REPORT FROM THE MULTI-NATIONAL UNBOUND NETWORK



# UNBOUND 2020 GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT

END HUMAN TRAFFICKING. IGNITE HOPE.

# TOGETHER

#### WE CAN END HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IGNITE HOPE.

In 2020, we pressed on through the challenges of the pandemic, determined to advance the fight against human trafficking. We each played our part, from giving to serving to educating to praying and beyond. Your support has made our work across the United States and around the world possible. And together, we served more survivors of human trafficking than ever before.

Each Unbound location meets the unique needs of its community by working through our three main lines of effort: prevention & awareness, professional training, and survivor advocacy. This report provides a few highlights of the work you made possible through the Unbound network in 2020, along with opportunities to get involved in 2021.

#### MISSION

Unbound supports survivors and resources communities to fight human trafficking.

#### **PREVENTION & AWARENESS**

Unbound educates and empowers youth, spreads awareness through citywide outreaches, and provides human-trafficking presentations to groups and organizations.

#### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Unbound provides training to equip all professionals to use their skills to identify and serve victims of human trafficking.

#### SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

Unbound advocates for victims and survivors by meeting immediate needs, supporting survivors and their families, and connecting each survivor with resources for his or her unique restoration journey.

Pictured below: Unbound staff from all locations on a Zoom call.



# Global Impact earn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

8,597

#### YOUTH EMPOWERED

to keep themselves and their peers safe from the traps of traffickers through prevention education.

352

#### SURVIVORS SERVED

through crisis response and relational case management services provided by a trained team of Unbound advocates.

16,270

COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS EQUIPPED

with knowledge to prevent, identify and respond to human trafficking.

230

WEBINARS HOSTED

to continue providing training and presentations to equip our communities to fight human trafficking.

**595** 

**VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZED** 

to work alongside our 60+ worldwide staff

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We're so thankful for our incredible teams of volunteers! Their passion, dedication and sacrifice impact lives and truly multiply the work of our staff. They help with events, invest in youth, provide professional training, and so much more.



Jenny is a mom of three little boys in Waco, Texas. Her passion for youth in foster care led her to volunteer with Unbound, spending time each week with girls in a group home. She empowers them to stay safe from human trafficking through education, but also through her consistent, encouraging presence. Beyond that, she's found creative ways to enrich the lives of these girls by throwing parties, gathering holiday gifts and playing an instrumental role in having the group home renovated.



Christian served as an Unbound intern several years ago. In 2020, he heard about the opportunity to build a prevention program for boys on probation, and he jumped right back in. His wise, detailed feedback was invaluable. He now serves as the team leader for Unbound Houston's JVUB Boys Program and is recruiting and training volunteers.

Gracia\* was a little girl the first time her mom sold her. She grew up around chaos, with an abusive mother and no dad in the picture. She can count on her hands and toes how many days she's spent in school. By the time she entered high school, her life was a wreck. She was in and out of juvenile detention as she continued to be exploited. Still, she survived.

Her life changed one day when law enforcement picked her up. They found her beaten up and disoriented and took her straight to the hospital. The police officers recognized indicators of trafficking and called Unbound. An advocate stayed with Gracia at the hospital, supporting her through her medical exams and providing for her basic needs. Because of charges against her, Gracia had to spend a few days in jail. During that time, her advocate worked with the jail and DA to get the charges dropped while also finding a safe place for her to go when she got out.

On her birthday, Gracia was moved to a safe, trauma-informed placement where she could get the full-time care and support she needed to heal. On one FaceTime call with her advocate a few months into her time there, it was clear something in her had changed -- she looked nothing like that girl we'd met at the hospital. Her advocate describes her as "one of those people that everyone just loves," and she was shining with this true identity that day.

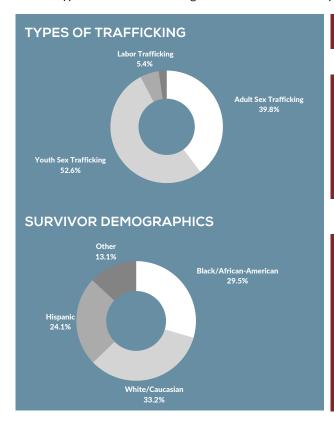
While Gracia focused on her healing, law enforcement arrested her trafficker. We continue to work with other local agencies to make sure she has the support and safety she needs. Gracia is now getting ready to transition to the next stage of her life -- living with a safe guardian and discovering who she wants to be. We can't wait to continue to support her as this strong, resilient, courageous SURVIVOR builds her own life of freedom.

\*Name and photo changed for survivor's safety.



# SERVING STRONG SURVIVORS

As awareness about trafficking grows, so does the opportunity to serve more survivors. Our teams of advocates are honored to provide crisis response and case management services to survivors of all types of human trafficking. We served survivors as young as 12 and as old as 53 this year.



#### **TYPES OF SERVICES**

#### CRISIS RESPONSE

- 24/7 on-call crisis response
- Accompaniment for emergency medical treatment and SANE
- Food, clothing and basic needs
- Arrangement of emergency shelter
- Continued response to urgent needs

# ON-GOING SUPPORT & CASE MANAGEMENT

- Regular face-to-face meetings
- Safety planning
- Harm & runaway prevention
- Goal setting
- Court and interview accompaniment
- Transportation to needed services
- Wrap-around services and support
- Crime Victim's Compensation assistance

# **KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE**



From October 2019 to October 2020, the four Unbound offices in Texas banded together on a project funded by the Office of the Governor of Texas called "Keeping Students Safe." The purpose of this project was to provide prevention education to youth to empower them to keep themselves and their peers safe, as well as to provide training and equipping to school and youth-serving personnel, parents, and caregivers to prevent, identify, and respond to human trafficking.

A few months into the project, our plans collided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant widespread school closure and cancelled presentations. Our teams endured, putting on more than 200 virtual presentations, meeting with youth in safe settings, and expanding the reach of the project throughout the state through a Presenter Licensing Course.

#### 2019-2020 PROJECT IMPACT

**4,050** Boys, ages 11-18

**4,876** Girls, ages 11-18

9.996 School and youth-serving personnel

769 Parents/caregivers

100 People trained to facilitate presentations

580 Trainings, presentations and outreaches

of North Texas youth indicated increase in intent to seek help

93% of Central Texas youth indicated increase in knowledge of human trafficking

of Houston area parents and caregivers indicated the training was relevant to them and their students.

Keeping Students Safe is still going strong, with staff and volunteers conducting prevention education and training throughout Texas. Learn more at unboundnow.org/kss



"Facilitating this program for students and the adults in their lives is a perpetually energizing job. With each student training, we have the opportunity to give youth the information they need to make safe decisions in their lives, recognize their vulnerabilities, and stand up for themselves and others. At every presentation, there were students who wanted to talk after with follow-up questions and even disclosures of grooming and trafficking they had encountered. Some of the most challenging questions today's youth face are about the effects of pornography on our society and on their brains, a topic we don't shy away from.

When educating school staff, the overwhelming realization that their students are at risk is proof that prevention education is needed. Time and time again, we've seen staff recognize red flags with their students and ask us to come speak to them."

- Jessica Sykora, Unbound Waco Keeping Students Safe Project Director

When asked what they'd say to a victim of sex trafficking, here are some of the youth responses:

Q	I	want	you	to	know	
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 $\times$   $\downarrow$  Q

- You have millions of people here for you so don't give up hope.
- You are worth more than they say you are.
- Q Don't be afraid to speak out.
- Q It's not your fault this happened.
- Q You have control over your own body.
- Q You don't have to be alone in this.
- Remember you are worth something no matter what.

# INTERNATIONAL

#### MONGOLIA I INDONESIA I CAMBODIA I SOUTH AFRICA

All international Unbound offices were deeply affected by the pandemic, with intense lockdowns and the significant economic impact on their countries. While some plans were cancelled, 2020 became a year of deeper foundation.

### **MONGOLIA**



Unbound Mongolia's team of five native Mongolian staff continued to advance their projects despite heavy lockdowns. Through their transit monitoring project, they intercepted five girls and a pimp who were about to cross the border. The borders closed in February, and the staff found new ways to prevent trafficking like educating transport drivers waiting in line at the border. They've also secured an opportunity to expand efforts through a new port as soon as the borders open again.

The team reached 915,330 people through social media campaigns like "Closed Door" about pornography, "Real Men Don't Buy Girls" and "Women, You Are Valuable." 2021 will be a major year of growth, as they've partnered with World Vision as part of a project funded by the U.S. Department of State to provide prevention education and training in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

# **INDONESIA**



Unbound Indonesia hired a new Indonesian staff person in 2021, making it a team of two! Closures gave the team a lot of time to prepare for 2021, translating materials for trainings and applying to the Indonesian Medical Board for approval of Unbound training for medical professionals.

# INTERNATIONAL

MONGOLIA | INDONESIA | CAMBODIA | SOUTH AFRICA

# **CAMBODIA**



Unbound Cambodia launched their community program in two communities and invested in high-risk children alongside local Khmer partners at the start of 2020. The program's focus is community prevention education targeted at addressing poverty that leads to trafficking. At the same time, they began a new campaign in the red light district, where they provided applicable lessons in group settings at the bars, helping build capacity and resilience for these women.

The arrival of the pandemic shut down the bars and access to the communities, so the team shifted to training new partners who had access. The year ended on an exciting note -- they hired two local Khmer staff!

# **SOUTH AFRICA**



The highlight of 2020 for Unbound Cape Town was the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion reaching community leaders of an impoverished community, along with police and government leaders on the topics of gender-based violence and human trafficking. Afterward, the police department requested Unbound training for all city police. They also educated 3,500 youth and trained 250 school personnel.

# UNBOUND GLOBAL

#### END HUMAN TRAFFICKING, IGNITE HOPE.

Dear Friends,

We raised our hands in 2012 to say we couldn't ignore the impact of human trafficking in our communities, and we were determined to figure it out. We've learned from and leaned on so many others along the way, and we're forever grateful for the partners who continue to link arms with us and for the survivors and communities we serve who teach us each day. And we're grateful for you -- the people who carry this work through your interest, involvement, prayers and support.

Across the world, we now have more than 60 staff, including 15 full-time, specially trained advocates. I am so grateful that God continues to add to us, because growth in our offices means more freedom in more lives in more communities around the world. Moving into 2021, we are full of faith that the seeds planted in the challenging circumstances of 2020 will bear great fruit. Although we served more survivors than ever last year, we're believing for more -- more to be recovered, served and supported. We're believing for wide open doors in our communities to empower youth to stay safe and to equip adults to intervene.

One of my greatest joys in this work is seeing our international offices meet the needs of their communities. At Unbound Global, we provide grant funding to our international teams, and in 2021, we can fund all the needs of our four international offices for just \$125,000. I invite you to join us in this for a truly meaningful impact in these countries. However you are participating in the fight against human trafficking, thank you for showing up. Your support means so much as together, we work toward a world free from human trafficking.

With hope,

Susan Peters

Founder & Global Director

Auga Potera



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