BECOMING FREE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN DAY SLAVERY

By

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OVERVIEW

• What is Human Trafficking?
• My Experiences as a Survivor
• What Justices Look Like
• The Connection Between Suicide and Human Trafficking
• Trauma
• Move Forward and Improving A life of Survivors
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN DAY SLAVERY?

• **Labor Trafficking**—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.

• **Sex Trafficking**—Commercial sex induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or where the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.
MY EXPERIENCES AS A SURVIVOR

• I was influenced by a lot of television shows I used to watch when I lived in Cameroon

• When I was told I was coming to America I was excited, not knowing I would come and be held in involuntary servitude

• I felt like a child slave in my trafficker’s home
MY EXPERIENCES AS A SURVIVOR:

• I was trafficked from age 9 until the age of 17

• I was trafficked to work as a domestic servant and held in forced labor
A FAMILY PORTRAIT WITH MY SISTER AND BROTHERS: FIND ME!
MY FAREWELL PARTY PICTURE: AGE 9
MY VISION OF AMERICA
FOSTER CARE

3% of foster kids will graduate from college compared to 28% of the population.

I WAS PLACED IN FOSTER CARE, WHICH WAS ANOTHER

No Family
No Safety
No Stability
Lonely
Scared
Sad
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SUICIDE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Self-Injury
- Depression
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorders and Anxiety Disorders
TRAUMA TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

• Recurrent thoughts/memories of terrifying events
• Feeling detached/withdrawn
• Feeling irritable, having outbursts of anger
• Feeling as if you didn’t have a future
• Postpartum
• Family Not Understanding
• Marriage
WHAT DOES JUSTICE LOOK LIKE

- *Justice Is More Closely Tied to Prevention than Punishment*
- *As a survivors I did not get the sense of justice alone and I say this due to how social services helped played a part to reach physical and emotional autonomy.*
- *The resources they most commonly cited included temporary housing, immigration assistance, family reunification, and financial assistance.*
- *Immigration assistance and family reunification were specific to foreign-born labor trafficking survivors. Sex trafficking survivors also valued the ability to vacate their criminal records, when they were able to do so*
FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

• IS NOT BEEN AN EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM, BUT I AM GLAD TO BE FREE AND TO USE MY EXPERIENCE TO EDUCATE THE WORLD ABOUT MODERN DAY SLAVERY.

• “Now I’ve been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave.” Harriet Tubman

Fighting for Freedom: The Story of Harriet Tubman
WHAT I AM DOING NOW!

• Project Assistant at Baker McKenzie LLP in Washington, DC
• Member of Board of Directors of “Free The Slaves”
• Former Member, U.S Advisory Council on Human Trafficking
• Advisor and Consultant to The Human Trafficking Legal Center
• Human Trafficking Consultant for The U.S State Department
RETURNING HOME AFTER 18 YEARS
MY DREAM
HOW YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD AND IMPROVED A LIFE OF A SURVIVOR?

- Employed Survivors
- Reunite Them with their Family
- Free Counseling Services
- Age shouldn’t be a limit
- Financial Services
- Paid Survivor Consultants for Their Time
- Long Term Solutions

Help Stop Modern Day Slavery and Child Labor!!!!
INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

- **International Labour Organization** - [HTTP://WWW.ILO.ORG/GLOBAL/LANG--EN/INDEX.HTM](HTTP://WWW.ILO.ORG/GLOBAL/LANG--EN/INDEX.HTM)
- **The Human Trafficking Legal Center** - [HTTP://WWW.HTLEGALCENTER.ORG](HTTP://WWW.HTLEGALCENTER.ORG)
- **Free The Slaves** - [HTTPS://WWW.FREETHESLAVES.NET](HTTPS://WWW.FREETHESLAVES.NET)
THE END/QUESTIONS?

• “THE ROAD TO FREEDOM HAVE NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE”

• “BEING FREE FROM SLAVERY OR MODERN SLAVERY ISN’T EASY”

• “WITH LONG-TERM PROGRAM WE CAN HELP REDUCED TRAFFICKING”