

APRIL 2020



Your Quarterly Hope Update

In these unprecedented times, we believe our light shines brightest in the darkness.

By standing shoulder to shoulder with us, you are helping us to continue unlocking freedom for more individuals around the world.

#KeepHopeAlive



JAN - MAR 2020

PREVENT | RESCUE | RESTORE | REFORM

Review

JAN - MAR 2020

RESCUE AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Number of survivors of human trafficking supported by Hope for Justice in the UK, US and Norway during this quarter:

104

ADVOCACY INTERVENTIONS

Interventions made in the UK to support victims of modern slavery and human trafficking:

1,484

COMMUNITY PREVENTION

Women participating in our self-help group initiatives across Uganda and Ethiopia:

4,460

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Individuals empowered to spot the signs of modern slavery within their business or community across the UK, US and Norway:

1,924

The first three months of 2020 saw success across our programmes globally, with **increased capacity at our Lighthouses**, new **government initiatives to expand our reach**, and even **more children returned to family-based care**.

We were also able to educate thousands through anti-trafficking community events in Cambodia before restrictions on movement and gathering were implemented, as well as signing an agreement to partner with the country's Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. This will extend our operations further, helping us to reach even more victims human trafficking.

We wanted to share this impact with you, as a sign that hope is alive in our world, and that **together, we will never stop fighting for freedom**. Here's a summary of our global work this last quarter:

LAST QUARTER IN OUR LIGHTHOUSES

500

children were served in our Lighthouses worldwide. This quarter, staff at our Lighthouses delivered or provided:



87,261

meals for children



2,589

clinic sessions



1,040

catch-up education sessions (Shine School, Cambodia)



2,074

counselling sessions

Our end goal is always to reunite children with their families, or place them within a safe family environment. In the last quarter:

305 children were reunited to their families or into community-based settings!

One of the most important parts of our programme will always be rescuing victims of modern slavery. We work to reunite them with their families where we can, or to help them to establish independent new lives in freedom where this is not possible. Ashley was one of the 28 people we rescued in the last three months: you can read her story below.

COVER: A survivor being supported by Hope for Justice learning photography as a part of her vocational education

AGED JUST 15, ASHLEY WAS LURED INTO THE HOME OF A TRAFFICKER THROUGH A PHONE APP. OUR INVESTIGATORS IN THE US RESCUED HER AND THEN HELPED HER TO FIND THE SUPPORT SHE NEEDED.

THIS IS HER STORY.



Ashley's story

Ashley* was just 15 years old when she left her home in the US, going missing for two months and falling victim to terrible exploitation and abuse.

After leaving her home in Tennessee, Ashley initially drifted between homeless shelters. Using the social media platform Snapchat, she met a man in his 20s who soon showed a romantic interest in her. Even though Ashley had never met him, the man convinced her to stay away from her family, luring her to move into his apartment.

Once there, Ashley was subjected to horrific exploitation. Every day, she was manipulated psychologically and sexually abused.

Fearing for her daughter's life with no idea of her whereabouts, **Ashley's mother contacted Hope for Justice to ask for our help to find and rescue her.** Our US investigators stepped in, coordinating the search alongside the Wilson County Sherriff's Office.

Through a process of identifying and interviewing Ashley's friends, gathering and monitoring information, and using specialist surveillance equipment, in March 2020 our team was eventually able to locate Ashley at a shopping centre.

Ashley has since been reunited with her mother and is now receiving counselling. Hope for Justice's US team will be carrying out follow-up sessions with the family, to ensure Ashley has all the support she needs.

Richard Schoeberl, US team leader for Hope for Justice, said: "Missing teenagers are among those at the highest

risk of human trafficking. When they leave home, they have no food, no money, no clothing, and they resort to 'survival sex'; they sell their bodies so they can eat or have a place to stay. But this dangerous pathway can lead to even graver situations."

BETWEEN 19 - 40% OF
HOMELESS YOUNG
PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN TRAFFICKED

SOURCE: National Network for Youth

Richard continued: "A major part of our work is around prevention. While we are committed to rescuing these victims, our ultimate aim is to stop this exploitation from happening in the first place. That is why we help to train people about modern slavery in all its forms, and equip people so they can look out for the warning signs. **Knowing the vulnerability of young people, traffickers take advantage by preying on them on the streets, or online, and often in homeless shelters where youths think they are safe.**"

We are so thankful to have found Ashley, and we are delighted she has been safely returned to her family.

According to the National Network for Youth, between 19% and 40% of homeless young people have been trafficked. There are so many more people in terrible situations just like Ashley's, but **with your support, we can continue to change lives and end slavery.**

*Name changed to protect her identity.

Bopha's Story

TEENAGER PURSUES CAREER DREAM
AFTER BEING FREED FROM TRAFFICKING.
PERPETRATORS JAILED.

A young girl who was trafficked from Cambodia to Malaysia for forced marriage is pursuing her dream to open a beauty salon, thanks to Hope for Justice. Those responsible for trafficking her are now serving 23 years in prison because of her brave testimony.

Bopha* was just 14 years old when her parents were deceived by traffickers, who recruited their daughter from their rural village in Cambodia, pledging to give her work. For a poor farming family with no opportunities, and a daughter who had no education, this seemed like an opportunity they could not turn down. The traffickers convinced the family to hand over Bopha's birth certificate so they could register her at a school. But instead, they used her documentation to apply for a passport, and transported her to Malaysia. On arrival, she was forced to marry an older man from another faith group.

Thankfully she was rescued and brought to our Lighthouse in Phnom Penh. Bopha, now aged 16, received shelter, physical and emotional support, food, medical care, counselling and therapy, as well as some catch-up education. With trauma-informed support from case managers, Bopha has since been able to meet with her parents and is gradually rebuilding her relationship with them, and she is now working towards her dream of opening her own beauty salon thanks to vocational classes facilitated by Hope for Justice.

Hope for Justice Cambodia Country Director, Maggie Crewes, said: "For young girls like Bopha, being able to access vocational training opportunities opens up a whole new world. This leads

"The validation that comes through a girl being able to testify against her trafficker, while a hugely difficult and scary thing for them to do, is a significant step in helping these young victims to overcome their trauma; especially when they then see that very trafficker convicted and punished for the dreadful abuse they committed."

MAGGIE CREWES
CAMBODIA DIRECTOR
HOPE FOR JUSTICE

to employment, independent living and builds their confidence and self-esteem to be able to look at a positive future – it really is transformational."

Thanks to supporters like you, young people like Bopha are now living independent lives in freedom. We won't stop until we live in a world free from slavery: together, we can get there.

*Name changed to protect her identity.



The impact of COVID-19

ON HOPE FOR JUSTICE'S PROGRAMMES

In light of COVID-19, Hope for Justice staff are working around the clock to continue to rescue, support and reach out to men, women and children trapped in modern slavery. We wanted to give you some more information about how our teams are working to mitigate the risk COVID-19 poses to some of the most vulnerable people in our world.

We are fully committed to keeping our projects operational during this time, whilst following government guidelines and taking the necessary precautions to protect staff and beneficiaries.

On an organisational level, we are reviewing our health and safety measures for our staff and beneficiaries, and safeguarding all children in our Lighthouses. We're also working to ensure business continuity and monitoring changes in the risk to operations and staff.

Our worldwide projects are persevering in the fight for freedom, as well as bringing hope to the many vulnerable people we work with. **We are currently protecting 196 children in our Lighthouses globally who continue to access medical care, catch-up education, life-skills, and psycho-social support.**

Our own medical and nursing staff are implementing careful checks for all the vulnerable and exploited children we look after, and have plans in place to isolate and act in the case of COVID-19 symptoms being discovered. **We are also taking all the necessary precautions to ensure our staff are protected.**

Across our Ethiopia Lighthouses, children have channelled their positivity through interpretive dance as they wash their hands and maintain social distancing during the pandemic.

“In these daunting times, we are teaching the children in our care to fight against fear by spreading hope through joyful prevention techniques. I am very honoured and grateful to support our frontline staff and children in our care during this challenging time, encouraging them to have courage and boldness.”

DEREJE ZELEKE

ETHIOPIA PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
HOPE FOR JUSTICE

We are taking all the steps we can in line with medical and government advice to ensure our programmes continue in the safest way possible. For example, while family placements, larger community prevention and in-person training sessions are not currently possible, some community prevention initiatives such as Self-Help Groups have been meeting (in smaller groups and while adhering to public health guidelines). In Uganda, the Self-Help Groups have even implemented a new innovation by setting up bank accounts for the groups' savings and using mobile money!

As demonstrated in the initiatives described above, innovation and perseverance are absolutely crucial to our work as we support survivors of modern slavery under lockdown. Find out more about our work to support some of these individuals below.

Freedom is worth the fight

Despite the many challenges that COVID-19 brings, our work to support and advocate for individuals continues. In the UK, we will always advocate for survivors to get the right legal, medical and social care support. Some examples from this quarter:

SUPPORTING VICTIMS WITH FOOD SUPPLIES AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS

A large family of nine, identified as survivors of human trafficking, are now even more vulnerable due to the coronavirus pandemic. The mother has a life-threatening illness, and two of the children have COVID-19 symptoms.



Above: Shopping for family of nine provided by Hope for Justice's Advocacy team

While advocating on the family's behalf for settled status and for bailiff action to be cancelled, our team are arranging for food and toiletries to be delivered while they are self-isolating.

Just before the UK went into lockdown, we also ensured they got vital items for their new baby, including a cot, pram, clothes and other essentials.

The mother told our team: **"We do not know what we would do without your support. You have been so helpful and so kind. Thank you for looking out for us."**

SUPPORTING VICTIMS TO ACCESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Since the lockdown has been put in place, many survivors of modern slavery with underlying health conditions can no longer access important community support services.

For those who speak minimal English, the support of our Advocacy team is even more critical. For instance, Sofian* was recently unable to acquire important medication for asthma: the surgery was not taking calls, and his GP was unavailable. **Our team intervened and contacted the local hospital, ultimately sourcing appropriate medication.**

SUPPORTING VICTIMS INTO SAFE ACCOMMODATION

One survivor we are supporting, Louise*, had to be relocated from a hotel to safe accommodation elsewhere, following lockdown restrictions. The hotel was due to close and she was reluctant to move. With no help from any other agencies, she was at risk of removal by the police. Fortunately, our team were able to reassure her and support her move to another hotel. **Providing access to safe accommodation is a crucial aspect of our commitment to restoring lives.**

REFORMING SOCIETY, WORLDWIDE

Our staff are also putting pressure on national Governments to ensure victims and survivors are protected in the current situation. In Uganda, we have worked with the Kampala Capital City Authority and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to support children on the streets. The Ugandan Government has created a service point in a local Kampala school, providing these children with vital access to safe shelter, food and medical support.

Five of our staff are volunteering at the service point, helping give these children the support they need. We have also donated blankets and other key supplies to support the children in their recovery.

In Uganda and across all other countries of operation, we continue to work collaboratively with governments, businesses and other charities to provide training, identify risks, and provide comprehensive solutions to the impact of COVID-19 on victims and survivors of modern slavery.

*Names changed to protect identity.

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