A21 2018 Annual

FREEDOM REPORT

ABOLISH SLAVERY EVERYWHERE, FOREVER.
Founders’ Letter

Global Highlights

Key milestones in 2018

Operational Model
Reach, Rescue, Restore—it’s our strategy to end slavery, and the heart cry of our organization.

REACH

Reach at a Glance
A snapshot of our Reach efforts having an impact around the world

Prevention & Education

Where Awareness Meets Action
A story where a flyer led to freedom

A Celebration of 10 Years

Can You See Me? Campaign
New films and multimedia materials launched in the USA and Mexico, and distribution in the UK is reaching millions.

Walk For Freedom
Why we walked, insights from walk hosts, and stories of impact from around the world

Global Reach

It’s A Penalty
Awareness at Super Bowl LII, 2018 Winter Olympics, 2018 Commonwealth Games, and the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens

Why Reach?
A letter from Thailand Reach Manager, Steph Jones

10 Ways You Can Fight Trafficking Right Now

RESCUE

Rescue at a Glance
A summary of our Rescue efforts having an impact around the world

Stories of Freedom
Stories of men, women, and children who are now free

Hotlines
Our National Hotlines in Greece, Bulgaria, and South Africa played a role in identifying and assisting 64 victims in 2018.

Eve’s Story
Thailand Country Manager, Malina Enlund, shares a specific case that she’ll always remember.

Child Advocacy Center
A place where children are protected and cared for through the collaboration of social workers and law enforcement.

Training Professionals
Social workers, law enforcement officers, teachers, healthcare professionals, and others who are on the frontlines of being able to identify victims

Collaboration
Change happens when different sectors of society come together and agree that slavery is never okay.

Victories in Court
38 traffickers. 1,094 years in prison sentences. $460,600 in fines. This year held unprecedented stories of justice.

How Does Prosecution Work?
What does it take to bring a trafficker to justice?

Why Rescue?
A letter from South Africa Country Manager, Katie Modrau

Why Rescue?

RESTORE

Restore at a Glance
A look at our Restore efforts having an impact around the world

Letter from a Survivor

Restore Statistics
67% more survivors in our care in 2018 than 2017

Stories of Restoration
From employment, to repatriation, to independence, to dreaming again

What Is Aftercare?
Our four tiers of aftercare: Crisis Intervention, Ongoing Practical Support, Holistic Aftercare, and Independence

Freedom Centers
A place where survivors can heal, learn, and dream

Flourish Peer Support Program

Liberty Scarves
Our social enterprise

Featured Stories

Love Gives

Why Restore?
A letter from European Aftercare Manager, Nina Hyldgaard

Why Restore?

What We’ve Done, Where We’re Going
Vision for the next 10 years...

Sponsor Freedom
Join us on the frontlines in the fight against slavery.

The Freedom You Have
A letter from, Executive Director of Operations, Philip Hyldgaard

A Celebration of 10 Years

A Celebration

Sponsor Freedom

The Freedom You Have

A letter from, Executive Director of Operations, Philip Hyldgaard

10 Ways You Can Fight Trafficking Right Now

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Never underestimate the power in one action and the ripple effect that you could have, far beyond what you can imagine—to people that you may never meet, in a country that you may never visit.

—Katie Modrau
South Africa Country Manager

Dear Abolitionist,

This is the beginning of something new for us. We are here today because for the last 10 years, our supporters and team have encountered the darkness of modern-day slavery and decided to respond with hard work, generosity, and relentless hope.

Together, we’ve laid the foundation for increased vision, strategy, and freedom for multitudes of human beings who are still enslaved. But there is still work to be done. Human trafficking is a crime that attempts to put a price on what is priceless. For millions of people on our planet, it threatens identity, wars against intrinsic value, and destroys futures. Human trafficking must be eradicated. Because when we fight for the freedom of others, we fight for all of us. We fight for the world we want to see.

In the pages that follow, you’ll find real stories of hope, victory, and restoration that happened in 2018. A new smile for a child in Cambodia, office doors swinging open in Spain, independence for a young girl in America, and a life-saving message of awareness displayed in 77 airports and 16 seaports across Mexico.

A decade ago, our hearts were broken by injustice. What started with one poster of a missing little girl named Sophia in a regional airport in Greece has become a greater mission than we ever imagined. And that’s entirely because people like you have joined us in the fight.

So together, as we look to the next 10 years, can you imagine the potential? Imagine how many trafficking rings can be dismantled. Imagine how many victims can be assisted. Imagine how many children can be protected. With your help, we will continue to abolish slavery everywhere, forever.

Nick and Christine Caine, Co-Founders
Global Highlights

1. Established a new office in **BARCELONA, Spain**
2. Celebrated our **10-YEAR anniversary**
3. Opened a new **FREEDOM CENTER** in Greece
4. Identified and assisted **300 VICTIMS**
5. Won **19 COURT CASES**, sentencing a total of **38 TRAFFICKERS**
6. Welcomed **182 SURVIVORS** into our care
7. Launched our **IT’S A PENALTY Campaign** featured at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, Super Bowl LII, Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, and the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens
8. Released our **CAN YOU SEE ME? Campaign in the USA**
9. Received **10,000+ CALLS** to our three National Hotlines
10. Saw **475 WALKS** take place in **50 COUNTRIES** during our 5th annual Walk For Freedom
11. Piloted our **CAN YOU SEE ME? Campaign** in Mexico in partnership with the Mexican Government, reaching millions of people in 77 airports throughout the country
12. Started development in **CAMBODIA**, where the majority of survivors we assisted were under the age of 12

**Global Highlights**
A21 combats modern-day slavery through a multi-dimensional operational strategy: Reach, Rescue, and Restore. Through partnerships and efforts of supporters all across the globe, we truly believe that slavery can be prevented, that victims can be identified and assisted, that perpetrators can be brought to justice, and that more survivors can step into a life of independence.

**OPERATIONAL MODEL**

**REACH**
Reducing vulnerability through prevention, awareness, and education.

We prevent slavery from ever happening by engaging people through awareness campaigns and events, presentations, and educational programs that empower educators and students alike to take action in their communities.

**RESCUE**
Assisting victims through identification, collaboration, and legal representation.

We collaborate with law enforcement, frontline professionals, governments, and other NGOs to eradicate slavery at every level. This includes training frontline professionals on victim identification, supporting police operations, identifying victims through our hotlines, assisting exploited children through our Child Advocacy Center, representing survivors in the prosecution of their traffickers, and coordinating legal services.

**RESTORE**
Empowering survivors through individualized support, aftercare, and community engagement.

We work with every person that comes into our care based on their individual needs, providing them with access to housing, medical treatment, counseling, education, employment, relocation, and repatriation services in order to assist them in reaching a place of safety and independence in their own community.
Reach is about equipping people with information that has the power to prevent slavery from ever happening in the first place. It looks like recognizing a false job opportunity or calling a hotline after seeing something suspicious. It looks like giving out one more flyer with indicators of human trafficking—believing that the impact goes far beyond the paper and can actually change the course of a life.

What is now a global anti-human trafficking organization started with one person who was reached by one poster with the message of human trafficking. Now, millions carry that same message around the world and in turn, are reducing vulnerability and disrupting the very existence of slavery.

Together, we’ve reached...

- 371,098 people through prevention and awareness events and presentations
- 6,553 students through the Bodies Are Not Commodities High School Curriculum
- 3,500+ children with our Primary Prevention Program in Thailand and Cambodia
- 30+ million commuters in Amtrak stations, networks, and trains through our Can You See Me? USA Campaign
- 106+ million people through the It’s A Penalty Campaign at Super Bowl LII, the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens, and the Gold Coast Commonwealth games
- 70+ million people on social media through walks hosted in 50 countries during our largest Walk For Freedom yet
The McCain Institute brought key stakeholders together in Washington DC to discuss opportunities, challenges, and next steps to collaboratively expand prevention education within U.S. schools. Our CEO, Nick Caine, gave the keynote speech at a national roundtable discussion on safeguarding children with leading federal and state agencies and nonprofits. Kristen Morse, our Global Reach Director, attended a working group that focused on identifying the challenges, solutions, and next steps in getting human trafficking curriculum into schools.

“Education is key for prevention. It’s where awareness meets action, and requires all of us to join forces and take action to safeguard our children and vulnerable people.”

—Nick Caine, CEO & Co-Founder

Building a Community of Educators in the USA

Most children in America go to school—there is massive potential to reach millions through education. This year, A21 attended the 15th Annual Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference in Ohio. We were given the opportunity to present to educators, social workers, and law enforcement officers working in schools across the USA.

Valerie Ellery, A21’s Education and Curriculum Specialist, presented the Bodies Are Not Commodities curriculum at the conference, and later gave a keynote presentation at the Child Trafficking and Prevention Education Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, hosted by the Florida Department of Education.

“I learned to become more observant of my surroundings and my students.”

—Tina, Educator

Through events like these, we are building a community of educators around the world who are committed to teaching students about human trafficking. Educators are key in helping to identify students who are potential victims of human trafficking, and play a significant role in raising up the next generation of abolitionists who will continue to fight for freedom.

“I will bring the curriculum to my school district and work to find teachers and students willing to implement.”

—Amanda, Educator

Reaching Vulnerable Children in Southeast Asia

Our teams in Thailand and Cambodia piloted our Primary School Prevention Program in communities and schools with children who are at-risk to human trafficking. This program is play-based, focusing on the topics of child rights, safe migration, and human trafficking.

Each week, our team in Thailand brings dinner and activities to street children in Poipet. In the photos featured above, the children took turns singing and dancing for “The Voice,” Poipet.

“We’ve been encouraged to see these children developing positive behavior changes, and believe that these programs are key to protecting the most vulnerable in these areas.”

—Steph Jones, Thailand Reach Manager

MOU with South Africa’s Department of Education

Our team signed an MOU with the Department of Education in South Africa that allows A21’s curriculum, Bodies Are Not Commodities, to be made readily available to teachers and parents on the nation’s most well-known online education portal. This content will be written into the Life Orientation Curriculum that will be printed and distributed to more than two million students over the next six years throughout the Western Cape.

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A woman in Greece was handed an A21 awareness flyer and saved it for five years. One day, she came across a survivor who had just escaped from a trafficking situation. She remembered the flyer and called our Greek National Hotline to report the case. The call operator connected the survivor with law enforcement for immediate assistance, and after investigating the case further, the police were able to rescue more victims. Thanks to one flyer, one brochure, one presentation—one person deciding to take action.

The truth is that change—real change—comes in two steps: awareness and empowerment. Don’t underestimate the part you’re playing in raising awareness and empowering people with the resources and tools to fight slavery.

—Philip Hylgaard, Executive Director of Operations
From a missing persons poster to a global anti-human trafficking organization.

This is our story.

A Celebration of 10 Years

Missing Persons

We made a film, Missing Persons, to highlight some of our operational work, show the reality of human trafficking, and honor the many supporters like you who have made these victories possible over the last 10 years.

Watch the full film, Missing Persons, at A21.org/10

Screening Parties

More than 1,000 screening parties were held in over 50 nations, gathering in living rooms and filling community auditoriums. People across the globe rallied their local communities and extended an invitation to join our story of freedom. But the impact hasn’t stopped there.

We have already seen this film result in action as it continues to be shared, and people continue to join us in the fight.

The Gala

To celebrate our 10-Year Anniversary, we held our first gala, gathering supporters, friends, and staff from around the world. It was powerful to reflect on all that has been accomplished, while casting vision and dreaming for the future, together.
Four new trafficking scenarios launched in transportation hubs across the nation in collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), Polaris, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Justice. These films depicted scenarios of child sexual exploitation in a school, sex trafficking and transportation of a minor, trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude, and agricultural labor trafficking. Posters and videos were featured in 22 Amtrak stations across the country, including Los Angeles Union Station, New York Penn Station, and Washington Union Station, and major airports such as Chicago O’Hare, Washington Dulles, Newark, John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Dallas Fort Worth. Can You See Me? was also mentioned during a United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing.

“The campaign helps the public identify a victim in everyday scenarios, whether that be in a nail salon, car wash, or laundromat. Whatever it may be, it empowers you to make a call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.”

— Christian Elliot, Global Development Director

Can You See Me? Campaign exists to educate and equip the public to identify potential victims of human trafficking and make a report to their country’s human trafficking hotline. While slavery is often hidden, Can You See Me? brings it into plain sight by showcasing what common trafficking scenarios look like in each country. This year we launched new films and materials in the USA and Mexico, reaching millions in the midst of their everyday lives.

Our Can You See Me? distribution in the UK has grown to include 22 regional police forces and 12 of the busiest airports in the country. This includes Heathrow Airport, where different scenarios play on large digital media screens and are posted on 14,000 luggage trolleys, as well as employee buses with around 79,000 employees using these services daily. With an estimated 80 million passengers coming through Heathrow each year, we are excited about the impact of reaching people around the world with the information on how to report trafficking situations.

“Can You See Me? ensures a Young Girl’s Safety After Seeing a Can You See Me? Poster

While on board a flight heading into Heathrow Airport, a man noticed another man in front of him watching sexually explicit material on his phone while also traveling with a very young girl. He became concerned for the young girl’s safety. As soon as he landed at Heathrow, he saw a Can You See Me? poster and noticed the human trafficking hotline number. He called the hotline to report what he saw. As a result of the information he gave, both Border Force and the police were able to launch an investigation immediately and ensure the young girl’s safety.

This is what Can You See Me? is all about: reaching people at the right time, in the right place, and empowering them to take action.

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Can You See Me? USA

Can You See Me? UK

Airline Passenger Ensures a Young Girl’s Safety After Seeing a Can You See Me? Poster
“The Can You See Me? Campaign allowed us to respond to the migrant humanitarian crisis, reaching close to 35,000 migrants in Mexico with prevention material that was relevant and impactful. It is now helping us build bridges with federal governments throughout Central America to launch Can You See Me? in their respective contexts.”

— Benny Yu, Founder of El Pozo de Vida
Walk For Freedom

On October 20, 2018, tens of thousands of people showed up on streets, bridges, intersections, and water banks—declaring that slavery cannot and will not exist in the places we call home around the world. Because we believe that when we show up locally, we have an impact globally.

Single-file lines of people wearing black shirts filled cities with a message that can’t be ignored: that slavery still exists, but we are going to abolish it—together. Men, women, families, children, and communities walked with signs and flyers to reach more people with the message of human trafficking.

Step by step, city by city, we took ground under the banner of freedom.

May we never underestimate the power of every flyer in our hand, every poster we hold up, every word that we speak, and the shirts on our backs. The power to identify. The power to restore. The power to abolish slavery with each step.


Reach

475
Locations

50
Countries

70+
million people reached through social media
"We are convinced that if we do this together, if we keep showing up, if we continue to be tenacious, if we continue to have grit, if we continue to not bow down to discouragement, but we turn up with strength, numbers, courage, and faith, then we will see slavery eradicated in our lifetime."

—Christine Caine, Co-Founder
Host Spotlight

Tell us why you first got involved in the fight against human trafficking.

Our sister was a big advocate for battling human trafficking. She was registered to walk in 2016, when she passed away unexpectedly. We knew that we wanted to continue her legacy by hosting the Walk For Freedom in Washington DC, and we’ve been walking for her and the millions enslaved in the world today.

What made you decide to host a Walk For Freedom?

We knew that this city needed to be awakened to the fact that human trafficking is happening here, and there is something each of us can do to stop it. It was a personal resolve and commitment to be involved.

Now that we know we can do something to stop it, we’ve become advocates not just during the month of October, but for the rest of our lives.

What does the phrase “Local Walk, Global Impact” mean to you?

“Local Walk, Global Impact” means action. Putting action behind your advocacy and seeing that multiply around the world. It means actively walking to actively free human beings that are being trafficked. It means doing what you can where you are, to help people you’ve never met, because you know that every person has the right to freedom.

“Host a walk, participate, donate—do what you can with what you have. It will change you, and it will change lives all around the world for the better. You can build a legacy of freedom and you can give justice to people whose freedom has been taken away.”

—Mollie Thorsen, Walk For Freedom DC Host

Want to bring Walk For Freedom to your city? Learn how: A21.org/WalkHost

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 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 Ghana, India to Brazil. All over the world, 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. That’s why we exist. That’s why we’re here. For freedom.
Power in Every Message

A walk host in Florida has a friend who regularly receives massages for his medical condition. One day, the place he normally goes to was closed, so he went to another place that provided massages. When he was in his room, the girl who was supposed to give him his massage kept saying “I need help” in broken English. He downloaded a translation app, and she told him that she had been trafficked and needed help. He then brought the girl to the local police station to help report the case. After he did this, he called our walk host and said that he would not have known what was happening or what to do if it hadn’t been for her Walk For Freedom social media post.

Meaning in Every Dollar

“Our first walk in Colorado Springs was a success. We even had a homeless man join and gave a donation out of what was given to him that day. That brought me to tears.”
—Cynthia, Walk Host

Impact in Every Step

“At the end of our walk, a family pulled into the parking lot where we were gathered. They said they saw us walking and felt led to thank us for what we are doing and that it really does make a difference. They introduced us to their three-year-old daughter, who they had adopted from foster care. She was rescued from human trafficking in Arkansas. The mother said that many people don’t believe it happens here, but it definitely does—and that they were so grateful to see people speaking out and spreading awareness. It was a heartbreaking yet amazing moment. That alone made the entire thing worth every moment, every step, and every dollar!”
—Hayley, Walk Host

Passion at Every Age

“It was a young girl’s eighth birthday. But she told us that instead of having a birthday party, she wanted to walk, ‘because there are girls that are lost and hurting without help.’ She was the leader of the walk and led the way with a sign and her mom close behind her. She never once complained or spoke. She just held her sign and her head up—walking like a soldier going into battle.”
—Jenni, Walk Host

Impact in Every Step

“Survivors’ names and photos have been changed for their protection

MALAI
4 years old, Thailand
was forced to beg on the streets of Thailand from dusk to dawn.

ANTON
30 years old, Ukraine
was deceived by a false job and forced to work on a farm with little or no pay.

ELLA
18 years old, America
came out of the foster care system and someone she trusted offered to help her. Instead, she was trafficked for sex.

RENE
24 years old, Greece
trusted a man that promised to take care of her. But she was deceived and forced into sex trafficking.

KYA
26 years old, South Africa
was betrayed by a friend she trusted—sold to traffickers, and forced to work in the sex trade.

DANA
19 years old, Bulgaria
received a job offer that seemed promising. But when she arrived, she was beaten, raped, locked in a room, and sold for sex.

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Why We Walk & Fundraise

We know our local actions can make a global difference in lives around the world. Lives like Malai*, Anton*, Ella*, Rene*, Kya*, and Dana*.
“In one word, A21 means freedom to me. Not just freedom in the sense of being physically free, but financially free, spiritually free, and emotionally free.

A21 has given me the opportunity to have the free life I’ve always wanted.”

—Survivor
Transport for London (TFL)

We are now a registered charity with Transport for London in the UK, giving us the opportunity to reach thousands of people in transportation hubs with awareness events each month.

Strike Out Slavery

We were excited to work alongside our friends at Strike Out Slavery this year at the Los Angeles Angels and Washington Nationals stadiums to raise both awareness and funds around human trafficking. Every ticket purchased for these two games went toward fighting slavery, and our team was able to share the message and mission of A21 with attendees.

Baseball legends, Albert Pujols and St. Louis Cardinals, also spoke about their passion for seeing slavery abolished in our lifetime.

Be Hers, Australia

Be Hers is a movement of thousands of women in Australia passionate about raising awareness and funds for the freedom of men, women, and children everywhere. They have been supporting our work for eight years, and in 2018, held two events that encouraged over 1,000 women to take action against slavery.

Opening of the Australian Center to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCE)

A21 Australia attended the opening of the Australian Center to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCE) in Brisbane along with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The ACCE works to provide a collaborative response to child exploitation through the collective partnership of law enforcement, government, and NGOs. We look forward to continued collaboration with the AFP in working toward a world where children are free from exploitation.

Awareness: On Air in Bulgaria

Our team in Bulgaria has had incredible opportunities to speak about human trafficking, our Bulgarian National Hotline, and the aftercare services we offer to our survivors on national TV and radio stations. As a result, we’ve seen an increase in volunteers for our Bulgarian office and more calls to the national hotline.

International Human Trafficking and Cybercrime Conference

A21 Bulgaria was invited to speak at the International Human Trafficking and Cybercrime Conference about the work we are doing in Bulgaria. We also took part in a roundtable discussion on the role of business in the fight against labor exploitation.

Thessaloniki’s International Film Festival & 83rd International Fair

We had unique opportunities to spread awareness in Thessaloniki this year, including presenting a booth at the International Film Festival that simulated a room in an illegal brothel. This showed the conditions in which victims of sex trafficking worked, and started conversations with attendees.

We were also able to present our work, promote our Greek National Hotline and Walk For Freedom, and distribute thousands of flyers at Thessaloniki’s 83rd International Fair, which gathers around one million visitors a year.

Partnering with Lush Company in Spain

Within our first year of having an office in Spain, our team was able to partner with Lush Cosmetics by hosting awareness and fundraising events in their stores. We are so thankful for their commitment to ending slavery.

Reaching Educators in Ukraine

Teachers and psychologists from three different cities in Ukraine were encouraged by our team to present prevention messages to their students. We are happy to report that because of these presentations, more students have taken action to spread awareness about human trafficking in their cities than ever before.

Bulgarian Hotline Advertised on Billboards Across the Country

A21 Bulgaria secured over 60 ad spaces all over the country with our Bulgarian Hotline visuals and information, including two large vinyl billboards in the heart of one of the largest Roma communities. This campaign has been active throughout the whole year and several calls were made to our hotline as a result.

Awareness Event: Central Railway Station, Ukraine

A21 Ukraine alongside local police, held an awareness event devoted to World Day Against Trafficking in the Central Railway Station—a place where many people come to meet with their potential employers. Because these job offers are often risky and lead to trafficking situations, our team helped educate people on their rights and the signs of human trafficking in that area.

Soon after, 94 victims of labor trafficking were rescued, many of which had been recruited at this very place.

Collaboration with Booking.com, Netherlands

Booking.com and A21 Netherlands joined forces, spreading prevention and awareness flyers in hotels throughout the city of Amsterdam. Their volunteer program, Booking Cares, dedicated a day of their time, where they gave a short presentation to their employees about human trafficking, watched our film, Missing Persons, and then visited 50 hotels in Amsterdam. They handed out flyers with stories and information about human trafficking, sparking great conversations with hotel staff as they shared what they had seen from their experience.

Our team had the privilege to meet and partner with the Holy Metropolis of Demetrias and its Bishop, Ignatios. He was impressed by A21’s work and decided to co-host an awareness event in the city of Volos, Greece, reaching more than 200 people. Through this partnership, A21 will be training all the Orthodox Bishops of Greece in 2019 on human trafficking.
We are proud to be founding partners of It’s A Penalty (IAP)—a global campaign that harnesses the power of sport to prevent abuse, exploitation, and trafficking worldwide.

In 2018, It’s A Penalty was featured around major sporting events such as Super Bowl LII, the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, and the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens. Athletes like Olympic champion Usain Bolt, NFL player Rashad Jennings, Rugby player Maro Itoje, and many more encouraged millions to stand up against the exploitation and trafficking of children across the globe.

Super Bowl LII

16,182,544
PEOPLE REACHED

The IAP Campaign was featured on flights, in hotel rooms, and in taxis in the USA leading up to the Super Bowl in Minneapolis.

Pyeongchang Winter Olympics

70,176,853
PEOPLE REACHED

During the Winter Olympics, the IAP team distributed leaflets to help sporting fans know the signs of child abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. Olympic Athletes Christian Taylor and Beate Schrott stood with us during this campaign by speaking out and encouraging people to say something if they see something. During the games there was a 7% increase in calls to the hotline in South Korea reporting child abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.

Hong Kong Rugby Sevens

9,573,440
PEOPLE REACHED

“I don’t think any of us had really any idea about the scale of the issue. It’s been a real education for all of us.” —Robbie McRobbie, CEO of Hong Kong Rugby Union

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

10,457,722
PEOPLE REACHED

The Commonwealth Games is a sporting event that occurs every four years, with over 6,600 athletes and team officials converging from 71 nations and territories. This year the games took place on the Gold Coast, Australia, drawing thousands of spectators.

A21 had the opportunity to connect with hundreds of attendees about the campaign, educating them on how to report a trafficking situation.

A21 Freedom Report — 2018

Why Reach?

Because every day, I get to see the smile on a child’s face who’s living without being exploited.

Because 10 and 11 year olds are being inspired to raise money and awareness to assist survivors their own age.

Because at-risk communities are turning into educated communities—ensuring trafficking never happens in the first place.

To every supporter: know that your sacrifice and giving has meant so much more than you will ever know. We cannot do what we do without the partnership, financial support, and incredible encouragement we get from passionate people like you all around the world.

You are the reason more children are experiencing a childhood versus enslavement—the reason a new generation is rising up knowing their value, worth, human rights, and are confident in speaking out against injustice—the reason that I believe, we will continue to see radical change in the country of Thailand and around the world.

In the next 10 years, I see educational programs in all schools and universities as a regular part of the curriculum and teaching syllabuses. I see awareness campaigns becoming a regular part of daily advertising across nations. I see more people recognizing indicators of human trafficking and exploitation and feeling equipped to report it.

I see a shift that moves away from ‘fixing’ a problem after it’s happened, to a society passionate about ensuring human trafficking and exploitation is abolished everywhere, forever.

We are so grateful to know that we are not fighting this fight alone and deeply appreciate the continued support of every single person.

Together, we are stronger.

Steph Jones, Thailand Reach Manager

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A STAFF LETTER FROM THAILAND

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10 Ways You Can Fight HUMAN TRAFFICKING Right Now

WATCH & SHARE
Watch and share A21’s videos about human trafficking scenarios and survivor stories. A21.org/Watch

KNOW THE FACTS
Equip yourself with the facts about human trafficking and tell others. A21.org/Facts

GET YOUR GEAR
Shop for a cause and start conversations with what you wear. A21.org/Shop

EDUCATE OTHERS
Bring prevention, education, and awareness to your community. A21.org/Educate

VOLUNTEER
Help abolish slavery in one of our offices around the world. A21.org/Volunteer

START A FUNDRAISER
Donate your birthday or host a fundraiser to help support A21’s work around the globe. A21.org/Fundraise

SUPPORT A CAMPAIGN
Spread the word and take collective action to reach your city. A21.org/Campaign

SPONSOR FREEDOM
Give monthly and join us on the frontlines in the fight against slavery. A21.org/Donate

MAKE A CALL
Learn to recognize human trafficking and how to report possible situations. A21.org/Call

HOST A WALK
Rally together abolitionists in your city for A21’s largest fundraising and awareness event. A21.org/WalkHost

Reach
The Rescue Strategy is intervention—whether it’s rescuing a child off the street and into safety, supporting police operations to identify victims, training frontline professionals, or coordinating with law enforcement on hotline calls.

Rescue also looks like seeking justice—representing survivors in prosecutions against their traffickers, assisting with the immigration process, and supporting survivors with legal services.

Because of your support...

- **134** operations resulted in the identification and assistance of 300 victims
- **10,384** calls were made to our Hotlines
- **19** court cases were won
- **38** traffickers were sentenced to over 1,000 years in prison and $460,600 in fines
- **48%** increase in calls related to trafficking compared to 2017
- **4,141** frontline professionals were trained
94 survivors of labor trafficking:

Promised false jobs, deceived, and exploited in the southern part of Ukraine. But through the partnership of our team, local authorities, and other NGOs, all 94 were assisted to safety, and provided food, toiletries, and other services.

4 men trafficked for labor:

Promised jobs in Denmark, but instead they were kept in a trailer and forced to work long hours with little or no pay. After the men managed to escape, they called A21. Through coordination with a partner organization, we were able to assist them and they are now safely back in Bulgaria.

An elderly man:

Abducted from his home and exploited in Ukraine. His traffickers enslaved him for 10 years before he was identified and assisted. But today, he is free.

A young girl in Greece:

Deceived, exploited, and trafficked for months—sold for sex to multiple clients per day. She bravely escaped and is now taking steps toward a life of independence.

Two women in South Africa:

Forced into sex slavery, they were physically and sexually abused for months—until one of them called our South African Hotline for help. After receiving the tip, our team was able to assist them and they are now free.

An elderly man:

Abducted from his home and exploited in Ukraine. His traffickers enslaved him for 10 years before he was identified and assisted. But today, he is free.

A minor in the USA:

Abused and sold, but today she is free and dreaming for her future.

A woman in Ukraine:

Enslaved as a domestic servant. She was identified, and today she is free, in our care, and journeying toward healing and restoration.

A Bulgarian woman was trafficked for 8 years:

She was rescued through a police operation. She was connected to A21 through our network of partner organizations, and today she is employed by our social enterprise, Liberty.

A21 has supported the Royal Thai Police in 31 police operations in 2018:

We have been able to identify and assist 66 victims in Thailand. The youngest victim of trafficking we’ve assisted this year was only 2 years old. We are honored to be working alongside Thai Government agencies to continue protecting the most vulnerable.

A minor in the USA:

Abused and sold, but today she is free and dreaming for her future.

A woman in Ukraine:

Enslaved as a domestic servant. She was identified, and today she is free, in our care, and journeying toward healing and restoration.
“The first time I had contact with A21 through the hotline, I immediately knew I could trust them and felt at peace.”

—Survivor, South Africa

“A young woman was trafficked through a false job opportunity, sexually exploited, and kept locked in a room. She called us, whispering and scared, not knowing her location or what town she was in. Through GPS, we helped her navigate her way out to the nearest police station. Once safe, our team translated for her and she was placed in the care of a partner NGO. We repatriated her and she was reunited with her family. A new beginning.”

—A21 Hotline Operator
With the hotline, there are so many different parts at play. The caller who sees something and is compelled to call. The victim who bravely calls for help. The operator who answers the call, investigates for information, and creates the report. The law enforcement officer who responds to the report. And the hotline ties all of these people together. It can be the connection point that leads from a call to freedom.

Our Human Trafficking Hotlines in South Africa, Bulgaria, and Greece respond to calls for help, assist victims to safety, coordinate services for survivors of human trafficking, and train law enforcement on victim identification and screening. We collaborate with law enforcement, other NGOs, and governments to make sure we are positioned to respond immediately whenever a call for help is made.

“I believe hotlines are the key to changing the face of trafficking. There is just so much power in a tool like the hotline being available and community members being educated on what to look out for and knowing where to report these situations so that services can be provided.”
— Katie Modrau, South Africa Country Manager

Guided to Safety
She was trafficked by her family to Germany where she was locked up, stripped of her identification, and abused. One day, she bravely managed to escape, called our Bulgarian Hotline, and our team was able to help her navigate to the nearest police station. Today, she is free and safe in her home country.

Identified by Law Enforcement
Deceived by a woman who offered her help, this survivor was forced into different types of trafficking and severely exploited. During a police operation, she was identified as a victim of trafficking. We then received a call from a police officer to our hotline in Greece saying she was in need of emergency shelter and repatriation. Our team was then able to provide immediate shelter, and ensure her safe return home.

The tips made to our Greek Hotline have increased to the point where we are submitting police reports every week about potential victims of trafficking and suspicious locations where trafficking may occur.

“A21 does 70% of the process of collecting information on a potential trafficking case.”
— Anti-Human Trafficking Police Officer, Greece

The Power of One Call
11 men were promised a better life—but were forced to sleep and work in a factory with no wages. Through a call to our South African Hotline, all 11 were set free.
Walking into the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and seeing this room always brings back one specific case for me. I remember walking down the street and seeing this little girl and trying to talk to her, but she couldn’t focus. Imagine a three-year-old child dressed in a very skimpy, almost naked outfit, like a bathing suit with full makeup on. This little girl was forced to dance for seven hours a night. Because she couldn’t perform for that long, they would give her drugs. For two years we tried to get her off the street and couldn’t. We started working with a new commander from the Pattaya Police, which lead to the creation of the CAC. They went and picked her up. I remember coming in here, and she was sitting here at 4 AM on the floor of this room. This little girl got new clothes, she showered, she changed, and she turned back into a child. Within half an hour, she was back to being a child playing with the toys, eating pizza, and hanging out with the social worker.

Eve* was supporting a family of three people by dancing on the streets. She paid for the house, the rent, and the electricity. She was working every night at the age of three and being drugged. Now, she is one of the first in her class. She has little kittens. She is finally living the life she always deserved. This is the value of the CAC.*

Eve’s* Story

*Malina Enlund, Thailand Country Manager

* Survivor’s name has been changed for their protection

Eve* was supporting a family of three people by dancing on the streets. She paid for the house, the rent, and the electricity. She was working every night at the age of three and being drugged.
Through our Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Pattaya, Thailand, we are seeing more children identified, rescued, and assisted to safety with the collaboration of local law enforcement and social workers.

Created in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, and the Royal Thai Police, the CAC aims to create a safe place for children.

When coming to the CAC, children have the support of forensically trained social workers who make sure they’re provided with food, given clothes, taken care of, and that the information they give can legally be used in court against their traffickers.

Over 65% of the cases we see in Thailand are minors—the youngest being just 18 months old.

Since it’s opening in 2017, we’ve already seen 44 children assisted through the CAC and envision more CACs opening in the future to stop the trafficking of vulnerable children in Thailand and around the world.

Because of the successes and victories we’ve seen in Thailand, we have been able to develop operations in Cambodia as an extension of our Thai office, with Poipet being a major human trafficking hotspot. There are many vulnerable children in Cambodia being trafficked into Thailand, and we see great potential for the CAC in bringing more children to safety.

Child Advocacy Center

Three Children Repatriated Safely to Cambodia

They were trafficked from Cambodia to Thailand—forced to beg or sell items on the street for long hours. At times, some of them were beaten and abused. But through police operations conducted by local law enforcement, these children were identified, rescued, and brought to the CAC. We are thrilled to say that all three of them have been successfully repatriated home to Cambodia through the work and facilitation of our aftercare team.
An everyday interaction can lead to the identification of a human trafficking victim.

Victims of human trafficking interact with the general public and can encounter professionals in law enforcement, health care, public transportation, education, and more. We aim to train as many of these professionals as possible, because by showing up to their daily work, they are already on the frontlines of this fight—with a higher chance of encountering a victim, and having the opportunity to do something about it.

A social worker attended an A21 workshop on victim identification. With the knowledge and resources she learned in the training, she realized that one of her clients was likely a victim of human trafficking. The social worker applied the identification interviewing techniques she had been taught, and managed to help her client open up and share her story.

Right after the social worker collected the necessary information, she contacted our National Hotline in Greece and a call operator followed up on the case. They conducted an assessment of safety and needs, and then connected the survivor with law enforcement and our aftercare team. We are now following up on the criminal prosecution of the case.

A21 Thailand Speaks on a Panel Organized by the FBI

Our Thailand country manager, Malina, was invited by the FBI to participate in a panel as part of a larger conference focused on training for law enforcement officers in the Southeast Asia region. Other trainers included the FBI, as well as the Chief of the Child Exploitation & Obscenity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. After the conference, the USDOJ Chief visited A21’s Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Pattaya and engaged in meetings with A21 Thailand and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security about future collaboration.

Training with the National Network of Health Mediators Working with At-Risk People Groups in Bulgaria

The National Network of Health Mediators is a government agency in Bulgaria that works directly with the minority communities in the country, who are some of the most at-risk groups for human trafficking. We designed a training to help them identify potential victims of trafficking and equip them to report such cases. Through the trainings we’ve conducted so far, we’ve already started seeing an increase in calls to the Bulgarian Hotline.

Training Across the Globe

Every Police Station in Bulgaria Reached with A21 Hotline Information

Our Bulgarian team distributed more than 50,000 flyers—now, every police station in every region in Bulgaria is equipped with the information to take action if they suspect a victim of human trafficking.

This distribution opened opportunities for us to start training local police stations, including the anti-trafficking unit in one of the biggest Roma neighborhoods in Sofia.

915 frontline professionals across Greece trained in victim identification...

including legal professionals, police officers, coast guard officials, border police, psychologists, social workers, and doctors.

A21 UK trained over 150 frontline professionals...

across law enforcement, medical, aviation, security, and transportation sectors.

We trained 4,141 frontline professionals and conducted 285 victim identification interviews around the world.

Reaching the Frontlines: The Impact

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A21 Freedom Report — 2018

Rescue
Collaboration

We believe that collaboration and partnerships are the key to ending slavery.

Whether we are opening a new office or setting up a strategy for fighting trafficking in specific regions, we always want to come alongside infrastructures, law enforcement, governments, businesses, and efforts that are already in place—empowering them to play their unique role in the fight against slavery. Because together, we are better.

Collaborations & Partnerships

Collaboration of Legal Services in Thailand Coordinated Between A21, Legal Firms, Government Officials, and Other NGOs

Through international meetings and collaboration between our team, legal firms, government officials, and a financial advisor, we were able to assist two young victims of sexual exploitation by obtaining legal and financial representation for them.

This has provided the necessary structure for facilitating the disbursement of funds to the survivors.

Partner with Mexican Government and Victim Identification Hotline

Our recent partnership with the Mexican Government, their NGO-operated human trafficking hotline, and two other service-provider NGOs represents one of our goals behind collaboration—building relationships with different levels of government and other organizations to create effective intervention efforts. We have found intervention to be most successful when there are key partnerships involved—all bringing unique services to the table.

Breakthrough Regarding Best Practices in Transnational Prosecution

As a result of conducting victim identification screenings, we became aware of a human trafficking ring between one of our operational countries and the survivors’ country of origin. We initiated and proposed a plan of action to ensure both countries would work cooperatively in the pursuit of prosecution against the traffickers. As a result of A21’s effort, a monumental meeting between government members, prosecutors, and NGOs from both countries occurred to discuss and create a process to work collaboratively, so that best practices in transnational human trafficking prosecutions are implemented. All entities from both countries are continuing to collaborate and share information to ensure that survivors continue to receive legal and aftercare support, even after some of the survivors are repatriated.

A21 Thailand Speaks at the ‘Forensic Interview Training for Thai Prosecutors’

Our team in Thailand was invited to speak at the ‘Forensic Interview Training for Thai Prosecutors’ alongside representatives from the Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC), Police, and another NGO. The training was hosted by the United States Homeland Security Investigations, FBI, INL, and Office of the Attorney General.

Working with Border Forces in the UK and Bulgaria to Identify Trafficking on Planes

Together, we’ve set out to design a mechanism for border forces in the UK and Bulgaria to exchange information in real time when there are suspicions of human trafficking on planes. We have presented this to the Bulgarian border police, and have started discussing this with the British Embassy in Bulgaria.

South African Hotline Displayed on Major Highway in Johannesburg in Partnership with National Freedom Network

Our South African Hotline was shared on a major highway and across four different suburbs in Johannesburg. We are so excited about the potential of what we can do alongside the Spanish Government in the future to end trafficking in the country.

Learning Alongside the Anti-Trafficking Police in Greece

The head of the anti-trafficking police department visited our office in Greece and conducted a training for the hotline staff on how to respond to crisis calls, and which information is useful for the police when they investigate cases.

A21 Freedom Report — 2018

Rescue

We teamed up with the largest job portal in Bulgaria, Jobtiger.bg, to see how many young job-seekers using the platform are at risk of being trafficked. By staging as a staffing agency, we were able to give more than 500 university students a questionnaire based on trafficking cases we have seen. More than 99% of the responses from students showed they were willing to partake in certain actions that would put them at risk of being trafficked.

Developing Relationships in Spain

Our first year with an office in Spain has started off strong, including opportunities to meet and develop relationships with government officials. Through these meetings, they have voiced their desire to partner with us and how they are impact ed by A21’s work. We are so excited about the potential of what we can do alongside the Spanish Government in the future to end trafficking in the country.

“I think it’s when we all work together and give what we can, that we are able to solve this problem—to actually eradicate human trafficking while we are still on this earth.”

— Mi Yung Park, Government Relations Director
Three Traffickers Given the Highest Prison Sentences Ever for Trafficking in Thailand

After months of hard work and collaboration with the Thai authorities, three traffickers were given a groundbreaking prison sentence: between 167-320 years each, resulting in a total of 770 years altogether.

Five other men involved were also found guilty and ordered to pay compensation to the underage victims. Our social workers worked closely with the child victims by assisting them through the legal process and with their court testimonies. Our team also provided medical support, vocational training, and helped set up small businesses for the victims and their families. Since the court victory, we are continuing to assist them as they step back into a life of freedom and independence.

They are more than just prison sentences. They are more than fines. They are precedent-setting victories for the future we want to see. They ensure safety and protection to victims who no longer have to live in fear of their abusers.

They remind us that justice does, and will prevail when we come together and fight for it.

Victories in Court

Traffickers Convicted in Greece

We represented a survivor in court whose main trafficker was convicted with a 25-year prison sentence and 71,000 euro fine. Another defendant received a 16-year sentence with a 50,000 euro fine, and three others were convicted with 15 years each—bringing a loud and clear message in Greece that traffickers will be brought to justice for their crimes.

Major Court Victory for Two Thai Survivors of Child Sex Tourism

After months of strategizing and working with attorneys and government officials, the perpetrator, a U.S. citizen, received 10 years in federal prison in the USA, for traveling to Thailand to pay to engage in sex acts with minors, and was ordered to pay $10,000 in compensation to each survivor. Our team is journeying alongside them by working collaboratively with an attorney and financial advisor to create a life plan for each survivor—ensuring that they are not just provided compensation, but that they also have financial and legal guidance.

We believe this will set a precedent for similar transnational prosecutions in the future—giving victims the financial and legal support they need across borders, and sending a message to perpetrators that they will be prosecuted—no matter where the crime is committed.

How Does Prosecution Work?

Trafficking is like no other crime because the evidence is human beings.

"Your most crucial evidence is individuals, who cannot just be bagged up and put in an evidence room and saved for when you need it for the trial. Their lives go on, and they live with the fear of human traffickers. They live with the possibilities of being intimidated or even trafficked again."

— Philip Hyldgaard, Executive Director of Operations

One Testimony Can Impact Thousands

In one case, because of two survivors’ testimonies, we were able to see the arrest and prosecution of a significant trafficking ring leader, which the police themselves, believe has trafficked up to 1,000 women for sexual exploitation.

Because of the support given throughout the legal process and the care given by our aftercare team, one survivor felt equipped and ready to give her testimony—which gave another survivor who had been victimized by the same trafficker the courage to testify.

One survivor’s testimony. One trafficker prosecuted. Thousands impacted.

Rescue

19 court cases won
38 traffickers sentenced
1,094 years in prison sentences
$460,600 in fines

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A STAFF LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Legal Highlights

Training of Thai Prosecutors
Alongside the U.S. Department of State

Our team was invited by the U.S. State Department, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Program to train select Thai prosecutors in best practices for human trafficking prosecution. Our Government Relations Director conducted a training on using a victim-centered approach in human trafficking and child sexual exploitation prosecutions, and our Director of Aftercare conducted a training on how to respond and understand trauma victims. We also facilitated a tour of the Los Angeles state courts for the Thai prosecutors, demonstrating how U.S. court proceedings work.

Prosecution Best Practices Training in Bangkok

Mi Yung Park, our Government Relations Director, was invited to provide training for Thai prosecutors in Bangkok on best practices for prosecuting human trafficking and online child sexual exploitation cases, along with the Office of Attorney General, local lawyers, and law enforcement partners. This training was unique in that both Thai law enforcement officers and prosecutors attended, learning the benefits of investigating trafficking cases collaboratively.

Survivor Advocacy in South African Prosecution

In South Africa, the law criminalizing human trafficking is less than five years old. With very few legal precedents set in human trafficking cases, each case is vital to setting these standards for the future. One particular case of domestic servitude involved compensation to the survivor. Initially, the process of deciding total compensation was done almost entirely without the involvement or understanding of the survivor.

Our social worker advocated tirelessly for the survivor, to ensure they were included in the decision-making process, and considered both the years lost and disabilities resulting from the abuse. As a result of A21’s advocacy, this case went through a higher level review by the Public Prosecutor’s office, the survivor was consulted throughout the process, and ended up receiving a fairer compensation. This process has opened up opportunities to implement the victim-centered approach to prosecutions in the criminal justice system in South Africa—including the need to consult with survivors throughout the prosecution. With the impact of the abuse and exploitation being taken into higher consideration, we believe it will result in more just sentencing and higher compensation for survivors.

Because professional trainings make the invisible, visible.

Because more identifications lead to more rescues. More rescues mean more prosecutions. And more prosecutions mean we can start dismantling organized criminal rings and changing the statistics.

One of my favorite moments was when a police officer from a small rural town called the hotline suspecting a victim of forced labor trafficking. By talking through what he had seen with our call specialists, we were able to confirm his suspicions and give him a few more indicators to look out for. We then connected him to the Human Trafficking Task Team in his region who then intervened—resulting in the rescue of this victim.

To everyone joining us in this fight, I want to reiterate that one phone call to a hotline can lead to multiple lives rescued. One poster on a hospital wall can inform hundreds of people. One social media post can inspire thousands of your friends. One donation can make all of these things happen. It all starts with one action.

In the next 10 years, I see the hotline’s impact growing a hundredfold in trafficking call volume and rescues. I see a global database that is second to none in informing stakeholders of trends, being a vital resource to trafficking investigations, and informing prevention programs. I see precedent-setting court cases in every country that we operate in, and professional training partnerships with government departments and major corporate stakeholders.

Because of your commitment these last 10 years, I am confident we will take even more ground in the next 10—and that we can, and we will see slavery eradicated in our lifetime.

Katie Modrau, South Africa Country Manager
“No one person can do everything, but every one of us can do something.”

— Christine Caine, Co-Founder
The Restore Strategy is about the possibility of a changed story. The hope of a new life. The vision of a bright future. We walk alongside survivors to see that possibility become a reality. Whether it’s through the hope of opportunities provided in our Freedom Centers or the support felt through our aftercare programs—our goal for every survivor is complete restoration and to feel sense of value and acceptance.

"Some of these survivors have been through the most horrific of trauma that’s unspeakable and even unthinkable. When survivors come into our care, they’re often in this place of brokenness, and they need the highest quality trauma-informed care and rehabilitation. For us, this is really the heartbeat of A21 Aftercare—to come alongside and assist them in their restoration journey—to see them develop a sense of value again, get back on their feet, find health, and ultimately experience independence and freedom from their trauma."

—Dr. Rhiannon Bell, Director of Aftercare

Through your commitment...

182 new survivors came into our care
273 total survivors were in our care in 2018
23 survivors were repatriated back to their home countries
67% more survivors have been in our care throughout 2018 compared to 2017
Dear Azi,

I am so glad that I have you. Ever since I came into your care, I have never lacked for anything. You are always there for me, and have made me happy and proud of myself. Thanks for all that you have done in my life. I feel more brave and stronger than ever before. You filled my world with joy, and I am so grateful.

—Survivor, Greece
Forced to Beg, Freed to be a Child

Her family in Cambodia told her that she was responsible to pay back their debt. She was then trafficked by a family friend in Thailand—forced to beg and sell glow sticks in bars 13-14 hours a day until 4am—beaten if she returned with no money. Through the assistance of the Royal Thai Police, we were able to assist her. Today, this young 10-year-old girl is safe and receiving the support she needs.

Stories of Restoration

Pursuing Professional Training

She came into our care needing medical treatment from years of being trafficked—after some time, she shared with us her dream of becoming a makeup specialist. Since receiving the medical treatment she needed, we’ve been able to support this courageous survivor in starting her professional training to achieve her dream.

From Deception to Dreaming Again

Her friend promised her an exciting opportunity in another country. But when she arrived, she was stripped of her passport, locked up, and sexually abused—then forced to work as a domestic servant while under constant abuse and threats. She eventually became pregnant. Thankfully, the Ukrainian government and law enforcement were notified, conducted a police operation, and she was released. Today, through her courage and resilience, and the financial, medical, and psychological support from our aftercare team, she is back home in Ukraine. She has given birth to a healthy baby and is dreaming for her future again.

Stepping into Full Independence

After spending four years in our care, a survivor in Bulgaria has stepped out into a life of independence. She now has her own job, rents her own place, and is living the life of her dreams. We are so proud of her and still keep in contact with her for any support she may need.

Exploited by His “Employer” to Employing Others

He had been trafficked and forced to work without pay. But today, he is working on a project that is big enough to not only pay him, but to also empower him to hire others. Our team in Ukraine provided him with the necessary tools he needed to take on this building project, which is supplying him with months of work. We are so happy to see him employed and helping others find employment as well.

Forced to Beg, Freed to be a Child

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Aftercare is crisis intervention. It’s ongoing practical support. It’s holistic care and helping survivors reach independence. It’s walking alongside survivors toward full restoration.

This can look like helping them return safely to their home country, providing medical care, or assisting in the development of life skills. Our goal is to see every survivor step into a place of full independence in their community.

What Is Aftercare?

We journey with survivors through different stages of trauma-informed aftercare services in order to meet their individual needs. Our tiered aftercare support offers comprehensive case management that empowers survivors based on their own goals and dreams.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Provides for a survivor’s short-term, immediate needs when they first enter into A21’s care.

- Care pack
- Short-term accommodation
- Medical consultation
- Psychological assessment
- Legal assistance
- Transportation
- Relocation & repatriation

ONGOING PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Provides ongoing practical support tailored to a survivor’s individual needs.

- Remote or face-to-face consultations with an A21 Social Worker
- A21 Care Plan
- Opportunity to participate in A21’s Life Programs
- Financial assistance for accommodation, living costs, health care, and basic needs
- Ongoing medical, psychological, and dental treatment
- Legal assistance

HOLISTIC AFTERCARE

A holistic program with the goal of bringing a survivor to a place of stability, independent living, and engagement with their community.

- Regular face-to-face consultations with an A21 Social Worker
- Easy access to an A21 Freedom Center for continuous support
- A21 Care Plan
- Opportunity to participate in A21’s Life Programs
- Financial assistance for accommodation, living costs, health care, and basic needs
- Support in gaining employment and further education
- Ongoing medical, psychological, and dental treatment
- Legal assistance

COMMUNITY & PROGRAM BASED SUPPORT

Supports a survivor in transitioning to independent living in the community.

- Independence Plan developed by both an A21 Social Worker and the survivor, outlining the survivor’s program graduation strategy
- Gradual reduction in A21 support according to the survivor’s needs

INDEPENDENCE
I think every human being wants a sense of acceptance, value, and belonging, regardless of circumstance. Often these qualities have been taken away from our survivors. So beyond providing practical needs, we work with survivors to help meet these core emotional and social needs. Our Freedom Centers are a place where we have seen survivors feel acceptance for who they are, recognize their value, and find a place of belonging in a safe community.”

— Dr. Rhiannon Bell, Director of Aftercare

Our Freedom Centers provide a safe environment for survivors, and our team is committed to helping them take their next steps toward independence: from job searches to counseling, to the simple expression of creativity, to community. Restoring what has been taken away, and renewing hope for a better future.

Rea* Rebuilt Her Life from the Ground Up

She bravely fled from her abusers who had sexually exploited her, and came into our care needing immediate assistance and medical care. Rea had lost everything, but she was determined to rebuild her life piece by piece.

Her strength and persistence was evident from the start. She began participating in our aftercare programs and wanted to make the most of everything our Freedom Center in Greece had to offer, including learning how to speak Greek. With incredible courage, Rea found her first job in a country she was foreign to—all on her own.

But Rea didn’t stop there. She continued coming to the Freedom Center, meeting with our team, participating in our Life Programs, and receiving psychological and social support. Her diligence and hard work earned her a scholarship to a university, and she is attending her first semester of college.

Rea has already been recognized by the principal as being the best student in her class. Today, because of your support, she is feeling empowered, independent, and that “nothing can stop her from living a good life.”

Our Freedom Centers exist to give survivors like Rea the tools they need to pursue their dreams. We are so proud of her and grateful for the support that has given us the chance to give survivors like Rea an opportunity at a new life.

*Survivor’s name and photo have been changed for their protection

“I don’t think about my past anymore. I am thinking only about the present and the future.”

— Rea*
Flourish Peer Support Program

Last year, our USA aftercare team launched a survivor-created, peer support program called Flourish. Through intentional conversations and discussion topics, this program creates a space for survivors to come together and encourage each other on their journeys toward restoration.

This past year, survivors were able to express themselves through vision journals—an avenue where they can visualize and process each week what feeling, living, and staying free means to them.

Our team has introduced discussion topics such as integrity, strength, resilience, and empowerment. As survivors have progressed in the program, they have participated in planned outings where they have developed friendships with one another and discovered exciting things to do in their communities.

“Through Flourish, we’ve seen survivors grow individually, as well as encourage and guide one another by acknowledging each other’s strengths.”
—A21 USA staff member

“Flourish has been a safe place for me to come and connect with others. It has inspired me and has reminded me of my own strengths.”
—Survivor, USA

Flourish has been a safe place for me to come and connect with others. It has inspired me and has reminded me of my own strengths.
—Survivor, USA
It’s more than a scarf. It’s the beginning of dreams being fulfilled. It’s the restoration of dignity and value.

Liberty is a part of our social enterprise that employs survivors of human trafficking to provide financial stability, vocational skills, community, and a place for their dreams to come alive. For some survivors, Liberty is the first income they’ve ever received.

Currently, Liberty produces handmade scarves. By knitting scarves, survivors are fighting slavery. By purchasing one, you are too.

In 2018, survivors made 293 scarves through Liberty.

“Knowing that the A21 team believed in me gave me courage to pursue my dreams.”
—Survivor, Liberty Employee, Bulgaria

From Knitting Scarves to Living Her Dream

When she came into our care, this survivor started knitting scarves as a therapeutic activity. Our team started teaching her how to knit scarves for the purpose of selling them, and worked together with her on how to make the learning process easier for other survivors as well. This is how our social enterprise, Liberty, began.

She became our first Liberty employee and trained other survivors how to knit. By working at Liberty consistently, she was able to achieve independent living, and have the opportunity to work from home to take care of her two young children.

Today, she is living her dream—working as a cook, in full independence.

From Slavery and Sickness to Healing and Independence

This young female survivor had been promised a job in another country, but instead was forced into the sex trade. Thankfully, she was identified by the police and came into our care. We were able to assist her toward independent living and finding a steady job. Sadly, she was diagnosed with cancer and lost her job because of the illness. Our team in Bulgaria came alongside her and provided for the medical, financial, and psychological assistance she needed.

Today, we are thrilled to say she is cancer-free, has found another steady job, and is a part of the Liberty team.

Because of her employment at Liberty, she has been able to live in her own place, furnish it, and pursue another job that she loves.
From a young age, Srey-lynn* was abused and forced to work in Cambodian streets. As she grew older, the money she made started to decrease, and she was trafficked to Thailand where she was then sexually exploited.

One day, our team in Thailand received a call from a local hospital and a nurse informed us about a potential trafficking case. When we walked in, our team immediately recognized Srey-lynn as the child who used to beg on a popular border crossing and was able to identify her as a victim of human trafficking. Our team comforted her, and she started to cry with relief.

With the help of authorities and social workers, she was safely repatriated home to Cambodia. This process would not have been possible without the assistance from our teams based in both Thailand and Cambodia, and the law enforcement that worked alongside us to assist her to safety. In the time she had been trafficked, Srey-lynn had suffered severe damage to her teeth. She was free, but was afraid to smile. Embarrassed by these injuries, she wore a face mask in public. Because of supporters’ incredible generosity, our team was able to provide the dental treatment she needed, and she is now smiling anywhere she goes. She then enrolled in an education program for the first time in her life, and we were able to help provide counseling. We are so happy to see Srey-lynn proud of her smile, living with confidence, and completely free.

"Before starting to work with A21, I felt like I didn’t have a future and didn’t want to live to the point of attempting suicide. I was admitted to a psychiatric hospital on three separate occasions. When I came into A21’s care, I had nothing and felt lost—but as time passed, I felt like they were my family. A21 means hope to me. Because of the counseling resources they’ve provided, my confidence, security, and emotional health have improved as I’ve learned how to balance my emotions. While I didn’t have the support of my family, I felt supported because I had A21.

One thing I really enjoyed learning with the support of the A21 team was budgeting. It showed that they not only cared about helping me recover from my trafficking situation but that they also cared about how I was going to live independently. Now, I do my budget every week!

The A21 staff worked hard to learn Spanish so they could understand me, and greeted me in my own language every time I walked in the door. Before A21, I felt lonely and depressed because I have no family in this country; after A21, I feel protected, have confidence in myself, and I see a future for my life."

—Pablo, USA Survivor

Renewed Hope for a Survivor in America

A New Smile for a Survivor in Cambodia

"Survivor’s name and photos have been changed for their protection"
Love Gives

Words are powerful.

For victims of human trafficking, words that were damaging, abusive, and haunting were often an everyday reality. But words that were once meant to deceive have been replaced with those that can help restore.

This year, you wrote words of encouragement, life, and value to survivors through our Love Gives Campaign.

Your words in their hands is the gift they will never forget.
Why Restore?

Because I get to witness the milestones survivors achieve in their daily lives.

Because survivors who have been betrayed by their own family, have committed to building their own.

Because I’ve seen safety, encouragement, and love reverse even the most damaging of trauma.

Because it turns the hope of a better story into a possible reality.

Your partnership with A21 truly makes a difference. While you may not be able to see the impact firsthand, there are hundreds of survivors around the world who are thankful that you chose to use what is in your hands; whether that is financial support, volunteering, or participating in a Walk For Freedom. Every effort matters.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Statistics show that survivors who are simply repatriated to their home country after their rescue are often re-trafficked. Most of us cannot begin to understand the abuse and exploitation they have endured—or the hard work and pain they experience in attempting to find a new normal. Our goal is to provide a safe space and journey with them as they receive support and resources to learn new skills and take steps toward independence in their communities.

A21 is 10 years strong. We have learned a lot, and certainly have big dreams for the future.

Looking ahead, we can’t wait to roll out our community model of aftercare in all of our operational countries. We expect to reach and assist more survivors than ever before through our Freedom Centers, and we envision more social enterprises that can provide safe employment opportunities for our survivors. The future is exciting, and we are committed to growing, learning, and giving it everything we’ve got.

Nina

Nina Hylgaard, European Aftercare Manager
**JUNE 2014**

**IT’S A PENALTY**
A21 became a founding partner of the It’s A Penalty Campaign. The campaign aims to harness the power of sport to protect vulnerable children from exploitation and abuse around the world. It was first launched at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

**A21 BROUGHT PREVENTION MATERIALS AND AID TO 182,431 REFUGEES**
A21 Greece distributed vital prevention materials and built two water containers stationed across six refugee camps in Greece.

**DECEMBER 2015**

**LAUNCHED LIBERTY, OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
Liberty is a social enterprise founded by A21 that empowers survivors of human trafficking to restore dignity, provide financial stability, and disrupt the existence of slavery.

**JUNE 2016**

**PREVENTION BOOKLETS FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN**

**APRIL 2017**

**BUILT FIRST 20 HOUSING SETTLEMENTS FOR REFUGEES**
We completed houses for over 100 vulnerable refugees in a micro-village in Northern Iraq. The refugees also graduated a course to help them overcome trauma.

**APRIL 2013**

**OPENED OUR OFFICE IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**
A21 became the first point of contact for when a new victim is identified and brought to safety.

**FEBRUARY 2015**

**SHINEHOPE PROGRAM LAUNCHED**

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

**77 VICTIMS IDENTIFIED THROUGH OUR 1109 HOTLINE**
The victims had been kidnapped and kept locked in a building. The Greek police and Interpol received the information from our hotline and made the rescue.

**OCTOBER 2014**

**FIRST WALK FOR FREEDOM**
28 walks in 16 countries around the world.

**FEBRUARY 2016**

**SHINEHOPE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**
The campaign enables people to report potential trafficking situations to the UK National Slavery Helpline. In Kent and Essex UK, there was a 300% increase in reports to the police from the public in the first six months. It’s now featured in major airports throughout the UK and Scotland including Heathrow International, Gatwick, Belfast International Airport, and more.

**OCTOBER 2017**

**A21 RECEIVED THE MOTHER TERESA MEMORIAL AWARD**
Our Founders received the social justice award from the Harmony Foundation in Mumbai, India for our work with refugees in Greece.

"WE’VE ONLY JUST BEGUN." — Nick Lenza, Co-Founder & CEO

**FEBRUARY 2016**

**IT’S A PENALTY CAMPAIGN FEATURED AT SUPER BOWL LII AND WINTER OLYMPICS**
It’s A Penalty was featured during the LII Minneapolis Super Bowl and reached 16,182,544 people. During the 2018 Winter Olympics & Paralympics in PyeongChang, we reached 70,176,853 people. During the games there was a 7% increase in calls to this hotline reporting child abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.
From an encounter with a missing persons poster, to a global anti-trafficking organization.

What started 10 years ago has now turned into countless stories of freedom, precedent-setting victories in court against traffickers, and redemptive stories of healing and restoration—but it is only just the beginning.

With every prison sentence dictated by a court hammer, we hear the sound of more. With every victim set free, we see the potential for more intervention. With every survivor fulfilling their dreams through our Freedom Centers, the belief that slavery will in fact be abolished everywhere, forever is reinforced.

Every victory for the one, has compelled us toward what can be possible for the millions.

And while we’ve laid a foundation, we are just getting started.

It has only ever been because of the effort, commitment, and devotion of every person who has come alongside us.

In 10 more years, we see collaboration with law enforcement in Thailand disrupting its sex industry. South Africa’s hotline disarming trafficking rings. Brochures in Mexico preventing slavery before it starts. And Freedom Centers in Bulgaria restoring to survivors the free and independent life they deserve.

Together, we have advanced the fight for freedom. And will continue to see victory after victory as our individual actions multiply—from Mexico, to Ukraine, to India, to America—we will abolish slavery everywhere, forever.

“THERE ARE STILL OVER 40 MILLION PEOPLE IN SLAVERY AROUND THE WORLD. AND WE ARE IN 14 OF 195 COUNTRIES—SO TO ME, THAT MEANS WE HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT.”

—Nick Caine, CEO and Co-Founder
Sponsor Freedom

“I would like to reiterate my thanks. I do not have enough words to thank you for all you have done for me. I don’t know where the resources come from, if it is from companies, people, or organizations, but may their lives be blessed because what they do for us is a blessing.”
— Pablo, USA Survivor

JOIN US ON THE FRONTLINES...
...of everything we do—assisting children off the streets and into safety, answering calls for help in the early morning, restoring value in a survivor’s life through social enterprise, and spreading awareness of human trafficking around the world.

When you decide to Sponsor Freedom, your monthly gift directly moves the fight against slavery forward.

Sponsors are the difference. The difference between manipulation and prevention. Vulnerability and education. Coercion and intervention. Slavery and freedom.

Will you join us on the frontlines?

SPONSOR FREEDOM
Sponsor freedom today: A21.org/Donate

YOUR GIVING

EDUCATES
young boys in Ukraine, protecting them from ever being trafficked

ANSWERS
calls for help to our South African Hotline, assisting victims to safety

PROSECUTES
traffickers for their crimes, bringing justice to survivors

ASSISTS
teenage girls into the care of our Freedom Center in America

GIVE ONCE
Donate today: A21.org/Donate

FUNDRAISE
Fundraise today: A21.org/Fundraise
THANK YOU
"I met our first survivor at a bus station in Greece. Later on, it struck me that she was born in the same year as me. Even the same month as me. We were the same age and we had grown up in these parallel worlds. I had grown up in Denmark in a great family—she had grown up in Eastern Europe in a poor family where she experienced abuse her whole life.

We grew up at the same time not knowing each other or what was going on in our worlds. When I turned 19, I saved up enough money to go to Australia to study. At the same time, she had saved up enough money to escape her situation and move to Greece to start a new life. We were driven by the same motivations to get away from where we were to something better.

I arrived in Australia and had the most amazing three years of my life. She arrived in Greece and was trafficked and exploited—and had her life destroyed. After 3 years of me being in college and after 3 years of her being trafficked, we met at this bus station.

I realized, I had done absolutely nothing to deserve being born in the country where I was, growing up in the family I did. I had done nothing to deserve being loved and having opportunity. At the same time, she had done nothing to deserve growing up where she did, in the family she grew up in. Our whole lives, we were both driven by the same things.

That’s when I realized:

There is one thing that slavery and freedom have in common. They are both undeserved. So the question is, what will I do with my freedom? What will I do with the freedom I have?

I didn’t know about human trafficking, until someone made me aware. And now you’re aware. What will you do? What will you do with the freedom you have?”

Philip Hyldgaard, Executive Director of Operations