2021 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 as they journey toward restoration and independence

Freedom Report 2021

04 “A Record-Breaking Year”

06 Problem & Solution

08 Reach, Rescue, Restore

10 Global Highlights

REACH

14 Feature Story: Secrets

16 Global Broadcast & Walk For Freedom

18 A21 Latin America & CYSM LATAM

20 Safety Guides

22 Reach: Around the World

RECOVER

26 Feature Story: The Recruitment

28 Hotlines

30 Criminal Prosecution

32 Breaking News

34 Recover: Around the World

RESTORE

38 Feature Story: Maria’s Story

40 Dallas Freedom Center Launch

42 Record-Breaking Aftercare

44 Survivor Demographics & Stats

46 Restore: Around the World

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



Thanks to you



It was an unforgettable year of progress in the fight against human trafficking. Since 2008, we’ve seen the power of individual action, and this year was no exception. Because of your unwavering support, A21 had our most impactful year yet. Breaking nearly every operational record to date and more than doubling the number of victims identified and assisted within a single year.

And it doesn’t stop there. From launching our first office in Latin America to reaching more minors with prevention than ever before, 2021 is one for the books. In partnership with law enforcement, we conducted our largest single rescue operation, securing freedom for 130 victims in Ukraine. We also welcomed a record number of survivors into our Aftercare programs worldwide.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to every person who made this possible. Without your action and advocacy, we wouldn’t be able to reach over a billion people with awareness, assist hundreds of victims out of exploitation, and restore more survivors to a life of independence than ever before.

The realities of human trafficking remain daunting. But our progress in the fight for freedom is remarkable. Around every corner, there’s an opportunity to make a difference, and we hope you’ll continue to seize it. Because when you choose to be part of the solution, change happens. Your support is interrupting and dismantling the cycle of human trafficking—vulnerable people are being protected, and victims are finally experiencing the freedom and restoration they deserve.

We believe the actions of ordinary people like you can change the world (we’ve seen it firsthand), and we have a feeling you believe that too. Thank you for joining us on this journey to abolish slavery everywhere, forever. Let’s take a moment to celebrate the impact we made together in 2021 as we continue to fight for the one. Because when we fight for the one, we fight for all.

Nick & Christine Caine,
A21 Co-Founders

A Record-Breaking Year

2021 was an unprecedented year in the fight for freedom, and none of it would have been possible without your support.



241,966 Minors Reached With Prevention

That's 8x the number of young people reached in previous years. Thanks to the distribution of our resources, outreach events, school partnerships, and campaigns—we reached more minors with prevention and trained over 10,000 teachers in 2021.



3.6 Million People Made Aware of Trafficking

Campaign partners worldwide and our global community of supporters made this milestone possible. We launched 11 versions of the Safe Relationship Guide, published Impact Reports for eight countries, and expanded awareness campaigns into Guatemala, Mexico, and Spain.



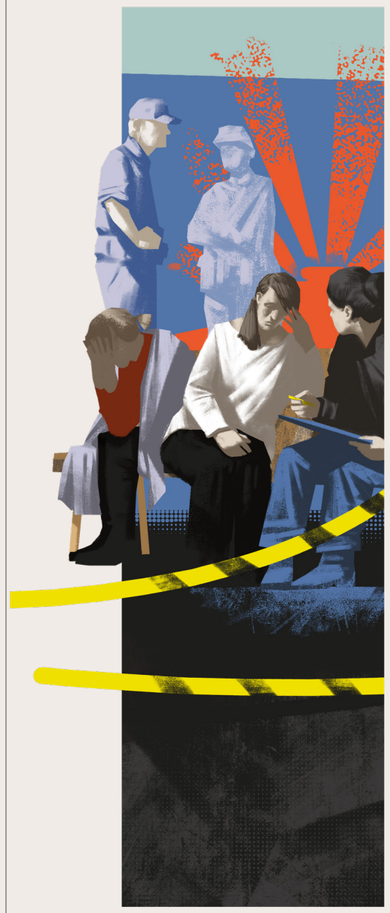
587 Victims Identified and Assisted

In 2021, more victims were identified and assisted, representing nearly 25% of total victims assisted in the history of A21. This results from increased public awareness, hotlines calls, professional trainings, and expanding local and global partnerships.



Released More Data While Maintaining Survivor Privacy

A21 was part of the most extensive data set of human trafficking cases made public via the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative. This partnership preserves the anonymity and safety of our victims while allowing A21 to release more data than ever before.



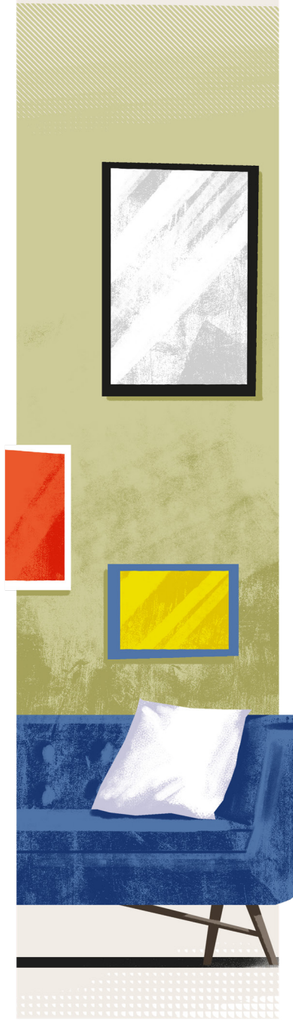
A21's Biggest Rescue Operation

In partnership with law enforcement, our team in Ukraine conducted the largest operation to date, securing freedom for 130 victims of trafficking. That's 130 people who were once exploited, and are now living in freedom—what a reason to celebrate!



Doubled the Number of Court Cases Won

Every time a survivor's story is shared in court, it raises awareness in the judicial system—breaking the cycle of human trafficking. In 2021, 26 court cases ended in justice, sentencing 30 traffickers to prison and eight survivors receiving restitution.



More Survivors Entering Care Than Ever Before

In 2021, we welcomed 209 new survivors but assisted 390 total survivors throughout the year, including 42 minors—a 60% increase from 2020. Our Aftercare teams noted fewer survivors left care prematurely, meaning more survivors graduate from our program or transition out once their needs are met.



Caring for More Survivors Monthly

We had an average of 174 survivors in our care per month, increasing our monthly average from previous years. We assisted 121 domestic relocations (3x the previous year), 76 international repatriations (5x last year), and 141 survivor referrals to partner care. Additionally, 121 new jobs were secured.



Vulnerability

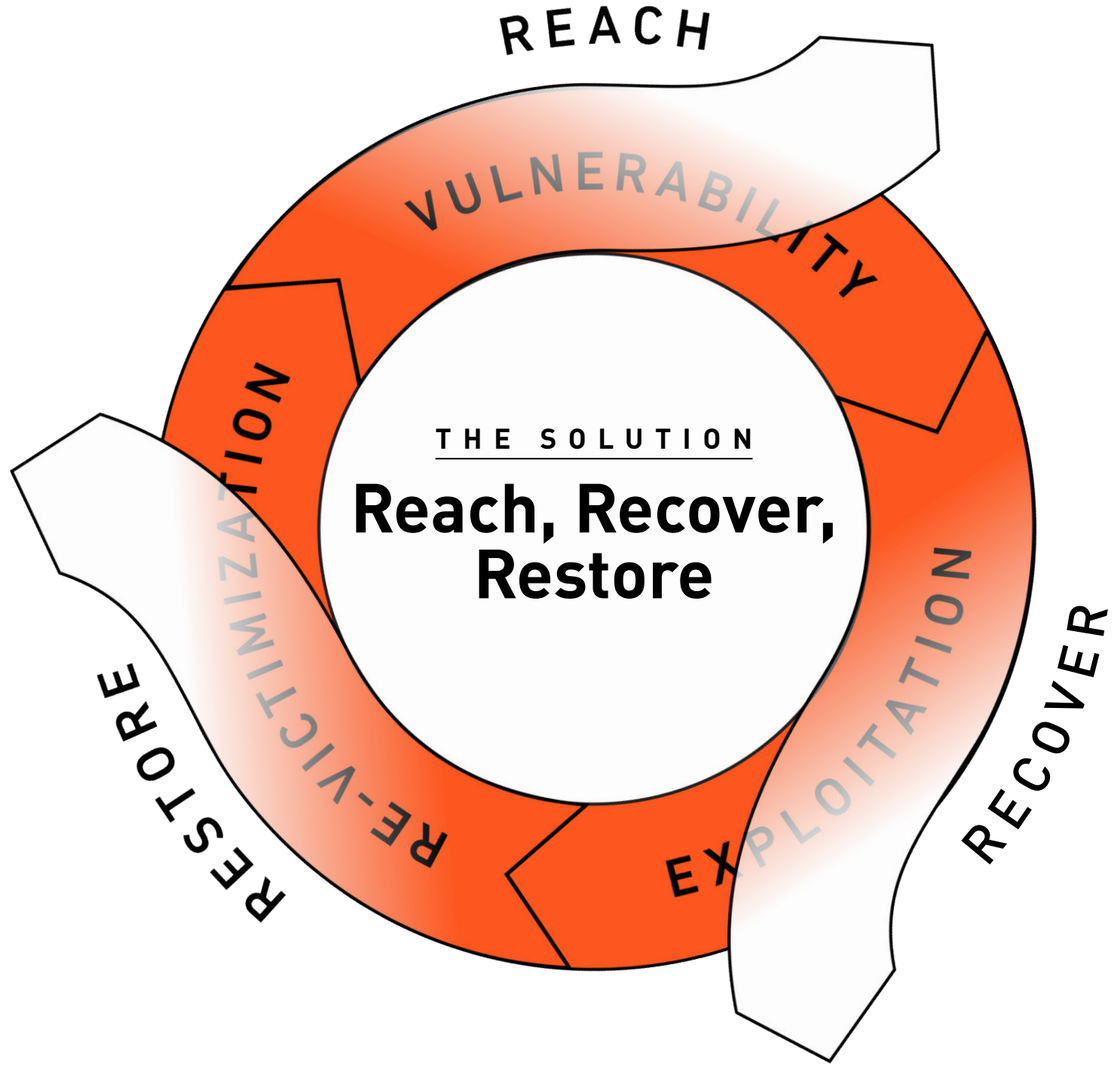
Victims of human trafficking have one thing in common—vulnerability. Some are born into it, living in poverty or as a minority. Others are fleeing brokenness and abuse. Others are thrown into it when faced with conflict like natural disasters. Most victims are in search of a better job, better relationship, better education, or a better life. And that's where traffickers strike.

Exploitation

Trafficking looks different in every part of the world—children forced to beg for money on the streets of Bangkok, domestic servants cooking food in a London household, factory workers stitching clothes in a Mumbai factory, unpaid constructor workers in Barcelona, or women trafficked for sex across dozens of American cities.

Re-Victimization

Few victims ever escape. But those who do often experience increased vulnerability due to their exploitation and prior unresolved risk factors. Without intervention, survivors of human trafficking are in danger of becoming victims over and over again—and the cycle of human trafficking continues.



Reach

By equipping people to understand human trafficking through education curriculum, prevention material, and awareness campaigns, we break the cycle of trafficking and, in some cases, prevent exploitation before it begins. By exposing factors that make individuals vulnerable, they can make safe decisions. When people know what signs to look for, they can avoid traps and report suspicions.

Rescue

We work with governments and local authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of traffickers through hotlines, Child Advocacy Centers, professional training, and legal assistance. When professionals are trained to recognize trafficking, more victims can be identified. When survivors receive legal support, traffickers can be convicted, preventing them from exploiting others.

Restore

Our Restore teams empower survivors through holistic aftercare, safe accommodations, and relocation services. When survivors receive personalized, trauma-informed care, they can begin the restoration journey. When survivors have access to services like psychological care and job training, they can step into new opportunities, decreasing the risk of re-victimization. One life at a time, this is how we end slavery.



Can You See Me?

Public awareness campaign uncovers common trafficking scenarios and encourages viewers to report suspicions.



Education Curriculum

School-based program to equip students with the tools to identify trafficking situations and protect themselves and others.



Human Trafficking Awareness Program

Video series and activities to educate and mobilize people to take action against trafficking.



Presentations

Tailored presentations designed to engage audiences on the realities of human trafficking and how everyone can be part of the solution to end it.



Primary Prevention Program

Child-centered, play-based curriculum to empower children to protect themselves and others from exploitation.



Walk For Freedom

Annual global awareness and mobilization event to equip people worldwide to take action throughout their cities.

01 Reach

Across 19 locations in 14 countries, we're tackling the human trafficking crisis with the help of thousands of supporters, hundreds of local and international partners, and a global team of regional experts and qualified professionals.



Child Advocacy Centers

Safe place for children exiting exploitation, providing holistic aftercare, and employing a child-victim-centered approach to collecting testimonies.



Hotlines

24/7 confidential call service used by the general public, victims, and law enforcement to seek assistance or make reports related to human trafficking.



Legal Assistance

Providing legal representation, support, and advocacy for survivors in the criminal prosecution of their traffickers, or during civil proceedings, such as immigration.



Professional Training

Training for frontline professionals, individuals most likely to encounter trafficking victims, to recognize the warning signs and respond appropriately.



Victim Identification Operations

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

02 Recover



A21 Home

Emergency shelter that accommodates survivors in the initial months following exploitation.



Accommodation

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



Holistic Aftercare

Trauma-informed support helping survivors rebuild their lives physically, mentally, and emotionally.



Freedom Centers

Drop-in day centers designed to empower survivors to restore wellness, reintegrate back into society, and live independently.



Relocation Assistance

Domestic and international relocation and repatriation services, including a worldwide referral of aftercare services.

03 Restore

Global Highlights

Launched our **first regional office for Latin America**, located in Mexico City

Can You See Me? Latin America pilot program reached a potential of **65 million people** across Mexico

Doubled the size of our **Freedom Center in North Carolina** and **announced a new Freedom Center in Texas**

Published 11 versions of our Safe Relationship Guide

Conducted our **largest operation ever in Ukraine**, assisting 130 victims

Welcomed **209 new survivors** into A21 Aftercare, including 42 minors

Provided care for a total of **390 survivors** in 2021



Walk For Freedom was back in 2021, reaching **257,719,533 people across 71 countries**

Awarded **USDOT Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award** for our Can You See Me? campaign

Received an award from the National State Agency for **Child Protection** in Bulgaria

Recognized by the Governor of Siem Reap Province for supporting **local anti-trafficking efforts** in Cambodia

Reached **241,966 minors** with prevention, 16x more minors reached than in 2020

Identified 587 victims, a 78% increase from 2020

Won **18 criminal court cases**, sentencing 30 traffickers to hundreds of years in prison

Reach—Minimizing vulnerability to prevent exploitation before it occurs.

3.6M
people made aware of human trafficking

1B
people reached through Can You See Me? campaigns

11.2K
teachers trained and equipped

241K
minors reached with prevention

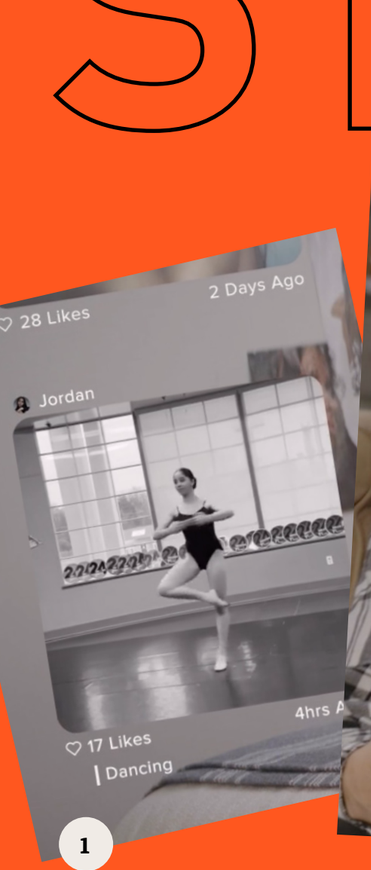
60.6K
students educated through school curriculum

Because human trafficking looks different in every country, so does our Reach strategy. From developing a school-based curriculum and equipping teachers in the U.S. to outreach nights in Cambodia and Can You See Me? campaigns strategically placed throughout Latin America, we're raising awareness of human trafficking and educating people everywhere to be part of the solution to end it.

Jordan's STORY

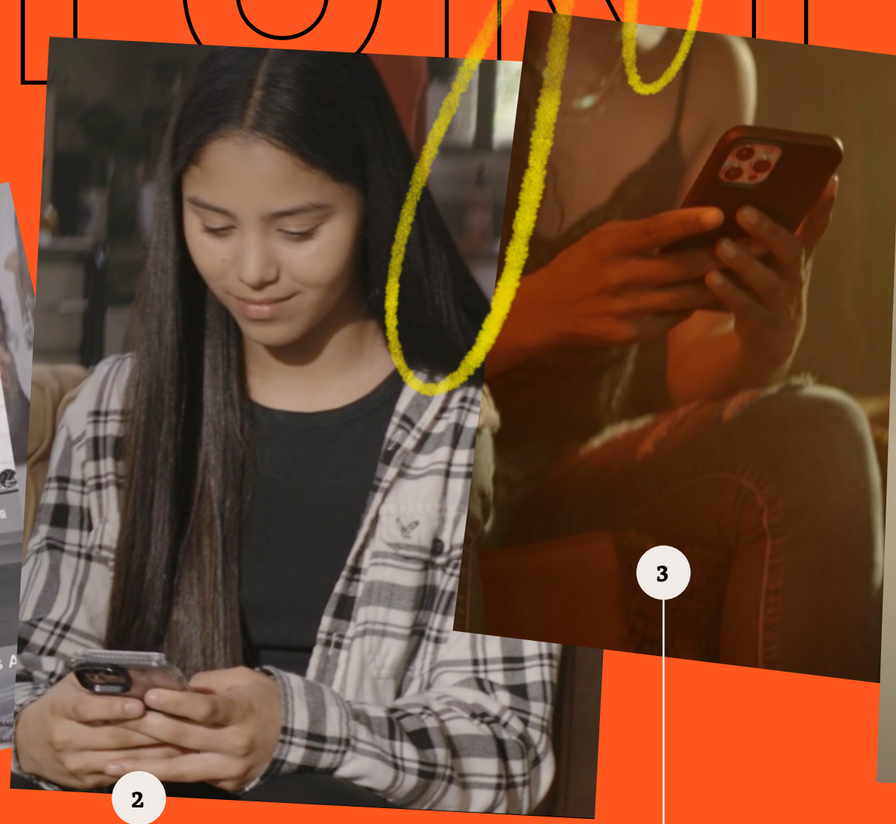
Young people all around the globe are being primed, groomed, and recruited without even knowing it. What seems like an innocent, new friendship online could be different.

Check out A21.org/Safety-Guides to learn how to protect yourself online.



1

Like many girls her age, Jordan often posts photos of herself on social media. She loves to dance, and it's clear by her profile that dancing is one of her greatest joys in life.

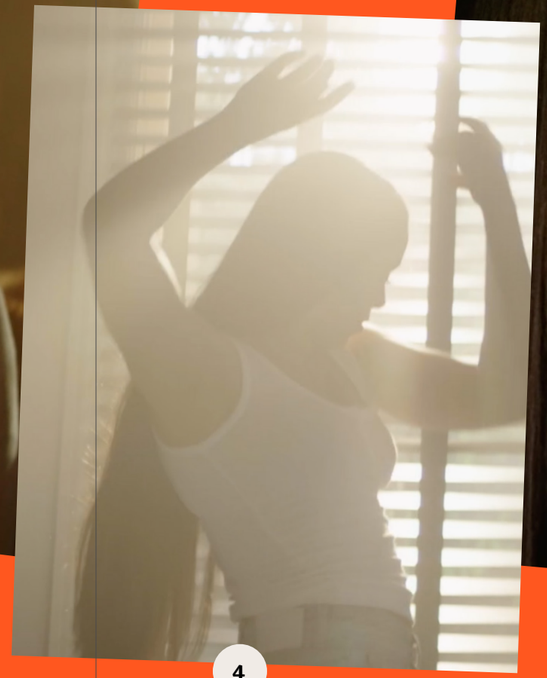


2

Until one day, a stranger struck up a conversation by complimenting Jordan on her physical appearance. The stranger's profile looked legit, appearing to be a friendly and fashionable girl about Jordan's age.

3

During a time when Jordan felt disconnected from her family, the stranger continued to reach out via social media, leaning into Jordan's vulnerability. The stranger was quick to offer Jordan a way out and a better life.



4

The stranger flooded Jordan with messages about an opportunity to become a famous dancer and offered to introduce Jordan to her friend. There was an urgency in the stranger's offer, and Jordan took her up on it.



5

Jordan inquired about the cost, and the stranger offered to take care of everything, reassuring Jordan there was no reason to worry. So, she packed her dance gear and left.



6

Little did Jordan know, the stranger was posing to be someone she was not and provided an offer that didn't exist. There was no dance tryout. The stranger on the other side of the screen was recruiting Jordan under the control of her trafficker.

Scan to see the film!











Walk For Freedom and Global Broadcast

Walk For Freedom was back in 2021. But this time, with a special addition and incredible growth. For seven years, our annual awareness event, Walk For Freedom, consisted of thousands of people around the globe walking in their cities to raise local awareness of human trafficking. But 2020 changed everything. Global restrictions and guidelines limited our ability to gather in large groups.

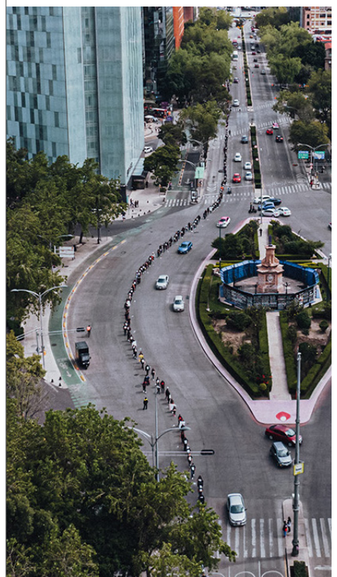
Like every organization, we pivoted. In place of Walk For Freedom, we launched the Global Broadcast—an online training reaching more than 100 million people in 2020. Broadcast viewers learned about the complexities of human trafficking, common recruitment methods traffickers use today, and how to stop exploitation.

So in 2021, we took the best of both events and combined them, inviting more people to participate in Walk For Freedom and the Walk For Freedom Challenge regardless of limitations or ongoing restrictions.

The Walk For Freedom Challenge was an alternative way to raise awareness and reduce vulnerability by (1) hosting a Global Broadcast watch party, (2) walking solo while listening to a special Walk For Freedom podcast, or (3) sharing about human trafficking on social platforms. As a result, more people engaged in a day of action, reaching a total of 257,719,533 individuals through media—**a significant milestone in Walk For Freedom history.**

Walk For Freedom and the Global Broadcast reached more than 250 million people ↘





← Hundreds walked to raise awareness and reduce vulnerability in Mexico City

Australia

With restrictions limiting the ability to gather for local walks across Australia, people distributed flyers, watched A21's Global Broadcast, and took to their social media platforms to share stories of why they fight for freedom. Our Australia team distributed over 1,200 flyers in their local neighborhoods across Sydney and raised over $10,000.

Greece & Cyprus

People in Greece hit the streets in Thessaloniki, Athens, Volos, Karditsa, Alexandria Imathias, and Nicosia of Cyprus. Additionally, several high school students joined the fight by hosting a walk at their school in Rhodes. 459 participants took action for freedom, distributing 2,749 flyers through Greece and Cyprus.

Latin America

More than 1,200 people gathered to fight for freedom across Latin America, including more than 350 people in Mexico City alone. Altogether, they handed out over 36,000 flyers and saw a 20% increase in reports to the human trafficking hotline than last year at the same time. Two of the calls resulted in victims being rescued the Sunday and Monday after Walk For Freedom.

Spain

Over 2,000 individuals showed up throughout the country, and several more joined the walk spontaneously, handing out 55,000 flyers. In Madrid alone, over 400 people participated, and they had to walk in two lines because they couldn't fit on the road.

United Kingdom

Our Country Manager and Reach Coordinator were interviewed leading up to Walk For Freedom, reaching more than 60,000 people with awareness of human trafficking and info about our annual mobilization event. As a result, 24 walks took place across the nation, including interviews with the walk hosts, reaching more Europeans with the message of human trafficking and what locals are doing to end it.



↙ Awareness expands across Latin America



↙ Official launch of Can You See Me? Latin America

A21 Latin America

Latin America is known for its tropical beaches, rich culture, and the hospitality of its people. Along with being undeniably beautiful and diverse, Latin America is one of the largest source, transit, and destination locations for human trafficking. Traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims across the region and Mexican victims abroad. Child sex tourism continues to expand, especially in tourist areas and northern border cities. But thanks to an amazing team of local leaders and partnerships with state governments, media outlets, and other NGOs, we're breaking the cycle of human trafficking—one person at a time.

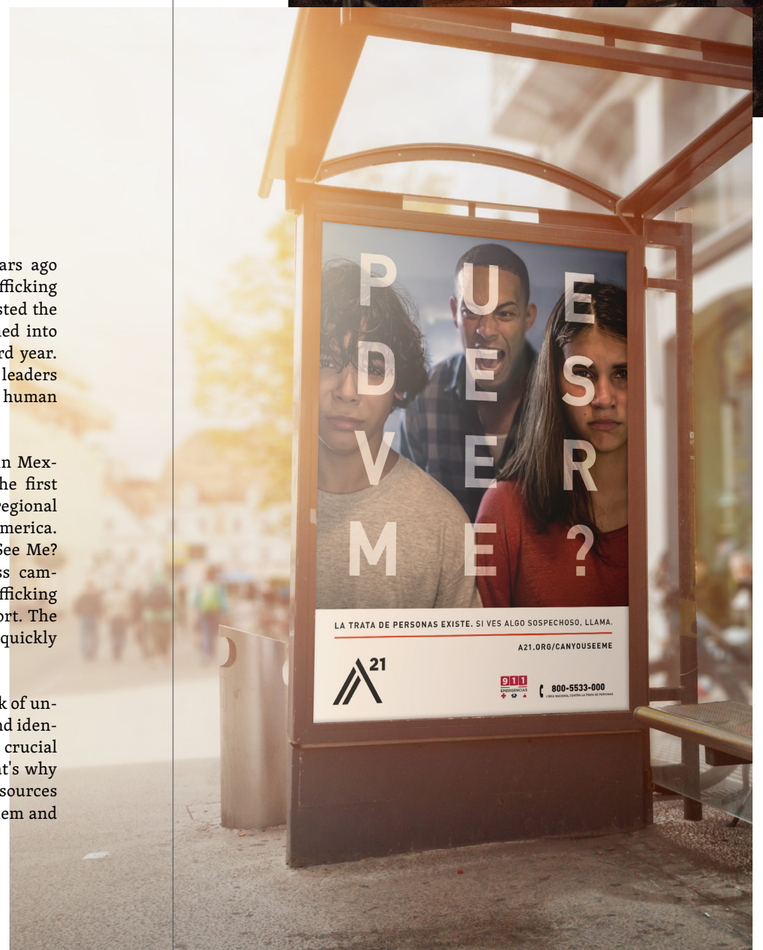
Following a recent Can You See Me? pilot launch in Mexico, 26 minors, including three infants, were identified and assisted to safety in a refugee center. This campaign is being used to train frontline professionals and equip the general public. We're working relentlessly to create a culture of reporting suspicions in a region where reporting is not common.

7 Years in the Making

Our work in Latin America started seven years ago when one family became aware of human trafficking and decided to do something about it. They hosted the first Walk For Freedom in Mexico, which turned into 14 walks the second year and 50 walks the third year. Momentum grew as passionate people and local leaders throughout the region joined the fight against human trafficking year after year.

But 2021 marked a new chapter for our work in Mexico and Latin America. In May, we opened the first A21 office in Mexico City and announced our regional strategy to reach people throughout Latin America. In December, we officially launched Can You See Me? (CYSM), our award-winning public awareness campaign, including short films depicting real trafficking scenarios in the region and how to make a report. The campaign was piloted earlier in the year and quickly gained media attention.

The biggest challenge in Latin America is the lack of understanding—knowing that trafficking exists and identifying and reporting it. We know awareness is crucial to stopping the cycle of human trafficking. That's why we've focused on creating regionally-specific resources in Spanish, so people will understand the problem and how to respond.



← Can You See Me? strategically placed in public transportation hubs, including bus stations, airports, and subways

65 Million People Reached

As we closed out 2021, Can You See Me? had an estimated reach of 65 million people across Latin America. An incredible number of volunteers and local leaders worked hard to make this possible, including key government representatives, the national hotline, and partnering NGOs.

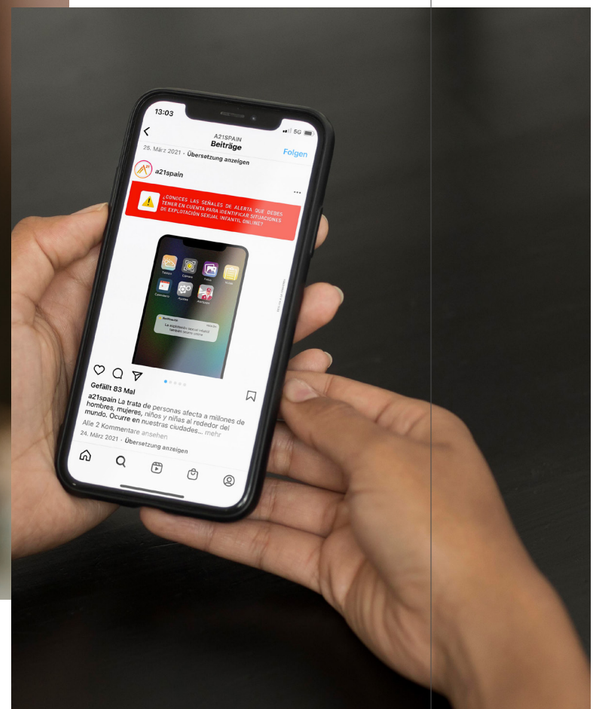
And we're just getting started. Over 74,000 thousand flyers and prevention materials were distributed in migrant centers, transit shelters, and community centers. The campaign runs throughout Mexico on 300+ screens in subways, metro and bus stations, roadside billboards, and hospitals. Our LATAM team hosted more than 50 presentations to thousands of young people about the dangers of trafficking and common recruitment methods.

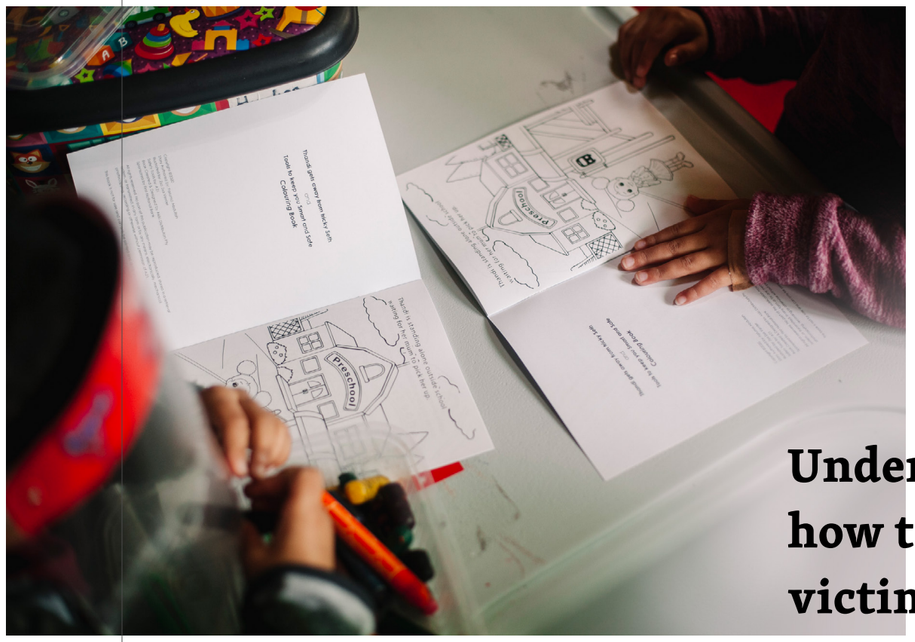
With increased awareness and reports to the hotline, new collaborations between government bodies and nonprofit organizations provide unprecedented exposure to the reality of human trafficking throughout Latin America. A21 has played a significant role in unifying these partners to fight this injustice head-on. We believe in the power of partnership, and we've seen major progress in the last year.



Easy to read safety guides to protect yourself and others

Learn about online exploitation and how to prevent it





Prevention resources designed for children in at-risk populations

Understanding how traffickers recruit victims is crucial to preventing exploitation.

Safety Guides

Online Safety Guide

Our Digital Safety Guide is designed to help parents, educators, and teens understand what online recruitment looks like, how young people are exploited in a digital environment, and how to prevent it. In 2021, this guide was translated and contextualized into ten languages. The guide includes topics like safe and unsafe communication, red flags to watch out for, and different forms of online exploitation.

Last year, the National Police in Spain distributed 200,370 brochures on digital safety to schools. These phone-shaped brochures are reaching students with critical information to stay safe online.

Safe Relationships Guide

11 versions of our Safe Relationship Guide launched in eight different languages in 2021. This guide focus specifically on sex trafficking, recruitment methods, and indicators of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. Each guide includes a link to our Loverboy Recruitment video and the national hotline for each country.

Safe Employment Guide

The Safe Employment Guide has been translated into several languages and highlights employment safety abroad. Many victims are trafficked through false job opportunities, but this guide aims to educate job seekers on what red flags to look for, at-risk or targeted populations, how to vet job opportunities, exploitative working conditions, and much more.

In 2021, the Safe Employment Guide was distributed to all employees through the National Employment Agency in Bulgaria. A hyperlink was also added to the agency's website to reach more job seekers across the country.

Education is essential to end human trafficking. Thanks to your support, we're getting crucial resources in the hands of vulnerable people every day. All of these resources are available at A21.org/Education.

SCAN HERE

Reach—Around the World





Prevention Reaches Flordia Students and Educators

A21 partnered with Florida's Department of Education to create Child Trafficking Prevention Guides piloted with 161 educators from 88 schools, educating 4,094 students about human trafficking. A21 presented the results to 130 district leaders at the Florida Attorney General's Human Trafficking Statewide Summit on Prevention Education, reaching thousands of school administrators, educators, and government officials.

It's A Penalty Saves Lives at Super Bowl LV

It's A Penalty reached a potential 152,000,000 media viewers. Nearly 500 volunteers distributed 100,000 materials to 300 hotels in collaboration with dozens of anti-trafficking NGOs. Most importantly, six children were identified from the missing children's list, and 140+ arrests related to trafficking were made within the month leading up to the Super Bowl.

Students Take a Stand on My Freedom Day

March 16 was #MyFreedomDay, mobilizing students to take action and raise awareness of human trafficking. Youth from 23 countries posted photos and videos and signed an online pledge to shine a light on modern-day slavery, reaching an estimated 1.85 million people through social media. Phil, A21's Chief Operations Officer, was also featured on CNN during #MyFreedomDay.





Prevention Materials Distributed Throughout Spain

Alongside local law enforcement, A21 Spain distributed 5,280 prevention brochures to agricultural fields, African borders, Madrid and Barcelona airports, temporary shelters for migrants, and offices of the Labor of Inspector. For the first time, prevention materials were distributed in the Embassies of Romania, Bulgaria, Paraguay, Moldova, Colombia, and Paraguay.



Awareness Expands in Ukraine

A21 partnered with Health Right Ukraine to reach 65 youth, hosting online seminars on safe employment and digital safety. We also shared information about human trafficking and how to protect yourself with 400 kids at different camps. A21's exhibition "Expectations vs. Reality," located in the Kyiv Airport, was updated to reach thousands of passengers traveling in and out of the country.





New Initiative in Cambodia and Thailand Reaches Community

On September 16, A21 launched a new initiative in Cambodia and Thailand called– A21xTUKTUK To Abolish Human Trafficking. This month-long awareness campaign was established to increase the public's understanding of trafficking. From September 16 to October 16, 2021, TukTuks cruised major cities with posters displaying information & facts on human trafficking and national hotline numbers.

New Comic Book Reaches Kids in Cambodia

A21 launched a new prevention resource in Cambodia, communicating a story of child sex trafficking in the region. The comic book raises awareness of exploitation and important indicators through easy-to-understand child-friendly stories. Throughout 2021, A21 Cambodia conducted prevention presentations and distributed the new resources to vulnerable communities.



400 Australian Students Reached

In May, A21 Australia hosted several school presentations, reaching nearly 400 students through our National Student Program. These presentations offered students and teachers the opportunity to share the message of freedom within their schools and communities. Our team also partnered with four universities to educate incoming students and distribute flyers during orientation week.

A21 Thailand Donates to Migrant Workers

A21 is honored to partner with the Wattana District Office to donate hand sanitizers and face masks, including Can You See Me? awareness flyers, delivered to hundreds of people impacted by a surge of COVID-19. These necessities are in low supply for people living and working in this area, primarily migrant workers in construction sites.





Recover—Identifying, assisting, and safeguarding victims out of exploitation.

116
survivors supported through legal proceedings

5,280
calls made to national human trafficking hotlines

30
traffickers sentenced to hundreds of years in prison collectively

587
victims were identified and assisted

3,707
frontline professionals trained

From our biggest rescue operation to assisting more victims than ever before, 2021 was a breakthrough year for our Rescue efforts. Nearly 25% of our total victims assisted in 13 years were identified in 2021, which is especially significant during a year when global economic challenges increased recruitment through false jobs. Your support is the reason we celebrate more victims living in freedom today.

Maria's STORY



1

Maria and her younger brother, Juanito, grew up in poverty. They were exploited and abused as children and lacked access to education. But despite their vulnerability, the teens longed for a better life.



2

Juanito longed to go to school. He often visited a local shop, trading worn-out study books with the shopkeeper. Maria was pursued romantically by a man who promised her and her brother a better life.



3

Maria tells her brother she met someone who can give them the opportunity to work and study in another city. Maria showed Juanito photos of the school he could attend. Innocent and excited, they accept and leave immediately.

One call to a human trafficking hotline can be the difference between a life of freedom or a life of exploitation.

A21 operates three human trafficking hotlines, assisting callers 24/7 in Bulgaria, Greece, and South Africa.

Scan to see the film!



4

While at the bus station, they encounter an older man selling snacks to travelers. The snack vendor becomes suspicious—wrestling with what to do. Meanwhile, the shopkeeper finds the kids' mother in distress. Concerned and alarmed, he rushes to the bus station looking for Juanito and Maria.



5

When Maria and Juanito arrive at their destination, they realize it's all a lie. Juanito is trafficked for agricultural labor, and Maria is forced to meet the sexual demands of her trafficker. There is no school for Juanito and no job for Maria.



6

The snack vendor describes the recruiter to the shopkeeper, who later witnesses the recruiter trafficking another girl. But this time, the shopkeeper calls the hotline to make a report. As a result, the second girl's journey ends in freedom, not slavery.



← Officer reading information about the Greek Human Trafficking Hotline



Hotline call specialists responding to reports in South Africa →

Hotlines

Hotlines break the cycle of exploitation—one victim, one frontline professional, and one bystander at a time. In 2021, more victims were identified and assisted by hotlines than before, nearly doubling the number of identifications from 2020. What does this tell us? More people are aware of our 24/7 confidential hotline service, leading to the prevention, identification, and recovery of more victims and potential victims.

Not only does A21 fund and operate three national human trafficking hotlines, but we also support and train government hotline staff to identify and assist victims effectively. Check out a few hotline highlights from last year, making 2021 our most successful year yet.

Professional training with our human trafficking hotline team ↓



Bulgaria

A dedicated group of volunteers promoted the hotline throughout 26 Bulgarian municipalities to inform communities about human trafficking and available hotline services. We reached nearly 22,500 people through a social media campaign highlighting forced labor and the hotline's job vetting services in December. In all, 66 victims were identified through the hotline in 2021.

Greece

In April, the Greek hotline saw a 78% rise in human trafficking-related calls compared to the previous three months. We believe this increase results from collaborating with organizations serving vulnerable populations. We're continuously strengthening our relationships with other government agencies and NGOs to lead to more effective identifications in the future, and our hotline plays a major role in making that happen.

South Africa

The South African National Human Trafficking Hotline expanded its team of call specialists in 2021 and celebrated several identifications that led to successful recoveries. There were calls related to 153 potential victims of trafficking, and 109 reports were sent to the police regarding potential victims or potentially dangerous job advertisements. Due to increased job vetting calls over the past two years, our team started proactively vetting jobs to be more effective and efficient at identifying false opportunities that could lead to an exploitative situation.

Ukraine

In 2021, our Ukraine team trained 97 state social workers and staff personnel for two government-run hotlines. Our goal is to educate call operators to have enough knowledge to provide superior service when they receive calls regarding human trafficking-related topics.



More victims identified through hotlines than ever before, doubling the number of identifications from 2020.

Stories of HOPE



One of the victims was trafficked for sex and referred to our hotline by a German partner organization. She is beginning her repatriation back to Bulgaria with the help of our team.



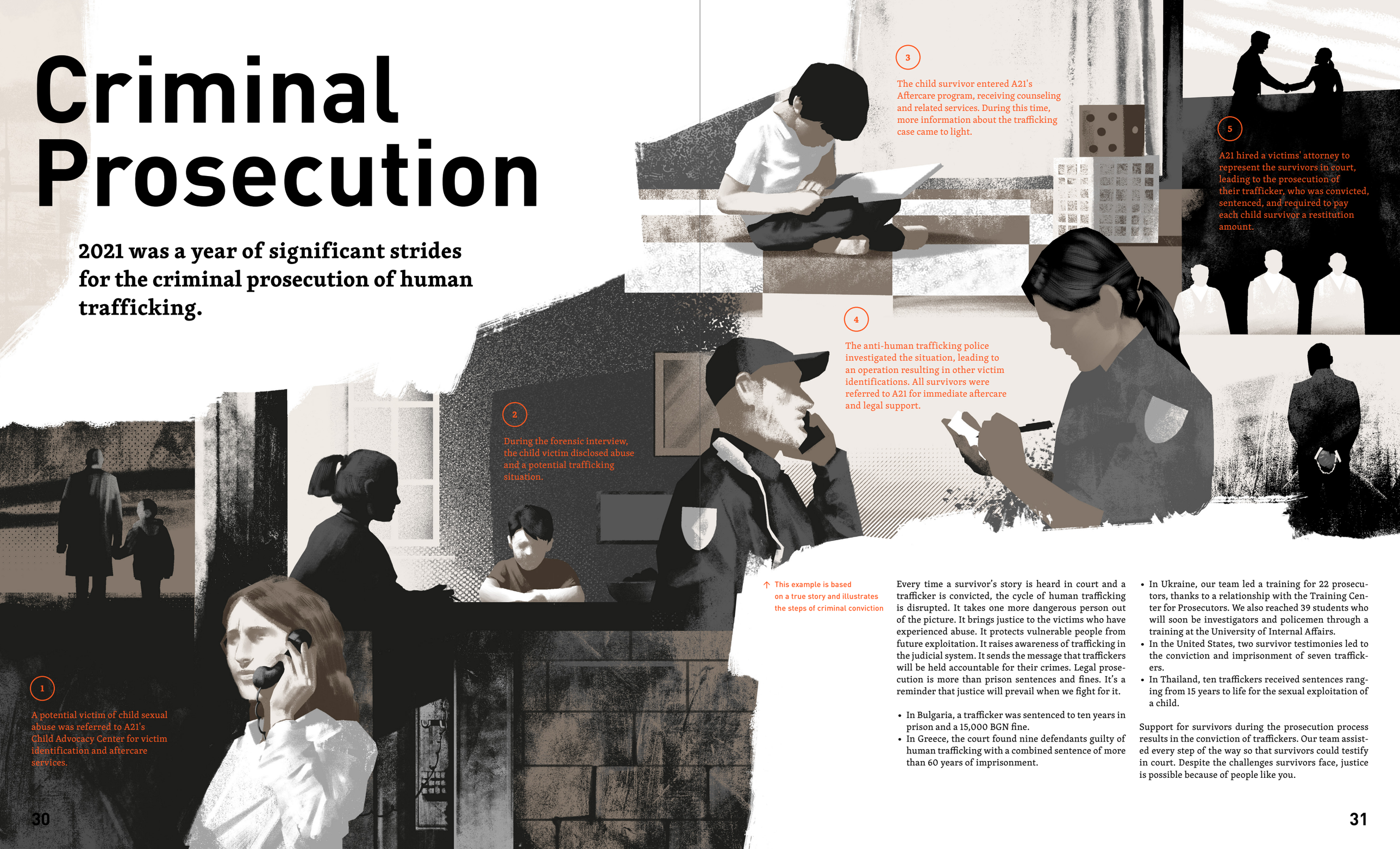
Three Bulgarian citizens avoided potential trafficking by using our job vetting service through the hotline. Two callers received suspicious job offers for labor work in Germany, and the other caller was offered a packaging job in the Netherlands.



Thirty-six Bulgarian individuals, including nine children, trafficked to Sweden for berry picking were identified and repatriated back to Bulgaria in response to a report to our hotline.

Criminal Prosecution

2021 was a year of significant strides for the criminal prosecution of human trafficking.



1

A potential victim of child sexual abuse was referred to A21's Child Advocacy Center for victim identification and aftercare services.

2

During the forensic interview, the child victim disclosed abuse and a potential trafficking situation.

3

The child survivor entered A21's Aftercare program, receiving counseling and related services. During this time, more information about the trafficking case came to light.

4

The anti-human trafficking police investigated the situation, leading to an operation resulting in other victim identifications. All survivors were referred to A21 for immediate aftercare and legal support.

5

A21 hired a victims' attorney to represent the survivors in court, leading to the prosecution of their trafficker, who was convicted, sentenced, and required to pay each child survivor a restitution amount.

↑ This example is based on a true story and illustrates the steps of criminal conviction

Every time a survivor's story is heard in court and a trafficker is convicted, the cycle of human trafficking is disrupted. It takes one more dangerous person out of the picture. It brings justice to the victims who have experienced abuse. It protects vulnerable people from future exploitation. It raises awareness of trafficking in the judicial system. It sends the message that traffickers will be held accountable for their crimes. Legal prosecution is more than prison sentences and fines. It's a reminder that justice will prevail when we fight for it.

- In Bulgaria, a trafficker was sentenced to ten years in prison and a 15,000 BGN fine.
- In Greece, the court found nine defendants guilty of human trafficking with a combined sentence of more than 60 years of imprisonment.
- In Ukraine, our team led a training for 22 prosecutors, thanks to a relationship with the Training Center for Prosecutors. We also reached 39 students who will soon be investigators and policemen through a training at the University of Internal Affairs.
- In the United States, two survivor testimonies led to the conviction and imprisonment of seven traffickers.
- In Thailand, ten traffickers received sentences ranging from 15 years to life for the sexual exploitation of a child.

Support for survivors during the prosecution process results in the conviction of traffickers. Our team assisted every step of the way so that survivors could testify in court. Despite the challenges survivors face, justice is possible because of people like you.

7 Stories of Freedom

For more stories like this • check out •

@A21 or A21.org/Newsroom

Two Men Freed From Labor Exploitation

In October, two men were assisted to safety after being exploited for labor in Ukraine. The men received financial assistance from A21 to purchase building tools, helping them obtain safe and secure employment. Our Restore team walked alongside these men as they healed from the psychological trauma of exploitation and set goals for the future.

Hotline Calls Lead to the Recovery of Two Victims in South Africa

Our South African Human Trafficking Hotline received reports that led to the identification and recovery of two victims of trafficking. Both survivors were tricked into exploitation when they pursued job opportunities that were false. By the time they realized there was no valid job, they were already in the traffickers' control. As a result of reports made to our hotline about both victims, law enforcement coordinated and assisted their escape.

Training in Cambodia Leads to the Rescue of a Child Victim

In 2020, A21 Cambodia conducted prevention trainings across 13 districts, distributing resources with the country's hotline numbers. One of the individuals who received



a pamphlet called our Child Advocacy Center in 2021 to report suspected trafficking. Our Child Advocacy Center staff worked with local authorities, resulting in a child's rescue. The child later entered our Aftercare program.

Facebook Message Leads to the Rescue of Five Victims in Cambodia

In September, the A21 Cambodia Facebook page received a message from a victim seeking help. Our team informed the police, who conducted an operation that led to the rescue of five victims. The victims were trafficked for forced labor, receiving zero income and minimal food. Thanks to the collaboration between A21 and local law enforcement, these five individuals were recovered and assisted to safety.

Minor Refugee Flees From Trafficking to Safety in Greece



A resilient boy escaped from labor trafficking and fled to Greece for safety. Another NGO working in Greece recognized signs of trafficking and contacted our Greece Hotline.

Our Hotline responded by alerting our Aftercare team who assisted the survivor with basic needs, medical treatment, and emotional support throughout his restoration journey.

Seven Survivors Freed From Sex Trafficking in Bulgaria

In January 2021, seven new survivors of sex trafficking entered A21's Aftercare program in Bulgaria. The survivors were sexually exploited in Germany but repatriated to Bulgaria upon exiting the exploitation. However, as the criminal prosecution against their trafficker remained in Germany, the survivors' testimonies were needed in Germany. Although the survivors were in Bulgaria, they traveled back to testify with the assistance of A21 and the German police. A21 provided accommodation, COVID-19 tests, food, and any basic needs required for travel to provide their crucial testimony against the trafficker.

Six Traffickers in the U.S. Arrested and Charged



Our North Carolina Team participated in a regional operation alongside law enforcement during the spring of 2021 involving several illicit massage parlors. This operation resulted in the arrest of six perpetrators charged with conspiracy, bribery, and operating an illegal prostitution enterprise in interstate commerce.

Recover—Around the World



Increased Reports to the Greek Hotline

The Greek Hotline reported an 84% rise in human trafficking-related calls compared to previous months. We believe this spike results from collaborating with other organizations serving vulnerable populations. Past training and our involvement with partner organizations have played a key role in maintaining strong relationships throughout the region—working towards more effective rescues in the future.



Frontline Professionals Trained in Ukraine

A21 Ukraine trained 27 school psychologists, directors, and educators in the Balta region, one of the most vulnerable areas in Ukraine from which we have survivors annually. We expanded our partnership with the Border Agency to deliver two training sessions to 57 border officials from different parts of the country to identify trafficking and use a victim-centered approach to operations.



New Professional Trainings Held in South Africa

We've seen an incredible impact in identifying cases involving minors in the past year. Our team in South Africa trained social workers, educators, and community leaders from eight districts in several provinces last February. These frontline professionals are uniquely positioned to encounter victims of trafficking and report suspicions to our hotline.

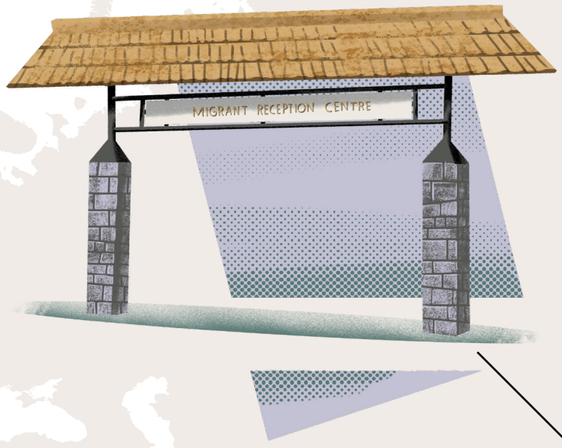


4,400 Essential Frontline Workers Trained in Mexico City

Our team in Mexico City partnered with Consejo Cuidadano (the national hotline) and the Security Secretary of Mexico City to train 4,400 police officers, hospital staff, and embassy diplomats on how to identify and report suspicious activity related to human trafficking.

A21 Hosts Training at the New Battambang Migrant Center

Recognized as an expert in victim identification and child interviewing, A21 was invited to develop resources for screening children at the new Battambang Migrant Center on the border of Cambodia and Thailand. Our team established the child forensic interview room and trained government personnel on using a child victim and trauma-informed approach.





Lodging Staff and Executives Trained in Thailand

A21 Thailand hosted four professional training sessions in Thai for 249 staff and one in English for 13 executives of The Ascott Limited, one of the leading international lodging owner-operators with more than 700 properties in over 190 cities spanning more than 30 countries across the Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the USA.

243 Professionals Trained in Cambodia

Victim identification continues to be at the forefront of our strategy in Cambodia. A21 partnered with the Siem Reap Provincial and the National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Person (NCCT) to host a training for 243 professionals, including police officers, prosecutors, and frontline workers. A21 also hosted a child forensic interview training with government workers at our Child Advocacy Center.





A21 Cambodia Recognized for Collaboration

A21 Cambodia received an appreciation award from the Provincial Committee for Counter-Trafficking (PCCT) for its collaboration and partnership with the Cambodia Government to prevent human trafficking, capacity building of local authorities, and support to human trafficking survivors. PCCT thanked A21 for its continued commitment to fighting human trafficking in Cambodia despite COVID-19 challenges.



Restore—Helping survivors heal from trauma, reclaim independence, and sustain freedom.

390
total survivors were assisted in 2021

174
survivors served monthly on average

76
survivors were repatriated back to their home countries

5th
Freedom Center in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX announced

2x
the size of our Freedom Center in North Carolina

When a victim exits a trafficking situation, restoration doesn't happen overnight. It takes time, comprehensive care, unwavering support, and a community of people who make it their mission to reduce vulnerabilities so re-victimization doesn't occur. Aftercare is how we end the cycle of trafficking—one story of restoration at a time.

Abigail's STORY



1

A young woman in South Africa transitioned to the A21 Apartment during the summer of 2021. Her childhood was marked by abuse, neglect, and loss. At a young age, her parents divorced, and her mother passed away. She ended up on the streets as a teenager, eventually marrying an older man.



2

After having children, she separated from her abusive husband, which began a journey of living from one place to another—often back on the streets. During this time, she met a charming man who promised her a better future. But the young woman soon realized it was all a lie.

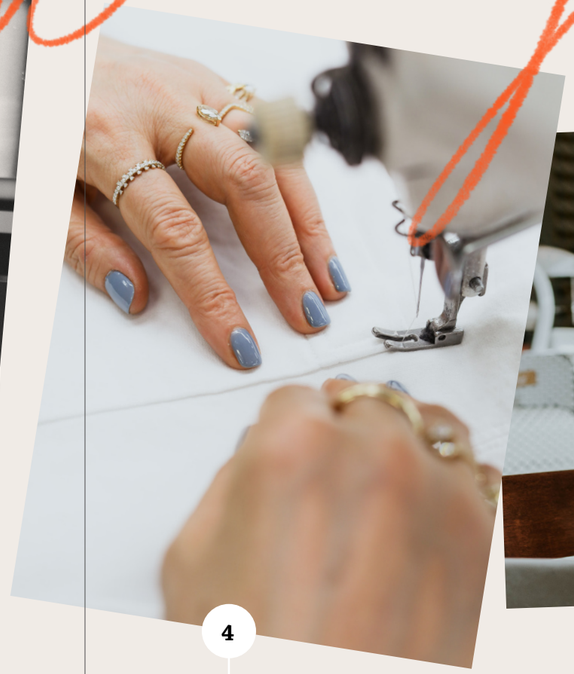


3

She was trapped and forced into prostitution. After months of exploitation, she escaped and connected with a local organization that referred her to A21. Today, she lives independently with her daughter, attending our Freedom Center weekly to develop her skills.

Thanks to your generosity, survivors worldwide are experiencing restoration.

Aftercare support can be the difference between a life of independence or the risk of re-victimization.



4

She learned to sew through the Sparrow Society, using her new skills to produce various products. The quality of her craftsmanship was noticed, and she was hired as a local Production Manager. This allows her to create another income stream and share her skills with other survivors as she mentors them each week.



5

Topics like budgeting, online tutorials, and parenting are at the forefront of this survivor's ongoing education. While at the Freedom Center, she uses our laptop to engage in self-led courses to expand her knowledge and build a brighter future.



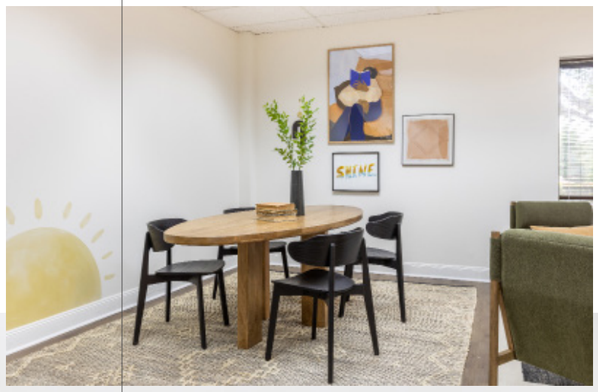
6

Her sewing skills led to a steady income, taking driving lessons, and obtaining her learner's permit. Working with our caseworker and attending Life Programs at the Freedom Center, this young woman is making strides emotionally, financially, spiritually, and intellectually—restoring independence with each step.



Our aim is to create a place of healing and belonging

Spaces designed to spark connection and community





New Freedom Center Opening in Texas

Dallas-Fort Worth Freedom Center
Opened in Q1 2022



A21's newest Freedom Center is located in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, serving survivors of human trafficking throughout the metroplex with trauma-informed, personalized aftercare.

The Freedom Center is an independent, community-based drop-in day center and the primary avenue for survivors to receive direct case management support. Freedom Centers offer survivors a safe place to meet with their caseworker, build community with other survivors, and access A21 Aftercare services.

These services may include, but are not limited to:

- Life Programs
- Affordable Housing
- Education and Vocational Training
- Employment and Job Search Support
- Medical and Dental Care
- Therapy and Trauma Recovery Services
- Public Transportation
- Financial Assistance

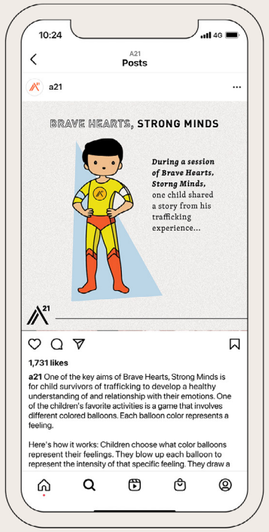
Your contribution to A21 Freedom Centers breathes hope into the life of every survivor in our care. Rather than falling back into unresolved vulnerabilities, survivors gain the skills to secure employment and pursue dreams once forgotten. Our Restore team works diligently to build partnerships with key government agencies, law enforcement, coalitions, and NGOs to extend our reach and develop a referral network throughout Texas and the United States.

We're excited to welcome survivors into a beautiful new space. Our Dallas-Forth Worth location opened during the first quarter of 2022 and is our fifth Freedom Center worldwide. A21 currently operates Freedom Centers in Bulgaria, Greece, the U.S., and South Africa.

A space created to promote rest



Brave Hearts, Strong Minds teaches child survivors resiliency skills ↓





↑ Children learning about emotions through our Brave Hearts, Strong Minds program

Record-Breaking Aftercare

In 2021, we welcomed more new survivors into A21 Aftercare than ever before. A special shoutout to our team in Bulgaria for assisting 35% of the total new survivors last year. Additionally, fewer survivors left the program prematurely, meaning more individuals transitioned to complete independence after graduation from our Aftercare program—reducing the likelihood of re-victimization.

We also supported 4x more survivors with domestic relocations and international repatriations than previous years. Our Freedom Center in North Carolina nearly doubled in size, and we opened our newest Freedom Center in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in early 2022.

More survivors are experiencing freedom year after year, and together, we celebrate every milestone for survivors in our care. Each accomplishment, large or small, represents one brave step towards restoration and independence.

- In Cambodia, seven child survivors completed our Brave Hearts, Strong Minds program, learning to navigate trauma, identify and manage their emotions, and build emotional resilience.
- In Greece, our team provided medical care for a survivor who gave birth to her second baby upon escaping a trafficking situation. The survivor's first child was born when the woman was trapped in exploitation.
- One survivor in South Africa learned how to leverage her sewing skill to generate income. Upon repatriation back to her home country, she started a sewing business, including a program to teach physically impaired youth how to sew.
- We welcomed eight survivors into our Rapid Rehousing program in the U.S. Both individuals experienced life instability due to difficulty finding housing, and one survivor had been without stable housing for over two years before connecting with A21.

Over the last 13 years, we've seen the power of holistic aftercare in helping survivors heal from the trauma they've experienced and step into a fulfilling life. Each one of these milestones is a significant step towards independence, and none of it would be possible without your support.

The survivors in our care are some of the most inspiring people we've ever met. Their stories are full of hope and perseverance, and they have a way of impacting us all. See what one survivor had to say in a recent interview on the next page.

21 Questions with an A21 Survivor

1 My favorite food is
Roast Chicken + Rice

2 Something I'm most proud of is
Proud of being able to work laptop

3 My favorite season is
Autumn

4 If I could play any sport professionally, it would be
Volleyball

5 My favorite hobby is
Colour

6 My hero is
my Social Worker - Nikita

7 My country of birth is known for
Apartheid

8 The best movie ever is
Colombiana

9 I like to relax by
Room

10 My favorite color is
Blue

11 If I had a superpower, it would be
Stop Covid-19

12 If I could visit anywhere in the world it would be
Germany

13 Something that I'm really good at is
Sewing

14 If I could have any pet it would be a
Rabbit

15 My self-portrait



16 If I could rule the world for a day I would
Help people who are trafficked

17 I am thankful for
that there's People who loves me

18 My favorite holiday is
Good friday.

19 If I could be any animal, I would be a
Scorpion

20 If I could be famous, I would want to be famous for
Changing the world

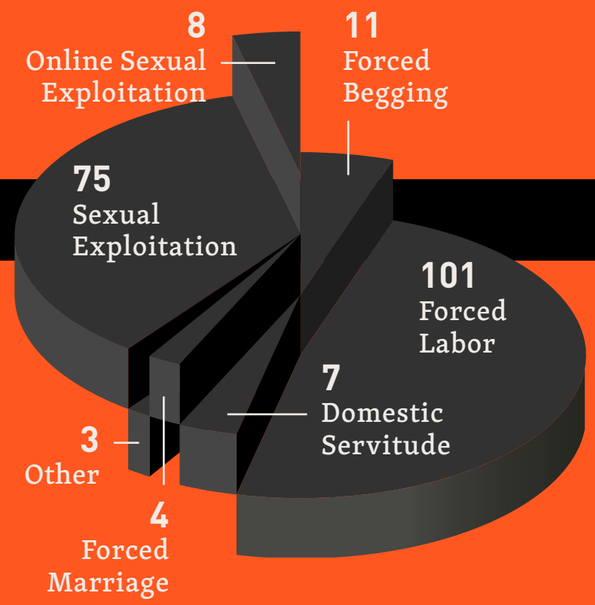
21 My dream in life is to
Be a teacher for kids.

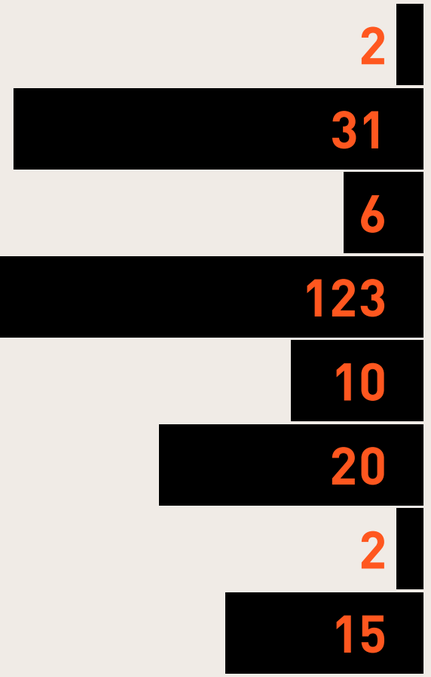
209

New Survivors in Our Care

74 survivors were in Bulgaria

Forms of Trafficking





Recruitment Methods

Abduction

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.

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

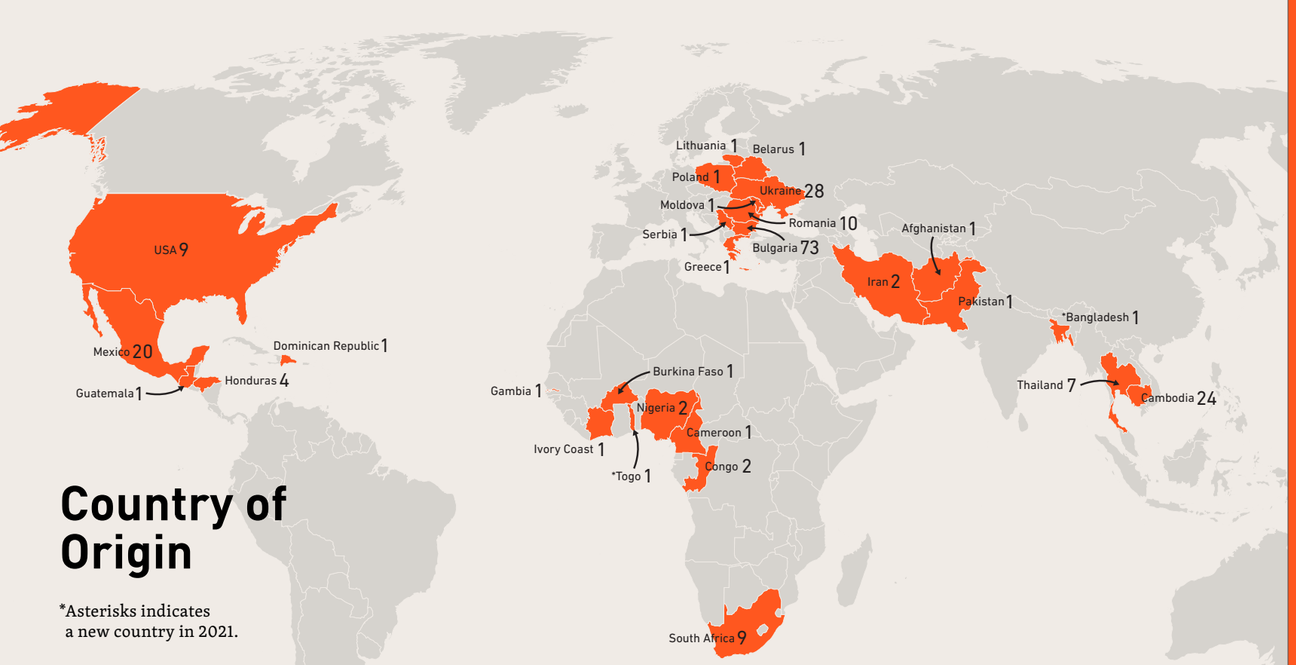
Trafficked / Sold by Friend

Trafficked / Sold by Family

Perceived Liberator
A person who pretends to help free a victim of trafficking only to re-traffic and exploit them.

Other

To learn more about how recruitment happens, check out the Global Broadcast streaming at A21.org/Broadcast.



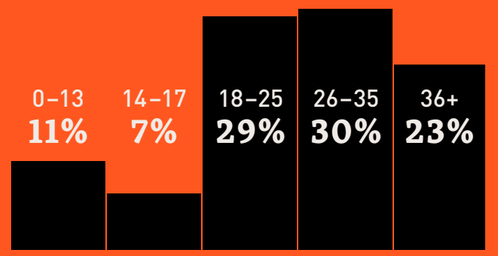
Country of Origin

*Asterisks indicates a new country in 2021.

112 Female Survivors



97 Male Survivors



Age of Survivors

NEW Beginnings

121 Domestic Relocations

76 International Repatriations

86 Survivors Secured Employment

Restore—Around the World



Grant Provides Housing for Survivors in North Carolina

The Rapid Rehousing Grant enabled our team to provide rapid housing for eight survivors of human trafficking and their families. This program is designed to meet the needs of survivors regardless of immigration status, credit score, gender, and family size. It minimizes the ongoing challenge of finding male-based housing programs so survivors can pursue other goals.

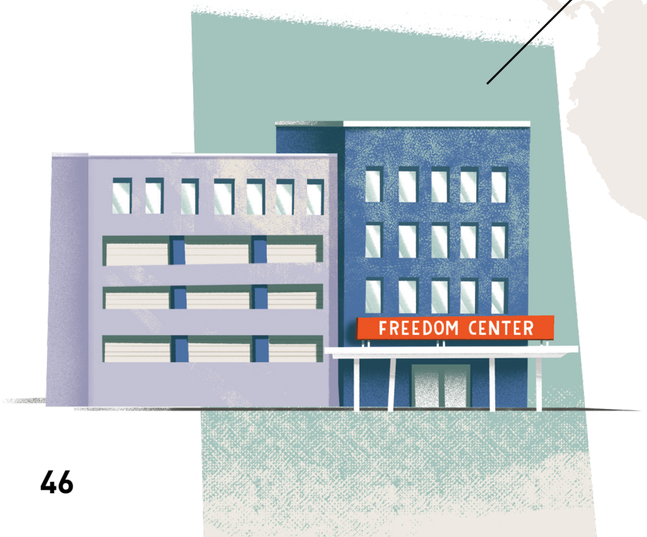


See a Need and Meet It

A21 Caseworkers set up an on-site shop called the "Grab-N-Go Room" with school supplies available for survivor families, including backpacks, lunch boxes, writing utensils, art utensils, and other items. The Freedom Center in North Carolina also hosts a Holiday Shop, where survivors can select brand new, quality gifts for their children.

Expanded Space Welcomes New Survivors

The Freedom Center in North Carolina nearly doubled in size in 2021, welcoming 17 new survivors in March. The expanded space has met survivor needs, including a school shop for parents and students, a Thanksgiving pantry and Holiday Shop, and the ability to host monthly creative events. Throughout the year, 28 survivors utilized the Freedom Center.





Christmas at Freedom Centers Around the World

In South Africa, survivors decorated a Christmas tree at the Freedom Center for the first time, celebrating its first full year since opening in December 2020. In Greece, our team overcame local restrictions to ensure all survivors could participate, planning four different Christmas parties. In Bulgaria, survivors celebrated the season by making Christmas cards at the Freedom Center.

New Aftercare Space Opens in Ukraine

In December of 2021, our Aftercare team opened a new office in Ukraine to welcome survivors of trafficking. The new space offers a safe, comfortable meeting room for survivors to meet with their caseworker or psychologist. Survivors have the opportunity to meet for Life Programs, participate in job searches, and use our tech resources available.





Restoration for Survivors in Bulgaria

Survivors in our Bulgaria Freedom Center participated in educational classes, Flourish sessions, cooking classes, and one-on-one counseling sessions. Our team provided legal support and medical treatment to survivors and assisted one survivor's repatriation to Europe. We hosted birthday parties for survivors, and our annual Christmas party was a highlight, bringing joy to the season.

A21 Greece Provides Survivors with Easter Care Packages

Our team in Greece prepared Easter baskets for survivors across the country, including clothes or shoes, depending on the individual need. Each basket was filled with traditional Easter items in Greece, such as a "lambada," a decorated candle, a "tsourkei," a local brioche served on Easter Sunday, and a red food dye to color eggs.





CAC Offers Child Survivors a Safe Environment

As schools in Cambodia remained closed, child survivors in our care had to maintain their studies online or with a private tutor. A21 provided tablets and education supplies, and many children would bring their tablets to study at the CAC, which offers access to the internet, a quiet space to work, and technical support from our staff.

Because of you,

the cycle of human trafficking is disrupted again and again.

Exploitation is an abuse of human rights and one of the worst our world has ever seen. But there's something every one of us can do about it. Instead of being overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem, you can intervene. You can interrupt the cycle. You can change the trajectory of another person's life—because your everyday actions are the solution.

Look at the progress we made in 2021. It's proof that we can (and we will) abolish slavery everywhere, forever. And it's only the beginning of what we believe we can accomplish together.

Every time someone decides to make a call, raise awareness, or donate to freedom, the cycle is broken. Momentum builds, and change happens—one person, one story, one decision at a time.

Did you know that if 1% of people in communities worldwide advocated against trafficking, we'd have twice as many people working to end it as those who are enslaved by it?

People all over the world are donating their time, talents, and resources for freedom. Will you join them? Will you be the reason a child is protected or a victim is rescued? Give freedom today.







we see one
the and we
fight for
the one

Your generosity is making a difference.

It's the reason 2021 was our biggest year yet. It's the momentum behind our remarkable progress, breaking every operational record. It's why we've reached over a billion people with awareness, helped thousands of victims out of exploitation, and walked alongside hundreds of survivors to date. But the heart of what we do remains the same—we see the one, and we fight for the one. It was a monumental year, but behind the record-breaking numbers are individual lives. And we won't stop until every*one* is free. Thank you for making it all possible.

abolish slavery
everywhere
forever

A21.org

@A21Campaign @A21 @A21