Year in Review
We exist to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society.

Names of victims and survivors have been changed throughout this document for their safety and privacy.
The 10th year of Hope for Justice has been by far the most successful yet and I could not be more proud of the staff, volunteers and supporters who have made this possible. You can see some of the key results on the left-hand page, and more of our statistics and growth in recent years over the next few pages.

It has been deeply and profoundly moving to spend time this year with exploited and abused children and adults who have had to walk through the darkest days, but who now have their freedom. Nothing brings me greater joy than seeing the smiles of rescued victims who realize they are now truly free, and the jubilant faces of parents and children reunited at home.

Even better is when we can prevent those dark days from happening in the first place. That is why we have invested heavily in our prevention work, keeping families together while educating and empowering communities to protect themselves from traffickers. Because although we celebrate every rescue we achieve, what we wish for and strive for is a world free from modern slavery, one where rescue is never necessary.

I have seen firsthand virtually all of our global programs this year – I am always astonished at the results achieved in often exceptionally difficult circumstances. It’s a powerful feeling, to see restoring lives in action... whether through Advocacy or at our Lighthouses, at our Dream Home or Shine Schools.

We want to create cities, regions and countries completely hostile to human trafficking, driving it from our world. We cannot do this alone, which is why we engage with legislators, policy-makers, law enforcement, other NGOs, the business community – everyone who has the power to make a difference.

Reforming society is tough but necessary work. There have been real legislative victories this year and more governments choosing to fund anti-trafficking projects around the world.

This year has seen our Slave-Free Alliance initiative grow much faster than our wildest hopes, showing the commitment of the business world to step up and take responsibility for the forced labor that is happening right now in supply chains around the world. You can read more on page 44 about the companies – large and small, household names and family firms – who have come on board to work towards a slave-free supply chain.

My podcast, Dear 26 Year Old Me, which I host with other members of the Hope for Justice team, helped bring our message and passion to new audiences. Out of that has grown an exciting project for me personally: my second book, ‘Relentless Pursuit’. Released in September 2019, it is a book for anyone who wants to make a difference in the world.

Hope for Justice is much more than an organization. It is a movement of people, determined to change lives and end slavery. If you are already a donor or supporter or someone committing your time and resources to this fight, I humbly thank you.

If you are reading this to find out more about the horrifying issue of modern-day slavery and looking for a way to get involved in ending it, I hope to hear from you soon!

“"This has been an exceptional year in which we have made a bigger impact than ever before through sustainable and strategic growth, powered by a global movement of individuals determined to change lives and end slavery."
“Hope for Justice has a ‘home and abroad’ strategy: wherever modern slavery exists, we are committed to stamping it out. We are creating nations and societies hostile to human trafficking, where it will not be tolerated. Because what you tolerate you will never change.”

– Elaine Jones, International Operations Director, Hope for Justice

Where We Work

Outreach

Outreach is at the heart of our work. Our specialist teams engage with children and help keep them safe. We also provide basic care and education in our Lighthouse centers, starting a journey of restoring the life of a child through counseling, educational opportunities and fun activities. Our goal is to reconnect children to their families, or to another safe family or community setting, and to work with them via continued support to bring about positive and long-term change in their lives.

Prevention

Recent years have seen an increase in the impact of trafficking and children being drawn into sex work and domestic servitude. To combat this, we have been putting in place important preventative programs for families and communities, delivering strong anti-trafficking messages and helping to minimize the number of children forced to live on the street.

Transitional care

Our Lighthouses provide temporary care and support for vulnerable and exploited children, keeping them safe from the dangers of the streets or their previous circumstances as we work to assess their physical, mental and emotional health and their circumstances. We then work to safely transition them back to their families or to family-based care.

Our Lighthouses also offer individual and group counseling and are complemented by our Shine Schools, where children receive catch-up education and life skills training. Older children and teenagers also get help with vocational training to develop skills for employment.

Family reintegration

We work hard to return children home to a safe family environment and support families to prevent children separating from them again.

We have built an international reputation through the work we are doing on family reintegration of street children, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a training curriculum and toolkit. We are a core member of a group formulating global guidelines on reintegration of children.

Rescue

Many of our countries host specialist Hubs staffed by experienced investigators and outreach workers. They work with law enforcement and other agencies to identify victims of trafficking, build bridges of trust with them and remove them from exploitation. We act as an alternative pathway out of exploitation for victims too scared to engage directly with police. Intelligence gathered about traffickers and gangs is shared with law enforcement – many perpetrators have been convicted and jailed thanks to this work.

Advocacy

Our specialist multi-disciplinary Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSAs) work with victims after rescue to help them rebuild their lives, by helping them access housing, welfare support, good-quality employment opportunities, psychological support, legal advice and more. We help survivors through the criminal and civil justice processes to ensure they receive justice and restitution, which plays a key role in their restoration. This is currently a UK-only program, but we are looking at the best way to expand it to other countries where we work.

Training

Expert trainers equip frontline professionals with the knowledge, skills and tools to identify human trafficking and to respond effectively. We train law enforcement, government at all levels, other NGOs, businesses and ordinary citizens. These organizations and individuals then become a vital resource for us, with many of our rescues traceable to intelligence provided to us by someone we have trained.

Self-Help Groups

Hope for Justice is using the Self-Help Group approach to help avoid family breakdown, which is a major risk factor in child trafficking. We are a core member of a group formulating global guidelines on reintegration of children. We work with them via continued support to bring about positive and long-term change in their lives.

Hope for Justice has projects in nine countries across four continents, with plans to expand further over the coming year. Our areas of focus and work across the world include:
Key statistics and trends

Statistics refer to the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

Remember as you reflect on these incredible statistics and successes that behind every number is a REAL life, a real person with their own story. At Hope for Justice, we remind ourselves of this fact every day by looking at our Freedom Walls, which are a powerful visual illustration of the real life behind each statistic. You can see our Freedom Wall at our head office on the next page.

CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH OUR WORK:

2015 - 16 23,874
2016 - 17 25,987
2017 - 18 37,000
2018 - 19 71,953

AGE RANGE OF GIRLS SERVED AT OUR CAMBODIA LIGHTHOUSE THIS YEAR:

- 17% 0-10 years
- 22% 11-15 years
- 51% 16-18 years
- 10% 19+ years

Interventions made by our UK Advocacy Team to help survivors
7,917

Academic classes taught at our Shine School for survivors
7,469

Meals served to children across our global programs
343,452

People trained globally
12,234

Referrals of victims that came from people/organizations we have trained
58%

Women empowered by participating in Self-Help Groups
5,513

Children reintegrated into family settings
1,014

Distance traveled this year by our Pathways project teams in Cambodia, which led to 84 victims of trafficking being identified
26,252 miles

Meals served to children across our global programs
343,452

People trained globally
12,234

Women empowered by participating in Self-Help Groups
5,513

Children reintegrated into family settings
1,014

Distance traveled this year by our Pathways project teams in Cambodia, which led to 84 victims of trafficking being identified
26,252 miles
2,020
Locks added to the Freedom Wall, April 2018 – March 2019

Every unlocked padlock represents a real life changed by our work!
How Hope for Justice helped destroy the criminal network responsible for the biggest trafficking case in UK history

Eight members of a modern slavery trafficking gang have been convicted of slavery, trafficking and money-laundering offences during two trials, during which more than 50 victims first identified by Hope for Justice—many supported by us ever since—bravely gave evidence. Police and Hope for Justice identified 92 individual victims, but we believe there could have been up to 400 victims in all.

This was the biggest modern slavery case ever uncovered in the UK, possibly even in Europe.

Ben Cooley, Hope for Justice’s co-founder and CEO, said: “We are incredibly proud of the role that Hope for Justice’s investigators, outreach workers and Advocacy team played in securing these convictions. This was a vast criminal conspiracy profiting from the misery and manipulation of vulnerable human beings.

“Our team has had a major role in identifying them, sharing key intelligence with West Midlands Police, supporting the victims over months and years as they sought to establish new lives in freedom, and helping them through this complex criminal justice process.

“While the victims can never get back what the traffickers took from them—financially, emotionally, physically and psychologically—we hope that the knowledge their abusers are now behind bars will help them as they move on with their lives.”

THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation—designated “Operation Fort”—began in 2015, shortly after Hope for Justice set up our regional investigative Hub in the West Midlands. Victims were first identified when they started showing up at a local soup kitchen, where workers had been trained by our charity to ‘spot the signs’ and how to respond effectively.

Our investigators shared intelligence with police and quickly spotted similarities in victims’ stories, suggesting an organized criminal conspiracy. Over time, more than 50 victims were identified directly by our outreach workers and investigators.

DCI Nick Dale, who was the senior investigating officer on Operation Fort for West Midlands Police, said: “In the case of Operation Fort, this investigation, we were able to benefit from the really good work done by Hope for Justice to gain the trust of those victims so they could come to us, so we could see the whole story and identity that evidence.”

THE RESULT

Eight members of the gang were sentenced to a combined total of more than 55 years in prison. Victims supported by Hope for Justice had been forced by the gang to live and work in atrocious conditions, in squalid houses often with no heating or hot water, leaking toilets, infested by rats. They were put to work in the construction industry, factories and other places, and paid nothing at all or a tiny sliver of what they had earned, with the traffickers controlling everything. The gang used intimidation, threats and violence to keep their victims under control.

The case has attracted substantial and widespread media interest, which you can see on the next page.

SUPPLY CHAINS

Following the court case, the Sunday Times of London and other media published investigations showing how companies and their supply chains had been infiltrated by the trafficking gang.

Hope for Justice’s business-focused social enterprise, Slave-Free Alliance (see page 44) is pleased to be assisting some of the companies named, with our experts helping these businesses to protect their operations and supply chains, to cut the risk of this ever happening again.

All profits made by Slave-Free Alliance are reinvested in Hope for Justice’s charity work, which was an integral part of smashing this organized trafficking ring.

‘ABSOLUTELY REMARKABLE’

At the end of the case at Birmingham Crown Court, Judge Mary Stacey asked the Hope for Justice outreach worker who first identified the gang to stand in court and commended him for his actions.

She praised the police and Hope for Justice’s “absolutely remarkable” work, adding: “One wonders how long this would have gone undetected and flourished, otherwise.”

See some of the national and international headlines generated by Hope for Justice’s role in this case on the next page.

For some, the recovery process is still ongoing. When Hope for Justice first met Pawel, he was at risk of homelessness and was being sent debt letters for welfare benefits which had been fraudulently taken out by traffickers in his name.

Two years later, and with the support of an Independent Modern Slavery Advocate, Pawel is living in a beautiful two-bed apartment with his family. He now works full-time to support his family and is no longer chased for debts accrued by traffickers in his name.

When asked how he would describe the support that Hope for Justice has given him over the years, Pawel said: “Hope for Justice has helped me so much that there are no words to describe how grateful I am, I’m very happy.”

Pawel was a key witness in the criminal trials and his identity remains protected as he wishes to move on with his life, knowing that justice has been served.

VICTIM CARE

Hope for Justice strongly believes that improving victim care is key to achieving more successful prosecutions and convictions like this one. Victims often do not want to engage with police or the criminal justice process until and unless they feel safe and supported.

The long-term work done by our Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSA) is vital in achieving this. Our IMSAs have continued to support many of the victims of this case for months and even years, including 10 who were supported in court while giving their testimony about their experiences. Of those, six are now in employment or supported employment.

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Pawel was a key witness in the criminal trials and his identity remains protected as he wishes to move on with his life, knowing that justice has been served.
Hope for Justice made global headlines for our role in the dismantling of a major trafficking gang responsible for the biggest case in UK history, possibly European history. A media monitoring service estimated the potential reach of the story was more than 580 million viewers and readers.

For the full story, turn back a page.
Preventing Exploitation

Our outreach teams, Self-Help Groups and community education initiatives empower people to protect themselves and their families from predatory traffickers and their recruiters.

‘We are growing as individuals and as a group’

Stronger communities reduce vulnerability to trafficking. The core of any community is its ability to help each other. One of our women’s Self-Help Groups in Ethiopia gathered together to repair the roof of the house of one of their members, ready for the rainy season.

When the group first started, women were reluctant to join and struggled to save money with the small amount they had to live on. Now, they are a close-knit group able to use the little they have to make a big difference in each others’ lives.

“As women we had no freedom. We previously couldn’t meet or have training or discuss issues. But now we come to the Self-Help Group every week, we are out of our houses and we are growing as individuals and as a group. This is a big change for us.”

– One member of the Group when asked how the experience of being a member had changed things in her community
Vulnerable women in rural Uganda used to be afraid to speak up in public...

We identify women like this in the poorest and most vulnerable villages...

They also gain the confidence to speak up about the issues that affect them...

And most importantly, they can keep their children at home and in education - protected against the traffickers.

We support them to create or join a Self-Help Group of like-minded women...

Where they learn about trafficking and the lies that are told to try to get them to send their children away...

They work together to save what they can so they are able buy livestock, to start small businesses...

Now, our Self-Help Groups and community initiatives empower women

“I had lost hope, I was desperate. My teenage children were not in school and we did not have a strong relationship. I was forcing my children to go and work, to contribute to the family income, risking arrest for illegal street vending.

“Today, my children are in school and we can afford three meals a day. I vividly remember how the Group saved my daughter’s health and education; enabling her access to medical care after she collapsed at school. Today, her aspirations are based on the education she was able to acquire! I learned about the dangers of child labor, and my attitude changed.”

– Group member Pendo, aged 35, from our Kamu Kamu group. She has five children and also cares for her nieces and sick mother.

Photo shows one of our Self-Help Group members in Wakiso, near Kampala.
Children often come to us malnourished and hungry, after being forced into domestic servitude or trying to survive on the streets. At our Lighthouses they are provided with nutritious food.

Young boys and girls on the streets are easy prey for traffickers.

Protecting children

Our work in Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe is protecting children, keeping them safe from traffickers and bringing families back together. Family separation and desperate poverty force some children to flee to the streets, where they are targeted by traffickers. At our Lighthouses, they are provided with shelter, safety, good food and the opportunity for a brighter future. Children who have been exploited or abused receive specialist trauma-informed care and counseling. We work with families in deprived communities to educate and empower them, to help prevent exploitation.
New Job Readiness Program reduces survivors’ vulnerability to re-exploitation

Hope for Justice launched our new Job Readiness Program in Cambodia as part of our work to prevent re-exploitation. We know from experience that good-quality employment is a key factor in restoration and reducing survivors’ vulnerability to trafficking in the future. The Shine Career School is already benefiting many girls and young women with its trauma-informed, high quality tuition approach. The new Job Readiness Program, launched in spring 2018, focuses specifically on giving students skills to stand out in an often competitive professional environment.

For many survivors of trafficking and modern slavery, reintegrating into the ‘real world’ after being trapped in exploitation and being in sheltered support comes with significant challenges. Without the right preparation, these challenges can risk undoing the recovery which has taken years for trauma survivors to achieve.

Our team has found that survivors particularly struggle to stand out from other candidates when faced with demands of the workplace and miss out on vital employment for which they have great potential.

The Job Readiness Program equips Shine students for success in the workplace. The program works with students for three months as they focus on key personal attributes, including their work ethic, teamwork skills and taking initiative. Students learn important job-searching and interview skills and will even participate in live interviews with business partners; giving them experience that will truly help them stand out from the crowd.

Support from Cambodia’s Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports means students who complete the Job Readiness Program receive nationally recognized certification, further drawing the attention of prospective employers. This particularly benefits Shine School students who need to work while attending university, as this certificate can be presented to employers to increase their chances of finding part-time work.

Hope for Justice wins Government funding for Ethiopia anti-slavery project

Hope for Justice UK was delighted to receive Government backing and funding for one of our key projects: providing support and education to vulnerable girls in Ethiopia who have been victims of (or are at risk of) sexual exploitation or domestic servitude.

Our project was one of six programs around the world to be awarded a total of £4m ($5m) in UK aid funding as part of the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund.

This funding marks the second phase of the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund and will run until 2021.

“You are pleased to be able to continue our work to support child victims of domestic exploitation in Ethiopia. We support the girls to regain self-esteem, to return to their families and to develop skills to resume education. We will extend our innovative approach of bringing together employers and domestic workers to ensure domestic work is legal and respects workers’ rights. The Modern Slavery Innovation Fund grant focuses attention on a problem that is largely invisible and a cultural blindspot.”

— Lynnette Kay, Hope for Justice’s Country Director for Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, thousands of children’s lives every year are changed thanks to Hope for Justice.
Rescuing Victims

Our specialist teams work closely with police to identify victims of human trafficking, build bridges of trust with them and remove them from exploitation and into safety.

Factory shut and victims identified in operation supported by Hope for Justice

Three specialists from Hope for Justice UK supported a police operation in April that led to a factory in the West Midlands being shut down and 15 victims being identified. Following a tip, Hope for Justice worked with police and 19 other agencies on this operation. Around 60 workers were spoken to and one child was safeguarded.

Emotional letter from rescued victim

Our investigators in the US were proud to receive this letter (pictured below) from a woman we have been supporting. Our teams don’t do what they do in the expectation of gratitude or thanks, but hearing directly from survivors is always a powerful moment. We have copied the text of her letter below:

“Dear Hope for Justice, Thank you for the help you’ve provided to me and the other women who were in the same situation I was.

“After twenty years of trying to seek justice for what we had experienced, it was a relief that [your investigator] and the rest of the Hope for Justice team understood what we were saying and didn’t dismiss what we were saying.

“After twenty years, I never thought I’d see the day when the individual involved was brought to justice.

“Thank you for all of the work you have done to bring this person to justice for what he has done, and hopefully this will prevent him from doing the same things to anyone else. Thank you again for all of your help. It means the world to us.”

This relates to a case involving two other women. The results of our investigation were passed to a prosecuting attorney, and the man involved has since been charged with 69 felony counts relating to human trafficking.

You can see the full letter at www.hopeforjustice.org
Vulnerable children rescued from the streets – now SAFE

Our outreach workers in Uganda build trust with vulnerable children living on the streets and encourage those looking for a different life to enter our Lighthouse program.

On one particularly busy night in September 2018 we rescued four children aged between 11 and 15 from the streets of Kampala at the same time.

All were intensely vulnerable to predators and traffickers and some had already suffered immense cruelty and violence. They were hungry and shivering – they had seen things children should never see.

After assessment and care at our nearby Lighthouses, we worked to get them back to their families.

All were desperate for safety and for education, and one of the girls, Betty, wants to become a nurse. Unfortunately she was kicked out of her school when her grandparents couldn’t pay the fees, and she had been on the streets ever since.

We are glad to say that in March 2019, we reunited Betty with her biological mother. Since then, our social workers have been in touch with the family to help her with vocational training.

New Hub launched in Oslo to expand identification and rescue in Norway

In early 2019, Hope for Justice launched our latest investigative Hub to help victims of human trafficking, by expanding our operations into Oslo, the capital of Norway.

The new Hub is allowing us to focus attention on Oslo, which is the country’s most populous city, with the highest proportion of foreign citizens – who are more vulnerable to being targeted by traffickers.

Hope for Justice Norway Director, Sondre Høysæter, said: “The new Hub is a huge boost to our mission to bring an end to modern slavery. We are encouraged by all the supporters, volunteers and other NGOs that are welcoming this expansion of our investigative capacity into Oslo.”

The new team has expertise in both investigation and outreach work, using a multi-disciplinary model that has proven highly successful at our UK Hubs.

Neil Wain, International Program Director at Hope for Justice, said the key factors included a victim-centered approach; investigators acting as an ‘alternative pathway’ out of exploitation for victims too scared to engage with the authorities; and proactive research to identify victims, where police resources are stretched thin.

“Our investigators, by contrast, can focus specifically on this issue and build capacity for local police,” he said.

Tanya’s Story

As a teenager, Tanya was looking forward to a romantic holiday with her boyfriend. Instead, she was forced into prostitution for five years in a foreign country.

Thanks to our teams and Hope for Justice supporters, she is now FREE and receiving the care and support she needs to move towards recovery.

Ashlyn’s Story

A young woman who was being trafficked for sex here in the USA is now safe, thanks to Hope for Justice. Ashlyn’s trafficker had deliberately got her hooked on drugs to keep her compliant and under his control as he sold her over and over again.

She was trapped in this horrific situation until a medical emergency occurred, when she overdosed. She woke up in hospital, and told her family what had been happening to her. They contacted the National Human Trafficking Hotline, who referred her to Hope for Justice.

Her trafficker was actively looking for her and her whole family were terrified. We acted quickly to move them all to a safe location out-of-state and to identify her trafficker. As this Year in Review went to press, the investigation was continuing.
Vanessa’s Story

Vanessa was desperate to escape hostile family circumstances and was deceived into coming to the UK on the promise of a legal temporary work visa. But rather than the freedom she longed for, she was forced to live a life unseen – prohibited from using her own name by her abusers, exploited for their profit.

After years of abuse, she found a chance to escape and sought help from a local agency who put her in contact with Hope for Justice.

She is now in a safe place, able to shape her own future. She is known by her own name.

Chanmoni’s Story

Aged just 13, Chanmoni was pressured by her ‘boyfriend’ to leave her native Cambodia and cross the border into Thailand. The boyfriend sold her to a pimp, into a life of exploitation and abuse. She wanted to run but the threats were severe, and they used alcohol to keep her compliant.

Eventually she managed to escape their clutches and found a way to get back across the border to her family. Unfortunately they rejected her, saying they were ashamed of her and blaming her for not listening to them. This attitude was widespread in her village, so she was brought to Hope for Justice’s Lighthouse for assessment and care, ready for longer-term recovery and restoration in a place of support and understanding.

We always aim for reintegration into families and communities when it is possible, but when it is not, our goal is to offer help and support to achieve independent living. Chanmoni will need a lot of specialist care, as she is in a fragile state psychologically, but now the healing can start and over time she will improve and find joy again.

Sokhanya’s Story

Sokhanya grew up in a poor rural province in northern Cambodia. She never got much education, and when she grew up she decided to try to find work with her husband over the border in Thailand. But she was deceived by a trafficker, who took their documents and demanded payment. They were not allowed to leave one small room.

Eventually a Thai police raid freed Sokhanya and her husband, who were taken back to Cambodia. Our Pathways team and partner NGOs on the border heard their story and stepped in with education and some simple resources to let the couple start a grocery store.

Today, that business is running smoothly and is a fixture in their community. Sokhanya and her husband are living in full freedom with their children, who are able to go to school.
Restoring Lives

We work with victims to overcome trauma and rebuild their lives. We offer tailored restorative care initiatives and offer support to meet vital needs, including survivor-centered aftercare.

Compensation for victim of modern slavery doubled

A compensation award for a case that our team worked on for five years has been increased to $44,000; more than double the original award.

The authorities recognized that the survivor’s financial losses and physical abuse were much worse than had originally accounted for.

Although this money cannot undo his years in modern slavery, it means a better future for his children, which is all he dreamed of when he first came to this country.

We are proud of our Advocacy team for their role in this victory - working with his lawyers and faithfully supporting him to ensure his needs were met while the case was fought.

Traffickers jailed for 24 years after evidence from survivors supported by Hope for Justice

Eight members of a trafficking gang, some of whose victims have been supported by Hope for Justice, were jailed for a total of 24 years for exploitation offences in October 2018.

The gang trafficked victims from Slovakia to Leeds in the UK. Raids in November 2013 rescued 37 victims, including children and a baby.

Hope for Justice has been supporting two of the victims of the gang since January 2015 and continues to do so. Both survivors were key witnesses, but were homeless and destitute after their state-funded support provision ended.

Our Advocacy Team supported them to access accommodation, subsistence, alcohol support, healthcare and legal advice. It was a long process to get the relevant service providers to accept that the survivors were entitled to these things.

We also referred both of them for supported employment opportunities, and attended court each day with them as they gave evidence.

Survivors who lack this intensive support often disengage from the criminal justice process. Good-quality victim care leads to more convictions, as we have seen in this case.

West Yorkshire Police thanked Hope for Justice and other NGOs and organizations for the close partnership working that led to the conviction and sentencing of the gang.
New Lighthouse opens to safeguard vulnerable children

This Lighthouse supports boys, who previously had little or no support in Bahir Dar, while fortunately several other NGOs are equipped to help girls in the region.

Bright Lighthouse has a capacity of 15 children and is run by a fantastic team of professionals, including social workers, teachers, street outreach workers and nurses – as well as cooks, guards and night staff.

In its first few months since opening, the Lighthouse has done fantastic work to care for boys who have been victims of trafficking or who were previously intensely vulnerable to it.

Hope for Justice’s Lighthouses are just one aspect of our work in Ethiopia, alongside outreach and counseling; prevention and anti-trafficking training; deinstitutionalization of children into family- or community-based care; family reintegration; and Self-Help Groups.

You can find out more about the full range of our work in Ethiopia and around the world on page 7.

‘Fighting for justice is really important’

After three years of court cases and legal action, two survivors of trafficking living at our Dream Home in Cambodia received thousands of dollars of compensation and saw their abuser punished in court.

Our Case Management Supervisor at Hope for Justice’s Dream Home said: “We are happy and pleased for the girls! They deserved justice and they needed justice. They got the settlement money the court demanded and we are also satisfied with the punishment that the offender received.

“Fighting for justice is really important. It’s been a lesson for the other girls: to let them see that if anyone does something wrong to them, that person will be punished by the law. We hope all the survivors we support will receive justice.”

‘Every girl we support has different emotional and psychological needs’

When Chariya came to Hope for Justice’s Cambodia program, her anger issues and trauma from her trafficking experiences meant she was disrespectful and rude to staff, and was not interested in staying in the program.

With 17 months of trauma-informed care and specialist support, she overcame that negativity and became a more reflective person, who thinks about other people and solves problems in a peaceful way.

Dream Home Therapist Lim Phanna said: “Every girl we support has different emotional and psychological needs, which need tailored and personalized methods to help them.”

In 2018, Chariya completed vocational training and could look forward to a career in the beauty industry, working in salons. At the same time, our outreach staff were working carefully with her family to prepare them for Chariya to return home. Such reintegrations can be very complex in rural Cambodian communities without the right groundwork in advance.

When we took her home, we saw that her family was happy to welcome her back and they felt really proud to see her growth and the skills she has learned, which she can now use to support herself and her family as well. Her family, in turn, understand the need to encourage and support her as she goes forward into a new life with hope and ambition.

Amina’s Story

When Amina came to our Bulamu Lighthouse in Uganda, she had recently been rescued from domestic slavery.

Her original ambition had been to earn money to pay for training in dressmaking. But this dream was snatched away – she was exploited and forced to work for next to nothing. Now, as part of holistic support offered by Hope for Justice, she is able to take part in tailoring sessions where she is building her skills to achieve that she wants to in life.
This photo shows a male survivor of human trafficking being supported by our Advocacy team with some one-to-one English tuition.

We know through experience that equipping those we support with better English helps to reduce their future vulnerability to exploitation, builds their independence and helps with integration.

Sara’s Story

Sara lived under the control of an abusive stepfather from the age of five. He made her his personal domestic slave, forcing her to work manual labor instead of giving her access to basic freedoms like education or making friends.

One day while working, Sara badly burned her hand and it never got proper medical attention, so for years afterwards it caused her physical and emotional difficulties. When she later became a domestic worker in the capital, her hand made the work impossible, and her employer was abusive.

Fortunately, after a few weeks, our team in Ethiopia managed to get her into one of our Lighthouses, where she got psychosocial support and surgical care for her hand.

“I am so happy to stay in the Lighthouse. I have never seen such love and care anywhere and also it is a great privilege to get a solution for my hand. It was my dream to eat and do things with my right hand as my friends do.”

Tirunesh’s Story

After everything Tirunesh has been through in her young life, this photograph means the world to us. It shows the moment she was returned safely back to her father after some horrific experiences.

Her stepmother had encouraged her to become a domestic worker to help the family’s finances. Work was found for her with a family and she worked for them for four years. But then one day, one of the older sons of the employer raped her.

She told her employer, but she was ignored. “She told me that ‘these things happen’ and that I should get used to this as every other woman does... She didn’t seem to take it as a big deal,” Tirunesh recalled later.

When it became clear Tirunesh was pregnant – still only a child herself - she was taken back to her own family. On the day of labor, complications arose and her baby died while she was on her way to the hospital.

She was saddened by her loss but her family supported her and tried to take care of her for a while. But her family’s economic problems had not changed, so she decided to find work in Addis Ababa, the capital.

“Her stepmother had encouraged her to become a domestic worker to help the family’s finances. Work was found for her with a family and she worked for them for four years. But then one day, one of the older sons of the employer raped her.”

Eventually she felt confident enough to return to her father. On the day of reintegration, Tirunesh was very happy and hopeful to go back home again. Her excitement was matched when she was reunited with her father. He too was very happy and thankful to see his child again.

Tirunesh is now living with her family and is hopeful about what the future has in store for her.

During the course of 2018-19, four of the children we served at our Cambodia Lighthouse were aged under five.

In fact, one of the girls was just two years old and her older sister was only nine.

The darkness can be heartbreaking, but our team walk with survivors of trafficking every step of the journey to restoration, lighting the way.
Reforming Society

We train professionals to spot the signs of trafficking and to respond effectively. We work with legislators and agencies to improve policy, and we help businesses protect their operations and supply chains from modern slavery.

Two traffickers have been sentenced to a combined 35 years in prison for their role in the forced marriage and horrific abuse of a young girl who is now being cared for by Hope for Justice, and two of her cousins.

Mey grew up with parents who travelled from farm to farm, looking for work. They did not have much education and were tricked by a broker who said he could find their daughter a good job in another country so she could send money home.

Using forged documents, he sent Mey to China, where – at just 13 – she was forced to marry a stranger. He exploited her in every way, beat her violently and forced her to do heavy manual work.

Her mother became worried when she did not hear from Mey and filed a report with police, who worked with a local NGO to get her home.

After her rescue, Mey was deeply traumatized and needed specialist help. So she was transferred to the Hope for Justice Lighthouse in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Our network of Lighthouses are short-term residential assessment and treatment centers for rescued trafficking victims.

With our caring support and treatment for her mental and physical health, Mey began to heal. Then our Shine School gave her the chance to catch up on her missed education.

In August 2018, two people were sentenced over Mey’s case: one received 15 years in prison and the other was given 20 years.

Hope for Justice co-founder, Natalie Grant, gives evidence to US Senators

Committee’s inquiry, titled The Global Fight to End Modern Slavery.

Natalie Grant, seven-time Grammy nominated as a Christian and Gospel recording artist, spoke of her horror at discovering the realities of human trafficking a decade and a half ago and all the work she has done since then to try to end it.

She told the Senators about Hope for Justice’s work, the adults and children we have rescued, and our work with businesses to protect their supply chains from human trafficking.

Natalie Grant’s full testimony is available at the Hope for Justice website.
Celebrating International Day for Street Children at our Lighthouses

Formerly vulnerable children being cared for by Hope for Justice voiced their rights to live free from exploitation during a series of fun events with a serious message behind them.

To mark International Day for Street Children 2019, young people who were previously trying to survive on the streets joined together to call on their governments to remember that all children should live “free from corporal punishment or cruel and inhumane treatment.”

Events were held across our centers in Uganda and Ethiopia, and a particularly lively celebration took place at our Canaan Lighthouse in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, where children performed drama and music as part of the day’s festivities. That event was also attended by police, government and community representatives.

Children read aloud sections of the country’s law, which outlines their right “not to be subject to exploitative practices” or have to work under hazardous conditions which are harmful to their education, health or wellbeing.

IMSA model praised in UN Sustainable Development Goals update

The unique work of Hope for Justice’s team of Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSA) program provides frontline specialist advocacy to victims of Modern Slavery enabling them to understand their rights and choices; access services; and ensure their voice is heard.

“This enhances the ability of victims to engage in criminal and civil justice processes, both of which are essential to securing justice for victims and creating a hostile environment for exploiters.”

“This also increases the ability of the victims to engage with government officials and law enforcement.”

Hope for Justice has been a long-term supporter of the Global Goals, especially the following three:

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the protection and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Hope for Justice working with UK police to train their Cambodian counterparts

A team of officers from West Midlands Police flew to Cambodia in February 2019 to visit our projects and to train Cambodian government officials, military officers and law enforcement.

Hope for Justice International Program Director, Neil Wain, helped to facilitate this important training session and workshop, which also made national news headlines in the country.

General Pak Yu Leng, the Vice Director of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department, said that human trafficking and sexual exploitation are important issues that need addressing, alongside forced labor and forced marriage. He welcomed the new experiences and lessons shared by the UK police officers and Hope for Justice.

Earlier in the year, Lighthouse Program Manager, Socheata Van, ran a separate training session for Cambodian police to ensure they understood the emotional and psychological impact trafficking has on children. She stressed especially the need for special procedures when dealing with young victims, before they even arrive at our Lighthouse.

Hope for Justice gives evidence to legislators

In October 2018, Hope for Justice Director of Legal Policy, Philippa Roberts, appeared before the UK House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee as part of its inquiry into modern slavery and the UK government’s response.

Philippa gave expert evidence informed by Hope for Justice’s decade of working closely with victims and the bureaucratic systems they have to navigate, alongside colleagues from other anti-trafficking charities.

She answered questions on a number of issues, often focusing on deficiencies and inconsistencies in the system of safe house support provided in the UK.

She also spoke strongly in favour of Lord McColl’s Bill, currently working its way through Parliament, which is being supported by Hope for Justice as part of the Free For Good campaign.

This Bill would rectify a number of the most glaring problems with the existing systems, including ensuring that victims of modern slavery receive assistance and support for 12 months following conclusive identification. They would also be granted the right to live and work in the UK for this period to enable assistance.
UK Environment Agency commits to fight trafficking in waste and recycling sector

A major government agency in the UK announced its commitment to redoubling its efforts against modern slavery, in partnership with Hope for Justice.

On Anti-Slavery Day, October 18, the Environment Agency announced more about our training with its frontline teams and how it is tackling trafficking.

More than 100 of its officers were trained as part of a growing recognition of organized criminal activity in the waste and recycling sector.

Marie Fallon, Director of Regulated Industry at the Environment Agency said: “Modern slavery is an abhorrent crime that often goes unseen. While the majority of the waste businesses we regulate are well-run, there are a concerning number of operators who delve into criminal practices which harm the environment, local communities and their own work force.”

In November 2018, the Government published its review into serious organized crime in the waste sector. That review acknowledges an emerging criminal subset within the waste management industry.

“Our work with Hope for Justice has given our officers the skills to understand the signs of modern slavery which can add value to the work of the police, partners and local authorities who collectively are working to stamp it out.”

— Marie Fallon, Director of Regulated Industry at the Environment Agency

‘Spot the Signs’ information posters placed on Polish buses

Hope for Justice is working with some of the major bus companies operating from central and eastern Europe to have our posters and literature placed on board.

We know from survivors we work with that many are trafficked by bus, on false promises by people who turned out to be traffickers.

The ‘Spot the Signs’ posters are designed to warn people on board about the dangers of modern slavery and what to look out for, in people’s own native languages, using easy-to-understand wording.

Many victims we help say they thought they were making the journey in order to obtain good-quality work, often with accommodation included. The reality is almost always very different.

We hope to expand this concept to even more transport companies.

In April 2019, our US investigative team participated in Eyes Up Nashville – a human trafficking awareness community campaign with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in the Nashville area to combat human trafficking during the NFL draft. Nashville welcomed more than 600,000 fans from around the country who wanted to be part of this incredible event.

The goals of this campaign were to educate the general public about how to identify and report human trafficking. Because of your support, our teams are on the frontlines.
Raising Awareness

These photos show just a tiny selection of the awareness-raising events that took place during the year, including conferences, media, interviews, the second season of our Dear 26 Year Old Me podcast and fundraising events. At Hope for Justice, we firmly believe that awareness must lead to action. No single organization can end human trafficking; it will take all of us, together. That is why awareness is so vital.

Above: In February 2019, more than 300 people took to the streets of South Tampa, FL to raise awareness and vital funds as part of Team FREEDOM.

Above: Hope for Justice co-founder Natalie Grant at our Freedom Wall in our Manchester, UK head office.

Above: Hope for Justice CEO Ben Cooley with staff and co-presenters of the Dear 26 Year Old Me podcast, ready to interview music legend Lulu.

Left: Awareness of our GUARDIAN program for monthly givers continued to grow this year, with more and more people choosing to support the work of Hope for Justice through regular giving.

A media crew was present to capture the moment our Shine School expansion began in Cambodia as the first wall was demolished and the building project began.

2018-19 was the year that our Freedom Walls started spreading around the world! This Freedom Wall was opened by Experian at its office in Nottingham, UK.

Our ‘Everesting’ challenge in Norway attracted media attention as dedicated cyclists stayed in the saddle for up to 24 hours, riding up and down a hill to raise funds for our work.

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Above: Hope for Justice CEO Ben Cooley with staff and co-presenters of the Dear 26 Year Old Me podcast, ready to interview music legend Lulu.

Left: Awareness of our GUARDIAN program for monthly givers continued to grow this year, with more and more people choosing to support the work of Hope for Justice through regular giving.
Slave-Free Alliance

Hope for Justice has long worked with police, governments, the public and others to fight trafficking. Slave-Free Alliance is about ensuring the business world steps up to play its part too.

An outstanding first year

Slave-Free Alliance, the social enterprise launched by Hope for Justice in April 2018, now has members whose combined revenue is in the hundreds of billions of dollars, employing nearly half a million people around the world.

Membership includes global multinationals and big-name brands, alongside small businesses with only a few employees. They all share a common goal: to work towards a slave-free supply chain.

A wide variety of business sectors are represented among our membership, including: business and professional services, engineering, data analysis and IT, utilities and energy, environmental services, food manufacturing, agriculture, insurance, legal, pharmaceutical, property services, recruitment, retail, transport and waste management.

Slave-Free Alliance is the business sector’s acknowledgement that slavery in supply chains is real and a key factor driving human trafficking in the developing world and across borders.

It can affect any unprepared business, no matter their sector, though some industries are at particular risk – notably waste and recycling, agriculture, low-skilled manufacturing, hand car washes, beauty salons and the hospitality and restaurant sector. Businesses that import goods from high-risk countries are often affected too.

Membership of Slave-Free Alliance is open to all organizations, including those from the public sector and voluntary sector. Because Slave-Free Alliance is a social enterprise wholly owned by Hope for Justice, all profits made are reinvested into charitable anti-trafficking projects around the world.

Ben Cooley, Group CEO of Slave-Free Alliance and Hope for Justice, said: “We have seen 12 months of exceptional growth and success since our launch, with businesses joining us at a faster rate and at a bigger scale than we predicted.

“We are delighted that so many organizations are making use of our world-leading services and putting themselves at the forefront of this movement, showing their public commitment to working towards a slave-free supply chain.”

Slave-Free Alliance offers a wide range of services, including training, gap analysis, due diligence and risk management resources. We can also help with investigations, crisis response, remediation and Slavery and Human Trafficking Statements (required for large businesses under the UK’s Modern Slavery Act 2015. Publishing a statement is considered good practice for organizations of all sizes).

With surveys showing that 77% of companies expect to find modern slavery in their operations or supply chains, membership of Slave-Free Alliance is a simple way for employers to get the answers and support they need to combat this growing threat.

On the next page are some of the comments we have received from businesses about their membership of Slave-Free Alliance and why they chose to join.
What businesses are saying about the benefits of joining Slave-Free Alliance

Lucy Darler, Supply Chain CSR Specialist, Severn Trent: “Slave-Free Alliance is a critical friend in our journey towards a slave-free supply chain and a utilities industry that is free from human trafficking. They have set us on a clear path and stand beside us as an independent sounding board and expert guidance to compliance and best practice. We have learned so much, which has been sobering at times and also hugely enlightening.”

Steve Lanigan, CEO, ALS Managed Services: “We joined Slave-Free Alliance as we felt their proactive and tireless approach, hands-on risk management, support mechanisms and ethical stance towards the welfare of modern slavery victims within our society was a refreshing approach to confronting a significant and growing problem we all need to address. The ongoing training, guidance and support offered by Slave-Free Alliance ensures that our membership sits as more than a badge on our website; it is an integral part to how we do business.”

Sharon Keith, Director of Corporate and Social Responsibility, Arriva: “Slave-Free Alliance is an excellent organization to help us to develop our plans, to make sure we are future-proofing our business around modern slavery and human trafficking.”

Simon Murray, Ethical & Quality Standards Manager, Dixons Carphone: “As a business we have made inroads but there is always more we can do to ensure our business and supply chains are free of modern slavery. By joining with like-minded businesses and utilizing the experience of Hope for Justice investigators, trainers and specialists we hope to accelerate that progress and mitigate risk. We urge our suppliers and other business to join Slave-Free Alliance and collaborate towards eradicating slavery.”

Jane Mooney, Director, TGBM: “When our customers came to us and want to know what we are doing in terms of modern slavery, we have an answer for them.”

Richard Bean, Head of Risk, Control & Assurance, Electricity North West: “We were keen to join Slave-Free Alliance in order to work with other like-minded companies to protect our local communities and those further afield that form part of our supply chain, playing our part in helping to eradicate slavery.”

Nick Campling, Director, G7th, The Capo Company: “At G7th, we have been trying to raise awareness of this awful crime by putting a comment and a leaflet in with our products. Obviously, we want to be as sure as we can that there are no slaves involved in our supply chain. Joining Slave-Free Alliance is a logical step to take.”

Jim Massey, VP of Sustainability Strategy and Engagement, AstraZeneca, said: “Slave-Free Alliance has hands-on experience in working with modern slavery victims globally and actively engages with companies to assess their risk management frameworks and to advise on improvements. We see a great gain for our business to tap into the first-hand, true global experience and knowledge that Slave-Free Alliance has as part of the bigger Hope for Justice umbrella.”

As Chairman of Hope for Justice globally, I can assure all of our supporters, donors and prospective donors that we are careful custodians of every generous gift we receive. Our strong policies, rigorous processes and vigilant governance ensure our spending is efficient and effective, getting the best value-for-money possible. That applies not only to our frontline programs, which receives the vast majority of our spending, but also our head office functions.

We choose to take this special care because we are truly grateful for every single person who chooses to make the sacrifice to contribute financially to this cause – whether through sustainable, regular giving or a one-time donation. We strive every day to repay this generosity with the kind of stewardship you would expect.

We are thankful that so many people across this anti-trafficking movement and across the world are enabling and empowering our life-changing work. As this Year in Review shows, it has been an exceptional 12 months of growth and expansion, and – most importantly – phenomenal impact in the lives of those we serve.

We are continuing to strengthen the Board with carefully selected members, who offer deep experience and skills relevant to the current functioning and future ambitions of Hope for Justice. In doing so, we are enormously assisted by being able to present a top-quality Executive team, whose absolute commitment to the cause is matched by outstanding leadership and management rigour and who constantly reinforce a strong organizational culture of doing everything in the right way.

Thank you also to all our staff and volunteers around the world who are doing an incredible job, often working in some very dark and difficult circumstances. Empowered by a worldwide movement, together we are changing lives and ending slavery.

Peter Elson,
Chairman, Hope for Justice