2020 Freedom Report



REACH

Educating and equipping everyone to understand, identify, and reduce the risk of human trafficking

RECOVER

Partnering with authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of traffickers

RESTORE

Empowering survivors of human trafficking on their journeys toward restoration and independence

Injustice did not stop. Therefore, we did not stop.



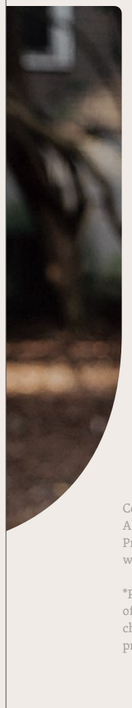
2020 was a year that no one saw coming, as COVID-19 took the world by surprise. Global shutdowns, unforeseen setbacks, and a feeble economic climate increased vulnerabilities and the risk of exploitation worldwide. But 2020 was also a year marked by resilience, perseverance, and increased innovation in the face of one obstacle after another. Our team pivoted hundreds of different ways over the last year, and we're more committed than ever to seeing slavery abolished—once and for all.

And that was only possible because of your support. Together, we continue to fight human trafficking head-on—reaching more people with awareness, assisting more victims to freedom, and witnessing more breakthroughs for survivors in our care than ever before. This year alone, we had our highest average survivor caseload. And during a year when it was exceptionally challenging to find employment, over 70 survivors in our care secured jobs.

We were unable to gather in person for our annual Walk For Freedom in cities around the world, so in its place, we hosted the largest-ever gathering of abolitionists online—known as the Global Freedom Summit. From small towns to big cities and laptop screens to neighborhood streets, the Global Freedom Summit was broadcasted across 71 countries in 20 different languages. Over 125,000 people gathered online in countries around the world to end human trafficking.

What did we learn from 2020? That your voice, your actions, and your commitment matter—perhaps more than ever before. Because you kept showing up in the face of uncertainty, our teams were able to reach, rescue, and restore lives around the world. Together, we're on a mission to end human trafficking. And we're getting closer every day. Thank you for standing in this fight with us.

Nick & Christine Caine, *A21 Co-Founders*



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*Photos and names of survivors have been changed for their protection as appropriate.

Human Trafficking & COVID-19

While the world around us is rapidly changing, we press on. Nothing will stand in our way. Because when we fight for the one, we fight for all—until freedom has the final word.

It's no surprise the influence of COVID-19 in 2020 directly impacted human trafficking, increasing vulnerability and exploitation worldwide. But injustice did not stop amidst a global pandemic. And therefore, neither did we. With your support, we fought harder and faster to bring freedom to more lives—spreading awareness locally and globally, creating brand-new prevention tools, keeping our human trafficking hotlines running 24/7, assisting victims to safety, and providing survivors with the highest level of care possible. Your support equipped our team to do the work—to pivot quickly in the face of uncertainty, finding innovative ways to reach people with awareness, assist victims out of exploitation, and restore survivors to a life of freedom regardless of what was happening in the world. As a result, 2020 was one of our most impactful years yet. Here's the impact of COVID-19 on human trafficking—and how we responded.



1

Increased Vulnerabilities

Unemployment, financial instability, and global lockdowns led to increased vulnerability for people everywhere. The risk of exploitation skyrocketed due to greater restrictions, limited access to resources, and people being willing to take greater risks for employment. In response, we launched digital and mass media awareness campaigns to equip the general public to understand, identify, and reduce the risk of human trafficking.

2

Increased Online Exploitation

Online activity was at an all-time high, and so was online exploitation. More young people were home from school and spending time online unsupervised, making teens and children more vulnerable to recruitment than ever before. We spread awareness and prevention material to equip people everywhere to stop trafficking before it occurs with safe employment and digital safety guides.





3

Traffickers Changed Their Tactics

Traffickers moved their tactics online to platforms like social media and online gaming to recruit and exploit vulnerable people without leaving their homes. Additionally, traffickers targeted men and women with financial vulnerability through false job advertisements. We assisted with safe accommodations, financial support, and job readiness training for survivors facing economic vulnerability due to unemployment.



4

Decreased Victim Identification

Victims trapped in exploitation were less likely to be identified due to global lockdowns and higher travel restrictions, making our national human trafficking hotlines the primary line-out for many victims caught in slavery. We enabled our hotlines to operate remotely 24/7 to identify and assist victims in trafficking situations and collaborate with local police on rescue operations.

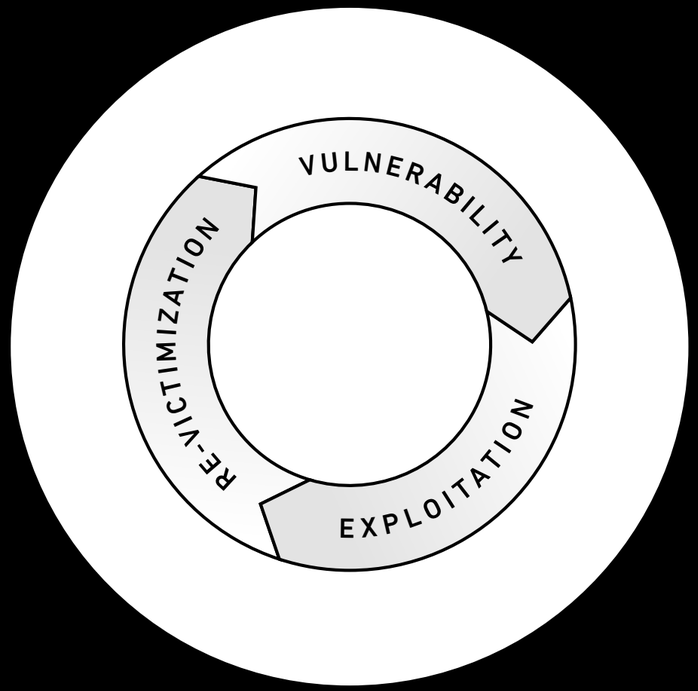


5

Increased Vulnerability to Re-victimization

With limited access to assistance and services, including housing, stable employment, and healthcare support, survivors of human trafficking were more vulnerable to further exploitation. We provided virtual counseling, healthcare support, tablets, mobile devices, and internet data to help survivors stay connected and delivered essential care packages to individuals in our care.

The Problem:
A Global Crisis



Over 40 million people are still enslaved in the world today. That's 1 in every 200 people worldwide. And what does every victim of human trafficking have in common? Vulnerability. This is the global crisis of human trafficking. It's low in risk, high in profit. Hidden, but in plain sight. Fast-growing, complex, and generating billions each year by exploiting millions of people for their bodies and labor.

Vulnerability

An individual becomes vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation when they are exposed to risk factors like instability, violence and abuse, poor education, substance misuse, poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. These factors can weaken defensive measures and make them more susceptible to trafficking and exploitation.

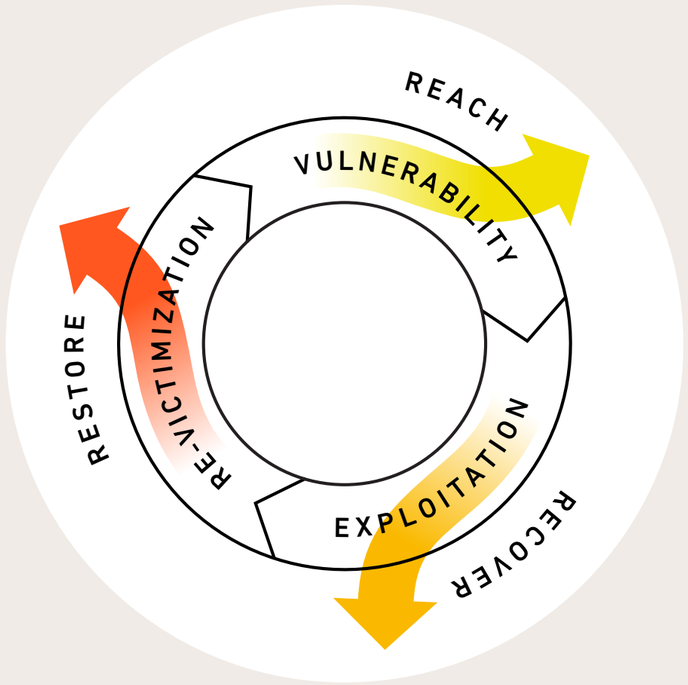
Exploitation

Victimization occurs when someone is coerced, deceived, forced, or when there is an abuse of power. This can look like false job opportunities, a loverboy method, or being sold by a family member into labor or sex trafficking.

Re-Victimization

When a survivor exits a trafficking situation, the resulting trauma combined with the original unresolved risk factors perpetuates the likelihood of being re-exploited, and the cycle of trafficking continues.

Our Solution:
A Radical Hope



We are driven by a radical hope that the cycle of human trafficking can be broken. Since 2008, we've seen awareness prevent trafficking on a massive scale, human trafficking hotlines and professional trainings lead to the identification of victims, and countless lives restored to freedom through our model—reach, rescue, and restore. We know how to stop the cycle of human trafficking. And with your help, we will.

Reach

Equipping people everywhere to understand human trafficking through educational curriculum, prevention resources, and awareness campaigns. When people know the indicators and risk factors, they can often stop exploitation before it occurs.

Recover

Partnering with authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of human traffickers through programs like hotlines, child advocacy centers, identification trainings, and legal support.

Restore

Empowering survivors to a life of freedom and independence through holistic aftercare, including medical and psychological care, safe accommodation, relocation services, and vocational and job training support. Designed to reduce the likelihood of re-victimization while restoring hope in a bright future.

Proven Solutions Around the World

Because the problem looks different everywhere, so does our solution. Our programs are designed to work together or stand alone—filling critical gaps in the countries and communities where we work.

Reach



Presentations

Educating audiences on the problem of human trafficking and how everyone can be part of the solution.



Walk For Freedom

An annual day of global awareness and local action in the fight against human trafficking.



Primary Prevention Program

Three child-centered, play-based sessions to empower children to protect themselves and others from exploitation.



Education Curriculum

School-based curriculum designed to engage students to recognize and respond to the threat of human trafficking.



Can You See Me? Campaign

Public awareness campaign that uncovers regional-specific scenarios of trafficking and provides people with tools to report suspicions.



Human Trafficking Awareness Program

Three session video series and resources to educate and mobilize groups of people to take action.

Restore



Aftercare Services

Trauma-informed holistic support services provided to survivors of human trafficking, including medical and psychological care.



Freedom Centers

Drop-in day centers that are designed to empower survivors with the skills and resources to restore wellness, reintegrate into society, and live independently.



Accommodation

Independent long-term housing that provides survivors with safe and stable accommodation.



A21 Home

An emergency shelter that accommodates survivors in the initial months following their freedom from exploitation.



Relocation Services

Domestic and international relocation and repatriation services for survivors of human trafficking, in addition to worldwide referral of aftercare services.

Recover



Victim Identification Operations

Proactive efforts to identify and assist victims out of human trafficking, often in partnership with local law enforcement.



Child Advocacy Centers

A safe environment for children to disclose exploitation, using a child-centered approach to collect court testimonies and provide aftercare services.



National Human Trafficking Hotlines

A 24/7 confidential reporting resource used by the general public, victims, and law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking and report suspicions.



Professional Trainings

Training individuals most likely to encounter victims of trafficking in their profession to recognize the warning signs and respond using a victim-centered approach.



Legal Assistance

Coordinating legal services and providing legal representation, and support for survivors during legal proceedings, such as the prosecution of their traffickers or immigration assistance.

Global Highlights



125,000 people across 71 countries were mobilized to take action through the Global Freedom Summit

70+ survivors in our care secured jobs during 2020's challenging economic climate

300+ new billboards launched nationwide, reaching up to 70 million people in the US

Celebrated four years of the human trafficking hotline in South Africa

Opened a New Freedom Center in Cape Town, South Africa

Awarded the 2020 Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons for our USA North Carolina operations

Secured freedom for 235 victims of trafficking

Assisted 302 survivors in 2020 while welcoming 130 new survivors into our aftercare services

Created A21's first online e-module, Human Trafficking: A Global Crisis

Signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Cambodia

Assisted 105 legal proceedings of survivors, sentencing 13 traffickers to a combined 316 years in prison

New forensic audio and video equipment was donated to the Child Advocacy Center in Cambodia

REACH



Reach is the difference between vulnerability and safety.

By raising awareness and educating people everywhere on the realities and risks of human trafficking, we're breaking the cycle of modern-day slavery, preventing exploitation before it occurs—one student, one educator, one parent, one child, one bystander at a time.

2.4M
people made aware of human trafficking

728K
students educated on the risks of exploitation

688.5M
people potentially reached through the Can You See Me? campaign

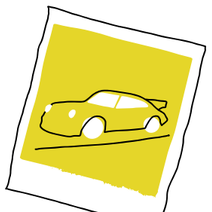
41.5K
at-risk adults and children reached with prevention materials

3.5K
families equipped with digital safety information through Parent Guides



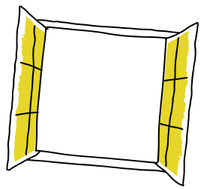














Meet Gia*

Halfway through third grade, she was taken out of school to help support her family.

Growing up in an underprivileged home in Cambodia, Gia's family struggled to generate enough income to eat.

In her teenage years, she felt more pressure to support the family financially. One day, a woman approached Gia with pictures of big houses, nice cars, and happy families. The woman offered a solution—marry abroad to have a better life and provide for her family.

Desperate to help, Gia accepted and packed her bags. But when she arrived abroad, she was locked in a room and stripped of her legal documents. Abused since day one and forced into sexual exploitation, Gia lost hope of ever seeing her family again.

Until one day, a couple noticed she was trapped. The couple was aware of human trafficking and helped Gia escape through an open window. Gia braved the dangerous journey across the border back to Cambodia without legal documents. Upon her return, she was referred to A21's aftercare program.

Today, Gia is safe, free, and taking steps towards restoration—regaining her strength through counseling, life skills training, and vocational support to restore a life of independence. We're proud of Gia's accomplishments and grateful to be part of her journey to freedom.

The couple's awareness was the difference between exploitation or freedom for Gia. Thank you for helping us spread awareness and prevention to everyone, everywhere.

*Survivor name and photo may be changed for her protection.



On October 17, 2020, abolitionists worldwide...

hosted over 2,000 events

mobilizing 125,000 people

across 72 countries

...to take local action against human trafficking.





Global Freedom Summit

The largest-ever online gathering of abolitionists.

Thank you for joining us in this fight. Even when it looks different. Even when times are tough. Even amidst uncertainty and chaos. There is one thing that unites us all—freedom for every human life.

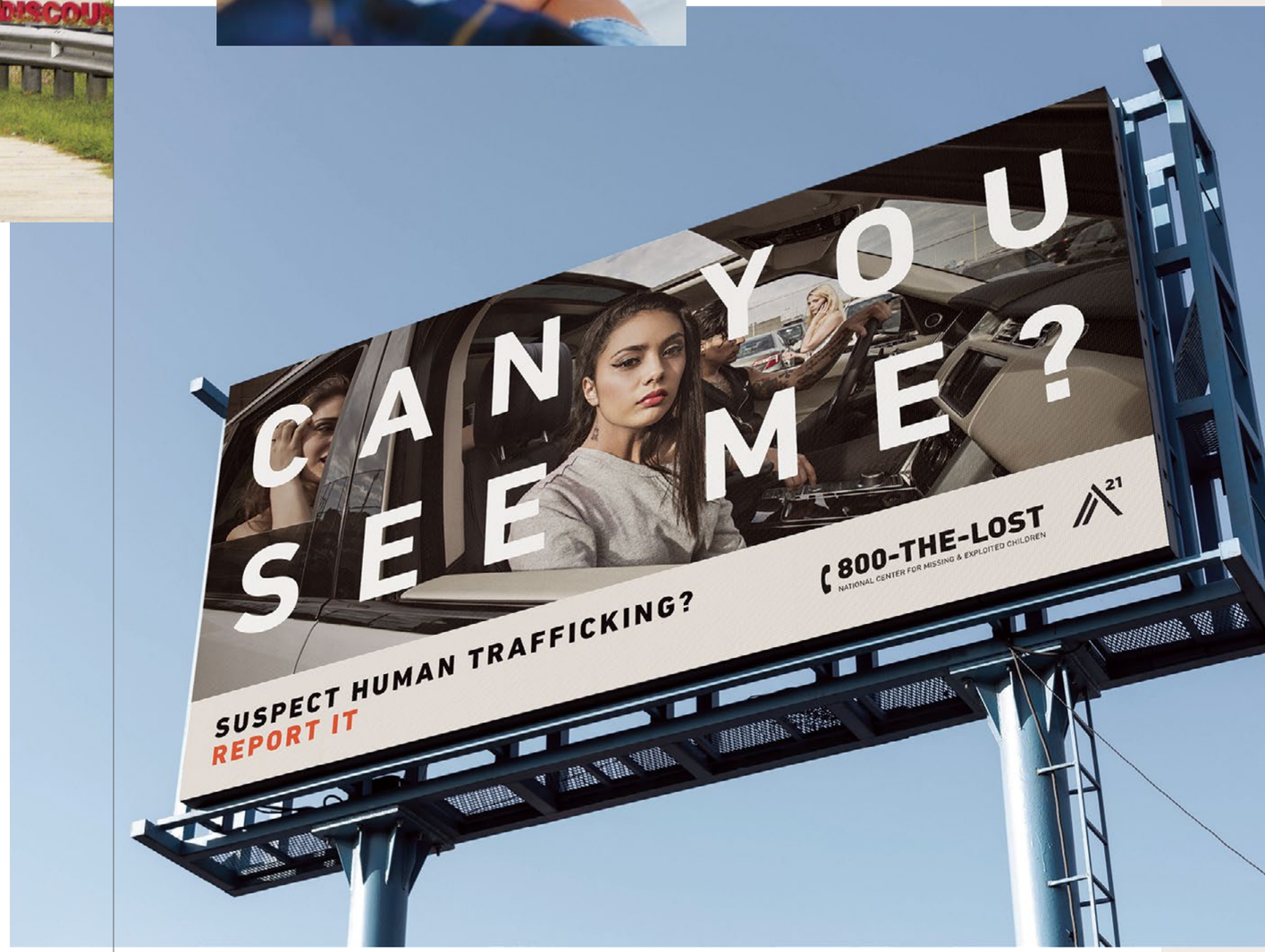
Thousands of people rallied together to raise awareness and advocate for freedom in their cities, towns, and local communities across the globe through this one-hour summit, broadcasted in 20 different languages. Over 100 million people were made aware of human trafficking due to social media posts, the live broadcast, and press surrounding the Global Freedom Summit.

Thanks to the generous support of people like you, we exceeded our match donation of $50,000 by three times in less than 72 hours. Every dollar raised through the summit was reinvested in freedom, resulting in:

- Trauma Counseling for Survivors
- Vocational Training for Survivors
- 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline Support to Rescue Victims
- Legal Support to Bring Traffickers to Justice
- Expanded Preventional Campaigns







Can You See Me?
United States

Spreading awareness to cities near you.

New Partnership Leads to US Billboards

In 2020, we launched a new partnership with Lamar Advertising to bring the Can You See Me? campaign to more than 300 billboards in 48 cities across 26 states, reaching an estimated 70 million people with awareness.

The Can You See Me? Campaign is a vital tool in spreading awareness and equipping people to report suspicions to their National Human Trafficking Hotline. This campaign educates the public on indicators of trafficking and real-life scenarios—and most importantly, how to report it.

Taking It One Step Further

We invited abolitionists all over the U.S. to help us spread the message of Can You See Me? by locating the nearest CYSM billboard and posting a photo with the hashtag #WeSeeYou. Thousand of supporters rallied behind this idea, sharing photos of billboards nationwide to ensure as many people as possible are made aware of human trafficking in their region and know how to report it.

By partnering with law enforcement, governments, businesses, and NGOs, our goal is to turn awareness into action–knowing that an increase in reports can lead to an increase in victim identification.







New Safety Guides

Education is essential to end human trafficking.

This year, your support made it possible for our team to write, develop, and launch new guides in response to increased risk factors resulting from COVID-19—equipping parents, educators, job seekers, and organizations to turn vulnerability into safety.

Parent Guides

While many minors spent more time at home in 2020, the risk for online exploitation, especially among teens and children, increased. We saw traffickers target more young people on virtual gaming and social media platforms by pretending to be someone they're not.

That's why we launched two Parent Guides, one for kids ages 6–12 and one for teens ages 13–17. These guides are designed to help parents start conversations about human trafficking—what it is, how to identify it, and how to prevent it.

Primary Prevention Program

For the past five years, A21's Primary Prevention Program has been piloted throughout Southeast Asia—reaching an estimated 7,000 children. It is the first of its kind that that aims to educate kids ages 6-12 on key topics such as child rights, safe and unsafe migration, and human trafficking in a play-based, age-appropriate format.

In 2020, A21 launched this program in English, Thai, and Khmer. In partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University, this program is currently undergoing a longitudinal research study with 123 facilitators to evaluate its effectiveness. A21 also had the opportunity to partner with Compassion International for worldwide distribution.

Safe Employment Guides

The Safe Employment Guide is A21's newest guide geared to educate people about labor trafficking, provide safe job searching tips, recognize potential false advertisement indicators, and ensure people are protected while searching for employment.

The Safe Employment Guide is available in eight different languages, and the Parent Guides are available in 12 different versions for the countries we operate in. Together, we're educating the masses on the risks of child exploitation, false job advertisements, and digital recruitment tactics in response to COVID-19.

Download guides at A21.org/Education

Reach Around the World



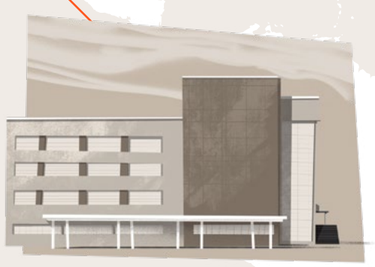
My Freedom Day CNN

On March 11, 2020, awareness was raised, and freedom was celebrated all over the world. Students led the way to end modern-day slavery by hosting events at their schools and sharing what freedom means to them across social media platforms. A21 hosted 11 events and reached 799,452 people through social media.



Raising Awareness at Super Bowl LIV in Miami

A21, alongside It's a Penalty and The Soap Project, equipped 500 volunteers to distribute the national hotline number and a list of missing children to over 400 hotels and to Uber drivers in the Miami area leading up to Super Bowl LIV. In the weeks surrounding the Super Bowl, four missing children were recovered, 22 victims were identified, and 47 traffickers were arrested.



Pamphlets Distributed to Migrant Centers Throughout Mexico

A21 piloted the first Latin America scenario of the Can You See Me? Campaign resulting in an estimated 4 million people receiving awareness and 700 police officers being trained in partnership with the hotline and government. In addition, 37,000 prevention pamphlets were distributed in migrant centers across Mexico, and in one of the centers where the campaign pilot was taking place, 26 minors, including 3 infants, were identified and assisted to safety.



A21 Spain Partnered With National Police

A21 Spain partnered with the National Police to launch a digital safety campaign aimed to help prevent online child sexual exploitation. 4,000 brochures were distributed by the National Police in schools throughout Spain where the Can You See Me? videos were shown and the campaign launch was covered on 12 local news platforms with a potential reach of 3 million people.



Unemployed People Reached With Prevention in Bulgaria

A21 Bulgaria held an online training program for over 100 National Employment Agency employees, covering topics on prevention, the dangers of fraudulent job offers, and the human trafficking hotline's role in job vetting services to combating trafficking. Leaflets and posters with the hotline number have been distributed throughout the country, reaching up to 250,000 people a month.



Hand Sanitizer and Hotline Distribution in Greece

A well-known cosmetics company collaborated with the A21 Greece team to produce hundreds of hand sanitizers with the country's human trafficking hotline number on it. Our team distributed the sanitizer bottles to to individuals experiencing homelessness, unaccompanied minors, migrants, and refugees in Athens. COVID-19 has increased vulnerability, but it has also provided opportunities to reach those in danger of exploitation.



Comic Books Saving Vulnerable Children

Exploitation is threatening people everywhere, especially minors. But through the distribution of comic books during a weekly outreach night on the streets of Cambodia, 876 vulnerable children were empowered with potentially life saving information. These comic books illustrate the warning signs of human trafficking, so children and their parents are equipped to identify and avoid dangerous situations.



Preventing Exploitation in Cambodia During a Pandemic

In Cambodia, we successfully trained 12 districts on strategies to prevent human trafficking and child exploitation. These trainings were conducted in partnership with local authorities to decrease the risks of human trafficking during a global pandemic, and more than 1,000 prevention materials were distributed.

RECOVER



Recover is the difference between exploitation and freedom.

The increase in financial vulnerability and online exploitation impacted our Rescue efforts both locally and globally in 2020. Thanks to your support, new partnerships were established, and breakthroughs emerged as we joined forces with local

195
victim identification operations conducted

105
legal proceedings of survivors assisted

6,065
calls were made to our three national human trafficking hotlines

13
traffickers were sentenced to 316 years imprisonment combined

2,612
frontline professionals trained

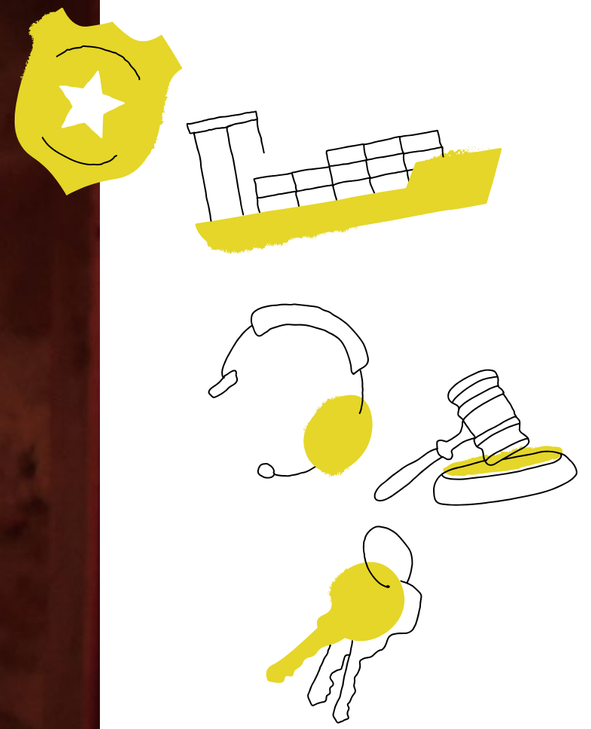
235
victims were identified and assisted





“A21 welcomed me in and gave me a home. They taught me how to pick up the pieces and start over—to find the beauty in life.”

—A21 Survivor



Meet Petya*

Watch Petya’s story here

An ordinary girl who wanted a better life for herself and her friend Avi.

When Petya was told about an opportunity in Bulgaria for a well-paying job, it seemed like the answer. Until she and her friend, Avi, found themselves crammed in a shipping container alongside others. Once they arrived in Bulgaria, they were separated. Petya was brought to a hidden location and forced into prostitution. Days turned to months. Months turned to years. She thought she’d never escape. Until one day, she did.

Petya risked everything and jumped from a balcony. A woman saw her jump and rushed to help. Thankfully, the woman was aware of human trafficking through an A21 poster and called the National Human Trafficking Hotline for help. Our team coordinated with law enforcement to assist Petya to safety.

In our aftercare program in Bulgaria, Peyta received medical care, psychological support, language lessons, and developed skills to help her thrive in a new community. Restoration didn’t happen overnight. But day by day, Petya began to smile and believe that a bright future was possible again.

Because of Petya’s bravery, the police conducted a raid and discovered other victims trapped in exploitation. She later testified in court against her traffickers to end the cycle of human trafficking. Thanks to the support of abolitionists like you, Petya’s journey ends in both freedom and justice.

*Survivor name and photo may be changed for her protection.



National Human Trafficking Hotlines

One call can be the difference between slavery and freedom. 369 potential victims of human trafficking were reported through calls to our national hotlines.

Increased Usage

In 2020, we saw a significant increase in calls to our national hotlines. Not only were calls coming from victims seeking assistance and others reporting suspected trafficking, but due to the rise of false job advertisements, our hotlines also became a job vetting resource.

The South African National Human Trafficking Hotline experienced an 87% increase in calls compared to last year alone. This was primarily a result of our teams pivoting to provide a service that identified safe employment for people experiencing financial vulnerability due to COVID-19.

During the pandemic, including the relevant periods of lockdown, the South African Government identified the National Human Trafficking Hotline as an essential number to call for those reporting or requesting assistance relating to human trafficking. The Hotline turned out to be a primary line by which anyone, including victims caught in exploitation during lockdown restrictions in 2020 could request assistance 24/7. During a year when fewer people were in public or attending large gatherings, the hotline continued to be used by community members and frontline professionals to report suspicions that enabled victims to escape exploitation.

One survivor in Greece called the hotline, and despite travel restrictions and being unable to find an open hotel, our team was able to assist this individual to safety.

Four Years of Impact in South Africa

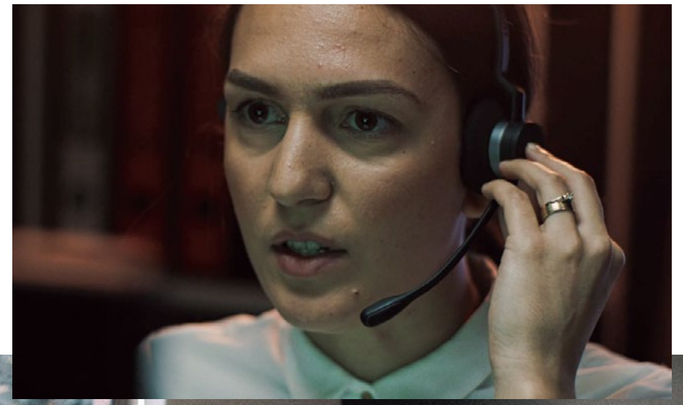
Since the inception of the National Human Trafficking Hotline in August 2016, we've received a total of 24,337 reports to the hotline. Through these calls, hundreds of potential victims of human trafficking have been identified and assisted in South Africa.

The hotlines work in close partnership with many stakeholders to ensure rapid response and effectiveness. Operating 24/7 as a confidential reporting service used by the general public, victims, and law enforcement, hotlines worldwide are collecting data, building cases, and assisting victims out of trafficking situations.

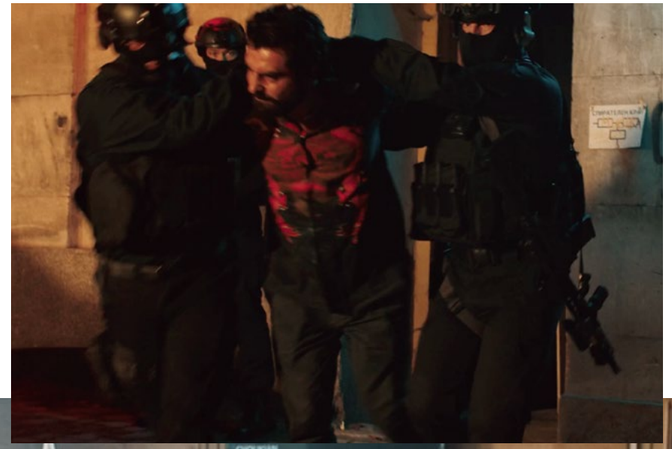
Answering Calls in 200 Languages

Our National Human Trafficking Hotlines in Greece, Bulgaria, and South Africa have received many calls from victims trafficked from another country. They may not speak the language of the country they've been trafficked into and therefore need support in their native language.

Through the use of translation services, we can intervene effectively and assist more individuals to safety. Imagine the relief you would feel after you mustered enough courage to make a call, and then someone assists in your language.







These photos represent scenes in A21's film, "*Petya's Story." To learn more about this particular court case, visit A21.org/Restore to watch the entire story.









Legal Prosecution

Stopping the cycle of modern-day slavery in its tracks.

In 2020, we supported nine survivors in criminal prosecutions and hearings against their traffickers in the United States. Survivor testimonies came in varied forms, including...

- in-court testimonies as key witnesses,
- victim impact statements at sentencing,
- giving personal statements before the court, and
- testifying at other court proceedings.

As a result, several traffickers were arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced in 2020. Two traffickers received life sentences.

We work relentlessly to ensure survivors in our care are aware of court dates, understand the process and their rights under the law, and are adequately prepared. Survivor support in court is critical for criminal prosecution as often survivors must testify while still battling with trauma against the very person who exploited them. Because of you, justice is being served in the U.S. and around the world.

Breaking News

For more stories like these and to stay in the loop, **follow us @A21** or check out **A21.org/Newsroom**

Two Women Free From Sex Trafficking in South Africa

Two females in South Africa are free from sex trafficking. Both endured physical and psychological abuse at the hand of their traffickers. But a hospital worker suspected trafficking, and another bystander reported a tip to A21's National Human Trafficking Hotline number. Both survivors were assisted to safety and received the support they needed to heal and restore a life of freedom through our aftercare services.





Three People Free From Labor Trafficking in Ukraine

We celebrate freedom for three survivors of labor trafficking in Ukraine. One woman was abducted and forced against her will to work for little or no pay. Two men were deceived by a false job opportunity abroad and forced to labor without compensation. But today, all of them are free, in our care, and receiving the support needed to restore their independence.

Three Females Free From Sex Trafficking in Thailand

Freedom from sex trafficking is taking place in Thailand for two minors and one woman. All three of them endured horrific abuse. But their freedom today is why we exist—and it's why your support matters. Because today, these women are no longer experiencing injustice, but instead, they have a chance at a free, safe, and dignified future.





Over 70 Survivors Secured Employment During COVID-19

Over 70 survivors in our care have secured employment. In a time where we expect it to be more challenging than ever, we continue to see survivors take this essential step towards independence—providing them with the opportunity to earn income, cultivate skills, and restore hope in a brighter future.

Freedom for a Young Girl in Cambodia

A young girl traveled to a neighboring country with a man she thought she could trust. But when they arrived at their destination, she was abandoned. Scared and alone, a different man approached her. He offered to take care of her but instead forced her into prostitution. One day, she bravely escaped and was assisted to safety by a partner organization who contacted our team and coordinated her return home.





A Young Boy Is Free From Forced Begging in Cambodia

A young boy was forced to beg on the streets in Cambodia—drugged by his trafficker so he wouldn't use the money from begging to purchase food. After someone in the community gave a tip, A21 partnered with law enforcement and a government social worker to bring the boy into safety. He was welcomed into our care, where we coordinated treatment to help him recover. Our team is journeying alongside him to restore a healthy and safe childhood.

Recover Around the World



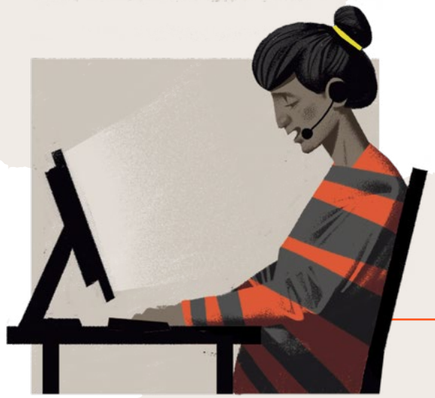
Successful Operation at UK Airport

Last fall, our UK Team was part of a successful joint multi-agency operation at a major UK Airport, including two UK police forces, the National Crime Agency, and UK Border Force. This operation resulted in an arrest of a trafficker and the identification of five potential victims, including two minors.



Trafficker Gets Life Sentence in America

Our North Carolina team celebrated a ground-breaking court victory in 2020. After working with the lead survivor witness for years, a judge sentenced her trafficker to life behind bars—the highest possible penalty for his crimes. This is a precedent-setting court victory for future cases of human trafficking and a significant victory for this survivor and many others.



The Fight for Freedom in South Africa Is Taking Ground

In 2020, many partners supported our goal of promoting online safety among minors. The South African government publicly shared A21's National Human Trafficking Hotline on social media as an essential contact during the public lockdown. As a result, call volume nearly doubled.



A21 Greece Recognized by the US Embassy

The US embassy recognized the work of A21 Greece, and Marina, Greece's Country Manager, was nominated to attend the "International Visitor Exchange Program to Combat Human Trafficking." During this trip, Marina had the opportunity to share best practices, receive inspiration from others working on the ground, and get knowledge from a few of the most well-established organizations in the USA.



Breakthrough in Thailand

A21 Thailand hosted an online networking event with the Australian Federal Police. The meeting focused on the importance of partnership, cross border trafficking, prevention, and the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities. It marked the beginning of efforts to have regular, regional meetings to increase collaboration between law enforcement and civil society organizations.



New Forensic Interviewing Equipment at Child Advocacy Center

We are excited to share that brand new forensic interviewing equipment, provided by Homeland Security and FBI, was installed at our Child Advocacy Center in Cambodia. Local police authorities attended a training on how to use the new equipment and conduct proper child-friendly interviews where the children feel safe as they talk about their experiences.



Launch of Rescue Programs in Cambodia

In 2020, A21 Cambodia launched multiple Rescue programs including child forensic interviews, child-friendly victim identification training for government officials, navigating first legal cases, receiving new forensic equipment at the Child Advocacy Center, and signing a number of Memorandum of Understandings between A21, government officials, and other NGOs. The most significant MOU that was signed in 2020 was with the National Committee for Counter Trafficking.



RESTORE

Restore is the difference between re-victimization and independence.

By empowering survivors to thrive independently—we are reducing the likelihood of re-victimization. From holistic aftercare and safe accommodation to psychological support and vocational training, hope is being restored, and dreams are being renewed—one life at a time.

302

total survivors were assisted in 2020

130

new survivors were welcomed into our care in 2020

Maintained

highest average number of survivors

in our care throughout the year

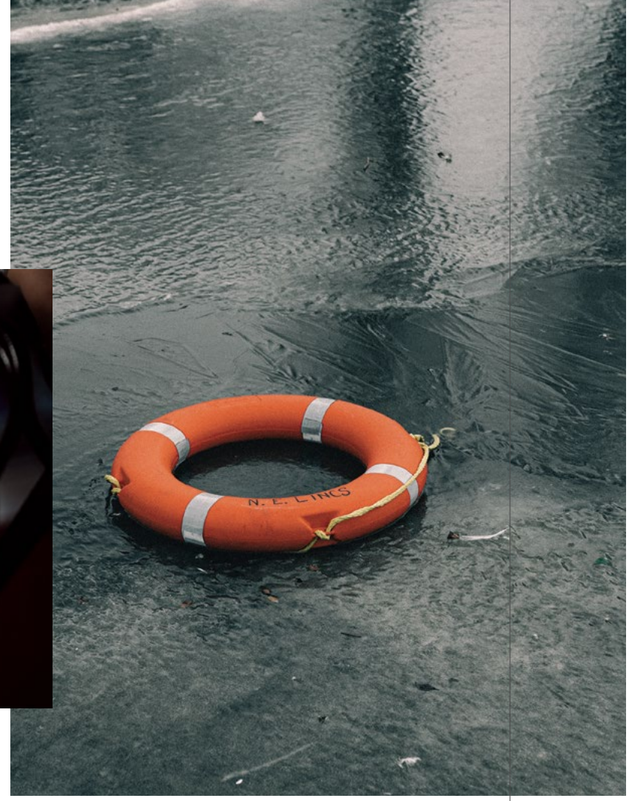
14

survivors were repatriated back to their home countries

4th

Freedom Center was launched in Cape Town, South Africa





Meet Jaha*

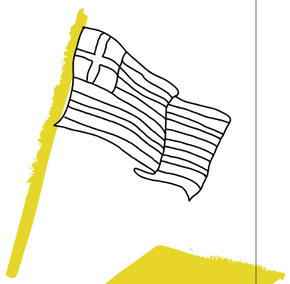
Brave woman builds back life for her and her son, despite all odds.

Growing up in a small African Village, Jaha was promised as a future bride to a local leader. But her father wanted to spare her and sent her away in secret to a relative in another village. Once her father died, the village leader demanded her return.

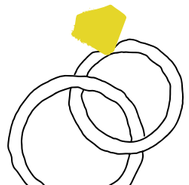
In the middle of the night, Jaha escaped. Over the next few years, she endured a lot of life—she got married, had a child, and became a single mom. But Jaha continued to pursue a better future for her and her son by enrolling in college and graduating as a teacher. However, her local community did not accept her as a single mom with a higher education and career. She was persecuted and forced to leave. In search of the next step, Jaha accepted an opportunity abroad. But upon arrival, she realized the job offer was a lie. She was forced to meet the sexual demands of multiple men—all under the threat of her child's life. Her traffickers watched her at all times. Until one day, she escaped and fled to Greece by boat. Thankfully, Jaha was noticed by a partner organization who called the A21 Greece Human Trafficking Hotline.

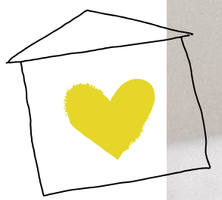
We welcomed her into our care, where she was free, safe, and no longer on the run. Jaha regularly attended our Freedom Center, participating in Greek language classes and A21 Life Programs. Today, she has a job taking care of older adults, is financially stable, and saving to pay for her son's education. Despite all odds, Jaha reclaimed the dignity that was once stolen from her. This is why we fight. This is why we press on.

*Survivor name and photo may be changed for her protection.















Freedom Centers

Where hearts are healed and dreams are restored.

At the core of A21's Restore strategy, Freedom Centers around the globe empower survivors to thrive independently. Rather than falling back into unresolved vulnerabilities, survivors gain the skills they need to rebuild relationships, secure employment, and pursue dreams that were once forgotten. And that's just the beginning.

Freedom Centers are designed to equip survivors to restore wellness, reintegrate safely back into society, and live independently. Through our community-based aftercare model, survivors can take advantage of language lessons, case management support, legal assistance, job readiness training, and group programs alongside other survivors in a supportive community environment.

And it's all possible because of the support of people like you. We currently have Freedom Centers in Bulgaria, Greece, the U.S., and most recently, South Africa.

New Freedom Center in South Africa

In 2020, we launched our newest Freedom Center in Cape Town, South Africa. Key partners attended on opening night, including the Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services in South Africa.

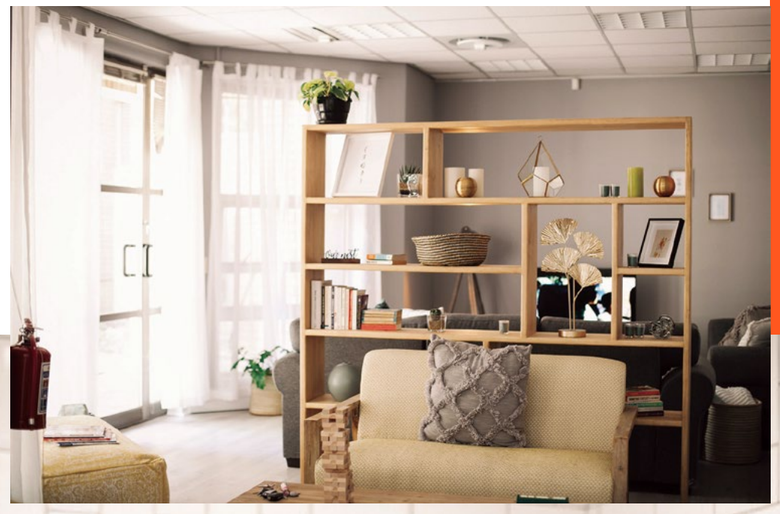
Thanks to the generous support of Dressember, we're able to assist more survivors in South Africa in a safe and welcoming environment. Within these walls, survivors find safety, support, and hope—spared from re-victimization and empowered to live a life of freedom.

Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts To Combat Trafficking

A21 North Carolina is honored to receive the 2020 Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Since 2012, our team in North Carolina has worked tirelessly to provide trauma-informed holistic aftercare services to survivors of trafficking.

Through our U.S. Freedom Center, we offer a community model of aftercare where survivors work with our caseworkers to restore health and independence. We're thankful for our partnerships with law enforcement, community services, and other non-profits doing the hard work alongside us.

This award is given to those with exceptionally courageous conduct, sustained achievement, or particularly innovative efforts to combat human trafficking.











Survivor Independence

A breakthrough year for survivors in our care amidst a global pandemic.

During a year when it was exceptionally challenging to find employment, over 70 survivors in our aftercare program secured jobs. The world watched as unemployment rose and businesses were forced to lay off staff due to national shutdowns. However, we celebrate that more survivors in our care secured safe jobs than ever before—despite the economic challenges of 2020.

Securing employment is an essential step towards independence—providing survivors with the opportunity to earn income, cultivate skills, and restore hope in a bright future. It's more than just a job. It's caring for family, renewing confidence, and increasing self-sufficiency.

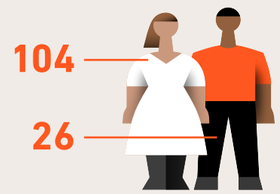
We have seen educational and vocational training help survivors as they journey from deep trauma to a fulfilling life, and we're thankful for the generous support of people like you who provide these resources to survivors around the world. From Bulgaria to Greece to the U.S.—your support is changing lives.

Restore Statistics

130

New Survivors in Our Care

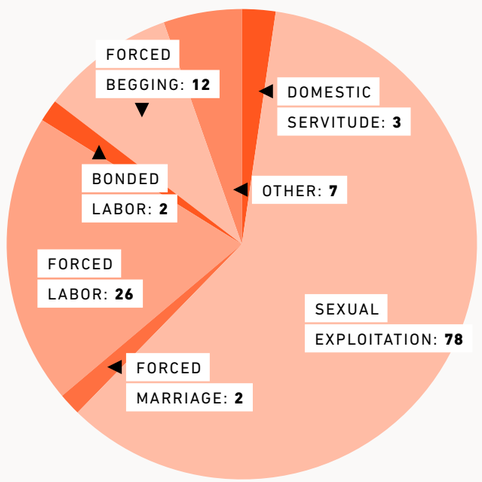
Gender of Survivors



Age of Survivors



Forms of Trafficking



New Beginnings

38

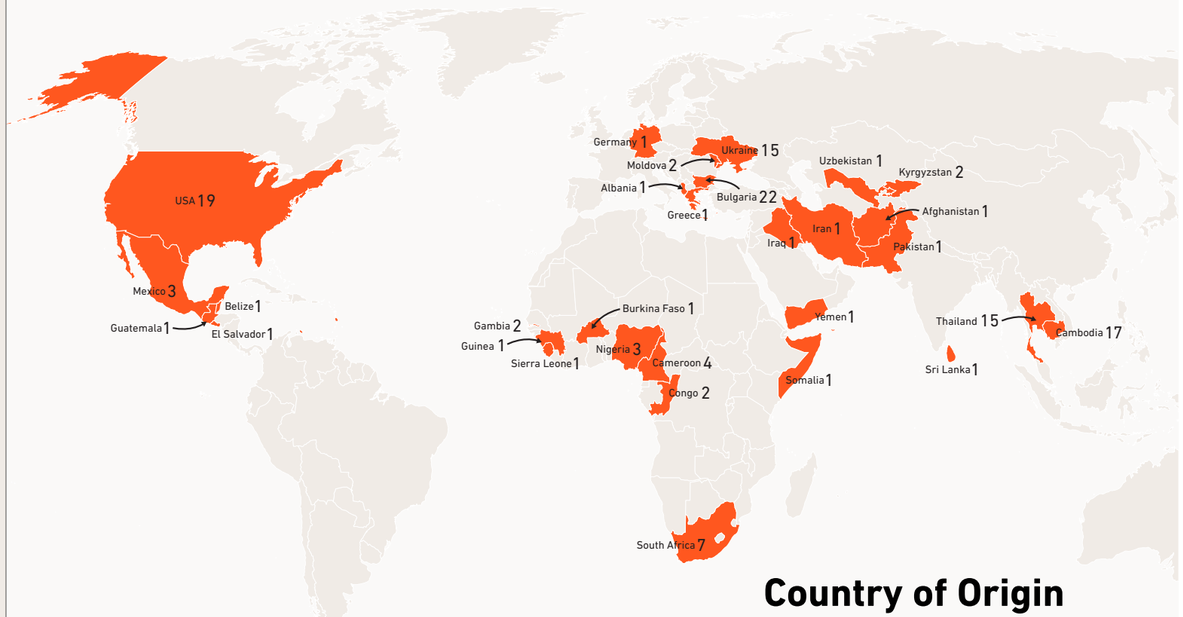
domestic relocations were facilitated

14

international repatriations were facilitated

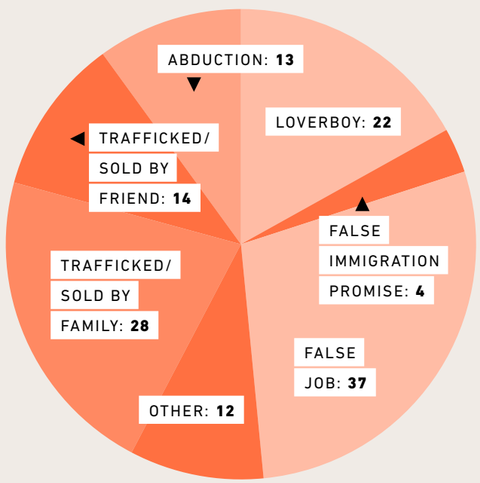
>70

survivors secured employment



Country of Origin

Recruitment Methods



False Job
An agency, acquaintance, or false advertisement that lures the victim with a job opportunity.

Loverboy/Romeo Pimp
A recruiter who gains a person's trust by pursuing them romantically.

False Immigration Promise
An agency or smuggler who promises assistance to a better life in a new country. Upon arrival, the victim is trafficked, usually with a debt held over them.

Restore Around the World



A21 Launches a Christmas Shop in North Carolina

In December, we opened an A21 Christmas Shop for survivors in our care at A21's Freedom Center in Charlotte. The shop provided survivors the opportunity to pick out gifts for their children donated by supporters. These presents helped survivors make Christmas a memorable time for their children—providing confidence and strengthening relationships as they continue their journey to full independence.



Eighteen Survivors Free From Sexual Exploitation Enter US Freedom Center

In 2020, eighteen survivors have come into our care at the A21 North Carolina Freedom Center—each individual with various backgrounds, ages, and experiences. We celebrate their freedom and we are excited to journey alongside each survivor by supporting them with psychological services, housing, employment, and educational training.



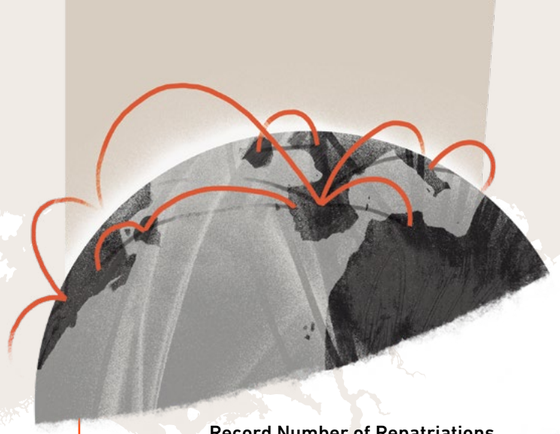
Freedom Centers Around the World Provide Virtual Care

The safety and security of survivors was our top priority in 2020. Our A21 Aftercare teams in Greece, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Thailand, Ukraine, the U.S., and South Africa provided virtual care to survivors, including the technology to stay connected if needed. Despite the challenges of lockdown, we remained committed to equipping survivors with medical, psychological, and educational resources to support their journeys toward independence and stability.



A21 South Africa Provides Survivors and Safe Houses With Care Packages

Our team in South Africa put together boxes for survivors and our partner safe houses that included games, inspirational content, personal hygiene goods, and other items, equipping survivors with essentials and resources to learn and have fun while inside.



Record Number of Repatriations in Bulgaria

One of the services provided by A21 Aftercare is repatriation which is when a survivor of human trafficking is assisted with relocation back to their home country. Even amidst the global restrictions and lockdown challenges due to COVID-19, we are grateful to report that Bulgaria had a record number of 10 repatriations within the last year.



Survivors Graduate Aftercare Programs in Freedom Centers

For every survivor that enters aftercare programs in an A21 Freedom Center, the goal is always healing, support, and assisting them to pursue a life of freedom and independence. In 2020, we celebrated 18 brave and resilient survivors who graduated our aftercare program and stepped into restored lives of independence.



Reunited With Family After Years of Exploitation

After many attempts to escape and enduring severe physical and sexual abuse, a woman in Asia was finally uncovered by law enforcement and assisted to safety. A21 welcomed her into our care, where she met with our team to receive trauma counseling and psychological services. Restoration didn't happen overnight, but we celebrate that she was eventually reunited with her children in Cambodia.



Survivor Starts a Small Business in Cambodia

Amidst the challenges of 2020, a survivor in Cambodia started her own business. When she returned home, she needed a job. Our A21 Cambodia team helped her brainstorm options, identifying her skills and the needs of her community. She decided to start a mobile food truck—where people were lining up as soon as she opened.



The Difference is YOU

Ordinary, everyday people changing the world—a global community of abolitionists, nearly half a million strong.

2020 was a year of endurance. Together, not only did we endure the impact of a global pandemic and one uncertainty after another, but freedom multiplied because people like you took action alongside each other. But there's still work to do. Did you know that if 1% of people in communities worldwide took action, we'd have twice as many fighting against human trafficking as those who are enslaved by it? Imagine a world of 78 million abolitionists—standing together for freedom. How many vulnerable children could be protected? How many victims could be identified, rescued, and restored to a life of freedom? How many traffickers could be convicted? The numbers are in our favor. We can stop human trafficking. But it's going to take each one of us doing our part. Will you join us?

Choose an area to invest in by shopping our

Freedom Catalog

A21.org/Give

Every purchase contributes to freedom for another life.





















for 12 Years of

raising awareness

assisting victims out of exploitation

seeing survivors restored to a life of independence

bringing traffickers to justice

breaking the cycle of human trafficking

The progress we made together in 2020 was a glimpse of what's possible for the millions still enslaved today. Because of your support, freedom is advancing farther and faster than we could ever have imagined. And we're just getting started. Together, we will continue to fight—until the day comes that every man, woman, and child is free. When slavery is a thing of the past and injustice is no more. We can't wait to celebrate that day with you. Thank you for making freedom possible.



Fighting
human trafficking from locations
all around the globe.

@A21Campaign @A21 @A21

A21.org