocacy service providers. As our nation continues to adapt to the rapidly changing environment law enforcement remains spread thin. 150,000 new escort ads are posted online daily. Law enforcement nationwide rarely has the time or resources necessary to identify and locate these women and children before they are moved to another jurisdiction. Resource constraints, lack of time and expertise combined with the transient nature of this crime creates a gap in the system that Guardian Group's PURSUIT™ Team naturally fills.

Current Project

In 2021 Guardian Group initiated a new program utilizing volunteers to generate leads to law enforcement. This course provides sex trafficking recognition training that enables volunteers with open source intelligence (OSINT) skills to confront sex trafficking of minors in their own back yards. This program is the way we intend to scale to confront the growing crime of sex trafficking.

How Can You Help?

You can come along side Guardian Group in one of two ways. First, become a Guardian! Join the community of committed monthly donors that provide financial support for this fight or consider a one-time donation. Second, use your OSINT skills for good and support the efforts of Guardian Group's PURSUIT™ Team. If you do not have this skill set but know someone who does, please share this opportunity with them.

What People Should Know

Understanding the exact impact our efforts combined with the diligent work of our law enforcement and district attorney partners can be tricky. These cases are complicated and time consuming. It is not uncommon for us to never hear the results of a sting operation; this is because those involved must protect the case. Other times the judicial system can take years before a trafficker is brought to justice. Because of these challenges we want to share a story directly from one of our Senior Deputy District Attorney partners. "One such example includes a young woman who was trafficked by a dangerous offender with a history of violence. Guardian Group found her posting online and referred the information to our location Sheriff's office to investigate. A successful mission allowed us to prosecute this trafficker and connect with the victim; but a short while after a grand jury issued an indictment our victim disappeared. We heard through various sources that she was taken/moved to another state by another trafficker connected to our defendant. We feared for her life, but we could not locate her whereabouts. My office reached out to the Guardian Group for help. Within forty-eight hours, the group found her in California. Our law enforcement was able to connect with their counterparts down south to confirm her location and that she had a new trafficker. We were able to bring her back to Oregon and reunite the victim with her family. The Guardian Group found her not once, but twice, allowing us to rescue her from the life."

How Our Approach Is Innovative

Guardian Group's approach to countering sex trafficking is innovative for several reasons. First, we address the analytical need of law enforcement at the local, state, and federal levels, providing analytical training as well as real-time support, at no cost. Second, we provide communities and businesses sector specific training and education in face-to-face, virtual, and online self-paced formats based on what we have learned through our Offense program. Third, we recently instituted the only volunteer analytical program online in the US. Guardian Group is unique because we provide both education and prevention, and by doing so we enable communities to disrupt the efforts of traffickers across the US.

Visit: www.guardiangroup.org

WikiCharities Profile:

wikicharities.org/nonprofit/72-1613750

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

LETS

(Empower Women)

Jackson, Tennessee
www.letsempower.org



To prevent pain and provide hope. To empower individuals to make informed decisions about their family planning, health and wellbeing and uplift communities in crisis through education and self-sustaining employment. This work will prevent unplanned pregnancies, increase quality of life and end human trafficking, child poverty and abuse.

Services We Offer

LETS is changing the face of individuals and communities in crisis through preventative education, proven tools, self-sustaining employment and manufacturing models. The end goal of any LETS initiative is to empower life choices and prevent children being born into situations where they are victims of poverty, abuse or trafficking. We also provided education and tools for parents and couples to have open and respectful conversations around reproductive and sexual health, family planning and personal safety. We provided a LETS online Instructor certification program for NGO's and nonprofits globally. Founded in Jackson, Tennessee and honed on the ground in communities in crisis in the US, Haiti, Kenya and Bangladesh LETS is impacting thousands of lives globally.

Partnerships

In the local Jackson, TN and greater TN areas we have educated individuals, our state rescue organization and the only safe house in TN. We have taught at our annual medical conference to expand knowledge and awareness for both local and international programs. We've been on the radio and have presented at the local mental hospital. We have grant proposals created to partner with our local Youth Town for challenged youth.

Current Project

We have multiple projects going at all times. Our Port Salut and Port au Prince projects are expanding and growing in their local school, church and medical communities. Projects to fund the project are our Empowerment Club and sales from our online Instructor Training Program.

How Can You Help?

LETS's highest priority is consistent funding so we can keep up with the rapid expansion. We are seeking to hire executive staff positions and expand our teams on the ground. Secondly we need awareness and partnership with organizations who can implement our curriculum in house.

What People Should Know

One of my most impactful experiences came when a tall, beautiful Haitian woman stood at the end of my class, and with a strong and clear voice said, "I am 40 years old and I have 6 children- 5 of them daughters. This is the first time anyone has ever taught me about my body or that I could choose when to have babies. I am angry and frustrated but also grateful because for the first time, I have hope. I can go home and teach my daughters and my son- and they can have a different life. THIS can end poverty, give my children different possibilities and can empower my people." This information needs to be in the hands of every girl or woman that is fertile. They need to know how their bodies work and that there's a way to plan their pregnancies and life. We will talk about this in the next lesson but it's also absolutely essential that this information is in the hands of boys, teenagers and men as well.



How Our Approach Is Innovative

By correlating reproductive health, family planning and health and wellbeing training with human trafficking we have innovated a solution to one of the world's most acute and devastating global problems. Trafficking directly impacts poverty, abuse, youth going to school and abortion rates.

WikiCharities Profile :

<https://wikicharities.org/nonprofit/LETS>

Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.)

Salt Lake City, Utah by Mikilah Braun

www.ourrescue.org



Mission

O.U.R. exists to shine a light worldwide on the global epidemic of child sex trafficking, and in so doing rescue more children from slavery and assist law enforcement to seek justice for those who violate children. While our focus remains on children, we assist survivors of all ages to bring them safety and healing. We place survivors on a path to recovery by partnering with vetted aftercare providers or by placing them with families.

We are actively engaged in fighting human trafficking and exploitation in the United States and around the world. Our best practices are molded based on geographical location, the needs of survivors, and best practices in the field.

In the United States, O.U.R. develops relationships with law enforcement agencies and offers resources (such as funding for training, support vehicles, forensics equipment, and electronic detection service K9s) to assist them in their anti-human trafficking and exploitation efforts. In 2021 we almost doubled our K9 program and placed 17 K9s across 15 U.S. states.

O.U.R. does not conduct or participate in investigations, operations, or enforcement action in the United States. This important work is conducted by dedicated men and women in law enforcement.

Collaboration

O.U.R. also collaborates with other organizations in the U.S. to bring awareness to the cause and educate everyday citizens on the signs and risk factors associated with human trafficking and exploitation. O.U.R. implements a bold approach in the fight against human trafficking internationally, including a sustainable, ethical rescue model of direct intervention to bring freedom and healing to victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. With our highly-trained and experienced

personnel, we work with law enforcement agencies to help carry out rescues that are survivor-centered. Additionally, we are deeply committed to operations and aftercare practices that are tailored to the needs and culture of the countries in which we operate.

Expansion of O.U.R.

In 2021, we expanded the O.U.R. Ops Team by adding four new Regional Operations Directors and are working to utilize their regional expertise to optimize government relationships and create operational infrastructure.

Aftercare Team

The foundation of the O.U.R. Aftercare Team is built on using best practices, utilizing trauma informed care, and providing person-centered services when working with survivors. In 2021, we launched our first Worldwide Survivor Advisory Board, which includes survivors from around the world.

The members of the O.U.R. Aftercare Team have a wide variety of strong backgrounds, and they also seek to understand standards of the country provided by local social workers. O.U.R. has found the most effective aftercare model is empowering, supporting, and collaborating with in-country aftercare organizations. O.U.R. Aftercare also works directly in collaboration with the O.U.R. Ops Team and government officials to communicate the assessments and potential aftercare centers for children.

Current Projects

In 2021, we continued collaboration with 16 aftercare and outreach organizations in several states across the United States. This year we also expanded our aftercare network into over 30 countries around the world. Through collaborative efforts with other organizations, many of the survivors we work with are provided with the opportunity and resources they need to move forward. For example, we support several survivors by providing the opportunity for them to take business classes and start their own businesses. O.U.R. strives to support survivors in their dreams for themselves and their dreams for their children. O.U.R. Aftercare focuses on meeting each survivor where they are on their healing journey, whatever their circumstance.

Pillars: Awareness and Prevention

Awareness and prevention are two crucial pillars of O.U.R.'s Outreach Department. Through training, events, and other means, we encourage individuals to learn the realities of human trafficking and spread awareness on social media and in their communities. We welcome anyone to join our thousands of volunteers and supporters around the world in becoming informed advocates for the cause.

Visit www.ourrescue.org/join-the-fight to get involved.

WikiCharities Profile:

wikicharities.org/nonprofit/46-3614979