This is your report, not just our own. Every year, we look back so that we can look forward together. In the pages that follow, you’ll see it for what it is – a reflection of the real moments and stories of freedom that you, have made possible.

There are millions of people being trafficked right before our eyes in the 21st century. They’re sitting next to us in class and across from us at the nail bar. They’re standing on our busy streets and working in our neighbors’ houses. They are passing us in taxis and picking the fruit we buy at the store. We cannot ignore the problem, and that’s exactly why we’re here – to keep opening eyes and doors and opportunities until we see a world without slavery.

2017 was a year of ‘more than ever before’s’ – more survivors in our care, court cases won, traffickers sentenced, professionals trained, and students reached. Our hope is that as you read this report, you’ll hear the hammer in the courtroom and the ringing of our resource line phones. That you’ll feel our survivors’ joy in the freedom centers, see the awareness in the hands of Walk For Freedom participants, and ultimately experience the weight of the global story of freedom that you’re helping to write.

On behalf of our entire A21 team and all of our survivors, we say thank you. We couldn’t do this without you.

In 2018, let’s dig deeper and dare to believe that we will abolish human trafficking together.

Nick & Christine Caine

DEAR ABOLITIONISTS
Can You See Me? Campaign launched in Thailand

Almost 10,000 calls to our resource lines

10 court cases won with 18 traffickers sentenced

Mother Teresa Memorial Award received for efforts in Greece

Child Advocacy Center opened in Pattaya, Thailand

182 rescued

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS
We believe in a world without slavery. For 10 years now, we’ve rolled up our sleeves and set our feet to action. Why? Because in a single moment a number can turn into a name, a tragedy into a victory, and a belief into an action.

Freedom. That’s our goal for every human being on the planet.
OPERATIONAL MODEL

Human trafficking is a complex and global crime. We believe that freedom and justice come by taking a fearless and holistic approach:

Reach the vulnerable
and disrupt the demand behind human slavery. We prevent slavery from ever happening by engaging people through awareness events, student presentations, and education programs.

Rescue the victim
and seek justice against their captors. How we intervene: working closely with law enforcement on the ground to support raids, identifying victims through our resource lines, assisting in the prosecution of traffickers, representing survivors in court proceedings, and collaborating with governments and other NGOs to eradicate slavery at every level.

Restore the survivor
and equip them to live independently. Through our aftercare programs, we work with every survivor in our care to provide them with access to housing, medical treatment, counseling, education, employment, and repatriation based on their individual needs.

Reach the vulnerable
Rescue the victim
Restore the survivor
A21 started because one person, Christine Caine, noticed one missing child poster in a Greek airport and decided to take action. Now, millions know about human trafficking and are doing the same thing: taking action.

Whether it’s avoiding a suspicious job opportunity or starting an A-team, decisions are being shaped by our prevention and awareness efforts.

We’ve seen awareness stop the trajectory of slavery before it starts.
at-risk youth reached. 12,574

students reached through presentations and events. 36,177

PREVENTION IN ACTION

Northern Cape Tour

Our South African team toured the Northern Cape, the largest province in South Africa, in partnership with National Freedom Network and funded by a grant from Vital Voices in the USA. The Northern Cape has major hotspots for trafficking recruitment. We built networking partnerships to secure a response to arising trafficking cases and empowered local groups in each town to take action.

STORIES OF PREVENTION

Recently graduated, excited for a new opportunity, and ready to explore the world in front of them, these seven boys from Ukraine were like many others their age. When offered jobs abroad, they accepted with the hope of job security and financial stability.

Upon arriving, their new employer told them to give their passports to him. But they remembered what they were taught by an A21 presenter: to never give their passports away. Recognizing their employer as a potential trafficker, the boys ran away, and later found out that it really was a dangerous place. They now have legitimate jobs.

Seven lives reached with the message of prevention could have been seven lives robbed of their future. Seven people are free.

Seven boys recognize a false job opportunity

Seven lives reached with the message of prevention could have been seven lives robbed of their future. Seven people are free.

A young woman was in the process of being recruited by a trafficker, but she was identified by a partner organization. They contacted us and within two hours we were able to meet with her and place her into safety.

She was malnourished, had a serious illness, and needed a blood transfusion. We were able to provide her with medical care, and after her rehabilitation, she was reunited with her family.

We are grateful that we were able to intervene before she was trafficked.

Seven lives reached with the message of prevention could have been seven lives robbed of their future. Seven people are free.
CAN YOU SEE ME?

This past year, we launched Can You See Me? in Thailand in partnership with the Royal Thai Government’s Prime Minister’s office, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Transport, and the Royal Thai Police.

Thailand is a transit, source, and destination country for human trafficking. Many cases involve minors, mostly unaccompanied. Posters and videos depicting common scenarios of exploitation, such as forced begging, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking, have been distributed all over Thailand:

- 443 railway stations (every station in the country)
- 325 buses around Bangkok
- 35 airports
- 30 central shopping malls

Slavery is a hidden crime, but it’s happening in plain sight.

Can You See Me? is a global awareness campaign that aims to reach the general public with the reality of slavery through billboards, media, and transportation hubs. Each scenario is presented to equip viewers to recognize local and factual indicators of human trafficking in their country, and to empower them to report any suspicions.

This campaign is not just for government officials and law enforcement. It’s for everyone.

“If you suspect it, report it.”

— CRISTINA GAVR ILOVIC, Anti-Slavery Partnership Coordinator, Kent and Essex Police

Thailand

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United Kingdom

Our resources that depict common UK human trafficking scenarios were featured in six airports, including Heathrow Airport—one of the largest in the world.

Through the launch of this campaign in the UK, the Crown Prosecution Services and 22 police forces have partnered with us, utilizing the Can You See Me? materials in staff training.

“Between March 2016 and March 2017, Kent and Essex increased reporting of human trafficking-related crime by 300-400%, and from June 2016 to December 2017 there was also a significant increase in victim identification by a staggering 1200%. The campaign was instrumental in assisting to that rise along with other efforts of the police.”

— CRISTINA GAVRILOVIC, Anti-Slavery Partnership Coordinator, Kent and Essex Police
“To my best knowledge, Walk For Freedom this year will be the largest single unified social action against human trafficking in the world.” —Phil Hyldgaard, Executive Director of A21

On October 14, 2017, we made history — tens of thousands of us taking millions of steps in cities all over the world.

Single-file lines of abolitionists showed up dressed in all black, lacing up their shoes and rallying their communities.

Walk For Freedom is an outward expression of our inward desire to see human trafficking eradicated across the globe.

Every person who walks this year tells someone — ‘Help them become free.”

WALK FOR FREEDOM

Over 400 Locations in 50 Countries.

70 Million People Reached Through Social Media.

Abolish Slavery with Each Step
WE MADE IT PERSONAL

In 2017, we highlighted the “why” behind Walk For Freedom with three names and faces.

*Ivan* is a 35-year-old man from Ukraine who accepted a job online, hoping to provide for his family. Instead of the promised job, he was beaten, threatened, abused, and forced to work long hours in terrible conditions.

*Amy* is a young American girl who fell in love with a man she thought cared for her. But after a few months, he started beating her, treating her like property, and forcing her to do everything he said. For years she was forced to service clients in her own city.

Meet *Eve*, a seven-year-old born to a poor community in Thailand. Desperate to get by, her family sold her at the age of three to pay for rent and food. She had to see and do things no child should have to endure.

Freedom Declaration × Slavery still exists in the 21st century. People like you and I, bought and sold as commodities. People like you and I, in this city and in this nation. But you and I, are here today. We refuse to just talk about injustice; to simply post about it. Instead, we’re here together in strength and numbers. We have the power to change the statistics. And we’re changing them right now. This is our walk for freedom. A walk for justice and human dignity. A walk for hope and restoration. From Australia to Argentina, India to Israel. Malaysia to Mexico, The United States to the United Kingdom. We will abolish slavery with each step. Let’s never forget that we don’t just say it—we believe it. A world without slavery is possible. While human trafficking is destroying lives, we know that freedom will have the final word. One step at a time, we will see more people reached. One step at a time, we will see more victims rescued. One step at a time, we will see more survivors restored. Slavery still exists. But we will abolish it everywhere, forever.

Survivors’ names and photos have been changed for their protection.
In December, our founders, Nick and Christine Caine, received this award from the Harmony Foundation in Mumbai, India for our ongoing work to combat human trafficking and to place value on people during the refugee crisis. Our heart has always been to reach the most vulnerable, and as the refugee crisis heightened, we knew there was work to be done.

This award has been given to individuals and organizations that promote peace, harmony, and social justice, with past recipients including Nobel laureates Ms. Malala Yousafzai and H.H. Dalai Lama, current Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and more.

“We are so honored to receive this award, and want to thank all of our partners and supporters for their selfless sacrifices. To echo the words of Mother Teresa, ‘We don’t need guns and bombs to bring peace, we need love and compassion.’ Together, we are better.”

— Christine Caine, A21 Founder

MOTHER TERESA INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE from the Harmony Foundation
Providing targeted prevention and awareness messages to those who are vulnerable is vital to stopping slavery before it starts.

In response to the refugee crisis, we designed booklets that highlight the danger of exploitation and inform refugees on the warning signs of human trafficking. Over 7,500 of them were distributed, including Norway Asylum centres, and we have continued to hand them out to refugees during this crisis.
This year marks four years of partnering with The 4th Musketeer, an organization that rallies people from all nations to advance the cause of justice by hosting ‘Muskathlons’ around the world.

"Human trafficking has to end. And it starts with us."
—Muskathlon participant

At this year’s International Film Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece, our local team set up a creative installation highlighting a highly publicized case of labor trafficking. Over 6,000 flyers were distributed, and thousands of people were impacted by the installation and personal conversations with our team.

Our first USA Can You See Me? video premiered at the Los Angeles Angels’ baseball game on the big screen during Strike Out Slavery’s inaugural event—encouraging thousands to report any suspicions of human trafficking.

Approximately 300,000 people were made aware of human trafficking in Australia through different radio segments where team members from our Australian office were interviewed.

At the Bulgarian Parliament building, parliament members honored The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery by wearing A21 ‘Because’ bracelets on their wrists, resource line buttons on their jackets, and uploading selfies of celebration to their social media profiles.

Our Executive Director, Phil Hyldgaard, spoke at the Helsinki Commission—a U.S. government agency that monitors human rights and international cooperation in 57 countries. He joined other international experts and NGO representatives to discuss the complexities of the refugee crisis.
What freedom means to me is the ability to choose the life I want to live, and bring freedom to others.

— Shona, student
It's about seeing.
It's about training frontline professionals and the public to identify victims and report the crime. It's about hotlines, child advocacy centers, and partnerships with law enforcement.

It's also about justice.
It's about assisting in the prosecution of perpetrators and coordinating legal assistance. It's about assisting victims through the legal process and to advocate for their rights under the law.

It interrupts slavery.
STORIES OF FREEDOM

A young woman in South Africa:
forced into prostitution for two years. But she was identified, rescued, and received the care she needed. Today, she is free.

A 19-year-old girl:
locked up by a family member and sold for sexual services in Greece. She’s now safe and in our care.

A 48-year-old woman:
lured by a false job promise in Ukraine, locked up, and forced to work 17-20 hour days for months. But today, she is free and journeying toward healing and restoration.

A blind man:
trafficked as a beggar in Thailand, then left by a garbage dump site to die. He is now safely repatriated to his home country and receiving long-term care.

A young boy:
set free from sex trafficking in an online exploitation ring in Thailand.

Three brothel raids in the UK:
we worked with local law enforcement to assist in these raids and provided assistance to victims identified.

FREEDOM

14 men:
rescued from labor trafficking in South Africa through a call to our resource line.

14 men:
identified at a refuge camp in Greece. Camp officials trained by us called our resource line for assistance. Now, these survivors are being assisted in our care.

Two sex trafficking survivors:
identified at a refugee camp in Greece. Camp officials trained by us called our resource line for assistance. Now, these survivors are being assisted in our care.

A young girl in the USA:
abducted at a party, trafficked through multiple states, and forced to sell her body for sex. She is now safe.

A young girl in the USA:
abducted at a party, trafficked through multiple states, and forced to sell her body for sex. She is now safe.

Note: Photos of survivors have been changed for their protection.
Thank you so much for everything you did for me. When it seemed to be the darkest time in my life, you were the light.

— *Neva, Survivor*

"After a police raid, I went back to the apartment where several young girls had been trafficked to help them gather personal belongings.

When I walked in the door, the first thing I noticed were huge locks with chains on every door. There were video cameras throughout the house where a trafficker could watch from miles away. I continued to walk into the kitchen where I saw a list on the fridge with each of the girls’ names—next to the names were dollar amounts. When I asked what this meant, one of the girls replied, ‘that was the amount of debt I owed my trafficker for my shoes, food, electricity, and water. Every time I needed one of those things, my debt increased.’

That day, I gained a deeper understanding of what it meant for someone who was once captive to be free. It’s the difference of darkness to light and brokenness to hope."

— A21 Greece Team Member
OPERATIONS RESULTING IN RESCUES.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

HOW THEY WERE TRAFFICKED:

- **19** Sold by family
- **16** Abduction
- **15** Loverboy
- **18** Tricked by friend
- **79** False job promise
- **4** Other
- **1** Unknown

**129** operations resulting in **182** rescues.
A 24-year-old woman was tricked into running away with a man who pretended to care for her. Her dream quickly vanished as he forced her to prostitute herself, until a passerby offered help, reaching out to our Bulgarian National Resource Line for assistance. She is now safe.

A 26-year-old female was so ill that her traffickers had no other choice but to allow her to go in for treatment. At the clinic she bravely reached out for help when she had a moment alone with a nurse. The clinic contacted the local police station who transferred her to a local hospital. The hospital then contacted our South African National Resource Line and we were able to provide her with support and a safe place during her three months of treatment. She is now free and has been reunited with her family.

Threatened in their home country, two survivors fled from Africa to Turkey. Upon arrival, all of their possessions were stolen. They accepted help from a couple who ended up deceiving them and selling them into the sex trade. Thankfully, they escaped and arrived in a refugee camp in Greece, where camp officials that were trained by our staff were able to identify them and call our resource line. They are now free.

The Resource Line as a Lifeline

A Brave Call for Help

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Trained to Identify

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A Stranger’s Compassion

Promised a fresh start and a new life, a 24-year-old woman was tricked into running away with a man who pretended to care for her. Her dream quickly vanished as he forced her to prostitute herself, until a passerby offered help, reaching out to our Bulgarian National Resource Line for assistance. She is now safe.
Children brought into safety.

A teenage girl, abused and trafficked for several years as a part of a child begging ring in a well-known tourist destination, was able to be identified and assisted in partnership with the Child Advocacy Center. Three children under the age of 10 are now safe, and their traffickers were arrested. Two of the kids were trafficked from another nation and were forced to work from 7pm-6am every night, while the third was drugged and sold on the streets. But through the Child Advocacy Center, we are working alongside the Thai government to provide the best possible care for them.

“I look forward to working closely with A21 to make the Child Advocacy Center here in Pattaya a model of recovery.”

– Joe Russo, FBI, Violent Crimes Against Children

Giving every child a chance to grow.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) opened in Pattaya, Thailand in partnership with the Royal Thai Police’s Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and with assistance from the FBI and U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.

The CAC – Pattaya is designed to assist officers working on the ground in conducting cases against child sex offenders, child traffickers and online crimes against children. The CAC model creates a safe environment where child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation are able to speak to forensically trained interviewers about trauma they have experienced or witnessed. We are present during the entire process to assist the children who have been victimized.

“I look forward to working closely with A21 to make the Child Advocacy Center here in Pattaya a model of recovery.”

– Joe Russo, FBI, Violent Crimes Against Children
These stories testify to the fact that restitution is possible. The hammer in the courtroom is the sound of freedom—sending a loud and clear message to traffickers everywhere that slavery cannot exist in the 21st century.

Trafficker convicted in Greece after sexually exploiting a woman and forcing her to work in the fields. The jury was unanimous in their decision, resulting in one of the highest prison sentences we’ve seen from our cases in Greece.

Six people convicted and fined in Greece for sexually exploiting a young girl and forcing her to work for an escort agency. Once her parents realized what happened, they reported it to the police immediately, and she was identified as a victim. Her traffickers were convicted.

A brave survivor testified in court against her trafficker, our Greece team supported her throughout the whole process and she’s now at ease. The woman who sold her received 16 years in prison and a €51,000 fine. Our survivor can now visit her family without worrying for her safety.

Traffickers convicted in Bulgaria.

One trafficker was charged a five and a half year sentence in a high security prison, and a heavy fine.

In Greece, a victim can choose to serve as a witness in their trial—testifying in court about what they experienced. If a victim does not show up to testify and there are no other witnesses, the trafficker will often go free.

It can take years before the case is heard in court. A common fear that survivors face is that if they testify in court, they are putting themselves and their families at risk if the trafficker is ever released. All places a survivor’s safety as the highest concern and takes appropriate security measures. Throughout the years, we have seen many survivors go through our aftercare and confidently tell their stories, resulting in the prosecution of dozens of traffickers.

We are seeing a shift. Justice will have the final word.
TRAINING ACROSS THE GLOBE:

**A21 UK** trained 487 law enforcement and frontline staff, such as airline personnel.

**A21 South Africa** trained 552 staff in government hospitals across the Western Cape. In partnership with the Department of Health, we trained a range of hospital staff including admin, facility managers, and medical professionals. Through this training, we saw an increase in phone calls coming from hospitals and clinics to report identified victims.

**A21 Ukraine** held trainings for international airports and 99 education professionals, including social workers, psychologists, and teachers representing 43 different education centers.

**A21 Greece** held trainings for frontline staff in refugee areas.

"I take my hat off for A21 for the wonderful work that you’re doing. This department and unit is really privileged to be part of such an amazing organization. Please keep on doing what you are doing because you do make a difference."
— Eleanor Abrahams, Department of Health, South Africa

"We are actually seeing shifts take place. The people we are training are now training others. There’s a ripple effect."
— A21 Team Member

Training frontline professionals, such as border control and medical professionals, is often the beginning of a rescue journey. We’re able to equip individuals with knowledge on identifying victims, reporting their suspicions, and the services that are available for the care and assistance of survivors.

"Training frontline professionals, such as border control and medical professionals, is often the beginning of a rescue journey."

We trained 4,934 frontline professionals and conducted 214 identification interviews around the world.
COLLABORATION

Collaboration is the core of Rescue. When we work with local and national law enforcement, governments, and other organizations, we see victim identification and assistance take place.

Government collaboration in Bulgaria
Our team in Bulgaria is working with the Ministry of Interior, the National Commission Against Human Trafficking, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

One of the largest ever police operations conducted in Thailand
Our team came alongside the Royal Thai Police in the identification and rescue of an unprecedented amount of survivors in the country. In one case, nine police officers were charged with the trafficking of minors. This operation was made possible through the Thai government’s commitment and dedication to eradicate human trafficking, regardless of who is involved in the crime.

The National Police of Ukraine
Our team is working with the National Police of Ukraine’s Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. They have referred several international cases to us and entrust survivors into our care.

Thirteen operations targeting modern-day slavery in the UK
We assisted the National Crime Agency alongside the police and border force in targeting flights where human trafficking is common, identifying potential victims in airports across the UK.

One of the largest ever police operations conducted in Thailand
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Partnership with Pick n Pay, South Africa
We have partnered with a leading supermarket retailer, Pick n Pay, in South Africa to train staff across the country on victim identification. This training is integrated into staff member orientation and educates current staff with information in break rooms. To date, we have trained all customer service and store managers in the Western Cape.

Higher compensation for victims in Thailand
Our team assisted the Thai government in changing nationwide policy to ensure higher compensation for victims of human trafficking, specifically for minors—making sure the policy adequately reflects the needs of survivors and gives them a chance at a better life.

COLLABORATION

50 51
For the first time, I can now see myself having a future.

— "Lya, survivor"
Restoration is a graduation cap thrown in the air.

A rediscovered dream.
A job offer.
A family reunion.
A brand new pair of shoes.
A smile for the first time in years.
An authentic offer of safety.

Our aftercare team around the globe is committed to providing trauma-informed, holistic care and goal-centered support for every survivor of human trafficking that we work with. From medical assistance, to psychological care, to career support, our hope is that every survivor experiences acceptance and belonging in a safe and supportive community. A restored sense of value and self-worth.
Letter from Survivor in Greece:

Dear A21,

It isn’t often that I say this, but I wanted to thank you for all your care and the good heart that you have shown me through my caretaker, Roslyn. Thanks for tolerating my idiosyncrasies and crazy habits.

You might not know this, but you helped me find happiness in being the person that I really am today. Three months ago I wanted to end my life, I thought that I was useless in this world, because I had lost hope. But A21 gave me a reason to live again.

But Roslyn, I need to thank you very much for your effort and support. You have always been there for me. Thanks for the kind heart and the good work that you are doing through A21. I now look at myself always in the mirror and laugh. Throughout my life, everyone could see the tears in my eyes, but only you could have felt the pain in my heart. You gave me your shoulder to lean on when I was down, a piece of your mind when I was acting crazy. You make happiness worth sharing and you make my dreams worth believing. Thanks for being by my side and making my life worth living.

Please be in touch forever.

Yours,

Marie

NEW SURVIVORS IN OUR CARE

Forms of trafficking

- Sexual Exploitation: 33%
- Forced Labor: 66%
- Domestic Servitude: 7%
- Other: 5%

Gender of survivors

- Female: 66%
- Male: 34%

Age of survivors

- 0-13: 16
- 14-17: 13
- 18-21: 42
- 22-25: 49
- 26-35: 32
- 36+: 32

Safe repatriation to country of origin

- 2013: 78
- 2014: 63
- 2015: 104
- 2016: 118
- 2017: 154

Survivors in our care each year

- 2018: 204
- 2019: 220
Survivors are provided with opportunities to meet with case managers, learn new skills, enjoy new activities, and freely be themselves. Our hope is that every survivor will experience the care they need to believe they are strong and capable of accomplishing anything they set their minds to.

Our U.S. Freedom Center is a community-based aftercare facility, providing an environment of comfort, safety, and security, where survivors can live freely and work toward their dreams.

“It’s powerful to see a survivor walk in and realize the entire center is here for them. Every single element is designed to support, encourage, and inspire hope, which is a new experience for many of them.”

—A21 USA Team Member

In the spring, we met Ada. She had been trafficked by a man she thought loved her, but instead sold her for sex.

Ada came into our care defeated, lacking trust and hope. She was pregnant, did not have custody of her other children, and had no plans of what to do once her baby was born.

But A21 case managers were able to build trust with her by consistently meeting with her, inviting her to the Freedom Center, and throwing her a baby shower. Ada finally believed A21 was truly there for her, and invited our staff to the hospital when her baby was born—a precious moment they will never forget.

Throughout the year, Ada diligently participated in A21 programs, building her skills, engaging in peer support, and meeting with case managers and counselors. She has now been approved to have her children back and live in her own apartment, received multiple job opportunities, and obtained childcare for her youngest child.

Ada’s life is a clear picture of what our Freedom Centers are all about—restored dreams, love, and hope for the future. We are so proud of her.

*Survivor’s name and photo have been changed for their protection.
I have seen group peer support programs provide inspiration, support, and motivation to survivors attending. Survivors make positive decisions because of what they’re learning or what they’re rediscovering about themselves.”

—A21 USA Team Member

Our USA team launched a peer support program called FLOURISH, giving survivors a space to come together and encourage each other as they walk the journey of restoration.

Created by a survivor and developed by our aftercare team, this program facilitates intentional conversation—allowing survivors to reflect on their own resilience, dreams, goals, and hopes for the future.
It's so much more than a scarf.

It's restored dignity. Vocational skills. Income for survivors of human trafficking.

This is the story of Liberty—a social enterprise founded by A21 that employs survivors and walks alongside them toward a life of independence.

In Sofia, Bulgaria, one survivor wanted to make a career for herself, but felt she did not have any skills. When our team asked her what she could do, she replied, “I can knit!” This is when Liberty began. From that day, we encouraged her to start knitting and that we’d figure out the rest.

As Liberty’s foundation was laid, she began teaching other employees her skills.

Today, Liberty is restoring value, providing financial stability, and reducing the chances of re-victimization. One handmade scarf at a time.

By knitting scarves, our survivors are fighting human trafficking—the very injustice that held them captive. Through your purchases, you are fighting too.

When we met Malina, her only dream was to get her children back. They were housed in government orphanages in her home country of Bulgaria after Malina was trafficked and sexually exploited abroad. After Malina was rescued, she went through our aftercare program. This is when her journey with Liberty began.

We will never forget the day she told us that she’d saved enough money through her work at Liberty to get her children back. Today, she is independent, educated, with her family, and working a full-time job in Bulgaria.

When we met Sophie, she was a victim of labor exploitation. But today, she’s a nursing school graduate who is working in a reputable hospital. During her studies, she was supported for two and a half years through her employment at Liberty.

This is why Liberty exists—to empower survivors like Sophie to thrive and live out their dreams.

*Survivors’ names have been changed for their protection.

Sophie

Malina
STORIES OF RESTORATION

We hope that as you read these stories, you’ll feel the light and life returning to survivors’ eyes. The desperation and doubt turning into safety and security. The fear and anxiety turning into confidence and peace. The destruction of their past turning into stories of healing and redemption. And that every step of restoration is leading us into a future without slavery.

**Education.** A young boy from Thailand was sold for years to a pedophile and online sex trafficking ring. But today, he is free, enrolled back in school, and dreaming to be an electrician. Together, we are helping him fulfill his potential.

**Nursing.** A young woman dreamed of becoming a nurse. She believed her family when they encouraged her to move to Greece for better nursing school opportunities. But her family had tricked her—instead, she found herself being sold for sex. But now, she’s free, and with the assistance of our aftercare team, she’s completed nursing school.

**Repatriation.** Four women were deceived by false job offers after searching for work to support their families. They were trafficked, but through our SAFE program, each of these women has been repatriated to their homes and families.

**Graduation.** After her house burned down and her mother passed away, a single-mother took what seemed like a legitimate job abroad. But she was deceived. Instead, she was beaten, exploited, and forced to work in a factory for 16-18 hours per day without food or medical attention. Thankfully, she escaped and has now graduated from our program full of hope and expectation.

**Employment.** A young woman came into our care after she was abducted, forced into marriage, and exploited through domestic servitude. But through our assistance with living expenses and medical treatment, she has been able to find employment and lasting community.

**Stability.** Taken from his family, a man was trafficked for labor and abused between three different rebel groups in Ukraine. After walking him through medical and psychological support, he is now free, independent, and providing for his family.
*Paveena is a seven-year-old girl from Cambodia. She lived with relatives in a small village in Thailand by the Cambodian border. One day, when *Paveena was six, her aunt sent her to Thailand to make their family money. She found herself in a truck driving to Bangkok with five other children. She was left to earn money by begging on the streets all night long.

Drunk men kicked her while she slept at night and beat her during the day. If she made less than $100 per night, her aunt wouldn’t give her food.

One day, the Thai police followed the group of begging children, arrested them, and sent her aunt to jail. Scared and alone, *Paveena spent months in a government shelter waiting for her paperwork to be finalized. When it was time for her to go home, A21 was called. Our social worker arrived to find *Paveena sitting alone, crying. She didn’t have any family to be repatriated back to. The only family she had sold her for profit.

*Paveena

We were able to assist *Paveena and place her in emergency foster care with a loving family. The family has a little girl the same age as her—and they’ve become best friends. *Paveena started school a week after she was reintegrated. We were able to trace her family and obtain legal papers for her, giving *Paveena a now permanent, forever home.

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This story doesn’t begin to highlight the pain, suffering, and trauma that *Paveena went through. But we are thrilled to say that she is now living like a child should live—free, loved, and with hope for the future.

*DIMITY

"Dimitry and his wife wanted a family. They were thrilled to find out that right after they adopted a child, they were pregnant with a second—their dreams were coming true. But shortly after, circumstances took a turn. His wife was diagnosed with cancer.

"Dimitry was desperate to help financially. So, when organ traffickers lured him with a proposal to sell his organ, he agreed. But after his organ-removal surgery, his health drastically declined. Sadly, his wife’s did too. Dimitry soon became a single father of two, completely bankrupt. But despite his hardships, he was resilient and did not give up.

He came into our care and we were able to support him with proper medical treatment. We’re excited to tell Dimitry’s story: with our support and provision of necessary household belongings, he’s healed, stable, and is getting back on his feet. He’s started growing fruits and vegetables, developing his own garden, and is even raising his own livestock.

Watching Dimitry come back from a place of desperation, illness, and grief, to now a whole and healthy life of independence has been one of our greatest joys.
This year, you wrote words of encouragement through our Love Gives Campaign.

When survivors received your cards, they were overwhelmed with love:

“I’ve never received a Valentine’s card before. I feel so loved.”

“This is the first time that someone has given me a gift without wanting to get anything back from me.”

“Your words mattered. They were the gift that our survivors will never forget.”

“You are so kind, you never forgot me.”

“I’ve never been celebrated like this before. How can someone who doesn’t know me give me so much love?”
Our heart as an organization is to reach and equip people who are vulnerable to human trafficking all over the globe. We want men, women, and children to overcome the fear and pain of their past and to move forward with confidence.

In a micro-village in Northern Iraq, freedom sounds like the laughter of children. Safety feels like the security of four walls and a roof. And hope looks like a wide gravel road at the foot of the mountains. Refugees have been given an opportunity to thrive. And they’re taking it.

We are excited to announce that in collaboration with local partners, we have completed the building of houses for over 100 vulnerable refugees. All of these refugees have graduated a course to help them overcome hardship and trauma and equip them with tools to live free from fear and the past.

“We’ve learned to look to the future with hope.”

— Refugee

You play such an integral role. Without you, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do. Through your support, we’re not only able to help provide the basic human needs of shelter and safety, but also focus on providing education, rehabilitation, and a lasting hope for the future.
TOGETHER, WE WILL SEE A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY.

SPONSOR FREEDOM

Your commitment and support led us through a year of victory, freedom, and hope for the future. Our team can’t thank you enough for everything you’ve done in the fight against human trafficking.

There is still much work to be done, and we won’t stop until everyone is free—whether through regular giving, general gifts, or fundraising, we invite you to continue abolishing slavery with us in 2018.

Regular monthly gifts are vital, as they help us plan ahead and develop long-term strategy and growth.

Sponsor Freedom today: A21.org/donate

GIVE ONCE

Give today, and feel tomorrow’s fight. Your donation today will enable us to reach the vulnerable, rescue victims, and restore survivors.

Donate today: A21.org/donate

FUNDRAISE

You can use your own unique talents and abilities to make a difference. See how you can start:

Fundraise today: A21.org/fundraise
Freedom is possible.