**Press Pack**

**About Hope for Justice (International)**

Hope for Justice is an international non-profit organization working to bring an end to modern slavery and human trafficking. It has an effective and proven model that is replicable, scalable, and widely admired. Our vision is to live in a world free from slavery. Hope for Justice’s global work, across five continents, is built on four pillars:

**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. This work is focused in less developed countries.

**Rescuing victims**: Our specialist teams in the US work closely with law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking and modern slavery, build bridges of trust with them and remove them from exploitation and into safety. They build cases to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. They do community outreach and have a particular focus on teenage runaways, who are at especially high risk of being targeted by traffickers.

**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 at our Lighthouse programs in other countries around the world.

**Reforming society**: We train professionals to spot the signs of trafficking and to respond, and campaign for policy change. We help businesses protect their supply chains. We work closely with federal and state legislators to improve the response to trafficking.

**Hope for Justice’s work in the U.S.**

Hope for Justice’s U.S. headquarters is in **Nashville, Tennessee**, where we also have a Hub run by licensed investigators who co-ordinate closely with law enforcement to assist directly in the rescue of all types of trafficking victims. They also act as specialist consultants to law enforcement teams handling trafficking cases. The Hub also acts as an alternative pathway for victims too scared to speak directly to the authorities to safely report their situation. We have a similar hub in **Iowa** covering the Midwest.

We have team members based out of **Colorado** and **Florida** developing our networks, and we also work often in **Washington, DC**.

In **North Carolina**, we are developing our first Hope for Justice Regional Center to provide a comprehensive, end-to-end strategy that will decrease and eventually eradicate human trafficking in the United States. We are planning to establish additional regional centers over the next three to five years – creating a network throughout the United States that will expand our reach, deepen our impact, and create resilient communities where survivors of human trafficking can thrive.

We provide a holistic, survivor-centered approach to bringing hope and justice to victims of human trafficking. Each Regional Center team includes:

* Investigators
* Trainers
* Case Managers
* Clinical Therapists
* Other sector experts

Investigators: With years of law enforcement experience, Hope for Justice investigators determine if a case meets the definition required by law to charge someone with the human trafficking statute. Investigators help identify victims, gather intelligence about suspected traffickers, and share that information with law enforcement to aid in victim rescue.

Trainers: Our experience trainers equip frontline professionals, targeting industries that intersect with trafficking victims. We equip them with the knowledge, skills and tools to identify modern slavery themselves and respond effectively.

Case Managers: With a community-based approach to aftercare, we help survivors of trafficking rebuild their lives by providing tailored case management for each survivor and connecting them to services in the local community. We walk alongside them each step of the way, advocating on their behalf and guiding them through the social services and legal systems.

Clinical Therapists: Developing a care plan that in unique for each survivor, our counselling services allow for different forms of therapy to meet individual needs which positions them for success and healing.

Sector Experts: With years of experience working with human trafficking on a global scale, Hope For Justice Regional Center leaders bring a unique perspective, applying their broad knowledge to a local context, addressing policies, and catalyzing change.

***“For me it did start by going across the world but now it’s turned into realizing that it’s just about going across the street. There is need all around us.”***

--- Hope for Justice Co-founder and Global Ambassador Natalie Grant, Grammy-nominated recording artist ---

**Human trafficking in the United States**

Human trafficking means forcing someone to work against their will. The key to all trafficking is not the work the victims are doing – it is the conditions under which they have to work: through some type of force, fraud or coercion. They might be forced to sell sexual acts, or to work as a waiter or a nanny or a landscaper, in a nail salon or a factory. Most victims are female and most traffickers are male, but not exclusively.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (TVPA), defines “severe forms of

trafficking in persons” as:

* Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
* The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery”.

A victim need not be physically transported from one location to another for the crime to fall within this definition.

It is an evil crime, profiting from human misery and taking people’s freedom in humiliating and often barbaric ways.

[The latest Human Trafficking Statistics are available the Hope for Justice website.](https://hopeforjustice.org/resources-and-statistics/resources-facts-figures/)



**The impact of our work – Case Study 1**

**Megan’s Story**

Megan, a teenager, met a man online and travelled to a long way to meet him. During their ‘relationship’, he got her addicted to heroin and then began trafficking her for sexual exploitation to various cities around the United States.

Megan’s mother said she felt frantic and helpless, she was in despair at what a trafficker was doing to her daughter. Then she found out about Hope for Justice, and contacted us.

She said: “The first call I got was from the investigator at Hope for Justice...He was really positive about what I had sent him, and you know we had a case. I was very confident that they would keep digging and they would get justice.”

Hope for Justice investigators – a team of seasoned police officers with long careers in law enforcement – got to work. They followed a number of leads and managed to track down Megan and rescue her from this horrifying situation of exploitation and abuse. The investigation was turned over to law enforcement for prosecution.

We deal with many cases like Megan’s, where vulnerable young women are exploited into sex trafficking. They often get sucked into this world through false promises made by the traffickers, and are then kept compliant through threats, violence, drugs and deception.

Then when they come out a trafficking situation, they are often both psychologically and emotionally distraught. To be able to bridge that gap and give them the services that they need, whether that’s health care or rehabilitative care, is key to the success of turning the life around for the trafficked victim.

Megan’s mother said: “When I received a call that she was safe, words can’t explain it enough. I was so overwhelmed and so grateful that she didn’t die, and justice was going to be served.”

Talking to us later from the hospital where Megan was being treated for injuries inflicted on her by her trafficker, her mother wanted to pass along a personal message of thanks to everyone who supports Hope for Justice: “I couldn’t be more thankful for the people that keep this program going and donate to this programme. And I will be donating. It’s going to take everybody.”

She also sent an email back to our lead investigator on that case, calling him “an angel” and telling how thankful she was that Hope for Justice was there to rescue Megan.

**The impact of our work – Case Study 2**

Khalianna\* had trouble at home. Her family was very conservative and restricted what she did and where she went. In and out of arguments, Khalianna decided to move to the city and take care of herself. She would get a good job and show her family. So, she saved enough money to buy a bus ticket.

On the ride, she met another young girl, who quickly befriended her. They talked on the way about what they would do when they arrived in the big city. At the last rest stop, Khalianna’s new friend offered to jump off and get some sodas. She returned with two bottles of Coke, which they drank.

But the ‘friend’ had spiked her drink with a sedative that quickly took effect. When they reached the final stop, the ‘friend’ was met by a group of men who took the now drugged Khalianna to a hotel. She was repeatedly raped and told that she must make them money by servicing men.

Months later she was rescued by police and brought to the Hope for Justice Dream Home. Our team helped her to overcome her trauma and shame; she’s learned how to protect herself and rediscovered her future.

Khalianna lives in the city now, runs her own café and is reconciled with her family.

**Many more case studies are available at** [**www.hopeforjustice.org/news**](http://www.hopeforjustice.org/news) **and via our social media channels**

*\*Names changed to protect the survivors’ identities*

**Common misconceptions**

**Myth: It is a crime that only involves foreigners.**

Fact: Citizens of all countries are affected by this crime. Most victims of human trafficking in the United States are US citizens.

**Myth: It requires foreign or interstate travel, or crossing borders.**

Fact: Human trafficking does not require any type of travel; a person can be trafficked on the same street where they have lived for their entire life.

**Myth: It is only related to the sex industry.**

Fact: While sex trafficking is the predominant type of human trafficking investigated, labor trafficking persists in all parts of the US. Why? Because commercial sex is so much easier to see than labor trafficking. As a result, labor trafficking is much harder to identify, and thus it is investigated/prosecuted less.

**Myth: If they get paid, they aren’t victims. Or, if they have a car or cell phone, they can’t be victims.**

Fact: Victimization came come through force, fraud, coercion, or any pattern or scheme intended to instill fear in someone. A person can seem to have means of escape (money, phone, car, etc…), yet still remain as an unwilling participant because they are being coerced by their controller(s).

**Myth: Prosecutions aren’t needed.**

Fact: Despite the desire of some NGOs to not have their victims participate with law enforcement, this issue will not go away without effective prosecutions. We must make it expensive for the traffickers, otherwise there will be no incentive to stop. Of course we still need effective prevention and protection activities, too. But we cannot forego strong prosecutions.

**Myth: Victims self-identify.**

Fact: It is exceedingly rare for a victim to contact someone for help while being trafficked, even when given specific opportunities to do so. Fear, shame, dependence upon their trafficker and other types are coercion, or a lack of understanding of their condition all contribute to this phenomenon.

**Myth: There are always origin, transit and destination countries.**

Fact: This improperly puts the focus on movement, which isn’t required for trafficking to exist. It also causes a tendency to leave out domestic trafficking cases. It allows countries to self-identify as having only one type of trafficking, while ignoring the others. The reality is, all countries are origin, transit and destination countries for human trafficking.

**Testimonials about the work of Hope for Justice**

**Former Secretary of State, John Kerry**, speaking at the launch of a previous Trafficking in Persons Report: “[Hope for Justice] helped get him his life back and see that his tormentors were prosecuted.” Kerry was referring to a highly publicized case in which Hope for Justice helped a man held in domestic slavery for 24 years.

**Former Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.)**: “With input from leading stakeholders and industry experts, we created a bold vision to not only fight the horrific practice of modern slavery but to end it, and in December, the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act was signed into law. Hope for Justice played a critical role in those efforts, and I appreciate the work this important organization continues to do to rescue and restore victims of modern slavery.”

**Theresa May MP, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**: “I am grateful for the important work Hope for Justice is doing to tackle modern-day slavery.”

**Tith Lim, United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)**:

“Hope for Justice has played a key role in the area of victim support...In addition, Hope for Justice takes part in improving policies related to victim protection. I hope Hope for Justice will continue working with UN-ACT and other actors to assist the victims and improve their wellbeing.”

**The D. Gary Young, Young Living Foundation:** “We were incredibly impressed with the entire Hope for Justice program, and how they are set up to respond in a strategic, effective way. We love how the focus is on excellence, professionalism, and achieving outcomes to help victims find healing, hope, and justice. We love the entire restorative care process, and how 90% of those who go through the rehabilitation process never return to traffickers. During our search, we’ve found this to be the highest success rate among non-profits fighting human trafficking.”

**Gloria Gaynor, Grammy Award winning recording artist**: “I’m honored and blessed to call Hope for Justice a partner. Their constant efforts to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking are critical.”

***“We dream about a legacy. A legacy of freedom. A legacy that sees the end of slavery. We at Hope for Justice believe that freedom is worth the fight.”***

- Tim Nelson, CEO and co-founder, Hope for Justice

For media enquiries and filming requests: press@hopeforjustice.org