

UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IMPACT REPORT
2021 - 2023

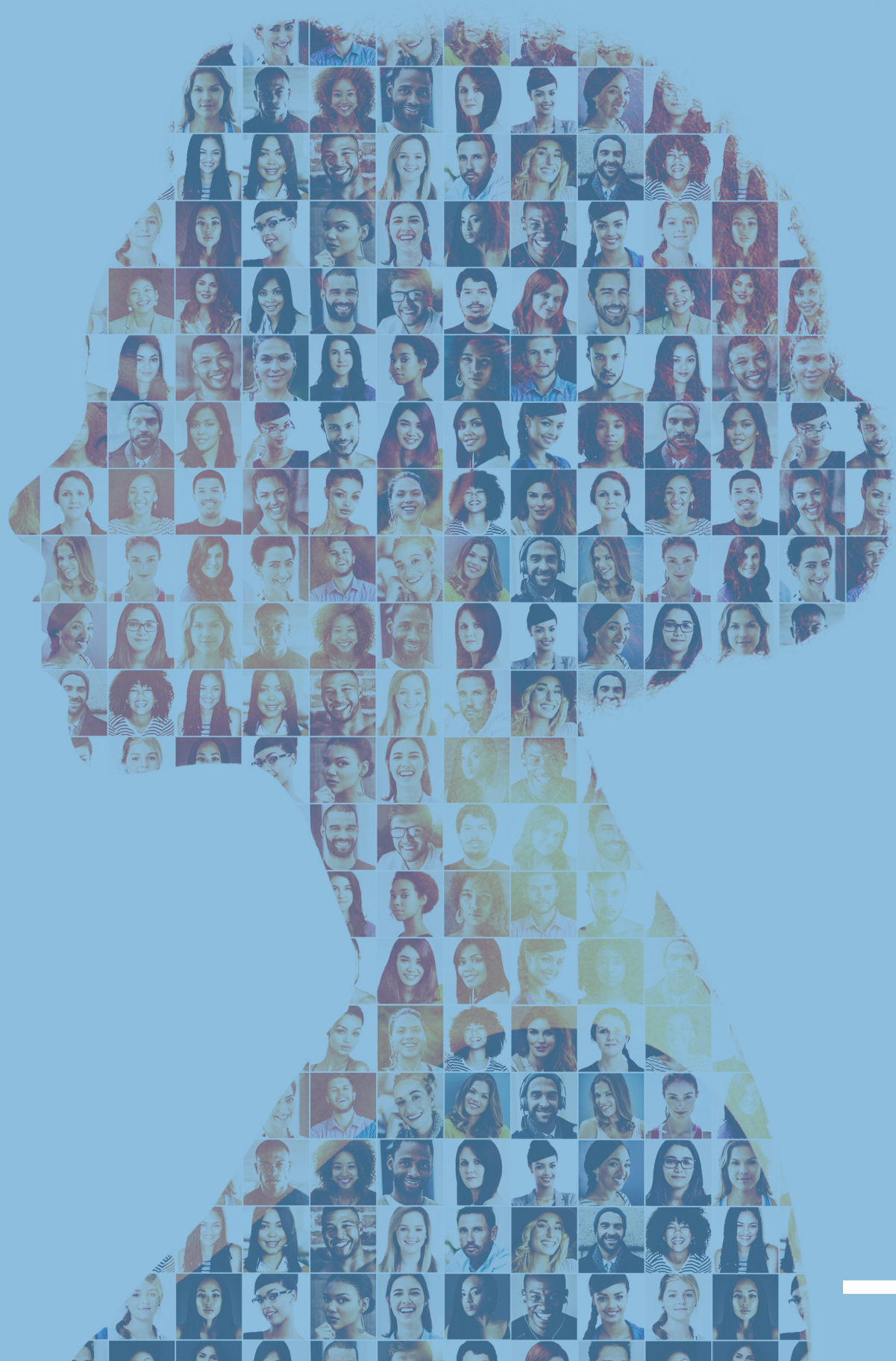


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MESSAGE FROM UNITED WAY

Human trafficking is a widespread human rights abuse that is often invisible. It takes place both around the world and in our own backyards. It is the act of compelling someone to engage in work or commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion.

Systemic injustices like racism, homophobia, sexism, classism, economic inequality, and more lead some people to face more risk of trafficking than others. The lack of equitable services afforded to diverse, underserved communities makes it difficult for persons at risk of trafficking to ask for help. These injustices are exacerbated by growing international and domestic issues including disasters, civil unrest, climate change, health disparities, migration, and more. Whether or not we recognize it, this is an issue we all touch every day through both our professional and personal lives.

United Way mobilizes communities to action so *all* can thrive. We believe we have a unique ability and obligation to serve our communities by working fiercely to combat trafficking in all its forms. Resilient, equitable, and inclusive communities must protect all people — especially the most vulnerable among us — from exploitation and lift up the needs of those with lived experience of human trafficking. Since 2015, we have been working to make this vision a reality in communities across the United States and around the world through our anti-trafficking programs.

In this report, you will see the many ways United Way is making an impact today. Whether it's spearheading innovative community-based programs, leading global awareness campaigns, or building career pathways for survivors, our aim is to build a united front in the fight against human trafficking.

We extend our gratitude first to our primary funders and partners in this work, UPS and the UPS Foundation. Without them, none of the work detailed in this report would be possible. We also wish to thank other funders and partners such as Marriott International, Humanity United, and The Elkes Foundation, as well as the many local United Ways, nonprofit organizations, survivor leaders, and tireless activists who have worked alongside us the last few years. To those who are new to the cause, we hope you, too, will join us.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

is the act of compelling someone through force, fraud, or coercion to work or engage in commercial sex against their will.

Human trafficking includes when anyone under 18 is involved with commercial sex for any reason. When a youth is involved in commercial sex, no force, fraud or coercion is required for it to be human trafficking.

People experiencing human trafficking may be forced to work in a wide range of industries, including but not limited to:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Commercial Sex
- Domestic Work
- Factories & Manufacturing
- Food Services
- Hospitality
- Peddling & Begging

50 MILLION

People are experiencing human trafficking around the world

25 PERCENT

Of people experiencing human trafficking are under 18 years old

\$150 BILLION

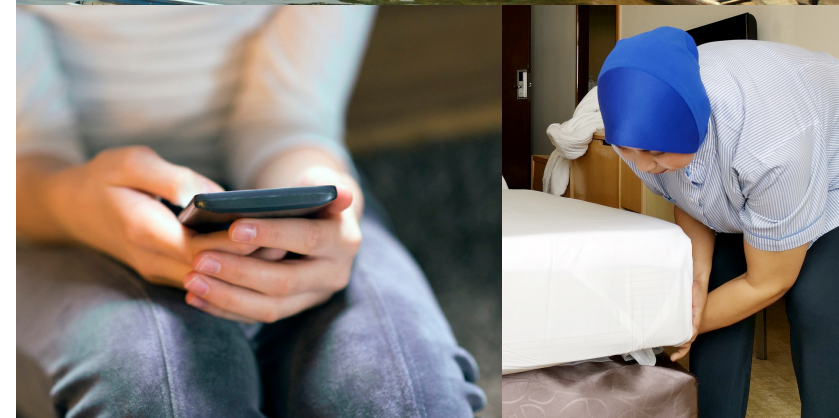
In global profits are generated per year for traffickers

A CRISIS AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER



Human trafficking can take many forms:

- An immigrant man working to pay off an insurmountable debt after being falsely promised a decent job in rural Texas.
- A teen running away from foster care, coerced into commercial sex by someone pretending to care in Las Vegas.
- A youth with a disability, forced to meet a daily quota through begging and street vending in Johannesburg.
- A boy removed from school, forced to work on dangerous fishing boats in Ghana.
- A mother seeking housing for her family, tricked into commercial sex in exchange for a place to live in Atlanta.
- A person compelled to work without pay by a local business in Louisville.



While human trafficking can happen anywhere, systemic injustices like poverty, racism, homophobia, sexism, and more lead some people to face a higher risk than others. Marginalized and under-resourced communities are disproportionately affected by human trafficking.

UNITED WAY'S CRITICAL ROLE

We believe a strong community is where all people can rise above challenges and realize a better tomorrow. From quality healthcare and education to social and economic mobility, United Way is closing gaps and opening opportunities so more people in more communities can thrive. With global reach and local impact, we're making life better for 48 million people annually. United Way is the world's largest privately funded nonprofit, working in 95% of U.S. communities and 37 countries and territories.

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



At United Way, we bring anti-trafficking efforts to scale by energizing, coordinating, and mobilizing the United Way Network.

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

We are **innovating** where needed, **uplifting** good work already being done, **elevating** survivor leadership, and **utilizing** the United Way Network to catalyze the anti-trafficking movement.





OUR VISION



BUILDING A BIGGER, STRONGER, SMARTER ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT THROUGH THE UNITED WAY NETWORK

Our strategy strengthens the anti-trafficking movement by leveraging the global reach and local impact of the United Way Network.

OUR STRATEGIES

LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Building capacity of the United Way Network to engage in anti-trafficking efforts through best practices

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Advancing awareness of human trafficking among the United Way Network, other stakeholders, and the public

SURVIVOR FINANCIAL SECURITY

Enabling career pathways and holistic supports for people with lived experience of human trafficking

PLACING LIVED EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING



COMBATING TRAFFICKING WHERE IT STARTS

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

In some cities, housing disparities or a lack of services for displaced youth pose challenges. Some communities lack training for healthcare providers to recognize trafficking survivors who end up in hospital emergency rooms. In other communities, legal and policy gaps need to be addressed, or service providers aren't properly networked.

Over the past several years, United Way Worldwide has supported and funded local United Ways to combat human trafficking in their communities. Equipped with best practice training, coaching, and subject matter expertise from United Way Worldwide, these United Ways have implemented localized community-based programs to detect, stop, and prevent human trafficking and support survivors.

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UNITED WAY OF GREATER ATLANTA



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

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

United Way of Greater Atlanta combats trafficking by focusing on the intersection of economic mobility and human trafficking.

After noticing a high overlap between homelessness and sex trafficking survivorship, United Way of Greater Atlanta began building up targeted resources to support unhoused BIPOC women, girls, and gender expansive people and the professionals who intersect with their lives. Through their Survivors Home Initiative, 279 survivors of human trafficking, and more than 280 of their children, were supported in the first year. Over 90% of the survivors supported were Black women.

In addition to their economic mobility efforts, United Way of Greater Atlanta's Case Management Training Academy delivers best practice training to local case managers and nonprofit professionals at no cost to participants. These trainings provide case managers with general knowledge about human trafficking, guidance on how to identify trafficking situations, and education on trauma-informed care procedures, selfcare, internet safety, and more. Since 2020, the CMTA has held 36 sessions, educating 1,690 attendees from 47+ community partners.

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

Betty* is a survivor of both domestic violence and human trafficking in Atlanta, Georgia. After living in transitional housing for nearly two years, she faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding her life, but the process of gaining financial stability had proven to be slow and difficult. However, in January 2022, Betty joined United Way of Greater Atlanta's financial empowerment program, which quickly became a lifeline, providing her with the economic support she needed to gain long-term stability.

In collaboration with expert survivor leaders in the field, United Way of Greater Atlanta has developed an innovative financial empowerment program for survivors of human trafficking. The program features a holistic economic stability curriculum and goes beyond traditional support models, emphasizing financial independence and resilience. It not only imparts essential financial literacy skills but also incorporates a unique element – direct cash transfers.

Survey results have shown that this direct cash assistance gives program participants autonomy and agency to address their most pressing needs in the ways they see fit. For example, during her time in the program, Betty consistently saved \$100 or more each month and used the remaining funds for basic needs such as medication and groceries. After just 10 months in the program, these extra funds allowed Betty to finally exit the transitional housing program and move into her own permanent housing. Betty's success story is a testament to her resilience and the program's effectiveness in providing survivors with a pathway towards economic stability.



Since 2022, 48 survivors, including Betty, have been recipients of \$250 cash transfers per month for one year.

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

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN NEVADA



Addressing the challenge of sex trafficking is a complicated conversation in Nevada, with legalized brothels located across much of the state. **United Way of Southern Nevada focuses their anti-trafficking efforts on a blend of policy advocacy and direct services to meet the needs of sex trafficked people in Nevada's unique legal landscape.**

By convening the Nevada Policy Council on Human Trafficking alongside Impact NV, United Way of Southern Nevada has been strengthening the state's legal framework to confront forced sexual exploitation. The Council includes trafficking survivors and nonprofit service providers, along with representatives from healthcare, law enforcement, government, lodging, hospitality, and transportation. It has seen remarkable success — 10 bills supported by the Council were approved and signed by the governor during Nevada's 2021-2023 legislative sessions.

In addition to their advocacy work, United Way of Southern Nevada has funded efforts in the state to support at-risk children and youth survivors to heal and thrive through kinship care and specialized foster care programming. The organization also partners with community agencies serving women survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation to improve crisis response, exit strategies, financial skills, and workforce development for women who are exiting the commercial sex industry in Las Vegas.



From 2021-2023, United Way of Southern Nevada supported a total of 1,636 people through their anti-human trafficking work.

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

10 bills supported by United Way of Southern Nevada and the Nevada Policy Council were approved and signed by the governor during Nevada's 2021 - 2023 legislative sessions.

- AB 143** Created an online directory of services for trafficking victims; develops a statewide plan or delivering services to trafficking victims; forms the State of Nevada Human Trafficking Coalition; designates a human trafficking specialist within the Division of Child and Family Services
- AB 182** Extended criminal responsibility to a person who owns, leases, or operates a business or property where illegal sex work is conducted
- AB 113** Increased the statute of limitations to six years for sex trafficking
- AB 64** Granted the Attorney General additional authority to prosecute the facilitation of sex trafficking
- SB 45** Required the Ombudsman for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to assist victims of human trafficking and provide public education on human trafficking
- SB 164** Created a special committee to conduct a study of sex trafficking
- SB 274** Licensed and certifies shelters for commercially sexually exploited children
- AB 183** Increased the frequency of screenings for human trafficking in agencies working with vulnerable children
- AB 275** Removed fees for those sealing their criminal records of offenses committed while being trafficked, and
- SB 389** Extended the statute of limitations for human trafficking survivors to file for access to the Fund for Compensation of Victims of Crime, and requires biannual publications of human trafficking statistics in the state

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN CAMERON COUNTY



Over 5,100

Participants trained, including:

- Law Enforcement Officials
- Banking Institution Staff
- Medical Providers
- Trauma Counselors
- Teachers and School Officials
- Legal Assistants
- Housing Advocates
- Nonprofit Front-line Workers
- Homeless Coalition Members
- Veteran's Coalition Members

Combating human trafficking takes teamwork. Survivors require a wide range of services to recover and regain control of their future. Everyday needs can become insurmountable obstacles if programs aren't linked to provide a consistent continuity of care.

United Way of Southern Cameron County has established a holistic support network to help survivors with legal, medical, psychological, and housing assistance. The network convenes monthly to improve the identification of and response to trafficking, to increase an understanding of available resources in the community, to identify needs and fill gaps in services, and to improve coordination and collaboration between social service groups and law enforcement professionals. The network offers specialized training on human trafficking and workers rights for local police, nonprofit frontline workers, and others in the community.

Other recent program highlights include:

- Offering worker's rights education to people who have recently arrived in the U.S.
- Delivering prevention education at local schools and community events
- Partnering with survivors to launch a billboard awareness campaign
- Facilitating a peer support program for young survivors of sex trafficking
- Financially supporting survivors testifying against their traffickers in court
- Assisting survivors with criminal, civil, and immigration legal processes
- Providing emergency housing to survivors and their families



SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

Natalia*, a 26-year-old pregnant woman from Mexico, was being treated in the emergency room when a nurse began to suspect she may have experienced human trafficking. Hospital staff reached out to members of the local network coordinated by United Way of Southern Cameron County, and the community partners sprung into action.

Natalia was confirmed to be a survivor of labor trafficking, and through conversations with advocates, it was discovered that she had also experienced sexual violence.

United Way of Southern Cameron County, along with community partners at Friendship for Women, Refugee Services of Texas, and others in the network, were able to support Natalia in building a new life for herself and her son from the moment she was discharged from the hospital. The organizations acted swiftly, providing emergency shelter, medical care, transportation, legal support, and financial assistance for Natalia and her baby boy.

Over time, the community partners helped Natalia secure permanent housing and supported her with rent assistance while she regained financial stability. Today, Natalia and her son, who is now two years old, still live in that apartment and continue to receive monthly case management support as Natalia focuses on recovery and healing.

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



METRO UNITED WAY



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

To address this need, Metro United Way in Louisville has investigated ways to bring best practice solutions to the city's entire social safety net. The organization began by conducting original research on human trafficking, incubating local coalition efforts, and streamlining referrals and data collection amongst local service providers. Leveraging the expertise of over 40 partner agencies, 200 community participants, and numerous interviews with survivors, Metro United Way published a comprehensive [landscape analysis](#) of human trafficking in their community.

Using the findings from the landscape analysis, Metro United Way worked with community partners to strengthen [United Community](#), a shared technology platform that creates a coordinated care network of health, education, and social care providers that can serve human trafficking survivors and vulnerable populations in the Louisville area. Today, the network includes 533 partner organizations collectively providing a wide range of services such as housing, utilities, employment, food assistance, behavioral health services, and more. Since August of 2022, 19,132 referrals have been made, 7,982 cases have been resolved, and 62% of agencies involved in the landscape analysis have been onboarded to the platform.



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

– Human Trafficking in *Louisville: Surveying the Landscape*

UNITED WAY GHANA



Human trafficking is prevalent in Ghana, and both boys and girls are known to be trafficked into forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The Ghanaian government has listed demand for cheap labor, poverty, and the absence of economic opportunities as key root causes of human trafficking in the country. **United Way Ghana's anti-human trafficking work aims to address this issue in a comprehensive and holistic manner, and their job security and educational programs are a key component of that strategy.**

With the help of the local school district and teacher volunteers, United Way Ghana provides youth survivors with school supplies and after-school tutoring to ensure they reach grade-level reading milestones. Additionally, the organization supports young adult survivors through apprenticeship opportunities, vocational & entrepreneurial training, and university enrollment assistance.

United Way Ghana also supports [The Courageous Crew](#), a survivor-run advocacy coalition focused on community education to prevent further incidences of child trafficking.



Since 2022, United Way Ghana's anti-trafficking efforts have supported **63 survivor students** and **131 other vulnerable children** through educational support efforts, as well as **16 young adult survivors** through economic mobility projects.



UNITED WAY SOUTH AFRICA

As in all countries, human trafficking in South Africa stems from a range of other systemic injustices. Issues like gender inequality, economic instability, and political conflict contribute to its prevalence. Studies have shown that South African girls are frequently trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, while boys are more commonly trafficked for street vending, food service, and agricultural work.

United Way South Africa has focused their anti-trafficking efforts on targeting secondary school aged youth, particularly graduating students who will soon join the workforce, for labor trafficking prevention education. Together with partners at [A21](#), the team has trained youth workers from the education, civil society, and NGO sectors on human trafficking and youth vulnerability.

Looking ahead, United Way South Africa plans to expand these efforts to include multilingual education in secondary schools.



To date, United Way South Africa has held **5** workshops in secondary schools across Johannesburg, educating over **1,000** young people and more than **86** youth workers and school staff.

STRATEGY GUIDE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

United Way of Greater Atlanta, United Way of Southern Nevada, United Way of Southern Cameron County, Metro United Way, United Way Ghana, United Way South Africa, and many others in our Network have clearly shown how United Ways can achieve lasting impact in the fight against human trafficking.

To help others in our Network also integrate anti-trafficking efforts into existing work, United Way Worldwide has created an exciting new tool: **The Strategy Guide to Combat Human Trafficking is a comprehensive resource that local United Ways can utilize to understand and address the issue of human trafficking in their communities.** It aims to empower United Ways across the United States to combat this issue by leveraging existing strengths, partnerships, and programs.

Rooted in [United Way's Equity Framework](#) and utilizing a health, education, and economic mobility lens, the Strategy Guide provides local United Ways with step-by-step guidance to build an anti-trafficking approach into existing programming.

We encourage all United Ways and other community partners to read and utilize *The Strategy Guide to Combat Human Trafficking* today. We hope it can serve as a key resource for building tailored community-based approaches to address this injustice.





EDUCATION & AWARENESS



ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING & INCREASING ENGAGEMENT

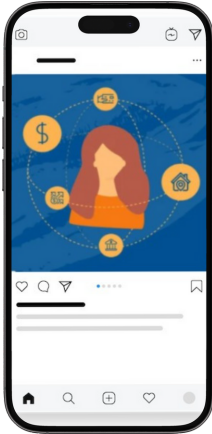
Actively and effectively engaging in combating human trafficking requires an understanding of the issue, how it is identified, and how it can be prevented.

The spread of misinformation and myths about this issue has damaging effects on the anti-human trafficking movement. When we (intentionally or unintentionally) perpetuate false narratives about human trafficking, we fail to center the actual people affected by the issue.

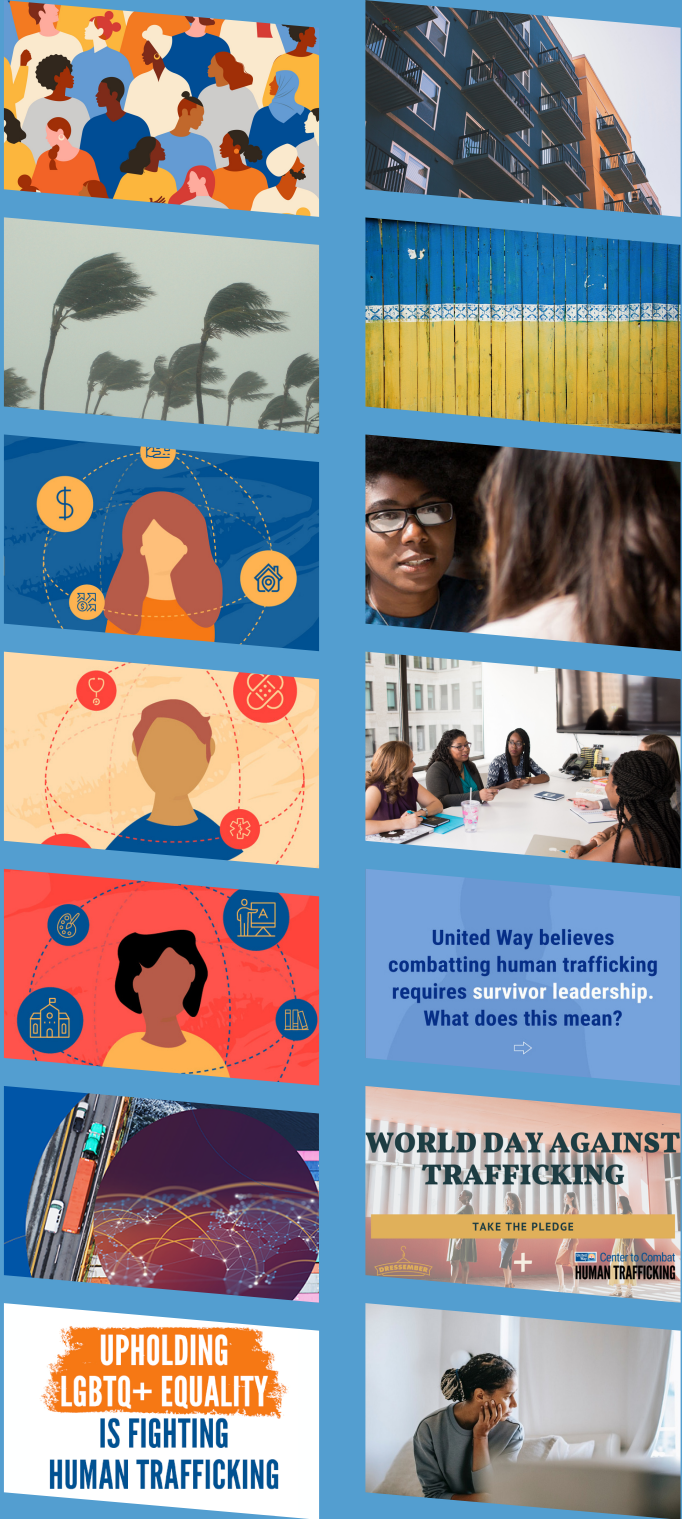
Through our public education and awareness-raising efforts, United Way has helped thousands of people around the world learn about human trafficking and how to combat it.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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



Click on the resources on this page to learn more.



EDUCATION & TRAINING: UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

Since 2021, United Way's anti-trafficking training program has educated more than 2,200 people about the issue and how to combat it.

The *Rising United Leadership Program* (RULP) educates local United Ways while also providing professional development and economic opportunities to people with lived experience of human trafficking. Through the program, survivor experts teach United Way's anti-human trafficking curriculum and engage in education-related consulting projects for partner organizations and companies.

Since its inception, RULP has been co-designed and co-managed by a team of allies and people with lived experience of human trafficking from United Way and [Rising Worldwide](#).

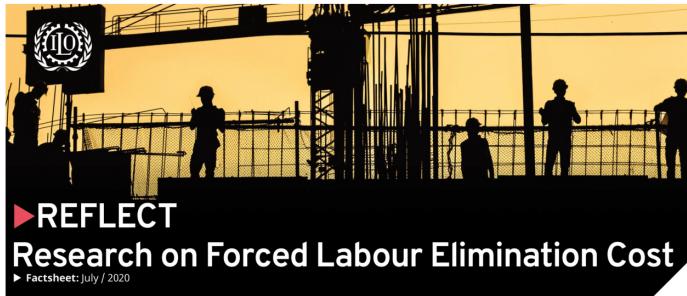
The program is changing the way we think about anti-trafficking education by reversing the power dynamic between typical "service providers" and "beneficiaries." Much of the focus to date has been to educate front-line workers and service providers on how to assist survivors. But through this program, survivors transition from beneficiaries to educators, leveraging their unique expertise to teach others about the issue.



"The lived experiences from trafficking survivors provided a rich and moving learning opportunity many of us had not experienced before."

- Kirby Jane Nagle, Public Information Officer,
United Way of Southeast Louisiana

INCREASING ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH



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

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

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



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

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

Way forward

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

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

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

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

What will it cost to end human trafficking once and for all?

In partnership with the United Nations [International Labor Organization](#), we have spent the past few years conducting groundbreaking research to better understand the actual costs of interventions required to eradicate forced labor through a project named **REFLECT** – Research on Forced Labour Elimination Cost. The team developed a formal economic model and field tested it in five countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe to determine the cost of ending human trafficking at scale.

This first-of-its kind modeling has produced economic assessments of effective scaled interventions and will be used to raise awareness of this issue and strengthen advocacy for substantial increases in anti-trafficking funding. The findings, which are scheduled for release in 2024, will allow the movement to augment the moral case for combating trafficking by including economic assessments of how much should be invested to end it.



International
Labour
Organization



SURVIVOR FINANCIAL SECURITY



CREATING CAREER PATHWAYS

Human trafficking often stems from and contributes to economic instability for individuals and communities.

After experiencing human trafficking, survivors often need financial assistance to rebuild their lives. To support the financial security and economic mobility of human trafficking survivors, United Way works with survivor-run organizations to operate programs that create employment pathways and emphasize professional development.

RISING UNITED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Creating communities that are resilient to human trafficking requires:

- An understanding of the issue and its complexities
- Deep engagement and leadership by those with lived experience of it

Our joint program with [Rising Worldwide](#) seeks to increase survivor leadership in the anti-trafficking education space. Through the *Rising United Leadership Program* (RULP), survivor leaders are trained to teach United Way's anti-human trafficking curriculum.

The program helps survivors increase their entrepreneurial skills and grow their own consulting practices by providing them with professional development support, leadership training, mentorship, ongoing economic opportunities, and a selfcare stipend, among other benefits.

As a result of the program, survivor leaders have reported increased self-sufficiency, financial stability, and agency.

"The encouragement given throughout the program helped **strengthen a lot of my skills**. This carried over to all aspects of my life. United Way listened and encouraged me [to know that] **my voice matters** and **people appreciate it.**"

- Rising Expert

"In the 15 years that I've been working in this movement, I've **never felt more a part of a community.**"

- Rising Expert

"The program not only has **great tools and preparation for professional development**, but the additional support of assisting us with having our needs met allows me personally to focus on my tasks, goals, and visions **without compromising my mental wellness** while balancing so much at once."

- Rising Expert

THE PEMBROOK FELLOWSHIP



The Pembroke Fellowship honors the legacy of the late anti-trafficking leader, Deborah Pembroke, a friend and colleague to both United Way and Survivor Alliance.

Over the past few years, United Way Worldwide and [Survivor Alliance](#) have collaborated to create and launch an innovative program that aims to enhance survivor representation within the anti-trafficking sector in the United States. The Pembroke Fellowship provides survivors of human trafficking with a fellowship placement at anti-trafficking organizations throughout the United States, while equipping organizational partners with the tools needed to create a trauma-informed and inclusive workplace.

The Pembroke Fellowship has been uniquely designed to foster partnership and collaboration between survivors and allies by matching nonprofit organizations in the anti-trafficking sector with survivor leaders, based upon their skills, interests, and values.

Through the program, survivors of human trafficking are empowered with leadership training for diverse roles across the anti-trafficking sector while also being provided with a competitive salary, access to health benefits, and the opportunity to build a career. Fellows receive guidance and support as they practice professional boundaries, learn to work with a team, and gain experience meeting deliverables and managing project timelines. Meanwhile, organizations are prepared to host a fellow through in-depth workplace assessments and recommendations, allies training for staff, ongoing supervisor support, and more.

SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP IS KEY TO ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

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

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- We sponsored the first-ever [Survivor Alliance World Congress](#), which brought together 200+ survivors from around the world to set the agenda for the next decade of survivor leadership.
- We supported Polaris' first ever [National Survivor Study](#), which documented human trafficking's effects from a survivor perspective and aggregated advice from survivors on how to combat trafficking.
- We hosted students from The Survivor Alliance Leadership Academy, a program that builds employability and career pathways through experimental education, socioemotional learning, leadership development, and upskilling for employment.
- In addition to expanding avenues to professional development and economic empowerment, our *Rising United Leadership Program* and *The Pembroke Fellowship* aim to elevate new survivor voices.

"We are so grateful to United Way for collaborating with us to expand career pathways for survivors and grow survivor leadership representation within the anti-trafficking sector."

- Alicia Ley, Fellowship Programs Manager, Survivor Alliance

"Through their professional development and economic mobility programs for people with lived experience of human trafficking, United Way is modeling what it means to advance survivor leadership."

- Jess Torres, Rising Expert Program Coordinator, Rising Worldwide

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

**UNITED WE CAN END HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
JOIN US.**



[UNITEDWAY.ORG/ENDTRAFFICKING](https://www.unitedway.org/endtrafficking)

