We Are Ending Sex Trafficking One Life At A Time

Rescue:Freedom is on a mission to end sex trafficking in our lifetime. Together, we empower the rescue and restoration of women and children, prevent sexual exploitation from ever happening, and turn everyday people into advocates through education.

Through a global network of Local Partners, our holistic solution is ending sex trafficking around the world.

What We Believe:

*Every human being is made for freedom.* Sex Trafficking is an unacceptable violation of fundamental human rights. We believe in the inherent dignity and value of every person, and we see survivors as whole people who deserve to thrive, not just survive their trauma.

*Every victim can be a survivor.* The journey of the victim to survivor is the centerpiece of all we do. Their pathway to freedom is the key metric and driving purpose behind every strategy, method, partner, and program. Our ultimate goal for the survivor is not just freedom from slavery but also a thriving life that impacts their family, community, and generations to come.

*Every person can be an abolitionist.* Our community of supporters is not just donors; they are active abolitionists using their freedom to help free others. We turn apathy into advocacy and equip those passionate about ending modern-day slavery with meaningful and strategic opportunities.

The Challenge:

Every day, 4.8 million people are trafficked for sex around the world, and 99% of these victims are women and girls [International Labour Organization, 2017]. While sex trafficking might seem invisible to some, every community is impacted by it, no group of people is immune to it. The reality is, human trafficking is one of the largest and fastest-growing criminal enterprises.

Our mission is to free every person who is being exploited and to protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of exploitation.

“Our job is to create strategies that end sex trafficking. That is the title of our to-do list every morning.” — Del Chittim, COO at Rescue:Freedom.

Efforts to end slavery have been heroic but never conclusive. People and organizations are often divided into three different camps based on their view of the issue:

1. **Economic Lens:** emphasizes supply and demand above all else. Some say you can only solve human trafficking by ending its demand. Others claim that the key is to take out supply chains.
2. **Criminal Justice Lens:** emphasizes policy creation and better police action and prosecution above all else. If the laws are strong and perpetrators fear conviction, this crime will go away.

3. **Social Lens:** emphasizes changing the hearts and minds of those that participate in this crime or are victimized by it. There are an array of programs that propel the exploited to being empowered, prevent the vulnerable from being victimized in the first place, and turn apathetic into advocates for justice.

While there is merit in these individual approaches, each by itself fails to create a comprehensive solution. This is why Rescue:Freedom has developed an approach unlike any other.

**We Are A Solution, Not A Program:**

We believe there will be a day when everyone is free. And we know what it takes to get us there. We work with local experts worldwide and have identified 11 key issues that need to be addressed for freedom to be a reality.

1. **Awareness:** Making everyday people aware of the reality of sex trafficking. Turning apathy into passion, activists into abolitionists.
2. **Policy:** Making sex trafficking illegal. We need legislation in every nation that condemns the trafficking and exploitation of human life.
3. **Law Enforcement:** Enforcing laws that already exist. Protecting victims, prosecuting perpetrators, addressing corruption, and ensuring justice.
4. **Culture:** Addressing the ways exploitation is normalized in our everyday lives. Our words and the way we see the world shapes the way we treat others.
5. **Prevention:** Building resiliency and decreasing vulnerability. Addressing the forces that cause exploitation and trafficking. Forces like poverty, lack of education, and gender-based violence.
6. **Education & Research:** Sex trafficking is a complex issue, but knowledge moves us to a clear, effective, active response.
7. **Demand:** Sex buyers fuel the illegal sex trade. Without buyers, there would be no business.
8. **Outreach:** Individuals trapped in exploitation are often stigmatized and ignored. Outreach involves building relationships and programs to help those who have been exploited find pathways to freedom.
9. **Rescue & Intervention:** Helping a victim of sex trafficking escape or transition from exploitation to freedom.
10. **Victim Services & Aftercare:** Recovery, renewal, and revival of the human spirit through physical, psychological, and spiritual care. Helping victims become survivors.
11. **Survivor Empowerment:** Equipping survivors to pursue their goals and achieve a different future.

**Abolition.** When all 11 issues are addressed, sex trafficking is abolished, and freedom is made possible for every human, in every place, for every generation. It's why we believe we can end sex trafficking in our lifetime.

**Our Holistic Approach:**
The difference between freedom and exploitation looks different in every city, and so does how we operate. We work with organizations who understand the vulnerabilities of sex trafficking in their communities best and combat the issue at its source. We call them partners.

**We fund programs and partners for one reason: because they are actively working to end sex trafficking.** Instead of committing ourselves to one type of safe home or curriculum, we are committed to strategies that make the biggest impact and inspire global solutions.

If a program isn’t addressing one of the 11 issues, we aren’t funding it. This allows us to meet the challenge of an ever-evolving criminal enterprise and not get caught in the trap of what used to work well.

Together, we engage the 11 issues through three main activities, ranked in order of strategic importance:

1. **Accelerate:** whenever possible, we identify a Local Partner who addresses one or multiple issues, and we come alongside them to accelerate their work. This is the focus of the majority of our work.
2. **Incubate:** if an issue is unaddressed in a region and no suitable Local Partners are addressing that need, we incubate new initiatives and help kickstart new Local Partners.
3. **Initiate:** When the above two options are not viable, we then explore creating the program ourselves. We often launch new initiatives through Local Partners but may create programs as Rescue:Freedom when a suitable partner can’t be found. We remain flexible on methodology while being committed to the strategy.

We are always innovating, strategizing, maintaining vigilance and agility.

**None of this is possible without people like you.**

When you join this community, you don’t just support a program; you add momentum to a holistic solution ending trafficking in our lifetime. Rescue:Freedom is building a movement where the abolitionist and the survivor fight for freedom side by side. A place where survivors thrive and experience radical hope, healing, and health. A place where abolitionists are equipped to engage, educate, and empower.

We believe that there will be a day where sex trafficking no longer exists—a day where every person is empowered and free and where communities are healed and transformed.

**We can’t wait to celebrate with you on that day.**