FREEDOM REPORT 2025



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 journey toward restoration and independence

A Note From Our Founders



No matter how many years we've stood on the frontlines of freedom, we remain in awe of the difference a single year can make.

In 2025 alone, 32% of all-time victims assisted took place (that's nearly one-third of every victim A21 has identified to date). At the same time, 83% of survivor cases closed were classified as restored, representing some of our strongest outcomes since 2008.

Across 101 countries, more than 319,000 people were equipped through our Global Freedom Summit. In Greece, two perpetrators received a combined 132-year sentence. In Thailand, our team deployed to the Myanmar border to assist in 1,500+ Thai government victim identification screenings for victims released from scamming centers.

None of this happened without you.

While much of the world was only beginning to recognize the reality of human trafficking, you never stopped showing up. Your faithfulness is reflected in every story told and statistic we captured this year.

From the beginning, the model was made to multiply beyond us. Today, we are seeing that vision take shape.

You've often heard us say that human trafficking is a constantly evolving crisis. Over the past year, we took a close look at the current landscape of our work and asked a defining question: what does A21 uniquely contribute to the fight against human trafficking, and how can we do it more effectively?

That question brought clarity. It sharpened our focus and led to strategic shifts we believe will strengthen our impact, enabling us to reach more vulnerable communities, identify more victims, and support more survivors.

Our mission has not changed: to abolish slavery everywhere, forever. And together, we're making progress every single day.

Thank you for making it all possible.

Nick & Christine Caine, A21 Co-Founders

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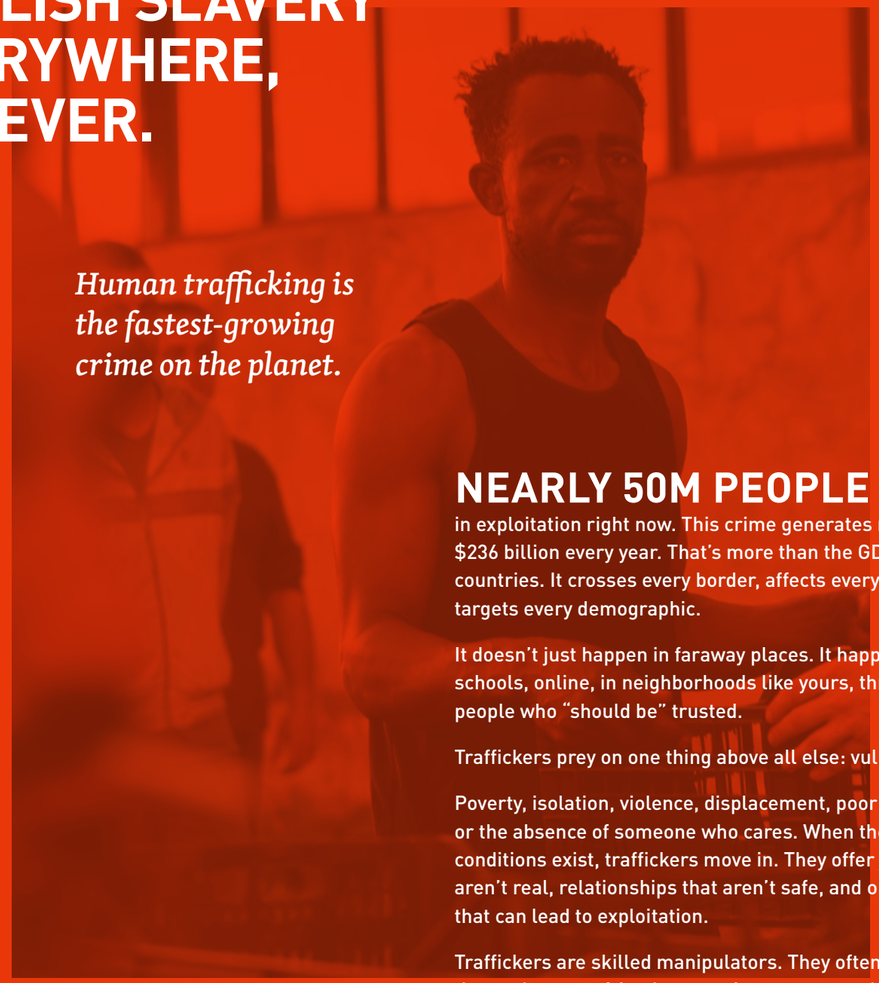
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WE'RE ON A MISSION TO ABOLISH SLAVERY EVERYWHERE, FOREVER.



Human trafficking is the fastest-growing crime on the planet.

NEARLY 50M PEOPLE are living in exploitation right now. This crime generates more than $236 billion every year. That's more than the GDP of most countries. It crosses every border, affects every age, and targets every demographic.

It doesn't just happen in faraway places. It happens in schools, online, in neighborhoods like yours, through people who "should be" trusted.

Traffickers prey on one thing above all else: vulnerability.

Poverty, isolation, violence, displacement, poor education, or the absence of someone who cares. When these conditions exist, traffickers move in. They offer jobs that aren't real, relationships that aren't safe, and opportunities that can lead to exploitation.

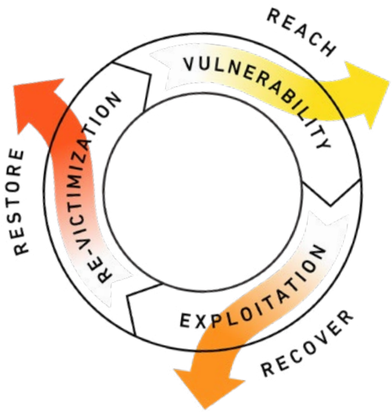
Traffickers are skilled manipulators. They often disguise themselves as a friend, romantic partner, employer, or someone offering a better future. It's a relentless industry, exploiting people for profit through their bodies and labor.

From vulnerability to exploitation to the risk of revictimization, human trafficking is a cycle.

This is what we're up against.
And this is why A21 exists.

Here's the good news: we have a solution.

We believe that the cycle of human trafficking can be broken, not with a single intervention, but with a comprehensive, proven model that reduces vulnerability, assists victims out of trafficking situations, and supports survivors on their long-term journey to healing and restoration.



REACH

Before exploitation begins

Vulnerability doesn't have to become exploitation. Through educational resources, prevention programs, and awareness campaigns, we equip individuals and communities with what they need to recognize danger, report suspicions, and reduce vulnerability before exploitation strikes.

RECOVER

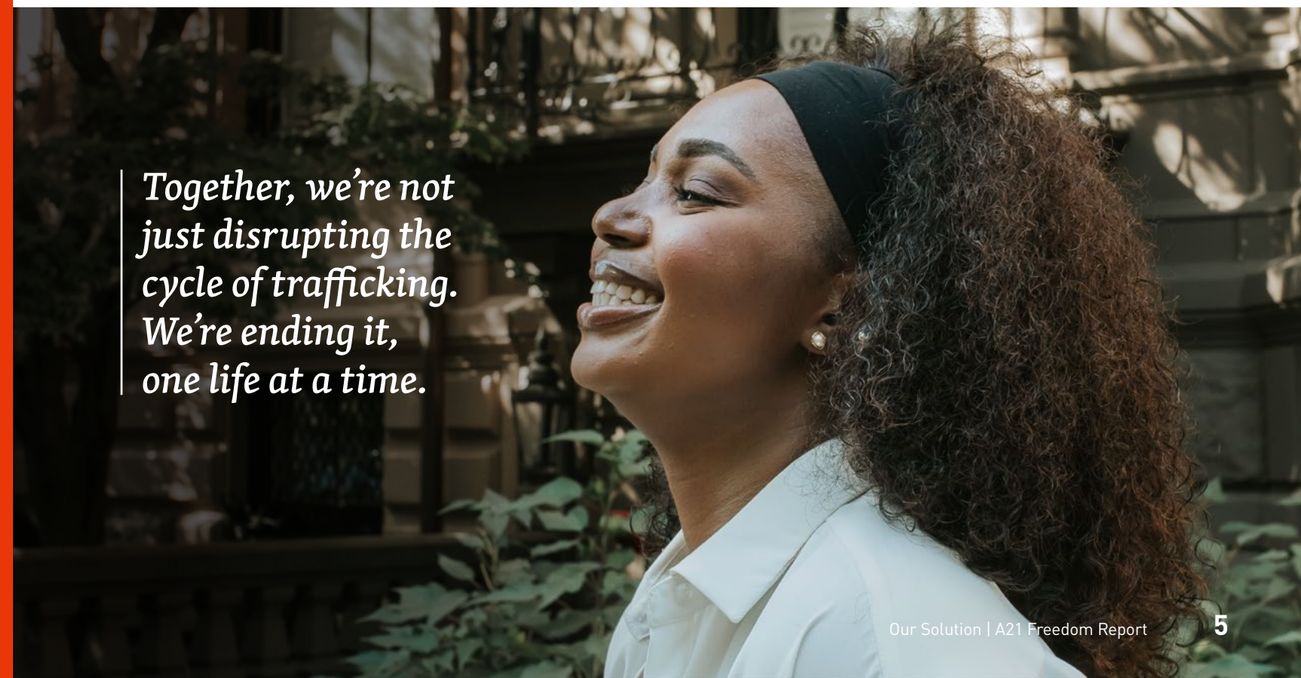
When exploitation happens

The path to safety begins with identifying victims and assisting them out of dangerous situations. Through our 24/7 Hotlines, Child Advocacy Centers, frontline professional training, and legal assistance, we bridge the gaps between exploitation, safety, and justice.

RESTORE

Creating lasting freedom

Genuine freedom requires rebuilding from the ground up. Safe housing, psychological and medical care, education, job training, and the kind of sustained support that walks alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives.



Together, we're not just disrupting the cycle of trafficking. We're ending it, one life at a time.

REACH

Educating and equipping people worldwide to help prevent human trafficking and exploitation before it begins.

Human trafficking and exploitation do not begin with a crime. It begins with vulnerability, and that's exactly where Reach intervenes. Through awareness campaigns, educational curriculum, and prevention resources, A21's programs are adapted to local contexts and implemented around the world, equipping at-risk populations with the knowledge and tools to recognize potential dangers and report concerns.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

GLOBAL

A summit that moved the world to protect children online.

The Global Freedom Summit once again brought together communities in schools, churches, government offices, businesses, and living rooms to confront the growing threat of online child sexual exploitation. Marking a powerful return, this year's Summit rallied audiences worldwide to protect children in digital spaces. The event featured one of our Can You See Me? films, a compelling story to help teens recognize the warning signs of online exploitation and how to seek help.

After a screening in Africa, one mother discovered her daughter in an inappropriate group chat with someone from another country and intervened before it was too late.

AUSTRALIA

150 billboards equip travelers to see what most people miss.

During peak holiday travel, 150 Can You See Me? billboards were displayed across terminals at three major Australian airports (Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth), reaching an estimated 7 million passengers. But awareness alone wasn't the goal. Airport staff received frontline training alongside the campaign, equipping them to recognize signs of exploitation and report suspicions.

When travelers and staff see the same message, the environment becomes harder for traffickers to move through undetected.

LATIN AMERICA

From classrooms to government forums, A21 LATAM has been driving prevention efforts across every level of society.

In 2025, our team in Mexico reached over 8,000 students across university campuses and high schools with prevention education, teaching young people to recognize trafficking schemes, stay safe online, and look out for each other.

At the regional level, we presented at a transnational forum alongside nine governments across Latin America, equipping frontline professionals across borders with the tools to prevent and respond to trafficking. This kind of partnership doesn't just protect individuals, it builds the infrastructure that gives freedom a fighting chance.

SOUTH AFRICA

Taking prevention to the people who need it most.

In South Africa, our team partnered with Safe Spaces, government facilities that serve people experiencing homelessness, to bring awareness directly to one of the most vulnerable populations in the community. Many face compounded risk factors that make them significantly more susceptible to exploitation.

After one event, the head social worker said the job vetting service provided by our Hotline was one of the most practical safeguarding tools she had ever seen placed directly in the hands of people who need it most.

GREECE & NEPAL

Upstream prevention addresses the root causes and risk factors that make individuals vulnerable to trafficking before exploitation occurs.

Our team in Greece identified a growing pattern: Nepalese nationals being trafficked into Europe through fraudulent job offers. Last year, nearly 62% of all cases identified by A21's Hotline in Greece involved Nepalese individuals, including 80% of labor trafficking cases. In response, we partnered with local NGOs in Nepal to equip communities with accurate information about employment abroad before traffickers reach them with false opportunities.

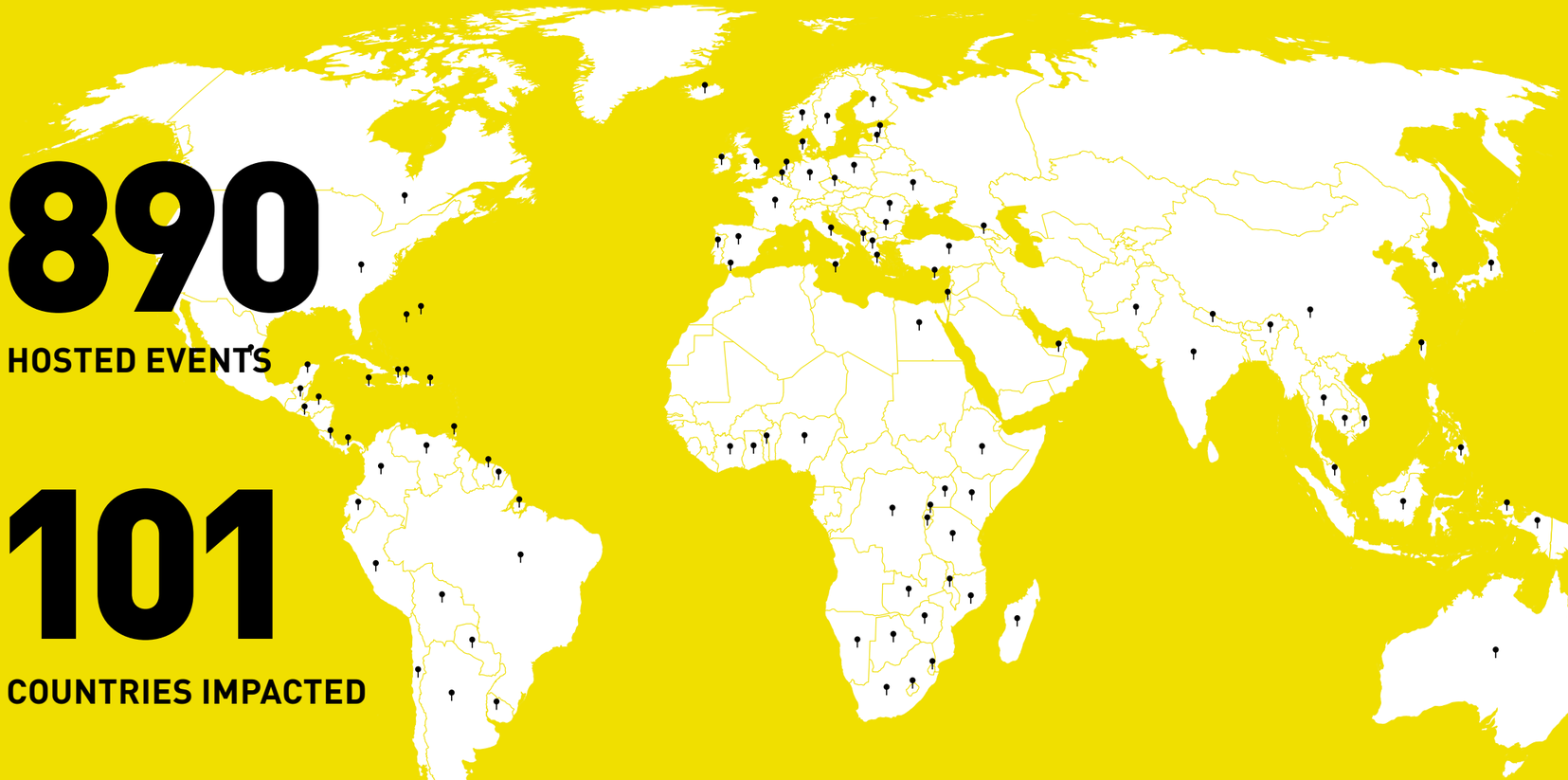
When people know what legitimate work looks like, they can recognize a potential trafficking situation before they're trapped in it.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Prevention is strongest when communities lead the way.

In 2025, A21 partnered with government and non-profit organizations across Thailand and Cambodia to reach 95,629 people with prevention programs and resources, the majority of whom were children. Through train-the-trainer initiatives, youth leaders were equipped to educate their own communities using A21's prevention materials. Along border areas, vital safety information was also distributed to displaced populations, helping those most at risk recognize trafficking and access support before exploitation occurs.

In 2025, A21 took a stand against online child sexual exploitation through the Global Freedom Summit.



890

HOSTED EVENTS

101

COUNTRIES IMPACTED

319,000+

PEOPLE EQUIPPED

8.5M+

Safety materials encountered, downloaded, and distributed since 2008. 1.4M+ in 2025 alone.

OVER 3M MINORS reached with prevention, education, and awareness since 2008, 173,539 in 2025.

NEARLY 1M U.S. STUDENTS have access to A21's K-12 Human Trafficking Education Curriculum, 26,503 in 2025.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE reached through *Can You See Me?* campaigns, more than 8 million in 2025.

Prevention is one of the most POWERFUL tools in the fight to end human trafficking and exploitation.



Liam's* story.

Gaming has always been one of my favorite hobbies. After school, on weekends, anytime I had a free moment, I'd be online. It was normal for me to jump into games and connect with strangers all over the world.

That's how I met Charlotte, "Charlie" for short. We quickly hit it off. We'd spend hours gaming together. Over time, we built a relationship by sharing stories and talking outside the game. She was a little bit older, but I found her easier to talk to than girls my age.

Out of nowhere, she sent me inappropriate photos of herself. Then she asked me to send something in return. I really liked her, and although I felt a little uneasy, I went through with it. I had never done anything like that before. But the moment I hit send, I felt a sinking feeling in my stomach.

From that point on, things changed between us. She pressured me for more photos and videos. When I said 'no', her tone shifted. She became aggressive and threatened if I didn't, "things would only get worse." She even messaged my friends the photos I sent her.

I was so horrified. I was only 13. It was confusing, and I didn't know what to do, who to trust, or how to ask for help without disappointing the people close to me.

> **Every day, children are targeted for sexual exploitation online. Most never tell anyone.**

Days later, an organization came to my school to talk about the growing risks of online exploitation among teens. The presenter showed an A21 Can You See Me? video about a boy exploited through a gaming platform.



WATCHING THAT VIDEO FELT LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR. IT WAS AS IF THEY WERE TELLING MY STORY.

> ***Can You See Me?* videos exist because of you.**

I realized for the first time that Charlie wasn't who she said she was, and I had to speak up. It was the scariest secret of my life, and it took courage to tell someone. I thought sharing my story would make me feel worse, but no one judged me. They just helped and I didn't feel alone anymore.

—Liam
Survivor of online child sexual exploitation

> **This was one of our most-shared stories of 2025 because Liam could be anyone's son, student, or neighbor. Every share is proof that prevention content travels far beyond the room it was made for.**

*Survivor name and photo changed for their protection

RECOVER

Partnering with law enforcement and frontline professionals to identify victims, pursue justice, and hold traffickers accountable for their crimes.

Exploitation hides in plain sight: on farms, behind closed doors, in online platforms, across borders. Recover is our response to that reality. Through hotlines, professional training, legal assistance, and rapid deployment alongside law enforcement, we identify victims, remove them from danger, and assist with every step of the justice process.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA

24/7 Hotline responds to protect a 16-year-old girl.

When law enforcement personnel contacted the A21 National Human Trafficking Hotline about a 16-year-old Ethiopian girl trapped in a forced marriage, it was after hours, and every other service had closed for the night. Our 24/7 Hotline team answered. The victim had been trafficked to South Africa under the false promise of educational opportunities. Using translation services to communicate with the girl in her native language, our team conducted an immediate screening, ensured her safety, and provided medical care.

"Thank you to the A21 National Human Trafficking Hotline. It was the only service that responded immediately to our call last night."

USA

Justice for multiple survivors after two perpetrators were sentenced to a total of 40 years in prison.

When a survivor read her victim impact statement in court, A21 was there. From providing emotional support in processing her experiences, to accompanying her during trial preparations and at sentencing, to providing transportation, meals, and accommodation throughout the legal process, A21 provided ongoing, in-person support. The survivor's strength and resilience in facing her exploiters were unforgettable to everyone in attendance. The perpetrators were found guilty on federal charges and were sentenced collectively to 40 years.

CAMBODIA

A landmark conviction and a judge who will never see a trafficking case the same away again.

Two survivors under A21's care and receiving representation from our team, courageously testified in court, contributing to the conviction of the perpetrator, who was found guilty of human trafficking and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. The offender acted as a broker and was accused of trafficking approximately 40 Cambodian women to China. It was the first human trafficking case this judge has ever successfully prosecuted, demonstrating the capacity and confidence to hold traffickers accountable in this region. Our team provided legal representation for two survivors in this case. This was an important moment because every first conviction makes the next one possible.

EUROPE

29 victims recovered from labor trafficking via a WhatsApp tip from Sydney.

When a community group connected a man in Sydney, Australia, to a potential victim working on an orange farm in Greece, he called the A21 Hotline. Within hours, law enforcement moved in, recovering 29 men from labor trafficking, 27 of them Nepalese nationals deceived by fraudulent recruiters. Our team provided food and essential items immediately following recovery, and ongoing aftercare support in collaboration with partner agencies. This operation and the Nepal prevention work happening simultaneously are no coincidence. It's Reach and Recover working together to disrupt trafficking routes at both ends.

GREECE

132-year sentence leads to justice for two survivors.

Two labor trafficking survivors from Africa and Syria, represented by our legal team in Greece, saw their traffickers convicted and sentenced to a combined 132 years in prison. The prosecution included an additional €60,000 in financial penalties imposed by the court. These survivors, along with nine other men, had been discovered during a police operation the year before. This outcome didn't happen because the legal system moved on its own. It happened because the survivors had our support through the investigation, trial, and verdict.

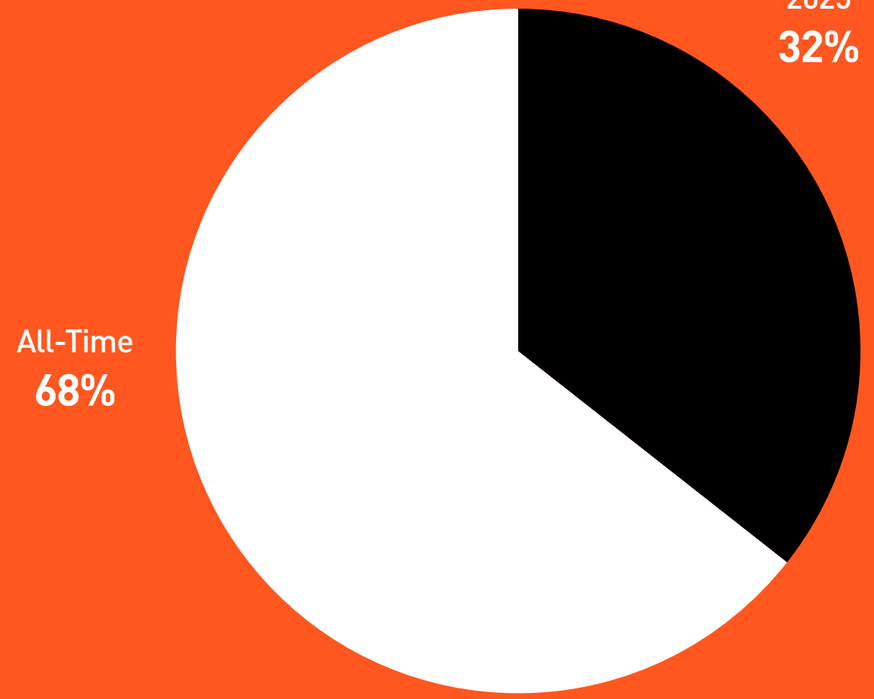
SOUTHEAST ASIA

A21 assisted the Thai government's victim identification interviews of 1,500+ victims at the Thailand–Myanmar border.

Our team responded to an unprecedented crisis when thousands of victims were released from forced scamming facilities along the Thailand–Myanmar border. These victims of forced criminality had been made to participate in scamming operations, held in conditions marked by exploitation, coercion, and violence. Our team worked alongside authorities and NGOs to provide translation services for essential victim identification interviews for 1,500+ trafficking victims from 31 nations.

5,565 VICTIMS

of human trafficking assisted since 2008, 32% assisted in 2025 alone.



81,009 CONTACTS



received by A21 Hotlines since 2008, 7,626 in 2025 alone.

1,064 victims directly assisted through A21 Hotlines since 2008, 174 assisted in 2025.

52,000+ frontline professionals trained to identify and assist victims since 2018. Last year, A21 trained 1,194 law enforcement personnel in Southeast Asia alone.

291 perpetrators sentenced to a collective 5,031 years since 2008, including 20 sentenced to a combined 280 years in 2025.

Behind every number is a person. Someone who deserves justice.

Soriya's* story.



When I was 9, a school in a nearby city offered me a scholarship that included education, housing, and meals. For my family, it felt like a miracle. The school paid for my travel and gave us extra money. It was an opportunity that my parents hoped for but couldn't provide.

When I hugged them goodbye, none of us could imagine what was about to happen.

The school targeted girls like me. I was chosen because my family was desperate. The education I was promised never happened. Instead, we were abused and exploited by the very headmaster who promised our parents he would care for us.

When we refused, we were threatened. All of us were far from home and terrified, so we learned to stay quiet.

> **The promise of education is a common tactic traffickers use to target vulnerable children and families in crisis.**

I became close with a few of the girls, and we often talked about getting out and seeing our families again. One day, when no one was watching, we took a chance.

WE GRABBED EACH OTHER'S HANDS AND RAN.

A police officer stopped us to ask if we were okay. We told him everything, and he took us to the local police station. Our case was then referred to A21's Child Advocacy Center, where we were supported through the victim identification process and received specialized, child-friendly care while the investigation began.

They made sure we were safe while the police investigated our case. Our trafficker was eventually arrested, and A21's legal team walked with us through every step of the court process. The headmaster was found guilty and sentenced to 12 years in prison. We also got financial compensation through the court.

> **Justice and systemic change are possible. Your support funds the legal teams that make it happen.**

At the Freedom Center, we received individual and group counseling to help us process everything we'd been through. A21 also helped us get real scholarships so we could get the education we were promised from the beginning.

My favorite part of the Freedom Center was that we could just be kids again.

Today, some of my friends have finished school and have jobs. Others, including me, mentor younger girls who have experienced similar situations. A few of us even volunteer at A21 events, sharing our stories to help protect other children.

—Soriya
Survivor of child exploitation & mentor

*Survivor name and photo changed for their protection

5 friends and I escaped human trafficking together.

RESTORE

Helping survivors reclaim not just their safety, but themselves. Restore is where survival ends, and healing begins.

For many survivors, leaving exploitation is only the beginning. The real work is rebuilding trust, reclaiming identity, and believing their dreams are still within reach. Restore is our commitment to that journey. Through safe accommodation, trauma-informed counseling, life skills training, job support, and long-term case management, we walk alongside survivors for as long as it takes.

"The Freedom Center is magical. When you come here, you forget all your problems. From the time you are in A21's hands, you do not have to worry about anything."
— Survivor, Greece

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

GLOBAL

Across seven countries, 31 survivors crossed the finish line.

In 2025, 31 survivors graduated from our Aftercare Program across Greece, North Carolina, Bulgaria, South Africa, Texas, Cambodia, and Thailand. Each one of these stories was a milestone built over months or years of sustained care. In Texas, one survivor trafficked at 14 arrived in the US, speaking no English. This year, she graduated from high school early while working part-time. In Greece, a survivor who entered the program in 2019 celebrated her graduation alongside her young son. In North Carolina, one survivor graduated after nearly eight years of healing. Our team was there for every one of them.

GREECE

Our Athens Freedom Center continues to be a hub of restoration in Europe.

After recognizing Athens as a growing crossroads for survivor restoration, including strong local partnerships and central accessibility, we launched our newest Freedom Center in Athens in late 2024. Already welcoming survivors from across multiple regions, it offers safe accommodation, individualized care, and access to our full range of Life Programs. Athens is now a place where different cultures, languages, and stories meet under one shared reality: freedom is possible, and restoration is available.

SOUTH AFRICA

Survivor inspires other survivors at her own graduation.

Her journey in South Africa began in a safehouse. Though hesitant at first, she chose to step into our Aftercare Program. It was one small step that led to another. A sewing course in partnership with Sparrow Society sparked new possibilities. From there, she completed Life Programs, vocational training, and a Job Readiness Program. With the stability of an A21 apartment and employment through a partner organization, she found community and work she loves. At her graduation, surrounded by fellow survivors and our team, she shared her story. New survivors in the room heard it and held on to hope. That's restoration multiplying itself.

USA

A survivor painted his story, and now it's protecting others.

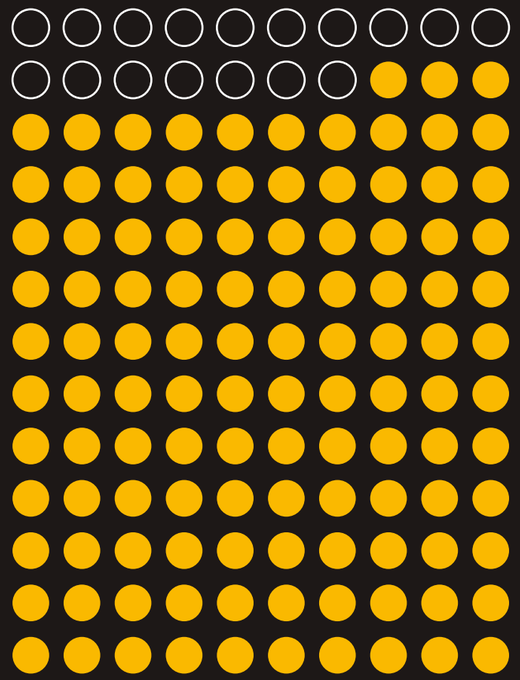
For Miguel*, art therapy has been central to healing. This year, his artwork was transformed into a merchandise collection with proceeds funding survivor care–celebrating freedom, resilience, and restoration that are taking place around the world. He described his painting in two halves: "The right side was my past. Lonely, hard, dark. And on the left side, it's where I find myself now. I'm flourishing and thriving." One survivor's healing became a resource for another's. This is what restoration looks like. It doesn't just heal one person. It reaches the next one, too.

*Survivor's name changed for his protection

CAMBODIA

The Freedom Center continued to equip survivors with the skills, confidence, and support needed to build independent futures.

Through life skills, vocational training, financial literacy, emotional resilience, and peer-led initiatives, survivors were empowered to pursue their personal goals. Throughout the year, we celebrated survivors securing employment, graduating from school, launching their own businesses, and beginning new chapters through marriage. These are milestones that reflect resilience, healing, and hope. Child survivors also continued to receive safe, family-based care through our foster care program, providing stability and protection during their recovery.



83%

of survivor cases closed in 2025 were classified as Restored, our strongest outcome yet.

2,283 survivors welcomed into our Aftercare Program since 2008, including 144 in 2025.

827 Life Programs completed, including 172 in 2025.

996 survivors provided with safe accommodation since 2008, including 71 in 2025.

1,081 survivors received relocation or repatriation assistance since 2008, including 99 in 2025.

How do we know when a survivor is truly restored?

Through IJM's Assessment of Survivor outcomes tool, we measure each survivor's progress across six areas at case intake, case closure, and 12-month follow-up.

- **Safety**
- **Mental wellbeing**
- **Physical wellbeing**
- **Legal protection**
- **Economic empowerment & education**
- **Social**

When a survivor scores an average of 3 or above across all six domains of functioning, it demonstrates stability and low vulnerability to revictimization.

This isn't a checkbox. It's the journey to restoration.

93%

of survivors remain 'Restored' at their 12-month follow-up.

Restoration doesn't end at graduation. For 93% of survivors we're able to follow up with, freedom is still holding strong a year later.



Milagros's* story.



My name is Milagros. I'm from Guatemala. I'm a wife, mother of two, and a survivor of human trafficking.

Before I was trafficked, I was a teacher. I loved mentoring others and inspiring people in my community. Then I decided to come to the United States to give my children a better life.

Traveling through Mexico with my son and infant daughter, our bus was stopped by masked men with weapons. They screamed, "either you die or work for us."

They took me to a large home where many others were being held. My job was to clean the floor, but only by crawling on my hands and knees so neighbors wouldn't see through the windows. We were watched around the clock and starved unless we agreed to perform sexual acts, which I always refused. Most days, I only got two cookies or some canned food. Other days, no food at all.

I witnessed things no person should ever see. Anyone who didn't comply was killed in front of the rest of us. The message was clear: obey or die.

> **Forced labor and sexual exploitation often happen in captivity. Our Restore programs serve survivors of both.**

As soon as my husband learned what had happened, he paid a ransom to bring me home. But freedom didn't feel like freedom. Not yet. I had lost all hope. Night terrors and constant fear haunted me every day. I couldn't shake it.

We eventually made our way to Texas, where I connected with a therapist who referred me to get legal help. A few months later, I was introduced to A21.

> **That referral led her to a Freedom Center funded by you, our generous donor community.**

With A21's support, something shifted. I realized I was capable and could move forward. They gave me the tools I didn't know I needed and taught me a word I had never heard before: resilience.

I embody it now.

Over time, I learned to trust again. While at the Freedom Center, I also learned English and how to build a resume while completing job readiness training and obtaining my work authorization.

> **English classes. Job training. Legal support. Counseling. Every one of these is an essential step towards independence.**

Today, I have dreams again. I want to give my children the same words of encouragement A21 gave me. I want to advocate for others just like I did as a teacher before I was trafficked.

—Milagros
Survivor of domestic servitude and mother

> **Milagros's story captivated hearts in 2025 because she is everyone's someone. A mother, a professional, a woman who had built a life and had it taken in an instant. Many supporters felt implicated in her restoration.**

*Survivor name and photo changed for their protection



“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

Christine Caine
A21 Co-Founder

You Have a Part to Play.

You've seen what it takes to reach survivors like Liam, Soriya, and Milagros, and what it means when someone shows up. The movement to end human trafficking is growing, and people around the world are taking action.

TAKE THE FREEDOM PLEDGE

Thousands of people around the world have already said yes.

When you take the pledge, you'll receive curated resources designed to keep you informed, inspired, and activated in the fight to end human trafficking. From frontline updates to survivor stories, you'll get practical tools to educate your community and make a difference in your everyday life. Stand alongside thousands around the world who are choosing to be part of the answer.

Take the Freedom Pledge.





FUND THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

That is what it looks like when people choose to act.

Your generosity can prevent exploitation, bring victims to safety, and support survivors through every stage of restoration. From emergency response to lasting freedom, every step forward is made possible by people who decided freedom is worth fighting for. Because the work isn't finished, and neither are we.

Give today. Change lives every day.



HOPE IS RISING



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