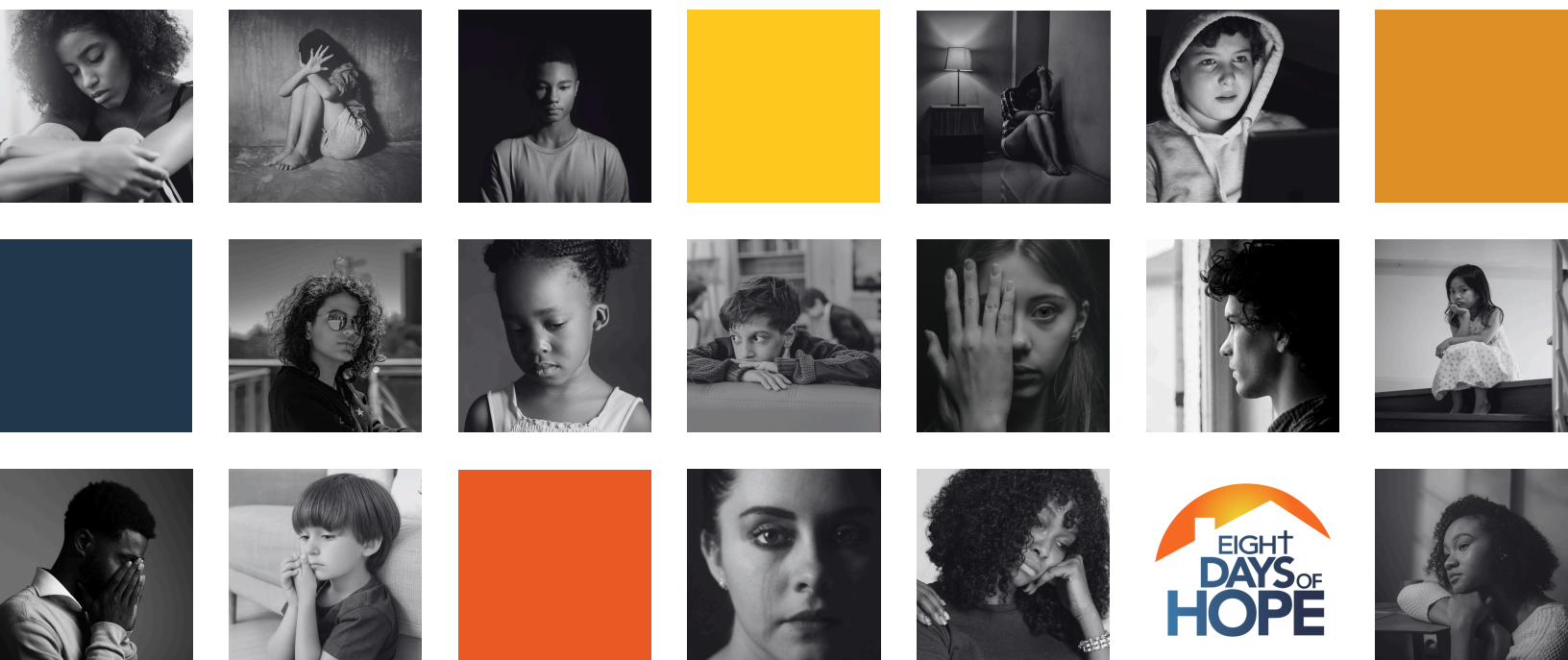


# Human Trafficking

**A Guide to Awareness, Education, and Personal Advocacy**



# Welcome

Welcome to what may be one of the most challenging reads you'll ever encounter. All of that doesn't seem to belong in the same sentence, does it? We earnestly want to invite you into the fight against human trafficking in whatever capacity you are able to serve. Each person's contribution will vary, yet we hope this opens your eyes to the ugly truth happening all around us – people are being sold for the pleasure of others.

If this is your first exposure to the world of human trafficking, we won't sugarcoat it – it is absolutely heartbreaking. Much of the content may evoke anger and a sense of hopelessness. However, we do not share any of this without hope. That's not the God we serve. Our prayer is that as you navigate through these pages, the Lord will inspire you to action, not just anger. We firmly believe that we can accomplish much more by the power of the Holy Spirit than by the power of our flesh. Before delving into the statistics and resources, we encourage you to pray. Ask the Lord to both open and guard your heart simultaneously.

Thank you for taking the time to learn and grow in your awareness of the evil that is human trafficking. We are so grateful you are here with us. You never know how the Lord will use you to help set the captives free.

Welcome to the fight,

Colleen Fabling  
EDOH Safe House Ministry Manager

## MAP OF HOPE



# In the Words of our Partners

**"We have such a shortage of beds for trafficking survivors in our country, and Eight Days of Hope refuses to stand on the sidelines and do nothing. This team didn't just come in, build, and leave. They have stayed in touch and truly became friends and a community. EDOH has leveraged their expertise to assemble an army of abolitionists who are building places of healing and redemption."**

- Kaitrin E. Valencia, Esq., Executive Director, *A Way Out Ministries*

**"Eight Days of Hope came to build our safe house, The Haven, in October 2022. Never in a million years did we expect to gain an extended family in addition to a beautiful sanctuary for women to heal. We prayed together, worked together, worshipped together, ate together, and laughed together. It was beautiful! In those two weeks, we got to witness who EDOH truly is as an organization, and they are above reproach. Everything is done through prayer and with excellence. We are so grateful God blessed us by connecting us to EDOH!"**

- Chae Spencer, Co-Founder & Executive Director, *Mercy Gate Ministries*

**"More than just a volunteer construction team, Eight Days of Hope embodies a profound commitment to building not only physical structures but also fostering spiritual and emotional healing. Their unwavering dedication to the Kingdom is evident through their heartfelt prayers, boundless compassion, and the profound love of Christ that permeates every nail hammered and wall raised."**

- Becky Rasmussen, CEO, *Call to Freedom*

**"We are immensely grateful to Eight Days of Hope for their unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Their generous contributions both in terms of their financial support and the construction of our world-class equine center have been instrumental in furthering our mission to provide refuge and healing for survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking. We are honored to partner with EDOH and deeply grateful for their support as we work together to bring healing and restoration to survivors."**

- Brooke Crowder, CEO, *The Refuge for DMST*

**"Words could never express my gratitude for Eight Days of Hope. You built the home where my journey to freedom began and a place my heart will always be. This is my safe place...my sanctuary. It's the home He chose to take me from the pit into His palace, to stop running, let my guard down for the first time, and truly heal. I was one of the first residents at The Haven, and now I'm Direct Care staff. Having a safe place to heal is so important and you provided that. Thank you EDOH. You are a beautiful picture of God's family."**

- Jennifer E., Survivor, *Mercy Gate Ministries*

**"In this work, there are many opportunities to exercise faith. We trust that God will provide, but we don't always know if, when, or how He may choose to answer our prayers. God's answer came in the form of Eight Days of Hope. Our team of staff and volunteers were so moved by the 50+ skilled volunteers that migrated from across the country and converged on the little town of Souderton, PA. In 2 short weeks, we saw EDOH help us transform this run-down building into a safe home where today survivors find respite and healing. Thank you EDOH for joining with so many agencies to jointly serve survivors."**

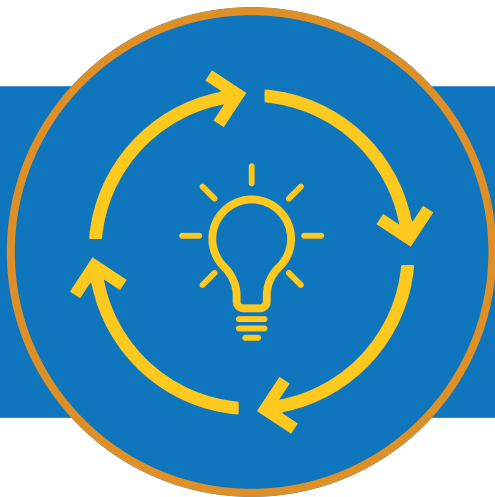
- Dan Emr, Founder & Executive Director, *Worthwhile Wear*

# Table of Contents

We are excited to share with you a new version of our *Human Trafficking Statistics and Online Safety* brochure. This new guide not only showcases the horrors and heartbreaks of trafficking through real-life statistics, but it also provides insight into how trafficking happens, the role of social media in trafficking, and how you can advocate for those around you who are impacted by trafficking. We pray that this guide opens your eyes to the pain endured by so many and brings you to action. Our brothers, our sisters, our neighbors, our children are **not for sale**.

## Awareness & Statistics

Pages 5-7

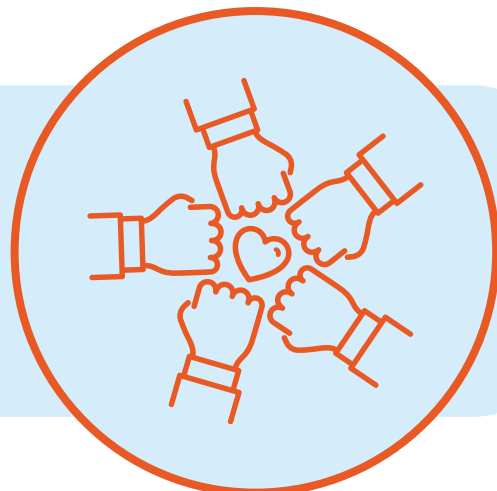


## Education & The Trafficking Cycle

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## Personal Advocacy & Playing Your Part

Pages 13-14





# Trafficking Definitions

**Human Trafficking** - modern-day slavery that involves forcing or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. Exploitation of a minor for commercial sex or labor is always human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used.

**Sex Trafficking** - a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

**Labor Trafficking** - a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

**Familial Trafficking** - trafficking that is facilitated by a family member or a guardian.

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**Coercion** - the practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.

**CSAM and SG-CSAM** - Child Sexual Abuse Material or Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material. This includes imagery or videos which show a child engaged in, or is depicted as being engaged in, explicit sexual activity. CSAM is generated by a third party while SG-CSAM is generated by the child themselves.

**Exploitation** - the process of manipulating a relationship with a target victim to make them engage in forced labor or commercial sex acts.

**Force** - to make someone do something against their will.

**Fraud** - to wrongfully or criminally deceive someone for financial or personal gain.

**Grooming** - the process of establishing a relationship and emotional bond with a target victim to manipulate, exploit, or abuse them.

**Recruitment** - the process of identifying a target victim to traffic by identifying areas of weakness that can be manipulated.

**Survivor** - an individual who has survived an experience of human trafficking.

**Sextortion** - blackmailing or threatening an individual to share images or sexual content of themselves in order to get something, such as money, drugs, alcohol, meeting in person, etc.

**Trauma-Informed Care** - a counseling and care approach that acknowledges that trauma deeply affects a person's entire well-being and not just physical health. It strives to create safe healing and recovery environments, and to avoid practices that may unintentionally re-traumatize people.

**Victim** - someone who is forced, coerced, or defrauded into performing labor or commercial sex acts against their will. Anyone under 18 who performs commercial sex is a victim, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was used.

# Trends in Human Trafficking

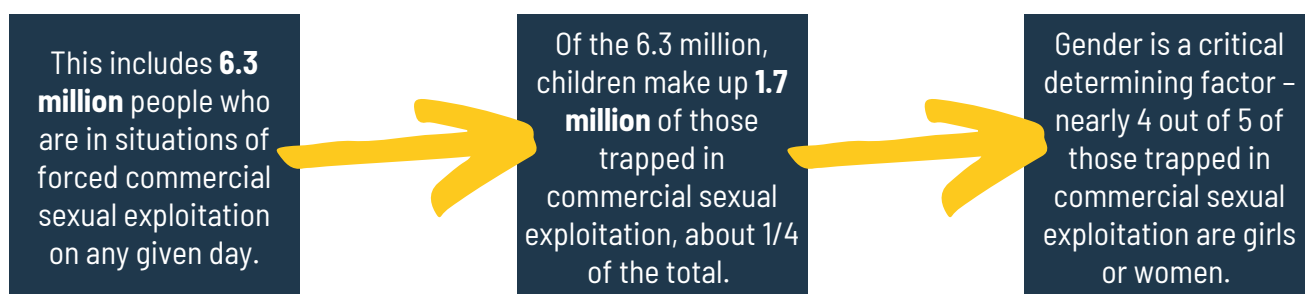
*"Even in the midst of a global pandemic that suppressed commercial activity across industries, human trafficking continued to thrive." - Polaris Project, Hotline Trends 2023*

Human trafficking generates an estimated **\$236 billion USD** per year.

- A21 Campaign, Human Trafficking 101

**In 2022, an estimated 49.6 million people were victims of modern slavery on any given day.**

*This is a 9.3 million increase in the number of people in modern slavery since 2016.*



- Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, 2022

For both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, in situations where the relationship was disclosed, traffickers were almost always someone the victim knew. The top relationship types were employer, familial relationship, or romantic partner. - Polaris Project, Hotline Trends 2023

When the family member is the trafficker, the exploitation is often normalized and accepted within the family culture, sometimes spanning generations. - US Department of State, Navigating the Unique Complexities in Familial Trafficking

**The average age of a victim in trafficking is 15 years old.**

- 2021 Federal Human Trafficking Report

In situations of sex trafficking, **80% of victims were female.**

In situations of sex and labor trafficking, **66% of victims were female.**

In situations of labor trafficking where gender was identified, **most victims were male.**

- Polaris Project, Hotline Trends 2023

Boys represent **the fastest-growing segment** of identified human trafficking victims.

The percentage of boys identified as victims of human trafficking more than **quintupled** between 2004 and 2020—a much larger increase than for men, women, or girls.

- US Department of State, Overlooked for Too Long: Boys and Human Trafficking, 2023

# Pornography & Online Encounters

*"It is not a porn industry standard that all pornographic material is completely consensual or even that everyone is of legal age." - End Slavery Now, 2022*

While escort services remain the top reported type of sex trafficking, trafficking in the pornography industry is being reported more and more. **In fact, pornography is the now second most reported type of sex trafficking.**

- Polaris Project, Hotline Trends 2023

Porn directly fuels the demand for sexual exploitation and often is recorded evidence of sex trafficking. **There have been countless survivors sharing their experience that the "porn" created of them was actually just recorded rape.**

- End Slavery Now, The Relationship Between Porn and Trafficking



**Online advertising was also associated with an increased number of buyers per day.**

1 in 7 victims who were advertised on the street reported more than 10 buyers per day. By comparison, 1 in 4 victims who were advertised online reported more than 10 buyers per day.

- Thorn, Survivor Insights

It is estimated that 79% of human trafficking victims are sexually exploited. Websites - like Pornhub, which is the world's leading free porn website - profit from filming rape, sexual abuse, and child sex trafficking. In 2019 alone, this one website received 42 billion visits.

- Unbound Now, 2020

**One of the most searched terms on Pornhub is "teen." This term has remained in the top ten searches for six years.**

- The Exodus Road, 2021

One site, GirlsDoPorn, tricked young women into thinking that they were getting involved in a modeling video, and instead, physically forced their victims to record a pornographic video before letting them go. This pattern continued for eleven years before a total of \$12.8 million was ordered to be paid back to traumatized victims.

- The Asservo Project, 2022

## Pornography and the Church

Statistics via the Baptist News, 2021

70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.

68% of churchgoing men & 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.

57% of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. And 69% say porn has adversely impacted the church.

Only **7% of pastors** say their church has a program to help people struggling with pornography.

The Church cannot shy away from the problem of pornography. Disregarding the problem in a veil of silence is not an option in the face of modern-day slavery.

# Our Children

*"Every two minutes a child is trafficked to be sexually exploited in the United States."*

*- Anti-Trafficking International, Human Trafficking 101, 2024*

"Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) crimes started before the internet, when images were distributed through print media, magazines, books, and film. It wasn't until the mid-nineties and end of 2000 that the digital landscape began to evolve, and law enforcement began to quickly see these images distributed across online newsgroups, chat rooms, and email. **The internet has facilitated a global market for these images, and the demand for new images can only be met with new victims.**"

*- Tim Tebow Foundation, unKNOWN campaign 2024*

In 2022, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline received more than **32 million reports of CSAM victims.**



In 2004, there were roughly 450,000 images, videos, and other files produced of CSAM victims.



Today, there have been roughly 88.3 million images, video, and other files produced of CSAM victims.

*- NCMEC 2022 Annual Report & Thorn, How Tech Enables the Spread of CSAM*

Over half of the identified child victims in widely circulated CSAM are prepubescent, and many are even too young to speak.

*- Thorn, How Tech Enables the Spread of CSAM*

Findings show that CSAM depicting younger children and more egregious content - such as bestiality or sadism - are more likely to be shared.

*- Thorn, Production and Active Trading of CSAM*

There are survivors of CSAM whose abuse has been shared **thousands and tens of thousands of times a year**, even many years after being recovered from hands-on abuse. **Each time this image is shared, the victim is abused again.**

*- Thorn, How Tech Enables the Spread of CSAM*

## Minors are now producing their own Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (SG-CSAM).

**2 out of 3 kids** ages 9 to 12 interact with unfamiliar adults online.



**1 in 4 teens** interact online with someone they believe is 30 or older.



**1 in 8 kids** ages 9 to 12 have shared a nude image with an online-only connection.

*- Thorn, Online Grooming, 2022*

**1 in 6 minors** have shared their own SG-CSAM. On YouTube - the #1 platform for sharing explicit content - **78%** of minors have shared their own SG-CSAM, **85%** have been shown it, and **88%** have reshared it.

*-Thorn, SG-CSAM Monitoring, 2021*



# The Trafficking Cycle

*How does human trafficking happen?*



Human trafficking follows a three-part cycle that perpetrates an unfathomable amount of abuse for the victims involved. Recruitment is the first step, and it involves identifying a victim – one who usually has vulnerabilities. Next, traffickers focus on grooming their victim to build a sense of loyalty and reliance. The goal is for the victim to feel that they are making a choice rather than being forced into a life of slavery. Finally, once groomed, the trafficker begins exploiting the relationship, continually using the victim for self-gain through force, fraud, or coercion. The cycle continues, and often, victims have little to no hope of a life outside of trafficking.

## Recruitment

More often than not, kidnapping is not how traffickers operate because it creates resentment instead of a relationship. Many traffickers prefer the process of recruitment, in which they identify men, women, or children who are vulnerable. They are looking for individuals that they can build an emotional connection with, and then, manipulate that connection to repeatedly abuse the victim.

Recruitment is not limited to a specific place, and many traffickers are regularly identifying victims across many platforms, such as:

- shopping malls
- schools
- foster homes
- group homes
- courthouses
- restaurants
- bus stations
- concerts
- parks
- libraries
- rest stops
- social media

Regardless of where they search, the goal is always the same: finding a vulnerability that

gives the trafficker emotional, physical, or financial power. There are certain risk factors traffickers look for that make an individual more susceptible to being a victim. These exploitation risks, listed below, usually indicate that a potential victim is going to be more easily manipulated because of unfortunate circumstances or past mistakes. Once recruited, even unknowingly, the trafficker begins the grooming process, preparing the victim for a life of exploitation.

## Exploitation Risks

Top 5 for Sex Trafficking	Top 5 for Labor Trafficking
Substance Use Concerns	Recent Migration/Relocation
Unstable Housing	Unaccompanied Foreign Minor
Runaway/Homeless Youth	Unstable Housing
Recent Migration/Relocation	Self-Reported Economic Hardship
Mental Health Concerns	Substance Use Concerns

# Grooming

Once a trafficker identifies a victim, the process of grooming begins. A trafficker works to build a relationship with the victim, and in doing so, identifies which tactic below is the most relatable for the victim. To do this, over a span of months, the trafficker offers information about themselves to gain information about the victim. They foster an emotional connection so the victim feels safe enough to share personal details. As they grow closer, the trafficker selects a tactic or uses a combination of tactics to ensure that the victim then becomes wholly reliant on the trafficker - often without the victim even realizing it. For example, if a child's parents went through a divorce and the father isn't in the picture, a groomer is likely to try and present themselves as a provider or a protector. When the child feels unsafe or has a need, the trafficker is quick to help out, and eventually, becomes the sole individual the victim turns to when in need. For a trafficker, finding a victim to exploit is a long-game, where the abuse does not happen immediately, but after a solid foundation of trust has been formed.

## Grooming: Key Tactics



**Lover:**

Me and you against the world



**Provider:**

I'll provide for your every need



**Protector:**

I'll protect you from everything

# Exploitation

A foundation of trust has been laid. Now what? From here, a trafficker moves from grooming to exploitation, beginning with the process of isolating the victim. Regardless of what tactic is being used, the trafficker wants the victim to believe that the trafficker alone can fulfill their needs.

When the victim attempts to seek help or validation elsewhere, the trafficker threatens to cut them off - emotionally, physically, or financially.

With isolation secured, abuse begins. The trafficker insists that now the victim owes them for being their lover, provider, or protector. Then the trafficker convinces the victim that to ensure a good future, they need to do their part. This can be done through sexual acts, forced labor, or more.

Once the first act of abuse is committed, the trafficker maintains control by using the abusive act to keep the victim subdued.

*"No one will help you if they knew the truth of what you did." "That's who you are now; you can't change what you've done."*

And so, the victim stays, trapped in the horrific process of exploitation that continues over and over and over.

## Process of Exploitation

Targeting a Victim ↘

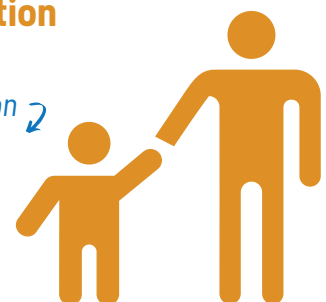
Gaining Trust & Information ↘

Filling a Need ↘

Isolation ↘

Abuse Begins ↘

Maintaining Control



# The Digital Landscape

## *Social media and trafficking*

Social media and other digital means are regularly utilized in the recruitment of human trafficking victims. Why is it such an effective tool for recruitment and grooming? Because parents and children alike are open in sharing their personal information with those that are friends, friends of friends, or even complete strangers – sometimes without even realizing it! So, where does online grooming happen and what does it look like?

### Where does online grooming happen?

Online grooming can happen across a variety of platforms. We know that apps change regularly, so it's important to know about the types of apps out there opposed to singling in on a specific one. For this reason, we have identified four categories of apps/online platforms with examples of each.

#### Social Media



Social media includes online platforms that allow users to create and share content, such as photos, videos, and more.

#### Chat Apps



Chat apps coincide with social media but serve the purpose of communicating through messaging, video calls, or long-form posts.

#### Video Games



Video games are a common tool of traffickers as they tend to target children and include features like unrestricted messaging.

#### Secret Apps



Secret apps hide content, such as photos or videos, and then disguise the app to look like something else, such as a calculator.

### What does online grooming look like?

Online grooming follows the traditional cycles of trafficking and exploitation. A trafficker identifies a victim, begins a relationship – often presenting themselves as a friend of a friend – and then gains information on the target by building trust. This happens on social media platforms, chat apps, or video games. From here, the trafficker begins isolating and abusing, often requiring exploitative images, which are kept in secret apps, perpetrating the cycle of abuse. It is not the app or game at fault, but rather, how the user is connecting with strangers on these platforms and sharing vulnerable information. Online grooming is so successful because it has become normalized to not know who you are communicating with as well as sharing too many personal aspects of your life online.

# Molly's Story

*"Freedom is a beautiful, ugly journey and it doesn't happen overnight." - A21 Campaign*

When you think of trafficking, movies like the *Sound of Freedom* or *Taken* come to mind. And I know this, because when someone told me I was a victim of trafficking, I couldn't wrap my mind around it. I had believed a lie from the enemy that it was my fault. That I was in a bad part of town. That I shouldn't have been doing drugs. That it was just a part of the lifestyle I was living.

Today, it is a blessing and a privilege to share my story - to highlight that trafficking looks different in every situation and that no two abuses are the same. This is something I am still learning today as a thriver. And yet, even in the hardest parts of my story, I can see God in every detail. His fingerprints are on everything in my life. And just like God freed me, He will free the next person too. But more than anything, it is absolutely critical to me that God gets the glory for all that He has done in my life.

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I was born into an affluent family and had a very privileged upbringing from private schools to a beautiful neighborhood in Nashville, TN. On the outside, everything looked perfect. We went to church. We had nice things. But it was all appearances. On the inside, my life was complete turmoil and terror. My parents had met in treatment. My mother's side of the family was extremely wealthy. While my mom was working through the program, my parents connected, and my dad thought he struck gold - a beautiful girl with money. The rest was history.

I was born not too long after. Together, they tried to stay clean, but the relationship turned abusive on many levels, and they both relapsed. By the time I was four, they divorced. Around that same time, I was sexually assaulted by my neighbor. The abuse continued for a while, and being so young, I had no idea how to tell anyone. But the damage to my identity and personality was immediately apparent. The abuse embedded within me that something was wrong with me. I was broken. Tarnished.

For years after, everyone around me kept trying to figure out what was wrong with me. I saw the best doctors and specialists, as my family tried their hardest to provide

support in the only way they knew how - throwing money at the situation. Eventually, I was medicated and placed in therapy, struggling with depression and anxiety. Every solution was a band-aid fix to a much deeper problem. I entered into middle school attempting to fill a void that I now know can only be filled by God. I honestly believed that drugs and alcohol would fill me. And then I dove deep into an abusive relationship. At 16, my family intervened and sent me to a year-long treatment facility that specialized in sexual abuse. During this season, so many godly seeds were planted, but I had no idea at the time.

For six years after, I managed to stay sober. I met the father of my children in an AA meeting - following the pattern set before me by my parents. I was too young to see the red flags. He was 14 years older than me while I was only 18. Very quickly, we had two kids. While pregnant, he was sent to jail. During this season, I was able to reconnect and build a relationship with my father, who had been in and out of my life. He had found out he was dying and spent his last days seeking God and truly trying to do better. We shared one year together, and when he passed, the devastation was too much. It wasn't that I craved drugs or alcohol, but my mind frame was weakened. I relapsed, and it led to paths of really dark destruction.

I dove into heavy drug use, including IV heroin. I overdosed multiple times. And yet, by God's grace, I lived. I graduated from multiple treatment programs, but once again, it was like putting a band-aid on a gaping wound and pretending it was fixed. The reality is that I never was able to get to the root of what was really going on - what could truly fill the void I experienced daily. As I spiraled downward, I was introduced into the world of trafficking.

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Traffickers are well aware of those around them who are vulnerable, who are in desperate need of feeding whatever addiction they have. As I went deeper into my addiction, I truly believed that I was in control, but I was wrong. And traffickers capitalized on my weaknesses.



I remember drinking. I was out around a bad part of town, and my drink had been roofied. Three different men attacked me. Assaulted me. And filmed the abuse to sell over and over and over again. I woke up later in my car, being guarded by a man with a baseball bat. As quickly as I could, I grabbed my keys and drove away. But the damage had already been done. From there, it continued. Different trap houses began the process of grooming me – filling my need for drugs and alcohol, all while preparing me to be sold. I remember them saying things like, “She’s not ready yet.” They took my keys and ID to keep me in the houses, convincing me to try and go with different men. One time, I had already been purchased, and I refused. He realized my hesitation, and thankfully, didn’t make me go through with it. Other times, when I refused, I was beaten terribly, locked inside, and held against my will.

Through it all, I kept believing that I wasn’t being trafficked. I thought I was in control because I slept with who I wanted to in order to get what I needed and because no one was paying for me. Everything else that happened to me just kind of came with the territory of the lifestyle I was living. My family had finally cut me off. And as I saw other women around me being forced to have sex, I had a deep desire to help them. And eventually, I realized I needed help too. I had been to treatment over a dozen times. I wanted the head knowledge to get better, but I didn’t realize I needed a heart transformation too.

Years prior, I had met Christina Meadows, when we lived together at a sober living facility. This time, when I called her, she was working at the Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, where she currently serves as the Director of Operations and Rescue. She could tell I was in bondage. And when I finally asked for help, she simply inquired, “Molly, are you really ready?”

So many times before, I had gone to help because I had too. This time, I went because I knew I was going to die. There were too many horrible situations happening around me, and there was no reason except for God that I should have been alive. I was ready.

Christina connected me with Transformation Garden in Northeast Mississippi, and I went, even though I felt like I didn’t meet the criteria for trafficking. I had so much guilt and shame surrounding my addiction and abuse, which I

believe is exactly where the enemy wanted me. Haley Chapin, the Director, met me in my mess, and she reminded me that God had every moment of my life in His hands – never for a moment was I forgotten by Him.

And throughout my time there, I realized that the void I so badly wanted to fill after my initial abuse, and every abuse thereafter, could only be filled by Jesus. He was the solution to my every heart problem. No 12-step program or halfway house could free me. The beauty of Transformation Garden and Haley is that they never forced me to surrender. They simply laid me at the feet of Jesus in prayer every day until I allowed Him to open my heart and forever change me. Everything that has happened since is nothing short of a miracle.

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I am now free from medication, from alcohol, and from drugs. For decades, I had relied on medicine and my addiction to feel confident in my broken identity. Today, I walk in a freedom I never previously knew, and even though my transformation is not complete, I continue on the daily journey of sanctification. I am close with my children and try my best to model a life redeemed to help them as they navigate young adulthood. During my time at Transformation Garden, I visited with my son. He wrote me a letter after, that said, “It felt like a dream seeing you so blessed with a free mind and a free spirit.” I still can’t believe that places like Transformation Garden exist. Places dedicated to safe healing with no strings attached. I know this is where God began a transformation in me that is all for His glory. In His goodness, He has allowed me to defeat the work of the enemy through the power of His blood and the word of my testimony. That is the free identity my son saw.

I now have the privilege of saying yes to God daily as I serve other survivors and thrivers of trafficking at Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. It’s so humbling to meet each survivor in their mess and remind them that if God did it for me, that He can do it for them. Not only do I work with survivors, but I get to work in communities reminding everyone that trafficking doesn’t look a certain way. I was raised with privilege, and yet despite the money and access my family had, I was still vulnerable. I get to use my story to educate and advocate. **If even one survivor is saved, my pain was worth it.**

# The Church's Calling

*How does the Church respond to trafficking?*

As a part of the body of Christ, we respond to trafficking by first looking inward and then expanding outward. It is naive to think that the horrors of trafficking are exempt within the walls or the constructs of the church. Unfortunately, this evil roots itself wherever it can. So, how do we navigate caring for the vulnerable and victims in our congregations while also helping advocate for survivors of trafficking across the globe? It is imperative to take a look at scripture and see how God intended for us to respond to the brokenness around us.

First, we believe that Christ has called us to hold each other accountable (James 5:16). If sin exists within the body of believers, we cannot blame the world around us. We must tackle the issue head on. Second, we believe that Christ has called us to love our world (John 13:35), to defend the fatherless (Isaiah 1:17), and to care for those displaced (James 2:15-16). By striving to remove sin internally and seeking to care for those internally and externally, we can make a difference in stopping human trafficking.

## Internal Recommendations

**Hold Accountable:** We know that 68% of church-going men view porn and only 7% of churches have resources available to help with porn addictions. As a church, we need to develop and provide resources, accountability groups, and more for those struggling with an addiction - men and women. We need to advertise these resources and encourage those needing help to seek it out.

**Be a Refuge for the Hopeless:** Establish proper protocols for when, not if, victims come forward. Research and develop victim-centered policy to help you and your team respect the privacy and integrity of the victim while looking into the accusation. Have a third-party ready to help you navigate offenses and provide an unbiased opinion on the situation.

**Educate:** Provide trauma-informed training for those working with at-risk groups - such as children, youth, homeless ministries, etc. - to help identify and report potential abuse and trafficking victims. Provide resources, like this guide, for parents and youth to learn more about trafficking.

## External Recommendations

**Volunteer:** Connect with ministries who are serving survivors, either in your community or across the globe. Find a tangible way for your congregation to get involved with advocating for victims or helping survivors.

**Donate:** Find a ministry that is shining a light into the darkness and commit as a congregation to support the price of freedom for captives. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The freedom of those enslaved is worth our support.

# My Calling

*How do I respond to trafficking?*

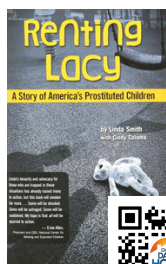
Now that you are aware of trafficking, you can't turn a blind eye to its impact. Trafficking is happening everywhere in every city across America and all throughout the globe. In Deuteronomy 32:35, God promises, "Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly."

We await that day, but we are also not called to sit back and watch evil overrun the world while we do. We are called to be a light in the darkness of the world - a beacon of hope (Matthew 5:14). In order to do that, we all must play an active role in seeking to end human trafficking. That may look differently for each of us, but we wanted to share some ideas below on how you can get started today.

## End Human Trafficking

**Seek Help If Needed:** If you are struggling with a porn addiction, seek help and accountability through your local church, a group of Christian friends, or counseling. Try downloading apps like Covenant Eyes to encourage safe internet practices.

**Educate Yourself:** Spend time learning about trafficking. Below are amazing resources with an open and honest perspective on trafficking. They are at times hard to endure, but they serve as invaluable resources on the subject. Please also share this booklet with those around you. Send it digitally using the QR code below or request hard copies at [info@eightdaysofhope.com](mailto:info@eightdaysofhope.com).



Share this guide here

**Be An Involved Parent:** As a parent, training your children in safe internet practices involves more than simply denying them usage to an app or website. Rather than be restrictive and create sneaky kids, we encourage you to build an open and honest relationship with your kids about their bodies, desires, trafficking, and how to seek help if they make a mistake. Be present. Ask questions. At times, respectfully invade their privacy. If you are unaware of what they are doing on their devices, they are already in danger. Be proactive in creating a safe place for your children to grow.

**Volunteer:** Find a ministry near you where you can play a role in providing education about trafficking, helping survivors of trafficking, or serving those who may be at risk for trafficking. If you are skilled in construction, we would love to have you join us on a future Safe House Build. To learn more, email [safehouse@eightdaysofhope.com](mailto:safehouse@eightdaysofhope.com).

## National Human Trafficking Hotline

If you believe you may have information about a trafficking situation, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking. All calls are confidential.

***Call: 888-373-7888 -or- Text:233733***



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